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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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Voters Guide
inside this paper

Inside this edition of the
News-Leader is the 2023
Voters Guide for the
upcoming election. See
inside

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
44 31

THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
41 32

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
35 26

SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
37 24

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OBITUARIES

• MARIANNE A. SLAJCHERT
• GUEIDA "PENNY" NOBLE
• DORIS ELAINE MERSHON
• LORRAINE HOLTMAN
• RONALD DALE HEAL

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• SUBLETTE FARM SHOW
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Higby announces retirement from RPD

Rochelle Police Chief joined department in 1996

ROCHELLE — Following nearly 27 years of dedicated service to the City of Rochelle, Rochelle Police Department Chief Eric Higby announced his upcoming retirement from RPD in a Friday, March 3 city press release.

Higby started his career with RPD in August 1996 following his graduation from Western Illinois University. Upon completion of the police training institute, Higby was assigned to the Ogle County Narcotics Unit and then to the patrol unit. In 2001, he was promoted to sergeant and in 2006 to deputy chief. In 2009, Higby was sworn in as chief of police.

"We've seen many changes over the years in policing," Higby said. "I am most proud of the work my department has done to provide closure and peace to families and the community following a crime."

In his years with the police department, he completed two elite training programs: the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and the FBI National Academy. He also served on the Board of Directors for HOPE of Ogle County and Shining



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Following nearly 27 years of dedicated service to the City of Rochelle, Rochelle Police Department Chief Eric Higby announced his upcoming retirement from RPD in a Friday, March 3 city press release.

Star Children's Advocacy Center for over 10 years.

"My sincerest thanks to Chief Higby for his service to the citizens of Rochelle," City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said. "A 27-year career in law enforcement is a proud accomplishment."

Following his retirement, Chief Higby looks forward to slowing down, spending time with his fam-

ily and having more time for hobbies. The community is invited to attend a retirement celebration for Chief Higby on Tuesday, April 4 in the City Hall council chambers from 3-5 p.m.

Interim

Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh has selected Officer Pete Pavia to serve as the Rochelle

Police Department's interim chief following Chief Eric Higby's retirement announcement. Pavia is currently assigned to Rochelle Township High School as a school resource officer. The City of Rochelle and RTHS are working together to fill the resource officer position at RTHS.

See **POLICE** page 8



Planning process discussed

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Monday, the City of Rochelle Planning & Zoning Commission began the process of updating the city's comprehensive plan.

The city will be working on an update to its comprehensive plan in the coming months through the planning & zoning commission's meetings. It 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.

See **P&Z** page 5

City working to improve southside location

Fiegenschuh: Renovations expected to be completed this year

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle City Council recently approved an engineering/architectural services agreement with Willett, Hofmann & Associates for phase two of its improvements to Rochelle Municipal Utilities' building at 1030 S. 7th St. The city paid \$1.3 million for the building in 2021 and is working on renovating and upgrading it to fit its needs. The building was previously Johnson Tractor's old location.

The engineering work, approved Jan. 23, will cost \$158,500. Improvements will primarily include an interior addition to accommodate new breakrooms, locker rooms, bathrooms, showers and training facilities along with additional storage and interior office renovations and other related improvements. The work also includes developing more accurate cost estimates as the project develops. The total budgeted amount for the project is \$900,000.

"It sounds like and is



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Rochelle City Council recently approved an engineering/architectural services agreement with Willett, Hofmann & Associates for phase two of its improvements to Rochelle Municipal Utilities' building at 1030 S. 7th St.

a lot, but when you think about your forever home, you're investing in a building that you're keeping forever," City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said. "It's a good investment. My hope is that going

into this summer and fall, we'll have everything done and by next winter we can have a ribbon cutting and be done and that's it, that's our home. With the exception of just annual maintenance on the

building, that project will be done, completed and behind us."

The 1030 S. 7th St. building currently houses RMU's water and electric departments and the city's engineering and geo-

graphic information system personnel. The city purchased the building in an effort to consolidate and reduce its building footprint in town.

See **CITY** page 3

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LOCAL NEWS

Steward's Odle named Golden Apple Award finalist

STEWART — The Golden Apple Foundation, the leading Illinois nonprofit committed to preparing, honoring and supporting educators who advance educational opportunities for students, announced March 2 that Steward School District #220's Erin Odle is one of the 2023 finalists for the prestigious Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

A highly-competitive award process resulted in the selection of 30 fourth-grade teacher finalists in the middle school cycle. Different grade levels are highlighted each year.

"The impact of a great teacher reaches beyond the classroom and these finalists are proof of that," Alan Mather, president of

GoldenApple, said. "Their dedication to providing an engaging, high-quality learning experience for their students and commitment to creating positive outcomes in their school communities is impressive. We are proud to highlight their important work and to honor them as finalists of the 2023 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching."

Odle teaches grades sixth through eighth in math, science and reading. She takes a subject that many students typically detest, math, and helps them to improve their basic math skills while also growing their confidence in their abilities to tackle tough problems and concepts. One way she's done this is by implementing a unique 20-minute, cross-

grade level math bloc that goes beyond the current core math curriculum. This is after last spring's statewide assessment determined the student body, as a whole, was performing at a higher level in mathematics than prior to COVID-19.

Odle's colleagues say it's this determination and her desire to continue to strive for growth that makes her a true advocate for her students. She volunteers her time to support students inside and outside of the classroom, as student council leader, a volleyball and basketball coach and 4-H leader in the community.

The Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching honor outstanding teachers for having lasting, positive effects on

students' lives and school communities. Teacher finalists demonstrate — in their teaching and results — significant, positive impact on their students' growth and learning.

The selected 2023 Golden Apple Award recipients will be surprised in the spring. Northwestern University generously provides a spring sabbatical to award recipients at no cost. Each recipient receives a \$5,000 cash award. Award recipients become Fellows of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, a community of educators who play an important role in preparing the next generation of teachers in the Golden Apple Scholars and Accelerators programs — which are dedicated to addressing the teacher shortage in Illinois.



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Steward School District 220's Erin Odle is one of the 2023 finalists for the prestigious Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

County clerk's office complies with federal voting accessibility

OREGON — Ogle County Clerk Laura J. Cook announces that her office complies with the Federal Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and

Handicapped Act. Disabled or elderly (over 65) voters who find it difficult or nearly impossible to go to the polls on Election Day may

now ask for a Vote by Mail ballot without having a signature from their physician. You can request a Vote by Mail ballot by calling the county clerk's

Office at 815-732-1110 or visiting the Ogle County Official website at www.oglecountyil.gov by going to the "I Want To" tab, Apply select "Vote by Mail". Once the County Clerk's Office receives verification of your request, we will then mail the Vote by Mail ballot to the voter. After voting the Vote by Mail ballot it must be mailed, hand delivered back to the County Clerk's Office or utilize the Ballot Drop Box located on the West side of the Courthouse. The ballot, if mailed, must be postmarked before or on Election Day.

The Ogle County Courthouse is accessible

to disabled or elderly (over 65) citizens by entering on the west side of the courthouse. If you are unable to come to the courthouse and need to be registered or transfer your voter registration, you may register online at ova.elections.il.gov or contact the Ogle County Clerk's Office at 815-732-1110.

The last day to register to vote or change your address with a deputy registrar is March 7, (with the exception of grace period voter registration and transfer of registration beginning March 8 and ending April 4 in the office of the Ogle County Clerk.) Early voting will be conducted at the Ogle County Clerk's Office located at the Ogle County Courthouse, 105 S. 5th St., Oregon, Feb. 23 through April 3 for all Ogle County precincts.

Early voting will be conducted at the Flag Township Building located at 303 West Illinois Route 38 in Rochelle

March 29 through March 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and April 1 from 9 a.m. to noon for Flagg and Dement precincts only.

The first day to apply for a Vote by Mail ballot for the April 4 Consolidated Election is Jan. 4. The first day to mail a Vote by Mail ballot is Feb. 23 with the last day for mailing a ballot from the County Clerk's Office being March 30.

If there are any voters in Ogle County who cannot get into the polling place, we can send two Judges of Election within 50 feet of the polling place with the ballot. A request should be made prior to the election on a form provided by the County Clerk's Office. If we can assist you in any way, within the law, please let us know.

If the Ogle County Clerk's Office can help or assist you in any way, call 815-732-1110 and our regular office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Olivia Buck
PHYSICAL THERAPY



To read Olivia's nomination, go to the RCH Facebook page or RochelleHospital.com





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Rochelle Community Hospital



Northern Illinois University

Lifelong Learning Institute to host spring 2023 term

DEKALB — This spring, the Northern Illinois University Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) invites participants to register for in-person sessions filled with fun and informative presentations and discussions.

The spring 2023 sessions will run from March 14 through May 9, with all courses offered in person at NIU DeKalb. The cost of \$85 per person includes any or all of the sessions throughout the spring term. Registration, course details, parking and more information are available at go.niu.edu/LLI.

For more than 20 years, LLI has welcomed people primarily ages 50-plus to learn in a casual, non-competitive setting. The goal of LLI is to create a community of adults who wish to expand their horizons and connect with others who love learning.

Courses will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings and afternoons for eight weeks. On Tuesdays, partici-

pants will be able to explore the art and literature of Renaissance Italy in the mornings and learn about the geology of North America, including the failed Midcontinent Rift System, in the afternoons.

Wednesdays will feature an exploration of seasonal changes that are occurring in our local woodlands, wetlands and prairies in the mornings, with expert lectures on a variety of topics in the afternoons.

On Thursdays for the first four weeks, participants will discuss how dictators come to and stay in power in the mornings, and the history of Superman and collecting comic books in the afternoons.

On Thursdays for the second four weeks, participants will learn about the lighter side of Clint Eastwood in the mornings, and the politicians and military leaders of the Confederacy in the afternoons.

Registration, course details and more information are available at go.niu.edu/LLI.

LOCAL NEWS

Page, Hintzsche nominated for Golden Owl Awards

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

ROCHELLE — As FFA week drew to a close, the Illinois FFA, Illinois Association for Vocational Agriculture Teachers, Compeer Financial, Farm Credit Illinois and Nationwide recognized Rochelle Township High School FFA Advisor Donna Page as a Section 2 nominee for the 2022-2023 Ag Educator of the Year honor through Nationwide's Golden Owl Award. In 2015, Mrs. Page was named Illinois Ag Teacher of the Year.

Riley Hintzsche (RTHS 2009) now a Streator High School Ag Teacher, won the Section 7 Golden Owl and then won the District II award from among the five educators that make up the district. He will interview in June as a candidate for the State Golden Owl recipient.

Last fall, more than 200 nominations for the state's top agricultural teachers were received. Following the recognition of five finalists, a selection committee will honor one finalist

as Illinois' Ag Educator of the Year. The winner will receive the coveted Nationwide Golden Owl Award trophy and \$3,000 nationwide-funded check to support the development of their program.

Page was in her 10th year at RTHS in 2015 when she was named Illinois Ag Teacher of the Year, then-Principal Jason Harper was asked to enumerate Donna Page's greatest strengths. Eight years later, Dr. Harper says he's happy to stand by his remarks:

"Mrs. Page is dedicated. She enriches not only her curriculum and program to serve every student. Donna teaches the aspects of agriculture and about life with an unparalleled enthusiasm. Her students are prepared for class, contests, interviews and events. That effort pays off. RTHS students regularly appear at state and national FFA events. She sacrifices time with her family to take students to events, help with record books and attend school board and community meetings to represent RTHS and Rochelle FFA.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Riley Hintzsche (RTHS 2009) now a Streator High School Ag Teacher, will interview in June as a candidate for the State Golden Owl recipient.

Her students advance from being sponges to being self-motivated learners. She empowers them to become actively involved in their own education, exploring the avenues of agriculture that they're interested and passionate about. If a student is interested in welding, she encourages it. If a student is interested in agronomy, she arranges a job shadowing experience."

Second: "She is personally invested in their success. Her students will

argue she is much more than an FFA Advisor. She is their counselor, surrogate mother, and sounding board. Her students call her classroom their home away from home. They probably log more time and miles with Mrs. Page than any other teacher in their educational careers," Harper said.

Third: "Mrs. Page is always one of the first to serve. From making pancakes for Renaissance breakfasts to playing in staff vs. student volley-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Donna Page (left) was recognized as a Section 2 nominee for the 2022-23 Ag Educator of the Year honor through Nationwide's Golden Owl Award.

ball games, Mrs. Page never says no. She served the IAVAT as the District I director, has been Section 2 chair & secretary as well as the IAVAT Teacher Recruitment & Retention Chair. When the tornado ripped through the area in April 2015, Mrs. Page spearheaded volunteer and clean-up efforts for two weekends.

She takes to heart the FFA motto 'Living to serve.'"

John Edgar, Executive Director of IAVAT said, "As we talk to Alumni members from 10, 20, or even 30 years and beyond, nearly every one of them can remember their high school agriculture teacher and the memories made both in and out of the classroom."

CITY: Renovations planned for former Johnson Tractor building

From page 1

Fiegenschuh said he wants departments that often work together to report to the same location each day.

The city manager said he was impressed with the first phase of improvements to the southside building.

"It looks really nice so far," Fiegenschuh said. "The offices look good and they're all connected so they can communicate. I like the fact that GIS is down there so she can work directly with engineering and utilities. We have our AutoCAD employee so she can work with GIS and communicate. People are together that need to communicate in person."

The city previously considered moving RMU billing to the southside location, but then decided to leave it at 333 Lincoln Highway downtown after hearing from residents and council members that wanted RMU billing's presence to remain downtown.

Due to the purchase of 1030 S. 7th St. and being able to move RMU crews there, the city was able to sell some property that previously housed those employees. Fiegenschuh said the city is eventually going to try to consolidate more with buildings.

"I don't know when, but over time I think there's an opportunity for more public works use there," Fiegenschuh said. "We've talked about a centralized fueling station in that area. Having our linemen, water and sewer personnel together and eventually I'd like to see more public works people down there. They all work together and it's important to be in the same building."

Fiegenschuh said he wants to utilize the space on the southside property as much as possible, and mentioned the idea of potentially parking police vehicles there indoors. Rochelle Police Department vehicles are currently parked outdoors in the lots surrounding city hall.

"We have had some conversations with RPD

leadership last year about eventually having a place where we can store our police vehicles overnight," Fiegenschuh said. "I just think there's a lot of opportunities long-term to really utilize as much of that space as possible and not having property all over the place and vehicles exposed to the elements. Those vehicles are expensive. A police vehicle is \$50,000-60,000, so we need to take care of them and not have them sit outside all the time."

Fiegenschuh said that even after improvements to the facility are completed, the city will evaluate personnel and buildings each year for possible consolidation that makes sense. He said he's happy with the investment in the building and looking forward to its completion for employees' sake.

"I really want to get it done," Fiegenschuh said. "Quite honestly I want to get it done for the sanity of our water and electric departments. We don't have an effective break room yet. A lot of the facilities



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The city paid \$1.3 million for the building in 2021 and is working on renovating and upgrading it to fit its needs. The building was previously Johnson Tractor's old location.

haven't been upgraded since the 1990s or before. We need to get those

updated. I really want to just see our water, waste water and utilities people

have a place to call home for good and know that's where they're staying."

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Marianne A. Slajchert

ROCHELLE — Marianne A. Slajchert, 87, of Rochelle, passed away peacefully Friday, March 3 at her son's house in Wheaton, Illinois. Marianne was born on Oct. 23, 1935 to Edward and Mary (Knetl) Slajchert in Chicago.

She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Rochelle where she served as a minister of care to shut-ins. She was a volunteer with Meals-on-Wheels and a former president of the Women's Club in Rochelle. Marianne worked for Equifax, Inc. for several years and then with Sinissippi Center in Rochelle prior

to retirement.

Marianne is survived by two sons: Richard (Julia) Spahn of DeKalb and Gregory (Juanita) Spahn of Wheaton; her brother, Michael Slajchert of Chicago; six grandchildren: Claire, Natalie and Richie Spahn, Anthony (Kady) Wilder, Danielle (Luis) Sanchez and Rochelle Wilder and five great grandchildren: Evelyn, Isaiah, Elias, Vienna and Cherith Wilder.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by five children: Katherine Echevaria, Christopher, Steven, Mary and Margaret Slajchert and four brothers: Edward,



Lawrence, Anthony and Richard Slajchert.

Cremation care was provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. The family will have a memorial service at a later date. Burial will be at St. Patrick Cemetery in Rochelle. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Doris Elaine Mershon

ROCKFORD — Doris Elaine Mershon, 93, of Rockford, died peacefully with family by her side, on Saturday, March 4 at River Crossing of Rockford.

Doris was born in Tampico to Ora and Pearl (Donaldson) Spears on Dec. 2, 1929. She graduated from Paw Paw High School in 1947. After completing beauty school she opened her own salon in Paw Paw. Doris was united in marriage to Robert (Bob) Mershon on Nov. 9, 1952 at the United Methodist Church in Paw Paw.

Doris was a proud Army wife and for nearly 20 years moved around the country with Bob as he served in the military. During this time they were assigned to bases in Oklahoma, Texas, Alabama and Georgia. In addition they were stationed in Germany twice where they enjoyed trips to surrounding countries.

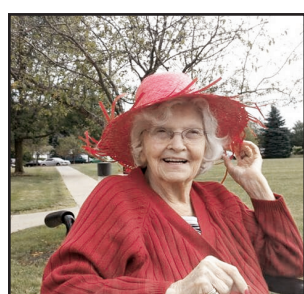
She loved seeing new places and making lifelong friends along the way. After retiring from the Army, they moved

to Wisconsin where they lived for five years before settling in Cherry Valley. Doris worked many jobs over the years and in 1976 began her career selling shoes at J.C. Penney where she retired in 1998.

Doris had many hobbies including sewing, crocheting, gardening and coin collecting. But her favorite was her clock collection that started in Germany where she brought back over 100 antique clocks, one of which she purchased with a box of Bazooka bubblegum.

Her family was her pride and joy and she cherished the time spent with them. She especially enjoyed seeing her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter Melanie (Dave) Smith of Janesville, Wisconsin; grandchildren, Bob Smith, Becky (Jeremy) Litwicki, Lauren (Chris) Schulte, Tricia Mershon, Randy Mershon, Andrea Mershon, Scott Mershon and Samantha Mershon; and many great-grandchild-



dren.

She is preceded in death by her husband Bob; sons, Dennis, Tim and Kevin; granddaughter, Dusty; siblings, Lyle Spears, Maxine Anderson and Verle Spears; and other family and friends.

Visitation will begin at 11 a.m. Friday, March 10 at Torman Funeral Home, 510 N. Flagg St., Paw Paw, followed by a service at noon with Rev. Dana Cox officiating. Interment will be at Wyoming Cemetery, Paw Paw.

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

The family would like to thank the staff at River Crossing of Rockford and Promedica Hospice for all their compassion and care given to Doris.

Gueida 'Penny' Noble

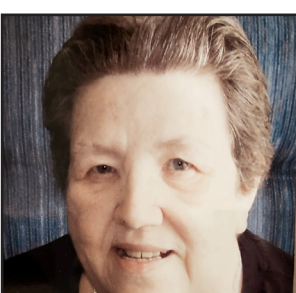
ROCHELLE — Gueida "Penny" Noble, 87, of Rochelle, passed away on Monday, March 6 at her home. She was born Sept. 11, 1935, in Cornettsville, Kentucky, the daughter of Kenneth and Meda (Campbell) Cornett. She married Robert Lee Noble on June 24, 1960 in Hindman, Kentucky.

She was the longest residing resident at Lincoln Manor in Rochelle, having been there for over 30 years. Penny loved to draw and paint. She was a devoted Christian who read the bible every day. Penny was a loving and devoted wife, sister, mother, grandma, great-grandma and great-great grandma. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Penny is survived by her four children, Bernadette Amburgey of

Emmalena, Kentucky, Robert (Lisa) Noble of Paw Paw, Meda Marie Noble of Newark, Arkansas and Brazos Gene (Trena) Noble of Cortland; 10 grandchildren Kenny Ray, Donald Lee and Dusty Amburgey, Sue Smith, Stephanie (A.J.) Gonzalez, Jeffery (Melissa) Noble, Allen Noble, Sheena Rutledge, Bobby Joe Baskins and Katrina Lynn Noble; 20 plus great-grandchildren; numerous great-great grandchildren; two sisters, Jerry Hansen and Ferol Coulter; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Penny is preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lee Noble; five siblings, Buford Cornett, Bunyan Cornett, Margie Jones, Flaury Cornett and Bernard Cornett.



A funeral service will take place at 1 p.m. Monday, March 13 at Torman Funeral Home, 510 Flagg St. in Paw Paw, with Pastor Ken Foster officiating.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home. Interment will follow in Wyoming Township Cemetery in Paw Paw. Contributions in Penny's name may be directed to the family for a memorial to be established.

Please visit www.TormanFuneralHome.com.

Rochelle Police Department

Officers issue several citations

ROCHELLE — On March 4, Martin Lopez, 44, of Rochelle was cited for operating a motor vehicle

with suspended registration and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 14

Rochelle court date.

On March 4, Juan D. Rodriguez, 46, of Rochelle was cited for failure to yield. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 14 Rochelle court date.

On March 6, Zachary J. Doty, 27, of Rochelle was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred. Doty was also arrested for driving while license suspended and was issued an I-Bond and a March 14 Rochelle court date.

On March 6, Liliana E. Lopez, 20, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 67 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a March 14 Rochelle court date.

On March 7, Quentin M. George, 30, of Rockford was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 14 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are innocent until proven guilty.

ROCHELLE — Lorretta Holtman, 96, passed away Thursday, March 2 at the Franklin Grove Living & Rehabilitation Center in Franklin Grove.

Lorretta was born on Aug. 26, 1926 to Frank R. and Elsie (Friday) Baker in Rockford. On Feb. 2, 1947, she married Harold "Jim" Holtman in New Milford. He preceded her in death on April 3, 2011.

Lorretta and Jim owned and operated the Hub Lounge in Rochelle. She also worked at Town and Country and Stone's Hallmark both in Rochelle. Lorretta loved to entertain, having family and friends over brought her great joy.

Lorretta is survived by her two children: Dennis

(Ginger) Holtman of Rochelle and Deborah (Rich) Wilkinson of Mt. Morris; four grandchildren: Richard Wilkinson, Jason (Tammy) Wilkinson, Tye (Sarah) Thuestad and Trent (Keri) Thuestad; eight great grandchildren: Brett, Kaylee, Katlynn, Ethan and Breanna Wilkinson, Gunner and Maverick Thuestad and Tyler Teske and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Jim, she was predeceased by her brother, Roy Baker and five sisters: Marge Reints, Alta Mae Kerr, Lorraine Strang, Dorothy Kittleson and Marie Young.

The visitation will



be from 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesday, March 14 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle.

The funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. with Pastor Dave Rogula officiating. The burial will be at White Rock Cemetery in Kings. Memorials may be made in Lorretta's memory to Unity Hospice. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Ronald Dale Heal

CRESTON — Ronald Dale Heal, 70, passed away Sunday, March 5 at Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb. Ron was born on Dec. 16, 1952 to William D. and Jenelle (Davidson) Heal in Rochelle.

On June 12, 1976, he married Jan Ellis in Rochelle. He worked for Price Brothers, which later became PBM and then JW Peters from 1974 to 2008. In 1999, he started Valley Land Trucking with his friends and was still currently working there.

Ron loved his grandkids, nieces, nephews, daughter-in-law and his dog, Duke, who died five months prior to Ron. He

was an avid fan of the Chicago Bears and the Cubs. He enjoyed watching western TV shows and playing euchre with family and friends.

Ron is survived by his wife of 46 years, Jan of Creston; his son, Adam (Jennifer) Heal of Rochelle; three brothers: William Heal of Creston, Chris (Lisa) Heal of Cheltenham, Washington and Jason (Virginia) Heal of Sterling; two sisters: Linda (Tadson) Bussey of Smyrna, Tennessee and Mary Anchondo of Creston; and three grandchildren: DeLane, Riley and Sammy Heal.

The visitation will be from 9-11:30 a.m. Mon-



day, March 13 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The funeral service will follow the visitation at 11:30 a.m., Monday at the funeral home. Burial is at Woodlawn Cemetery in Creston. A memorial will be established.

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

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Deputies respond to two-vehicle accident

OREGON — On March 2 at approximately 7:21 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 11,000 block of East Flagg Road. After investigation, deputies placed David Coil, 35, of Ashton under arrest for no valid driver's license. Coil was additionally issued a citation for suspended registration. Coil was released on an I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date.

On March 3 at approximately 5:30 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in

the 9,000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. After investigation, deputies placed Damian Rodden, 23, of Oregon was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Rodden was released on an I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date.

On March 3 at approximately 3:26 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Big Mound Road.

See SHERIFF page 8

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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

For those interested in having a brick engraved on behalf of a veteran for Memorial Day, the deadline to receive the order form and payment is March 13.

Rochelle Veterans War Memorial brick engraving deadline is March 13

ROCHELLE—Every spring additional bricks in the Rochelle Veterans War Memorial are engraved in time for Memorial Day.

Orders for brick engraving are collected throughout the year and the engraver is

hired to perform the work on a dry day throughout the year. For those interested in having a brick engraved on behalf of a veteran for Memorial Day, the deadline to receive the order form and payment is March 13.

Orders received after this date will be held until the next engraving can be scheduled. The cost for a brick is \$75 and order forms can be obtained at the Rochelle VFW or on the City of Rochelle web-

site. Payment by check or money is required, payable to the Rochelle Veterans War Memorial Association.

Orders can be dropped off at the VFW or mailed to P.O. Box 344, Rochelle IL 61068.

County electronics recycling event scheduled March 31

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, March 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 30.

Accepted items include all televisions and computer monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCR's, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calculators, phone systems,

holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVD's and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted.

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

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

P&Z: Comprehensive planning process discussed Monday

From page 1

The plan is updated every 5-7 years.

The city has hired Teska & Associates to assist with a revision to the 2016 plan.

Teska and Associates has worked closely with the city on its last three or four updates. The total estimated fee is approximately \$9,560, and will include four workshops, one public hearing and all required text revisions identified within the plan.

Review committee members for the plan will include Mayor John Bearrows, City Councilwoman Kate Shaw-Dickey, Planning & Zoning Commissioner Claude McKibben and City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh.

Pete Iosue of Teska & Associates attended Monday's meeting and laid out the plan for meetings in the coming months. April's meeting of the planning & zoning commission will be dedicated completely to the comprehensive plan, as the city currently has no other agenda items for it.

Iosue said that the April meeting will involve the first few portions of the comprehensive plan including introduction, community development guidelines and planning strategies. The meeting that follows

that one will involve the city's future land use plan and transportation plan. During the meeting after that, focuses will be community facilities & services and the utility plan.

The final meeting would involve watershed management, economic development and plan implementation. A public hearing will also occur before final adoption.

"I'm really looking for input as far as what's changed in town and what needs to be updated," Iosue said. "We're not throwing the old comprehensive plan away and writing a new one. Rochelle is terrific at keeping its comprehensive plan current and up to date. Most towns will just wait 20 years and write a new one. That can get expensive and leave you vulnerable."

The review committee will be meeting with city department heads and other community stakeholders for their input on the plan and planning & zoning commission members will bring updates they'd like to see to each meeting.

Residents and members of the community that want to get involved with the planning process can attend meetings of the planning & zoning commission in the coming months. The city hopes to receive a lot of

community feedback for the comprehensive planning process.

"We want more people involved," City Community Development Director Michelle Pease said. "We want business owners and residents involved."

Bearrows attended Monday's meeting and spoke about one area he'd like to see addressed in the comprehensive plan, which is more affordable housing.

"I think our focus in this town in the next 24-48 months better be housing," Bearrows said. "You can bring in as many companies

as you want to bring, but if you brought in 25 families today and tried to put them each in a house, they're not out there. We have to have some affordable housing. And in order to do that, we need to have some public-private partnerships with developers. Because there's not the money in developing that there used to be. You drive around and you see them building all over, but you don't see it here."

City Building Inspector Geoff Starr said the city issued two new construction permits for home builds

last year. Bearrows said he'd like to see a special assessment district used for a new subdivision so people that will benefit from it pay for the infrastructure.

One firm is currently looking at property north of Rochelle for potential development, and the city has been in conversations with it, Bearrows said.

"I firmly believe if we're begging for houses and development, then we need to step up and do our part as a community," Bearrows said. "And that part is developing a public-private partnership and having

some special assessment districts to make it happen. And it can happen."

The mayor said after looking at 2016's plan, he noticed a lot of changes since it was made and that he expects to see a lot more change in the coming five years.

"You're going to definitely shape this community over the next 5-7 years," Bearrows said. "It's not to be taken lightly and it's a big and important job. One of the best things that could happen is we get this all done and it's outdated in three years."

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Farm bill critical to keeping America's food supply affordable

WITH winter weather on the horizon, farmers across the state are gearing up for another productive spring planting season. Once the frost melts and the soil temperatures rise, it will be time to hit the fields, but for many farmers high prices for fertilizer, fuel and other critical tools remain a challenge.

Like consumers, farmers are feeling the pain of ongoing inflation. The ripple effects of the war in Ukraine and supply chain issues pose significant hurdles for farmers. Heading into the spring season and farm bill negotiations, these difficulties remain top of mind at Illi-

nois Farm Bureau (IFB). In early February, the United States Department of Agriculture's latest Farm Sector Income Forecast report indicated that U.S. net farm income will fall nearly 16 percent from the previous year while production costs are expected to increase more than four percent. That's on top of an already record increase in production costs in 2022.

While fuel and fertilizer prices are expected to soften, other costs related to marketing, storage and transportation are expected to increase 11 percent, and labor by seven percent. Rising interest rates and farm sector costs are another concern as

the USDA projects farm sector debt will increase \$31.9 billion to a record \$535 billion.

General inflation is a long-term issue squeezing the pocketbooks of families across America, but the farm income forecast is a reminder that farmers are not benefiting from higher prices at the grocery store.

While some commodity prices are rising, farmers are grappling with additional circumstances, such as drought, avian influenza and supply and labor costs. After accounting for business expenses,

farmers' share of the food dollar is only 7.4 cents.

That is why the farm bill is so important for everyone, not just farmers.

Farm bill programs provide farmers with critical support to mitigate natural disasters and other crises. Other programs secure America's domestic food supply, which keeps our agricultural economy strong while providing consumers with affordable, high-quality products at the grocery store.

The farm bill also addresses hunger through nutrition programs, which serve our most vulnerable

populations and ensure that everyone has access to affordable, fresh and healthy food. Conservation is another key focus of the farm bill, which invests in agriculture research and conservation programs to increase sustainability.

IFB is dedicated to working with our members and elected officials on both sides of the aisle to pass a farm bill that meets the needs of all agriculture segments.

Our members and leaders believe the farm bill must maintain the link between nutrition and commodity programs. IFB also supports maintaining the current crop insurance program, pro-

viding price and revenue protection for farmers, and retaining both SNAP and TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) in the farm bill in their current form.

As we head into another eventful spring, I look forward to working with our members and elected officials to get this critical piece of legislation to the president's desk.

Richard Guebert Jr. is the president of the Illinois Farm Bureau. This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.



Richard Guebert Jr.

My favorite cap and what it represents

I wear an old battered blue cap. It may not look like much. But I consider it one of my most prized possessions.

Eighteen years ago, my father was diagnosed with stage III cancer of the esophagus. His prognosis was bleak. Doctors told him he had a five percent chance of surviving one year – with treatment. It was devastating news for our entire family.

Oddly enough, the person least ruffled by the prognosis was my father. He responded in his typical manner: work hard and try to find an answer. My dad was born during the Great Depression to a family of modest cir-

cumstances. His parents were tenant farmers with not enough land for a son to return.

After being drafted into the Army, he wrote a letter home to his fiancé, Roberta, announcing he was going to become a veterinarian. It left the family stunned. College had never been considered an option. His father told him he wouldn't last a week at a university, because college people were "different." Instead, he persevered.

He not only was admitted to veterinary school two years earlier than most, but graduated near the top of his class. But his first love was farming. For much of my life, Dad

held down two full-time jobs.

One was raising corn, soybeans and hogs. And the other was working as a veterinarian. Most folks around town didn't know him as "Don." They simply called him "Doc." I have no memories of playing catch with my father, flying a kite or even watching a football game on TV.

That just wasn't who he was. If you wanted to spend time with him, you worked with him. When I was no older than six, I found myself often holding a flashlight while he deliv-

ered calves. When I was 10, he was teaching me to plow. (My furrows didn't always touch, but it was a good time with Dad.)

Work was important to him and so was family. That being the case, he saw no reason not to combine the two. So, when my father faced this challenging cancer prognosis, he pored over medical research papers, interviewed doctors, traveled to the Mayo Clinic and told his physician what treatment regimen he wanted based on his research.

Knowing that he would lose all of his hair, I wanted to give him a cap.



Scott Reeder

He had plenty of seed corn caps but that didn't seem quite right to wear to his treatments. A baseball cap seemed like the right style, but he didn't root for any teams.

Finally, I called the University of Illinois' College of Veterinary Medicine and asked if they had a cap with the vet school logo on it. They did and I gave it to my Dad. It became a permanent part of his wardrobe. He wore it to his treatments to remind the doctors and nurses that he knew a thing or two about medicine too.

And after he finished the entire chemotherapy regimen, numerous radiation treatments and a difficult surgery, he went

home wearing that cap. In fact, he wore it off and on another 13 years. The cancer never returned.

When Dad died in 2015, one of the first things I searched for was his cap. Now I wear it. It reminds me of the values of perseverance, hope and hard work. Most folks don't recognize the veterinary logo on the cap, but occasionally someone does. I a while back,

I was walking out of a Springfield café and a passerby glanced at my cap and said, "Hey, Doc." I just smiled. I considered it the highest compliment.

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

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-

tions? Call 815-561-2151.

Jeff Helfrich
Managing Editor

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Rosaelia Arteaga	rarteaga@rochelleil.us
Dan McDermott	dmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Tom McDermott	tmcdermott@rochelleil.us
John Gruben	jgruben@rochelleil.us

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Steve Buita	sbuita@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
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Bill Ravnaas	bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org
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Wayne Williams	jwdw13@yahoo.com
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Greg Hopkins	ghopkins522@comcast.net
Steve Katzman	skatzman@essex1.com
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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
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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

Museum opens new Girl Scout exhibit

ROCHELLE—During Women’s History Month in March, the Flagg Township Museum is pleased to welcome Girl Scouts with a new exhibit about Girl Scouts and to dedicate a new Little Free Library donated by local Girl Scouts. The mission of Girl Scouts is to “build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place” and two Rochelle Girl Scout troops are good examples of girls who are doing just that.

Thanks to Girl Scout Leader Heather Simo and the girls in Troop 409 for helping put together the Girl Scout exhibit. Thanks also to the Girl Scout historians in Rockford and Oswego who are part of Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois for the loan of books, uniforms and Girl Scout artifacts. There are uniforms to try on, handbooks, badge books and other Girl Scout resources to look through, and a place to share your favorite Girl Scout memory. Visitors can make a friendship knot, a Girl Scout activity that represents the Girl Scout promise and Girl Scout law and the life-long friendships made in girl scouting.

In addition, on Thursday, March 16 at 3:45 p.m. a new Little Free Library donated by the Girl Scouts in Troop 1168 and their leader Angela Marruffo



will be dedicated. The museum welcomes this new addition and is pleased to be the location the girls selected for their library. The girls in the troop will also be filling the library with a variety of books. What a nice addition to downtown Rochelle.

View the Girl Scout exhibit when the museum is open, Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and use the Little Free Library anytime.

The mission of the Flagg Township Historical Society and Museum is to stimulate interest in Flagg Township history through education, research, collection and preservation of information for the benefit of the public of today and in the future.

4-H Penny Carnival scheduled for March 18

OREGON — Looking for a fun, inexpensive way to spend a Saturday evening with your kids or grandkids? Put the Ogle County 4-H Penny Carnival on your March schedule!

4-H Penny Carnival is set for March 18 from 5-8 p.m. at the Blackhawk Center, 1101 W. Jefferson St.,

Oregon. This annual event is open to the public and features 4-H club created games that can be played for 25 cents each or 50 games for \$10. Prizes are awarded win or lose! Plus, a free door prize drawing will be conducted, and a snack stand will be available. This is one of the few

places where families can still have a whole evening of fun on pocket change!

The 2023 game theme is “4-H Family Game Night!” Two 4-H clubs will be awarded special cash prizes for games that are “Most Entertaining” and “Most Creative.” This year the event is sponsored by Heels

and Hardhats!

4-H is the youth development program of University of Illinois Extension. For more information about this or any other county 4-H program, call Ogle County Extension at 815/732-2191 or visit on-line at <https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo/4-h-ogle-county>.


Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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

2022 From The Heart Calendar

Feb. 10 - Joanne Storey, Rochelle, \$25
Feb. 11 - Jessica Rogers, Rochelle, \$25
Feb. 12 - Sandra Cummings, Rockford, \$50
Feb. 13 - Rochelle Chamber, \$25
Feb. 14 - Kaya Fulgencio, Rochelle, \$250
Feb. 15 - Nathaniel W. Brass, Rochelle, \$25
Feb. 16 - Jewel Challand, Rochelle, \$25
Feb. 17 - RACF, \$25
Feb. 18 - Hollie Peterson, Walnut, \$25
Feb. 19 - Mary Goken, Rochelle, \$50
Feb. 20 - Jeff Ramsey, Rochelle, \$25
Feb. 21 - RACF, \$25
Feb. 22 - From the Heart, \$25
Feb. 23 - RACF, \$25
Feb. 24 - Dorie Golt, Rochelle, \$25
Feb. 25 - Larry Hageman, Rochelle, \$25
Feb. 26 - From the Heart, \$50
Feb. 27 - Olivia Ankney, Rochelle, \$25
Feb. 28 - Zekelman Employee, Rochelle, \$25
Mar. 1 - Ed Messenger, Oregon, \$25
Mar. 2 - First State Bank Employee, Rochelle, \$25
Mar. 3 - Rachel Smith, Stillman Valley, \$25
Mar. 4 - Tim Cech, Rochelle, \$25
Mar. 5 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$50
Mar. 6 - Matthew Browder, Waterman, \$25
Mar. 7 - Jim & Lori Nalley, Ashton, \$25
Mar. 8 - Miguel Lopez, Rochelle, \$25



Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Two-wheeler
5 Bumped into
8 Pack (down)
12 Ireland
13 Peyton's brother
14 "The Time Machine" people
15 Octopus arm
17 Lunch hour
18 Request
19 IV measures
20 Must-haves
21 Chai, e.g.
22 Vagrant
23 More recent
26 Goddess of wisdom
30 Tehran's country
31 Sly one
32 Tidy
33 Workshop cutter
35 Rock
36 Very long time
37 Possesses
38 Brainy
41 Small barrel
42 "The Wedding Planner" actress, to fans
45 New York's — Field
46 Bicycle type
48 N. Mex. neighbor
49 — Lingus

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45					46				47			
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DOWN

1 Test version
2 Enrages
3 Neck problem
4 Tolkien creature
5 Pilgrimage site
6 Building wings
7 Dead heat
8 Some urban homes
9 Medicinal
10 Disposition
11 Bowling targets
16 Computer brand
20 Convent manager
21 Prepare meat for cooking
22 Beiderbecke of jazz
23 Pen tip
24 Mound stat
25 Pallid
26 Trim the grass
27 Old
28 Oldsmobile
28 Moving day rental
29 Packed away
31 Summer cooler
34 Drunkard
35 Droops
37 Ford or Hudson
38 Ella's style
39 Surrealist
40 Bickering
41 Fall (over)
42 Ryan of "Boston Public"
43 Tragic king
44 Probability
46 Light touch
47 "Frontline" ailer

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: Q equals L

HGDV QFRBDQ MFJD RO HPLG
F KMGDJD LT CQPJCQFJ GPK
MTJDWX OFBLVDB, PL HFK F
CTTQ-GFBWX OQFV.

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

Answer

S	R	I	S		P	L	Y		E		T	O	I
A	R	A	V		A	E	R		Z	I	T	A	R
E	E	D			S	N	E		T	E		P	E
O	L	O			G	E		K	E		J		
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					C	O	S						
					T	E	N						
					A	C	L						
					E	L	I						
					M	E	T						

Solution time: 23 mins.
Answers

When Laurel came up with a scheme to film him as a comedy partner, it was a fool-hardy plan.

answer

King Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

LOCAL NEWS

Rochelle Community of Opportunity Hiring Expo announced

ROCHELLE – The last few years have seen some unprecedented global disruptions in the workplace and workforce. Unretirement and hybrid work schedules are becoming trends. “Economic uncertainty and a disconnect between what employees need and what employers can provide are expected to continue into 2023,”

Mayor John Bearrows said. “The goals of the Rochelle Community of Opportunity Hiring Expo are to provide a place for a quick and streamlined hiring process, attract quality candidates, and motivate job seekers to find new local careers. Sometimes the perfect candidate isn’t in an employer’s target zone.”

Rochelle Township High School District #212 (RTHS) & Community Consolidated School District #231 Superintendent Jason Harper said, “It is critical that educators, parents, and students be exposed to good career choices in Rochelle”. He

added, “RTHS is very intentional in preparing our students to thrive in careers here at home”.

The first Rochelle Community of Opportunity Hiring Expo was held in 2020 as federal unemployment benefits expired after the COVID-19 Pandemic. Event organizers are celebrating those who found employment after attending past expos, including former RTHS students. Employers benefit by having access to a large pool of talent while boosting brand awareness. The community prospers by retaining local talent. The expo is cost-effective as there is no cost to anyone to participate.

Jasmine Sarabia, a recent RTHS graduate said, “I first attended the Hiring Expo during my junior year. Chief Dave Sawlsville shared information about the Rochelle Fire Department but suggested I return in my senior year.” Sarabia met Sawlsville the following year at the expo and applied to the department.

ment. She now works for both the fire and police departments doing what she loves and giving back to her community. “Without the first interaction, I might never have thought that any of this could be possible,” she added.

Edgar Lopez is a 2016 alumnus of RTHS who plans to return to the expo but this time as a talent scout for United Parcel Service (UPS). Lopez attended the event as a senior and was exposed to employers and organizations he didn’t know existed.

“I urge job seekers to not just consider pay but to think about company benefits and potential career paths because it matters and will truly make a difference in life,” Lopez said. “It’s important to work together to upscale students and their development because they are truly the future and to engage with people at all levels about opportunities at UPS.”

Whether you are looking for the job of your dreams



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The first Rochelle Community of Opportunity Hiring Expo was held in 2020 as federal unemployment benefits expired after the COVID-19 Pandemic.

or want to explore new options, the Community of Opportunity Hiring Expo is the place to get started.

Details

What: Rochelle Community of Opportunity Hiring Expo. When: March 10. Where: RTHS blue gym, 1401 Flagg Road, Rochelle, enter the expo through door 15. Who: 40 local commercial, retail, industrial and

service employers on-site. Details: RTHS juniors and seniors are invited to attend the expo. Open to the public from Noon-2 p.m. To register: Job seekers are encouraged to pre-register at Eventbrite to be eligible for one entry into a drawing for \$300 and must attend and register at expo. Eventbrite registration link: <https://hubsgethired23.eventbrite.com>.

A targeted social media, radio and print campaign will be used to reach the largest segment of the unemployed as far east as Aurora, Illinois.

Sponsors: City of Rochelle, Office of Mayor John Bearrows, Kishwaukee College, RTHS, Rochelle Foods – Hormel, Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, and 102.3 The Coyote & Superhits 93.5.

SHERIFF: Deputies respond to two-vehicle accident with injuries

From page 4

After investigation, deputies placed Miroslava Oliveros, 24, of Rockford under arrest for no valid driver’s license. Oliveros was additionally issued citations for improper passing in a no passing zone and failure to change her address with the secretary of state. Oliveros was released on an I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date.

On March 3 at approximately 8:55 a.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident with injuries at the intersection of Freeport Road and White Oak Road. After investigation, deputies learned a black-colored Audi passenger car, driven by Peter Leeson, 22, of Belvidere, was traveling westbound on White Oak Road when he approached the two-way stop intersection of Freeport Road. At the same time a black Chevrolet passen-

ger car, driven by Porchia Moore, 31, of Freeport was traveling southbound on Freeport Road while approaching the White Oak Road intersection and had the right away. The Audi then pulled out in front of the Chevrolet and was struck on the passenger side by the Chevrolet. Both vehicles sustained heavy damage and ended up in the southwest ditch. Forrester EMS responded to the scene and later transported Moore to Freeport Memorial Hospital for non-life threatening injuries. Leeson was transported to Freeport Memorial Hospital by Shannon EMS for minor injuries and was later released. Leeson was issued citations for disobeying a stop sign and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Forrester Police Department and Illinois State Police assisted with the accident.

On March 4 at 12:48 a.m. deputies with the assis-

tance of Mt. Morris Police conducted a traffic stop in the 200 block of East Hitt Street, Mt. Morris. After a brief investigation deputies arrested Corey Stone, 27, of Oregon for driving without a valid license. Stone was released on a \$2,500 individual bond with a return court date. Stone was also issued citations for operating a motor vehicle without insurance and failure to signal.

On March 4 at approximately 12:11 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in

the 8,000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies placed Eric Hentges, 59, of Rockford, under arrest for driving while license revoked (class four felony) and possession of stolen property (class four felony). Hentges was also issued citations for driving while license revoked (class A misdemeanor), operating an uninsured vehicle and no valid registration. Hentges was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court ap-

pearance in front of a judge.

On March 4 at approximately 4:31 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the north intersection of Ridge Road and Pines Road. After investigation, Deputies placed Savannah Siron, 22, of Dixon, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Siron was additionally issued citations for operating a vehicle with suspended registration and operating an uninsured vehicle. Siron was released on an I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date.

On March 4 at 3:15 a.m. deputies responded to a power pole in the roadway. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Jeffrey Bardell, 24, of Polo for driving under the influence of alcohol. Bardell was transported to Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond. Bardell was also issued citations for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, use of an electronic communication device while driving, expired registration and improper lane usage.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

School Resource Officer Pete Pavia has been named interim chief of the Rochelle Police Department. Eric Higby announced his retirement after 27 years.

POLICE: SRO Pavia named interim chief

From page 1

“I look forward to working more closely with Pavia,” Fiegenschuh said. “His experience and background have prepared him well to serve as our interim police chief.”

Pavia has over 25 years of law enforcement experience at various levels of leadership including as a field training officer, detective, first line supervisor and acting chief. Pavia

holds a degree in criminal justice and is currently completing a master’s degree in business administration and organizational leadership. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

“The department’s future looks very bright overall,” Pavia said. “We have a young and eager-to-learn agency that truly understands their roles as public servants.”

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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



SECOND IN THE STATE

The St. Paul Crusaders took second in the LSA State Championship tournament.

See page 2 for more details

Rochelle Wrestling Club

Junior Hubs shine at sectional

Three Rochelle athletes qualify for IKWF State Championship in Rockford

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Fourteen athletes from the Rochelle Wrestling Club battled in the IKWF Rochelle Sectional on Saturday, with three athletes qualifying for the IKWF State Championship meet in Rockford. The state meet will begin on Friday, March 10 and run through Saturday, March 11.

Teddy Millard finished first in the 64 Novice Division with a 3-0 record to clinch a berth in the state meet. Millard earned a first-round bye before notching three consecutive fall victories over ISI's KyLynn Larkin, Marengo's Chayson Weirich and Crystal Lake's Marshall Rajcevic.

Benjamin Morris took second in the 134 Novice Division with a 1-1 record to clinch a berth in the state meet. Morris received first and second-round byes before outlasting Stockton's Piper Sandell for a 7-6 decision in the semifinal round to secure a ticket to the state tournament.

Eliud Lombardia placed third in the 118 Senior Division with a 4-1 record to clinch a berth in the state meet. Despite losing in the second round, Lombardia won four consecutive



The Rochelle Wrestling Club had 14 athletes compete in the IKWF Rochelle Sectional on Saturday. Three individuals qualified for the IKWF State Championship at the BMO Center in Rockford.

wrestlebacks to secure a state berth, beginning the run with a 15-7 major decision over Marengo's

Daniel Cox and a fall over Golden Eagles wrestler Carlos Aldaco. Lombardia followed with a 13-4 major decision against Sycamore's Aiden Gemberling

and a fall over Dundee's Luke Flaskamp.

Reed Dougherty finished fourth in the 134

Intermediate Division with an 0-2 record. Joshua Lassiter finished fourth in the 126 Senior Division with a 2-2 record, not-

ing falls over Marengo's Gavin Boorsma and Sycamore's Noah Carlson.

See RWC page 3

RTHS Track & Field

Rochelle teams return for start of indoor season

Nearly 90 athletes competing for Hub and Lady Hub programs this spring

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Fifty-four athletes are out for the Rochelle Hub track and field team this season. While many of those athletes are freshmen and sophomores, head coach Dale Bergeson has optimism in the team's returning varsity athletes as well as the team's early workout results.

Practices are underway for the Hubs, who will begin the indoor season at the Byron Indoor Preview on Saturday, March 11. While Rochelle lost a talented senior class that included IHSAS State Championship qualifier Zach Sanford, the Hubs will feature a small group of returning upperclassmen including seniors Ethan Bergeson and Landon DeLille who are back in the fold.

"Our team will be younger this year," Bergeson said. "We had a lot more freshmen and sophomores come out than we did juniors and seniors, but they have a lot of speed and our times right now are faster than our times from last season. We have some new athletes out who are progressing very well and

we'll need those athletes to fill some of the voids from last year."

Juniors Luis Hernandez and Landon Mickley are two more athletes who could see big roles for the Hubs this season. Rochelle's indoor season will include the Sycamore Invitational on Wednesday, March 15 and the Sterling Invitational on Saturday, March 18. The Hubs open the outdoor season with an Interstate 8 Conference meet at Plano with Ottawa on Tuesday, April 4.

"I think we'll be stronger in the sprints and the distance events with Luis," Bergeson said. "He's improved so much and we saw that during the cross country season. Most of our 400-meter runners were sophomores and juniors last season and having those runners back will help us be a stronger team in many areas this season. It's tough replacing a thrower like Zach Sanford, but having kids like Landon DeLille and Landon Mickley will help us fill that gap this season."

Sophomore Jackson Smith headlines a large group of underclassmen looking to step up for Rochelle this season. The



Senior Ethan Bergeson (left) and junior Alivia Henkel (right) are two key returning athletes for the Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub track and field teams this season.

Hubs will travel for the Assumption Invitational on Saturday, April 8 before hosting the annual Hub Relays at Rochelle Township High School on Saturday, April 15. A new outdoor event for the Hubs will

be the Rock Island ABC Invitational on Friday, April 21.

"Ethan looks strong in the hurdles and the pole vault and we're looking forward to seeing how he does this season," Berge-



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

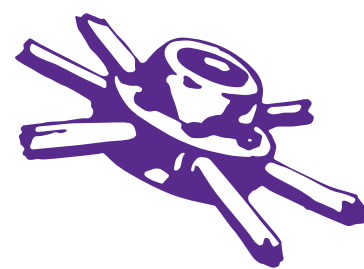
son said. "Jackson's one of our fastest runners right now and he's made a big leap from where he was last season... Our motto this season is #upgrade and that means upgrading our personal lives and mak-

ing our habits better. We want to upgrade what we do in school and in sports. We're trying to revamp everything we're doing so we can improve."

See TRACK page 3



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The St. Paul Crusaders took second in the 2022-23 Lutheran Sports Association State Championship tournament over the weekend. The team includes Austin Hartnett, Eli Schweitzer, Aiden Carmichael, Owen Carmichael, Tyson Carmichael, Tyler Johnson (front row), Johnny Chadwick, Warren Schweitzer, Brody Bruns, Braxton Bruns, Cohen Haedt, Brecken Bruns and coach Ryan Haedt (back row).

St. Paul takes second at LSA State Championship

BY RUSSELL HODGES
 SPORTS EDITOR

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS — The St. Paul Crusader basketball team competed in the 2022-23 Lutheran Sports Association State Championship tournament over the weekend, finishing second with a 3-1 record over four games. The tournament concluded a 40-3 season for the Crusaders, who won the Meridian Conference Championship earlier this season.

St. Paul tipped off the tournament with a 55-19 win over Collinsville (Holy Cross) in Roselle on Friday. The Crusaders then defeated East St. Louis (Unity) 43-23 in Arlington Heights on Saturday before beating Nashville/Okawville 46-32 later that day to clinch a berth in the championship game.

St. Paul battled Peoria (Christ) in the finals, falling 50-34 to take second in the tournament. Brody Bruns and Cohen Haedt were each named All-Tournament Team honorees over the weekend. Bruns averaged 17.5 points per game for the Crusaders, who scored the second-most points of any team in the tournament with 178.

The second-place performance capped off a successful season for the Crusader boys, who won the St. John's Lombard Eagle Invitational as well as the Rockford Lutheran Black Friday Shootout, the Cross Lutheran 23rd Annual Tip-off Tournament, the 12th Annual Immanuel Belvidere Chick-Fil-A Classic and the Fox Valley Lutheran Conference Championship.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Brody Bruns (left) and Cohen Haedt (right) each earned All-Tournament Team honors over the weekend.

The team includes Austin Hartnett, Eli Schweitzer, Aiden Carmichael, Owen Carmichael, Tyson Carmichael, Tyler Johnson, Johnny Chadwick, Warren Schweitzer, Brody Bruns, Braxton Bruns, Cohen Haedt, Brecken Bruns and coach Ryan Haedt.

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SPORTS



Benjamin Morris, Teddy Millard and Eliud Lombardia (left) all qualified to wrestle in the IKWF State Championship meet in Rockford this coming weekend. In addition to competing in the IKWF Rochelle Sectional, the Rochelle Wrestling Club had four kids participate in the Illinois Bantam Championships over the weekend. Pictured at right are Wells Millard, Tate Bigelow, Rowen Villalobos and Elliot Huff with coach Noah Millard.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

RWC: Junior Hubs battle at Bantam State Championships

From page 1

Angel Hernandez finished fourth in the 135 Senior Division with a 3-2 record, earning three straight falls over Crystal Lake's Nathan Kozlowski, Stockton's Sawyer McPeck and Sycamore's Ian Ruiz in the

wrestlebacks. Dominic Escatel went 1-2 over three bouts in the 76 Intermediate Division and Quentin Ansteth

went 1-2 over three bouts in the 86 Novice Division. Hadley Losoya went 2-2 over four bouts in the 126 Senior Division, defeat-

ing Kaneland's Julian Aguilar and Marengo's Gavin Boorsma. Other wrestlers who represented the Rochelle Wrestling

Club in the tournament included Riley Koivisto, Joshua Hernandez, Danny Garcia, Brandin Kirk and Tyler Etes.

TRACK: Indoor season underway for Rochelle athletes

From page 1

Girls

Head coach Alison Vrana has roughly 35 student-athletes out for the Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team this season. It's the largest roster she's had during any season as head coach of the Lady Hubs, but with many of those athletes being freshmen and sophomores, Vrana will be looking for continued competitiveness and growth as the season progresses.

Practices are well underway for the Lady Hubs, who will open the indoor season at the Sycamore Invitational on Tuesday, March 7. Despite rostering several underclassmen, Vrana said Rochelle will have some notable upperclassmen returning such as junior Alivia Henkel, who reached the IHSA State Championship meet in the 300-meter hurdles last season.

"It's great to see our numbers continuing to grow," Vrana said. "We have a lot of freshmen and sophomores and we're really excited to see how they grow as athletes.

We have some good distance runners and that's a category where we've typically been lacking. I think we'll still be solid in the hurdles and the sprints and I think throwing will be a strong aspect of our team."

Other notable returners back in action for the Lady Hubs include senior Sammy Sanford as well as juniors Kennedy Adamski and Kylie Smith. Rochelle's indoor schedule includes the Byron Indoor Preview on Saturday, March 11 and the Sterling Invitational on Saturday, March 18.

The team's first outdoor meet of the season will be the Dixon Invitational on Saturday, April 1.

"We're excited to have Kennedy, Sammy and Kylie all back," Vrana said. "We only have three seniors and seven juniors this year so our team is really young. We're looking for our sophomores and juniors to take on a leadership role this year... It's tough to say where exactly we'll be strong right now, but we have a lot of good athletes and we're hoping those girls

welcome the competition because many of them will have the chance to run at the varsity level."

Sophomores Zoe White and Alex Neece are two additional key returners for the Lady Hubs this season. Rochelle's first Interstate 8 Conference triangular meet will be at Plano with Ottawa on Tuesday, April 4. The Lady Hubs will travel to Morris with LaSalle-Peru on Tuesday, April 11 before competing with Sterling at Sandwich on Wednesday, April 19. Rochelle will host a non-

conference dual meet against the Stillman Valley Cardinals on Tuesday, April 25.

"I think we'll see a lot of improvement over the next few years," Vrana said. "I want to see Alivia make it back to the state meet and I want to help her find a field event she can excel at. I'd like to see more than one athlete make it down to state and I'd like to see our team consistently place in their events. I think we'll be able to do a lot with 35 athletes on our roster this year."

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Shop • Play • Stay

9 Biggest Benefits Of Shopping Rochelle First



Youth programs, schools and non-profit groups look to our businesses first when fundraising. These

community-minded businesses donate faithfully to local youth sports programs, community clubs, nonprofit groups and churches – just to name a few. Shouldn't we look to those same businesses first when we need goods and services? Of course we should!



Banking with people who know you is a luxury found only in hometowns. You don't

have to show your ID every time you go in. You can get a loan from people who know you and understand your needs, whether it be money for your first car or to help your business grow. Local banks believe in the value of community members helping one another.



Customer service after the sale is invaluable.

Local retailers not only take responsibility for the product they sold, they will often fix it or replace it – no questions asked. Appliances, furniture, computers and electronics sometimes have glitches. Would you rather box yours up, send it to who knows where, and wait six to eight weeks, or just go back to the nice guy that helped you when you bought it?



High rate of return.

For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community

through payroll, taxes and other expenditures. Online orders return absolutely nothing to Rochelle, IL.



No one wants to have to make an insurance claim, but it's painless when your agent is your neighbor. You

don't have to convince them that there was a hail storm, or that the wind nearly took your roof off. They know because they live here. Which do you want when you've had a bad day: A face-to-face meeting with your local agent, or a machine answering the phone at that big national insurer that advertises on TV?



Keeping it local encourages community growth. By choosing to

do business locally, you help maintain Rochelle's diversity, charm and appeal; which attracts new community members.



Seeking health care in your hometown brings the comforts of receiving qualified care from people you know

and trust. Whether it be a trip to the dentist, regular health care screenings, a visit to a specialist or an emergency, you need not travel. It's all right here.



Time is money. It's simple math (especially when you figure in gas mileage.)

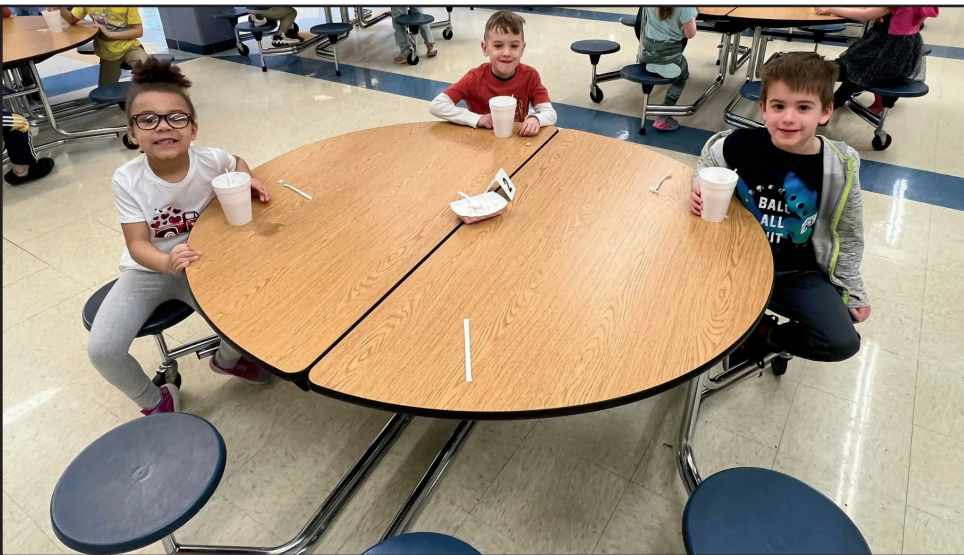
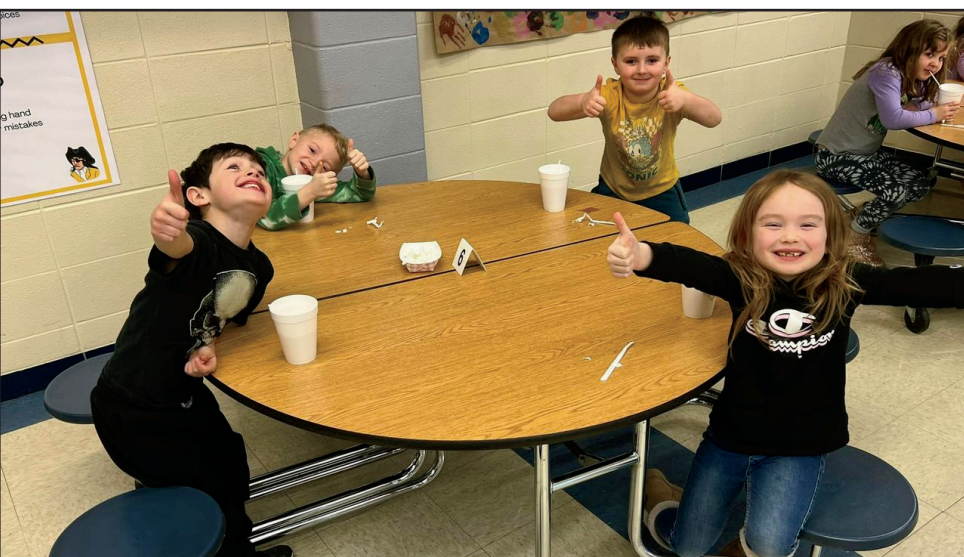
Shopping locally can actually save you both time and money!



One word: Jobs. When you do business of any kind in Rochelle, it creates and maintains jobs for others in our area

. A healthy employment rate is the cornerstone of all economies. How can you help the economy recover? Start at home.

ASHTON NEWS

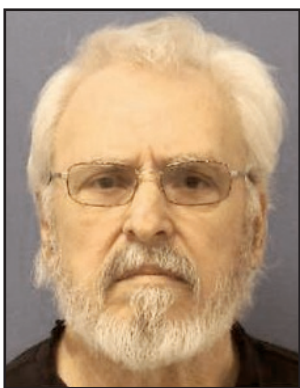


Ashton-Franklin Center elementary students hold Raider Way celebration for reaching gold coin total
On Friday, students had their fourth Raider Way celebration for reaching their 750 gold coin goal. Each grade level came to the cafeteria to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate with yummy toppings. Students earn gold coins by being respectful, responsible, safe, and kind (this is what we call the Raider Way). Our next goal is 1,000 gold coins.

ISP arrests Ashton man for possession of child pornography

ASHTON – On Feb. 28, the Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) arrested 76-year-old Glen Galfano of Ashton on four counts of possession of child pornography (class two felony) and four counts of disseminating child pornography (class X felony). On Feb. 28, DCI Zone Two Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, comprised of members from the Illinois State Police, Lee County Sheriff's Office and Dixon Police Department, executed a search warrant at a residence in the 800 block of Brown Avenue in Ashton

following an investigation involving child pornography. Evidence gathered at the scene led to the arrest of Galfano. Galfano was transported to the Lee County Jail where he is awaiting a bond hearing. The investigation remains open and ongoing. No further information will be disseminated at this time. The Illinois State Police provide the following resource for parents, for the public to report crimes against children, and victims to start their path towards healing and recovery. To keep kids safe online, learn more at: <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/onlineSAFE/>; To report online exploitation visit: www.cybertipline.org; For resources for survivors of sexual abuse visit: <https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/csam-resources>.



Glen Galfano



Sheriff's office thankful for K9 donations

The Lee County Sheriff's Office would like to thank everyone that has donated towards the purchase of our new K9 thus far: Sewing by Deb, Last Alarm, Heins Family, All Safe Storage, NuMark Credit Union, Bradford Victor-Adams Mutual Insurance, Balch Family, Country Financial- Bill Dean, Raynor Garage Doors, Dixon Park District, Dixon Autobody, Kaleel's Clothing, Town & Country Restaurant, Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet, Hudson Family, Trinity Investments, Fyr-Fyter, River Ridge Animal Hospital, Orzech Auto Truck and Towing, Ringland-Johnson Construction, Schmitt Plumbing, Kitzman's Lumber, AFSCME Local 817, Preston-Schilling Funeral Home, Anonymous Donor, Ogle-Lee Crimestoppers and Laborers Int. Union Local 727

COMMUNITY MATTERS



BAR/RESTAURANT

Ralphie and Lulu's
812 Main St., Ashton
815-453-2103

Huddle Cafe
802 Main Street, Ashton
815-453-2677

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Mills and Petrie Memorial Building
Hourly, daily rentals for your event
815-973-8397

CONSTRUCTION

Don Ross Jr. Construction
PO 96, Ashton
815-677-3774

GROCERY/GAMING

Mimini's General Store
602 Brown Street, Ashton
815-453-7500

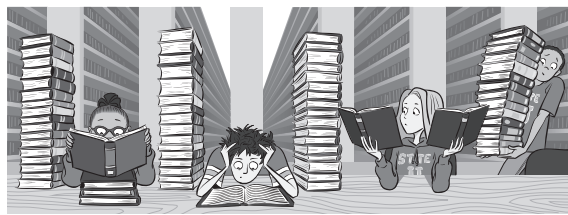
FUNERAL HOME

Beverage Lyons Funeral Home
601 Richardson Ave., Ashton, 815-453-2441
beveragefamilyfh.com

HAIR SALON

Shear Delight
1873 Ashton Road, Ashton
815-453-2331

Winifred Knox Memorial Library



112 S. Elm St.
Franklin Grove, IL 61031
815.456.2823

Village of Franklin Grove
105 E. S. South Street,
Franklin Grove
815-456-2131

INSURANCE

Bradford Victor-Adams Mutual Insurance Company
120 W. South St., Franklin Grove
815-456-2334

MUNICIPALITIES

Village of Franklin Grove
105 E. S. South Street, Franklin Grove
815-456-2131

PLUMBING

Richter Plumbing and More
402 Western Ave., Ashton
815-453-2361

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Franklin Grove Library
112 S. Elm Street
815-456-2823

Mills and Petrie Memorial Library
704 First Street
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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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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 an 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)

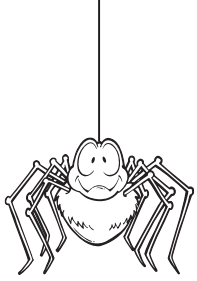
315 WANTED TO BUY

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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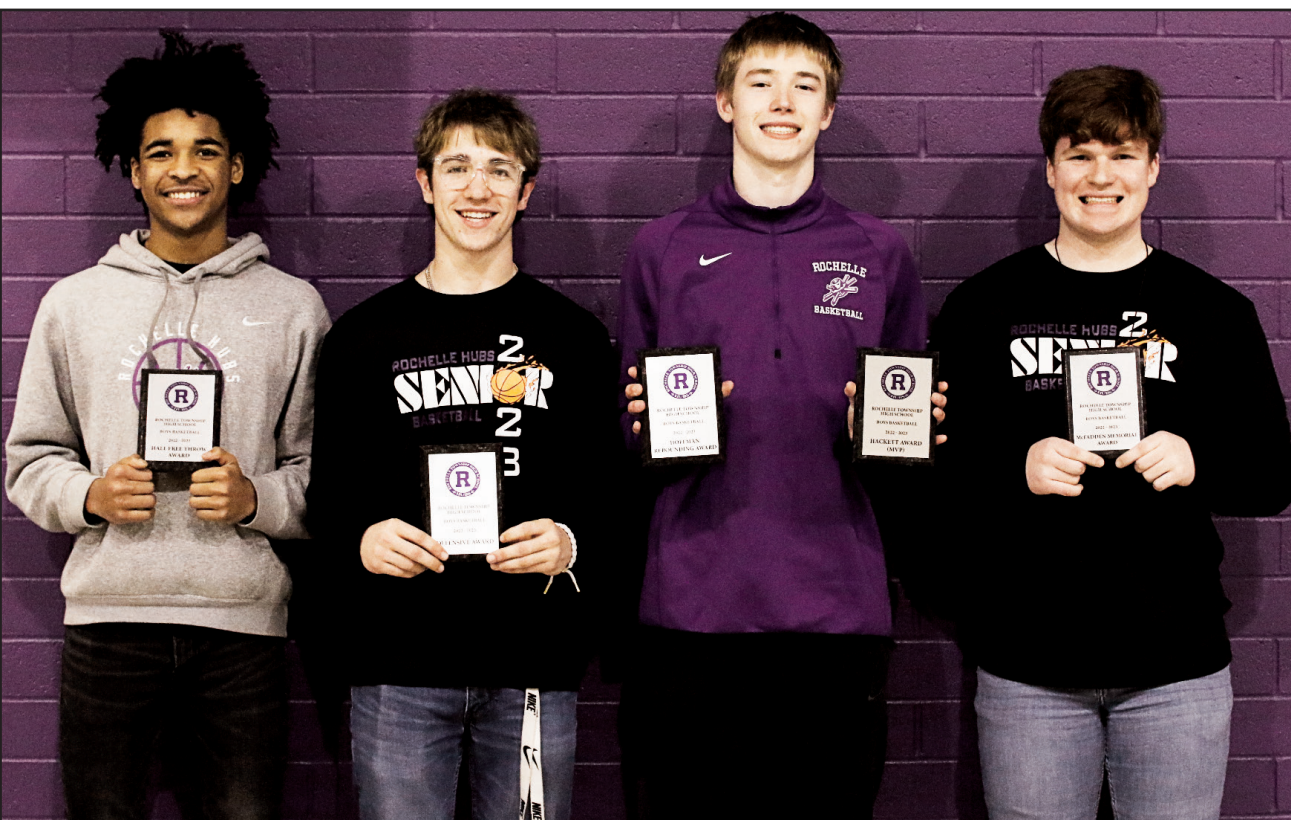
STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG



SPORTS

RTHS Boys Basketball

(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)



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

The Rochelle Hub basketball team held its awards banquet Wednesday, with several student-athletes taking home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards. Ten Hubs earned Academic All-Conference honors including Elijah Harley (Honorable Mention), Bruno Fernandez (Honorable Mention), Jack Lodico (Honorable Mention), Colton O'Rorke (Honorable Mention), Austin Raleigh (Honorable Mention), Carson Lewis, Landon DeLille, David Gerber (Honorable Mention), Eli Luxton (Honorable Mention) and Raul Aguirre (Honorable Mention). RTHS award winners (bottom left) included Cayden Moore (Hall Free Throw), Colton O'Rorke (Defensive Player of the Year), Eli Luxton (Hoffman Rebounding and Most Valuable Player) and Landon DeLille (Ellis Sportsmanship). Eli Luxton was also named All-Conference.

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