Tilton School hosts spelling bee contest

PAGE 2





Lady Hubs take fourth at first indoor meet

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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ELECTION

VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 OGLE COUNTY

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8:30AM-4:30PM MONDAY-FRIDA

inside this paper

Inside this edition of the

Rochelle News-Leader is

the Voters Guide for the

MONDAY

HIGH LOW

36 23

WEDNESDAY

HIGH LOW

upcoming election.

See inside

WEATHER

SUNDAY

HIGH LOW

TUESDAY

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36

28

Voters Guide

TODAY

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Vol. 103 • No. 91

\$1.25

Water main project bid approved Trustees approve sealcoating bid Tuesday evening

BY JEFF HELFRICH MANAGING EDITOR

CRESTON — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village Board unanimously approved a bid from Queens Trucking & Construction for \$156,694 for work on its upcoming water main project. \$89,000-90,000 of the work will be paid for by federal American Rescue Plan Act funds.

The village received eight bids for the work and the Queens bid was the lowest. \$233,000 was the highest bid received. The Queens bid approved by the village Tuesday includes upsizing to an eight-inch main at an additional cost of around \$18,000. Queens has worked with the village on multiple recent utility projects.

"The project runs three blocks, including from Cederholm and Main two blocks east and then one block up Prairie to Grant Street," Village Engineer Kevin Bunge said. "It's 1.027 feet of water main. There's a new hydrant and five new valves and boxes. We're replacing nine services. There will be



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village Board unanimously approved a bid from Queens Trucking & Construction for \$156,694 for work on its upcoming water main project.

restoration to repave and put grass back in order."

The base six-inch main bid was for \$138,016 and Bunge said he preferred the upsized eight-inch option to move "significantly more" water.

Sealcoating

The board unanimously approved the use of up to \$92,000 in motor fuel tax funds for sealcoating the north side of Creston this year. Village Trustee Curt

Ward said the information has been submitted to the county and the eventual price for the work could come in lower than \$92,000.

Water

operator

The village officially received notice that Village Water Operator Mike Megurdichian plans to retire this year and work will begin on replacing

him. Megurdichian has worked with the village since the early 1990s. Trustee Greg Hopkins led the meeting Tuesday due to Village President Tom Byro being absent.

"I know Tom has been talking with Mike about other people and exploring other options for a water operator," Hopkins said. "He can talk more about that next month."

See CRESTON pg 5



City working through RPD roster turnover **BY JEFF HELFRICH** MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Amid an unprecedented time of retirements and hiring for open positions, City of Rochelle leadership has authorized the Rochelle Police Department to over hire and go up to 23 sworn officers, RPD Chief Eric Higby said. Previously 21 was the maximum.

Higby is among those retirements and his last dav will be March 14. Much of his recent work has involved hiring new officers and managing turnover and staffing. RPD is currently working to hire four police officers. Over hiring will allow the city to compensate for recent and expected upcoming retirements.

"That will help us to not go under water like we have been," Higby said. "We've got some officers injured too. If you compare and contrast it to more than five years ago, we didn't have the officers in the schools as resource officers either. You kind of lose those two officers with that and then you have a couple hurt and then if you're under on numbers overall too, you're really under on the street." Higby called the council allow over hiring "fantastic" and "a big step" to ensuring adequate staffing. "Had that not happened, eventually we would've gotten to a point where it would be almost a crisis situation where everybody from upstairs would have to be on the streets as well just to handle calls," Higby said.

Hillcrest board approves fund appropriation for water tower work No action taken on solar ordinance Wednesday





433 Willis Ave. Apt 11 815-561-0526

OBITUARIES

 DARLENE JOANNE REYNOLDS

See page 4

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- MENARDS
- **VOTERS GUIDE**

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BY JEFF HELFRICH MANAGING EDITOR

HILLCREST—Atits monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board unanimously approved the appropriation of funds not to exceed \$337,000 for future repairs/maintenance to its water tower that will take place as needed in the future.

Hillcrest recently had a report done on its water tower by Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group that yielded recommendations. The report recommended work on critical deficiencies, non-critical deficiencies, possible OSHA violations and small issues that can be fixed by village maintenance with little expense. "What I'd like to do is allot this amount of funds for the project and do it piecemeal as we need to," Village Trustee Dan Potter said. "Which is to say get the critical stuff out of the way and get the things that can be done locally and by our maintenance department out of the way.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board unanimously approved the appropriation of funds not to exceed \$337,000 for future repairs/ maintenance to its water tower that will take place as needed in the future.

There are other preventative maintenance things, some that should be done right away and some that should not. I'm proposing we do it from most critical to least critical."

Potter said he anticipates the final amount spent will "come in well under" the \$337,000 amount.

Village President Randy Salsbury said during the meeting that he met with representatives from Rochelle Municipal Utilities and discussed the water tower's needs and he talked about the possibility of hiring Pittsburg Tank & Tower to do the entirety of the work.

Potter, the village water

trustee, took issue with Salsbury not including him in the meeting with RMU, and questioned what else was discussed at the meeting.

"If you're trying to get information and withhold it from the board, that's a problem," Potter said.

See HILLCREST pg 3

See POLICE page 8

Daylight Saving Time begins today

ROCHELLE — Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour as we spring forward and Daylight Saving Time began today, Sunday, March 12 at 2 a.m.

Rochelle Progress Sections Community **Coming March 29th!** Growth & Development To be included, contact your local sales rep

LOCAL NEWS



Tilton Elementary School hosts spelling bee competition

Tilton School recently held a fifth grade spelling bee for its students. The school champion was Sydney Burke and the runner up was Teagan Singleton. Burke will advance to the Regional Spelling Bee in Dixon. The group photo lists the Tilton Spelling Bee classroom finalists: Angel Barrientos, Josie Baylor, Burke, Janie Cagle, Enrique Calderon, Spencer Carpenter, Gabe Coats, Landon DuBourg, Nathan Faivre, Juan Garcia, Juan Mondragon, Alex Munoz, Claire Ramirez and Singleton.

Local chiropractic doctor now a **100-Year Lifestyle Licensed Affiliate**

ROCHELLE – Bryan Wills, D.C. of Rochelle has just become a 100-Year Lifestyle Licensed Affiliate. Based on the bestselling book, The 100 Year Lifestyle, by Dr. Eric Plasker, D.C, Wills Chiropractic is committed to helping individuals and families live a pain free, active, healthy long life.

"People are living longer than ever and the

citizens of Rochelle are looking for solutions to make the most of their years. This unique, holistic program will help a lot," Wills said "As a 100-Year Lifestyle Licensed Affiliate, I am responding to the public's desire to live healthier, drug-free lives and achieve peak performance levels. Our office is committed to assisting my community

in making healthy lifestyle changes and keeping their spine and nervous systems healthy so they can enjoy greater vitality and quality of life as they age.'

Wills makes available free educational information through newsletters, social media and complimentary health and wellness talks.

"Through the bestselling principles and

practices of The 100-Year Lifestyle, along with the chiropractic care they provide, Wills Chiropractic can help you and your loved ones make the most of every day on your journey to 80, 90, 100 years and beyond."

To learn more, contact Wills at 815-562-5333 or www.willschiro.com or visit www.100yearlifestyle.com.



KINGS — The annual spring clean-up of White



Rock Cemetery will be during the last week of

March. Any decorations or accessories you want

to keep must be removed before this time.





Rochelle Community Hospital (RCH) Nurse Practitioner Stephanie Crawford is championing the Nursing Education Scholarship Program.



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Rochelle Community Hospital

RCH nurse champions \$4 million in scholarships available to Illinois students **ROCHELLE** – Pursu-

ing a degree in nursing in Illinois? Now is the time to apply for up to \$4 million in nursing scholarships, a substantial increase over last year due to the statewide nursing shortage.

Rochelle Community Hospital (RCH) Nurse Practitioner Stephanie Crawford is championing the Nursing Education Scholarship Program, a state program providing financial assistance to qualified individuals pursuing an associate, bachelor's or graduate degree in nursing or those pursuing a certificate in practice nursing.

"Investing in the education and training of nurses is not only an investment in their future, but also in the health and wellbeing of our communities," Crawford, who is also serving as president of the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing, said. "By nurturing and cultivating the talents of our future nurses, we can create a brighter, healthier future for all."

Scholarships range from one year to five years and can go up to \$10,000. Over 200 recipients received combined scholarships of \$2 million last year and the success of the program pushed it to double in size to \$4 million in scholarships this year.

As the state's population ages, the need for nurses increases, yet Illinois is facing a growing nursing shortage and deficit of nearly 15,000 registered nurses by 2025.

The \$4 million nursing scholarship program is accepting applications from March 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023. It's managed through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and can be found here: https:// www.isac.org/students/ during-college/types-offinancial-aid/scholarships/ nursing-education-scholarship-program.html#How-ToApply

If you already have a nursing degree or are looking to pursue a new opportunity in nursing, visit https://www.rochellehospital.com/careers/.

OREGON GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB PRESENTS **Oregon, IL Antique Show** OVER 40 DEALERS FROM THE MIDWEST March 25th & 26th, 2023 Saturday 9am-5pm & Sunday 10am-3pm • Antique Appraisals Sunday only 10am-2pm (\$5 per item) **BLACKHAWK** Plenty of Parking CENTER Door Prizes 1101 W. Jefferson St., Concessions Oregon, IL 61061 Handicap Accessible Entry \$6 • \$1 Discount for 1 person with this ad

To learn more about XCEL Orthopedics or schedule an appointment with Dr. Delisca, call 815-562-3784 or visit rochellehospital.com/orthopedics.

LOCAL NEWS Haggestad named February critical thinker

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School Registrar Teresa Haggestad earned the February 2023 Critical Thinking Award. She was nominated by Principal Chris Lewis who said, "She has taken on a new job (registrar) and is learning new things every day. We have not missed a beat. I appreciate all she has done in taking on this new responsibility."

Haggestad had been assistant to Librarian Ann Marie Jinkins for a decade.

Critical Thinking awards are a component of the Renaissance program made possible by a gift from the RTHS Class of 1961 and the Rochelle Rotary Club which teamed up to support an add-on to the existing RTHS Renaissance Recognition program encouraging critical thinking skills development and expression.

Why is it important for Rochelle Hubs to become critical thinkers? According to Chuck Stocking (RTHS 1961), a lifelong Rotarian, the reasons are many:

As business owners, the group is interested in employing critical thinkers who can solve problems, who care about their peers, and about the mission of the enterprises.

And so, on behalf of the RTHS class of 1961 and on the 30th anniversary of the RTHS Renaissance program last year, they committed \$10,000 to recognize exceptional expressions of Critical Thinking both at the student level as well as at the instructional/administrative level.

Both teachers and students may be nominated for the awards.



Rochelle Township High School Registrar Teresa Haggestad earned the February 2023 Critical Thinking Award. She was nominated by Principal



RRVBC visits Rochelle DAR

The Rochelle Chapter, NSDAR, recently hosted Elizabeth Costa of the Rock River Valley Blood Center. Ms. Costa shared her story of being a first-time blood donor on her 17th birthday. She educated the chapter members on the need for blood donations, issues regarding critical shortages and a variety of ways that donations are used. Her efforts and those of the blood center are greatly appreciated and make a significant impact in the greater Rochelle area. At the chapter's next meeting on March 11, Michelle Glen will present a program on the Rochelle **Rescue Mission. More information about the** Rochelle Chapter, including contact information, can be found at the chapter's website: https://ildar. org/chapters/rochelle/.

HILLCREST: Village still searching for maintenance employee

From page 1

"If nobody else was invited, you were trying to withhold it from us. I would've had many questions to ask them. Did you talk about turning it all over to them? About hooking them up on an emergency basis? Buying wholes ale or have them take care of the whole thing? We all voted no on all those options. So what the heck were you talking about?"

Salsbury said all of those topics were discussed and he wanted to meet with RMU to learn more about the village's water situation.

"Was it wrong for me to learn something?" Salsbury said. "It was just a professional person coming for a meeting. It happens all the time. I talk to people all the time about our situation here."

Village Attorney Paul Chadwick said Salsbury's meeting was not a violation of any open meetings requirements.

Est. 2001

"This wasn't an open meeting," Chadwick said. "Is it illegal for Randy to meet with people for the village to get information? No. Should Randy also relay information to the pertinent trustees? Yes. But nothing can be transacted unless we're in an open meeting with a full board."

Former Village President Steve Dodson spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting and took issue with Potter's claims that the water tower has not been looked at in many years, and said that it was cleaned in 2018. He also spoke on the board's earlier conversation.

"Thattower was cleaned from top to bottom in 2018," Dodson said. "The board knew the ladder needed to be done and platforms needed to be put up there and signs needed to be put around it, but that didn't get done. And

Solar

Chris Lewis

The board took no action on a potential new zoning ordinance for residential and commercial solar panels in the village.

In December, Village **Building Inspector Casper** Manheim presented the village with information on solar permit fee structures used by other municipalities in the region. A fee structure would allow the village to charge permit fees for residents that install solar along with a large commercial solar development planned for the future within village limits.

A first reading was held last month and the village has worked off of fee structures used by other municipalities that Manheim has worked with. Chadwick asked for more time Wednesday to review recent state legislation concerning local authority on solar and wind farm projects. "It's not ready yet," Chadwick said. "It's kind

of an evolving issue and I want to make sure I have a better handle on that."

Trustees will revisit the issue at next month's meeting.

Streets

Village Trustee Rick Rhoads presented his monthly streets and grounds report during the meeting. He said the village is still searching for a maintenance employee. Rhoads also said that he hopes to improve the condition of Hillcrest Avenue this year through sealcoating, similarly to how the stretch of Hemstock Road near the village has been improved by the practice.

Rhoads said he hopes to bring a proposal to next month's meeting.

"They use a practice of putting down pea gravel to fill in the cracks," Rhoads said. "It's unbelievable how well it held up throughout this winter. I'd like to get some bids on what that would cost. There's not one crack in that entire road now. I think that might be our best, least expensive way to fix Hillcrest Avenue, because that's one of the biggest complaints I get."

The village is also currently looking at its approach to speed bumps after the winter and how to slow speeding drivers down.

"Some people don't like them and some want more," Rhoads said. "We need to look at that coming up. We get a lot of speeders around here and we don't have somebody who can police this area, so we need to do something. Speed tables have been mentioned as well, which can be a little bit costly."

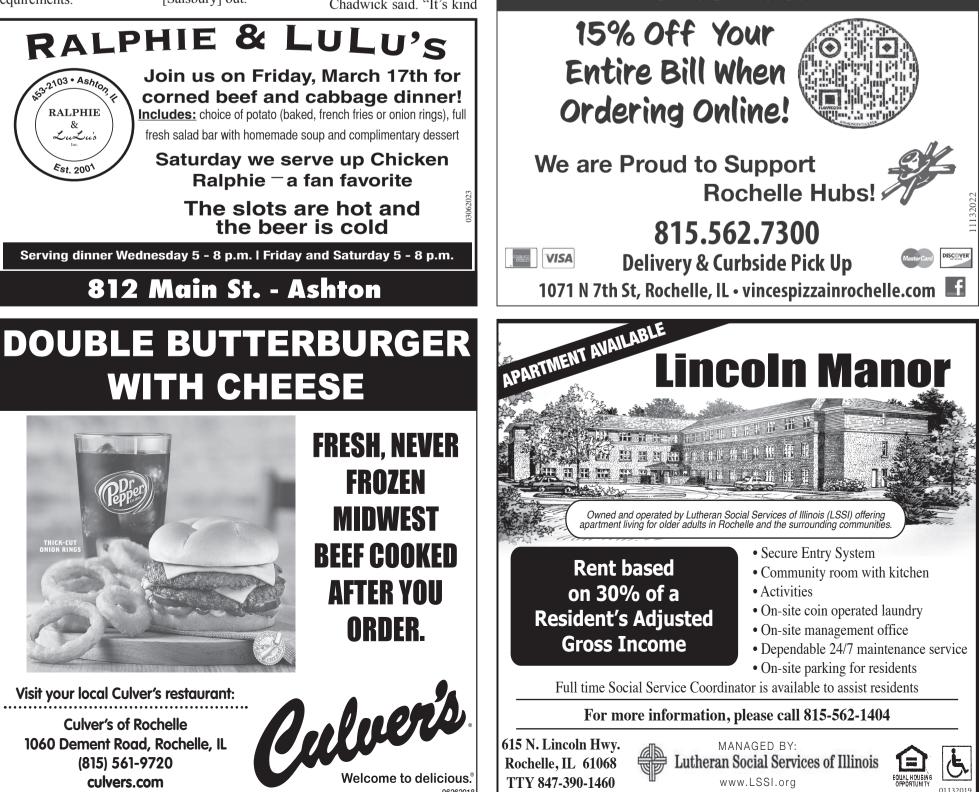
Easter

Village Trustee Renee Kerwin said the village plans to host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 8 (day before Easter) at 2 p.m. The village is currently looking for candy donations for the event.



I was told the board runs the village, not the village president. So straighten [Salsbury] out."

SINCE 1967



LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Darlene Joanne Reynolds

ROCHELLE—Darlene Joanne Reynolds, 85, passed away Friday, March 10 at the Rochelle Community Hospital in Rochelle.

Darlene was born on July 29, 1937 to Thomas and Laura (Morgan) Guffey in Rockford. On Dec. 24, 1954, she married Louis Davis Reynolds in Hernando, Mississippi. He preceded her in death on March 6, 1999.

Darlene was an avid reader of anything in print. Her favorite author was John Grisham but she also thoroughly enjoyed reading the entire Harry Potter series as well. She loved dancing with her husband, Louis, and took great pride in her cleaning.

She cherished the time she spent with her family, especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Darlene is survived by her five children: Louis (Shelley) Reynolds, Lenny (Dianne) Reynolds, Denise Montgomery, Diane (Don) Rhoads all of Rochelle and Luana (Jeff) Quick of Dixon; brother, Donald (Jeanette) Guffey of Show Low, Arizona; eight grandchildren: Eric Reynolds, Jarrod (Liz) Reynolds, Kara Reynolds, Lauren (Elmer Porter) Montgomery, Kyle Montgomery, Lindsey (Kyle) Myers, Sarah (Andrew) Halverson and Jacob (Chelsea Jolly) Rhoads; nine great grandchildren: Tripp and Cortt Myers, Alexa, Emma and Owen Halverson, Sofia, Izabella, Easton and Austin Reynolds.

In addition to her parents and husband, Louis, she is predeceased by an infant granddaughter,



Frankie Mae Reynolds, son-in-law, Jim Montgomery and 17 siblings.

The visitation will be from 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, March 15 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle.

The service will follow at noon at the funeral home with Pastor Steve Young officiating. Burial will be at Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle.

Visit online at http:// www.ungerhorner. com to sign the online guest book.

Department responded to Mt. Morris Estates for a disturbance. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested John Hitchcock

Ogle County Sheriff's Report

OREGON — On

March 4 at 9:41 p.m.

deputies with the assis-

tance of Mt. Morris Police

of Mt. Morris for criminal damage to property and violation of pretrial release conditions. Additionally, James Hilliard of Mt. Morris was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Both individuals were transported to Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On March 6 at 5:04 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on East Illinois Route 72 near North Mill Road. As a result, Andrew D. Hanvy, 24, of Freeport was arrested for driving while license suspended. Hanvy was additionally issued citations for expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Hanvy was released on an I-Bond with a court date to appear.

On March 6 at 5:45 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Northwestern Drive and Junction Road. After a brief investigation, Rex Mcmanaway Jr., 20, of Davis Junction, was arrested for driving without a valid license. Mcmanaway was released on a \$2,500 individual bond with a return court date. Mcmanaway was also issued a citation for failure to signal.

On March 6 at 6:52 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Harvest Glenn Drive and Junction Road. After a brief investigation, Alex Anderson, 19, of Davis, Illinois was arrested for driving while license suspended. Anderson was released on a \$2,500 individual bond with a return court date. Anderson was also issued a citation for failure to signal. On March 7 at midnight deputies conducted a traf-

fic stop in the 7,000 block of North Illinois Route 2 for an equipment violation. After an investigation, Quentin Hanson, 31, of Dixon was arrested for no valid driver's license. Hanson was released on a signature I-Bond with a return court date. Hanson was also issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and no registration light.

Deputies respond to disturbance

On March 7 at 7:56 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Rolling Meadows Road and Illinois Route 251, Davis Junction. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Matthew Lovejoy II, 32, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license. Lovejoy was released on a \$2,500 individual bond with a future court date. Lovejoy was also issued a citation for operating a vehicle with suspended registration.

On March 7 at 6:53 p.m. deputies were dispatched to Lowden State Park (1444 N. River Road, Oregon) for a report of a suspicious vehicle. Deputies located the vehicle, and as a result, arrested Adam M. Kuehl, 31, of Machesney Park for driving under the influence of alcohol. Kuehl was additionally issued citations for expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Kuehl was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond. A driving complaint involving this same vehicle was reported at 4:45 p.m. in the area of East Illinois Route 72 and North Kishwaukee Road. Deputies were assisted at Lowden State Park by the Oregon Police Department, and additional charges may be pending.

On March 7 at 9:53 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 15,000 block of East Twombly Road, Rochelle. After a brief investigation, Tiffany Bolen, 37, of Rochelle was arrested for driving without a valid license. Bolen was also issued a citation for obstructed registration. Bolen was released on a \$2,500 individual bond with a future court date.

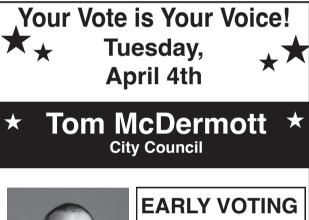
On March 8 at approximately 9:46 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of East Illinois Route 64 and Interstate 39 for illegal window tint. Upon further investigation, deputies arrested Jaydin Vautsmeier, 23, of Freeport for driving while his license was suspended. Vautsmeier was released on an individual bond with a future court date given.

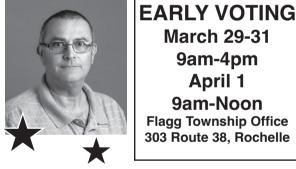
On March 8 at approximately 11:22 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on East Illinois Route 38 at Hartman Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Jaden L. Joseph, 19, of Franklin Grove, for unlawful possession of cannabis 30-100 grams and unlawful possession of cannabis-improper container/driver. Joseph was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held in lieu of bond. Joseph was additionally cited for speeding.

On March 9 at approximately 2:50 p.m. deputies responded to a rollover accident with an injury in the 5,000 block of South Ridge Road. Upon arrival deputies learned a black Chevrolet pickup truck driven by Courtney Rogers, 24, of Mt. Morris was traveling northbound in the 5,000 block of South Ridge Road. The Chevrolet pickup then lost control on the snow-covered road before traveling off of the west side of the roadway and overturning once before coming to rest upside down. Rogers was transported to KSB Hospital by Oregon EMS for non-life threatening injuries.

County to run plastic bag and film recycling program

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) is happy to announce that the department will be running a trial program for plastic bag and plastic film recycling for the residents of Ogle County. The abundance of plastic bags is a major environmental issue and many county residents have issues with access to a recycling program that accepts these items. The OCSWMD understands





0312202

this and wants to help keep as much plastic as we can out of landfills and the environment, and provide a means to recycle these materials.

This program will start on March 6 and continue until Wednesday, Sept. 6. Items accepted include empty, clean and dry grocery bags, bread bags, cereal bags, plastic shipping envelopes and wrap, case overwrap, bubble wrap, salt bags, Ziploc bags and clean, dry produce bags.

Residents can drop off their plastic bags anytime for recycling at the County Annex Building located at 909 Pines Road in Oregon (blue recycling bin by entrance) or at the Old Courthouse first floor lobby during business hours.

Plastic bags will also be accepted at all other recycling events hosted by the OCSWMD throughout the above listed time period. While recycling these plastic bags is beneficial and important, the OCSWMD reminds residents that waste reduction must come before recycling. The OCSWMD encourages residents to avoid excess packaging and seek out reusable options for packaging whenever possible. For a list of accepted bags or if you have questions about recycling in Ogle County call the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020, email solidwaste@ oglecountyil.gov, visit the county website at www.oglecountyil.gov, or go to Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept. on Facebook.

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All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Rochelle Police Report Officers make one arrest

ROCHELLE — On March 7 at 1:33 p.m. Tina R. Cupp, 54, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Weichert, Realtors[®] - Signature Professionals hires new agent

DEKALB – Weichert, Realtors[®] - Signature Professionals is proud to announce the addition of John Craig to its team of talented and dedicated agents.

Craig is a member of the HomeTown Association of REALTORS® and specializes in residential real estate with a strong focus on rural properties. He serves buyers and sellers in DeKalb,

Kane and Ogle Counties, and surrounding areas with all their residential real estate needs.

"We're very excited to welcome John to our team," said Carrie Ottum, the designated managing broker/owner of Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals, DeKalb and Rochelle Offices. "His experience in the industry and hardworking nature will help him provide exceptional service to each of him clients."

As a Weichert® affiliated agent, Craig has access to in-depth training programs, the latest technology and the most powerful sales and marketing tools in the



industry to help provide his clients the best possible real estate service.

Weichert, Realtors® -Signature Professionals is an independently owned and operated Weichert affiliate with offices in DeKalb and Rochelle.

Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the

Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

ews-Lead

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USPS (467-820) ISSN (1075-2811) Published every Wednesday and Sunday by Rochelle Newspapers Inc. at 211 E. State Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068. Periodical postage paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Rochelle News-Leader, P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068. Subscription rates are \$139.99 per year by mail in Ogle County. Outside county rate is \$149.99 per year. No mail delivery in newspaper-carrier serviced areas. The circulation department is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are a carrier subscriber and your paper does not arrive, contact Kelly White at 561-2112.

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LOCAL NEWS CRESTON: Board discusses garbage pickup concern

From page 1

Quiet zone

Bunge said he hopes to have a meeting set up to move the village's quiet zone project forward within a month.

The project is aimed at alleviating train horns in Creston and the work would require improving railroad crossings for safety and meetings and inspections with various officials.

Properties

Village Attorney Russ Crull said the first court date in litigation regarding abandoned properties in Creston is next week. The village is hoping to clean up multiple properties and has resorted to litigation.

"We were able to serve owners on about half of them, which is higher than normal," Crull said. "So we'll see who appears on that date. If they don't appear, we'll move forward with default against those that were served. Those that we weren't able to serve, we'll either ask to serve them via publication or ask for someone to try to serve them somewhere else."

Garbage

Village Trustee Mike Kerns raised a concern about garbage pickup within Creston and questioned the times that pickup occurs.

"It could be 5 a.m. or 8 a.m. sometimes, they're all over the place," Kerns said. "I thought in our contract we signed with them it was between certain hours. I'd like to check that contract. They shouldn't be driving those trucks through the neighborhood at 5 a.m."

Village officials resolved to look into their garbage contract's terms.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village Board unanimously approved a bid from Queens Trucking & Construction for \$156,694 for work on its upcoming water main project.

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. org0. 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 Wednesday7:00 pm. Web: the bridge churchrochelle. com Email: the bridge churchrochelle@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 <u>www.Calvarychurchlee.org</u> 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 <u>CalvaryLeeIL@</u> <u>gmail.com</u> with questions or for more information. Also check us out at <u>www.facebook.com/Calvary-Lutheran-Church</u>. 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 Phone: 815-562-5221. Email: St, Rochelle. 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

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, <u>www.NHFchurch.net</u> 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!

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.comcrestonumcil faccebook.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." Inperson 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 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 Ardissone, 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 Missionserves 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.. f

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

Being in a group has its advantages

OOKING back on life it seems the most fun I've had was with others. Old high school buddies, fraternity brothers and farm bureau folk I've met along the way.

There's plenty of good memories there after 66 years and I hope to have a few more years to make a few more.

Some things I could elaborate on, then again there's others that I've been sworn to secrecy never to repeat. Then there's the ones that usually elicit from folks "And you are still alive?!"

Yep, being in a group has its advantages. Same goes for agriculture and the work we do at farm bureau

So I'm sharing with you an article from Scott Herndon, president of Field to Market. Made me think about how things moving forward need to look. Enjoy.

Collaboration. That

was a key theme that emerged from the inaugural Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture Farm Bill & Agriculture Policy Conference recently held at the American Farm Bureau Federation's D.C. office.

Commodity groups, stakeholder organizations, a member of Congress, Hill staff, a USDA official, growers and more, all gathered for the event to discuss their priorities for the 2023 farm bill. Unsurprisingly, many shared the same goals - improve the baseline, protect crop insurance, broaden partnerships for voluntary, incentive-based conservation efforts and more.

Each of those goals were connected by the same thread -a need to collaborate to achieve these priorities.

The concept of collaboration was not new to the groups in the room, and is certainly not new to Field

to Market, whose mission centers around collaboration across the agricultural supply chain to support resilient ecosystems and enhance farmer livelihoods.

For over 15 years, Field to Market has united the agricultural value chain to advance sustainable outcomes for agricul-

ture, encouraging collaboration to reach shared goals. Throughout the year, we host convenings, like the Farm Bill & Agriculture Policy Conference, to bring organizations with diverse

perspectives together to discuss strategies to unite and make meaningful partnerships that will improve sustainability outcomes.

If there are two things we know, it is that the journey to a sustainable future cannot be achieved alone and that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the challenges we are facing. Field to Market's membership is united to overcome the serious challenges of our time, as well as continuously evolving to include more diverse voices at the table.

By bringing together five membership sectorsaffiliates, agribusinesses,

brands & retailers, civil society and growers – in a precompetitive space, all sectors of the agricultural value chain come Ron together to collaborate to meet the growing demand for food, feed, fi-

ber and fuel in a sustainable and responsible way.

Kern

Field to Market members have access to the Fieldprint Platform, a pioneering assessment framework that allows supply chain participants at every stage of their sustainability journey to measure the environmental impacts of commodity crop production and identify opportunities for improvement.

With over 4.5 million acres of farmland across 36 states enrolled in projects within the Fieldprint Platform, supply chain actors are harnessing the power of collaboration to drive sustainable agriculture forward. Members are exploring new and innovative ways to deploy conservation practices on the ground, in ways that are beneficial to farmers and help protect their bottom line. As farmers know, economic sustainability is a fundamental component of agricultural sustainability.

Participating companies are also able to utilize the Fieldprint Platform to reach their own environmental sustainability goals, utilizing data outputs including greenhouse gas emissions factors to show progress.

challenges impacting our nation's farmers and value chain stakeholders are continuing to evolve, Field to Market is working to foster collaboration to reach shared goals.

We all must challenge ourselves to think outside the box and consider the innovative ways we can collaborate to reach a goal shared with someone sitting across from us in the value chain. We sincerely value our relationship with the American Farm Bureau Federation and its many grower members.

We are stronger, together, and I welcome conversations on how Field to Market can further collaborations that reach shared goals.

"One man alone can be pretty dumb sometimes, but for real bona fide stupidity, there ain't nothing can beat teamwork." -Edward Abbey

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

In a time where the

Director Flanagan: Spring at the library

ARCH is here. We are Llooking forward to our beautiful daffodils and tulips peeking through the flower beds around the library. Those first few signs of spring ensures us that warmer weather will be on the way. At the Library, we have started planning for summer. We have many programs planned for the summer months and look forward to sharing all of those with you soon.

Spring break in Rochelle will be happening the week of March 27-31. We want you to come to the library over your spring break and have some fun. The library is the place you can go to explore so many different destinations. It is the ultimate staycation! "A staycation is when you spend your vacation at home or near your home. People enjoy taking a staycation because it's a great way to explore your own city or hometown, save money, and avoid traveling. During your staycation,

leisurely activities within a day trip distance of your home."((https:// www.mintnotion.com/

travel/staycationideas/#:~:t e x t = A % 2 0staycation%20 is%20when%20 you,trip%20distance%20of%20 your%20home.)

Our local library is your spring break staycation destination! During spring break the children's department a mini putt course. The course will be open throughout the week of March 27-31. Pick up

your kids-sized putter, ball and score card at the upstairs circulation desk. Golf your way through the library.

We will be showing some fun movies over spring break. Clif-

ford: The Big Red Dog on Monday, March 27 and Lightvear on Thursday, March 30. Both of these movies will be shown at 11 a.m. and again at 6 p.m. Snacks and comfy chairs will be provided.

The library staff is excited to see all of our friends on spring break. Come in and watch a movie, play golf or look around and find a book to read. "Take advantage of spring break! Many of our struggling readers do not take the initiative to read for their own purpose and pleasure. Prepare now to set your students up to engage in authentic real-life reading materials. Help them learn the power of connecting to the world that exists outside the classroom." (https:// www.readingrockets. org/blogs/aiming-access/reading-successduring-spring-break) We have something for everyone. Plan your Rochelle staycation at the library. Remember to bring your library card! See you at the library.

Sarah Flanagan is the library director of the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District.



Sarah

Flanagan

HENews-Leader

sible letters to the editor on abide by the guidelines that

will be transformed into

their voice heard can send

PO Box 46, Rochelle, IL

tions? Call 815-561-2151

would like to remind the public and our readers that responsubjects of interest to our readers are encouraged. Letters to the editor must

you will find at the bottom of this page.

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

Those that want to make

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

* Denotes Chairman/President

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

Jeff Helfrich Managing Editor

How to contact government officials

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

IL Sen. Brian Stew M104A State House Springfield, IL 6270 (217) 782-0180

IL Rep. Tom Demm 314 Capitol Springfield, IL 6270 (217) 782-0535

Have a letter you w to submit to us? Se it to (news@roche news-leader.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

published, however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the News-Leader office (211 IL Route 38 East), mailed to the News-Leader (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle,

IL 61068) or e-mailed (news@ rochellenews-leader.com.) The News-Leader reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.

COMMUNITY



Dual wheel assembly becomes new addition to Roberts' backyard

Southern Rochelle resident Chuck Roberts inspects a new addition to his back yard. This 22.5-inch dual wheel assembly probably became detached from a semi-trailer.

F	Birthdays & Anniversari	ies
	-	
March 12	Rachelle Phillips	March 25
Troy Komadina	Tom Sr. & Janet Grimes	Chaz & Kathy Conant
	(anniversary)	(anniversary)
March 13		Liz Danekas
Veronica Lopez	March 22	Shaun Rosenbach
	Wakely Peterman	
March 16		March 26
Christy Oleson	March 23	LeeAnn Komadina
	Kristi Gonzales	Kim Dougherty
March 19		Bernie & Anna Sexton
John Overstreet	March 24	(anniversary)
	John Wooten	(
March 20	Lanie McPherson	March 30
Jesse Lopez		Grace Olson

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



Coffee Break

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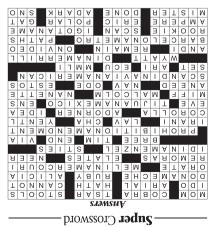
2022 **From The Heart** Calendar

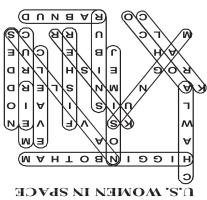
Feb. 14 - Kaya Fulgencio, Rochelle, \$250 Feb. 15 - Nathaniel W. Brass, Rochelle, \$25 Feb. 16 - Jewel Challand, Rochelle, \$25 Feb. 17 - RACF, \$25 Feb. 18 - Hollie Peterson, Walnut, \$25 Feb. 19 - Mary Goken, Rochelle, \$50 Feb. 20 - Jeff Ramsey, Rochelle, \$25 Feb. 21 - RACF, \$25 Feb. 22 - From the 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 Mar. 9 - Hailey Thompson, Rochelle, \$25 Mar. 10 - Veronica Wicks, Rochelle, \$25 Mar. 11 - Jay Eller, Amboy, \$25

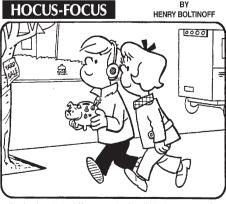
Mar. 12 - Danielle Bettner, Rochelle, \$50

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Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally Unlisted clue hint: First American Woman Sally —									
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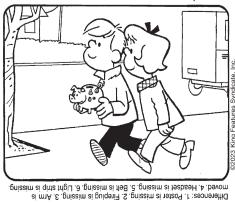
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



128

serpent seats 9 Bygone ruler 13 Tavern seats 19 Nuptial promise 20 Popular 12 Possesses, in the Bible 23 "Cocoon" 23 "Cocoon" 23 "Cocoon" 23 "Cocoon" 23 "Cocoon" 23 "Cocoon" 23 "Cocoon" 25 Red gem 26 Singer Keys 27 Talk formally 28 "Never on Sunday" star 34 Tickles pink 35 — -do-well (idle sort) 39 Pigpens 42 "Desperate Housewives" title role 61 Popular 70 popular 63 Brain produci 69 Eden woman 70 It's south of San Diego, California 77 Political activist — X 78 "No, No, —" (old musical) 80 "Find — and fill it" 82 Of a maritime mil. branch 83 Lofty poem 87 Swede transplanted to the U.S.,			ng duct man o f go, a "" e - X "ical) and itime ch em o	112 Way to watch a film at homemayor — Emanuela film at home8 Away from the wind113 Rapid transit system of a large Spanish city9 Feel great excitement from118 Footways 119 First-year athlete10 Basking box 11 Baseballer's turn to hit turn to hit tast apt for eight answers in this puzzle10 Basking box 11 Baseballer's turn to hit 12 Poetry devices121 Jim Croce hit that's apt for eight answers in this puzzle13 Wound mark the Storpted To Longest124 Current flow measure16 As if scripted French river125 Comic Idle 129 Concluded30 Lauder of perfumery and stormy night"131 — -cone33 Certain Slav					achievement 52 Yoko of the avant-garde 53 Sword handle 54 Ana who won the 2008 French Open 55 Cat with no tail 56 "Tell — was dreaming!" 57 Glacier or filoe 62 Maximum or minimum: Abbr. 63 Steely Dan album with the hits "Peg" and "Deacon Blues" 65 NFL's Cowboys, on scoreboards 66 German "a" 67 Hitachi rival												
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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Amid an unprecedented time of retirements and hiring for open positions, City of Rochelle leadership has authorized the Rochelle Police Department to over hire and go up to 23 sworn officers, RPD Chief Eric Higby said. Rochelle Police Department Officer Bartolome Silva (left) was the department's most recent new official hire late last year as it works to replenish its roster amid a number of retirements.

POLICE: City overhiring to combat recent retirements

From page 1

"And nobody wants to see us get that short. I'm glad they saw the light and allowed it. It's great."

RPD recently ran two hiring cycles for officers and has four in its hiring pipeline currently. Three will start the academy the last week of April and the fourth will in the late summer, Higby said. Sauk Valley Community College recently started a police academy in January which is where three of RPD's planned hires will be going.

"We'll be using that due to proximity," Higby said. "We have someone in the academy now down in Decatur. That's a good academy, but the one at SVCC is so much closer and we'll try this and see how it works. It's new and just started in January. They're running their first class now and we'll be in the second class. I think having that nearby will help us in the future. If you have local people here, it's better than 2.5 hours to Champaign or Macon County and Decatur. I think it'll help."

Higby called seeing retirements and working on new hires during the

past two years "difficult and strange." But, he feels positive about the department's future as he approaches retirement.

"It's been nice at the same time, because when you get new hires, it's like new life blood,"Higby said. "Everybody has a different enthusiasm and it's more fun when you're not stagnant. We were stagnant for so long here and we didn't have promotions or new hires. And that's when people get frustrated."

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh called working on hiring for the police department recently "stressful," and thanked RPD officers and dispatchers for their work while the department has been understaffed.

While hiring for police officer positions has been more difficult recently, Fiegenschuh said it's a top priority for himself and the mayor and city council, for the safety of the public and officers.

"People think that a lot of stuff doesn't happen in Rochelle, but it does," Fiegenschuh said. "We need to protect our police officers and the best way to do that is to make sure

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they're fully-staffed and have enough officers on duty. Then you have people who might go out on injury. You have to plan for injuries. Retirements happen more quickly than replacements. We have four people now who are ready to go through the academy at Sauk Valley. But even then, they won't be on their own for a while. You're not really fully staffed until they're out on their own."

Fiegenschuh said once the four new planned hires are on board, the city plans to reassess and put a new hiring list together and make additional hires if needed. He wants RPD to be on top of timing and plan ahead with more retirements on the horizon.

"If someone says they're retiring in June and it's September, especially if they need to go through the academy, we need to make sure we get those slots filled," Fiegenschuh said. "It's all about timing, but it's extremely important and a top priority and it will continue to be. I believe in RPD and safety and protecting them. The best way to do that is a fully-staffed department."

Fiegenschuh said he's

never seen the amount of turnover RPD is currently dealing with due to retirements in his 20 years in city management. Down the road, he wants to make sure that doesn't become an issue again by continually reassessing staffing and looking at succession planning.

Conservation Club starting

at 10:00 am.

Fiegenschuh said he believes RPD's officer numbers will be where they need to be going forward for sufficient staffing. He wants to put officers' mental and emotional health needs first and make sure they're not overworked. He's looking forward to working with new Interim

Chief Pete Pavia to move the department ahead.

"It's going to be a completely different-looking department than it was when I first came here," Fiegenschuh said. "When people look at a premier police department in the region, I want them to think of us first."

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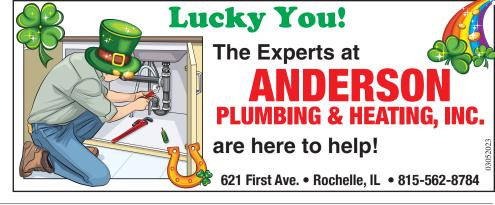




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SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023

SPORTS

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

LADY HUBS AWARDED

The Rochelle Lady Hub bowling team presented awards Tuesday evening.

See page 5 for more details

RTHS Boys Tennis

Netters back in action Rochelle returns several varsity starters from conference runner-up roster

BY RUSSELL HODGES SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team nearly achieved a historic feat last season, falling a few points short of securing their first conference championship since 1949. With several varsity starters returning this season, head coach Kristy Eckardt said the team's goals and expectations remain the same as the Hubs shoot for another successful season.

"We're really excited to be back and the kids can't wait to be back on the courts," Eckardt said. "I think we're capable of doing really great things this season and we have 26 kids out for tennis this season, which is a record by far. I'm excited that we have a lot of new players to balance out some of our veteran players... The kids want to try and win the conference again and I know several of the kids have their eyes set on the state tournament. I think those are two goals that are achievable for us and I think those are goals that our kids should be

Monday marked the beginning of the tennis season, with the Hubs scheduled to compete in the Rock Island Invitational on Saturday, March 25. Among the notable returning players for the Hubs are seniors David Wanner and Owen Haas, who won the Interstate 8 Conference title at No. 1 doubles last season. Seniors Nolan Fonfara and John Green are also back in the fold.

"David and Owen had an outstanding season last spring and I think they'll be even better this year," Eckardt said. "John and Nolan were both solid in our doubles lineup last year and I think they'll be staples there again this year. We have some singles slots to fill and I'm interested to see who earns those slots... It'll be a matter of getting out on the courts when the weather's nice and trying out some different combinations so we have an idea of where the kids fit best."

Junior Jimmy Chavez highlights a group of returning players who could earn varsity singles roles for the Hubs this season.

first home match of the season against Rockford East on Monday, March 27. The Hubs will then face LaSalle-Peru on the Rochelle will hold its road Tuesday, March 28 important for our younger afraid to step up and play

for their first Interstate 8 Conference matchup of the season.

"Learning the game and having fun will be

players," Eckardt said. "The kids became more confident last season and we played a lot of close more excited about tennis. matches. They weren't Maintaining that mentality

their best when the occasion called for it and I think they became much



Senior John Green will be one of multiple starters returning for the Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team. The

Hubs nearly won their first conference title since 1949 last season, finishing second in the Interstate 8.

RTHS Girls Track Lady Hubs finish fourth at Sycamore Invitational Henkel scores two individual event victories to lead Rochelle in indoor opener

BY RUSSELL HODGES

SPORTS EDITOR

SYCAMORE — The Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team opened the indoor season at the Sycamore Invitational on Tuesday, finishing fourth out of 10 schools at the varsity level with 50 points. The JV team also took fourth out of eight schools in the meet, scoring 47 points.

Junior Alivia Henkel led the Lady Hubs in the varsity competition, winning the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:05.14 and the long jump with a distance of 4.52 meters. Henkel placed second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 28.67 seconds, finishing 0.02 seconds behind Sycamore's Alyssa Stacy. Henkel took third in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 10.10 seconds.

Rochelle's 640-meter relay team (Arline Villanueva, Zoe White, Alex Neece and Kylie Smith) took second with a time of 1:37.86. The Lady Hubs finished fourth in the 3200-meter relay (Brisa Zepeda, Mary Chadwick, Ailyn Miranda and Rose Luxton) with a time of 13:54.81 and seventh in the 1600-meter relay (Zoe White, Brisa Zepeda, Arline Villanueva and Emely Hernandez) with a time of 5:27.13. Luxton finished seventh in the 1600-meter run with a time of 7:05.60.

Junior Kennedy Adamski took fifth in the long jump with a distance of 4.12 meters and fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 8.95 meters. Freshman Kyrie Cragin placed fifth in the pole vault with a clearance of 1.85 meters and senior Samantha Sanford finished 10th in the shot put with a throw of 8.42 meters. Junior Macy Ramos placed ninth in the high jump at 1.32 meters.

JV

Freshman Savanna Wilson took second in the 800-meter run with a time of 3:00.45 and freshman Samantha Overton finished fourth in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 14.43 seconds. Freshman Christina Jones placed seventh in the 400-meter run with a time of 1:27.62, while freshmen Katie Toczylowski and Ryelee Bogle finished seventh and eighth in the 200-meter dash with respective times of 34.35 seconds and 34.46 seconds.

Senior Baylie Sutton took second in the long jump with a distance of 3.89 meters and Bogle placed second in the triple jump with a distance of 8.19 meters. Freshman Carmela Bright finished fourth in the high jump with a clearance of 1.17



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Freshman Mary Chadwick (left) and junior Kylie Smith (right) race to the finish in their respective events during the Sycamore Invitational on Tuesday. Rochelle's varsity and JV teams each placed fourth overall.

meters and Overton took third in the pole vault with a clearance of 1.22 meters. Junior Kyra Bivins and sophomore Sienna Seebach

placed seventh and eighth in the shot put with marks of 6.57 meters and 6.50 meters.

Rochelle's 640-meter

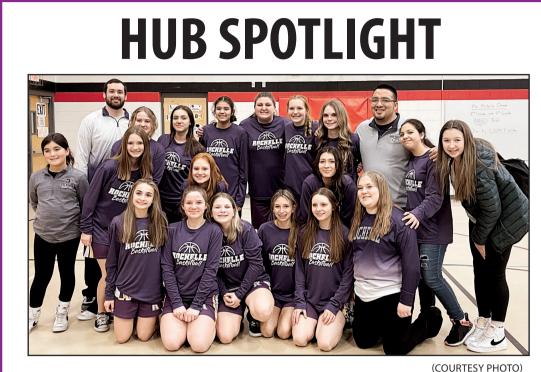
relay (Miranda Dubek, Ryelee Bogle, Kyrie Cragin and Anna Toczylowski) finished fourth with a time of 1:50.33. Rochelle's 1600-meterrelay(Christina Jones, Anna Toczylowski, Savanna Wilson and Ailyn Miranda) took third with a time of 5:33.19.



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The Rochelle Middle School eighth grade girls basketball team took fourth place in the NCJC Championship over the weekend. The team includes Kami Damask, Briel Metzger, Ashley Christy, Leiya Smith, Jasmine Walsh, Reese Kissack, Elena Daugherty, Dylan Etes, Elyse Manning, Olivia Hudzik, Phelisity Lopez, Aeriss Williams, Mackayla Downing and Aiyana Mashaw. The team is coached by Johnny Gonzales.

RMS girls teams take fourth place at NCJC Championships

BY RUSSELL HODGES SPORTS EDITOR

SYCAMORE — The Rochelle Middle School eighth grade girls basketball team took fourth place in the NCJC Championship tournament over the weekend. The Royals opened the tournament with a 47-41 overtime victory over DeKalb Huntley on Friday, with Reese Kissack scoring 11 points while Jasmine Walsh and Briel Metzger each totaled nine points in the win.

Aeriss Williams recorded eight points and two players scored five points including Ashley Christy and Aiyana Mashaw. DeKalb Huntley led 19-16 at half time before Rochelle converted five third-quarter field goals to take a 28-27 lead entering the fourth quarter. The Royals outscored DeKalb Huntley 7-2 during the overtime period to secure the first-round victory.

The Royals lost 38-13 against Burlington Central in the semifinal round. Aeriss Williams and Briel Metzger each scored four

points. Rochelle faced Kaneland Harter in the third place game, falling 40-28 despite Reese Kissack and Aeriss Williams each scoring seven points. Briel Metzger and Leiya Smith each added four points.

Seventh Grade

The Rochelle Middle School seventh grade girls basketball team took fourth place in the NCJC Championship tournament over the weekend. The Royals opened the tournament with an upset over No. 3 seed DeKalb Huntley, winning 34-25 behind a 23-point performance from Audrina Rodriguez. Gianna Olguin chipped in six points for the Royals, while Madison Ludwig and Carol Carpenter each totaled four points in the win.

Rochelle battled Kaneland Harter in the semifinal round, falling 21-16 in a defensive standoff. Audrina Rodriguez scored seven points and Gianna Olguin followed with five points for the Royals, who fell 15-12 in the third-place game to finish the tournament in fourth place.











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(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Middle School seventh grade girls basketball team took fourth place in the NCJC Championship tournament over the weekend. The team includes Carol Carpenter, Abby Daugherty, Emma Metzger, Clara Millard, Evelyn Garcia, Zoe Norberto, Audrina Rodriguez, Madison Ludwig, Maggie Louis, Gianna Olguin, Gwen ODell and Kaliyah Cathina. The team is coached by Chad Stewart.



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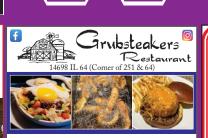
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SPORTS

RTHS Girls Soccer Lady Hubs looking to build on 10-win season Sophomore midfielder Lara headlines returning varsity players this spring

BY RUSSELL HODGES SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The 2022 season was a return to success for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team, which recorded double-digit victories for the first time in over a decade and won an IHSARegional tournament match for the first time since 2009. With several starters returning from last season, head coach Brad Male has optimism for another successful spring campaign.

"I'm excited that we have some new players out as well as some returning players," Male said. "We have a few spots to fill after losing some key players from last season, but I think we're progressing pretty well right now and there are a lot of positive things for us to look forward to."

The Lady Hubs will kick off the season with a home match against Harlem on Thursday, March 16. Rochelle will battle in the Byron Invitational on Saturday, March 18 and begin the Interstate 8 Conference schedule with a road match at Ottawa on Wednesday, April 5. Senior defenders Kailey Harris and Jasmin Hernandez headline a slew of returning varsity starters this season.

"I always look for our seniors to help lead the team and I'm looking forward to having Kailey and Jasmin in the back," Male said. "We had a pretty good offense last season and we saw good teamwork up front. I'm looking forward to seeing how those girls continue to work together."

Junior Danica Ward will return for her third varsity season at goalkeeper, while senior Mavi Avila and sophomore Makayla Lara highlight Rochelle's returning starters in the midfield. Juniors Sydney Thorne and Kara Martinez are also back to lead the offensive attack on the front line.

Rochelle will shoot to improve on a 10-10 record and fourth-place conference finish in 2022. Both Harris and Lara were All-Conference Honorable Mentions in the Interstate 8 last season. The Lady



Senior Kailey Harris is one of several returning starters for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team this season. Rochelle will kick off the season with a match against Harlem on Thursday, March 16.

Hubs are looking to replace two First-Team AllMilan and Lucy Monroy. "I'd like to see us con-

off last year," Male said. and I'm looking forward "We've made progress to building on what we've Conference athletes in Liz tinue from where we left from what I've seen so far already done."

(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

NIU Football Complete 2023 football schedule announced Huskies will celebrate 116th Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 14 versus Ohio

DEKALB — The Northern Illinois University football team will play its first four home games, including nonconference contests versus in-state foe Southern Illinois and Tulsa, on September and October Saturdays and will play host to Mid-American Conference foes Ball State and Western Michigan in November #MACtion games as NIU and the MAC announced the complete 2023 Huskie football

game at Boston College on Sept. 2 and concludes with the home contest versus Tulsa on Sept. 23. In between, NIU will play Southern Illinois in the home opener Sept. 9 and play at Nebraska on Sept. 16.

"The non-conference schedule is a great opportunity to see where we are," said NIU head coach Thomas Hammock. "It's a jam-packed nonconference schedule, it will be very competitive,

ule, and knowing what we are facing in the MAC. We want to be prepared to play our best football going into the first conference game, which is against the defending MAC Champs in Toledo."

NIU's league schedule starts at Toledo on Saturday, Sept. 30, followed by a trip to Akron for an Oct. 7 game. The

the following Saturday, Oct. 21, to take on Eastern Michigan.

"Obviously, our goal is to win the MAC," Hammock said. "The MAC is a very competitive league: it changes from year to year.

> When you look at the home schedule, the goal is to win every game at home. We'll have to fight like heck to do that. We want

Huskies have not played to hold serve at home and in Akron since 2018. NIU find a way to win on the road.' After a Halloween night contest on Tuesday, Oct. 31 at Central Michigan to open the #MACtion

portion of its schedule, the Huskies and Ball State will battle for the Bronze Stalk Trophy in Huskie Stadium on Tuesday, Nov. 7. NIU closes out its home schedule on Tuesday, Nov. 14 versus Western Michigan.

The Huskies play the regular season finale at Kent State on Saturday, Nov. 25 with the 2023 MAC Championships game set for Saturday, Dec. 2 at Ford Field in Detroit. The Huskies have won six MAC Championships all-time, more than any other current league team, with the most recent title in 2021.

Hammock said this year's team has already started preparing for the 2023 season and will open spring practices on March 22.

"The important thing right now is build our bodies, build our minds to get ready for the grind," he said. "Our players are doing a phenomenal job right now to get ready for a 12-game season with the opportunity to play more. I like where we're headed. I like the leadership. They've seen the highs and lows; they know what it takes and they're doing the things necessary to get it done.'

schedule Wednesday.

The previously announced four-game nonconference slate to open the season begins with the

and we'll have to play our best. For us, it's about getting prepared, staying healthy, getting through the non-conference sched-

opens its MAC home schedule and celebrates its 116th Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 14 versus Ohio and is home again





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SPORTS

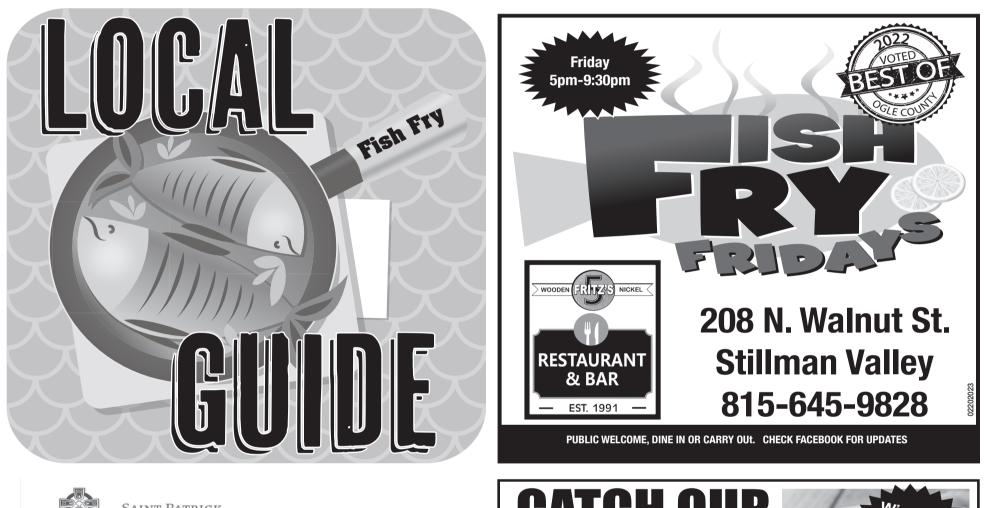
RTHS Girls Bowling

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Lady Hubs take home RTHS awards at season-ending team banquet Tuesday evening

The Rochelle Lady Hub bowling team celebrated its season with an awards banquet at T-Byrd Lanes on Tuesday. Several student-athletes took home RTHS awards during the event. Above are award winners Kylie McCullough (High Series), Anahi Alanis (High Game), Cassidy Vincent (Bowler of the Year) and Faith Adams (Captain's Award). Not pictured are award winners Makenzie Liezert (Most Improved Bowler) and Mackenzie Burnett (Sportsmanship).







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(March 12 and 19, 2023)

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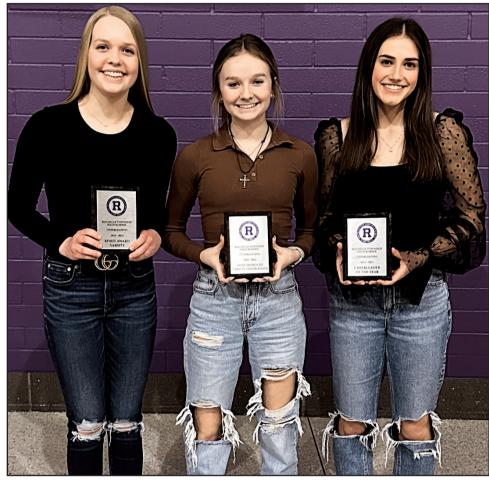
RTHS Cheerleading

(COURTESY PHOTOS)









Lady Hubs take home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards during team banquet Wednesday

The RTHS cheerleading team held its season-ending awards banquet Wednesday, with several student-athletes taking home RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference honors. Fifteen Lady Hubs (top left) earned Academic All-Conference honors including Emily Montelongo, Ellie Carmichael, Baylie Sutton, Kendall Sachs, Anna Harvey, Rylee Jackson, Marisa Whaley, Ava Albers (Honorable Mention) (back row left to right), Ava Lynn, Morgan Smardo, Zoe White, Lauryn Akey, Jasmynn Lipscomb (Honorable Mention), Abbey Jarvis (Honorable Mention) and Rivers Estock (front row left to right). Three Lady Hubs (bottom left) earned All-Conference honors including Morgan Smardo, Anna Harvey and Lauryn Akey (Honorable Mention). Three Lady Hubs (bottom right) received RTHS awards including Rivers Estock (Varsity Spirit), Zoe White (Varsity Most Improved) and Morgan Smardo (Cheerleader of the Year). Ashley Dickey and Lydia Osborne (top right) earned JV Most Improved and JV Spirit awards.







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