



# ROCHELLE News-Leader

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Vol. 103 • No. 85

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

SUNDAY, FEB. 19, 2023

\$1.25

## Deutsch wins ISBE award 'I love seeing students succeed at something...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Central Elementary School Special Education Teacher Melissa Deutsch was recently named a recipient of the Award of Special Recognition in the teacher category as part of the Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel annual educator recognition program.

Deutsch is in her 24th year teaching in Rochelle Community School District #231. She spent her first 20 years at Rochelle Middle School, where she mainly taught self-contained and co-taught English language arts to students with the need for special education services. She was moved to Central School three years ago to support the special education program and teach academics and social emotional skills to students with individual needs.

Deutsch said that upon hearing the news of her award, she felt "very proud and excited." She was recognized by a peer that believes that what she does in the classroom is a benefit for all students.

"Typically, I see a smaller population of students than most of my peers,"



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Central Elementary School Special Education Teacher Melissa Deutsch was recently named a recipient of the Award of Special Recognition in the teacher category as part of the Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel annual educator recognition program.

Deutsch said, "I feel like I make connections that are lasting with those small groups as well as a positive

impact on their learning goals. In addition, I have co-taught with multiple teachers and I feel like

I have made those same connections and impacts."

See DEUTSCH pg 2



## Tilton School update given at meeting

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Elementary District Board of Education heard an update from Tilton Elementary School Principal Becky Cox on recent happenings at the school. The Tilton building is home to the district's fourth and fifth grade students.

Cox discussed a chart that analyzes Tilton students' illustrative math performance and how it compared to their Illinois Assessment of Readiness score and said progress has been made and more content has been covered.

"This also identifies the students who did above the state average in those different standards," Cox said. "You'll notice there's far more information there showing that our kids are taking more with them and using that to help them with the IAR."

See SCHOOL pg 2

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## FFA members reach districts

Four members of the RTHS FFA Chapter will advance to participate in the district competition.  
Page 8

## WEATHER

SUNDAY	MONDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
45 32	41 28
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
40 29	37 25

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## OBITUARIES

NONE

## INSERTS

• SCHNUCKS

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## Locals compete at snow sculpting events Mark, Danica Rogers and Kurt Wolter place third with 'Morsmordre'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCKFORD — Rochelle sculptors Mark and Danica Rogers placed third in the 37th Annual Snow Sculpting Competition at Rockford's Sennissippi Park on Feb. 11 for their entry "Morsmordre."

The father-daughter sculpting duo have a history of competing locally in both snow and straw competitions. They also competed Feb. 4 in the 2023 U.S. National Snow Sculpting Championship in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Their team, "Two Blondes and a Burnette" also included friend George Burnette in Wisconsin. When he was unable to compete in Rockford, Rochelle's Kurt Wolter filled in on the team.

"Morsmordre" comes from the Harry Potter world and consists of a skull with a snake coming out of its mouth and other snakes wrapped around the skull. The idea was Danica's due to her Harry Potter fandom. For the national competition



"Morsmordre" (left) comes from the Harry Potter world and consists of a skull with a snake coming out of its mouth and other snakes wrapped around the skull. "The Quest for Bachelorette #3" (right), which was a piece from the movie Shrek with the dragon breathing fire on Shrek with Donkey nearby.

in Lake Geneva, the team sculpted "The Quest for Bachelorette #3," which was a piece from the movie Shrek with the dragon breathing fire on Shrek with Donkey nearby.

Danica has taken part

in seven snow sculpting competitions, five times in Rockford and twice at nationals. Mark has done four in Rockford and one at nationals. Danica said she enjoys the sense of camaraderie at the compe-

titions, because it "feels like a reunion every year." Her father agreed.

"Everyone is so supportive of each other and helping and accommodating," Mark said. "It's a family-oriented event. I like to do it because

I get to spend time with Danica and see her artistic talent at work. It's fun to take a big chunk of snow and see it turned into a piece of art 3.5 days later."

See SNOW page 5



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

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# LOCAL NEWS

## DEUTSCH: Rochelle teacher presented with ISBE award

From page 1

"I know that the person who recognized me for this award is someone whom I have worked with and sees those qualities in what I do and what I've done for our students."

Being a special education teacher comes with many responsibilities, including educating students with emotional and learning disabilities. Deutsch is responsible for writing individualized education plans (IEPs) and holding meetings with the educational team yearly or more frequently if needed. She also collaborates with staff members and parents on a regular basis.

Deutsch called special education "incredibly important," due to how it provides the opportunity for students who learn differently to access the curriculum and reach their full potential.

"The staff who work with these students are specially trained to teach in a variety of ways to help the students be successful," Deutsch said. "We spend a significant amount of time problem solving to find

the best ways to help our students. I am challenged every day to be better. My job is stressful, but never boring. In elementary, I have a small group of students that I get to know really well. I love seeing students succeed at something they previously struggled with."

Deutsch was a peer coach for students with disabilities while she was in high school and coached many different sports through the Special Olympics. She worked at a residential home for adults with disabilities during high school and college. She knew at an early age that she wanted to work with people with disabilities.

"But I wasn't exactly sure how that would look," Deutsch said. "Coaching in high school led me to the idea of teaching. I get to work with students who learn differently every day."

Central School Principal Justin Adolph called Deutsch "very skilled" at diagnosing areas of difficulty for students and making "top-notch" individualized plans. He said it was great to see someone with many years of dedicated service



Melissa Deutsch is in her 24th year teaching in Rochelle Community School District #231. She spent her first 20 years at Rochelle Middle School, where she mainly taught self-contained and co-taught English language arts to students with the need for special education services.

be recognized with the ISBE award.

"Special education provides individualized services for students who aren't traditional learners," Adolph said. "It is an essential service so that all kids can reach their fullest potential. She connects with students very well and helps

them see their strengths."

Deutsch said a number of teaching experiences stand out in her memory in her years with D231. She's always enjoyed seeing student reading test scores increase several grade levels closer to their age group. She had the opportunity to tutor one of her favorite stu-



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

dents during three separate summers.

Deutsch's husband, Jason, is also a longtime educator with D231 and teaches at RMS. In 2002, then-Principal Kevin Zilm helped Jason propose to Melissa over the morning announcements.

In her years of teaching

locally, Deutsch has enjoyed seeing her students grow through education.

"It's always fun and rewarding to run into former students as adults," Deutsch said. "But don't be upset if I don't recognize you right away, because you were about four feet tall when I last worked with you!"

## Ready Set Grow event scheduled for March 18

DIXON — On March 18, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners of Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Counties will be hosting 2023 Ready...Set...Grow...gardening workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Loveland Community Building, 513 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Dixon.

This year's keynote address: *Literary Gardens*, will be presented by Master Gardener and

natural history writer Cindy Crosby. Cindy takes a fun look at gardens in literature and poetry. From Agatha Christie's mystery series to Brother Cadfael's medieval herb garden to Michael Pollan's garden in "Second Nature," to the "Secret Garden" beloved of children's literature, there are so many gardens that helped shape the books we love to read. See your garden with new eyes and come away with a list of

books you can't wait to explore.

Ready...Set...Grow...will also offer two breakout sessions, a swag bag, a book nook, door prizes and a Master Gardener Help Desk. Breakout sessions include *Growing Great Grapes*, *Natural Fairy Gardens*, *Tree Management*, *Hummingbird Gardens*, *Contained Compositions*, *Backyard Orchard*, *Growing Vegetables Through the Seasons* and

*Nature Journaling*. The fee for this program is \$25, and registrations will be accepted until March 10.

Register online at [go.illinois.edu/ReadySetGrow](http://go.illinois.edu/ReadySetGrow) or call your local Extension office. If you are interested in more information about Ready...Set...Grow...or becoming a Master Gardener, please contact your local Extension office. Lee County: (815) 857-3525. Ogle County: (815) 732-2191.

## Ogle County man sentenced to 14 years in federal prison for transporting child pornography

ROCKFORD — A Byron man was sentenced to 14 years in federal prison for transportation of child pornography.

Oscar Flores-Vazquez, 51, pleaded guilty earlier this year to one count of knowingly transporting child pornography. U.S. District Judge John Robert Blakey imposed the sentence. Flores-Vazquez was also ordered to pay \$8,750 in restitution to certain victims. The sentence was announced by John R. Lausch, Jr., United States attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and Robert W. "Wes" Wheeler, Jr., special agent-in-charge of the Chicago Field Office of the FBI. The government

was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica S. Maveus.

Flores-Vazquez admitted in a plea agreement that he used a peer-to-peer application on his computer to knowingly allow others, including an undercover law enforcement agent, to access files on his computer that Flores-Vazquez knew contained child pornography. In June 2018, Flores-Vazquez knowingly transported child pornography, including a file depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Flores-Vazquez further admitted in the plea agreement that he possessed a laptop that contained more than 600 images of child pornography.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## SCHOOL: Technology department presentation made Tuesday

From page 1

"In addition, whenever you implement something new, you would anticipate there to be a little bit of an implementation dip, but we haven't seen a significant dip in student progress. That's been exciting to look at."

Tilton School is finishing Star360 assessment benchmarking this week and Cox said that information from the fall and winter will be used to start picking out things that are working out well and things that need to be improved on.

The district recently sent eight staff members to a conscious discipline conference in Dallas in December, three of which were from Tilton, Cox said. Conscious discipline is the school's social emotional learning curriculum/mindset and the conference helped staff to bring back new ideas, strategies and tools for implementation.

"I can speak to some of the things that we've done at Tilton such as increasing the visuals that are present in the building," Cox said. "One of those specifically would be in our lunch room. That's kind of an area we struggle with a little bit at Tilton. We've done some things to kind of increase our recognition of kids who are doing the right things."

Cox said the school is working to implement pieces of conscious discipline throughout the school day.

Tilton's speech team is "back in full effect" this year after being off last year, which Cox said has been exciting for students, who are putting a lot of time and effort into making upcoming speech meets

special.

Superintendent Jason Harper thanked Cox and Tilton staff following her presentation.

"Thank you for all your efforts this year with your fourth and fifth grade students," Harper said. "I know your staff goes to great lengths to meet their needs and has done a lot of creative problem solving due to the number of kids and space and those types of things. We appreciate all of your efforts."

### Technology

Shared District IT Director Will Wise made a presentation to the board on recent happenings in his department. The IT departments of the elementary and high school districts were recently merged and technology has become of more importance in Rochelle schools since the COVID-19 pandemic.

All Rochelle schools now operate on a one-to-one basis, meaning each student has a Google Chromebook device for school work. That required a lot of infrastructure upgrades to be made including wireless internet improvements.

Wise said the move to shared service IT for both districts has been "a great benefit for everyone involved" and one IT employee can be in each building at the beginning of each week.

"That's a really big deal and I don't think that's ever been the case," Wise said. "We rotate around quite a bit and we have a new ticketing and inventory system for our IT department. It's gone really well and it's been a real lifesaver for everybody in my department. This year, we've

closed over 1,000 trouble tickets since switching to this system."

The shift towards more devices has resulted in the ratio of IT employees to devices now being one to 800.

"That's 800 things that somebody is responsible for on a daily basis," Wise said. "We're constantly busy and running around and doing our best to make sure everything is operating. It's been a fun challenge."

The IT department is now on a yearly cycle for Chromebook renewals and will be purchasing 400 of them each year, along with teacher laptops for one building each year. Students will receive new Chromebooks as they enter first and fifth grade, matching up with the high school schedule of receiving one as a freshman.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The board unanimously approved personnel changes as well as a bid from Marco for a five-year lease for 18 copiers during Tuesday evening's meeting.

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"If you have a student who goes through Rochelle schools, they'll never have a Chromebook older than four years, which I think is a great benefit for the kids," Wise said. "We keep the old ones around for parts. We've probably had 300 screen breaks out of those 1,000 tickets. We do all of the repairs in house and typically it only takes about an hour to make any repair and get it back to the student. It's our goal to have kids take personal ownership of the Chromebook and try to take care of it. They get to keep it after high school."

Wise said bringing two school IT systems together has been a challenge with "a lot of moving parts," and his department is looking at merging more in the future including email systems, fi-

ber wiring and surveillance systems.

### Copiers

The board unanimously approved a bid from Marco for a five-year lease for 18 copiers. The elementary and high school districts are joining copier contracts and desired to have both renewed at the same time. The elementary district will be refunded a check for \$26,796 for the remaining six months on the current lease.

### Personnel

The board unanimously approved personnel changes including the retirement of Sheryl Casey (end of 2022-2023 school year) and the employment of substitute teachers Jessica Keisling, Noah Mershon, Evelyn Figueroa (as-needed), Jennifer Herrera (as-needed) and Jennifer Schroll (as-needed).

Personnel changes for the 2023-2024 school year that were also unanimously approved by the board include the transfers of Yharosliv Cruz (interventionist/substitute teacher to third grade bilingual teacher at Central School), Samantha Lower (special education at Central School to special education at Tilton School) and Melissa Bowers (reading teacher at Central School to reading teacher at Lincoln School) along with the hires of Meghan Fletcher (third grade dual language teacher, Central), Betsie Swartz (third grade teacher, Central), Alexandria Vanderkolk (fourth grade teacher, Tilton) and Jessica Kiesling (resource teacher, Tilton).

## Best of Motown program scheduled for March 16

ROCHELLE — Rock River Valley IEA-Retired Teachers is sponsoring the Best of Motown presented by Gary Wenstrup at Hub City Senior Center, 401 Cherry Ave., Rochelle, on

Thursday March 16.

Learn about the groundbreaking music produced by Motown Records. Listen to the music that moved the world. Tickets are \$10 and includes lunch

at 11:30 a.m. Wear your dancing shoes, the music is that great.

Reservations at tracydiestelmeier@gmail.com. Questions: 815-238-1757. Deadline March 6.

## Juried High School Student Art & Creative Writing Exhibition open at Kish College

MALTA — Kishwaukee College will host the 2023 Juried High School Student Art and Creative Writing Exhibition from Feb. 15-March 1.

Hosted in Kish's Art Gallery, the exhibition is free and open to the public during regular gallery hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

on Monday-Thursday. The exhibition showcases works by students from local high schools including DeKalb, Hiawatha, Indian Creek, Oregon, Rochelle and Sycamore. Students submitted more than 100 visual art and creative writing entries.

A closing reception to

recognize the artists will take place 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, in the art gallery.

To set up a specific day and time to tour the exhibition, interested parties can email gallery@kish.edu. To learn more about the exhibition, visit kish.edu/hsartexhibition.

## Teach Kids about Electrical Safety!

Some important lessons include:

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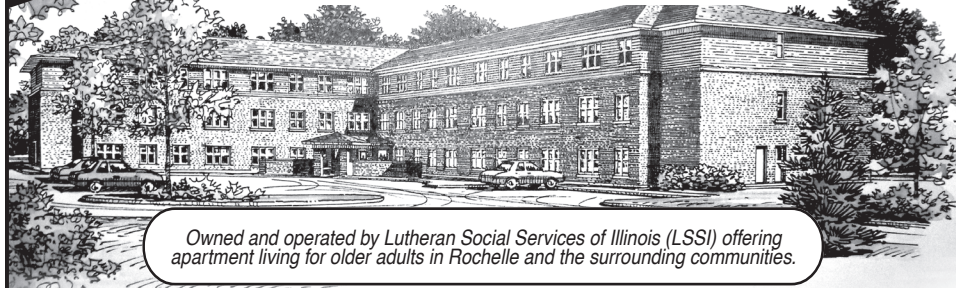
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# LOCAL NEWS



**Kiwanis Golden K presents donations to three local organizations**  
 Kiwanis Golden K recently presented donation checks to Girls Scouts, 4-H club Soaring Eagles and the local FFA chapter. "We were able to donate to these three youth organizations thanks to the support of our great community and the volunteering spirit of our generous members," Kiwanis Golden K President-Elect Will McLachlan said. "These donations are part of the \$28,000 we are donating this year!" Pictured: President Ric Taylor and Nicole Keozie representing Girl Scouts and 4-H Soaring Eagles, and McLachlan, FFA Member Megan Seebach and FFA Advisor Donna Page.



## Ogle County Sheriff's Department

# Deputies respond to disturbance

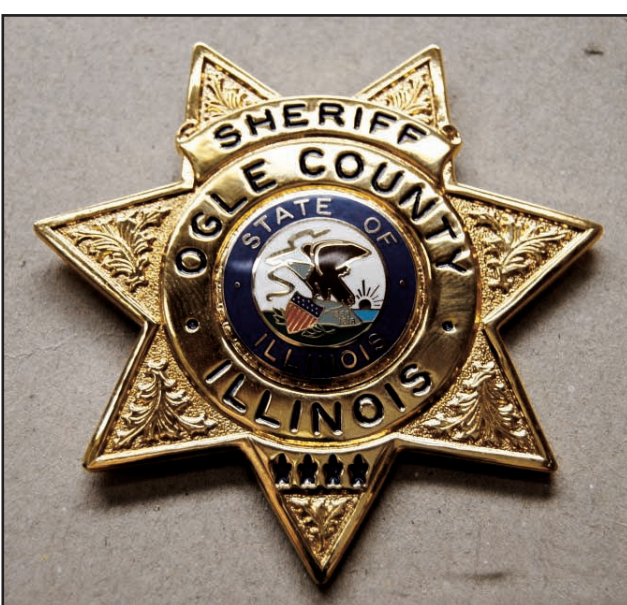
**OREGON** — On Feb. 14 at approximately 9:34 p.m. deputies responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of South Commercial Street in Baileyville. After investigation, deputies placed John Lehmann, 58, of Freeport under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Lehmann was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

Machesney Park, under arrest for disorderly conduct. Dee was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 15 at approximately 2:54 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of North Kilbuck Road and East Illinois Route 72. After an initial investigation, deputies placed Ali M. Saleh, 23, of Rockford, under arrest for driving unlicensed. Saleh was additionally cited for avoiding a traffic control device. Saleh was released from the scene on an I-Bond and provided with a future court date.

On Feb. 15 at 10:47 p.m. deputies responded to the area of 7000 W. Penn Corner Road for the report of a vehicle in the ditch. After an investigation, it was discovered the vehicle struck a mailbox prior to entering the south ditch. The driver, Frank Hatch, 68, of Polo was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Hatch was also issued citations for expired registration and improper lane usage. Hatch was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 16 at 7:31 a.m. deputies, along with the Polo Fire and Ambulance and the Mt. Morris Fire Department responded to the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Freeport Road for a report of a three-vehicle accident with serious injuries. Upon investigation, deputies determined that a 2003 GMC Yukon driven by Rebecca A. Marschang,



50, of Polo, was northbound on Freeport Road and was unable to stop for a stop sign, possibly due to icy road conditions. As a result the GMC entered the intersection and collided with a 2011 Honda Accord driven by Karen S. Harmon, 57, of Lanark that was eastbound on Illinois Route 64. After being struck by the GMC, the Honda then spun into the westbound lane where it was struck by a 2016 Peterbilt semi-tractor and trailer driven by Robert S. Engen, 45 of Champlin, Minnesota that had been westbound on Illinois Route 64. Engen was uninjured in the collision and Marschang was transported by private vehicle to Freeport Memorial Hospital for treatment of possible minor injuries. Harmon was pronounced deceased at the scene by the Ogle County Coroner and was transported to the Ogle County Coroner's Office. The Incident remains under investigation. Sheriff's

deputies were assisted at the scene by the Illinois State Police as well as the Polo Police Department.

On Feb. 16 at approximately 5:23 a.m. deputies and Lynn-Scott-Rock EMS responded to the intersection of Northwestern Avenue and North Junction Road in Davis Junction regarding a vehicle parked in the roadway with two unresponsive male occupants. After an investigation, deputies placed Julio C. Ramos, 21, of Rochelle, under arrest for driving under the influence. Ramos was additionally cited for illegal parking and illegal transportation of alcohol. The passenger, identified as Anthony C. Nunez, 18, of Rockford, was arrested for underage consumption of alcohol and released on an I-Bond. Ramos was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held in lieu of bond.

All individuals are innocent until proven guilty.

## Rochelle Police Department

# Officers issue multiple arrests

**ROCHELLE** — On Feb. 15, Brian Mitchell, 48, of Florence, Mississippi was arrested for two counts of driving under the influence. He was released on

an I-Bond with a March 17 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 15, Amanda Marie Sarabia, 24, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On Feb. 16, Jacob B. Cadieux, 40, of Winona, Minnesota was arrested on an outstanding Rockford Police Department warrant. He was released on a

recognizance bond with a Feb. 27 Winnebago County court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## Kishwaukee College Foundation announces local spring 2023 scholarship recipients

**MALTA** — The Kishwaukee College Foundation is pleased to announce the student scholarship recipients for the Spring 2023 semester. The Foundation awarded 280 scholarship awards totaling \$181,845.

Scholarship funds are made possible through generous gifts from members of the community, local businesses and industry, and area agencies and associations. Students are selected on a competitive basis, according to each scholarship's specific requirements.

Local Kishwaukee College students received the following awards:

Beulah & Roberta Hackett Endowment — Vanessa Lira of Rochelle, Humberto Valdez of Rochelle.

Bud & Kay Stocking Rochelle Rotary Endowment — Kaitlynn Ost of Rochelle.

Charles & Mary Roberts Memorial Endowment — Grace Barnes of Rochelle, Nadia Castillo of Rochelle, Ceci Vargas of Rochelle.

Charles & Mary Roberts Memorial Endowment for Nursing — Humberto Valdez of Rochelle.

Dean & Betty Burge-meister Endowment — Baileigh Howlett of Rochelle.

Diane McNeilly Education Endowment — Julia Berry of Rochelle.

Doris & Robert Boey Endowment — Johnathan Nguyen of Rochelle.

Eleanor Anglin Price Scholarship — Celia Valle of Rochelle.

Emma Anderson Fund — Kendal Ansteth of Rochelle, Emily Garcia of Rochelle, Cooper Hasz of Rochelle, Liz Milan of Rochelle, Brooke Myroth of Rochelle, Olivia Ramos of Rochelle.

Employee Give Scholarship Fund — Humberto Valdez of Rochelle.

Jeremy "JD" Davis Memorial Endowment — Nadia Castillo of Rochelle.

Jesus Romero Hispanic Endowment — Samuel Villalobos-Nazario of Rochelle.

chelle.

Kishwaukee College Foundation Pay It Forward Scholarship — Damian Nava-Barrientos of Rochelle.

Mark Joseph Bussone Memorial Scholarship — Brooke Myroth of Rochelle.

Nancy D. Castle Scholarship — Nadia Castillo of Rochelle.

Rebecca Williams Memorial Scholarship — Luciana Monroy of Rochelle.

Ruth Ashelford Pollock Nursing Fund — Baileigh Howlett of Rochelle, Vanessa Lira of Rochelle, Johnathan Nguyen of Rochelle, Kaitlynn Ost of Rochelle, Olivia Ramos of Rochelle, Vanessa Salinas of Rochelle.

Ruth I. Hall Nursing Endowment — Ilse Molina of Rochelle, Johnathan Nguyen of Rochelle, Kaitlynn Ost of Rochelle, Olivia Ramos of Rochelle, Vanessa Salinas of Rochelle, Laura Santiago of Esmond.

Sycamore Hospital Physicians Nursing Endowment — Olivia Ramos of Rochelle.

Tom & Nancy Roberts Theatre Endowment — Asher Wiegartz of Rochelle.

Velta Smith Nursing Endowment Scholarship — Baileigh Howlett of Rochelle, Jordan Myatt of Rochelle.

Vernon & Dorothy Smith Memorial Endowment — Julia Berry of Rochelle, Madison Ost of Rochelle, Ceci Vargas of Rochelle.

Wayne McIlrath Family Scholarship — Laura Valdez of Rochelle.

Students who wished to remain anonymous are omitted from this list.

The Kishwaukee College Foundation scholarships application period for the fall 2023 semester will be open from Wednesday, March 15, to Monday, April 17. For more information on foundation scholarships, contact the Kishwaukee College Foundation at 815-825-9803 or visit kish.edu/kcfscholarships.

## UW-Stevens Point honors Thompson for scholastic achievement

**STEVENS POINT, Wis.** — The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,350 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the fall semester of the 2022-2023 academic year.

Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.90 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) are given the highest honors

designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 and honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74.

Personalized certificates of scholastic achievement are sent to those who earned highest honors distinction.

Rochelle: Megan Thompson, highest honors.

## Forsberg named to William & Mary fall 2022 dean's list

**WILLIAMSBURG, V.A.** — Peter Forsberg from Rochelle was recently named to the dean's list at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2022 semester.

In order to achieve dean's list status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 quality point average during the semester.

## 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.

## ROCHELLE News-Leader

211 IL Route 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068  
 (815) 562-4171

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

## SNOW: Local sculptors compete in area, national contests

*From page 1*

The Rockford competition saw 14 total teams competing, along with a high school division. Warm temperatures postponed the competition, originally scheduled for Jan. 18-21. Warmer temperatures and rain returned for the past weekend, but Mark said the team was able to stave off the weather.

“That was detrimental to the sculpting aspect because we didn’t want the rain on it,” Mark said. “We put up a structure and tarped it over to save it from the rain. We were able to work on our block without the rain bothering us. It went great considering the circumstances we were dealt. All the teams did a great job. Everybody had a

piece that was interesting. But it was quite the task.”

For the Rockford competition, the Rockford Park District and its snow making team makes snow and puts it in big box forms six feet by six feet by 10 feet tall. They fill them and pack the snow, before wrapping them and waiting for competitors, who unwrap the blocks and start sculpting.

The Rogers are also known for their work in the U.S. National Straw Sculpting Competition in Mt. Morris. Danica said she enjoys that competition because of the nicer weather, but the shorter window for snow sculpting makes for a better workflow. However, the snow time limit can also make it harder, as she estimates

she only got two hours of sleep on one of the nights in Rockford.

Mark said sculpting with snow leaves less margin for error than with straw.

“With straw, if you make a mistake or don’t like something, you can take straw off and reapply it,” Marksaid. “With snow, if you take part of it off, you have to have the right kind of snow to replace it with and the right weather conditions to make changes. And sculpting snow in the winter takes a toll on your body. I’m 62, and we used a new tool this year which is sort of a chain used by two people to saw snow off. There’s a lot of shoulder work there. After doing nationals and Rockford over two weeks,

I was the sorest I’ve ever been in my life.”

When comparing the two recent snow competitions, Mark and Danica said the weather was better in Lake Geneva, but the sense of community and support from competitors was the same. The national competition saw sculptors from different states including Alaska, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota and Vermont.

“Both nationals and Rockford were great,” Mark said. “They treat it like a community event to bring people into town to enjoy in the rougher months of the year. Both places should be commended for the amount of work it takes to put a competition on.”



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Rochelle sculptors Mark and Danica Rogers placed third in the 37th Annual Snow Sculpting Competition at Rockford’s Sinnissippi Park on Feb. 11 for their entry “Morsmordre.”**

## Rochelle Area CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Harvest Baptist Church** 241 Scott Ave. (Hillcrest). Rev. Duane Boehm, pastor. Email [duane712@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.lwccr.com), Like us on Facebook. We are Non-Denominational, Christ Centered, Casual dress, Christ Centered Live Band Worship. Chris Bender- Teaching Pastor, Brent Braski- Administrative Pastor, Adrian Daugherty- Lead Worshipper, Joe Mortimer- Youth Director, Amanda Barnes- Office Manager. Sunday Worship Service- 10:00am. Nursery/Toddlers Ages 0-5 available during the service in the Splash building. Swim- Grades 1st-5th worship with the adults then break out for age appropriate teaching. Youth groups, Small groups, Life Groups and Workshops meet throughout the year for Bible teaching. 7C’s Mission-serves the community physically & spiritually each month from 1135 Lincoln Hwy, providing lightly used clothing, Hygiene items, a light lunch and Elder Prayer open the second Saturday from 10am-2pm and the 4th Thursday from 4pm to 7:00pm and by appointment..



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

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

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

## A small community with a big heart

NOW that 2023 is in full swing, everyone seems to have a lot going on. The city is no exception. First, I want to say thank you to Dave Eckhardt and the entire From the Heart committee. The event held on Feb. 4, which was the group's 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary edition, exceeded all expectations by reaching their overall goal of \$80,000.

Those moneys, as you may or may not know, go to eight not-for-profit entities that serve the Rochelle area. All these groups were hard hit through the pandemic by not being able to do fundraisers etc., which is what keeps them going to serve those in need. The groups are CASA, Focus House, HOPE of Ogle County, Hub City Senior

Center, Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Shining Star and Rochelle Christian Food Pantry.

These groups have representatives that help with not only the planning and preparation of the event, but work the actual event. The night was filled with both silent and live auction items, games with prizes of diverse types and much fellowship sharing in a great cause.

Each of the eight groups will receive \$10,000 each to be used for each of their missions. Job well done! I would be remiss if I did not thank you, the community of Rochelle. This community has always been there for support. I always like to think of Rochelle as a small community with a big heart and I am immensely proud

of that. Thank you again.

Coming up on March 2, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh and I will be doing a live State of the Community address beginning at 6 p.m. The event will be held in council chambers at City Hall, as well as live streamed on the city's Facebook page and YouTube. Once the event is completed, I will share the video to my mayor's page for those that follow there.

The topics for this event will include a recap of 2022 and a report as to where we are today, both project status, as well as the city's financial snapshot. I am extremely pleased with the current financial position the city

is in and trust you will be as well.

The city received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award for the third time this year. Rochelle was one of the few communities to get it on our first try three years ago! Thank you to Peggy Friday, Chris Cardott and everyone who worked on another successful Distinguished Budget Award.

Coming up on March 10 will be the third job fair/hiring event, which is sponsored by the City of Rochelle, Office of Mayor, Kishwaukee College, Rochelle Township High School, Rochelle Foods—Hormel, Tyson Foods, and 102.3 The Coyote & Superhits



John Bearrows

93.5.

A targeted social media, radio and print campaign will be used to reach the largest segment of the unemployed as far east as Aurora. This year, RTHS juniors and seniors alike will be able to have some designated time with those local companies that might be looking for employees in a field that is of interest to the students. I understand there could also be some seasonal work for those students looking for summer or part-time work.

This is a wonderful opportunity for job seekers in the Rochelle area. Although students will begin entering during the morning, The expo is open to the public from noon to 2 p.m.

Lastly, we have elections coming up April 4

for several local offices including school boards, fire districts, college, library, park district, villages and city. Regardless of your beliefs or direction of support, I encourage you to become acquainted with those seeking office, learn about their vision for the future and look at their past accomplishments. This is your community, and April 4, you not only have a duty to vote, but you also have an obligation and privilege to do so. Please make sure you are registered and please vote.

I will finish today's article with a great quote to think about: "Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day."

*John Bearrows is the mayor of the City of Rochelle.*

## It's none of your business

“Why aren't you drinking?”

My former boss slurred those words as he looked across a table while he and my co-workers downed a pitcher of beer at a mandatory staff pizza party.

Drinkers ask that question. Not only is it off-putting and rude it's ubiquitous.

I've never quite understood why that's anyone's business but my own; but it's asked continually in the circles where I have worked: politics and journalism.

I don't care if someone drinks around me. Why should they care if someone doesn't drink around them?

Please note, I'm not talking about beer and burgers fellas or those who enjoy an occasional sip of wine. I'm talking about those who lack an on/off switch, who don't know when is when.

My first exposure to alcoholism was my maternal grandfather. He started the day with a shot of whiskey before breakfast and couldn't function without some amount of alcohol flowing through his veins.

My recollections of him are primarily as a sad drunk, always in a stupor in his red recliner, smoking Marlboros and playing solitaire. Did I ever see him fully sober? I don't know.

Neither his wife nor three children drank alcohol. Growing up, my mother remembered hellacious arguments as Grandpa disappeared with his drinking buddies to spend money on booze rather than food or rent.

Addiction is a pernicious disease.

My mother, a registered nurse, was convinced a genetic predisposition for alcoholism lurked in our DNA. Recent scientific studies have since found

there is a genetic component to substance abuse. So, maybe she was onto something 40 years ago.

Regardless, I chose not to start drinking. I'm 58 years old and have never tasted alcohol. That's not a badge of honor or disgrace. It's just a choice. Interesting enough, both presidents Biden and Trump make the same claim about lifelong abstinence from alcohol. Both men also have a history of family substance abuse.

In school, I was hassled a bit for not engaging in the hard-drinking lifestyle. I chose friends who didn't care.

But it's in the workforce that I've found the pressure to conform to a particular behavior the most extreme. When I was a young reporter, my abstinence from alcohol was

mentioned as a detriment during a formal job-performance evaluation.

The boss said a good reporter has to be a drinker to really understand the world. It would be easy to mark this off as one bad boss among many good ones. But it's a situation I keep encountering.

Years later, I found myself in another state sitting next to another boss, as I sipped my Diet Coke, and he slurred, “Is this some sort of religious thing, you know, that you don't drink?”

No, it isn't. But if were, would it be any of your business?

By that time in my career, I was supervising people, some of whom had substance abuse problems.

During one out-of-state meeting, I saw one particular reporter's hands



Scott Reeder

shake and he'd shift uncomfortably in his chair. He'd then announce that he forgot something in his hotel room and disappear for a fix.

When I expressed concern, I was told, “He's not an alcoholic — they go to meetings.” Not a compassionate way to deal with someone who is suffering — or a smart way to deal with a team member who is impaired.

The organization claimed it couldn't afford an employee assistance program but hosted plenty of events with open bars. Usually before opening the bar the boss would point to one fellow who would often get sloshed at lunch before returning to work and announce, “Don't get in front of him on the way to the bar, he'll run you over.”

Where he saw amusement, I saw a problem. Alcoholism isn't a matter of bad character. It's a dis-

ease and should be treated as such.

But when I'd raise concerns to those above me about employees in my charge, it was dismissed with a wave of the hand as if to say, “You're a teetotaler, what do you know about alcohol?”

Yeah, the problem is the folks who don't drink — not the ones who can barely function. Privately, I guided one of my co-workers into a 12-step program.

At future work gatherings, he'd be sipping coffee while others were downing cocktails.

Inevitably, someone would ask, “Why aren't you drinking?” He'd shift uncomfortably from foot to foot and try to come up with a response.

How about: It's none of your business.

*Scott Reeder, a 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](mailto: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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**IL Sen. Brian Stewart**  
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Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-0180

**IL Rep. Tom Demmer**  
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Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to [news@rochellenews-leader.com](mailto:news@rochellenews-leader.com)

### KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

*\* Denotes Chairman/President*

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Greg Sparrow	<a href="mailto:gsparrow@oglecounty.org">gsparrow@oglecounty.org</a>

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Tim Ball	<a href="mailto:tball@hillcrestil.us">tball@hillcrestil.us</a>
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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](mailto:news@rochellenews-leader.com).) The News-Leader reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.



# COMMUNITY

(PHOTO BY LIFEWORKS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO)



## Rochelle Rotary Club donates \$32,000 to From the Heart

At the recent 15<sup>th</sup> annual From the Heart gala, the Rochelle Rotary Club presented a check for \$32,000 to From the Heart. The money was raised through cash calendar sales. Rotary thanked everyone who purchased 2023 calendars. 2024 calendars will be available later this year.

## Ogle County Emergency Food and Shelter Program accepting grant letters of application

OGLE COUNTY — The Ogle County Emergency Food and Shelter Program has been listed to receive federal appropriations from EFSP National Board Program in the amount of \$25,676 for phase 40. This amount is subject to change by the National EFSP National Board. The Ogle County EFSP Program is accepting grant letters of application from agencies in Ogle County that provide emergency food and shelter. Eligible agencies must meet the following criteria: have the capability to provide emergency food and/or shelter services; propose to use the funds to supplement or expand an existing program and ser-

vices; is a private nonprofit with a voluntary board or an agency of government; have an accounting system, and practices non-discrimination, have FEIN# and DUNNs #. Letters of application for requested funds should be made to Ogle County EFSP and emailed to HOPE of Ogle County, Attn: Ruth Carter, [hopeogle.admin@hopedv.org](mailto:hopeogle.admin@hopedv.org). The application letters must be received by 5 p.m. on Feb. 24. The local board is to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs run by local service organizations with services in Ogle County.

### THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

If you would like to volunteer with us, please email us at [volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org](mailto:volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org)  
February 21 - (Tuesday) - BBQ Chicken (Breasts or Thighs/Leg), Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls  
February 28 - (Tuesday) - Chicken Lickn' Bowls, Coleslaw, Biscuits

March 5 - (Sunday Brunch) - Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Sausage Links, Breakfast Casserole  
KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries  
\*\*All menus are subject to change. If you would like to check before coming out, please call us at 815-561-9074  
[www.KitchenTableRochelle.org](http://www.KitchenTableRochelle.org)

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Feb. 20**  
Christian Losoya

**Feb. 22**  
Jessica South  
Lucy Hazlip

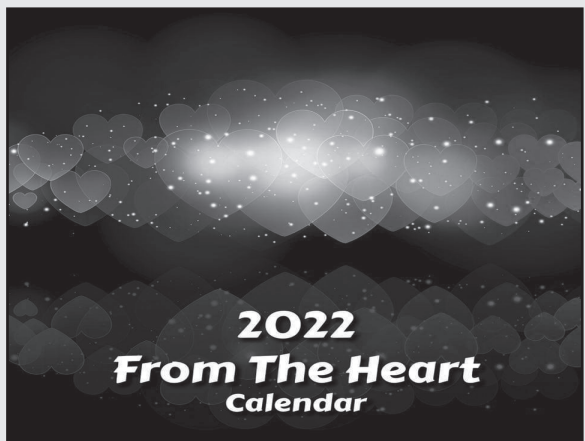
**Feb. 27**  
Beth Bolhaus

**Feb. 21**  
Kris Oleson  
Anna Sexton

**Feb. 26**  
Natalie Powell

**Feb. 28**  
Lucas Donoho

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



- Jan. 24 - Kathryn Tyner, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 25 - RACF, \$25
- Jan. 26 - Jacqueline Nass, Naperville, \$25
- Jan. 27 - Andrea Svela, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 28 - Anne Aubry, Whitefish Bay, WI, \$25
- Jan. 29 - From the Heart, \$50
- Jan. 30 - Alexander Herrera, Dixon, \$25
- Jan. 31 - Rochelle Chamber, \$25
- Feb. 1 - Deanna Hill, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 2 - From the Heart, \$25
- Feb. 3 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
- Feb. 4 - Melanie Bonilla, Rochelle, \$250
- Feb. 5 - Jesse Johnson, Cambridge, WI, \$50
- Feb. 6 - Adlai Schaefer, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 7 - Marie McNames, Byron, \$25
- Feb. 8 - Holly Kubale, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 9 - Jessica Johnson, Edgerton, \$25
- Feb. 10 - Joanne Storey, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 11 - Jessica Rogers, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 12 - Sandra Cummings, Rockford, \$50
- 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



## Coffee Break

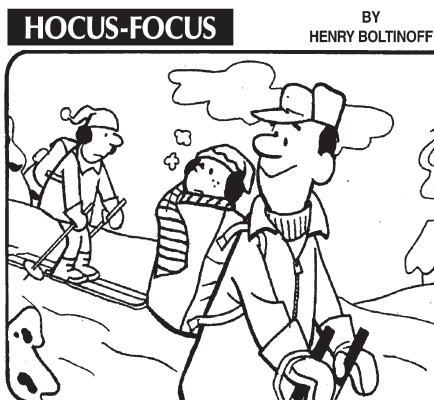
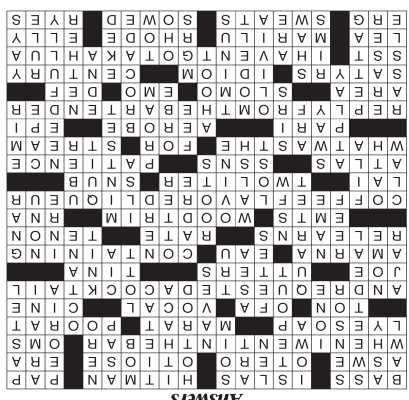
### MAGIC MAZE • APPLE VARIETIES

L R S Q N K H E B Y W H T R O  
L J A S H H G E B Y W S U R P  
N K I T U O G D B Z X U V S Q  
O M I K S N E I G I E R Y E C  
Z M E A Y E D W U D K D T S Q  
S Z P S L Y Z A N O A L R L J  
H F A I O C E C N L S O E A Y  
X V B J E R U S K C P G B Q P  
N U M U M I L N K A E J I H F  
J E C F A S I E L B E A L A G  
Z Y X V C P U T M R K Q P O M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: GRANNY

Cameo Fuji Gala Goldrush  
Honeycrisp Jazz Jubilee Keepsake  
Liberty Lodi Melrose Opal  
Pink Lady Sundance Zestar

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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

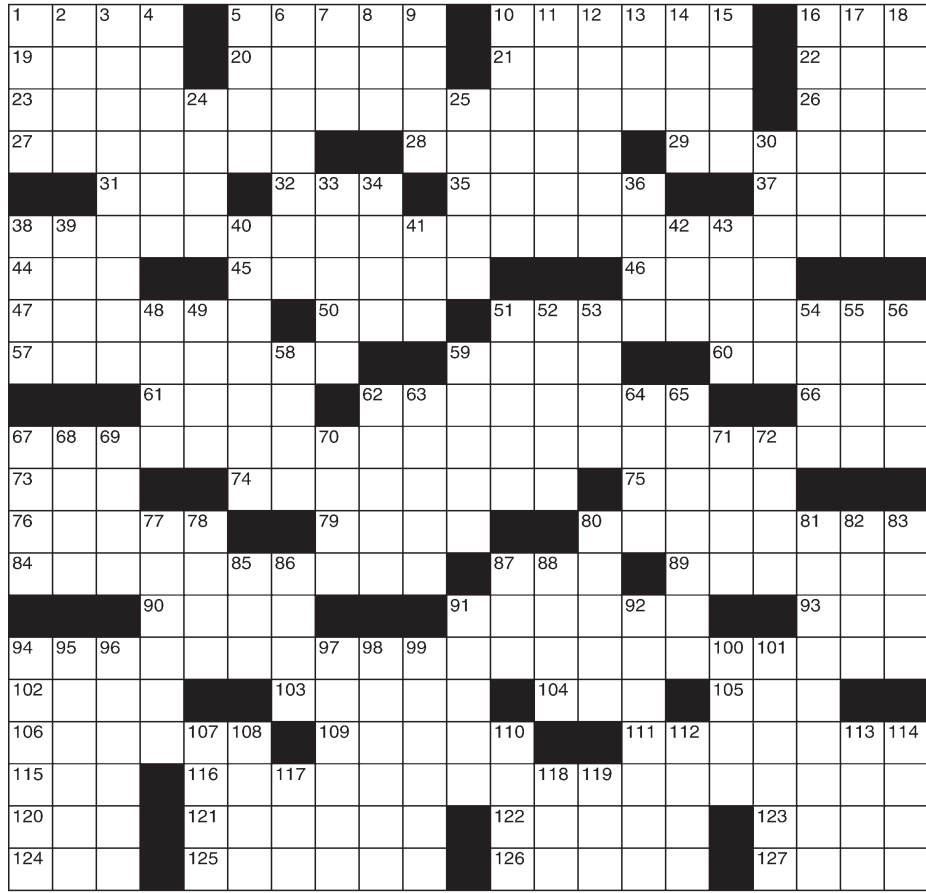


Differences: 1. Backpack is missing; 2. Bush is smaller; 3. Scarf is shorter; 4. Strap is moved; 5. Carriage is smaller; 6. Zipper is missing

## Super Crossword

TOTALLY OUT OF IT

- ACROSS**
- 1 Four-string guitar
  - 5 Bits of land in el agua
  - 10 Luca Brasi in "The Godfather," e.g.
  - 16 Soft infant food
  - 19 Life — know it
  - 20 New Mexico or Colorado county
  - 21 Useless
  - 22 Division of history
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 26 Mantra syllables
  - 27 Old-time cleaning cake
  - 28 Tennis' Safin
  - 29 Not skilled in at all
  - 31 Heavy weight
  - 32 All — sudden
  - 35 Spoken
  - 37 French movie theater
  - 38 Riddle, part 2
  - 44 President Biden
  - 45 Speaks
  - 46 Singer Turner
  - 47 Tell el — (Nile excavation site)
  - 50 It fills la mer
  - 51 Riddle, part 3
  - 57 Becomes familiar with anew
  - 59 Per-unit price
  - 60 Mortise insertion
  - 61 Ambulance VIPs
  - 62 Decorative dashboard finish
  - 66 Chain in biology
  - 67 Riddle, part 4
  - 73 China's Chou En- —
  - 74 Like many soda bottles, volume-wise
  - 75 Purposely ignore
  - 76 Book of charts
  - 79 IRS form IDs
  - 80 "— is a virtue"
  - 84 Riddle, part 5
  - 87 In honor of
  - 89 Small river
  - 90 — -mutuel betting
  - 91 Oxygen-requiring bacterium
  - 93 Start for center or Pen
  - 94 End of the riddle
  - 102 Square yardage, e.g.
  - 103 Instant replay option
  - 104 Expressive rock genre
  - 105 — Leppard (rock band)
  - 106 Mythical man-goats
  - 109 "In the red," e.g.
  - 111 Division of history
  - 115 Concorde, e.g., in brief
  - 116 Riddle's answer
  - 120 Grassland
  - 121 Henner of "Taxi"
  - 122 — Island (Providence's state)
  - 123 Old TV's — May Clampett
  - 124 Work unit
  - 125 Workout wear
  - 126 Planted
  - 127 Some deli loaves
  - 6 Leave for a short time
  - 7 Spy novelist Deighton
  - 8 Exhibit works 9 "... or — told"
  - 10 Drag racer
  - 11 New York home of Cornell
  - 12 Relative of a stickpin
  - 13 Raging crowd
  - 14 PDQ's cousin
  - 15 Emperor after Claudius I
  - 16 City on the Illinois River
  - 17 Ralph Lauren competitor
  - 18 Pale hue
  - 24 Actress Skye
  - 25 Main parts of churches
  - 30 Fuel rating
  - 33 Galas
  - 34 On the Red, e.g.
  - 36 Former senator Trent
  - 38 Open slightly
  - 39 City in Alaska
  - 40 Four-piece band
  - 41 Writer Capote, to pals
  - 42 Org. in many spy novels
  - 43 Make a ski mask, maybe
  - 48 Lagoon surround
  - 49 Christen
  - 51 Core group
  - 52 Frisky swimmer
  - 53 Uncool sort
  - 54 About
  - 55 Lower-class, to Brits
  - 56 Growl threateningly
  - 58 Warning initials above an internet link
  - 59 Hair bases
  - 62 Actress Kate of "Grey's Anatomy"
  - 63 Of sheep
  - 64 "Casablanca" woman
  - 65 Prized buy for a coin collector
  - 67 Nail on a paw
  - 68 Pledge
  - 69 Brand of sneakers
  - 70 Didn't win
  - 71 Hang it up
  - 72 App that asks "Where to?"
  - 77 Frolicking
  - 78 Move back and forth
  - 80 Open tourney, often
  - 81 Necessarily
  - 82 Sleeveless cloak
  - 83 Arabian chief
  - 85 Pooch noise
  - 86 Misters
  - 87 Agent's cut
  - 88 "... there — square"
  - 91 Something hilarious
  - 92 Fabric with raised designs
  - 94 Grapple with, slangily
  - 95 Slate clearer
  - 96 Attachment to a dog or cat collar
  - 97 "House" actress Wilde
  - 98 Old-time Ford
  - 99 NASA countdown term
  - 100 Ferber of fiction
  - 101 — regions (Hades)
  - 107 Crater edges
  - 108 Novelist Irwin
  - 110 Corp. VIPs
  - 112 Squeezed (out)
  - 113 Be in power
  - 114 Jubilant cries
  - 117 Exist
  - 118 "So that's your trick!"
  - 119 Wrecker's job



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# FFA WEEK



## RTHS FFA reps will compete across the gambit at the district level

Four members of the Rochelle Township High School Chapter of FFA won the right to compete at the district level in March during the FFA Section Proficiencies competition at Stillman Valley High School. Ricardo Rodriguez will compete in food service placement. Megan Seebach will compete in equine science entrepreneurship. Veronica Vaughn will compete in grain produce placement. Mikayla Ludwig will compete in two areas of supervised agricultural experience: arts & communication as well as human services.

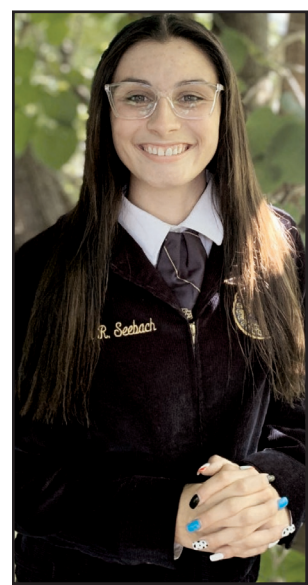
## Seebach to receive Illinois FFA Degree at state convention

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Township High School junior Megan Seebach has earned the recommendation that the Illinois FFA Degree be bestowed upon her at the upcoming state convention.

Megan's supervised agricultural experience (SAE) has three components: Equine entrepreneurship, ag processing related to her work at the Maplehurst Farms scale house during harvest season, and finally, she keeps track of her work in the Ag classroom assisting Mrs. Page.

Through SAEs, FFA members grades 7-12 are challenged to develop critical thinking and effective decision-making



Megan Seebach

skills, foster teamwork and promote communication while recognizing the value of ethical competition and individual achievement. CDE and LDE events occur at the local, state and national levels.

## AFC FFA chapter receives Ag in the Classroom award

**CHICAGO** — During Illinois Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting in Chicago in early December, volunteers from across the state were celebrated for their efforts and accomplishments with the Ag in the Classroom program. The Sauk Valley area had three receive recognition for their dedication to Ag in the Classroom.

Recipients were recognized as Illinois Ag in the Classroom Volunteers of the year including the Mitchell Family from

Tampico and the Ashton Franklin Center FFA Chapter from Ashton.

Volunteering with the Whiteside County Ag in the Classroom program, it's a family effort for the Mitchell Family to share their experiences with their melon farm outside of Tampico. Like an ever expanding melon vine, the family, including Jeanne Mitchell, Whitney Mitchell-DeWitte, Greg Mitchell and Jean Mitchell, plants the seeds of knowledge regarding their

specialty area in agriculture by sharing their passion with students. Family members present to accept the award were Jeanne Mitchell, Doug Mitchell, Brandon DeWitte and Whitney DeWitte.

In a unique recognition, not a single person, but the entire Ashton Franklin Center (AFC) FFA Chapter was honored for their 15 years of dedication to the Lee County Ag in the Classroom program. The AFC FFA Chapter has been instrumental in supporting the annual Lee County Ag Expo as volunteers and presenters as well as hosting a Touch a Tractor event and other programs with the elementary students in their district.

Rounding off the local recognitions by Illinois Ag in the Classroom was Natalie Pratt from Dixon. While COVID 19 protocols dictated that schools were remote learning, Illinois Ag in the Classroom transitioned its lessons online as well, partnering with students, including local Amboy High School student, Natalie Pratt, to host virtual farm tours and



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Recipients were recognized as Illinois Ag in the Classroom Volunteers of the year including the Mitchell Family from Tampico and the Ashton Franklin Center FFA Chapter from Ashton.

lessons. Pratt featured a series titled "Natalie's Awesome Agriculture" from 2020-2021 and was recognized for her efforts to bring agriculture lessons and facts through

social media.

Ag in the Classroom provides free fun and educational resources to teachers and students throughout Illinois by partnering with local Ag in

the Classroom programs throughout the state, including Lee and Whiteside Counties. For more information about Illinois Ag in the Classroom, visit [agintheclassroom.org](http://agintheclassroom.org).

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**FFA Week dress up days at RTHS**

Tues. Feb. 21	College/career day	Thurs. Feb. 23	Blue & Gold or your clubwear day
Wed. Feb. 22	Official FFA Dress day	Fri. Feb. 24	Flannel Day

FFA hosts Staff Appreciation Breakfast

**RTHS FFA has had a chapter for more than 90 years!**

Rodriguez, Vaughan, Seebach & Ludwig

**4 FFA reps to compete at District level**

Four members of the RTHS Chapter of FFA won the right to compete at the district level in March during the FFA Section Proficiencies competition at Stillman Valley High School.

Ricardo Rodriguez will compete in Food Service Placement  
Megan Seebach will compete in Equine Science Entrepreneurship  
Veronica Vaughan will compete in Grain Production Placement  
Makayla Ludwig will compete in Arts & Communication

**We proudly support all area youth involved in FFA!**

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# FFA WEEK



## Three AFC FFA members attend meats judging series

Three Ashton-Franklin Center FFA members attended the Illinois Meats Judging Series at Eickman's recently. Allie Prior and Austin Waters placed sixth in the High School Division for Section 2 FFA. Kate Viall was top individual in the Section 2 FFA Middle School division and took home a banner for second overall individual in the junior division of the judging series. In the contest, members identify different retail cuts of beef, pork and lamb, quality and yield grade carcasses and place classes.



## AFC FFA members successful at Section 2 proficiency judging

**STILLMAN VALLEY** — Ashton-Franklin Center FFA members made AFC proud by representing at the Section 2 Proficiency Judging. 14 FFA members in 19 different areas competed with their record books at Stillman Valley High School. Of these members, seven won their areas and will move on to districts.

Participants included: Zayne Becker (vetscience); Andrea Buhrow (agribusiness, ag processing and specialty crop, moving on to districts); Brooke Burger (beef production – entrepreneurship); Jack Delhotal (turf grass management, moving on to districts); Audree Dorn (ag sales – placement); Mallory

Henert (food science); Lane Koning (ag mechanics design & fabrication, moving on to districts); Abby Milligan (equine science – entrepreneurship); Zane Murphy (ag mechanics – repair and maintenance, moving on to districts); Logan O'Brien (swine production – placement, moving on to districts); Ian Untz (beef production – placement, diversified ag, diversified crop, fiber/oil crop and grain production); Kate Viall (two-star discovery – placement, moving on to districts); Jacob Warrenfeltz (small animal care & production) and Cameryn Winterland (safety first, moving on to districts).

## AFC FFA members attend Ground Zero Conference

**ASHTON** — Ashton-Franklin Center FFA members Izzy Cater, Leah Cochrane, Angeliah Davidson, Abby Milligan, Donovan Myler and Jacob Warrenfeltz recently attended the Ground Zero Conference held at the University of Illinois-Urbana

Champaign.

The Ground Zero Conference is for eighth-10th graders and FFA members interacted with state officers, section presidents and members from around the state while learning more about leadership skills and themselves.

## Buhnow, Henert recommended for State FFA Degrees

**ASHTON** — On Saturday, Andrea Buhrow and Mallory Henert both interviewed for their State FFA Degree and both members are being recommended to the state for their State FFA Degree.

The State FFA Degree is the highest degree that Illinois FFA can award a member. In order to achieve this, members must keep recordbooks on a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) throughout their time in FFA, maintain their GPA, participate in community

service and show leadership in the organization.

Mallory is being recommended based on her SAE's for food service, managing the farmer's market and hog cooperative. Andrea is being recommended for her SAE involving her u-pick flowers and bouquet subscriptions.

In addition to being recommended for her State Degree, Andrea also was recognized as the Section 2 Star in Agribusiness. She will compete at the district level in March.

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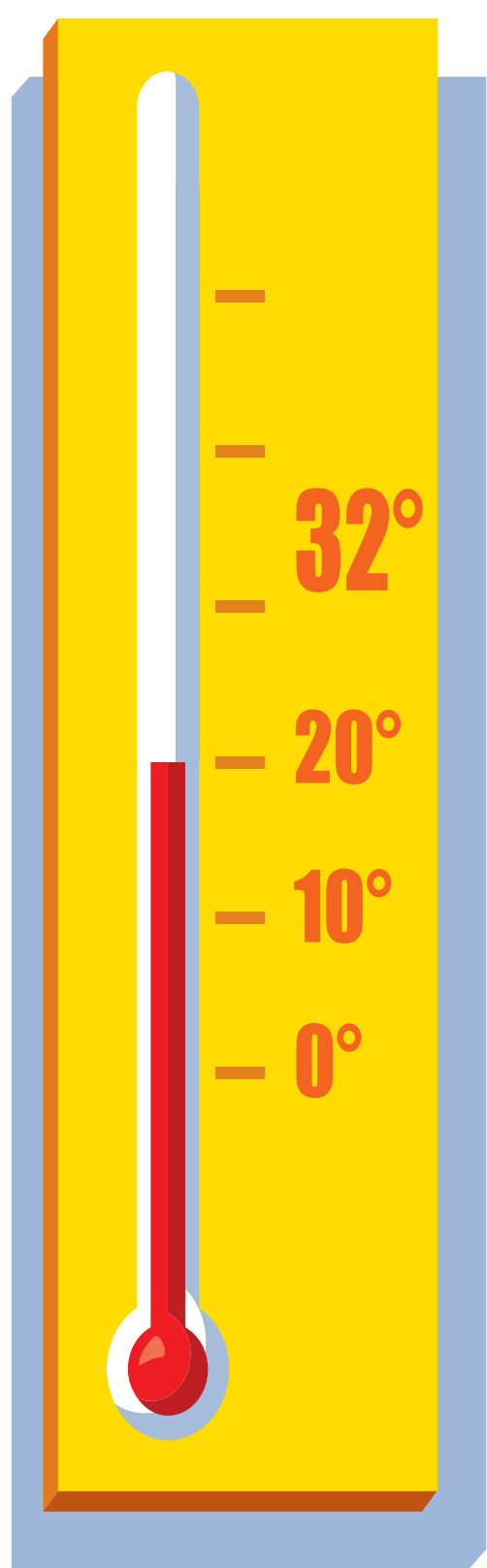
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# SPORTS



## RICKETTS AWARDED

RTHS alum Greg Ricketts received the Central College Mel VerMeer Award.

See page 2 for more details

### RTHS Girls Basketball

# Semifinal showdown

## Kaneland rallies for 51-45 win over Rochelle in IHSA 3A Sycamore Regional

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**SYCAMORE**—Tuesday’s IHSA 3A Regional Semifinal between No. 4 seed Kaneland and No. 5 seed Rochelle lived up to the expectations established during the regular season, when the two Interstate 8 Conference rivals each scored a close victory on the other team’s home court.

Neither team held a lead larger than eight points on Tuesday, when the two schools battled for the right to challenge No. 1 seed and host Sycamore for the IHSA 3A Regional Championship. Rochelle took control during the first half, using its size advantage to score multiple baskets out of the low post. The Lady Hubs were also effective in their 1-2-2 zone defense, which cut off any dribble penetration from the Knights, who were struggling to convert shots from the perimeter.

Trailing 24-18 at halftime, Kaneland cranked up the pressure on defense, flustering Rochelle with its full-court press and creating a myriad of turnovers from the Lady Hubs, who saw their lead dwindle

to one point before the Knights surged ahead early in the fourth quarter. Rochelle’s second-half mistakes proved costly in the end, as Kaneland took a six-point lead and ultimately held the Lady Hubs off for a 51-45 win. Rochelle finished 8-24 overall and 6-8 in the conference.

“We talked before the game and during halftime about how this was going to be a game of runs,” head coach Ryan McQuade said. “Unfortunately, they made the last run of the game and it cost us. Our goal for next season will be to limit our turnovers. We’re averaging about 25-plus turnovers per game and we can’t do that if we want to compete at a higher level. Our turnovers cost us during the second half because they were able to get easy looks at the basket.”

Rochelle seized control early in the first quarter, opening the game with a 6-0 run behind a pair of low-post baskets from sophomore Kendyl Darby, who effectively used her size to seal defenders under the rim and finish in the painted area.

See *GIRLS* page 3



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Kara Martinez brings the ball up the floor during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against Kaneland on Tuesday. Kaneland eliminated Rochelle 51-45 in the IHSA 3A Regional Semifinals.

### RTHS Boys Basketball

# Hubs edge LaSalle-Peru in conference finale

## Lewis drains six triples, Luxton nets double-double as Rochelle wins 69-68

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**LASALLE** — The Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team earned a hard-fought win against LaSalle-Peru on Tuesday, outlasting the Cavaliers 69-68 in the final Interstate 8 Conference contest of the season. Rochelle (10-19, 4-10 Interstate 8) will tip off the IHSA 3A Dixon Regional Quarterfinals at Morris on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Sophomore Carson Lewis led the Hubs with 19 points, converting six 3-pointers including three in the first quarter to spark the offense. Junior Eli Luxton recorded a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds, while sophomore Cayden Moore finished strong with 12 fourth-quarter points. Senior Raul Aguirre added 14 points, four rebounds and four assists in the victory.

Both teams posted nearly identical shooting numbers, with the Hubs shooting 46.2 percent from the field and the Cavaliers shooting 45.8 percent. Rochelle’s defense generated 13 deflections and 10 steals, but the two teams had nearly the same amount of turnovers, with



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Senior Raul Aguirre rises for a shot during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against LaSalle-Peru on Tuesday. Aguirre finished with 14 points, four rebounds and four assists in a 69-68 victory over the Cavaliers.

Rochelle committing 13 and LaSalle-Peru committing 14. The Hubs held slight advantages over

the Cavaliers in transition points (13-9), points off turnovers (21-18) and points in the paint (28-26).

LaSalle-Peru out-rebounded the Hubs 34-29 and outpaced Rochelle 15-10 in second chance

points. London Cabrera led the Cavaliers with 18 points, while Seth Adams added 14 points. Luxton

anchored the Rochelle defense, finishing with four deflections and four steals.





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## HUB SPOTLIGHT

# Ricketts receives Mel VerMeer Loyalty Award

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**F**ORMER Rochelle student-athlete Greg Ricketts didn't fold when faced with consecutive season-ending injuries over his final two years with the Central College football program.

Having already lost most of his sophomore season to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ricketts had been primed for a big role with the Dutch defense entering his junior season, which was cut short after only two games due to a shoulder injury. The RTHS alum worked his way back to full health and was ready to conclude his career with a strong senior season, but a serious foot injury during the first game of the season sidelined him for the remainder of the 2022 campaign.

Despite all of the injuries and setbacks, Ricketts never wavered in his dedication to the sport and his commitment to the Central College football program. His efforts were rewarded during the team's awards banquet, where he recently received the annual Mel VerMeer Loyalty Award, which is presented each season to one football player who displays outstanding loyalty. Ricketts also took home Academic All-Conference honors for the third consecutive football season.

"It means a lot and I'm extremely thankful," Ricketts said. "It all comes back to my teammates and the relationships I've built here are different than anything I've experienced during my life. I'm thankful that the team saw me in this role and even though I didn't have the on-field accolades like I desired due to the injuries... It wasn't what I wanted, but it was nice to be recognized as a loyal team member and I'm thankful that my teammates saw me in that light."

Even though he was injured, Ricketts remained heavily involved with the Dutch. The former Hub outside linebacker served as a team captain and aided the coaching staff with coaching and recruiting responsibilities. While Ricketts admitted there were challenges that came with missing time due to injuries, he's made the most of his collegiate experience on and off the gridiron.

"I was named the starter during the second week of my junior season and I wasn't able to finish the season, which was disappointing because we had one of the most successful seasons in Central College history," Ricketts said. "I had a poor attitude and didn't apply myself in the way I wish I would've. But I had a robust network of people around me who built me up and continued putting effort into me. I'm really appreciative of those people and my junior season was ultimately a learning experience that helped shape me into the person that I am today."

In addition to his work with the team, Ricketts became involved with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) during his sophomore year, eventually becoming the co-president during his junior year before being named president of the American Rivers Conference SAAC and an NCAA Division III SAAC representative as a senior. With



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Former Rochelle student-athlete Greg Ricketts was named the Mel VerMeer Loyalty Award winner by the Central College football program this season.**

SAAC, Ricketts volunteered his time to provide insight on the student-athlete experience, attending events such as the 2022 Division III SAAC Convention in Indianapolis and the 2023 NCAA Convention in San Antonio.

"It's given me opportunities to help not only my teammates, but other students on campus as well," Ricketts said. "It's been a great way to keep my mind on the things I feel are important... I continued to be around the team because of the relationships I've built here and the things my team has done for me. I felt like if I were to get away from that, I'd be backing out on the team. Having the opportunity to stay around and help the team shows what kind of culture our program has. I don't know if there's a program that exemplifies that as much as Central does."

Ricketts concluded his four-year football career with 15 solo tackles as well as 1.5 tackles for loss and two passes defended at the outside linebacker position. Ricketts, who's majoring in economics with minors in Spanish and business management, said he intends to graduate this spring with the goal of applying for graduate school and earning a master's degree in sports management or sports administration. Ricketts, who once aspired to be a head football coach, said his career goals now include working on the administrative side of collegiate athletics.

"SAAC has been a huge influence on me and I've developed so many different relationships," Ricketts said. "I've been extremely fortunate to be on successful football teams and to have people around me that push me on the football field and in the classroom. I've grown so much during my time here and I think that growth is the greatest thing I'll take from my experience."

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# SPORTS

## GIRLS: Season concludes in IHSA 3A Regional Semifinals

From page 1

Darby tied for the team lead with 14 points for the Lady Hubs, who emerged with a 14-8 advantage after the first quarter.

“Kendyl plays really well against Kaneland and I think it was a good matchup for her this season,” McQuade said. “She uses her body well against Kaneland and she’s one of the bigger players on the floor against that team. I thought she stayed even keeled throughout the game and I thought she played really well for a sophomore. She didn’t get too high or too low.”

Kaneland immediately erased the six-point lead in the second quarter, where guard Kendra Brown converted back-to-back 3-pointers to even the score at 14-14. The Lady Hubs regained control, however, as their zone defense continued to force missed shots while post players like Darby and sophomore Abby Metzger cleaned up the rebounds on both ends of the floor.

Senior Torrin Nantz swished two first-half triples for the Lady Hubs, who saw Darby and Metzger each score out of the low post to give Rochelle an eight-point lead early in the third quarter. Needing a spark, Kaneland began aggressively de-

fending the Lady Hubs in the full court, getting back taps and forcing bad passes that resulted in turnovers and transition layups. The defensive change fueled the Knights, who only trailed 33-32 entering the fourth quarter.

“Our goal when we run our zone is to stop dribble penetration and we did that during the first half,” McQuade said. “They started making some shots in the second half and [Kendra] Brown was able to get going from 3-point range which changed the game. I thought the effort from our girls was there throughout the whole game and I can’t fault any of our girls for that.”

Kaneland’s energy showed in the fourth quarter, where Schueler and Plank began breaking through the zone defense and finishing a series of nifty layups at the rim. A turnover that led to an old-fashioned 3-point play for Brown gave the Knights a 46-40 lead, their largest lead of the entire game. The Lady Hubs nearly rallied toward the end, with junior Alivia Henkel drawing several fouls and hitting a series of free throws. Henkel also scored 14 points for the Lady Hubs, while Brown had 12 points and Schueler totaled 11 points to lead the Kaneland offense.



Junior Alivia Henkel pushes the ball down the floor as Kaneland’s Kendra Brown gives chase during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against the Knights on Tuesday. Henkel finished with 14 points. (PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

### RMS Wrestling

## Royals finish sixth at NCJC Championship

Pavlak, Lassiter record top-2 divisional finishes in conference tournament

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**DEKALB** — The Rochelle Middle School wrestling team closed out its season in the North Central Junior Conference Championship meet at DeKalb Huntley on Saturday, Jan. 28. The Royals finished sixteenth out of seven schools with 37 team points in the tournament.

Tyson Pavlak (9-6) took second in the 112-pound

weight division with a 2-1 record, earning a first-round bye before notching back-to-back falls over Kaneland Harter’s Colton Tracy and Belvidere Central’s Moises Moronez to reach the final round. Joshua Lassiter (11-3) also took second in the 119-pound weight division with a 2-1 record, earning a first-round bye before outlasting Sycamore’s Aiden Gemberling in a 5-4 tiebreaker and scoring a fall

over Burlington Central/Prairie Knolls wrestler Barry Yildiron to clinch his berth in the final round.

Angel Hernandez (11-3) finished third in the 135-pound weight division with a 2-1 record, recording a second-round fall over Kaneland Harter’s Lucas Lindstand and a 14-6 major decision against Burlington Central/PK’s David Hintz in the consolation finals. Angel Argueta (12-3) finished fifth

in the 126-pound weight division, going 4-1 over five bouts. Argueta’s wins included falls over Sycamore’s Jackson Paul and DeKalb’s James Brown as well as a 2-0 decision over Belvidere Central’s Carson Morrill and an 8-1 decision over DeKalb’s Marcus Hill.

Devin Hastings (2-5) finished fifth in the 100-pound weight division with a 2-1 record, earning consecutive falls over

Kaneland Harter’s Russ Blickem and DeKalb’s Levi Gaffney in the consolation bracket. Bentley Sveta (4-8) placed fourth in the 80-pound weight division and Tyler Etes (2-7) took fourth in the 155-pound weight division with a 1-2 record, winning by fall over DeKalb’s Virgil Dotson during the quarterfinal round after receiving a first-round bye.

Rochelle Middle School wrestlers who competed

but did not place for the Royals include 95-pounder Joshua Hernandez (1-9), 126-pounder Hadley Losoya (7-3), 135-pounder Benjamin Morris (6-4), 145-pounder Brandin Kirk (6-7) and Tyler Gensler (3-8), 155-pounder Zander Griner (2-8), 167-pounder Dylan Melvin (1-8) and Aaron Hernandez (3-9) as well as 185-pounder Rafael Herrera (5-8) and 215-pounder Christopher O’Neil (3-7).

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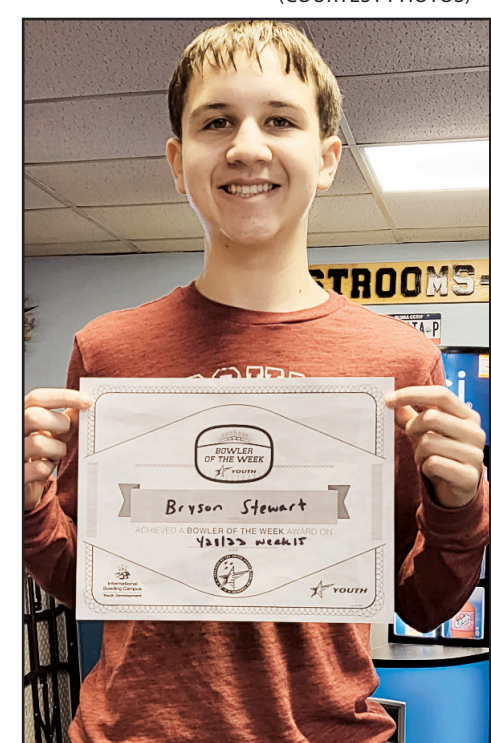
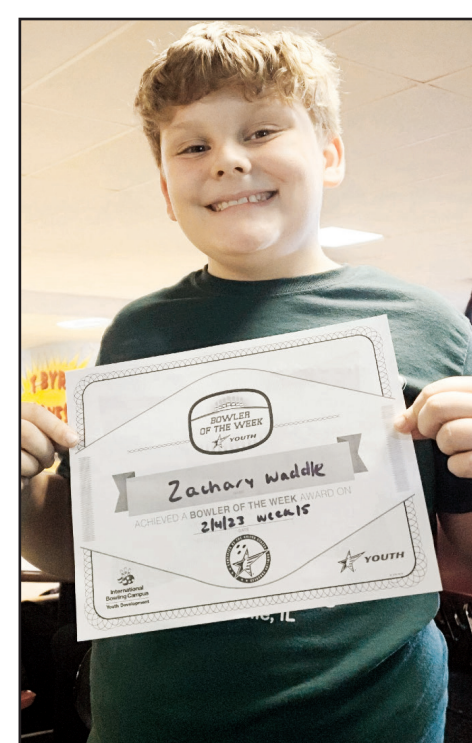
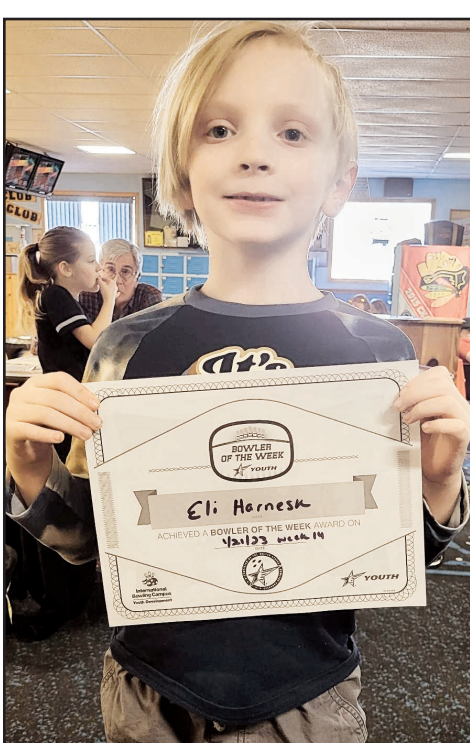
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# SPORTS

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on February 1, 2023 a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: Maple Leaf Insurance Agency  
1201 S 7th Street, Suite #102  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Dated February 1, 2023  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 0205  
(Feb. 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

### NOTICE

TAX DEED NO.: 2023TX7  
FILED: 1/23/2023  
TAKE NOTICE  
County of Ogle  
Date Premises Sold: November 4, 2020  
Certificate No.: 2019-00047  
Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2019  
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A  
Warrant No.: N/A  
Installment No.: N/A  
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES  
Property Located at: 416 North Wayne Road, Rochelle, IL 61068  
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 24-12-301-005  
This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 19, 2023.  
The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.  
This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before July 19, 2023.  
This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of Ogle County in 106 S. 5th St., Oregon, IL 61061, Room 302, on August 8, 2023 at 9:00 AM.  
You may be present at this hearing, but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.  
YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY  
Redemption can be made at any time on or before July 19, 2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Ogle, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Oregon, Illinois.  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK  
105 South 5th Street Suite 104  
Oregon, IL 61061  
(815) 732-1110  
Equity One Investment Fund LLC  
Purchaser or Assignee  
February 3, 2023  
Larry Bruce  
Pamela Bruce  
Larry Bruce  
Pamela Bruce  
Pamela Bruce  
Larry Bruce  
Occupant  
James E Frank  
Linda Frank  
Illinois Bank & Trust as Successor to Rockford Bank and Trust Company  
Laura J. Cook, County Clerk of Ogle County, Illinois  
Claimants, Judgment Creditors, and Decree Creditors, if any of the above described as "Unknown Owners"  
"Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots"  
No. 0211  
(Feb. 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

above described as "Unknown Owners"  
"Unknown owners or parties interested in said land or lots"  
No. 0210  
(Feb. 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

### NOTICE

TAX DEED NO.: 2023TX4  
FILED: 1/23/2023  
TAKE NOTICE  
County of Ogle  
Date Premises Sold: November 4, 2020  
Certificate No.: 2019-00033  
Sold for General Taxes of (Year): 2019  
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A  
Warrant No.: N/A  
Installment No.: N/A  
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES  
Property Located at: 7741 East McGregor Road, Rockford, IL 61010  
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 05-11-200-019  
This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on July 19, 2023.  
The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the County Clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.  
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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

for money in advance.

## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

## 113 FINANCIAL

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

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

## 301 ANTIQUES

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

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

## 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

SPLIT firewood for sale.  
Contact 779-251-0254.  
(02-20-23)

## 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.

## 501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

ROCHELLE - Applications are being accepted for the rental of 1 bedroom unfurnished apartments, specifically designed for the independent living of serious mentally ill individuals. This housing opportunity is being made available to those individuals who comply with the requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Section 8 and in compliance with the Fair Housing and Equal Housing Opportunity Act. Please email: apts@sinnissippi.com or write the: Residential Services Coordinator, Sinnissippi Centers, 325 IL Route 2, Dixon, IL 61021. (02-22-23)

## 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

## NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION

**NEW, USED  
SCRATCH & DENT**  
• Refrigerators • Freezers  
• Washers/Dryers • Stoves

We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

6331 11th Street, Rockford  
**815-874-2257**

11222020

## 401 BUSINESS PROPERTY

## Pest control business for sale

Small company with **80% commercial accounts.**

Northern Illinois area, the business is located in Whiteside County.

**Asking \$120,00.00** There is a 2020 Toyota Tacoma truck that can be added to this sale.  
Sale includes customer list, chemicals and equipment.  
Interested party must be a certified technician.  
**Contact Susan Melton at 815-499-7430**



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Applications are being accepted for the rental of 1 bedroom unfurnished apartments, specifically designed for the independent living of serious mentally ill individuals. This housing opportunity is being made available to those individuals who comply with the requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Section 8 and in compliance with the Fair Housing and Equal Housing Opportunity Act. Please email: apts@sinnissippi.com or write the:  
**Residential Services Coordinator, Sinnissippi Centers, 325 IL Route 2, Dixon, IL 61021.**



# Everybody hates you.

**DEADLINES:**  
**Sunday News-Leader:**  
Thursday, 3 p.m.  
**Tuesday Shopping News:**  
Thursday, 3 p.m.  
**Wednesday News-Leader:** Monday, 4 p.m.  
(Deadlines subject to change during holiday times)

All classified marketplace line ads will appear in the following 7 print publications and on 5 high-traffic newspaper websites:  
• Rochelle News-Leader • Ogle County Life • Rochelle Shopping News • Ashton Gazette • Amboy News • Mendota Reporter • Mendota Money Saver

**Call for pricing that starts at \$32.99 for private party ads and \$44.60 for commercial business ads and \$19.99 for garage sale ads.**

### DISCLAIMER:

If your advertisement appears incorrectly, notify us immediately. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and will only credit customer for one insertion.

You don't see  
bullying like  
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Your kids do.

Teach your kids how to  
**be more than  
a bystander.**

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**StopBullying.gov**



**FREE TO BE...  
YOU AND ME**  
FREE TO BE FOUNDATION INC.





# SPORTS

## RTHS Boys Basketball



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Hub freshman basketball team finished with a 24-3 overall record after taking second in the Interstate 8 Conference tournament on Saturday. The team includes Van Gerber, Martiese Pogue, Ben Foster, Caden Goodwin, Mark Green, Jonny Bearrows, Brode Metzger, Caleb Dreska, Alex Foster, Ian Metzger, Gabe Montes, Andrew Johnson, Reece Harris, Parker Slattengren and Marco Belmonte. The team is coached by Ryne Vrana and Jeff Dickey.

## Hubs take second at Interstate 8 tournament

### Rochelle freshman team concludes 2022-23 season with 24-3 overall record

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**MAPLE PARK** — The Rochelle Hub freshman basketball team concluded its season at the Interstate 8 Conference Championship tournament on Saturday, finishing second with a 2-1 record to end the season with a 24-3 overall record.

Entering as the No. 1 seed, Rochelle faced the No. 2 seed Kaneland for the tournament crown, falling just short in a 74-64 defeat.

"I thought the kids played hard all season," head coach Ryne Vrana said. "They played the style of basketball that we wanted, which was fast paced. Their ability

to play for one another was appreciated and I thought the kids shared the ball with each other really well this season."

The Hubs opened the tournament in dominant fashion, cruising 65-27 over the No. 8 seed Sycamore. Gabe Montes led Rochelle with 14 points including eight in the fourth quarter, while

Mark Green added nine points with seven coming in the third quarter. Martiese Pogue, Caden Goodwin and Marco Belmonte each finished with seven points to aid the Rochelle offense.

The Hubs clinched their spot in the championship round with a 60-52 win over the No. 5 seed LaSalle-Peru in the semi-

finals. Van Gerber shined for Rochelle against the Cavaliers, scoring a team-high 19 points and hitting three 3-pointers. Brode Metzger anchored the Hubs down low, finishing with 11 points while Gabe Montes and Marco Belmonte each chipped in six points.

Rochelle fell 74-64 against No. 2 seed Kane-

land in the finals to conclude the tournament. Metzger and Gerber carried the load for the Hubs, with Metzger scoring 26 points and making 11 field goals while Gerber totaled 18 points and nailed three fourth-quarter triples. Belmonte recorded six points and two players including Green and Pogue each scored four points.



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- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
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FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Receive a \$50 Visa Gift Card with your free in-home estimate

\*All participants who attend an estimated 60-90-minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Offer not available in the states of CA, IN, PA and MI. Expires 2/28/23. Receive a \$50 Visa Gift Card with your free in-home estimate

\* Guaranteed no to dog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free.

\*Subject to credit approval, with the purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub or Shower. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub or shower purchase. Interest is billed during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. There is no minimum monthly payment required during the promotional period. Safe Step Walk-In Tub is neither a broker nor a lender. Financing is provided through third-party lenders unaffiliated with Safe Step Walk-In Tub, LLC under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender. All subject to credit requirements and satisfactory completion of finance documents. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only. Offer available in select markets, not available in Canada. Participating dealers only. Other restrictions may apply.



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