



# ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1, 2023

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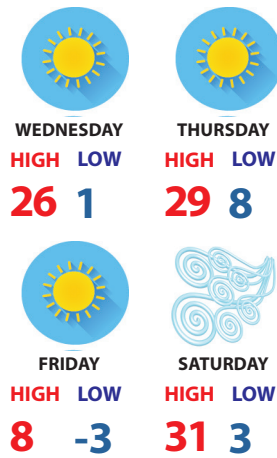
KNOW IT  
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Bolin recognized  
with 25 Club pin

Rochelle Moose Territorial  
Manager Scot Baikie  
presented Deb Bolin with  
her 25 Club pin. **Page 3**

## WEATHER



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SMITH

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## Ceremony held for Essential Infusions Plus 'I pray we're a blessing to this community'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Friday, a ribbon cutting was held for Essential Infusions Plus for its new location at 604 N. Main St. in Rochelle. The wellness business offers services including men's hormone therapy, medically-managed weight loss, anti-aging peptides, regenerative joint therapy, vitamin IV infusions and injections and botox.

The event Friday saw Essential Infusions Plus welcomed by representatives from the City of Rochelle and Rochelle Chamber of Commerce. The business's owner, Angie McGough, is a local nurse practitioner and said she saw the benefits of infusions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're happy to be here," McGough said. "I was born and raised in Rochelle a block away from here. We're just really excited to be able to bring alternative health and wellness to the community and offer something that you can't typically get anywhere. We want to keep people out of the hospital and away from my other job. I saw the success and a lot of benefits of infusions. Ini-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Friday, a ribbon cutting was held for Essential Infusions Plus for its new location at 604 N. Main St. in Rochelle.

tially during COVID-19, it was people turning around and not even going into the hospital when they were really ill with COVID-19. I've added a lot of things and I keep learning every day. I pray we're a blessing to this community."

Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera spoke at the event and said Essential Infusions Plus has been part of the chamber for about a year and has participated in its events.

"We want to welcome you guys," Herrera said. "We're very excited. We're glad you have found your forever home. Congratu-

lations. You guys provide a very unique service and we're very excited about that and the fact that you're local girls is also very exciting to me. Thank you for your support of the chamber and for being involved in several of our events in the past year and always adding something. We're very encouraged by that."

Mayor John Bearrows welcomed Essential Infusions Plus on behalf of the City of Rochelle. The mayor spoke about partnership in the community and said that he sees the city and chamber's relationship with local businesses as a

triangle.

"A business is one side, and then you need two more sides," Bearrows said. "Those would be the chamber and the city. No matter what happens and whichever way you turn that triangle, you still have a triangle. You now have partners for your business in this community. This became very apparent through the pandemic of how the chamber and the city collectively helped our businesses without losing businesses through COVID-19. On behalf of the City of Rochelle, welcome."

## Boulton enjoying time as Hub wrestling superfan Rochelle resident: 'I think I've been to every match since [2009]'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Jim Boulton hasn't missed a Rochelle Hubs wrestling match since he moved to town in 2009.

Hubs wrestling's resident super fan attends both home and away matches and has been witness this year to Rochelle's record 28-1 season. To celebrate it, Boulton has a shirt that he wears to every match that is adorned with colored pins for each victory and a black pin for the team's one loss.

"I was at an Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation (IKWF) event years ago and saw a kid with all these safety pins down his shirt sleeves," Boulton said. "He told me they were for all the matches he's won. I came up with this idea on my Hubs wrestling shirt."

Boulton is originally from Iowa, a state known for its high school and college wrestling tradition.

"Their college wrestling teams are great,"

Boulton said. "I got into it when I still lived there. I lived out of the country from 2000-2009. When I moved here, I renewed my interest in wrestling again."

Along with high school events, Boulton also attends wrestling matches at Rochelle Middle School and Northern Illinois University (as long as they don't conflict with the high school's schedule). He also specates at local youth wrestling events, and he's seen those wrestlers grow up and make it to the varsity team at Rochelle Township High School.

"I got interested in it here when some of these current high school wrestlers were a lot younger in IKWF and I followed these kids," Boulton said. "I wanted to live long enough to see them wrestle in high school and now I have and the team is great. It's been heartwarming to see how they've wrestled this year."

See BOULTON pg 2



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

90-year-old Rochelle resident Jim Boulton hasn't missed a Rochelle Hub wrestling match since he moved to town in 2009.

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# LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Dorothy's Diamonds completed their travel year with a trip to beautiful Vermont. They experienced the beautiful 35-acre Shelburne Museum and farm where this picture was taken in front of.

## Dorothy's Diamonds completes travel year with trip to Vermont

ROCHELLE — Dorothy's Diamonds completed their travel year with a trip to beautiful Vermont. They experienced the beautiful 35-acre Shelburne Museum and farm where this picture was taken in front of the beautiful round barn, that held many artifacts of old buggies and farm equipment. They also visited the famous Rock of Ages granite quarry, with a guide explaining how the granite is processed from the walls of the quarry and made into countertops, tomb stones, cutting boards, etc.

The group took a dinner cruise on the beautiful Lake Champlain; toured Morse Farm Sugar Works; visited Montpelier, the state capital; Burlington's Church Street Marketplace; Ben and Jerry's Factory nestled in Vermont's Green Mountains; Cold Hollow Cider Mill; as well as many other attractions. Dorothy contributed to Rochelle Christian Food Pantry and the Rochelle Kitchen table monetary donations from this trip. Join Dorothy's Diamonds in 2023 to Branson in April where you will see five shows including Ester at the awesome Sight

and Sound Theater, and visit shows and sights of Silver Dollar City. June they will travel to Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg & Historic Norfolk. They will see History come alive in Colonial Williamsburg; enjoy a narrated Norfolk Naval Base Cruise; experience the Nauticus and Battleship Wisconsin; and visit the Beautiful Virginia Beach Boardwalk. if that isn't enough, join in August, to Garden of the Gods, the Royal Gorge, & Colorado Springs. You will visit Manitou Springs at the foot of Pikes Peak,

a town rich in history surrounded by the beautiful Rocky Mountain scenery; Guided tour of the US Olympic Training Center; guided tour to the United States Air Force Academy; visit and participate in the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park; before ending with the Buffalo Bill Ranch State historical Park in North Platte, Nebraska. Here are some great chances to get out and enjoy God's beauty and let someone else drive and make the decisions where to eat and sleep. For more info call Dorothy 815-384-5325.

## Weichert's Hill completes Fast Track training to serve clients

ROCHELLE — Weichert, Realtors® Signature Professionals, located in Rochelle, is proud to announce that Shannon Hill successfully completed the Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. Fast Track training program. The training helps quickly bring new and existing Weichert® affiliated agents up to speed on the latest information, resources and technology available to real estate professionals to help them effectively list, promote and sell properties and offer legendary service to their clients. "Our Fast Track program covers everything a real estate professional needs to know to help them start out on the right track towards a successful career in real estate," Bill Scavone, president and chief operating officer

of Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc., said "This program is designed to offer a unique learning experience to get our new associates productive as quickly as possible." Program participants learn best practices to get started in the real estate industry, find sellers, capture a buyer's attention and list properties to sell quickly. Agents that complete the Weichert Fast Track training also gain the confidence and competitive edge to succeed in real estate. Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals is an independently-owned and operated Weichert affiliate. For more information about Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals, please contact Carrie Ottum at 815-561-8595 or carrie@signaturereal-estatepro.com.

## Fehr Graham elevates Escatel to associate engineering technician

ROCHELLE — Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, announced the promotion of McKennon Escatel to associate engineering technician. Escatel, who works in the firm's Rochelle office, uses AutoCAD, geographic information systems and other programs to complete engineering designs and plans. As he grows pro-

fessionally, he will use MicroStation and learn how to work on Illinois Department of Transportation projects. Escatel joined the team in 2020. He earned a bachelor's degree in manufacturing technology from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. He also has an associate degree in applied sciences in computer-aided design from Illinois Valley Community College.

## BOULTON: 90-year-old has not missed a RTHS wrestling match since 2009

From page 1

"In 1984 I had a cardiac bypass and it's given me 38 more years of life. So I've been able to enjoy wrestling for that many more years." Boulton is 90 years old. He travels to the away matches (if they're not too far away) with a retired assistant coach.

"I don't like to drive too far," Boulton said. "I live at Lincoln Manor and a lot of people say, 'Jim, you shouldn't be driving that far at night.' But if you love something, why not do it? I think we're going to do pretty darn well in the post-season and make a showing at the state tournament this year, both individually and as a team."

## Correction on May Mart photo

ROCHELLE — In the Sunday, Jan. 29 edition of the News-Leader, a photo appeared on the front page with the story "City hopes to work with May Mart on redevelopment."

The photo mistakenly showed buildings owned by Central Bank, not the owner of May Mart/the Rochelle Commons as the story discussed. The News-Leader apologizes for the mistake.

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# LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

At the last meeting of the Rochelle Moose, Territorial Manager Scot Baikie, presented Deb Bolin with her 25 Club pin. Scot Baikie is the territorial manager/liason for the Illinois Moose Association.

## Rochelle Moose: Bolin recognized with 25 club pin

**ROCHELLE** — At the last meeting of the Rochelle Moose, Territorial Manager Scot Baikie, presented Deb Bolin with her 25 Club pin. Scot Baikie is the territorial manager/liason for the Illinois Moose Association.

Deb has been a member of the Rochelle Moose since 2006 and sponsored her 25th member in December. She has sponsored 19 members since May 1. This is almost an un-

precedented achievement. Congratulations Deb! At the recent membership meeting of the Moose, Gerald Lott of Dixon did a presentation on the Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery. This organization is a peer-

led nonprofit, offering recovery support services to people without preference to any path or program for recovery. They support any program that will take one to sobriety. Gerald empha-

sized the need to recover with peers with activities that lead to new friendships. He felt that people recovering need something more positive than A that will restore the self-esteem of the people recovering.

Acting Administrator Bolin presented Lott a check to support the Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery. They are located at: 630 N. Galena Ave. in Dixon. The website is [www.svvor.org](http://www.svvor.org). Phone: 779-707-0151.



## VFW donates Queen of Hearts proceeds to RACF

On Jan. 24, the Rochelle Area Community Foundation accepted a check of almost \$2,000 from the VFW's Queen of Hearts. "We are truly grateful to be the recipient of this donation," RACF Executive Director Emily Anaya said. "We are putting this donation into the RACF Endowment Fund where it will be reinvested into our community through the Community Needs Grants. The VFW and RACF share the same goal of supporting local. Because of donations like this, RACF is able to help support qualifying local partners as they meet the need of those they serve. Thank you to the VFW and to all who participated in the Queen Of Hearts." From left to right: Terry Dickow, RACF board member; Anaya; Joe Drought, VFW post commander and Greg Folmar, RACF board member.

## Ogle County SWCD election is Feb. 7

**OREGON** — The Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold its annual election for directors of the district board on Feb. 7. The election will take place at the USDA Service Center at 213 W. Pines Road, Oregon. Ballot voting will take place between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Anyone who owns or occupies land within Ogle County is eligible to vote. There are five directors on the Soil and Water Conservation District board. Directors serve two-year terms and must be owners or occupiers of land within Ogle County. This year, two director positions are up for election. The following two candidates have been placed on the ballot to fill the two open positions: Marcia Heuer of Oregon and Jon Pearson of Mt. Morris. The other three director positions are currently held by Kayse Rushford of

Oregon, Cody Considine of Byron and Cade Bushnell of Stillman Valley. The Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District is a not-for-profit, local unit of government in Ogle County, formed in 1942, to help provide landowners technical and educational assistance in applying conservation practices. Today, the Ogle County SWCD has the responsibility to inform the public on the wise use of natural resources, addressing nutrient management, the application of conservation practices, wildlife habitat, forest uses, water quality, natural resource education, construction and zoning uses. If you would like more information about the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District, please feel free to contact any of the directors or the district office at 815-732-6127.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Robert L. Bresson

COMPTON — Robert L. Bresson, 93, of Compton passed away Jan. 26 in Franklin Grove Living and Rehabilitation Center. Mass of Christian Burial will be Jan. 31 at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Church West Brooklyn. Rev. Randy Fronek will officiate.

Burial will follow in St. Mary's cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until service time in the church. Bob was born Nov. 25, 1929 in Compton to George and Bertha (Walter) Bresson. He graduated from Lee Center High School in 1947. Bob married the love of his life Charlotte Pierce on Feb. 20, 1954 in Rochelle. Bob was so much more than a farmer. For many years he was a Grain Equipment Dealer for Behlen and Mayrath, often their top salesperson. Bob had a

passion for flying and was an expert pilot, flight instructor and Cessna plane dealer. In 2007 he received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot award, awarded to a pilot for having 50 years with

no accidents or incidents. Bob was active in his county and community. He served on the H.F. Gehant Bank Board, the Quiet Birdmen, Mendota Elks Lodge #1212, Mendota Moose Lodge, Lee County Sheriff's Merit Board and St. Mary's Catholic Church. Bob loved to go to his boys' basketball games, and he loved to dance with Charlotte. Bob will be forever missed by his wife Charlotte of Compton; sons Mark (Judy) Bresson of Compton and Jeff (Mary) Bresson of Compton; grandson Jake (Mariana) Bresson, great grandson Nicolas and sev-



eral nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, grandson Craig Bresson Nov. 26, 2006, and brother Ray Bresson. Pallbearers will be John Burkhardt, Bill Siemer, Ray Mann, Dean Ackland, Jake Bresson, Lewis Durin and Mike Bernardin. In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Neighbor's In Christ Ecumenical N.I.C.E. of Lee, 346 S. County Line Road, Lee, Illinois 60530. Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneralhome.com.

### Dena Lynn (Perkins) Smith

DENA Smith of Oregon, 60, passed away peacefully on Nov. 13, 2022 at Oregon Rehabilitation Center.

Dena was born July 31, 1962, in Ottawa. She was the daughter of Philip and Virginia (Penoyer) Perkins. Dena completed two years of high school at Stillman Valley High School in Stillman Valley before the family moved to Texas. She continued her education and graduated in 1980 from Evant High School in Evant, Texas. Dena had two daughters: Virginia (Schwarz) Martinovich and Cassandra Thompson. On July 25, 2003, Dena married the love of her life, Gerald Smith. They celebrated 19 beautiful years together.

Dena previously worked at Avery Dennison, Rochelle, and Syncreon, Belvidere, where she made many lifelong friendships with many of her co-workers.

Dena and her husband enjoyed riding their Harley and took it on several trips to Sturgis. Later Dena and her husband became avid campers and loved camping and traveling and often took her daughters and grandchildren with them. Dena was the best grandmother to her amazing grandsons, Jayden, and Jaxson Martinovich. She loved having her grandchildren spend the weekend with her and watching them play sports. Dena enjoyed putting puzzles together, playing cards and games with her friends



and family. Dena loved connecting with her family and friends and you could always count on her to know what was happening within the family. Dena will always be known for her homemade sugar cookies and peanut brittle that she enjoyed making with her daughters. If you knew her, she loved you fiercely.

Dena is survived by her husband, Gerald Smith of Oregon, her daughters Virginia (Todd) Martinovich of Loves Park, Cassandra Thompson of Mount Morris, her grandsons Jayden and Jaxson Martinovich of Loves Park, her parents Philip and Virginia Perkins of Steward, her sisters Deborah (Perkins) Woodall of Sycamore, Dawn (Perkins) Johnson of Rochelle, nephews; Matthew Johnson, Brandon Johnson, and Christopher (Bridgette) Woodall and niece; Angela (Jose) Villarreal and many great nephews and great nieces and one great, great niece and many cousins and countless friends that she loved like family.

She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

## Ogle County Sheriff's Department

### Deputies respond to vehicle in ditch

OREGON — On Jan. 27, deputies responded to Illinois Route 251 and Lindenwood Road regarding vehicles in the ditch. After an investigation, it was learned that Luis Diaz, 42, of Rockford, was arrested for having no valid driver's license. Diaz was released on an I-bond. Ron's towing removed the vehicle from the location.

On Jan. 28 at 12:19 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on East Illinois Route 72 at Oak Drive near Stillman Valley. As a result, Marsha M. Reed, 32, of DeKalb was arrested for no valid driver's license (expired more than one year). Reed was additionally issued a citation for speeding (75 m.p.h. in a 55-m.p.h. zone). Reed was released on an I-Bond with a court date to appear.

On Jan. 30 at approximately 11:42 p.m. deputies

conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 110. After brief investigation, Deputies arrested Leon Slack Jr., 38, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended. Slack was also issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and an equipment violation. Slack was given an I-Bond with a return court date later next month and released on scene.

On Jan. 30 at approximately 4:22 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of North Illinois Route 2 for improper display of registration. After further investigation, deputies arrested Nicholas Maxey, 24, of Rockford, for driving with a suspended license. Maxey was released on an individual bond with a future court date given.

On Jan. 30 at approximately 9:25 p.m. deputies responded to a suspicious

vehicle in the 4,000 block of East Brick Road. After investigation, deputies placed Melvin Wilton, 24, of Oregon, under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Wilton was additionally issued a citation for improper parking on the roadway. Wilton was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 30 at approximately 9:12 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 108. After brief investigation, deputies arrested Darius Benard, 41, of Rockford, for driving while license suspended. Benard was issued an additional citation for illegal window tint. Benard was given an I-Bond with a return court date later next month, and released on scene.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## Rochelle Police Department

### Officers make several arrests

ROCHELLE — On Jan. 27 at 10:12 p.m. Mario C. Garcia-Garcia, 20, of Rochelle was arrested for no valid driver's license and cited for speeding. He was released on an I-Bond with a March 17 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 27 at 11:31 p.m. Ivette M. Hoffman-Bultron, 28, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. She paid \$500 and was released with a Feb. 22 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 28 at 1:30 a.m.

Brianna L. Dye, 26, of Rochelle was arrested for two counts of driving under the influence and cited for improper lane usage and illegal transportation of alcohol. She was released on an I-Bond with a March 17 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 24 at 10:45 p.m. Hannah M. Wilson, 20, of Byron was cited for leaving the scene of a property damage accident and failure to give information after striking an unattended vehicle. She signed a promise to comply and was given a

Feb. 24 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 1 at 1:45 p.m. Sonya M. Gallegos-Kooken, 53, of Rochelle was arrested for retail theft. She was released on an I-Bond with a March 3 Ogle County court date.

On Jan. 30 at 1:36 p.m. Troy Marsh, 44, of Rochelle was cited for failure to yield. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 17 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## Village of Progress Foundation offering two scholarships

OGLE COUNTY — The Village of Progress Foundation will offer two scholarships in 2023.

The first scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is made possible through a joint effort between The Larry Young & Friends Charities and The Village of Progress Foundation. Larry Young & Friends Charities partner with The Village of Progress Foundation every year to help make our annual golf outing a success. Larry Young also serves on the foundation's board of directors.

Our second scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is made possible through the

generosity of the Cacciatore Family. The Cacciatores have been long time supporters of the Village. Wanda served on the Village of Progress Board of Directors for 10 years beginning in 1988. She has served on the foundation's board for almost 30 years.


The scholarship honors her husband, Pete, who was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Village. Pete passed away in the fall of 2014, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to the Village and its mission.

To be eligible for either scholarship, the student must:

Be a resident of Ogle County and be either a high school senior who is

disabled or is planning on attending college and majoring in an area related to the disabled, or a full-time undergraduate college student who is disabled or is majoring in an area related to the disabled

Applications must be received by March 15, 2023, be completed on the foundation application form, and include at least two written references. The financial status of the applicant is not a consideration. Those wishing an application are encouraged to call the Village of Progress at 815-732-2126 or go to our website at [www.villageofprogress.org](http://www.villageofprogress.org) and download a high school or college application.



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### 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



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# ASHTON NEWS

## Soup and dessert fundraiser Feb. 11

**ASHTON** — The Hub Cluster of United Methodist churches, which includes Ashton, Chana, Creston, Esmond, Franklin Grove, Lighthouse, Malta, Reynolds, Rochelle and Steward, will host a Soup and Dessert Fundraiser at the Ashton

United Methodist Church on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 4:30-7 p.m. The meal includes chili or chicken noodle soup, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for those ages 6-10 and those five and under eat free. Carry out is available

for \$10. There will also be a silent auction on special desserts. There are a variety of pies, cakes, cookies, candy and more that will be offered. Proceeds from the fundraiser are used to support local non-profit organiza-

tions such as food pantries, programs for those who are homeless and local residents who may need a hand up in tough times. The Ashton United Church is located at 904 Richardson Ave. The church is handicap accessible.

## IAA Foundation announces recent driving agriculture forward scholarship recipients

**BLOOMINGTON** — Seven individuals are getting financial support to enroll in truck driver training classes thanks to the Driving Agriculture Forward Scholarship program, funded by Illinois Farm Bureau and administered by the IAA Foundation. Recipients include Nathan Ault of Warren County, Jared Farr of McDonough County, Kyle Skromme of Whiteside County, Brennan Keifer of Kane County,

Andrew LeFevre of Lee County, Jeremy Glenn of Marshall County and John Reel of Woodford County. “Investing in individuals who keep agriculture products moving and who represent the strength and diversity of our industry is something we are proud to do,” Jennifer Smith, development manager, IAA Foundation, said. Scholarship applications are available year-round with consideration deadlines occurring quar-

terly. The next application deadline is March 31, which correlates to drivers who intend to enroll in a commercial driver training program at an Illinois community college between April 1 and June 30, 2023. All applicants must be Illinois residents and provide proof of enrollment during their corresponding award cycle. An endorsement from a farmer, county farm bureau leader, agribusiness, or food process business

is required. Eligibility guidelines and applications are available through the IAA Foundation website at [www.iaafoundation.org](http://www.iaafoundation.org). For more information, contact your county farm bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or email Smith at [jsmith@ilfb.org](mailto:jsmith@ilfb.org). The mission of the IAA Foundation is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.



## Franklin Grove man arrested for DUI

**FRANKLINGROVE** — On Jan. 14, Lee County Sheriff's deputies received a report of a reckless driver, who drove through a yard in the Village of Franklin Grove. The vehicle was last seen westbound on Old Mill Road. Approximately 20 minutes later, the vehicle was once again seen in the Village of Franklin Grove. This time the vehicle struck a stop sign and fire hydrant at the intersection of Lincoln Highway and Spring Street. After further investigation, Lee County Deputies arrested 28-year-old Benjamin Y. Breneman of Franklin Grove. Breneman was transported to KSB Hospital where he was released and taken to the Lee County Jail.

under the influence (a class four felony), driving under the influence (a class A misdemeanor), driving while license revoked (a class A misdemeanor), improper traffic lane usage (a petty offense) and operating an uninsured motor vehicle (a petty offense). Breneman remained in the custody of the Lee County Sheriff's correction deputies pending a bond hearing. Citizens are reminded to call the Lee County Sheriff's Office at 815-284-6631 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-Caught-U. Callers can remain anonymous and receive rewards of up to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest. All charges are merely an allegation and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

## Church of the Brethren hosting sale

**FRANKLIN GROVE** — Franklin Grove Church of the Brethren will be hosting a sale at 121 W. North St. in Franklin Grove on Feb. 3 and Feb. 4 from

9 a.m. until 3 p.m. “We have a fellowship hall full of wonderful items. Vintage music, furniture, a library of books, many beautiful banners, pictures

and so much more. Please stop and find a treasure!” The church is closing after being in the community for over 177 years and held its last church service on

Dec. 24, 2022. A “Farewell to Franklin Grove” special service will be held March 12 at 3 p.m. The church plans to sell its property in mid-March.

## Warner earns degree at University of Iowa

**IOWA CITY, Iowa** — The University of Iowa awarded nearly 2,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students

degrees at the close of the 2022 fall semester. Eleven percent of the undergraduates graduated with multiple degrees and,

as a group, undergraduates posted a 3.17 cumulative grade point average during their stay at Iowa. The list Luke Warner of

Ashton (degree: bachelor of business administration; major: accounting; awarding college: Tippie College of Business).

## AFC basketball teams take the court

**ASHTON** — The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity boys basketball team faced Forreston on Wednesday, Jan. 25, falling 71-56 despite a dominant 37-point effort from Carson Rueff. Jordan Harris added 10 points for the Raiders in the victory. The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity boys basket-

ball team battled Polo on Friday, Jan. 27, suffering a close 49-43 loss. Kaleb Goldman shined for the Raiders, scoring 21 points to lead AFC while Carson Rueff chipped in five points. The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity boys basketball team took on Eastland on Saturday, Jan. 28, losing 63-54. Three AFC

players including Kaleb Goldman (14 points), Lane Koning (14 points) and Carson Rueff (10 points) reached double figures for the Raiders. **Girls** The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity girls basketball team downed Milledgeville 58-30 on Tuesday,

Jan. 24. Taylor Jahn led AFC with 18 points, while Brianna Gonnerman added 11 points in the win. The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity girls basketball team fell 58-37 against Stillman Valley on Saturday, Jan. 28. Taylor Jahn led the Lady Raiders with 17 points and Brianna Gonnerman scored nine.

# COMMUNITY MATTERS



### BAR/RESTAURANT .....

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

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

### COMMUNITY BUILDING .....

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

### CONSTRUCTION .....

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

### GROCERY/GAMING .....

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

### FUNERAL HOME .....

**Beverage Lyons Funeral Home**  
604 Richardson Ave., Ashton 815-453-2441

### HAIR SALON .....

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

**Huddle  
Café**  
802 Main St., Ashton  
815-453-2677

**Shear  
Delight  
Hair & Gifts**  
Patty Boehle -  
Owner & Stylist

1873 Ashton Road • Ashton,  
IL  
Call for appointment  
815-453-2331 or 815-440-5252  
Open Wednesday - Friday



### INSURANCE .....

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

### MUNICIPALITIES.....

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

### PLUMBING .....

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

### PUBLIC LIBRARY .....

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

**Mills and Petrie Memorial Library**  
704 First Street  
815-453-2213



# LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

## Inviting students to help revive our democracy

SENATOR Paul Simon was keenly aware of the endless challenge and enduring opportunity to revitalize our democracy and strengthen our communities.

He believed that democracy can be sustained and enhanced when citizens respect values such as tolerance and responsibility and take practical steps to make the world better. In his book, "Fifty-Two Simple Ways to Make a Difference," Senator Simon outlined dozens of specific things we all can do to become better citizens who build better communities.

Inspired by his vision and commitment, the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute will soon accept applications for the inaugural

Paul Simon Democracy Prize.

The Institute will award \$5,000 prizes to three current Illinois college or university students for the design – and implementation – of projects to strengthen democracy in their communities. Proposals could involve hosting public discussions or debates, registering voters, funding school newspapers to cover local issues, creating a speaker series on community matters, developing a program to recruit and train poll watchers, or an entirely new idea.

To enter the competition, students must submit a video proposal by April 1, 2023, to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. Winners will be announced

on April 17. We are looking for proposals that are persuasive, imaginative, optimistic, and can plausibly be implemented within six months. Videos should be between 3-5 minutes and will be assessed on the quality of the proposal, not the video itself. However, creative and well-produced videos will get our attention!

The three winning videos will be posted on the Institute's website and YouTube channel. Prize recipients will be invited to a celebratory reception at the Institute in the fall of 2023 and asked to describe how their proposals are being implemented.

Complete details of the Paul Simon Democracy Prize will soon be available on our website, <https://paulsimoninstitute.siu.edu/>.

The Simon Institute recently hosted a conversation with Rachel Kleinfeld, a democracy expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Dr. Kleinfeld described the many challenges confronting our democracy but warned against despair. She urged America's colleges

and universities to encourage students to renew and reimagine our democracy.

This challenge resonated with me and it's in that spirit that the Institute is

creating the Paul Simon Democracy Prize. It complements two ongoing Institute programs focused on "Better politics and Smarter government" in our state: the Renewing Illinois Summit for Illinois college and university students and the Paul Simon-Jim Edgar Award to acknowledge and celebrate statesmanship in state and local government in Illinois.

When Senator Simon announced his candidacy for president in May of 1987, he offered both inspiration and a challenge. "You and I are on this planet but a short time," he said. "Let us seize this time and opportunity to build a better tomorrow so that generations to come will look back upon us and say, These

were people of uncommon compassion and vision and courage."

The Democracy Prize, along with the Renewing Illinois student summit and the Simon-Edgar statesmanship award, embody Paul Simon's highest values and aspirations.

*John T. Shaw is the director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Shaw's monthly column explores how Illinois can work toward better politics and smarter government. Editor's Note: This op-ed was distributed by Capitol News Illinois on behalf of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own.*



John T. Shaw

## 2023 legislative priorities

WE are full-fledged into the new legislative year with all of the elected legislators now seated. So the work begins now as we plod through the mountains of bills and issues that those in power can dream up.

My dream – repeal about half of the laws, rules and regulations we already have. Again, that's my dream; I'm sure some lawmakers would call it their nightmare.

The Illinois Farm Bureau has established the following as the 2023 state legislative priorities:

Estate Tax – To keep family farms together, increase the Illinois Estate and Generation Skipping Transfer Tax Act exemption level to an amount equivalent to the federal estate tax

and credit level of \$12.06 million per individual. In Illinois that level is \$4 million, while the federal level is \$12 million. In terms of farmland 300 acres in Illinois would trigger the tax.

Energy Generation Sales Tax Exemption – Allow electric power generation equipment used for production agriculture to qualify as farm equipment and machinery for the state sales tax exemption. In doing so it would incentivize farmers to modernize and upgrade creating new energy efficiencies.

Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy – Maintain the IDOA/Illinois NRCS funding arrangement for permanency of 40 conservation planners supporting the NLRs and Conservation Reserve Program. Continue efforts to reduce nutrient

losses to Illinois waters by relying on voluntary, incentive-based NLRs and conservation programs and partnerships. With NLRs goals established in 2017 with a deadline date of 2025, these programs and funding resources are needed to farmers to meet the NLRs goals.

Private Property Protection – Advocate for balancing the protection of private property rights with the appropriate development of projects impacting farmland, especially as demand for renewable energy and carbon capture projects increase. This includes requiring comprehensive agricultural drainage plans where surface or subsurface drainage

infrastructure for farmland will be negatively impacted and requiring projects to enter into and comply with Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreements overseen by the IDOA. While most if not all renewable energy projects will be constructed on farmland it is vitally important to protect the private property rights of every individual and mitigate any potential impacts.

Ethanol – Extend the Sales Tax Incentive for E-85 until Dec. 31, 2035. The current E-85 Sales Tax Incentive expires Dec. 31, 2023. The biofuel industry adds value to commodities grown in Illinois and a robust biofuel industry helps make farming profitable

while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Create a Sales Tax Incentive of 20 percent for E-15 blended ethanol/gasoline fuel.

Agricultural Funding – Work to maintain adequate state funding for key Illinois Department of Agriculture programs like meat/poultry/egg inspectors, environmental programs, warehouse oversight and veterinarian programs. This includes advocating for a viable and independent Illinois Department of Agriculture. Agriculture is still Illinois' largest industry and an economic driver. Investing in agriculture allows the state to prosper and grow new business adding to the tax base.

LMFA – Maintain a balanced process for siting livestock farms through

the Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA) that protects both the environment and farmers' ability to raise livestock. The LMFA provides consistent statewide standards that ensure livestock farms will be sited based on scientific, objective criteria, and that rules are applied uniformly across Illinois.

So if you are wondering what I'll be working on this year, besides home repair, there's the list.

"You do not examine legislation in the light of the benefits it will convey if properly administered, but in the light of the wrongs it would do and the harms it would cause if improperly administered." -Lyndon B. Johnson

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



Ron Kern

## Happy Valentine's Day!

WE love reading at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District. Patrons come into the Library and choose e-books from authors that they love.

They read all of their books and then try to find other authors that write comparably to them. The library encourages readers of all ages to come in and find something to read.

We have a wide variety of books and media to entice even the most reluctant readers.

Digital platforms have allowed us to offer e-books, music, graphic novels, comics and movies. The library is changing but no matter what form you choose, you still have to be able to read and understand what you are hearing or reading. "A book is a device to ignite

the imagination." — Alan Bennett (<https://whatshotblog.com/book-lover-quotes/>) Just imagine all of the places you could explore and dream about while reading a book that you love. Our Valentine programs are perfect for February fun.

Spice up your reading life by going on a blind date...with a book! Come to the library and pick out a wrapped book in the

display. Bring it up to the circulation desk, check it out and get your "rate your date" card. When you get home, unwrap the book and discover who your blind date will be with. Fill out the "rate your date" card after your "blind date" and return it to the library by Feb. 14 for a chance to win a "sweet" surprise for Valentine's Day.

Valentine Card work-

shop: This will be on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 1-5 p.m. Stop by the library to make a Valentine for your favorite person. Make heart-themed bookmarks, Valentine poppers and traditional Valentines cards! Make an extra Valentine to share with the residents of Liberty Village.

Come to the library and check out a book. Remember to bring your library card. Choose something

to read that will challenge you or choose a familiar author that you love. How about a classic, mystery, non-fiction, romance movie, music CD or graphic novel. Whatever you choose, know that we are glad that you chose to visit our library. Happy Valentine's Day!

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

### How to contact government officials

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

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

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

Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to [news@rochelle-news-leader.com](mailto:news@rochelle-news-leader.com)

### KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

\* Denotes Chairman/President

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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

## Sanford named to University of Dubuque dean's list

**DUBUQUE, Iowa** — The University of Dubuque congratulates the following students on being appointed to the fall semester 2022 academic dean's list: Zachary Sanford of Rochelle.

Full-time students in good academic standing (registered for and having earned 12 or more letter grade credits for the term) who earn a term grade point average of 3.5 or above and who do not have any grades of Incomplete for the term are named to the dean's list.

## Ricketts Named to Central College dean's list for fall 2022

**PELLA, Iowa** — Gregory Ricketts, a Central College student from Rochelle, class of 2023, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2022 semester.

The honor is awarded to full-time students who achieve a 3.5 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale while taking 12 or more graded credit hours for the semester.

## Kishwaukee College announces fall 2022 part-time student honors list

**MALTA** — Kishwaukee College is pleased to announce its part-time student honors List for fall 2022. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have completed a minimum of 6 (but less than 12) semester hours of college-level courses at Kish with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

The following local students have been named to the Kishwaukee College fall 2022 part-time student honors list:

**Creston** — Makayla Sarver.

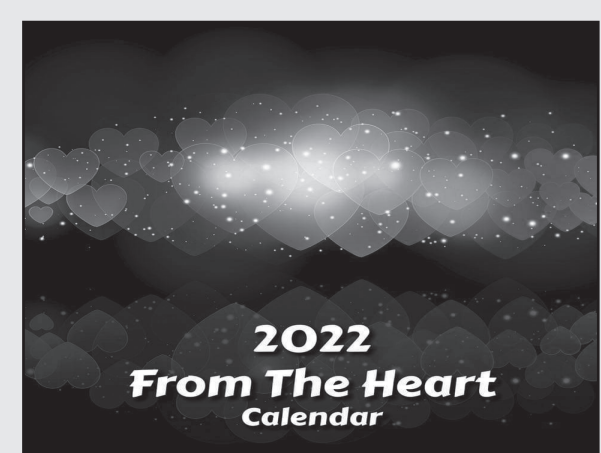
**Esmond** — Jessica Van Etten.

**Lee** — Emily Frazier, Emma Hilleson, Lenna Hulthen, Lauren Jordal, Teija Snow and Audrey Witte.

**Lindenwood** — Anna Roush.

**Rochelle** — Idaly Aguilera, Grace Barnes, Michael Belmonte, Jaycee Benson, Garrett Berg, Cheryl Bialas, Jose Morales Cacique, Ellie Carmichael, Marili Cervantes, Colvin Fore, Edgar Garcia, Casandra Garcia, Katee Hendrickson, Graciela Hernandez, Jennifer Herrada, Baileigh Howlett, Peter Koziol, Micah Koziol, Mandi Lamb, Ilse Molina, Miraya Montes, Brooke Myroth, Damian Nava-Barrientos, Kelsey O'Brien, Yuelma Ortiz, Kaitlynn Ost, Cinthia Pacheco, Troy Papke, Layla Pelan, Olivia Ramos, Gisselle Robles, Sherlyn Rojas, Vanessa Salinas, Olivia Sergeant, Kevin South, Nicholas Stevens, Melesio Velazco, David Wanner, Sarah Watson, Marisa Whaley, Jace Whitehead and Asher Wiegartz.

**Steward** — Rivers Estock, Austin Greifenkamp, Morgan Smardo



- Jan. 6 - Patricia Burkholder, Loves Park, \$25
- Jan. 7 - Lori Kersten, Dixon, \$25
- Jan. 8 - Oliva White, Rochelle, \$50
- Jan. 9 - Holly Kubale, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 10 - ALM Fine Cabinetry, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 11 - Anita Bowers, Byron, \$25
- Jan. 12 - Melissa Villalobos, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 13 - Cheri Divine, Frisco, CO, \$25
- Jan. 14 - Zekelman Employee, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 15 - Kyle Kissack, Rochelle, \$50
- Jan. 16 - Doris Kay McIlvoy, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 17 - Calvin M. Jacobs, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 18 - Autumn Hernandez, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 19 - The Kitchen Table, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 20 - Sean Tracy, Byron, \$25
- Jan. 21 - Tracy Pointer, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 22 - Daniel W. Keller, Oregon, \$50
- Jan. 23 - Ryan E. Baylor, Rochelle, \$25
- 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

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

<b>Feb. 1</b> Zach Prosser Luke Norris	<b>Feb. 10</b> Gene & Judy Messer (anniversary)	<b>Feb. 16</b> Larry Baker	<b>Feb. 22</b> Jessica South Lucy Hazlip
<b>Feb. 2</b> Domingo Mancilla	<b>Feb. 11</b> Darrell Bolhous Paige and Samantha Donoho	<b>Feb. 18</b> Sam & Jessica South (anniversary) Sven Norris	<b>Feb. 26</b> Natalie Powell
<b>Feb. 5</b> Hazel Nieves	<b>Feb. 12</b> Jennifer Curtis	<b>Feb. 20</b> Christian Losoya	<b>Feb. 27</b> Beth Bolhous
<b>Feb. 7</b> Lydia Sherburne Alex Bonilla	<b>Feb. 13</b> Gabby Villalobos	<b>Feb. 21</b> Kris Oleson Anna Sexton	<b>Feb. 28</b> Lucas Donoho
<b>Feb. 8</b> Kaiyah Hayward			

### THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

February 5 – (Sunday Brunch) – Serving from 9 to 12 – Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Breakfast Casserole, Oatmeal, Sausage Links or Country Ham

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## Coffee Break

### King Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Appear  
5 Commotion  
8 Online auction site  
12 Actress Fisher  
13 Part of DJIA  
14 Dell  
15 Youthful countenance  
17 Laundry appliance  
18 Soft leather  
19 Columns of light  
21 Pro votes  
24 Numerical prefix  
25 July's stone  
28 It ain't worth a nickel  
30 Prattle  
33 "Life — cabaret ..."  
34 Stuns, as a perp  
35 "Bali —"  
36 Chum  
37 Sharif of "Funny Girl"  
38 Wild guess  
39 Run after K  
41 For fear that  
43 "No cheating!"  
46 Eucalyptus eater  
50 Thames town  
51 Temporary mental fatigue  
54 Dazzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18							19	20				
			21		22	23		24				
25	26	27			28		29			30	31	32
33				34						35		
36				37					38			
		39	40			41		42				
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

**DOWN**  
1 Bloodline sharers  
2 Jacob's twin  
3 North Sea feeder  
4 "Help!"  
5 Oklahoma city  
6 Elmer, to Bugs  
7 Has bills  
8 Perrier rival  
9 Brawl that's broken up by a bouncer  
10 Oodles  
11 Desires  
16 Tina of "30 Rock"  
20 Colorations  
22 Wax-coated cheese  
23 Twine fiber  
25 Wardrobe malfunction  
26 "Suits" network  
27 Jim Bouton book  
29 Simple  
31 Small battery  
32 Clothing protector  
34 Writer Morrison  
38 Gems  
40 Food from heaven  
42 Enjoy Aspen  
43 Optimum  
44 Jazzy James  
45 Baseball stats  
47 Roundish 'do  
48 Lake bird  
49 Awestruck  
52 Nipper's co.  
53 Goal

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### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### CryptoQuip

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

Clue: **K** equals **P**

XTOYF KGTKUFWM WTAWFGAYAQ  
VUF SFXYNF TZ JA TADYAF  
XTAFM VGJANZFG NFGOYWF:  
"Y NFF SFJS KJMKJD."

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

Answer

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Answers

Movie prophecy concerning the demise of an online money transfer service: "I see dead PayPal."

answer

### King Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU



# LOCAL NEWS

## FIRE: Chief Sawlsville discusses record call numbers in 2022

From page 1

“With that volume of calls, they’re always on the go,” Sawlsville said. “They get here at 7 a.m. and stay 24 hours and cover everything that comes in over that time. If there’s five calls, there’s a little bit of downtime for them to eat and rest. There was a Saturday in December when we ran 20 calls in 24 hours. Not only was there no downtime for the duty crew, but then we have to call in off-duty personnel as well. After a year of that, it starts to take its toll. You can see folks get a little tired, grouchy and fatigued.”

The numbers were not a surprise to Rochelle Fire considering recent emergency call trends and Sawlsville said the COVID-19 pandemic played a part in boosting numbers. He also believes that 911 callers’ access to healthcare played a part in calls being up as well. The department has also seen a large number of mental health-related calls.

“If they can’t find a regular doctor or there’s not one available, then their safety net is 911,” Sawlsville said. “Emergency room numbers go up every year as well. Some of the calls that maybe you would call your family doctor for like having a fever for two days, people call 911 with that. And then you throw a pandemic in there and that just raises the nation’s anxiety level. Combine all those, you’re going to see an increase in calls.”

Rochelle Fire only saw one total loss fire in 2022, which took place at a home on Kuehl Court in Flag Center. That fire took place in October and is still under investigation with the insurance company and the state fire marshal both ruling it undetermined. Sawlsville called investigations taking that long, “unusual.”

Outside of that total loss, Sawlsville said the RFD and Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District saw rebuildable damage to other homes and the total loss of at least one vehicle due to fires.

“Our fire call numbers went up,” Sawlsville said. “A lot of those are carbon monoxide detectors going off and automatic firearms going off. We have a lot of smoking outlet calls and things where the potential was there, but we’re called and able to get on top of it to prevent it from becoming a large fire.”

The Rochelle Fire Chief says he believes total calls will continue to rise each year, mostly due to EMS work. Rochelle has 12 full-time firefighter/EMTs and utilizes paid on-call staff to pick up whatever work

they’re not able to cover.

On a per-capita basis of full-time firefighter/EMTs to total calls, Sawlsville said Rochelle Fire is “significantly higher” than larger departments in the area that have more full-time staff.

“I don’t think this year-over-year increase in calls is something we can sustain with the staffing we currently have,” Sawlsville said. “It just beats people up. It eventually has short-term and long-term effects where you start hearing people say, ‘I can’t continue to do this.’ You could see earlier-than-planned retirements. Continuously going on calls also affects time for maintaining equipment and training. It has a ripple effect.”

With higher calls also wearing on equipment, Sawlsville said RFD has budgeted to replace an ambulance from the year 2000 this year. If the ambulance is ordered this year, it may not be received in 2023 due to supply chain issues causing new ambulances to be 400 days out when that number used to be 200 days, Sawlsville said.

RFD and the OLFDP are also continuing to move forward with plans for a new fire training facility in Rochelle. With staffing of paid on-call firefighters/EMTs, the department is starting to see more response to available positions amid a current nationwide shortage.

“There was a time when we had about 10 active paid on-calls and now we’re



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Rochelle Fire Department saw a record number of total calls during the 2022 calendar year, RFD Chief Dave Sawlsville said Jan. 25. Rochelle Fire went on 3,148 total emergency calls in 2022 including 2,733 ambulance calls and 415 fire calls.

probably up to 20 active,” Sawlsville said. “A lot of them are young and that makes the ability to train that much more important. When the pandemic hit, we saw a lot of our paid on-calls not wanting to do it anymore. And now they’re starting to come back. That’s a plus.”

Sawlsville said he’d like the department to have 25 active paid on-call firefighter/EMTs in the future to ensure ideal staffing. RFD is also preparing to hire for a

new administrative support position to take additional work off its full-time lieutenants.

Sawlsville said due to high call numbers, conversations will have to be had about future staffing to ensure that they can be covered by Rochelle Fire.

“We’re going to have to

have a serious conversation about that at some point and look five years down the road if the trend continues,” Sawlsville said. “Eventually you’re going to have to address it. We’d like more full-time work. Volunteers and paid on-call nationwide are getting harder and harder to find. I still believe in

the model of full-time staff supplemented by paid on-call. It saves the taxpayers thousands and thousands of dollars. But I also spend a lot of time looking for paid on-call personnel and we’re seeing more and more training requirements that make it more of a time commitment.”

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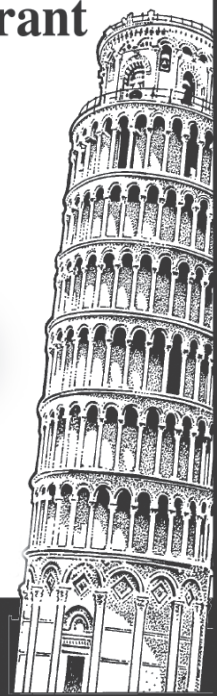
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Warmly,

*Chris Carpenter*



## February P&Z meeting canceled

**ROCHELLE** — The City of Rochelle Planning & Zoning Commission will not meet on Monday, Feb. 6 as regularly scheduled.

The next Planning & Zoning Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 6 at 6 p.m.

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# SPORTS



## WEBER WINS TOURNEY

RTHS senior Josey Weber led three girls at the Oregon KSB Invitational on Saturday.

See page 2 for more details

## RTHS Girls Basketball

# Seniors set the tone

### Rochelle duels with Sandwich in physical Senior Night battle Friday evening

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Friday's Senior Night varsity basketball contest between the Rochelle Lady Hubs and the Sandwich Indians was a physical battle down to the final seconds of regulation.

Junior Alivia Henkel swished two free throws with 15.6 seconds remaining in the game to tie the score and force Sandwich to run one more out-of-bounds play. The Indians were able to find guard Hannah Treptow, who pushed the ball down the floor before losing possession inside the painted area. A mad scramble for the ball resulted in a foul on Sandwich forward Kaylin Herren, who missed her first free throw and made her second to give the Indians a one-point lead.

With 5.6 seconds left in regulation, Henkel received the inbounds pass, but a triple team from Sandwich shut down Rochelle's final play of the evening, with the Indians outlasting the Lady Hubs 35-34 in an extremely physical and defensive contest that included 42 personal fouls and three players fouling out. Henkel led Rochelle (7-21, 5-7

Interstate 8) with 12 points in the game.

"Our message to the girls during practice yesterday was that this game was going to be a battle," head coach Ryan McQuade said. "We knew it was going to be a dogfight and we knew we had to be physical because they have some really physical basketball players. I thought we matched their level of physicality, but it was unfortunate that we couldn't find a shot at the end."

The Lady Hubs celebrated their five senior players including Torrin Nantz, Francesca Williams, Maleah Pointer, Bailey Jackson and Miraya Montes before the game. All five seniors took the floor to start the game and set the tone defensively, holding Sandwich to only two first-quarter field goals. Sophomore Kendyl Darby scored all five Rochelle points in the opening quarter, as both teams fought feverishly in the half court to prevent the other team from reaching the rim.

"I'm so proud of our seniors and this night was about them," McQuade said. It's unfortunate that we weren't able to win this game, but we were right



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Lady Hub basketball team recognized its five senior players before tipping off Friday's game against Sandwich. Above from left to right are Bailey Jackson, Torrin Nantz, Miraya Montes, Francesca Williams and Maleah Pointer.

there at the end. Our seniors came out and played so hard, particularly on the defensive end, and they

kept us in the game over those first few minutes. Sandwich was looking for a good start and we didn't

allow that to happen." The Indians took a 6-5 lead into the second quarter, where both teams

managed just two field goals each.

See GIRLS page 3

## RTHS Boys Basketball

# Hubs take Interstate 8 rematch against Plano

### Luxton leads RTHS with 22 points in 71-62 victory over Reapers on Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — A better all-around effort enabled the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team to avenge an Interstate 8 Conference loss against the Plano Reapers from earlier this season.

Junior Eli Luxton led the Hubs with 22 points, while sophomore Carson Lewis added 13 points and made four 3-pointers as Rochelle defeated Plano 71-62 on Saturday to split the conference home-and-home series. After ending a four-game losing streak against Rock Falls on Tuesday evening, Rochelle (8-15, 3-8 Interstate 8) snapped a three-game conference skid on Saturday.

"We didn't play well the first time and I thought we played a lot harder in this game," Luxton said. "My coaches are always telling me to be aggressive and go get rebounds. Knocking down my free throws at the end of the game and getting to the line really helped me find my rhythm."

Three Rochelle players including Lewis, as well as juniors Jack Lodico and Jack Tracey, converted triples during the first

quarter, where the Hubs took a 19-17 lead over the Reapers. Lewis nailed back-to-back 3-pointers in the second quarter to pace the Rochelle offense, while the Hubs flustered Plano with their ball pressure, forcing turnovers that allowed Rochelle to score in transition. Defensive rebounds also helped the Hubs close out possessions.

"We just have to keep playing hard for the rest of the season," Luxton said. "We need to limit our turnovers and we need to continue boxing out for rebounds during every game."

Luxton knocked down his first 3-pointer of the evening during the third quarter, where the Reapers saw forwards Christ Kelaba and Sammy Sifuentes hit a pair of shots to spark a brief rally that brought Plano within eight points, 50-42, entering the fourth quarter. Luxton's aggressiveness on the glass put the Reapers in foul trouble, with Rochelle entering the double bonus early in the fourth quarter and ultimately going 13-for-17 on free throws in the quarter.

See BOYS page 8



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Eli Luxton dribbles around Plano defender Eric Cano during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against the Reapers on Saturday. Luxton scored 22 points as the Hubs defeated Plano 71-62.





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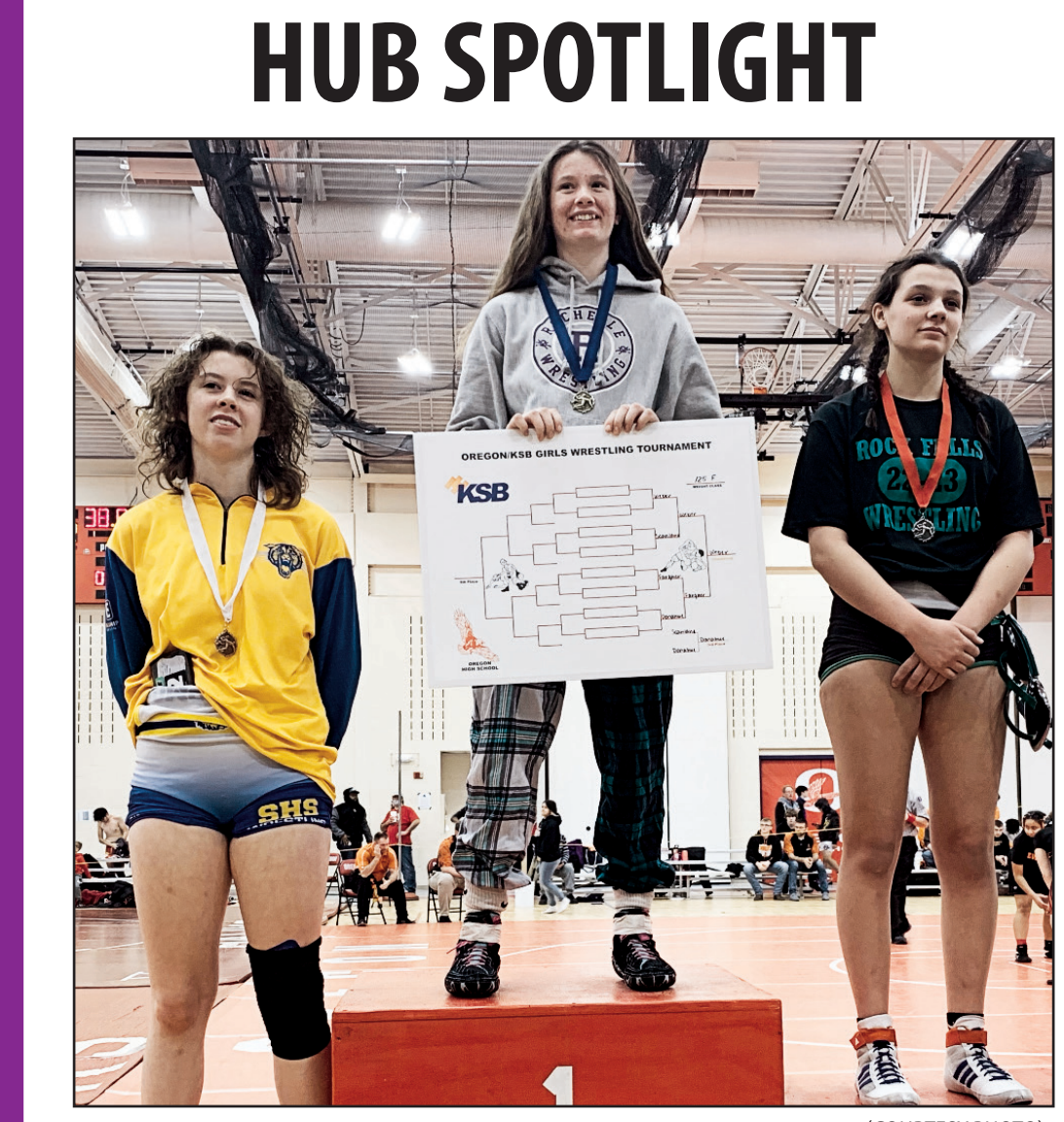
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(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle senior Josey Weber finished first in the 125-pound weight class during the Oregon KSB Invitational on Saturday. Weber went 3-0 over three matches.

## Weber leads RTHS trio at Oregon KSB Invitational

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
 SPORTS EDITOR

**OREGON** — Josey Weber hadn't stood atop a wrestling podium since her youth days when she competed as a member of the Rochelle Wrestling Club. Now a senior at Rochelle Township High School, Weber showcased her skills at the Oregon KSB Invitational on Saturday, winning three consecutive matches to take home the 125-pound female weight division championship.

Weber (10-5) was one of three girls who represented RTHS in the tournament, which featured male-only and female-only brackets. The senior opened with a strong performance against Amboy's Kaylee Scanland, earning a third-period fall before defeating Rock Falls wrestler Ashlyn Fargher with a second-period fall. Weber clinched the 125-pound division title in the third round, where she needed only 30 seconds to score a fall over Somonauk's Rylie Donahue.

"It was quite the experience and I hadn't taken home a win since my time in the RWC," Weber said. "Standing on the podium and having the chance to wrestle against other girls was really cool. I didn't stop and even when I was tired, I kept fighting. My effort during practice and my want to win have improved a lot from when I was little. I've learned a lot from the coaches here, inside and outside of the wrestling room. They've been a big help in wrestling and in life."

Weber has spent three of her four years at RTHS with the wrestling program. Weber was

the only girl on the team over her first two years, but that number has risen this season, with RTHS rostering three girls including sophomore Dempsey Atkinson, who took fifth in the 145-pound female weight division on Saturday. Atkinson (10-9) lost in the first round, but won back-to-back matches against Erie-Prophetstown's Jayda Rosenow and Princeton's Isabella Gibson.

"I thought I performed pretty well," Atkinson said. "When I'm on top, I like to grab my opponent's wrist, ride them and keep their head down. That's how I got my last two pins... Coach [Alphonso] Bruno and coach [Nelson] Baker are great and it's nice having two other girls on the team."

Freshman Cammyla Macias (6-10) also competed for RTHS, finishing fourth in the 115-pound female division with an 0-3 record. Girls wrestling has been growing in popularity across the state, with the IHSA hosting its first state series for the sport last year. The IWCOA also holds a state tournament for high school girls every March after the conclusion of the IHSA season. Atkinson, who's in her second season at RTHS, said she's hoping to see more girls out for wrestling.

"When the IHSA created a state series for girls wrestling, I thought it'd be a good opportunity for me to get into the sport," Atkinson said. "I didn't know anything when I first started wrestling, but I've improved my skills on top, on bottom and in the neutral position. I've been trying to get a few of my friends to come out next season and I think they will, so I think our numbers will grow."

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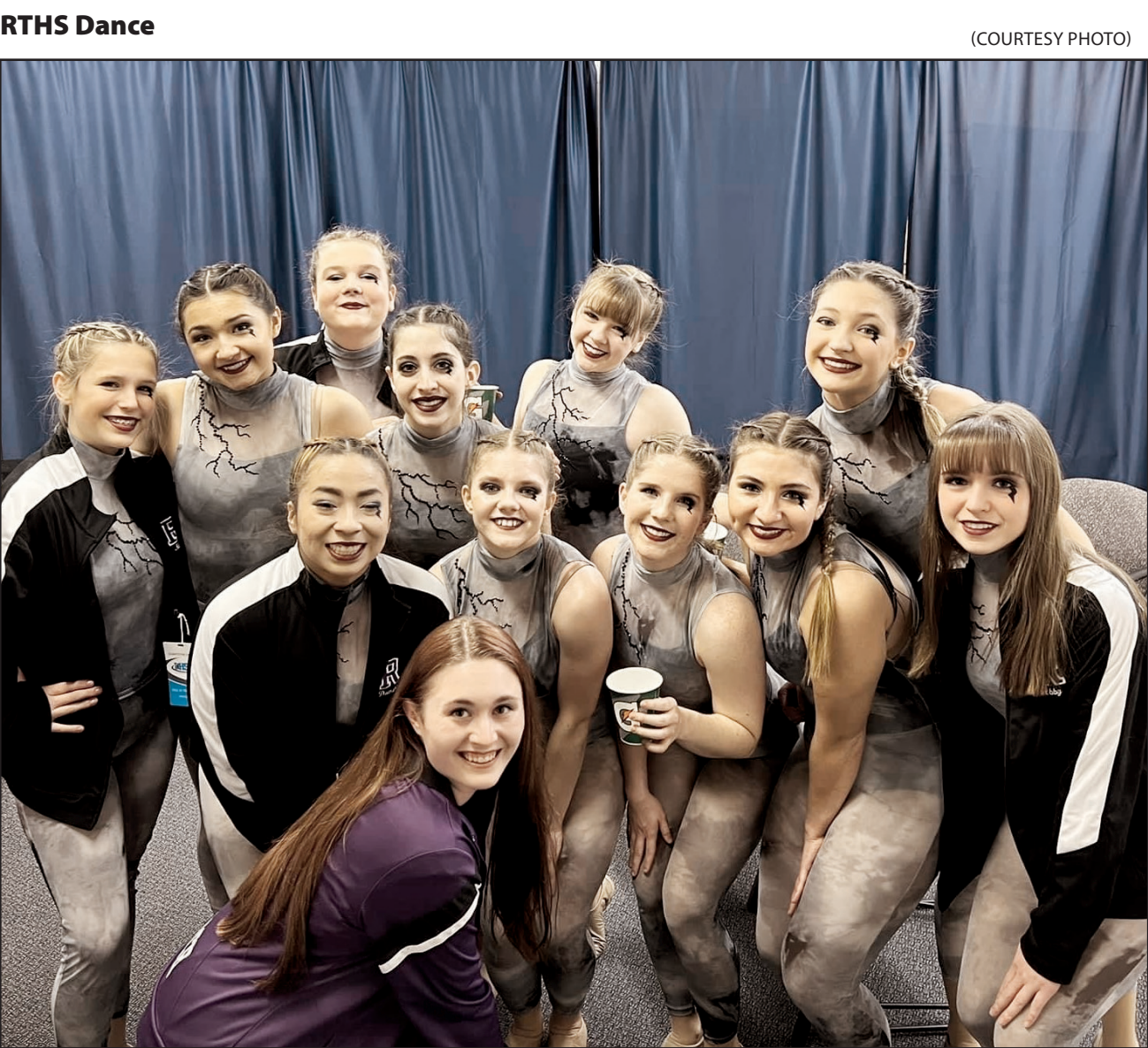
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# SPORTS



RTHS Dance

(COURTESY PHOTO)

### Chellettes bow out at IHSA State Championship

The Rochelle Township High School dance team bowed out of the IHSA State Championship meet on Friday, finishing 22nd out of 30 schools in Class 1A with a 73.24 team score. It was the fifth consecutive season the Chellettes reached the IHSA State Championship. Rochelle finished fifth out of 17 school in Class 1A at the IHSA Sectional in South Elgin. The team includes Macy Ramos, Miranda Dubek, Abby Dall, Alexis Huerta, Kayla Ortega, Addison Stewart, Kylie Davis, Damaris Macias, Macy Lewis, Peyton Raymond and Audyn Kemp. The team is coached by Haleigh Nelson.

## GIRLS: Lady Hubs honor senior players

*From page 1*

Rochelle's full-court press wore down the Sandwich offense while the Indians jumped into passing lanes and forced several turnovers from the Lady Hubs. Behind seven points from guard Alexis Sexton, Sandwich remained ahead of Rochelle 11-10 at halftime.

The physicality of the evening reached another level during the second half, where the two teams combined for 28 fouls as well as multiple blocked shots and tie-ups that resulted in jump balls. Sandwich leaned on 6-foot-1 forward Claire Allen, who was held scoreless in the first half but scored all 10 of her points in the second half before fouling out and receiving a technical foul midway through the fourth quarter. Herren and Darby also fouled out in the fourth quarter.

"I couldn't fault the effort from our girls tonight," McQuade said. "We held Sandwich to 35 points and we should be able to win a game like that. Unfortunately, there were some key moments including missed free throws and turnovers here and there that were determining factors."

A pair of putback layups from Allen allowed the Indians to remain ahead 19-16 entering the fourth quarter, where Treptow knifed through the Lady Hub defense for a layup and knocked down a 3-pointer to give Sandwich a 30-21 lead, its largest lead of the evening. Rochelle refused to back down, however, with Nantz scoring seven fourth-quarter points and going 4-for-4 from the free-throw line over the final minutes to keep the Lady Hubs in the game.

The Lady Hubs, who entered the double bonus early in the fourth quarter, went 11-for-18 on free throws alone in the quarter to claw back into the game, bringing Sandwich within two points before Henkel's free throws in the final seconds tied the score at 34-34.

Darby finished with 10 points and sophomore Abby Metzger added three fourth-quarter points for Rochelle in the loss.

## USBC Bowling

### T-Byrds bowlers roll in Pepsi tournament

**BY RUSSELL HODGES**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**FREEPORT** — T-Byrd Lanes sent several youth bowlers to the 2023 Illinois Pepsi USBC Zone 1 Divisional Championship tournament at Four Seasons Bowling Center on Jan. 21 and 22.

Camilla Ramos advanced to the state tournament, which will be held from April 14-16 at Western Bowl in Champaign, finishing fifth out of seven bowlers in the U8 Girls Division with a 238 series (98, 76 and 64). Giuliana Henderson took seventh with a 216 series (76, 65 and 75).

Grayson Campbell placed seventh out of 15 bowlers in the U10 Boys Division, rolling a 322 series (90, 122 and 110) to finish only nine pins away from qualifying for the state tournament. Jaxon Harnesk took 11th with a 237 series (77, 76 and 84). Zachary Waddle led T-Byrd Lanes in the U12 Boys Division, finishing 13th out of 29 bowlers with a 353 series (105, 137 and 111) while Sergio Ramos took 16th with a 338 series (92, 114 and 132). JJ Groves finished 28th.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

T-Byrd Lanes bowler Camilla Ramos qualified for the 2023 Illinois Pepsi USBC State Championship tournament at Western Bowl in Champaign

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Guyer & Enichen, P.C.  
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Rockford, IL 61114  
815.636.9600  
jphursh@guyerlaw.com

By: Guyer & Enichen, P.C.  
By: /s/ James P. Hursh  
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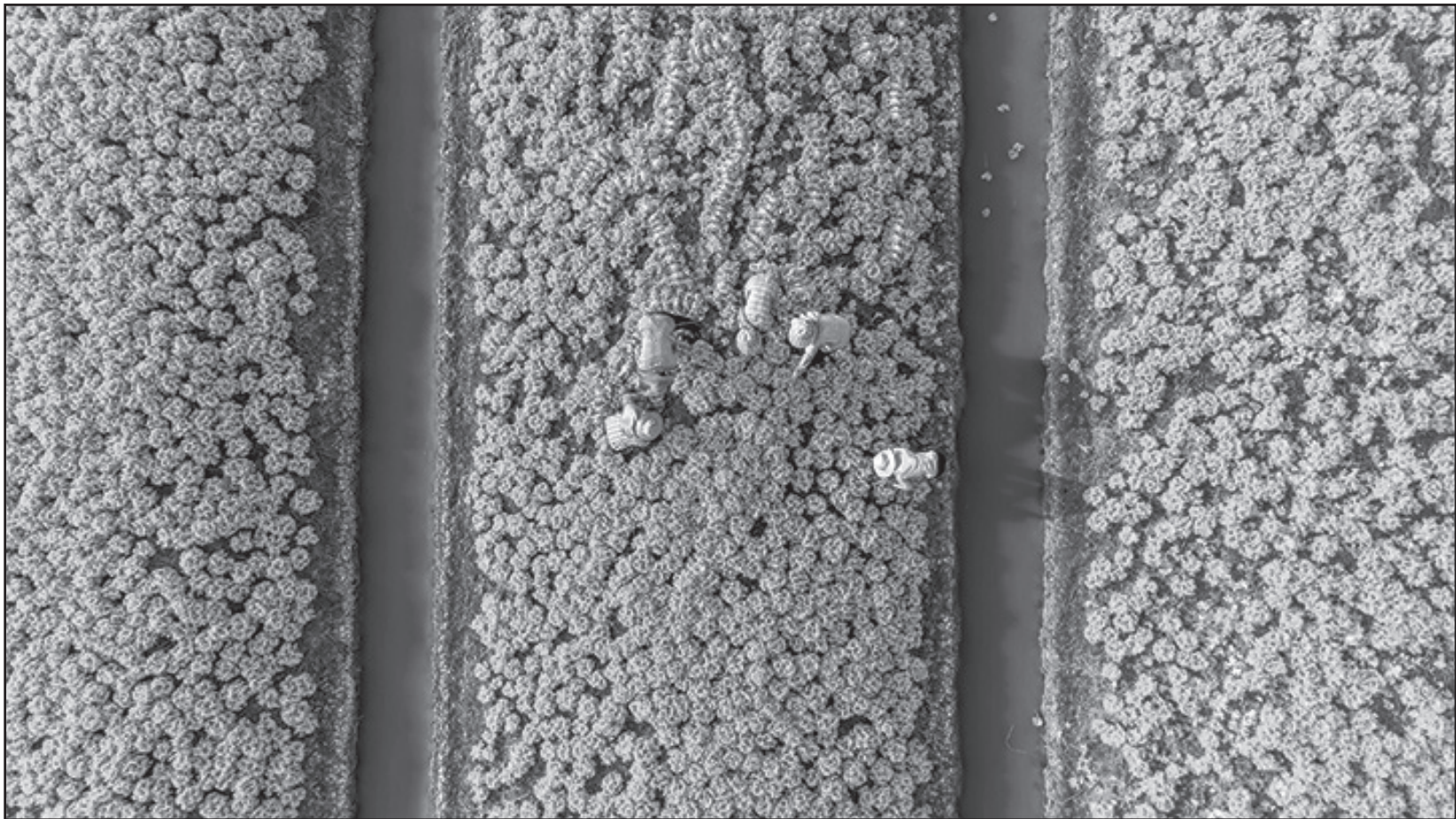
## How labor shortages are affecting agriculture

THE agricultural workforce is shrinking, and has been for some time. The American Farm Bureau Federation estimates there are roughly 2.4 million farm jobs that need to be filled annually, but there has been a drastic decline in workers each year.

There are a number of reasons for the shortages. The AFBF says more than 73 percent of farm workers are immigrants from South America and Mexico. While the United States' H2-A visa program, which allows employers who meet specific requirements to bring foreign laborers in for temporary work, has increased the number of accepted applications for immigrants to 250,000, this number is still just a drop in the bucket in terms of labor needs.

Another factor is a career in agriculture isn't always easy or lucrative. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for every dollar spent on food, a farmer receives only 7.6 cents. Farmers were predicted to lose 9.7 percent of total net income in 2021.

Declining interest in the field has also affected the number of farm workers. As more farm operators reach retirement age, fewer



young farmers are replacing them due to volatile pricing, high real estate and land costs, steep initial machinery investment costs, and other factors. The physical demand of the industry also takes its toll. So what does this mean for the agricultural industry?

Many with knowledge of the industry indicate sweeping changes are warranted. Ellen Poeschi, the project

director for the National Association of Agricultural Educators Teach Ag campaign, has said that a lack of agricultural education is contributing to the problem. Increasing availability of ag education courses across the country could build interest in the industry. Connecting students to internships or mentors may help, too.

Another option is to

rally for greater economic opportunities in agriculture. The ag industry in general needs to find ways to make the economic benefits more competitive to other industries, and improve the working conditions and job flexibility. Agricultural industries currently average only 60 percent of what other industries offer in salaries. Farm wages have been rising due to

the H-2A program, which requires farm worker pay to be higher than the state/federal minimum wage. More change is needed, but this may have to come at the federal level or be sparked by efforts on the part of agricultural advocacy groups.

Additional strategies farm operators can employ to combat shortages are: scaling back farm operations; integrating ag

technology to reduce labor burdens; pivoting to crops that require fewer laborers; leasing portions of land to have extra money; employing temporary guest workers; and moving operations abroad.

Worker shortages continue to be problematic for the agricultural industry. A greater focus on remedying the issue is needed on a grand scale.

## The basics of regenerative agriculture

CLIMATE change poses a threat to various industries, not the least of which is the agricultural sector. Agricultural industry insiders recognize that the changing climate has been forcing farmers and agricultural organizations to adapt and adjust for decades, and that need to be flexible won't change in the years to come.

One of the changes many farmers may consider in coming years, if they haven't already, is a pivot to regenerative agriculture practices. Regenerative agriculture could have a profound impact on the world over the next half century, so now may be a great time to gain an understanding of the practice.

Regenerative agriculture is a production system that focuses on reducing water usage and other inputs as part of a larger attempt to prevent land degradation and deforestation. According to the organization GreenAmerica®, regenerative agriculture is designed to harness the power of photosynthesis in plants to sequester carbon in the soil. The ability to do that can improve soil health, crop yields, water resilience, and nutrient density.

GreenAmerica® notes that regenerative agriculture draws down atmospheric carbon dioxide. That's a significant benefit, as Climate.gov, which is a product of various departments within the National Ocean and At-

mospheric Administration, reports that adding more carbon dioxide to the environment is causing global temperatures to rise. In fact, observations from the NOAA Global Monitoring Lab in 2021 revealed that carbon dioxide alone was responsible for about two-thirds of the total heating influence of all human-produced greenhouse gases. GreenAmerica® reports that, at scale, regenerative agriculture could help to reverse the climate crisis by drawing down atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Another reason to consider regenerative agriculture is its connection to topsoil. GreenAmerica® reports that the world is on the cusp of running out of

topsoil, which is vital to growing food. Regenerative agriculture rebuilds topsoil, which can lead to greater food security across the globe.

Regenerative agriculture practices include the usage

of cover crops, a reduction in tilling, crop rotation, and spreading compost. GreenAmerica® notes that regenerative agriculture practitioners also avoid the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and

factory farming.

As the climate crisis continues to challenge the agricultural sector, regenerative agriculture could help farmers and the larger industry successfully confront those issues.





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# SPORTS

## RTHS Cheerleading

(COURTESY PHOTO)



### Lady Hubs conclude competitive season at IHSA Belvidere North Sectional on Saturday afternoon

The Rochelle Township High School varsity cheerleading team competed in the IHSA Sectional at Belvidere North on Saturday, finishing 13th out of 17 schools in the Medium Division with a 77.97 score. The team includes Rivers Estock, Ava Albers, Jasmynn Lipscomb, Anna Harvey, McKenna Cook, Rylee Jackson, Baylie Sutton, Ayla Walker, Ava Lynn, Morgan Smardo, Lauryn Akey, Riley White and Zoe White. The team is coached by Trish Rodeghero and Mychaela Hurst.

## BOYS: Hubs concede close loss against Stillman Valley

From page 1

Luxton went 7-for-9 on free throws in the fourth quarter alone, while senior forward Raul Aguirre backed his way toward the basket for a pair of layups to help the Hubs seal their conference win. Aguirre

finished with nine points, while Tracey recorded eight points and Lodico added seven points. Senior Colton O'Rourke went 4-for-4 on fourth-quarter free throws in the win.

### Stillman Valley

The Rochelle Hub var-

sity basketball team fell just short in its attempt for back-to-back non-conference wins Thursday evening, when Owen Dunseth carried Stillman Valley with 29 points as the Cardinals held off the Hubs 62-57. Rochelle (7-15, 2-8 Interstate 8) held

a one-point lead entering the fourth quarter, where Stillman Valley outscored the Hubs 19-13 to seal the win. Sophomore Carson Lewis led Rochelle with 15 points and five rebounds.

While the Hubs dominated the offensive glass, outrebounding Stillman

Valley 14-4 on the offensive end, Rochelle shot only 37.9 percent from the field and finished 5-for-20 from 3-point range as well as 8-for-17 from the free-throw line. The Hubs capitalized on their offensive rebounds, outscoring the Cardinals 12-1 on second

chance points. Junior Eli Luxton recorded 13 points, four rebounds and two steals for the Hubs, while senior Raul Aguirre had 11 points and seven rebounds.

Rochelle will host Otawara for an Interstate 8 Conference game on Friday at 7 p.m.

## Registrations now open for 2023 Rochelle Little League season

**ROCHELLE** — Sign-ups for the 2023 Rochelle Little League season are now open. Divisions include Co-Ed Tee Ball (Ages 4-6), Co-Ed Rookie League (Ages 5-7), Boys Minor League (Ages 7-10), Boys Major League (Ages 10-12), Boys Junior League (Ages 13-14), Boys Senior League (Ages 15-16), Girls Minor League (Ages 7-10), Girls Major League (Ages 10-12), Girls Junior League

(Ages 13-14) and Girls Senior League (Ages 15-16).

Tee Ball and Rookie League divisions do not have tryouts. Teams will be selected once registrations are closed and information will be sent out to the players. Junior and Senior leagues will be selected once registrations are closed and more information will be sent out to registered players regarding a potential evaluation day prior

to selecting teams. Parents are encouraged to register now so RLL can start team building and get a look at possible team sizes.

RLL encourages everyone at all age levels to register early. Once registrations are closed, RLL will not be accepting anymore players. RLL will be taking walk-in paper registrations at each tryout date as well. Cash or check will be the only forms of payment accepted

for walk-ins.

Boys & Girls Minor/Major Tryouts will be held at The REC Center (802 Jones Road). Players league age 7-9 that were not on a Minor League team last season will be required to attend one of the listed tryout dates. All league age 10 players are required to attend one of the listed tryout dates unless you played on a Major League team last season.

If you are league age 11-

12 and were not on a Major League team last season, you will be required to attend one of the tryout dates listed. Please arrive around 20 minutes early to allow time to check in and receive your tryout number.

Friday, Feb. 3, 7-9 p.m.: Girls Softball (all age groups 7-12) will tryout from 7-8 p.m. and Boys Baseball (all age groups 7-12) will tryout from 8-9 p.m.

Saturday Feb. 11, 2-5 p.m.:

Girls Softball (all age groups 7-12) will tryout from 2-3:30 p.m. and Boys Baseball (all age groups 7-12) will tryout from 3:30-5 p.m.

Sunday Feb. 19, 12:30-2:30 p.m.: Girls Softball (all age groups 7-12) will tryout from 12:30-1:30 p.m. and boys baseball (all age groups 7-12) will tryout from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Registrations are open online at [www.rochellelittleleague.com](http://www.rochellelittleleague.com).


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