



ROCHELLE News-Leader

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**KNOW IT
TODAY**

**Fehr Graham
hires Dahl**

Fehr Graham announced
the hiring of Jarrett Dahl
as an engineering
technician. **Page 7**

WEATHER

 SUNDAY HIGH LOW 36 23	 MONDAY HIGH LOW 41 23
 TUESDAY HIGH LOW 35 26	 WEDNESDAY HIGH LOW 30 23

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OBITUARIES
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INSERTS
• SCHNUCKS
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INSIDE
Local News.....2, 3, 5, 8
Obituaries.....4
Opinion.....6
Community.....7



Looking ahead to 2023 ‘There’s a lot of good things I’m looking forward to’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle’s plans for 2023 include looking at the future of the vacant Hickory Grove site, making upgrades to electric infrastructure, completing its Rochelle Intermodal Transload Facility, a Well 8 rehabilitation project and hiring new police officers.

Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh spoke with the News-Leader on Dec. 21 about what residents can expect from the new year.

After demolition of the Hickory Grove facility at 1127 N. 7th St. was completed in early 2022, Fiegenschuh said conversations will be had among city leadership in winter or early spring of 2023 on the site’s future and a potential development.

“I plan to go back to the city council sometime this winter or early spring and see where they want to go with Hickory Grove and if we want to do something different or hire a broker,” Fiegenschuh said. “We’re



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The City of Rochelle’s plans for 2023 include looking at the future of the vacant Hickory Grove site, making upgrades to electric infrastructure, completing its Rochelle Intermodal Transload Facility, a Well 8 rehabilitation project and hiring new police officers.

going to start having those conversations again. I’m not saying we need to make that decision right away, and it’s ultimately up to the mayor and council. That’s something we need to have a conversation about.”

After completing a nearly-\$15 million new electrical substation on Ritchie Road in 2022, the

city and Rochelle Municipal Utilities plan to move forward with planning for their next substation on the west side of town. The electric department also has plans to tie all the city’s substations together to be able to increase reliability.

“We’ll also have to navigate our wholesale electric costs going up,” Fiegenschuh said. “If we

have to go out into the market and buy power, we’re seeing pretty large price increases over where we were a couple years ago.”

The RITC project broke ground in November and will return intermodal services to the city and its local industries via city-owned railroad.

See CITY page 3

Insurance proposal approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

CRESTON — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village Board unanimously approved an insurance proposal for the year in the amount of \$12,993.

Adam Heal of Query Insurance presented the board its new premium and said last year it was \$11,828. The village did see a rate reduction, but saw the additions of \$300,000 in additional property coverage and a new pickup truck.

“We like to make a property evaluation every couple of years and make sure the property values are in line with keeping up with inflation and things like that,” Heal said.

See BOARD page 5

Local law enforcement reacts to SAFE-T Act ruling ‘We’re glad the Kankakee County judge ruled the way he did’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OGLE COUNTY — Ogle County State’s Attorney Mike Rock and Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle announced in a press release Dec. 29 that Ogle County will not be subject to the SAFE-T Act no cash bail provisions as a result of a Kankakee County judge ruling Wednesday, Dec. 28 that lawmakers overreached their constitutional authority in passing a measure to abolish cash bail in Illinois.

Other provisions in the wide-ranging SAFE-T Act criminal justice reform were not affected by the ruling, such as reforms to police officer training and certification standards and police body camera requirements. The Ogle County Sheriff’s Office is required to start body cameras Jan. 1, 2024 and smaller departments such as the Rochelle Police Department will start Jan. 1, 2025.

A Dec. 31 order from the Illinois Supreme Court stayed the cash bail provisions’ implementation for all 102 counties until the court could rule on an



(FILE PHOTO)

Ogle County State’s Attorney Mike Rock and Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle announced in a press release Dec. 29 that Ogle County will not be subject to the SAFE-T Act no cash bail provisions as a result of a Kankakee County judge ruling Wednesday, Dec. 28.

appeal to the case on an expedited but indefinite timeline. Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul said recently in a news release

the state will appeal the decision directly to the state Supreme Court.

VanVickle and RPD Chief Eric Higby spoke

with the Ogle County Life and Rochelle News-Leader about their reaction to the cash bail issue. VanVickle and Rock were involved

with a lawsuit involving 61 other counties that resulted in the Dec. 28 ruling.

See SAFE-T page 3

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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Stillman Bank held its annual holiday giveaway drawing on Dec. 23. The bank had a total of six winners throughout its six locations. The winners received either a beef quarter or pork half. The winners of the beef quarters were: Dave Bakener (Oregon), Kay Beardin (Rochelle) and Jill Carr (Leaf River).

Stillman Bank names 2022 holiday giveaway winners

STILLMAN VALLEY – Stillman Bank held its annual holiday giveaway drawing on Dec. 23. The bank had a total of six winners throughout its six locations. The winners

received either a beef quarter or pork half.

The winners of the beef quarters were: Dave Bakener (Oregon), Kay Beardin (Rochelle) and Jill Carr (Leaf River).

The winners of the pork halves were: Dennis Steckbauer (Byron), Angela Lowery (Rockton) and Jerry Coots (Belvidere).

The annual holiday giveaway is one of the

many ways the bank gives back to the local communities it serves. For more information on the 2022 holiday giveaway or to find out more about Stillman Bank's products and

services, please contact or visit www.stillmanbank.com.

Stillman Bank is an independently owned community bank founded in 1882.

The bank has approximately \$612 million in assets and operates full-service banking offices in Byron, Oregon, Rochelle, Rockford, Roscoe/Rockton and Stillman Valley.

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City continues to offer local business façade improvement program

ROCHELLE – The City of Rochelle, in its continuing effort to support the revival and development of local business, has again approved the Façade Improvement Program for 2023.

The city will provide a 50 percent matching grant, with a maximum amount of \$5,000 to business or building owners who complete eligible improvements to the façades of their buildings. Improvements must be constructed within six months of application approval. The city will match dollar-for-dollar an owner's investment in eligible improvements to the appearance of their building's storefront façade. The building or business owner who has funded most of the improvements must apply for and be approved in order to receive the 50 percent matching grant.

Commercial buildings that meet the following qualifications are eligible for the grant: One grant per building in a five-year period. One grant per building or business owner every other year. Façade faces

public right-of-way. Any code violations have been addressed. Property owner is in good standing with Rochelle Municipal Utilities/city bills. Improvements begin after Jan. 1, 2023.

Examples of eligible projects include: brick cleaning, exterior doors, streetscape elements, tuck pointing, windows and window frames, landscaping, painting, shutters & awnings, stairs, porches, railings, wall façade repair & treatment, exterior lighting, roofs visible from the street, original architectural feature repair or replacement, signage repair or replacement, or improvements for ADA compliance.

A complete list of eligible expenses and application procedures are available for pick up at the Community Development Department located at 420 N. 6th St. and on the city's website at www.cityofrochelle.net.

For questions or information, please contact Michelle Knight, City of Rochelle community development specialist.

LOCAL NEWS

CITY: Fiegenschuh details future plans for Rochelle

From page 1

The plan is to complete the project in 2023 and provide intermodal services at an opportune location away from the suburbs for local industries to reduce transportation costs.

Fiegenschuh said hiring new police officers for the Rochelle Police Department will continue to be a priority in 2023 as the department navigates retirements and promotions.

“A high priority for me is hiring at least three or four new police officers,” Fiegenschuh said. “I’d like to hire five if we could. We want to hire additional officers in anticipation of retirements.”

In 2023, the city manager said he’s looking forward to two multi-family apartment housing developments planned for the southside of town in the area of Lake Lida Lane to help with Rochelle’s housing availability.

After the completion

of its Well 4 rehabilitation project in 2022, the city and RMU plan to start and complete their Well 8 rehabilitation project this year. Plans are also in place to continue to do street and sidewalk repairs. In 2022, 45,000 square feet of sidewalk and curb were replaced.

The city’s economic development department is working with Rochelle Township High School and Kishwaukee College to put on another job fair in 2023.

“We want to continue working with our industries on workforce development issues,” Fiegenschuh said. “I want to work with the mayor and city council to come up with creative ways to support our business community. They’re the backbone of the town and we want to continue to help our small businesses succeed and continue to work with companies like Wheatland Tube, Americold, Rochelle Foods and all of our industrial corporate



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The city’s economic development department is working with Rochelle Township High School and Kishwaukee College to put on another job fair in 2023.

partners.”

City staff plan to develop a theme for the year in January and set broader goals for each department.

“There’s a lot of good

things I’m looking forward to in 2023,” Fiegenschuh said. “I’m not sure what the theme will be. We’ve talked about getting back to basics and

other ideas. Whatever we do, we’re going to have a major emphasis this next year on supporting each other and helping each other be successful. Ulti-

mately our job is to make the city successful, and when the city’s successful, the mayor and city council and most importantly our residents are successful.”

SAFE-T: VanVickle, Higby discuss effects of court ruling locally

From page 1

“We’re glad the Kankakee County judge ruled the way he did,” VanVickle said. “We look forward to hearing what the Illinois Supreme Court has to say. We had constitutional concerns about the implementation and limiting the effectiveness of the judges.”

VanVickle said his office did a lot of work in preparation for the planned elimination of cash bail on Jan. 1 that did not take place. The sheriff’s office was ready for the implementation and met with the state’s attorney’s office, judges and local police departments to provide them with policies and operational structure. He said if an appeal results in the elimination of cash bail, those policies will be ready and used unless there is a change.

The sheriff said recent preparation efforts were difficult.

“There were questions we had for the judges that couldn’t be answered right up until the last week,” VanVickle said. “That’s a concern when you have legislation that’s as far-reaching as the elimination of cash bail. People didn’t have answers when the implementation was less than a week away. That’s a concern.”

VanVickle said he believes the Supreme Court will review the case and the fate of cash bail “fairly soon” and an answer could be seen in late winter or early spring.

Higby echoed the sheriff’s sentiments on implementation and said the planned change was hard to prepare for over the past month. If an appeal does because the elimination of cash bail to take place in the future, he has concerns for the community, including victims and officers.

“That one person who now can get out becomes a danger to everyone, depending on what offense you’re talking about,” Higby said. “But there are some offenses in there that people really shouldn’t be out at all, or without posting something. We’re talking decent felony-level crimes. I do not want to see that go through and have the people that should be in jail, or should at least have to post bond, out in the community

again.”

The RPD chief said he has concerns that the elimination of cash bail would allow offenders to immediately return to the residence or business where they caused a problem. He also believes it could cause issues for victims of crimes.

“With regard to the pretrial release element, it sends an unacceptable message to the victims of these crimes,” Higby said. “When someone calls for police assistance and then realizes that the offender will be released even after an arrest, it will be disheartening. There would likely be less cooperation from the victims who would fear additional crimes.”

VanVickle said his biggest issue with the possible elimination of cash bail is taking control out of the hands of local judges. He believes the power should stay with judges to determine bond amount and how long those charged should be held on a case-by-case basis.

Proceeds from cash bail have always been relied upon by the Ogle County court system and if eliminated, VanVickle said a void will be left.

“That is a huge concern moving forward,” VanVickle said. “But the bigger concern for me is the safety of the public. The elimination of cash bail does nothing other than benefit the criminals and the people that are charged with the crimes. For me, that’s the primary concern, the public and law-abiding citizens and how this lawlessness will impact them.”

The SAFE-T Act’s increased training and certification standards have impacted local departments as well. Higby said some of that training can be done online, but training for issues like use of force and felony traffic stops have to be done in person. That involves overtime and getting creative with staffing for patrol.

VanVickle said his office’s training budget increased last year by over a third, not including overtime incurred from paying for additional deputies to spend time training or back fill to cover the roads.

“I’m not against training by any stretch of the imagination,” VanVickle said.

“But there are expenses that come with training. For a small agency like us, it requires overtime to fill those vacancies.”

For body cameras by January 2024, the sheriff’s office will pursue state grant funding this May and VanVickle said the goal is to receive that funding to help with the expense, which will include data storage and ongoing expenses for the cameras.

While RPD is not required to have body cameras until January 2025, the department and city budgeted to buy them this year due to supply chain issues and increased prices.

“I don’t know when they’ll actually be deployed, but we wanted to get them early,” Higby said. “The state isn’t going to care if January 2025 comes if we don’t have them due to supply chain issues. We wanted to make sure we acted early and we get them here. We have people working on grants. It’s a lease program. I think it’s \$25,000 a year over five years for \$125,000 total.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle and RPD Chief Eric Higby spoke with the Ogle County Life and Rochelle News-Leader about their reaction to the cash bail issue. VanVickle and Ogle County State’s Attorney Mike Rock were involved with a lawsuit involving 61 other counties that resulted in the Dec. 28 ruling.

That includes storage and training.”

VanVickle testified against the original SAFE-T Act as a whole years ago in front of the state legislature ahead of its passing.

“And just a few short hours later it was voted on and passed,” VanVickle said. “The implementation

of all of the different pieces have been right up to the last minute. The original bill was voted on in one January and there were changes made through the entire spring session through early summer with implementation of some of those items in July. This is the way this act has been. This is why

you don’t pass legislation in the middle of the night without a public review. Because you end up with these constantly-changing issues in a piece of legislation that was obviously poorly written and now it’s being determined by the courts if some of it is even constitutional.”

Thanks for Your Support!

WE would like to take this opportunity to thank the Community of Rochelle for their generosity in 2022.

We appreciate every individual, family, business, company, organization, church & entity who gave so graciously this year. Whether you donated monetarily, with your time, talent & resources or with food & materials or in any other way you made a difference & we are ever so grateful for you.

Thank you again for supporting our local food pantry.

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LOCAL NEWS

2022 Lee County Tentative Multiplier Announced

SPRINGFIELD — Lee County has been issued a tentative property assessment equalization factor of 1.0000.

The property assessment equalization factor, often called the “multiplier,” is the method used to achieve uniform property assessments among counties, as required by law. This equalization is particularly important because some of the state’s 6,600 local taxing districts overlap into two or more counties (e.g. school districts, junior college districts,

fire protection districts). If there were no equalization among counties, substantial inequities among taxpayers with comparable properties would result.

State law requires property in Illinois to be assessed at one-third of its market value. Farm property is assessed differently, with farm homesites and dwellings subject to regular assessing and equalization procedures, but with farmland and farm buildings assessed according to standards based on productivity.

The equalization factor

is determined annually for each county by comparing the sales price of individual properties sold over the past three years to the assessed value placed on those properties by the county supervisor of assessments/county assessor.

If this three-year average level of assessment is one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be one (1). If the average level of assessment is greater than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be less than one (1). And if the average level

of assessment is less than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be greater than one (1).

Assessments in Lee County are at 33.15 percent of market value, based on sales of properties in 2019, 2020, and 2021. The equalization factor currently being assigned is for 2022 taxes, payable in 2023. Last year’s equalization factor for the county was 1.0000.

The tentative factor is subject to change (1) if the County Board of Review takes actions which significantly affect the county

assessments or (2) if local officials or others can present data showing that the Department of Revenue’s estimates of the average level of assessments in the county should be adjusted. A public hearing on the tentative multiplier will be held between 20 and 30 days after the tentative factor is published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county.

A change in the equalization factor does not mean total property tax bills will increase or decrease. Tax bills are determined by

local taxing bodies when they request money each year to provide services to local citizens. If the amount requested by local taxing districts is not greater than the amount received in the previous year, then total property taxes will not increase even if assessments may have increased.

The assessed value of an individual property determines what portion of the tax burden a specific taxpayer will assume. That individual’s portion of tax responsibility is not changed by the multiplier.

University of Illinois 4-H Extension activities scheduled

LEE COUNTY — The Carroll, Lee and Whiteside Counties University of Illinois Extension offices recently released winter event information.

4-H Rabbit Workshop will take place Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Whiteside Extension Office, Sterling. At this rabbit workshop for youth ages 8-18, we will learn proper rabbit showmanship, education on rabbit breeds and how to show rabbits. We will also make a rabbit arm guards and have a Q&A. You do not need to bring your rabbit, but if you would like to, that is okay. If you are not bringing a rabbit, please specify in the RSVP so we can bring enough animals. Please

bring a pencil, a notebook, an apron and an old pair of long socks. Register by: Emailing Allie at lancast@illinois.edu or calling the Whiteside Extension office at 815-632-3611.

Memes and Money, a Get Savvy Monthly Webinar Series, is Jan. 25 at noon online. Money management education through University of Illinois Extension’s free Get Savvy webinar series empowers students, young adults and anyone seeking financial fitness skills with the confidence to make smart decisions about money to build a stronger financial foundation. Register at go.illinois.edu/GetSavvyWebinars for any or all one-hour sessions

in the noon series.

Pruning Shade Trees, Four Seasons Gardening, is Jan. 31, Feb. 28 and March 7 at 1:30 p.m. online. Seasons come and go, but home gardening never stops. Pick up the knowledge you need to maintain a safe and healthy home landscape, create friendly spaces for indoor plants, and support a resilient environment by joining Illinois Extension Four Seasons Gardening’s horticulture experts. Sessions are free to attend, and registration is required at go.illinois.edu/FourSeasons.

Tea Party, Big and Small Gardening, is Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. at Winfred Knox Library in Franklin Grove.

Wouldn’t it be terrific for all ages to learn more about gardening? The Lee County Master Gardeners have started a gardening series called “Big and Small Gardening.” This series will be held at the Winfred Knox Library in Franklin Grove the first Tuesday of each month with alternating months offering a youth program at 4 p.m. or an adult program at 6 p.m. One may register for these programs by calling the library at 815-456-2823. For full series details: go.illinois.edu/LeeBigandSmall

I Drank What! Saturday with a Master Gardener is Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Whiteside Extension Office, Sterling.

The Illinois Extension Whiteside Master Gardeners offer Saturday with a Master Gardener Series. Explore gardening on the second Saturday of each month starting Feb. 11 at the Whiteside Extension office, 12923 Lawrence Road, Sterling. Gain knowledge on hydrangeas, milkweed, seed collecting and much more. “I Drank WHAT!” will be the topic for February. Pick your poison and get to know the more infamous plants and their toxins. Know which plants are dangerous and protect your family, pets and animals. Registration is required and can be completed at go.illinois.edu/whitesidesaturdays

Grow a Garden Anywhere, Growing Great Vegetables Series, is Feb. 28 and March 7, 14 and 28 at 6 p.m. online. Dig in with confidence this spring with Growing Great Vegetables, a five-week webinar series covering how to grow a vegetable garden from seed to harvest.

Log on at 6 p.m. for a weekly online workshop covering a new topic, engage with Illinois Extension horticulture experts, and receive emails with factsheets and even more research-based tips.

Register before Feb. 26 for the series at go.illinois.edu/GrowingGreatVegetables. Cost to attend the series is \$10.

New Mothers of Preschoolers group to meet Jan. 22

ROCHELLE — A new group of MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is beginning Sunday, Jan. 22, at Rochelle United Methodist Church, 709 4th Ave. The group will meet the fourth Sunday of every month from 2-3:30 p.m., in the adult classroom in Hicks Hall. Childcare will be available upon request.

The 2023 MOPS theme is, “We Go Together.” “Adult friendships can

be complicated, but mom friends make life so much better,” Mandy Arioto, president and CEO of MOPS, said. “This is the year to come as you are, give the gift of belonging, assume the best, show up powerfully and expect good things for and from each other. That is what we do at MOPS, and we are declaring this the year of friendship, courage and

purpose.”

The Rochelle Chapter of MOPS will be facilitated by Mary Ellen Taylor, a member of RUMC.

“At RUMC we have the reputation of stepping outside the walls of our church to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community,” Taylor said. “In establishing a MOPS chapter in Rochelle, we hope to gather a group of moms who will

have each other’s backs, who will laugh and love and grow together as we navigate the challenging and rewarding years of our preschoolers’ lives.”


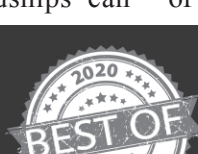
Annual membership in the MOPS program is \$32 and includes the monthly in-person meetings, a quarterly print magazine subscription, bi-monthly encouraging texts, and access to Mama Meetups and

meaningful online communities for moms.

Taylor said the cost of membership should not prohibit anyone from attending. “All are welcome and we will fund scholarships for anyone who wishes to attend, whether or not she can afford the membership dues.”

MOPS connects moms. Whether you are a soon-to-be mom, first-time mom or

seventh-time mom, you are welcome here. Whether you are an adoptive mom, young mom, seasoned mom, foster mom, step-mom or any other type of mom, you are welcome here. For more information, please contact Taylor at 815-761-5230. You may register ahead of time by going to MOPS.org and using the group code 94NS or just come to the first meeting and register.



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Ogle County Sheriff's Department Deputies conduct traffic stops

OREGON — On Jan. 3 at approximately 9:28 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 12,000 block of East Flagg Road. After brief investigation, deputies arrested Maria D. Garcia, 47, of Rochelle, for driving while license revoked. Garcia was issued an additional citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Garcia was subsequently transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 4 at approximately 12:19 a.m. deputies attempted to stop a gray

Honda Accord traveling westbound on Montague Road from Pecatonica Road at a high rate of speed. Deputies gave chase after the Honda before the Honda pulled over at Montague Road and Spielman Road. After investigation, deputies arrested Zachary A. James, 19, of Byron, for aggravated fleeing to elude. James was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held with no bond, pending an appearance before a Judge. James was addi-

tionally cited for speeding 26-34 m.p.h. over the speed limit, disregarding an official traffic control device, reckless driving and an inoperable registration light.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Rochelle Police Department Officers make several arrests

ROCHELLE — On Jan. 3 at 1:15 p.m. Sheri L. Stinnett, 65, of Rochelle

was arrested for driving under the influence and no valid driver’s license and cited for no turn signal. She was released on an I-Bond with a Feb. 10 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 4 at 10:49 a.m. Antonio M. Martinez, 30, of Rochelle was arrested for violation of an order of protection and domestic battery and transferred.

On Jan. 6 at 2:48 a.m. Megan B. Guerra, 22, of Creston was arrested for driving under the influence and possession of alcohol/driver and cited for suspended registration. She was released on an I-Bond with a Feb. 10 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



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 News-Leader, 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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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.

LOCAL NEWS

BOARD: Trustees approve donation to Wreaths Across America

From page 1

“When we got done adding everything up, we thought we were about \$300,000 light on the replacement cost of construction on things. We made those adjustments onto the different building values. We made increases on all village-owned property. The overall premium went up \$1,100, but there is a lot more necessary coverage in place.”

As part of the board’s approval, Village President Tom Byro was authorized to make changes to the village’s insurance policy if necessary.

Properties

Village Attorney Russ Crull said during the meeting that six complaints

have been prepared as the village continues its work on cleaning up abandoned properties over the recent months. Crull has been working with Village Building Inspector Casper Manheim on the issue and title searches were done for all of the properties and the complaints will be sent together.

Property issues involve demolitions and problems with vehicles and rubbish.

Hours

The board resolved to move its allowable time for bars to serve alcohol on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 a.m. Byro said the request came from The Moose Knuckle as it endeavors to serve Sunday morning breakfast semi-regularly and its owners want to

be able to serve alcoholic beverages earlier to patrons that desire them.

Bars in Creston are able to serve alcohol starting at 6 a.m. every other day of the week.

“As liquor commissioner, I’m going to approve this unless any of you have a problem with it or we get complaints,” Byro said. “We’ll make it start at the same time as every other day of the week and leave it ending at 10 p.m. on Sundays like it already is.”

Water

Village Trustee Mike Kerns said during the meeting that he’s heard complaints from residents regarding rust issues with village water in various parts of town.

Village officials speculated on potential causes for the rusty water including high winds against the water tower, hydrants needing flushing, a leak in the system and cold weather. Trustees plan to monitor the issue. Byro said issues have not been seen so far with freezing or water main breaks.

Furnace

The board tabled the issue of replacing a furnace in its maintenance building to get further information from its maintenance staff. Village officials plan to look into the building’s insulation and the age and shape of the furnace.

The board resolved to give Byro authority to make any expenditures for the furnace in case of

an emergency before the next meeting. The village paid a bill at the meeting for heating costs of the maintenance building for \$628.

Nicor

The village plans to send a proposal to Nicor in the near future as it’s currently working on a new contract with the gas company. No action was taken Tuesday. Byro said last month that the new agreement would be for 50 years. Crull said he located all previous negotiations with Nicor and contracts the company has with surrounding towns. Once a proposal is put together, it will be sent, he said.

Wreaths

The board voted unan-

imously to donate \$500 to Wreaths Across America for the Daughters of the American Revolution Rochelle Chapter’s 2023 efforts at Woodlawn Cemetery.

The program places wreaths on veterans’ graves during the holiday season and the village’s donation will go towards the purchase of wreaths. Wreaths cost \$15 apiece and the purchase comes at the time of a two-for-one discount (before Jan. 15). About 180 veterans are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the village.

“I think it would be nice to honor our veterans,” Byro said. “It’s money well-spent in my opinion.”

The next village board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Rochelle Area

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Primitive Baptist Church, services 3’d Sunday each month, at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., in the meeting room of the Holiday Inn Express, 1240 N. Dement Road, Rochelle, Ill. Elder Robbie Webb, and other ministers preaching. Lunch and fellowship time between services. Contact Elder Rob Webb, 312-809-0871, or Elder Robert Webb, 217-357-3723, or email bwebb9@juno.com for more information. Services sponsored by the Carthage Primitive Baptist Church for convenience of members and friends in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. Visitors are welcome.

Rochelle United Methodist Church invites everyone to come and hear the good news that YOU are Beloved by God! New Year’s Day will be a musical celebration with Bruce Poulter and Linda Lennon. Our January and February series is called “Beloved!” and we will hear scriptures from both testaments that discuss God’s great love for us. On January 8 we will focus on the story of the travelers who followed a star as we share at an open communion table, a feast of love. On January 15 we will remember our baptisms, and hear those words that God spoke to Jesus as if they were for us, “This is my beloved, with whom I am pleased.” Through January and February we will hear the ways that we are beloved and the ways God offers forgiveness and restoration to ALL of us. Everyone is always welcome to all of our services. **Sunday worship is at 9:00 am** with Sunday School for children after the Children’s Message. Recorded services are available on our YouTube channel and our website at www.rochelleumc.com. Our services are on the radio (93.5 FM) on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. **Our Facebook page is** www.facebook.com/rochelleumc. **Rev. Dr. Katherine Thomas Paisley, Pastor.** 709 Fourth Ave. (815) 562-2164. admin@rochelleumc.com. Everyone is welcome and loved!

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

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

LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Rochelle football and a mythical state championship

I remember the day I won the world championship in marbles. Four of us from the neighborhood had gathered with our cat's eyes, ades and clearies. Steelies were banned as they chipped the glass marbles. A circle was drawn in the dirt, we selected our favorite shooters and knuckled down. At the end of the match I had collected a handful of new marbles, yes it was keepsies, and declared myself the worlds champion. Now, if you have never counted down the final seconds as you shot for a championship winning basket or goal while playing alone, you can question the validity of my claim.

Now let's talk football. It was 1899 when the first Rochelle High School football team took to the field. William Healy was fullback and captain. Charles Unger was the quarterback. There was no coach. The captain was in charge of practices and formulating a game plan. The quarterback called the plays during the game. Rochelle High School was located on the corner of 8th Street and 5th Ave-

nue, there was no football field so all home games were played at the fairgrounds in the southern portion of the community.

Each player purchased their own canvas uniform. Everyday street shoes were taken to the shoemaker to have spikes added. There was no padding or helmets. The only protection for the players were stocking caps and a specialized nose guard. As quarterback Charles Unger stated, "We didn't worry about hips, knees, shoulders or heads. Our noses were of the most concern to us." The nose guard was formed of hardened leather which was strapped behind the head and clinched by a bit in the mouth.

The team manager was required to organize games, transportation, referees and scheduling. Transportation included wagons and railroads. The team traveled by train and when they arrived had to walk to the field. This explains why all football games were played near rail lines.

Rochelle's first season saw only one loss. The defeat was at the hands of Dixon, and of course

there was controversy. Although the game had been scheduled as a high school contest, rumor has it that about mid-way through the game players from the Dixon Business College were snuck onto the field as high school players. When the final whistle blew, Rochelle was handed its first ever football loss.

Football has always been a dangerous sport. In 1904, 18 players died playing football in college or high school, the majority in high school. 1905 saw 19 fatalities and 159 serious injuries. Many colleges were debating whether to continue football programs or move to the safer sport of rugby. Theodore Roosevelt, known for saying, "I believe in rough games and in rough, manly sports. I do not feel any particular sympathy for the person who gets battered about a good deal so long as it is not fatal," joined the fight to make football safer.

New rules were created for the 1906 season to protect the players; the

flying wedge was banned, offense and defense would line up two to three feet apart, first downs were extended from five yards to 10 yards, and the forward pass.

The forward pass would propel Rochelle High School to its only state championship. Remember, I was a world champion. The forward pass of 1909 was not the forward pass of today.

In 1909 anyone in the backfield could pass the ball, only the two ends could receive. If the pass went out of bounds the defense received the ball at the point it went out of bounds. If the receiver failed to touch the pass the defense took possession. If the pass was incomplete but the receiver touched the ball it was a 15-yard penalty. Not many were willing to risk the pass.

Rochelle's first foe of the 1909 season was Sycamore. It was a hard-fought battle with Rochelle ahead at the final whistle 6-5.

After the first game Rochelle High acquired a coach, Fred Gardner.

Fred brought college experience and a knowledge of the newest plays in the college football arena.

Rochelle defeated Crane 10-6, tied East Aurora 0-0, and edged out Sterling High 14-12. Rochelle traveled to Clinton, Iowa for their only loss 12-25.

It was through these four weeks that Rochelle worked to perfect their passing game. The second month of the season placed Rochelle on the field against Batavia. Rochelle used the pass to spread the defense and walked away with a 48-0 victory. The next two weeks saw a football panic amongst the Rochelle opponents. Dixon refused to play and Rochelle received their first forfeit. The next week DeKalb forfeited. Princeton was the final opponent of the 1909 season. Rochelle completed 18 passes and amassed 37 points to Princeton's 0.

Once the forward pass became part of the Rochelle football offense, the team scored 85 points in two games and the opposition scored a total of 0.

In the 1909 football season, the Rochelle team played a total of nine

games in which they won five, lost one, tied one, and received two forfeits. The regional newspapers declared Rochelle the best team in Northern Illinois. From this ranking Rochelle was declared the state champion. The State of Illinois did not have a state championship playoff system for football until 1974, so the trend was for there to be several state champions. Each major regional newspaper could declare a champion and there was no means to disprove the claim.

In 1974, Illinois established five classes for football, each with a champion. Today there are eight classes with 32 teams per class qualifying. There has never been a verifiable, single state football champion in Illinois.

Much like my world championship in marbles has to be referred to as mythical, Illinois football championships pre-1974 are referred to as mythical. But as my father always said, "You only have to beat the one that enters the ring against you."

Tom McDermott is a Flagg Township Museum historian and Rochelle city councilman.



Tom McDermott

Consider this: A letter to myself

IN line with my last article, I went to see "Dear Evan Hansen" with my sister in Chicago. It was a play that is more for the younger generation than mine, due to its social media theme. However, there were many that were my age attending. I went to get more information on the theme so I could better discuss it with my grandchildren. Yes, I'm older than dirt as some would say. Yet I remember myself at that age and how down I was during my junior year in high school. That is until a classmate picked me up one night and we spent the rest of it talking, which brought me out of my funk.

Then it started me thinking about my mother who passed in the earlier

part of this year. What kind of woman was she? What was taught to me since I didn't have a father to steer and guide me through puberty? So, I thought that I should share the traits she taught so that some of you may be able to see them in yourselves. Some of you may even be following these kinds of behaviors in your present lives.

So here it goes, my letter to myself concerning what I learned from my mom.

Dear Reed Harris:

It turns out that my day went as well as it could have. Much better than the ones I mentioned in high school. I was in a restaurant and when my server came by and asked if I would like a refill on my drink, I replied, "Yes, please." It felt good. It was

one of the many things my mother taught me always to do. And, of course, when that refill came, I said, "Thank you." That felt good too. I thought, why would a simple gesture be so important? Why was it necessary? Because it made me feel good. Because it put a smile on the server's face. Because it was a very simple gesture, was natural after so many years, and didn't take any effort although I didn't care even if it did.

But I get ahead of myself already and don't really want to miss anything. When we got to the restaurant, I helped my female companion with the chair she sat in.

I got the simple reply of "Thanks." Now this doesn't appear to be a big deal either. Yet the word really came out as 'Thanks!' I immediately knew it was an important gesture.

Later in the day I went to Walmart and as I reached the front door, a young lady was reaching it at the same time, so I opened the door for her, and she said "Thanks" and I had that same feeling. For some reason, this reminded me about the time I was picking up my future wife for a second date. I had injured my foot, so I was on crutches. Her apartment was on the second floor, it was snowing and cold, and



Reed Harris

had an outside staircase. I hobbled up those stairs to the landing and knocked on the door. She opened it and was wondering just what I was doing on crutches up there. I said, from the lesson I learned, "I was taught to always go to the door."

When I was leaving Walmart, there was a line for the checkout. Another and her two children were there ahead of me and waiting close by in another line. My line came free, and I said to this mother, "You were next." She also thanked me and after she was done checking out, thanked me again. Here were two more times that I felt good. When I checked out and got to my car, there was another mother who was having a time with her trunk lid. It was frozen

shut. I asked if I could help, and she said yes. I got it open and received another thank you.

Though I was feeling good receiving all these thank yous, I was also hoping that this meant that they were helped. Even if in a small way.

As I continue to write, I'm thinking that my day went great! Much better than as well as it could. Simple gestures, thoughts for others, with no real effort, and my day ended perfect. All of this I was taught. Not to be simple, but simply be nice. Especially when it comes to women. It is our privilege to show them, not that they are the weaker sex, not that they must have help, but that they are equals.

Yes, mom, you taught me well. Thank you!

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@rochellenews-leader.com

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

* Denotes Chairman/President

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David Williams	dwilliams@oglecounty.org

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

published, however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the News-Leader office (211 IL Route 38 East), mailed to the News-Leader (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068) or e-mailed (news@rochellenews-leader.com.) The News-Leader reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.

COMMUNITY

Fehr Graham hires Dahl as engineering technician

ROCHELLE — Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce the hiring of Jarrett Dahl as an engineering technician. Dahl, who works in the Rochelle office, performs topographic surveys and preliminary drafting for projects. He operates and uses drone footage to determine product volume and to create map outlines for clients. Dahl earned an associate degree from Rock Valley College. Fehr Graham is a premier provider of engineering, environmental and funding solutions for commercial, industrial, institutional and government clients with 11 Midwest office locations in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. In 2022, Fehr Graham made Engineering News-Record Top 500 Design Firm and Zweig Group Hot Firm lists. For more information, visit fehrgraham.com.

Williams named to Columbia College dean's list

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Columbia College recently announced its dean's list for the fall 2022 semester (August-December 2022). To be named to the dean's list, a student must have completed 12 semester hours in a 16-week period and achieved a minimum GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0-point scale. Among those named to the dean's list is Kody Williams of Creston, who attended online.

Escobar named to Western Illinois University dean's list

MACOMB/MO-LINE — A total of 1,103 undergraduate students enrolled at Western Illinois University were named to the fall 2022 dean's list including Diego A. Escobar (junior) of Rochelle. To receive this award, an undergraduate student must earn at least a 3.6 grade point average on a scale of 4.0, which equals an A in a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded courses; pass-fail hours are not counted (e.g., student teaching, internships).

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

January 10 – (Tuesday) – Italian Sausage with Tortellini, Garlic Bread, Salad
January 12 – (Thursday) – Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Peas
January 17 – (Tuesday) – Beef Taco Salad, w/Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions, Jalapenos, Salsa, Sour Cream
January 19 – (Thursday) – Chicken and Sausage Gumbo over Rice
January 20 – (Friday) – BBQ Baby Back Ribs, Coleslaw, Macaroni and Cheese
January 24 – (Tuesday) – Stuffed Chicken Breasts, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans
January 26 – (Thursday) – Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread
January 31 – (Tuesday) – Teriyaki Chicken, Fried Rice, Egg Rolls
February 5 – (Sunday Brunch) – Serving from 9 to 12 – Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Breakfast Casserole, Oatmeal, Sausage Links or Country Ham
7034 S. Klondike Road | Rochelle, IL 61068 | 815-561-9074
If you would like to volunteer with us, please email us at volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jan. 5 Grace Yates Elaina Eubankz	Jan. 9 Cheyenne Pourchot	Jan. 15 Kami South Trenton South	Jan. 23 Michele Perez Victoria Lopez Odessa Waters
Jan. 6 Debbie Bonacquisti Carson Johnson	Jan. 11 Troy Martinez Kathy Sanders Christina Jones	Jan. 19 Kevin South	Jan. 24 Terry Dodillet Kelly Arnold
Jan. 7 Elaina Phillips Gary Phillips Summer Coffman	Jan. 13 Judy Messer	Jan. 20 Noelia Lopez Harold & Kathy Sanders (anniversary) Hailey Losoya	Jan. 25 Nikki Greenfield Ashton Arwood
Jan. 8 Graciela Perez Xavier Villalobos	Jan. 14 Haley Thompson Jeannie O'Dell-Boeck		Jan. 28 Peggy Futrell
			Jan. 29 Nayeli Ramirez

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Coffee Break

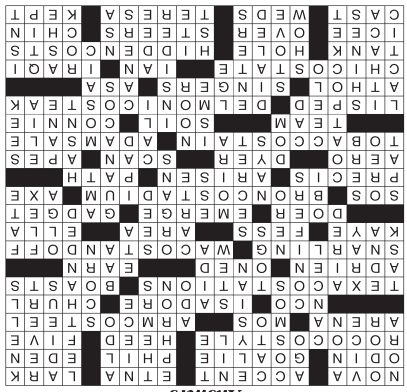
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S S P L I E A X T Q N J G C Z
W T Q N J G D A X U R O L J G
D A X V S P F N K T I F C A X
V S H Q B O E L J H N E C A X
V T R C M C E P N L P I J H F
H D B Y U R L X V I T R R P O
M C S K H O T K N I X G E P D
B P N Z T S T K C X E W O U T
R N A I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

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

Crossed Feel Index Knock	Knuckle Little Nails Pinch	Point Print Snap Tap	Thumb Touch Twiddle
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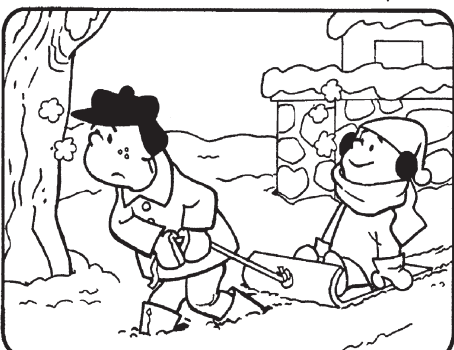


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



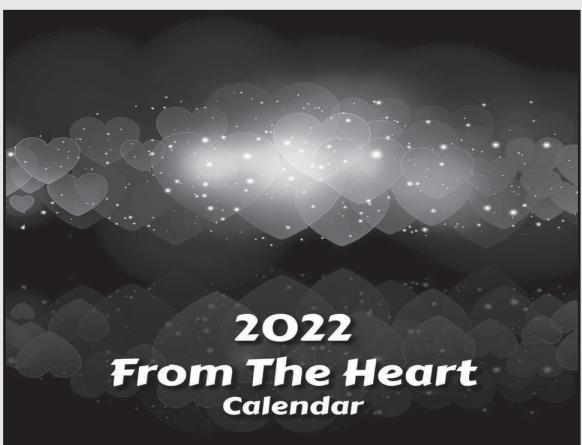
Differences: 1. Earlap is smaller. 2. Rope loop is missing. 3. Flag is missing. 4. Buttons are missing. 5. Tassel is shorter. 6. Sled is shorter.

Super Crossword

HARD-TO-SEE FEE

ACROSS

1 Suddenly blazing star	45 Work to get angry dog	95 Potting stuff	2 Aroma	42 Ewe's call	84 Window unit
5 Put stress on	46 Mimicking an angry dog	97 TV journalist	3 Destructive habit	45 LGA guess	85 Kazan of film
11 Volcano in Sicily	48 1993 event at Carmel Center	98 Mimicked Daffy Duck	4 After a while	47 Emperor before Galba	86 Search for
15 Meadow songbird	55 Comic actor Danny	101 A cut from the short loin	5 In days past	49 A la (menu words)	88 Green with Grammys
19 Supreme Norse deity	56 Spill the info, with "up"	105 Playwright Fugard	6 Carl Sagan	50 Hammond instruments	89 Ill-bred man
20 Net-tending player	58 Region	106 Vocalists	7 Roman censor	51 Potential plant	91 Jordanian queen dowager
21 Donahue of TV	59 Raines of old Hollywood	107 Smile middle	8 Blissful	52 "Three Sisters" sister	93 Tile artwork
22 Genesis garden	60 Active person	108 University in northern California	9 Nothing at all	53 Tighten up a muscle	96 Like some trading
23 Very ornate designs of the 1700s	62 Spring forth	110 McKellen of "X-Men"	10 One of 18 on a golf course	54 Destiny	98 Milk-related
25 Be mindful of	65 Thingamajig	112 Mosul native	11 See 1-Down	57 Under wraps	99 Cornell University city
26 Bill with Lincoln	67 "Please help!"	117 Aquarium	12 One's wife	61 Kyoto sash	100 Gives off light
27 Sports site	70 Venue of the 2002 Humanitarian Bowl	118 One of 18 on a golf course	13 Nephew's sister	63 Actress Kelly or Shearer	101 Used a rotary telephone
28 Apr. and Dec.	73 Log chopper	119 They're in eight answers in this puzzle	14 Gucci of fashion	64 Suffix with prophet	102 Puts in
29 Longtime metal alloy manufacturer	74 Brief summary	122 Slushy drink	15 Unlike rights	65 Andean llamas	103 Big T-shirt size: Abbr.
31 M.Sgt., e.g.	76 Sprung forth	123 Superior to	16 Farewells	66 Quantity: Abbr.	104 Some chair craftspeople
33 Friz Freleng's real first name	77 Trail	124 Works the rudder	17 Go back to the way it was	67 Little quarrel	106 Hot pot spot
36 Mean-spirited sort	79 Prefix with dynamic	125 Dimple site	18 Belfry sounds	68 Classic cookie	109 Movie or play
37 Fill-up sites with star logos	80 Henna applicator	126 Play roster	24 Call off	69 Kosovo native	111 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
42 Crows	81 Read hastily	127 Joins in matrimony	29 Footfaraw	71 "No" votes	113 Pebble, e.g.
43 Oscar winner Brody	83 Gibbons, e.g.	128 Cherished "Mother"	30 Jeer at	72 Apple device	114 Tennis' Arthur
44 Like a straight line, in brief	87 Something Plus White toothpaste claims to remove	129 Held on to	32 Christmas trees, usually	75 Opening in a parka, say	115 Ear swab
	92 Water, humorously		34 Single-pot meal	78 Lacks	116 "— that special!"
	94 Sports side		35 Verdi heroine	80 DeLuise of "Hot Stuff"	119 1940s pres.
			37 Job to do	82 Large city in Colombia	120 Suffix with Israel
			38 Pulitzer winner Ferber		121 Hush-hush govt. gp.
			39 Diagnostic pic		
			40 Ran on TV		
			41 Clothes, colloquially		



Dec. 5 - Matt Hayes, Steward, \$25
Dec. 6 - James Peterson, Rockford, \$25
Dec. 7 - Sherry Good, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 8 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
Dec. 9 - Ethan Koch, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 10 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 11 - Kathy Spears, Shabbona, \$50
Dec. 12 - Aubrey Meinen, Davis Junction, \$25
Dec. 13 - Joe Thompson, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 14 - Evan Meyers, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 15 - Sharon Gardner, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 16 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 17 - Nancy Reed, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 18 - Brook Kaysaw Abi Cruse, Rockford, \$50
Dec. 19 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 20 - Berta Arreguin, Davis Junction, \$25
Dec. 21 - Kathy Yocum, Franklin Grove, \$25
Dec. 22 - Nena Stewart, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 23 - Rochelle Rescue Mission, \$25
Dec. 24 - Kathy Prestegaard, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 25 - Lindsay Sweckard, Rochelle, \$1,000
Dec. 26 - Bridget Blaine, Dixon, \$25
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Dec. 29 - Bill Hahn, Rochelle, \$25
Dec. 30 - Nick Smallwood, Montgomery, \$25
Dec. 31 - Greg Hackbarth, Lindenwood, \$25

LOCAL NEWS

Supreme Court sets March timeline for oral arguments in cash bail appeal

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—An appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of a state law that would end cash bail appears to be at least two months away from resolution under a new timeline approved by the court Thursday.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul filed the agreed motion setting the timeline for the high court's appeal of a lower court ruling that invalidated provisions of the SAFE-T Act criminal justice reform that would have eliminated cash bail on Jan. 1. The motion, Raoul's office wrote in its filing, had been agreed to by all parties in the case, scheduling briefs to be filed in January and February, with oral arguments to begin sometime in March. A ruling would come sometime thereafter at an unspecified date.

The matter came to the Supreme Court in a Friday, Dec. 30, appeal by Raoul's office, following Kankakee County Judge Thomas Cunningham's decision that lawmakers overreached their constitutional authority in passing a measure to abolish cash bail in Illinois.

Cunningham wrote in a 36-page decision that the cash bail provisions effectively and improperly amended a section of the state's constitution that states, "all persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties," except in a few

specific circumstances.

He also wrote that ending cash bail is an improper overreach by lawmakers, who have no constitutional authority to govern the administrative functions of Illinois courts due to the separation of powers. Bail, Cunningham wrote, has been held by the Supreme Court to be "administrative" in nature.

The constitution also specifically mentions bail in a section on victims' rights, when it states victims have a right "to have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered in denying or fixing the amount of bail." Cunningham found that eliminating bail prevents courts from "effectuating the constitutionally mandated safety of the victims and their families."

The ruling initially left the impending cash bail reform in limbo in at least 64 of Illinois' 102 counties that had joined the consolidated lawsuit. A Dec. 31 order from the Illinois Supreme Court, however, stayed the cash bail provisions' implementation statewide until the court could rule on an appeal to the case.

Thursday's order set the timeline for that appeal.

On Wednesday, Gov. JB Pritzker said he was disappointed in the delayed implementation of the reform, which he and advocates say corrects an unfair system that allows wealthy individuals to pay their way out of jail as they await trial regardless

of the seriousness of the crime they are accused of committing, while keeping poorer individuals who can't make bail incarcerated pretrial even if they're accused of relatively minor crimes.

The measure that would replace cash bail, should the new law be allowed to take effect, would give judges greater authority to keep an individual incarcerated pretrial if they're accused of more serious offenses, but it would also limit the number of offenses for which pretrial detention can be ordered.

"The whole purpose here is fairness," Pritzker said. "And I think that we will continue to fight for that. And I think those of us who believe in this know that there's even more work to do, but I am comfortable and confident that this is constitutional."

Neither Cunningham's ruling nor the Supreme Court's orders thus far have invalidated other provisions of the SAFE-T Act which had already taken effect, such as reforms to police officer training and certification standards and police body camera requirements.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide, as well as hundreds of radio and TV stations. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.



(CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS FILE PHOTO)

The Illinois Supreme Court building is pictured in Springfield.

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SUNDAY, JAN. 8, 2023

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



GIRLS DEFEAT OTTAWA

The Rochelle Lady Hub bowling team defeated Ottawa at home on Tuesday.

See page 4 for more details

RTHS Wrestling

Hubs reach historic mark

Rochelle ties school record for dual wins with 37-33 victory over Sycamore

ROCHELLE—A historic milestone was within reach for the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team on Thursday. With a chance to tie the school record for dual wins in a season, Rochelle needed to take down a talented Sycamore squad ranked No. 17 in the state for Class 2A.

The Spartans controlled most of the match, earning a 33-19 lead over the Hubs with only three head-to-head bouts remaining. Needing wins across all three bouts to clinch the dual victory, Rochelle rallied with its greatest comeback effort of the season, notching three straight falls to shock Sycamore 37-33 and send a packed home gymnasium into a roar of applause.

The No. 9 ranked Hubs (22-1, 5-0 Interstate 8) are now even with the school record for most dual victories in a season, which was set during the 1984-85 season and tied under former head coach Rich Harvey during the 2015-16 season.

“Everyone from the Fader family to the Harvey family has played a role in building our program,” head coach Alphonso Vruno said. “This season has

been a culmination of the work that a lot of people have put into our program. It’s really exciting and it brings me a lot of pride to see the success we’re having. We knew Sycamore was going to come here and give us their best match of the season. They wrestled really well and I could tell they were coached really well.”

The Spartans struck first during the 138-pound bout, where Cole Kleiser outlasted Rochelle sophomore Weylin Nay for an 8-3 decision in a hard-fought battle. The Hubs tied the score in the 145-pound bout after freshman Brenden Voight recorded two takedowns in a 5-1 decision over Jaden Cochran. In another matchup of talented wrestlers, Sycamore’s Gus Cambier held off sophomore Grant Gensler in the 152-pound bout, winning the match with a 5-1 decision.

Cooper Bode and Zack Crawford ballooned the Spartan lead to 18-3, with Bode notching a second-period fall over sophomore Erich Metzger in the 160-pound bout and Crawford recording a first-period fall over freshman Roman Villalobos in the



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Brock Metzger records a near fall against Sycamore’s Tyler Curtis during the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling match on Thursday. Metzger earned a 9-0 major decision as Rochelle took the dual 37-33.

170-pound bout. Junior Brock Metzger stopped the bleeding for the Hubs, nearly pinning Tyler Curtis in the 182-pound bout before ultimately settling for a 9-0 major decision that included two near falls and a takedown.

“Sycamore made some really good adjustments and they were able to beat some of our better kids

this evening,” Vruno said. “[Zack] Crawford moving up to 170 and getting a pin was huge for them. I thought some of our kids were a little starstruck, but we had others who performed with the lights shining on them and it was really exciting to see, especially for our younger kids.”

Gable Carrick scored a

first-period fall over junior Alexander McBride in the 195-pound bout, giving the Spartans a 24-7 advantage in the match. Sycamore and Rochelle exchanged forfeits over the 220-pound and 285-pound bouts, with sophomore Kaiden Morris receiving a free win along with Spartan heavyweight Lincoln Cooley. A huge turning point for the Hubs

came in the 106-pound bout, where freshman Keagan Albers conceded an early takedown before using quick footwork and rotations to earn a first-period fall over Sycamore’s Michael Olson.

“Keagan deserves huge props for his win tonight,” Vruno said.

See HUBS page 4

RTHS Girls Basketball

Dominant defense sparks victory over Morris

Henkel leads Lady Hubs with 20 points as Rochelle downs Redskins 39-20

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Dominance on defense fueled the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team during Wednesday evening’s Interstate 8 Conference matchup against the Morris Redskins.

The Lady Hubs held Morris to only three first-half field goals, flustering the Redskins with their half-court defense as well as their consistent traps and on-ball defense. Rochelle turned up the heat in the second half, using its full-court pressure to generate a series of turnovers that led to easy layups at the rim. The result was a 39-20 win over the Redskins to start the new year.

“We wanted to start the new year off strong and we’re hoping we can keep this going,” senior Torrin Nantz said. “It feels good to get this win. We knew we had to come out and play hard and I thought that all of the girls were doing their best. We didn’t want to let each other down and we’ve been focusing really hard on our defense because that’s how we can win our games.”

While both teams struggled mightily from the floor during the first half,

the Lady Hubs had the best athlete on the court in junior Alivia Henkel, who sparked the Rochelle offense with multiple transition layups and mid-range jump shots to give her team an early lead. Henkel led all scorers with 20 points and helped the Lady Hubs hold a 12-7 advantage over Morris at halftime.

Nantz knocked down the first of her team-leading three 3-pointers in the game during the third quarter, where the Lady Hubs surged ahead 21-14 entering the fourth quarter, where the senior guard buried her next two triples to give Rochelle its first double-digit advantage of the night. Sophomore Kendyl Darby handled the ball throughout the fourth quarter, finding Henkel and Nantz on several cuts to the rim that resulted in layup conversions for the Lady Hubs.

“I came out ready during the second half and I knew what I had to do,” Nantz said. “We worked much better as a team and our spacing was much better, which helped create more open shots. It’s a confidence booster for me and it’s a confidence booster for the team as well.”

Nantz finished with 11 points for the Lady Hubs



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Kendyl Darby drives past Morris defender Landrie Callahan during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against the Redskins on Wednesday. Rochelle defeated the Redskins 39-20.

(4-15, 2-3 Interstate 8), who have won two of their last five games dating back to

the start of the KSB Holiday Classic in Dixon. Junior Kara Martinez chipped in

four points, while Darby added four points as well for the Lady Hubs, who opened

the fourth quarter on a 9-0 run to take a game-high 16-point lead in the victory.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub bowling team recognized its three senior athletes before Wednesday's match against Kaneland. Above from left to right, with their families, are Evin Odle as well as brothers Ben and Liam Wengelewski.

Hubs sweep Kaneland for Senior Night victory

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team closed out the Interstate 8 Conference schedule with a strong effort on Wednesday evening, when the program celebrated its three senior student-athletes with a 3,052-2,524 home win against the Kaneland Knights. Seniors Evin Odle as well as brothers Ben and Liam Wengelewski were honored before the match.

"Evin was responsible for bringing a lot of new players into our program after we lost a loaded senior class last season," head coach Jim Lyles said. "We were able to continue building our program this season and that was a huge boost for us. Ben and Liam have been great to have and it's been nice knowing that their parents trust us. I feel very lucky to have them with us."

Odle led the Hubs (8-6, 5-3 Interstate 8) with a 601 series, while freshman Andrew Powell fired a 563 series and sophomore Logan Frye recorded a 526 series. Rochelle took all three games in the match, winning the first game 996-865 behind a 202 from Frye and a 188 from Odle. The Hubs will face Geneseo on the road Thursday evening for their final head-to-head match.

"Evin throws the ball a lot better than he did when he first came out for the team," Lyles said. "He's much more accurate and he gets through the ball a lot better. We helped him get a new ball and he's working on his game a lot over his four years with the program. It's huge when we have kids bowl with the youth program and continue on at the high school, especially kids like Ben and Liam. It's cool that our kids take care of them and ensure they have what they need."

Rochelle extended its series lead with a 1,056-833 victory in the second game, where Odle fired a series-best 219 and Frye followed with a series-best 213. Powell rolled a series-best 208 for the Hubs in the third game, which the boys claimed 1,000-826 to clinch the conference sweep over the Knights. Odle added a 194 and junior Sam Tracey scored a 187 for a 503 series.

Geneseo

The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team competed in its final head-to-head match of the regular season on Thursday, falling 3,447-2,934 against Geneseo in nonconference action. Rochelle (8-7, 5-3 Interstate 8) will begin the postseason push with the Interstate 8 Conference meet at Mardi Gras Lanes on Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Geneseo opened the match with a 1,029-981 victory in the first game, where sophomore Logan Frye rolled a series-best 192 and senior Evin Odle fired a 179 for the Hubs. Gabriel Durnell led the Maple Leafs with a 216 in the first game, while Quinnland Einfield followed with a 213.

Geneseo broke the match wide open in the second game, downing Rochelle 1,267-958 behind 247 from Durnell, 223 from Carter Van Opdorp and 211 from Landen Pruett. Freshman Andrew Powell's 191 and junior Jonathan Alanis' 189 were the high scores for the Hubs during the second game.

The Maple Leafs sealed the sweep with a 1,151-995 victory in the third game, where Durnell threw a 243 to finish with a match-best 706 series on the Geneseo side. Powell fired a series-best 211 to end the evening with a team-leading 572 series for the Hubs, while Odle recorded a 181 and Alanis added a 161. Both bowlers finished with 521 series scores.

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SPORTS

RTHS Boys Basketball



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team played a close game against LaSalle-Peru on Tuesday, falling 68-63 to move to 5-9 overall and 1-4 in the Interstate 8 this season. At left, senior Raul Aguirre works on Cavalier defender Josh Senica. At right, sophomore Cayden Moore keeps the ball from Cavalier defender Jack Jereb.

Balanced Hubs fall short against LaSalle-Peru

Four Rochelle athletes reach double figures during 68-63 loss to Cavaliers

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Four Rochelle Hub basketball players reached double figures on Tuesday, when the varsity team hosted LaSalle-Peru in its first Interstate 8 Conference contest of the new year. Juniors Jack Tracey and Eli Luxton each finished with 14 points for the Hubs, who erased a double-digit deficit and brought the Cavaliers within one point during the fourth quarter. Despite a balanced effort on the offensive end, Rochelle was unable to find the momentum-changing plays to swing the lead in

its favor, falling 68-63 after LaSalle-Peru converted three free throws in the final seconds. Senior Raul Aguirre scored 12 points for the Hubs (5-9, 1-4 Interstate 8). “This was an opportunity for us to reset after some time off and I thought we had a chance to win,” head coach Tim Thompson said. “We got ourselves into foul trouble early in the game and we weren’t really crisp with what we were doing. We performed a bit better during the second half and we were able to wear them down with our press. It seemed like every time we needed to make a big play to swing the game in our

favor, we’d miss a shot or turn the ball over.” The Hubs leaned on their 6-foot-5 forward Aguirre during the first quarter, with the third-year varsity senior backing down for a pair of field goals under the rim to spark the Rochelle offense early. LaSalle-Peru countered with a 6-foot-5 forward of its own, as Josh Senica exploded for seven 2-point field goals over the second and third quarters, with most coming around the rim. Senica led all scorers with 20 points and propelled the Cavaliers to a 34-29 halftime lead. “Our plan was to make sure we were switching

on their flex and I thought we did a decent job early in the game,” Thompson said. “There were a few possessions where they needed a bucket and they got a screen and we didn’t switch it perfectly. I thought it was a decent performance, but [Josh] Senica was just better than everyone else on the court tonight.” Although Rochelle saw Tracey and sophomore Carson Lewis each knock down two triples in the third quarter, the Hubs continued to give up field goals near the basket, with LaSalle-Peru surging ahead by as many as 13 points and taking a 56-44

lead into the fourth quarter. Searching for an answer on the defensive end, the Hubs cranked up their full-court pressure, which proved effective as the Cavaliers struggled with turnovers and inboundng the ball. Rochelle’s defense also led to easy layups for multiple players including sophomore Cayden Moore, who put home three layups to finish with 11 points in the game. While the Hubs limited LaSalle-Peru to only two field goals in the fourth quarter, the Cavaliers eventually worked Rochelle over the foul limit, leading to a series of free-throw conversions down the stretch. LaSalle-

Peru went 8-for-10 from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter to clinch the win. “It’s nice to see several kids reach double figures,” Thompson said. “We didn’t shoot the ball too well during the first half and we need to get better ball movement on that end. Hopefully tonight’s scoring performance can generate some more confidence moving forward, but we have to figure out how we can perform better during the first half. We had a lot of open looks early, but we need to take control of the post area before we start looking for our 3-point shots.”

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The Rochelle News-Leader

SPORTS

RTHS Girls Bowling

Lady Hubs show growth with win over Ottawa

Vincent rolls team-leading 532 series as Rochelle downs Pirates 2,508-2,394

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — A benchmark for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team entering this season was how the girls would fare against the Ottawa Pirates, who edged the purple and white in two head-to-head matches last season. After scoring a narrow win over the Pirates earlier this winter, Rochelle returned from its winter break to try for a season sweep on Tuesday. Sophomore Cassidy Vincent fired a team-leading 532 series, while freshman Kylie McCullough followed with a 470 series as the Lady Hubs scored a 2,508-2,394 victory to take both conference matchups against Ottawa this season. Junior Anahi Alanis added a 437 series for the Lady Hubs (5-3, 4-2 Interstate 8), who will host Sycamore at T-Byrd Lanes on Thursday. “Ottawa was our target to go after this season because our goal was to finish third or higher in the conference,” head coach Eric Widick said. “The girls started out well, but we started getting frustrated with ourselves in the middle of the match. We had the girls bowl about 20 games on their own during the winter break so they could stay in a rhythm and have some fun.”

Rochelle broke out to an early lead over the Pirates, winning the first game 830-766 with Vincent firing a 180 for the Lady Hubs. Dawn Hudkins rolled a 174 before shooting a match-

best 252 on the Ottawa side in the second game, which the Pirates claimed 883-851 to bring Rochelle within 32 pins entering the third and final game. Vincent’s series-best 201 and McCullough’s series-best 188 were the high scores for the Lady Hubs in the second game.

“We’re off to a much better start than we were last season,” Widick said. “The girls are improving and they’re working hard. They’re doing a great job and they’re raising their scores in just about every meet we’ve had this season. I’m very pleased with our progress so far.”

Needing an answer to seal the conference victory, Rochelle finished the match with an 827-745 win during the third game. Alanis led the charge for the Lady Hubs, throwing a series-best 164 while Vincent added a 151 and McCullough totaled a 146. Ana Zeglis recorded a 150 and Hudkins cooled down with a 117 to finish with a team-high 543 series for the Pirates.

“The girls are doing a much better job of keeping the ball on the lane and covering their spares,” Widick said. “We’re still working on our spares, but we’ve improved a lot there and we’re striking a lot more than we were earlier in the season. The girls have been much more consistent.”

Sycamore

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team posted its highest series score of the season on Thursday, when



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Makenzie Liezert fires her ball down the lane during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling match against Ottawa on Tuesday. Rochelle won the match 2,508-2,394 to move to 5-3 overall on the season.

the purple and white hosted the Sycamore Spartans for an Interstate 8 Conference matchup.

Sophomore Cassidy Vincent fired a team-leading 589 series, while freshman Kylie McCullough followed with a 531 series as the Lady Hubs fell to the Spartans 2,867-2,620. Juniors Anahi Alanis and

Makenzie Liezert added series scores of 436 and 400 to aid Rochelle (5-4, 4-3 Interstate 8) in the match. Sycamore claimed the first game 863-780 despite Vincent rolling a 189 and McCullough opening with a 159.

Rochelle broke the 900-pin mark over each of the final two games, but the

Spartans eclipsed the 1,000-pin mark in the second game, winning 1,028-913 behind 226 from Kaitlyn Ryder and 222 from Brandi Stover. Vincent recorded a series-best 212 and McCullough fired a 183 for the Lady Hubs in the second game.

Sycamore completed the three-game sweep with a

976-927 victory in the third game, where Stover rolled a 193 to finish with a 567 series and Ryder cooled off with a 147 for a 533 series. McCullough’s series-best 189 and Vincent’s 188 were the high scores for Rochelle in the third game, while Liezert bowed out with a series-best 174 and Alanis added a 150.

HUBS: Rochelle sweeps meet with Belvidere, Winnebago

From page 1

“We told him that we needed a pin and for a freshman who’s wrestling at the varsity level to go out there and pin a decent kid was a huge for us. When it comes down to needing pins to win, it becomes a lot more difficult to pin those opponents. It says a lot about our kids and their work ethic as well as their heart.”

Sycamore’s last win of the dual came during the 113-pound bout, where Tyler Lockhart edged junior Tommy Tourdot for a 7-2 decision. Rochelle’s comeback began with sophomore Xavier Villalobos making quick work of the 120-pound bout, using a cradle to record a first-period fall against Connor Kness. Freshman Frank Nasca followed with a strong rally during the

126-pound bout, overcoming an early takedown to notch a second-period fall over Thomas Lind.

With the Spartans clinging to a 33-31 lead, Rochelle sent sophomore Joseph Nadig into the circle against Sycamore’s Jonathan Buckheiser with a record-clinching win on the line. Forcing the issue early, Nadig earned a stalling point and a takedown to surge ahead 3-0 in the first period. After a near fall almost sealed the victory for the Hubs, Nadig successfully pinned Buckheiser in the second period as the Rochelle fans erupted with cheers and applause.

Belvidere

The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team exceeded 20 wins for the second time in three seasons on Tuesday, when the purple and white swept its nonconference

meet against Belvidere and Winnebago. The Hubs (21-1, 4-0 Interstate 8) took down Belvidere 51-27 and cruised over the Indians 70-9.

Rochelle took the first two matchups against Belvidere, with sophomore Weylin Nay outlasting Anthony Vrlec for an 8-1 decision in the 138-pound bout and junior Abel Huerta receiving a forfeit for the 145-pound bout. Belvidere took the lead after the 152-pound and 160-pound bouts, where Antonio Alvarado recorded a second-period fall over sophomore Grant Gensler and Colin Young earned a first-period fall against sophomore Erich Metzger.

The Hubs surged ahead 21-12 after freshman Roman Villalobos erased an 8-5 deficit with a third-period fall over Jorge Hernandez in the 170-pound bout

and junior Brock Metzger took down Juan Cervantes for a second-period fall in the 182-pound bout. Tyrell Mitchell recorded a first-period fall over junior Alexander McBride in the 195-pound bout, but the Hubs claimed the next two weight classes, with sophomore Kaiden Morris receiving a forfeit for the 220-pound bout and senior Jaden Cook taking a 5-0 lead before earning a second-period fall over Zander Martinez in the 285-pound bout.

Belvidere cut the Rochelle lead to 33-27 after Brayden Teunissen scored a first-period fall over freshman Keagan Albers in the 106-pound bout and Bryson Teunissen held on for an 8-5 decision against junior Tommy Tourdot in the 113-pound bout. Freshman Deegan Schabacker

delivered a key victory in the 120-pound bout, conceding a 4-1 advantage before notching a third-period fall over Angel Valdez.

Sophomore Joseph Nadig extended the Rochelle lead to 45-27 after earning a second-period fall over Geren Stapleton during the 126-pound bout. Freshman Frank Nasca sealed the victory in the 132-pound bout, scoring a first-period fall against Felix Nyman.

Winnebago

Nine Rochelle wrestlers received forfeits from the Indians including Keagan Albers (106), Tommy Tourdot (113), Deegan Schabacker (120), Frank Nasca (126), Weylin Nay (138) and Abel Huerta (152) as well as junior Riley Damask (132), sophomore Dempsey Atkinson (145) and sophomore Colton Czekala (220).

Erich Metzger claimed the 160-pound bout with a first-period takedown and fall over Lucas Cowman, giving Rochelle a 54-0 lead in the match.

Winnebago scored its first points in the 170-pound bout, where Charley Murray took a 6-0 lead before notching a second-period fall against Roman Villalobos. Brock Metzger brought the Hubs back with a 12-3 major decision over Zander Hartman in the 182-pound bout, recording three takedowns and one near fall.

Javier Flores won the 195-pound bout for the Indians, earning a first-period fall over senior Troy Papke. Jaden Cook claimed the final matchup of the dual against Winnebago, taking down and scoring a first-period fall over Joshua Cowman in the 285-pound bout.

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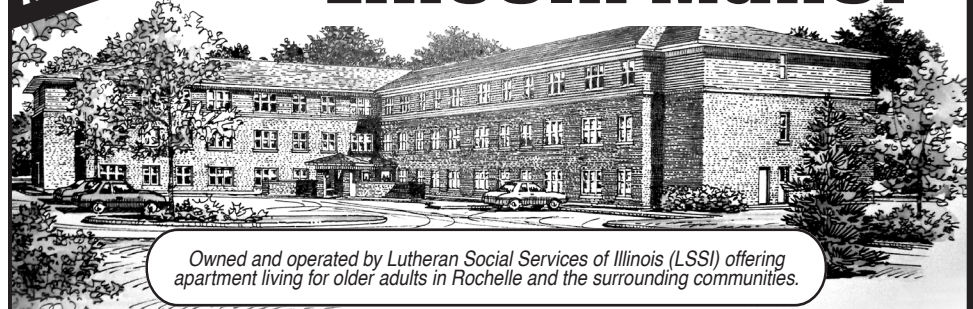
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No. 0105
(Jan. 8, 2023)

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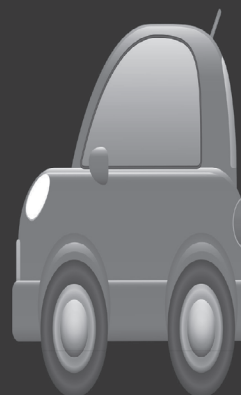
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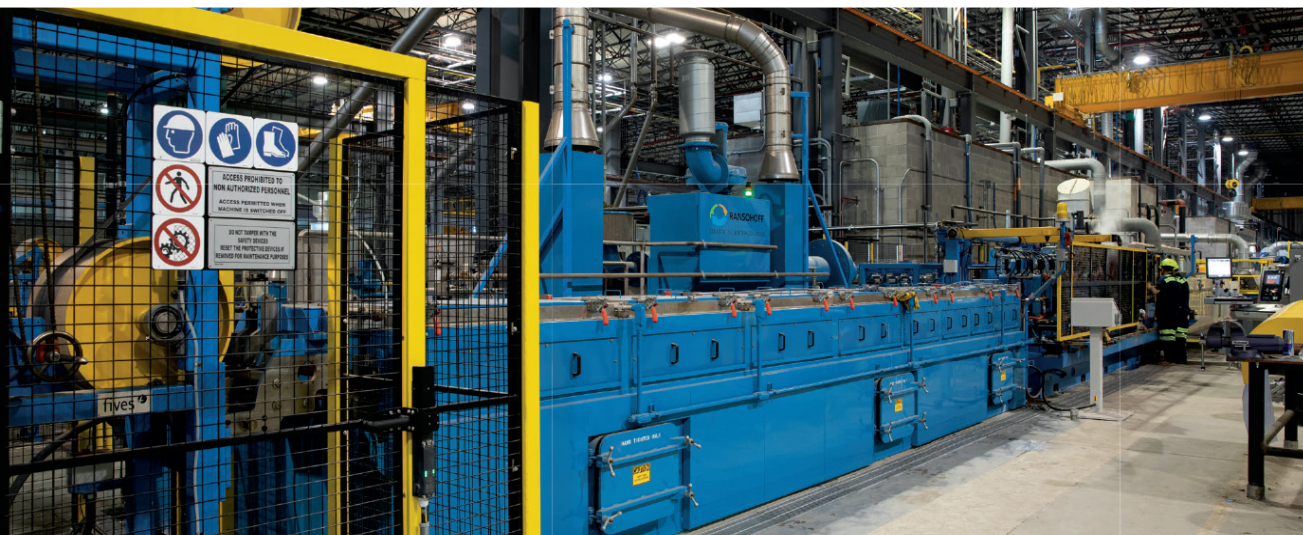
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