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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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Wedding held on Sept. 3

Mackenzie Crandall and
Brett Boardman of
Rochelle were married on
Saturday, Sept. 3. **Page 7**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
39 30	34 28
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
34 26	34 26

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Developments along Route 251

‘A lot of people are doing a lot of great things’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its December meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a change to its code and a special use permit to pave the way for a warehousing business for Breakthru Beverage Group at 1380 N. 7th St.

That move punctuated a year and recent years that have seen many developments of new businesses and renovations to existing businesses along Illinois Route 251 on both the north and south sides of Rochelle. They include Starbucks, Spartan Truck Center, Kwik Star, Majeski Motors, Hub City Car Wash South and ALDI.

Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh spoke with the News-Leader on Dec. 21 and reflected on recent developments along the state highway that runs through the Hub City.

“[City Community Development Director] Michelle Pease and her team are behind the city’s part in those developments,” Fiegenschuh said. “I told the mayor and council in the past that downtown is important and we’ll continue to focus on it, but we don’t want to forget our other corridors. There’s a lot of good stuff going on. Rochelle Ace Hardware and Benny’s Corner Market are great on the



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh spoke with the News-Leader on Dec. 21 and reflected on recent developments along the state highway that runs through the Hub City.

northern side of Illinois Route 251 and now Breakthru Beverage is coming to that area.”

Fiegenschuh said that the city prioritizes each of its corridors equally, but measures have been taken in recent years to benefit the development of businesses along Illinois Route 251 including establishing a northern corridor tax increment financing (TIF) district to help with development of the north side, and a downtown TIF district that encompasses Illinois Route 251 south as well.

“A lot of people are doing a lot of great things with developments in

town,” Fiegenschuh said. “The city can only do so much. All of these things that are happening are private investment. It doesn’t happen if developers don’t see an opportunity to turn a profit and drive the economy of our community. None of this happens without them and their investments. And I thank them for it.”

The city manager said having Illinois Route 251 run through Rochelle is a benefit to its economy, along with Illinois Route 38 and Interstates 39 and 88.

“We’re very lucky,” Fiegenschuh said. “It brings commerce and peo-

ple through town. When people come through your community and spend money, that’s why businesses locate where they do. It’s a major asset to our town.”

Illinois Route 251 also acts as a gateway to Rochelle on two ends of town. Fiegenschuh said well-developed gateways can “say a lot” about a community.

Recent developments and economic growth have raised the city’s portion of equalized assessed value (EAV), which causes the city’s property tax rates to stabilize or decrease.

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Looking back on 2022

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle’s 2022 included the demolition of Hickory Grove, energizing a new electrical substation on Ritchie Road, a groundbreaking for its new Rochelle Intermodal Transload Center and working to hire new police officers due to retirements within the Rochelle Police Department. Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh spoke with the News-Leader on Dec. 21 to look back at the year that was.

“I would say I’m proud of everything in 2022,” Fiegenschuh said. “I think our community is moving in the right direction and we’ve got great leadership in the mayor and city council. None of the things we accomplished would have been possible without their continued support. And they don’t happen without a good staff. This is the best staff I’ve worked with in my 20 years of city government.”

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(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)



Little Hubs Learning Center officially opened Tuesday

On Tuesday, Little Hubs Learning Center officially opened at 1010 N. 15th St. The new daycare center filled a years-long void left after Kishwaukee Family YMCA Child Care Center closed at the same location. Ron and Joni Spartz are the new owners of the building and daycare and their daughter, Kristin Spartz Barlow, runs it as director. The family has longstanding ties to the Rochelle community.

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LOCAL NEWS



Lorretta Sigler of Oregon (left) and Samantha Dopke of Franklin Grove (right) were recently in southern California celebrating the start of the New Year by "pushing petals" in preparation for the annual Tournament of Roses Parade.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Local women take part in Tournament of Roses Parade 'This has been such a fun way to spend time with friends'

PASADENA, Calif. — Dixon's Joy Holden and Chèrie Van Woz Arch, Oregon's Lorretta Sigler and Franklin Grove's Samantha Dopke wanted to ring in 2023 by doing something special, so they decided to participate in one of America's time-honored New Year's traditions.

No, they were not making a toast in Times Square while the glass ball descended just before midnight on New Year's Eve. Instead, they are in southern California celebrating the start of the New Year by "pushing petals" in preparation for the annual Tournament of Roses Parade.

The Illinois residents to the Petal Pushers, an elite corps of vol-

unteers who travel from all over the country to gather in Pasadena, California each year. These volunteers spend the week between Christmas and New Year's attaching thousands of roses, carnations, lilies, mums, and other flowers, as well as natural materials such as seeds, coffee beans and leaves, to create the majestic beauty and splendor of the floral floats that rode down Pasadena's Colorado Boulevard during the Rose Parade on Jan. 2.

"This is my second time participating," Holden said. "I was here in 2015 and knew I needed to come back again. It is incredible to see all the ways that organic materials are used to create these floats."

Many of these Petal

Pushers come to decorate the Lutheran Hour Ministries float—a Tournament of Roses perennial for more than 70 years and the only Christian-themed float in the parade. This year's float, under the theme "A New Day with Jesus," features the sun rising behind a church as Jesus stands at the open doors ready to welcome everyone into His fold, where He promises to make Himself known in the gathering of His people, the reading and proclamation of His Word, and participation in Holy Baptism and Communion.

A large number of the 4,000-member-plus Petal Pusher organization's volunteers help on as many as seven other Rose Parade floats (such as

City of Hope, Mutual of Omaha and the opening parade and football legacy floats) as well — turning the week into one of the largest servant events in the country. It is an opportunity to make new friends, network and share expressions of the faith that gives true meaning to this experience.

"It is wonderful meeting all of the incredible volunteers from across the country who are motivated to return each year to keep the parade going," Dopke said. "We are amazed seeing how much detail is involved in decorating the floats with the beautiful natural materials the Good Lord has created for us to use and enjoy. Seeing the floats on television does not do it justice."

In keeping with its "Never on Sunday" tradition followed since 1893, the 2023 Rose Parade presented by Honda began at 8 a.m. pacific time on Jan. 2. The iconic annual parade was watched live on television by millions of people around the world. It aired on ABC, NBC, Peacock, Cowboy Channel and RFD-TV.

"I have enjoyed being here for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with my cousin and some close friends," Van Woz Arch said. "I would definitely like to come back and do this again." "This has been such a fun way to spend time with friends," Sigler said. "We can't wait to attend the parade in person and see the end results of our work."

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a trusted resource in global media that equips and engages a vibrant volunteer base to passionately proclaim the Gospel to people around the world more than 150 million times each week. Through its North American headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri, and ministry centers on six continents, LHM reaches into more than 60 countries, often bringing Christ to places where no other Christian evangelistic organizations are present.

For more information about Lutheran Hour Ministries, visit www.lhm.org. For information on the Petal Pushers and its volunteer opportunities, visit www.petalpushers.org



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New Mothers of Preschoolers group to meet on Jan. 22

ROCHELLE — A new group of MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is beginning Sunday, Jan. 22, at Rochelle United Methodist Church, 709 4th Avenue. The group will meet the fourth Sunday of every month from 2-3:30 p.m., in the adult classroom in Hick's 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.

"We hope you'll join our global sisterhood," Taylor said. "We are excited to walk through this season of motherhood with you. Together is way more fun!"

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 there.



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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Future developments along Illinois Route 251 could include Breakthru Beverage subdividing its property, paving the way for a commercial business on the corner of Illinois Route 251 and Flagg Road. In the coming years, the state also has plans to reconstruct and widen Illinois Route 251 through the north side of town.

251: Future developments in the works for state route

From page 1

“The more growth we have, the more EAV we have to tax from,” Fiegenschuh said. “That means that in theory, everybody’s taxes would go down. All this new added growth and

value benefits the community and helps keep our property taxes stable.”
Future developments along Illinois Route 251 could include Breakthru Beverage subdividing its property, paving the way for a commercial business on

the corner of Illinois Route 251 and Flagg Road. In the coming years, the state also has plans to reconstruct and widen Illinois Route 251 through the north side of town.
City staff have plans to attempt to attract more

developments to the south side of town in the future. One idea has been a popular topic among residents of Rochelle recently.
“Several staff members got together last week and we hear a lot that we need another grocery store in

town,” Fiegenschuh said. “If people think that we need that, then we do. I do think there’s a market for one. But it’s hard to get a national chain to come here with our proximity to Rockford and DeKalb. As staff, we talked about what

we could do to incentivize another grocery store on the south side of town. I don’t know if anything is going to happen in 2023, but I know that is going to be a focus of ours, trying to recruit another grocery store on the south side of town.”



2022 Wreaths Across America ceremonies held locally

(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Wreaths Across America ceremonies were recently held at Woodlawn Cemetery in Creston and Daysville Cemetery in Oregon and at St. Patrick’s Catholic Cemetery, Lawnridge and Trinity Memory Gardens in Rochelle. Special thanks to all the members of the community whose involvement and wreath sponsorships allowed us to honor a total of over 680 veterans at these cemeteries! The Wreaths Across America organization is hosting a two-for-one special for any wreaths that are ordered before Jan. 15. If you would like to help the Rochelle Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution jump start the wreath program for 2023 and double the impact of your wreath sponsorship, you may order on line at <https://wreathsasscrossamerica.org/IL0136P>. Order forms are also available at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church office, the VFW and from members of the Rochelle Chapter.

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LOCAL NEWS

County officials announce it will not be subject to no cash bail provision

OREGON — 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 21st Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Thomas

Cunnington's ruling to strike down the cash bail provisions in the SAFE-T Act as unconstitutional. "The act was a 765-page bill passed during a lame duck session under cover of darkness at 4 a.m., affording legislators less than one hour to read it and vote on it, and denying the

general public any opportunity to offer comment or input," Rock and VanVickle said. "It amended the State Constitution and eroded the constitutional protections of the Victim Rights Act, all while disenfranchising the people of their Constitutional right to vote on such re-

forms. Judge Cunningham is absolutely correct in his assertion that this measure set to fully become law on Jan. 1 is a violation of the separation of powers clause of the Constitution and represents a significant overreach from the legislative and executive branches of government."

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Deputies respond to reported stabbing

OREGON — On Dec. 30 at 9:29 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Illinois Route 251 and Big Mound Road. After a brief investigation, Jose Cruz-Santos of Rochelle was arrested for driving while his license was suspended. Cruz-Santos was released on a \$2,500 individual bond with a return court date. Cruz-Santos was also issued a citation for an equipment violation.

On Dec. 31 at 6 p.m. deputies arrested Raymond Haney, 22, of Cres-

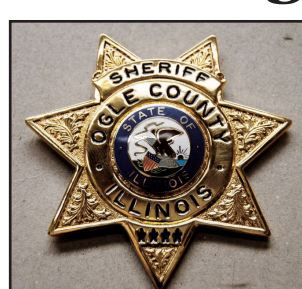
ton for driving while license suspended. Haney was arrested by deputies on Interstate 39 near Illinois Route 64 after being stopped for speeding. Haney was released on a I-bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

On Dec. 31 at 10:40 p.m. deputies responded to the 200 block of 1st Avenue in Forreston for a report of a stabbing victim. After a short investigation, deputies arrested Jeremy Jones, 41, of Byron, for attempt-

ed murder, aggravated battery with a motor vehicle, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and improper container/driver. Jones was also cited for no insurance and speeding. Jones was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond. Deputies were assisted by Forreston Fire.

On Jan. 1 at approximately 7:18 a.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident with injuries in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. The weather was very foggy and the roadway was ice covered at this time. A 2016 blue Toyota Prius, driven by 62-year-old Terry Pearse of Polo, had impacted with a 2009 black Nissan Altima, driven by 48-year-old Laurie Griggs of Rock Falls. Byron Fire and Ambulance responded to the location. Griggs was pronounced deceased at the scene of the accident. Pearse was transported to Javon Bea Hospital by Byron Ambulance for severe injuries. This accident remains under investigation.

On Jan. 2 at approximately 4:27 p.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident



with an injury at the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Mulford Road. After arrival, deputies learned a 2022 gray Ford Escape, driven by Mary C. Elmore, 40, of Kirkland, traveled through the stop intersection without stopping at the stop sign and struck a white 2013 Volvo truck-tractor trailer. The truck tractor-trailer was driven by 60-year-old David Proise of Rockford, who was traveling westbound on Illinois Route 64, before the Ford Escape ran into his trailer. Elmore was transported by Rochelle EMS to Mercy Riverside Hospital where she was later pronounced deceased. The Illinois State Police and Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire and EMS assisted with the accident. The accident remains under investigation.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty in the court of law.

Rochelle Police Department

Officers make several arrests

ROCHELLE — On Dec. 30 at 10:40 a.m. Sergio Magallon-Vargas, 31,

of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. He paid

FOID Card renewals for individuals with fingerprints on file

SPRINGFIELD — Beginning Jan. 1, upon a Firearms Transaction Inquiry Program (FTIP) approval, the Illinois State Police (ISP) will automatically renew a person's Firearm Owner's Identification Card (FOID) for individuals who have submitted a full set of fingerprints to ISP specifically for their FOID card or Concealed Carry License. The individual's FOID card will remain active for a period of 10 years from the date of the FTIP approval so long as the cardholder is not subject to revocation or suspension under the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act. As FOID cards are replaced, new cards will not include the issuance or expiration dates pursuant to FOID Act updates that took effect Jan. 1, 2022.

"The automatic renewal of a FOID card will expedite the process for many card holders while still ensuring people who are prohibited under the FOID Act do not have legal access to a card," ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly said. "Automatic re-

newal will also allow staff to focus on Clear and Present Danger reports, Firearm Restraining Orders as well as FOID correlations and enforcement."

ISP will check the fingerprints against all available State and local criminal history record information files. FOID card duration, renewal, and expiration information can be found in the FOID Card Act rules, Section 1230.30.

Individuals who apply for a FOID card may include a full set of their fingerprints transmitted through a live scan fingerprint vendor licensed by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), which will be kept on file for potential automatic renewals. Individuals who currently have a FOID card but have not submitted a full set of fingerprints to ISP may do so by going to a live scan vendor and uploading them to their account at www.ispfsb.com. A list of licensed fingerprint vendors can be found on the IDFPR website.



City distributes Christmas tree recycling information

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle's Christmas tree recycling program is underway. Curbside pickup will run Jan. 9-31. Atwood Park drop-off runs from Dec. 26-Jan. 22. Please

remove all decorations. No wreaths, garland or plastic bags.

The program is sponsored by the City of Rochelle, Ogle County Solid Waste and the Flaggs Rochelle Park District.

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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



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh called it humbling to participate in milestone events like the Hickory Grove demolition commencement in January (left). The RITC groundbreaking (right) took place in November and the facility will bring back intermodal use to Rochelle after Global III closed a few years ago.

CITY: Fiegenschuh discusses highlights of 2022 in Rochelle

From page 1

"It's a dedicated, professional, energetic, talented team that we have."

Fiegenschuh called it humbling to participate in milestone events like the Hickory Grove demolition commencement in January. The city took on ownership of the deteriorating building in recent years with the intent of demolishing it for a future development, which the city council will look at again in 2023 with the site now cleared off.

The RITC groundbreaking took place in November and the facility will bring back intermodal use to Rochelle after Global III closed a few years ago. The facility will be part of the city-owned railroad and service local businesses.

"It's big to have a city-owned railroad in a town of 9,000 people," Fiegenschuh said. "It's a great thing and it's

going to help out a lot of our local businesses with transportation costs. Those things were great to participate in."

Fiegenschuh detailed 2022 accomplishments of each city department in 2022. In the water and water reclamation departments, the Well 4 rehabilitation project was completed in the fall and was a cash-funded \$1.87 million investment in water infrastructure. Those departments also received a \$500,000 grant to line sanitary sewers and rehabilitate manholes in 2022.

In its geographic information systems (GIS) department, the city hired a new coordinator, Casey Heuer, in 2021 and she spent 2022 building different maps for various city departments.

"Casey did a fantastic job this past year," Fiegenschuh said. "She's worked with economic development to put to-

gether a job board where industries can post jobs. It'll be a centralized location for people to see and post jobs in the community."

In the Rochelle Municipal Utilities electric department, the above-referenced substation project was completed at an almost \$15 million cost close to on-time and staff navigated supply chain issues.

The city's street department undertook a Fourth Avenue street construction project downtown that installed new storm sewers and a reconstructed street to alleviate drainage issues.

A priority for RPD in 2022 was promotions and hiring of new officers due to multiple retirements within the department.

"We replaced the deputy chief that retired and promoted officers to sergeant," Fiegenschuh said. "We've been trying to get staffed up. That's

been difficult, but we're going to keep pushing forward on that. I'm proud of Chief [Eric] Higby and his team for continuously trying to fill those vital positions."

In the engineering department, city staff started work on the reconstruction of the Flagg Road and 20th Street intersection and held quarterly meetings with the state on the planned future reconstruction of Illinois Route 251 through the north side of town.

For the Rochelle Fire Department, steps were taken in 2022 to move forward on a joint regional training facility project with the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District that will be built in the city in 2023.

The city's community development department spent time in 2022 commissioning a mural downtown and working on developments with

business owners in town.

"We updated our zoning codes," Fiegenschuh said. "We've had some new developments downtown and on the south side. We're starting to focus on all of the corridors in the community."

The city's tourism and public relations departments took steps in 2022 to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funds to make major updates to Railfan Park in the future and increased the city's social media presence, Fiegenschuh said.

In the finance department, the city received the Government Finance Officers Association distinguished budget award for the second year in a row.

"That speaks volumes about our staff members in that department," Fiegenschuh said.

In its own inner workings, the city moved RMU crews and its engineering department into

a centralized location at its new building on South 7th Street. That building will see another phase of improvement in 2023. Administrative services were moved to the RMU building at 333 Lincoln Highway to consolidate finance and billing employees in one location.

The city and RMU also took on a new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system upgrade.

"There have been so many great things this year," Fiegenschuh said. "I'm proud of so much. I think 2022 was an absolutely phenomenal year for us. We were coming out of COVID-19 and having to deal with supply chain issues. We had to fill positions and had less applicants. We saw staffing issues. We've accomplished so much with so many things going on in the world. And I'm so proud of my staff for that. It's been an extremely successful year."

County electronics recycling event is Jan. 27

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon. This event is for Ogle

County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov by 4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 26.

Accepted items include

all televisions and computer monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCR's, cable/

satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calculators, phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVD's and CFL bulbs. Microwave

ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted.

Limit seven large or bulky items per permit and one permit per county household per month. Business or institutional electronic materials not

accepted at these events.

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

PET OF THE WEEK

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www.tailshumanesociety.org

Jayde

Hello, I'm Jayde! I'm a 5 year old lady looking for a family to be a part of. My favorite treats are chicken, ice cream and peanut butter! I've lived with kids before and I was great with them! I would do best in a home with an experienced dog owner. I'm a smart girl and I need my human counterpart to be able to keep up with me! I hope you'll come meet me soon and decide to take me home.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Bipartisanship, environmental efforts among top priorities

AS we head into the new year, I am excited for efforts to make 2023 the “Year of the Farmer.” Illinois Farm Families, a coalition comprised of the Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Beef, Corn, Pork, Soybean and Midwest Dairy Associations, is also launching a major campaign to build trust in family farmers. One major message we want to amplify is that 96 percent of Illinois farms are family-owned. In the coming months, our members will start to see such messages shared with a broader audience, including Super Bowl commercials and other activities throughout the year.

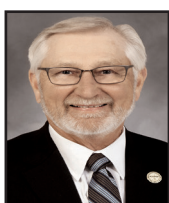
I recognize that there is much work to be done. Our farmers and leaders are building support from both sides of the political aisle amid a tumultuous political landscape. Farmers are working tirelessly to assure American families that agriculture is stronger than ever. Being bipartisan has served Farm Bureau well. ACTIVATOR, IFB’s political action committee, helps us elect candidates who work for our best interests in Washington and Springfield. It also helps us build strong relationships with legislators, who in turn help us achieve our legislative priorities. We endorse local candidates regardless

of political party, and 93 percent of ACTIVATOR-endorsed candidates have been elected over the past four-year election cycle. In the coming months, Congress will begin drafting the 2023 Farm Bill, which will guide U.S. agriculture and food policy over the next five years. For decades, agriculture policy has remained one of the few areas of true bipartisanship in Springfield and Washington, D.C. It is critical that we as farmers continue to develop strong relationships with our state and

federal elected officials as they lay the groundwork for the next farm bill, advocate for international trade agreements and promote biofuels in our energy policy. In December, IFB launched its first documentary, “Sustaining Our Future: A Farm Family Story.” The documentary utilizes an empathetic and creative storytelling approach to share the story of a multi-generational farming family at the forefront of Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction efforts. It also includes the IFB environmental team and

agriculture researchers from the University of Illinois. The documentary can be viewed on the Illinois Farm Bureau YouTube page. As we look ahead in the new year to continue sharing our messages, whether it be farm bill priorities, bipartisanship or environmental efforts, we cannot ignore the changing demographics among our members. There are more IFB members who are older than 90 years old than younger than 35. Additionally, the number of American farms is expected to decline by 42 percent by 2040. It is hard to believe that it has been nine years since I was first elected

as IFB president. It has been an incredible honor to serve Illinois farmers and our members. I am proud of our work this past year, but our job is not done yet. We have a lot more to accomplish in the coming months. With these educational efforts, new membership programming and bipartisan acts, I know we can make 2023 a great year for farmers and agriculture. *Richard Guebert Jr. is president of the Illinois Farm Bureau. This op-ed was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.*



Richard Guebert Jr.

Fairness being added to Illinois’ justice system

AFTER years of work and deliberations — and a last-minute hiccup from a court ruling — Illinois is poised at last to implement the Pretrial Fairness Act, ending money bond across our state. This historic step eliminates the practice of jailing people accused of a crime simply because they cannot afford to pay a money bond. Opponents of ending money bond spent millions during the election campaign on desperate television advertisements aimed at spreading misinformation and stoking fear and confusion about the new law. Despite those millions of ad dollars and widespread media coverage, voters rejected the lies. After the election, legislators

expressed further support for the law, resisting calls to repeal or water it down, and instead enacting revisions designed to ensure its effective implementation. Just days before the law’s effective date, a judge in Kankakee County added to the sense of confusion and chaos when he declared the law to be unconstitutional. While the Kankakee court’s ruling is a setback, let’s be clear. This latest desperate attempt by recalcitrant system actors to resist this long overdue reform is not going to stop the end of money bond. Attorney General Kwame Raoul is acting swiftly to appeal the ruling to the Illinois Supreme Court, and well-established legal precedents make it very

likely that the court will ultimately overturn the Kankakee court’s ruling and uphold the law’s constitutionality. And, because the Kankakee ruling impacted only those counties that filed a lawsuit against the Pretrial Fairness Act, the measure is being implemented in a number of counties across Illinois — including most of the state’s most populous counties. In the nearly two years since the Pretrial Fairness Act was passed, some prosecutors have been tireless in their attempts to undermine the new law in the legislature, in the media, and in the courts. These efforts have never been about justice or public

safety; they are simply about preserving a system under which people are routinely jailed simply because they cannot afford to pay an arbitrary sum of money — not because their release would endanger others or create any risk that they would flee from prosecution. Sadly, all the politics around the effort to defeat ending money bond obscures two critical points. First, the failed money bond system always has allowed people accused of crime to be released even if they pose a threat to others. These people just had to have the resources to afford bail. So, when we hear about people accused of a crime being

released from pretrial detention, that is not new. It has been part of the system for decades. But the campaign against ending money bond has really been about denying justice to people accused of crimes, to treat them as guilty before any court has adjudicated the charge. For generations, thousands of people from Illinois’ most marginalized communities have been held pretrial — sometimes for lengthy periods of time — because they did not have the money to buy their freedom. While they languished in a county jail — perhaps being innocent of the charges against them — these individuals lost their jobs, housing, and even the custody of their children. Where is the justice in this system?

Each day that implementation of the Pretrial Fairness Act is delayed continues to perpetuate these harms, undermining the safety and stability of our communities. That is right — this system actually undermines public safety. When all is said and done, we expect that the law will be vindicated and money bond will be abolished in every county across Illinois, ringing in a new era of fairness in Illinois’ criminal court system. While the efforts to debase the law will not abate, we know that a system that is supposedly based on “justice” must treat people in a just fashion. That process is beginning in Illinois. *Ben Ruddell is a staff attorney for ACLU of Illinois in Chicago.*



Ben Ruddell

Stand up for military and law enforcement

DEAR editor, The huge omnibus federal budget passed Congress with a 4.9 percent raise for members of the military, funds to modernize the VA and monies

for local and state law enforcement, along with funding for infrastructure, agriculture, modernizing IRS computers and health and other social programs. The bill was supported

by Rep. Adam Kinzinger. As a former active military officer (and current Lt. Col. in the Air Force reserve), Mr. Kinzinger knows the importance of maintaining

a top-notch military and having appropriate VA to provide for their future healthcare needs. Unfortunately, GOP Rep. Darin LaHood (who will be

our new Congressman come January) sided with Democrat Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez (aka AOC) to oppose the budget. How sad Mr. LaHood and Ms. Ocasio-Cortez couldn’t stand up for our military

and law enforcement. As a member of Congress, they get first-rate medical care. Our military and veterans deserve likewise. *Pam Farris Rochelle*

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

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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 Rochelle News-Leader office (211 Illinois Route 38 East), mailed to the News-Leader (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068) or e-mailed (news@rochellenews-leader.com.) The Rochelle 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

Crandall, Boardman married Sept. 3

WINCHESTER, Wis. — Mackenzie Crandall and Brent Boardman of Rochelle were married Sat. Sept. 3 at 5 p.m. in Winchester, Wisconsin by Minister Gregg Eichelberger in a double ring ceremony.

The bride's parents are Curt & Heidi Mann of Rochelle and Kevin & Rhonda Crandall of Rochelle. The groom's parents are Bruce & Cathy Boardman of Rochelle.

It was a small lakeside wedding. The bride's dress was a classic, elegant white wedding dress with a beautifully-detailed lace top and train. Flowers

included sunflowers and wildflowers.

The flower girl was the couple's niece, Emmersyn Furman. The ring bearer was the couple's nephew, Everett Furman.

A reception was held Nov. 26 at Flight Deck in Rochelle.

The couple's wedding trip will be St. Lucia in the spring.

The couple resides in Rochelle. The bride attended Northern Illinois University and works as a registered nurse at KSB Hospital. The groom attended Illinois State University and is HR coordinator for Ryder Transportation.



THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

January 5 – (Thursday) – Chicken Parmesan over Spaghetti, Veggies
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. 1 Dave Jones	Jan. 8 Graciela Perez Xavier Villalobos	Jan. 15 Kami South Trenton South	Jan. 24 Terry Dodillet Kelly Arnold
Jan. 3 Justin Sandoval	Jan. 9 Cheyenne Pourchot	Jan. 19 Kevin South	Jan. 25 Nikki Greenfield Ashton Arwood
Jan. 5 Grace Yates Elaina Eubankz	Jan. 11 Troy Martinez Kathy Sanders Christina Jones	Jan. 20 Noelia Lopez Harold & Kathy Sanders (anniversary) Hailey Losoya	Jan. 28 Peggy Futrell
Jan. 6 Debbie Bonacquisti Carson Johnson	Jan. 13 Judy Messer	Jan. 23 Michele Perez Victoria Lopez Odessa Waters	Jan. 29 Nayeli Ramirez
Jan. 7 Elaina Phillips Gary Phillips Summer Coffman	Jan. 14 Haley Thompson Jeannie O'Dell- Boeck		

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



- 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
- Dec. 27 - Rochelle Foods, \$25
- Dec. 28 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 29 - Bill Hahn, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 30 - Nick Smallwood, Montgomery, \$25
- Dec. 31 - Greg Hackbarth, Lindenwood, \$25



Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Justice Dept. agency
4 Physician's nickname
7 Grating
12 Vintage
13 Away from WSW
14 Mountain crest
15 Set afire
16 Yosemite peak featured in "Free Solo"
18 "CSI" evidence
19 Dewy
20 Billboard
22 Swiss peak
23 Bloke
27 Author Fleming
29 Abrasion
31 Planet circlers
34 Heart line
35 Coffeehouse bill collector
37 L-P link
38 Utah ski resort
39 "Yoo- —!"
41 Pottery oven
45 Quotable Yogi
47 Eastern path
48 Bygone Cadillacs
52 Copper head?
53 Tierney of "The Affair"
54 Superlative

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Irish actor Stephen

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Nile vipers

Tuscany setting

Hard work

Seasonal songs

Swindler

Guffaw syllable

Thin nail

Russian pancakes

Green shade

Nick and Nora's dog

Luggage attachment

Simile part

Ambulance initials

Paint

Napkin's place

Consider container

1959 King-ton Trio hit

Payable

Borrowed

Director

Mine material

DeMille

Texas tea

1 Creates origami

2 Russian pancakes

3 Luggage attachment

4 Consider

5 Borrowed

6 Director

DeMille

24 Guffaw syllable

25 Suitable

26 Green shade

28 Simile part

30 Paint

31 1959 King-ton Trio hit

32 Texas tea

45 Thin nail

46 Nick and Nora's dog

48 Ambulance initials

49 Napkin's place

50 Payable

51 Mine material

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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: H equals B

KUJL'X LUO HOXL HYOKOB
HOMOYJIO LP BYFAZ KUOA
KYFLFAI LUO SFYXL MOYXFPA PS
J KPYZ? BYJSL HOOY.

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Answers

King Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

What's the best brewed beverage to drink when writing the first version of a work? Draft beer.

CryptoQuip answer

ASHTON NEWS



Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School students take on Christmas project
At Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School in December, Mrs. Hart's fourth graders learned to sew on buttons for their Christmas project.



Jahn named to Pearl City All-Tournament Team
Ashton-Franklin Center High School varsity girls basketball's Taylor Jahn was selected to the Pearl City All-Tournament Team in December. She was one of five players chosen out of eight teams.

Lee County Sheriff's Deputies respond to one-vehicle crash

ROCHELLE — On Dec. 27 at 5:43 p.m. the Lee County Sheriff's Office responded to a one-vehicle crash on Town Line Road, south of Gurler Road, in rural Rochelle and Lee County.

A GMC Envoy being driven by Bridget Ivanov, 50, of Batavia was northbound on Town Line Road when the vehicle left the

roadway and overturned. Ivanov was ejected from the vehicle and transported to OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center by OSF Life Flight for non-life-threatening injuries. A passenger in the vehicle, Sean Parker, 54, of Rochelle, was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by Rochelle Ambulance, Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District, OSF Life Flight Helicopter, Rochelle Police Department, Ogle County Sheriff's Office and the Illinois State Police.

The crash is still under investigation by the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

IAA Foundation offers scholarships

BLOOMINGTON — Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) members, spouses and children are eligible to apply for 100 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. The scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, will be awarded in total of \$201,501 for the 2023-24 school year.

"We are pleased to recognize students through our ever growing and changing scholarship program," Jennifer Smith, development manager, IAA Foundation, said. "It is a privilege to support the next generation of leaders and encourage degrees in agriculture related fields."

Students may apply for a variety of scholarships, including three IAA Foundation Distinguished

Scholarships, where winners each receive \$5,000 awards. Another \$7,500 award goes to the Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership scholarship winner. In addition to family scholarships often established to honor the memory of a loved one, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of Prairie Farms Dairy. For 2023, the IAA Foundation is honored to administer the newly created Sandhu Minority in Agriculture Scholarship, and the Thomas E. and Mary Morgan Lykins Scholarship. Additionally, fellowships will once again support students pursuing advanced degrees in fields that directly relate to agriculture.

Scholarships are awarded based on involvement in extra-curricular activities, community service, academic

performance, leadership experiences, and response to an essay. Previous winners of an IAA Foundation scholarship are eligible to apply again if the scholarship allows.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines is available on the Foundation website, www.iaafoundation.org. The application opens Jan. 1 and must be completed online by Feb. 15.

For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or e-mail Smith at jsmith@ilfb.org

The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.

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815-973-8397

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- Don Ross Jr. Construction**
PO 96, Ashton
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602 Brown Street, Ashton
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- Shear Delight**
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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4, 2023

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



GIRLS PLACE EIGHTH

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team finished eighth at the KSB tourney.

See page 3 for more details

RTHS Boys Bowling

Hubs roll at Plum Hollow

Powell leads Rochelle to sixth-place finish at Dixon Toughman Tournament

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

DIXON — Freshman Andrew Powell fired an 879 series over four games to take first individually and lead the Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team to a sixth-place finish out of 12 schools during the Dixon Toughman Tournament at Plum Hollow Lanes on Thursday. Powell also earned top honors for the individual high game, shooting a 278 in the third round.

Rochelle (6-6, 3-3 Interstate 8) ranked fourth after the four-game team round, rolling a 3,754 team total before finishing with a 5,729 total after the baker round. Sophomore Logan Frye recorded an 823 series with high scores of 252 and 220, while junior Sam Tracey added a 723 series with a high score of 212.

Senior Evin Odle threw a 700 series with a high score of 204 and junior Jonathan Alanis compiled a 629 series with a high score of 186. The Hubs recorded team scores of 882, 1,065, 970 and 837 over the four rounds of bowling that preceded the baker format.

Ottawa

The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling began its final week of regular sea-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team finished sixth out of 12 schools at the Dixon Toughman Tournament on Thursday. Above from left to right are Levi Waddle, Jonathan Alanis, Sam Tracey, Logan Frye, Owen Tooley, Evin Odle and Andrew Powell.

son matches on Monday, winning 3,073-2,873 in Interstate 8 Conference action. Rochelle (7-6, 4-3 Interstate 8) will host Kane-land for its Senior Night match on Wednesday at 4 p.m. before facing Geneseo on the road Thursday in

nonconference play.

Senior Evin Odle led the Hubs with a 574 series, while junior Jonathan Alanis added a 554 series. Junior Sam Tracey and freshman Andrew Powell followed with respective series scores of 509 and

503. Freshman Owen Tool-ey recorded a 456 series and sophomore Logan Frye finished with a 451 series.

Rochelle opened the match with a 970-885 victory in the first game, where Alanis fired a 183 and Powell rolled a 179

to lead the Hubs. Rochelle extended its series advan-tage with a 1,035-959 win in the second game, where Odle threw a series-best 214 and Alanis scored a series-best 201.

Rochelle clinched the conference sweep with a

1,042-1,029 victory during the third game. Odle's 203 and Tracey's series-best 189 were the high scores for the Hubs in the finale. Nelson Brandt rolled a match-high 629 series with high games of 238 and 248 for the Pirates.

RTHS Boys Basketball

Zone struggles continue against Harvest Christian

Hubs take sixth in E.C. Nichols Holiday Classic after 65-46 loss Wednesday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MARENGO — Strug-gles against zone defense continued to hurt the Ro-chelle Hub varsity basket-ball team during Wednes-day evening's finale at the E.C. Nichols Holiday Classic.

Facing Harvest Chris-tian for fifth place in the tournament, Rochelle hung tough during the first quar-ter, building a 12-10 lead with junior Eli Luxton and sophomore Carson Lewis providing an early spark to the offense. The Hubs had trouble navigating around Harvest Christian's zone defense for the remainder of the game, however, falling behind 25-19 at halftime and conceding a double-digit advantage after guard Ben Lothery caught fire from 3-point range for the Lions.

Lothery scored a game-high 30 points and converted six triples as Ro-chelle went cold down the stretch, falling 65-46 to end the tournament in sixth place. Luxton finished with an 18-point, 11-rebound double-double for the Hubs (5-8, 1-3 Interstate 8), while Lewis added 14 points.

"I liked our energy

in the first quarter and I thought we got off to a strong start defensively," head coach Tim Thompson said. "We've had trouble keeping dribble penetration to a minimum throughout the season, but we weren't allowing them to generate any dribble penetration and they weren't making shots early. Once they tightened up their zone, they didn't let any balls inside and we couldn't make shots."

The Hubs fought their way back into the game during the third quarter, where Lewis drilled three of his four 3-pointers to help Rochelle tie the score at 39-39. Harvest Christian slammed the door on the Hubs, though, closing the game with a dominant fourth quarter where the Lions outscored Rochelle 23-7.

"The kids are really try-ing, but we're not making shots right now and we're sacrificing on the defensive end as a result," Thompson said. "We tried getting Eli some more inside touches in the second half, but we made some solid passes and Carson was able to knock down some perim-eter shots. We just made too many mistakes late in the game."



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Eli Luxton drives around Harvest Christian defender Daniel Winkelman during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against the Lions on Wednesday. Luxton recorded 18 points and 11 rebounds in a 65-46 loss.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub freshman and Lady Hub fresh-soph basketball teams each secured wins over LaSalle-Peru on Monday. At left, Martiese Pogue attempts a free throw for the Hubs. At right, Carmela Bright brings the ball up the floor for the Lady Hubs.

Rochelle basketball teams take down LaSalle-Peru

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub freshman basketball team and the Rochelle Lady Hub fresh-soph basketball team each scored Interstate 8 Conference home wins against LaSalle-Peru on Monday. The Lady Hubs took the first game of the doubleheader, defeating the Cavaliers 27-20 in the auxiliary gymnasium before the Hubs held on for a 57-53 victory over the Cavaliers in the main gymnasium to conclude the evening.

Girls

Meredith Bruns led the Lady Hubs with seven points in the win over LaSalle-Peru, while Emori Mickley and Jaydin Dickey each recorded six points. Tyler Dickson chipped in three points for the Lady Hubs, who saw Rose Luxton and Abby Bozinovich each finish with two points. Arline Villanueva rounded out the scorebook with one point.

LaSalle-Peru held a 6-5 lead over the Lady Hubs after the first quarter, where Dickson and Dickey each converted field goals for the Rochelle offense. Bruns caught fire during the second quarter, hitting three field goals and adding one free throw for all seven of her points to help the Lady Hubs bring the Cavaliers within two points, 14-12, at halftime.

Rochelle dominated the second half on the defensive end, limiting LaSalle-Peru to just one field goal in the third quarter and

zero field goals in the fourth quarter. Made shots from Luxton, Mickley and Dickson allowed the Lady Hubs to take a 18-17 lead entering the fourth quarter, where Mickley sank two more field goals around the rim and Dickey went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line to ice the win.

Boys

Martiese Pogue led the Hubs with 16 points, while Van Gerber added 12 points and Brode Metzger followed with 10 points. Mark Green recorded nine points and Marco Belmonte chipped in six points for the Rochelle offense in the win.

LaSalle-Peru took a 13-10 lead after the first quarter, where Green knocked down Rochelle's first 3-pointer of the evening before adding another field goal soon after. Gerber sank a triple and made a 2-point field goal to ignite the Hubs during the second quarter, where Rochelle cut the Cavalier lead to one point, 22-21, at halftime.

Metzger and Pogue shouldered the scoring load for the Hubs in the third quarter, where Metzger went to work down low with three field-goal conversions around the rim and Pogue caught fire with four made field goals and a pair of free throws. Pogue added four fourth-quarter free throws to help Rochelle seal the win late in the game.

The Hubs took a 42-32 lead into the fourth quarter, where Gerber hit his second 3-pointer of the night and put home two more field goals to keep Rochelle ahead of the Cavaliers, who came within three points during the final minute of regulation.

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SPORTS

RTHS Girls Basketball

Second chances doom Lady Hubs against Quincy

Rochelle settles for eighth at KSB Holiday Classic after 58-35 loss Thursday

DIXON — Second chances at the rim were plentiful for the Quincy Blue Devils and troublesome for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team on Thursday, when the purple and white aimed to secure a seventh-place finish in the annual KSB Holiday Classic at Dixon High School.

Sophomore Kendyl Darby sparked the Rochelle offense in the first quarter, knocking down a 3-pointer and converting a layup under the basket for five of her team-high 12 points in the game. Despite a strong first-half effort on the defensive end, the Lady Hubs struggled to close out possessions, allowing the Blue Devils to grab multiple offensive rebounds and sink several second-chance shots. Quincy's physicality propelled the team to a 58-35 win over Rochelle.

"It was a struggle for us today, especially with our stamina because it was our fourth game in three days," head coach Ryan McQuade said. "I thought we battled early in the game, but we struggled to put the ball in the basket and Quincy is a very aggressive team. We turned the ball over too much today and I think that affected the outcome. Our defensive intensity was good in the first half, but the second-chance points hurt us. We struggled to limit them to one shot."

Juniors Kara Martinez and Alivia Henkel each made shots early in the second quarter, with Martinez sinking a triple off the backboard and Henkel converting a mid-range jumper near the baseline to make the score 16-15



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Torrin Nantz works around a screen from teammate Kennedy Adamski during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against Quincy on Thursday. Rochelle fell 58-35 to close out the KSB Holiday Classic at Dixon High School.

in favor of the Blue Devils. Quincy closed the first half on an 11-4 run, using quick cuts to the basket and extra shots created from offensive rebounds to take a 27-19 halftime lead. Henkel finished with nine points for the Lady Hubs in the loss.

"We talk about limiting teams to one shot and if we can do that, I like our chances against practically every team we face," McQuade said. "We need to start generating some wins and we'll have a few opportunities next week against Morris and Plano.

It comes down to us and how we're performing and we need to focus on what we do best. I thought we defended pretty well in this tournament and that's what we'll need to carry over into the new year."

The Blue Devils began wearing the Lady Hubs

down on the offensive glass during the third quarter, where Quincy took its first double-digit lead of the game and surged ahead 45-28 entering the fourth quarter. The Blue Devils limited Rochelle (3-15, 1-3 Interstate 8) to only two fourth-quarter field goals,

with junior Sydney Tabor hitting a mid-range shot from the elbow and senior Torrin Nantz putting home the team's fourth and final 3-pointer of the afternoon.

Rochelle will host Morris on Wednesday at 7 p.m. before facing Plano on the road Thursday at 7 p.m.

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Hewitt & Wagner
Attorneys at Law
For the Executor of the
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sen, deceased
No. 1226
(Dec. 28, 2022, Jan. 4 and
11, 2023)

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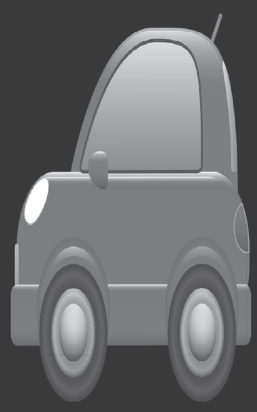
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ON THE FARM

Tips to pick the right plants for your landscape

EACH year, gardening enthusiasts anxiously await the arrival of spring. Spring is a great season to plant new flowers, plants, grasses, and trees, making it a popular time of year to spend sunny days out in the yard.

Veteran gardeners may know their landscapes well and be able to pick the right plants on their own. Novices may need a little help as they look to give their landscapes a whole new look. The following are some helpful tips to help homeowners pick the right plants for their landscapes.

Conduct a site evaluation. A colorful landscape featuring an array of plants and flowers can be eye-catching and add curb appeal to a property. However, where plants will be planted is a significant variable that must be considered before homeowners choose what to plant. The Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at the University of Massachusetts Amherst notes that site evaluation is the first step when picking plants. A number of factors must

be evaluated, including light availability; water availability; exposure to the elements, including wind and extreme temperatures; and competition from existing vegetation, among other things. Document these variables prior to picking plants. For example, take note of the area you plan to plant to see if it is full sun or partial shade, and then pick plants whose growing conditions align with those you observe.

Look at more than looks. Aesthetic appeal might be what homeowners most desire from their landscapes, but that appeal is only achieved when the right plants are chosen for a space. If the wrong plants are chosen, they're unlikely to thrive or they could threaten existing vegetation, thus compromising the overall appeal of the property. Native plants can often handle local weather conditions, so prioritize natives over more exotic plants whose key attribute is aesthetic appeal. If jaw-dropping aesthetic appeal is your top priority, speak with a local landscaping professional about which natives



can provide that without compromising surrounding vegetation.

Consider maintenance prior to planting. Maintenance is another variable gardeners must consider. Newly planted trees may require substantial watering until they've fully established their roots, and some homeowners may not have time for that. In

addition, certain plants may require a considerable amount of pruning in order to create and maintain the look homeowners desire. Individuals must be willing to invest the time and effort necessary to maintain new plantings that require such diligence. If not, look for plants that don't require much maintenance while

keeping in mind that even low-maintenance plants still require some effort and attention.

Consider local wildlife. If your lawn is routinely visited by local wildlife, then look for plants that won't look like a meal to these welcome, if uninvited, guests. For example, if you routinely see deer

looming around in your backyard, look for deer-resistant plants. This is a good way to protect your investment, of both time and money, and ensure minimal wildlife traffic through your newly landscaped yard.

Spring gardens are awe-inspiring, especially when homeowners embrace various strategies for successful planting.

Poor water quality threatens wildlife

WHAT is the biggest threat that wildlife faces in the modern era? It is the quality of water that those animals need to live.

Poor water quality poses a significant threat to wildlife. According to data out of Great Britain, waterways across England, Wales and Northern Ireland are increasingly being devastated by poor water quality from various pollution sources. The water quality problem in this area of Europe is not unique. The organization Focusing on Wildlife says chemical runoff from farms has caused more than 400 dead zones around the world. These chemicals leach into waterways and groundwater, killing thousands of insects and fish. The organization Do Something indicates approximately 40 percent of American lakes are too polluted for fishing, aquatic life or swimming. In addition, the organization Friends of the Earth notes that laws in the United States pertaining to cruise ship waste apply to only those areas within roughly 3.5 miles of the shoreline. Beyond that, there are no restrictions on dumping sewage and greywater. This puts marine

life at risk and affects other animals because the sludge creates areas where life cannot thrive.

Animals rely on water as well as marine environments for a variety of reasons. Water promotes hydration and marshlands may serve as breeding habitats for certain birds. A bevy of water-dwelling fish and other animals rely on freshwater and saltwater environments to reproduce and live. When ecosystems are disturbed by things like chemicals, invasive species and soil erosion, the consequences can be devastating for wildlife. For example, when soil runoff ends up

in waterways, feeding becomes harder as visibility is reduced for animals. Too many nutrients in the water, whether it's from the introduction of substances from agriculture or other runoff, can cause overgrowth of certain algae and aquatic plants, which can lead to streams and rivers becoming choked with vegetation. This causes a decrease in plant and wildlife diversity, according to The Wildlife Trusts.

Residents on the Gulf Coast of Florida and other states surrounding the Gulf of Mexico likely have noticed the "red tide" that occurs on a cyclical basis.

The red tide produces a harmful algae bloom that kills off wildlife. While some experts believe the tide originates 10 to 50 miles offshore along the continental shelf and has entirely innocuous origins, others, like Dr. Richard Stumpf, a principal researcher who leads National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration's coastal science initiatives, feels that summertime wind shifts in the Gulf redirect the outward flow of the Mississippi River, pushing water that is full of nitrogen and other nutrients — both natural and manmade — towards the west coast of Florida,

leading to the growth of the red tide bloom.

Scarcity of fresh, clean water, as well as water that has the correct nutrient profiles, can put wildlife at risk. It's one of the biggest environmental challenges facing the world right now and can affect the health of both animals and people.



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SPORTS

Illinois High School Association

IHSA approves contract to host state football finals at ISU

BLOOMINGTON — The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Board of Directors met for its regularly scheduled meeting at the IHSA office in Bloomington on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, where the Board approved a State Final hosting contract with Illinois State University (ISU) and the Bloomington-Normal Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (BNACVB) to host the IHSA Football State Finals at ISU's Hancock Stadium from 2023 to 2027. "We appreciate all of the hosting bids that we received for the IHSA Football State Finals," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "Seeing the passion that these university communities have for hosting the State Finals and the amazing stadiums that each campus offers didn't make for an easy decision. Ultimately, the first-class facilities, amazing support from Illinois State University and the Bloomington-Normal communities, and the central location proved to be the biggest factors in returning to ISU for the next five years."

Hancock Stadium hosted the inaugural IHSA Football State Finals in 1974 and hosted over 100 IHSA Football State Championship games from 1974 to 1998.

"The entire Illinois State University community is ecstatic to have the IHSA Football State Finals returning to Bloomington-Normal," ISU Director of Athletics Kyle Brennan said. "Illinois State University and Illinois State Athletics have long valued their great partnership with the IHSA and take pride in our

duties hosting IHSA events at our facilities. It will be a pleasure for us to welcome the student-athletes, their families and spectators to campus and the Bloomington-Normal community each year and provide them with a top-notch experience at Hancock Stadium."

Hancock Stadium underwent a \$23 million dollar renovation in 2013 that included a new press box, a transformation of the east side of the stadium, new chair back seating, suites, and more stadium-wide upgrades. ISU broke ground on an indoor football practice facility adjacent to Hancock Stadium in April of 2022 that will be completed when the 2023 IHSA Football State Finals are held there on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 24-25, 2023.

"We are delighted to be awarded the IHSA Football State Finals," says Crystal Howard, President/CEO for the Bloomington-Normal Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (BNACVB). "Our relationship with the IHSA continues to grow, and we appreciate the faith they have in our organization and our community as an ideal host for their events. Thank you to the City of Bloomington and Town of Normal for their support that allows us to pursue these types of events, and to Illinois State University for partnership and enthusiasm to host this event."

Northern Illinois University (NIU) in DeKalb and Southern Illinois University in Carbondale each submitted bids to host the IHSA State Finals from 2023-2027. The University of Illinois at Champaign-

Urbana submitted a bid to host in 2024, 2026, and 2028.

"This decision wasn't made lightly, as Northern Illinois University and the University of Illinois have been incredible hosts for us through the years," said Anderson. "We have a tremendous relationship with Champaign-Urbana and look forward to returning there in a few short months for State Wrestling and Boys Basketball. Northern Illinois did an exemplary job, stepping up to host beginning in 2013 when the Big Ten schedule necessitated a hosting change in the midst of the contract with the University of Illinois. Southern Illinois University's facility stacks up with any other in the state as well and the area is well-known for having a deeply-rooted high school sports fanbase. The IHSA deeply values its relationships with all of these institutions and their communities."

Only four venues have ever hosted the IHSA Football State Finals, which debuted in 1974. Hancock Stadium hosted the first six years of championship games. In 1980, the IHSA expanded from five classes to six classes, at which point the IHSA opted to keep the 1A through 3A games at Hancock Stadium, while moving the Class 5A and Class 6A contests to Dyche Stadium on the Northwestern University campus in Evanston. This arrangement lasted from 1980 to 1984. All six classes returned to Hancock in 1985 and remained there through the 1998 state championships.

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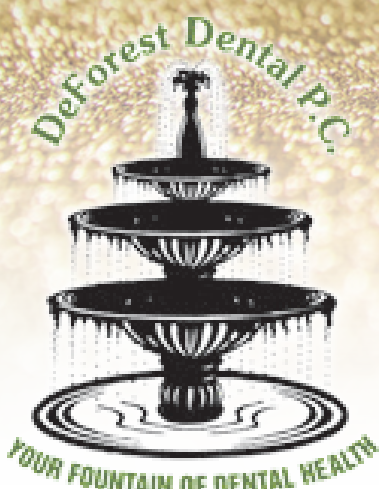
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