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## KNOW IT TODAY



**Fall graduates recognized**

Kishwaukee College recognized its fall 2022 semester graduates last month. **Page 2**

**WEATHER**

 <b>SUNDAY</b> HIGH LOW <b>43 34</b>	 <b>MONDAY</b> HIGH LOW <b>51 35</b>
 <b>TUESDAY</b> HIGH LOW <b>55 35</b>	 <b>WEDNESDAY</b> HIGH LOW <b>37 29</b>

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**OBITUARIES**

- GILBERT T. HAUB
- RAYNOLD LEE BEACH
- IRENE HARRIS

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- MENARDS

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## YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

A look back at some of the top Rochelle News-Leader stories of the past year

**July 3**  
**ROCHELLE**—After a referendum passed on Tuesday, the Creston-Dement Library District is now able to issue \$2.2 million in bonds to build a new library building.

A total of 163 votes were seen on the issue in the Dement precinct with 117 voting in favor of the new library and 46 against it.

The total cost of the project is \$2.6 million. At least \$400,000 of that will be covered by grant dollars. With a 3.75 percent interest rate, which is the lowest and where the market is now, the property tax increase on a homeowner with a \$100,000 home will be \$72 on an annual basis. At 4.75 percent, the worst scenario for an interest rate, it's a \$79 year property tax increase for a \$100,000 home.

The process of bringing a new library to Creston has taken about 10 years. The main reason for the desire for a new building



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
**After a referendum passed in July, the Creston-Dement Library District is now able to issue \$2.2 million in bonds to build a new library building.**

is the library outgrowing its current space at 107 S. Main St. The new library would be built at the corner of Main and Cederholm Streets on land that was donated years ago for a new library.

"The library is a very important part of the community," Creston-Dement Library Board Member Doug Kroupa said prior to the vote. "What we'll see in town coming down Main Street if the referendum passes will be a new library that will be just about 7,500 square feet. This is a great time to do it.

We're at low interest rates. The prices of materials are coming down. We're out of room in this facility."

**July 6**  
**ROCHELLE** — Fuel costs have risen around \$2 per gallon between just before spring planting

and now for Steward-area corn, soybean and cattle farmer Dean Sveta. Fuel tanks on tractors can range between 250-425 gallons. "That adds up a lot when you're filling up a tractor," Sveta said.

**See page 8**

## RTHS students launch HubsREAD podcast

Learn what Hubs read, their favorite genres and authors

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Township High School Librarian Ann Marie Jenkins applied for and received a "My Library Is..." grant from the Reaching Across Illinois Library System in Spring 2022. This marketing grant purchased a large-scale poster printer and podcasting equipment. The goal is to increase student awareness of great books and fun activities at their local libraries.

She discussed ideas with Library Media Center regulars and decided to launch a weekly podcast which is written, hosted and recorded by student volunteers interviewing students and staff.

Members of the HubsREAD crew include Avery Auld, Caitlyn Brown, Manuel Cruz, Storm Devers, Nick Novak, Caleb Page, Evan Patrick, Austin Salter, Lucas Smardo, William Sunderlin, Jenna Tesinsky and Arista Vaupel. The students mastered recording on a Zoom PodTrak P4 and next semester, they will



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
**Flagg-Rochelle Public Library Director Sarah Flanagan and Manuel Cruz.**

learn the Audacity software and take over editing tasks from Mrs. Jenkins.

In December, Dr. Chris Lewis, RTHS Principal, presented Mrs. Jenkins with the RTHS staff critical thinking award for starting the podcast and engaging students in a new way.

"We appreciate and have come to depend on Mrs. Jenkins' never-ending enthusiasm for her

library media center and her phenomenal efforts to make it a destination for the students," Lewis said.

The team has recorded episodes remotely at Creston-Dement Public Library and Flagg-Rochelle Public Library.

Episode one features Aiden, a cross country runner, interviewed by Evan, Lucas and Storm. The team includes show notes and

related links that take you to the titles discussed.

In episode two, bragging rights and a bag of candy are on the line as Manuel and Evan describe 10 unnamed books for the first contestants, Chris and David.

In episode three, golfers and cross country runners David, Annaliese, and Cale discuss sports and favorite books with hosts Jenna,

Evan, and Lucas.

By episode four, the team was confident enough to take a road trip to the Creston-Dement Public Library! Austin and Storm met the Dungeons & Dragons Club so that Evan, Jack, Nick, and Jake could discuss favorite books, campaigns, and, of course, dragons.

**See RTHS page 5**

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Kishwaukee College celebrates fall 2022 graduates

**MALTA** — Kishwaukee College held its fall 2022 commencement ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 17 in the gymnasium with 74 students attending to commemorate their achievements.

The ceremony recognized graduates who earned associate degrees, certificates of completion, short-term training credentials, and Illinois high school diploma credentials. Overall, approximately 200 students completed a program or certificate requirement for the fall 2022 semester.

Ethan Rutten, who graduated with an associate in applied science degree in marketing & management, served as the student speaker during the ceremony. Rutten shared a story of how he was inspired by a woman who earned her bachelor's degree at 93 years old. Rutten emphasized there is no time limit for accomplishing life goals.

"Kishwaukee College has afforded me so many opportunities and experiences over the years and has allowed me to balance both life and accomplishing my dreams," Rutten said. "So, graduates, let us go from here today and always remember that it is never too late to accomplish our dreams or make the world



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Kishwaukee College graduate Kylee Heck crosses the stage at the college's commencement ceremony on Dec. 17 after receiving her associate in arts degree. Kish celebrated the fall 2022 graduates, with 74 students attending the ceremony.**

a better place. I know that we can, and I know that we will."

Along with Rutten, students heard remarks from Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee Col-

lege; Bob Johnson, Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees chair; and Tammy Tiggelaar, associate professor of business, marketing & management. Tiggelaar highlighted the challenge-

es the class overcame in earning a degree during a pandemic and encouraged the students to carry on that resolve as they take their next steps.

"Your college degree is

a starting point. You need to continue to set goals and dream it, dedicate yourself to achieving those goals, and just do it," Tiggelaar said. "Become a lifelong learner. You've proved that

you can be successful at it."

The ceremony was livestreamed on Kish's social media channels and website. To view the ceremony, visit [kish.edu/commencement](http://kish.edu/commencement).

## Kishwaukee College recognizes nursing students during pinning ceremony

**MALTA** — Kishwaukee College nursing students were honored by faculty, administration and staff during a pinning ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the college. Kish recognized 26 students for their successful completion of the registered nursing program and presented each graduate with a special pin before family and friends during the ceremony.

The registered nursing graduating class of fall 2022 are:

Tommy Ambrose, Kyle Aldridge, Heather Carlson, Andrea Carmona, Michelle Christiansen, Alex Cluff, Stephanie Curry, Amanda DeClue, Samantha Fox, Hanna Johnson, Grace Johnson, Fatjona Kamberi, Mandi Lamb, Andrea Lazcano, Evanthisa Matarangas, Ngan Melton, David Rodriguez Rosales, Jonathan Rodriguez, Nicole Scullion, Nicole Sheets, Taylor Smith, Joshua

Stratton, Stephanie Tasso, Aubrey Villarreal, Zachary Wheeler and Brittany Williams.

Carlson, Cluff, DeClue, Kamberi, Lamb, Rodriguez, Sheets, Smith, Stratton, Villarreal and Williams were recognized as members of the Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honors Society. Alex Cluff was the fall 2022 class's nomination for the Nursing Program's Outstanding Student. Cluff's remarks highlighted the assistance family and loved ones provided, as well as the support and care the Kish staff offered to help the graduates reach their goals.

"You are all going to be the most amazing nurses. I hope that the hospitals that are lucky enough to have you are worthy of your determination and your heart," Cluff said. "Good luck to you all, wherever your journeys take you."

The ceremony included an address from Dr. Laurie

Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College, and Angela Delmont, director of nursing. Delmont reminded the graduates they will always have the support of the college as they take the next step in their career or education.

"This pivotal moment represents the transition from nursing student to a full-fledged nurse," Delmont said. "To be a nurse is a great privilege. Go out and make a difference and believe in yourself. We at Kishwaukee College will always be cheering you on."

Most of the graduating class have found positions in local hospitals, and many will pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing. Graduate Taylor Smith cited the group's built-in support system for helping them find success both inside and outside the classroom.

"I really enjoyed getting to know everyone and making lifelong friends.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Graduates of the Kishwaukee College Registered Nursing Program recite the Nursing Pledge during Kish's Fall 2022 Nursing Pinning Ceremony. Graduates were presented with a special pin before family and friends during the ceremony, which recognized the successful completion of the program.**

Working as a group helped us get through the challenging times," Smith said.

During the ceremony, each graduate was individually pinned by a friend or

family member who had supported the student or acted as a mentor while completing the program.

The registered nursing program at Kishwaukee College prepares students

to become fully licensed registered nurses in Illinois.

For more information on nursing at Kishwaukee College, visit [kish.edu/nursing](http://kish.edu/nursing).

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

From All of Us at **ROCHELLE News-Leader**



# LOCAL NEWS

## New Ogle County 4-H ambassadors honored

**OREGON** — Five Ogle County 4-H members are new Ogle County 4-H Ambassadors for the 2022-2023 4-H year. They include Elizabeth Armbruster, Oregon; Trent Heller, Dixon; Grant Johnson, Forreston; Gracie Prose, Oregon; and Molly Ziegler, Oregon. All five members completed a rigorous application and interview process that screened candidates for leadership abilities, 4-H expertise and communication skills. As 4-H Ambassadors, this team will represent the county 4-H program at various events and activities in Ogle County throughout the 4-H year.

Armbruster is a first-year 4-H ambassador and a four-year Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club member. Elizabeth's main project area is interior design. Elizabeth has helped her club with community service projects, such as helping at the nursing home by playing music, singing and pulling weeds. "Knowledge is a valuable asset, and 4-H has given me, as a child, reason to pursue knowledge. I am so glad I joined 4-H and will be sad when I become too old," Elizabeth said.

Heller is a first-year 4-H ambassador and an eight-year Grand Detour Greens 4-H Club member. He is serving as the federation treasurer, and his main project areas are poultry and woodworking. Trent is the Key Club president at school, on the student council and choir, a LEAD representative, National Honor Society Member and FCS Key Club most service hours. He is on the basketball, volleyball and soccer teams and is a member of the trap shooting team. Trent shared that the connection to people through the years, the ability to serve and help people, and overall development have helped him develop and work towards his future goals.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**New Ogle County 4-H Ambassadors for the 2022-2023 4-H year. Pictured are (left to right) Grant Johnson, Forreston; Trent Heller, Dixon; Molly Ziegler, Oregon; Elizabeth Armbruster, Oregon; and Gracie Prose, Oregon.**

Johnson is a first-year 4-H ambassador and an 11-year Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club member. Grant's main project areas are poultry and welding. He is the reporter of his 4-H Club and the chairman of the Leaf River Christmas Light Parade committee. He has participated in the Ogle County 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology Team. At school, Grant is on the servant leader organization and academic team, plays basketball and football and participates in the trap shooting team. He has volunteered at the children's farm at the Ogle County Fair and helped set

up, tear down and work the farm daily during the fair. He has earned many awards with 4-H, including grand champion in welding, and qualified for judging at the Illinois State Fair. Grant commented, "I have learned how to have confidence in doing all things. I have gained friends as a 4-H member and learned to work together as a team."

Prose is a second-year 4-H ambassador and a 10-year member of the Carefree 4-H Club. Gracie's major project area is leadership. Gracie has been her club secretary for four years and a member of the Ogle County 4-H Federation, where she currently is the president.

Gracie has also taken her leadership roles to the Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team, where she is the co-social chairman. At school, Gracie is an active student council member, serving as the community service chairman for two years. She is on the volleyball team, soccer team and band. She has participated in numerous community service projects that show how willing she is to give back to her community. Gracie shared that, "4-H has not only helped me gain leadership and communication skills, but friendships as well. 4-H has opened many doors for opportunities that I would've never thought were available to me. I

have gained great life lessons along with valuable leadership skills that I can carry with me for the rest of my life."

Ziegler is a first-year 4-H ambassador and an eight-year member of the Carefree 4-H Club. Molly's main project areas are dogs and horses. Molly has served as her club reporter for two years. She participates in FFA and serves on the building communities committee. Molly has participated in many community services, such as volunteering at Pegasus Special Riders, Kids and K9s 4-H Club and the FFA Christmas tree sales. She earned the Miss Mal Award, awarded to a student with notable

leadership skills. Molly says that, "4-H has opened the door to opportunities in dog and horse training that has led to successes in both areas. It has allowed me to grow in my leadership and education and has allowed me opportunities to share my knowledge with other young people."

Elizabeth, Trent, Grant, Gracie, and Molly began their ambassador work for 4-H in late September. They were recently honored at the county 4-H Achievement Celebration on Nov. 13. All look forward to a busy year, including promoting 4-H in local parades, conducting classroom presentations and staffing displays at community events.

## New project to boost youth health data literacy skills

A project to increase the health data literacy of youth has received funding through the University of Illinois Extension's Collaboration Grant Program. Assistant Professor Rachel M. Magee will lead the project, "Health Data Literacy Ambassadors," with Associate Professors Catherine Blake and Jana Diesner serving as co-investigators. Funded through the Office of the Provost's Investment

for Growth Program and University of Illinois Extension, the grant supports research and partnerships that address critical issues in five key areas: food, economy, environment, community and health.

In the two-year project, iSchool researchers and extension staff will build on existing 4-H Ambassadors and Advocate models to create a Health Data Literacy Ambassadors program.

"Our interdisciplinary collaboration connects

researchers with expertise in health informatics, data analytics, youth services, and youth community engagement with extension experts deeply experienced with positive youth development, health, nutrition, and wellness," Magee said.

Fifteen teens from across the state of Illinois will participate as program ambassadors. They will conduct needs assessments of health topics in their communities, develop and conduct

data analytics projects to address issues that arise from their assessments, and present their findings to university and local audiences. University of Illinois students and faculty will serve as mentors and support the teens in their projects.

The 4-H youth chosen for the inaugural team include Taylor Woodring, Jersey County; Brayden Wilson, LaSalle County; Lydia Sherburne, Ogle County; Pritika Jakka, McLean County; Sofie

Heidrich, Kendall County; Taj Dipenshah, Cook County; Elizabeth Martinez, Cook County and Carlos Martinez, Cook County.

"This collaboration has the potential to build a sustainable model for other data literacy ambassador programs for Illinois 4-H, furthering efforts to address critical issue areas across Illinois through the lens of data analytics, continuing to empower youth as change agents, highlight-

ing career pathways, and building connections and new partnerships between local communities and the University," Magee said.

Informed by her background as a public librarian, Magee is a youth advocate who teaches about and researches youth technology and information practices. She holds a PhD in information studies from Drexel University and a master's degree in information resources and library science from the University of Arizona.

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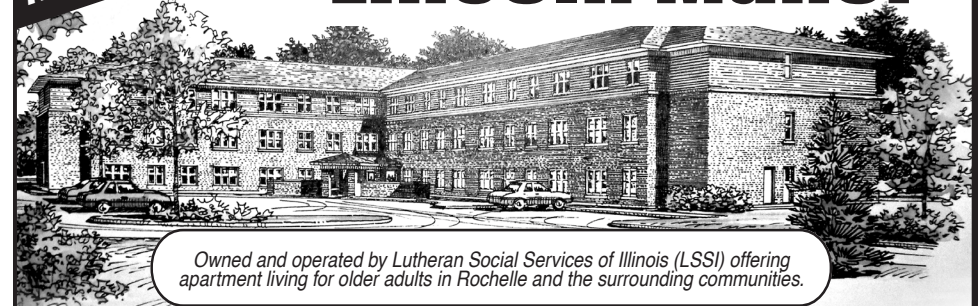
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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Irene Harris

**ROCHELLE** — Irene Harris, 91, of Creston, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born July 19, 1931, in Morristown, Tennessee, the daughter of B.M. and Beulah (Self) Golden. She married Guarld Harris on May 21, 1955, in Rochelle.

Irene loved to play bingo at the VFW. She was a devoted mother and grandmother, who loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Irene is survived by two children, Debbie (Don) Grell of Vanndale, Arkansas and Larry (Kayla) Harris of Creston; three grandchildren, Tonya (Lo-

nie) Sarver, TJ Harris, and Zack Starkweather; five great-grandchildren, Skyler (Chelsea Erickson) Sarver, Makayla Sarver, Caiden Harris, Aiden Harris, and Alyza Harris; special friend, Sandra Chapman; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Irene is preceded in death by her husband, Guarld Harris; four brothers, Jeff, Elmer, Max, and Lester Golden; and four sisters, Lorene Lawless, Linda Daugherty, Agnes Moore, and Judy Pratt.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Rochelle Community Hospital and Unity Hospice for the loving care they provided to Irene.

Funeral service will be at



11:30 A.M. Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St. in Rochelle with Chaplain Judy Williams officiating. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Thursday from 9:30 A.M. until the time of the service. Interment will follow in Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle.

Please visit [www.ung-erhorner.com](http://www.ung-erhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Gilbert T. Haub

**MENDOTA** — Gilbert T. Haub 91 of West Brooklyn passed away Dec. 27, 2022, in Franklin Grove Rehabilitation Center surrounded by his loving family.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31 in St. Mary's Catholic Church West Brooklyn. Rev. Randy Fronek will officiate. Burial will be in St. Mary's cemetery West Brooklyn. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until service time in the church. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Gib was born Jan. 10, 1931 to Joseph and Emma (Schneider) Haub at the family farm in Brooklyn Township just outside of West Brooklyn.

On March 29, 1951 he married the love of his life Celia "Sis" Hoover at St. Mary's Church West

Brooklyn. Gib spent his life in the West Brooklyn area where he served his community and church in many ways. He belonged to the Holy Name Society, the Catholic Order of Foresters, was a member of Lee County Farm Bureau, the West Brooklyn Co-Op, serving as President, and the Inlet Swamp Drainage Commissioner/Chairman.

Gib loved all things related to the farm, especially John Deere. He enjoyed a game of Rummikub and played it until the end. His family was the light of his life.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Sis of West Brooklyn; sons Gary (Wanda) Haub of West Brooklyn and Mark (Alicia) Haub of Knoxville, Tennessee; daughter Jodi (Pete) Beck of Stillman Valley, nine grandchildren, six great grandchil-



dren, and sister Darlene Shaw of Mendota. He was preceded in death by his parents, son David Haub in 1982, brothers Marvin and LeRoy, and sisters Catherine, Flora and Shirley.

Pallbearers will be Dennis Haub, Michael Ellison, Michael Schultz, Pete Beck, Jim Haub and Corey McLaughlin. Memorials may be directed to Serenity Hospice of Oregon or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Condolences may be left at [wasmerfuneral-home.com](http://wasmerfuneral-home.com).

### Raynold Lee Beach

**LINDENWOOD** — Raynold Lee Beach, 91, of Lindenwood left his earthly body to be with the Lord on Dec. 27, 2022 at the Illinois Veterans Home in LaSalle. He was born June 11, 1931 to Ray and Edna (Strang) Beach. He proudly served his country in the US Navy from 1950-1954 during the Korean War.

After leaving the service he returned to northern Illinois and married Patricia Dieterman in March 1955. Six children soon followed: David (Brenda) Beach of Monroe Center, Brian (Jackie) Beach of Geneseo, Debra Dyer of Rochelle, Karen (Leland) Peters of Onaga Kansas, Frank Beach (deceased 2011) and Randy (Kathy) Beach of Lindenwood.

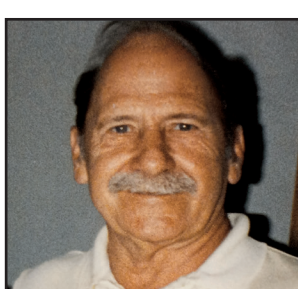
Ray spent 30 years as a testman at Sundstrand Aviation in Rockford, retiring in 1987. He took pride in his work which included many

projects associated with the Space Shuttle. He loved gardening, dog walking and helping others. Retirement consisted of family, travel and caring for Patricia until her death in 1998.

Ray was big brother to six siblings: Darrell (Anna) Beach of Rockford, The late Darlene (Verlis) Sanders of Oregon, Wayne (Joan) Beach of Texas, Thomas (Barbara) Beach of Iowa, Bradley (Beverly) Beach of Chana and Judy (Donald) Hayes also of Chana.

Ray was blessed with fabulous grandchildren: Jennifer, Janelle, Jodi, Jesse C, April, Nicole, Bruce, Jesse M, Troy, Danielle, Mark, Megan, Amber, Tara, Andy, Aaron and Alec. Also 26 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Patricia, sister Darlene, son Frank and grandson Jesse



Corona.

Special thank you to the nurses and staff at the LaSalle Veterans Home and nurse JoJo from St. Margaret's Hospice.

Visitation will be from 9 to 11 a.m. on Monday Jan. 2 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle followed by a grave side service with military honors at Trinity Memory Gardens in Rochelle. Luncheon to follow at the Rochelle VFW Auxiliary. Memorials in his memory can be directed to the Lindenwood Union Church. Visit [www.ung-erhorner.com](http://www.ung-erhorner.com) for online guest book and video tribute.

## Ogle County Sheriff's Department

### Deputies conduct traffic stops

**OREGON** — On Dec. 28 at approximately 12:11 p.m., Deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After a brief investigation, Virginia L. Daniel, age 66 of Chicago, was placed under arrest for no driver's license. Daniel was also cited for improper traffic lane

usage. Daniel was released from the scene on an Individual Bond and provided a future court date.

On Dec. 28 at approximately 10:29 p.m., Ogle County Deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 11000 block of East Holcomb Road. After investigation, Deputies arrested

Todd L. Fager, age 42 of Lindenwood, for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Fager was also issued citations for Improper Lane Usage and Driving on the Wrong Side of the Road. Fager was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held in lieu of bond.

## COVID-related mortgage assistance program reopened

BY JERRY NOWICKI  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

**SPRINGFIELD** — The state reopened a mortgage assistance program for pandemic-impacted homeowners on Nov. 1.

The Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund, run through the Illinois Housing Development Authority, provides up to \$30,000 in assistance to homeowners through payments made directly to mortgage serv-

icers, taxing bodies or other approved entities.

The program is funded through an appropriation from the federal American Rescue Plan Act and can be used for past-due mortgage payments and up to three months of future payments. The funding can also be used for delinquent property taxes, homeowner's insurance, condominium or homeowner association fees, and mobile home lot rent.

Funds received do not need to be repaid.

More information is available at [illinoishousinghelp.org/ilhaf](http://illinoishousinghelp.org/ilhaf), and the application portal will be open from Nov. 1 through the end of January 2023.

"The state of Illinois is committed to ensuring that homeowners who are struggling due to this terrible pandemic can stay in their home," IHDA Executive Director Kristin Faust said in a news release.

"We designed the ILHAF program to ensure the most vulnerable households are prioritized in order to stave off foreclosure to ensure they are given the opportunity to become current on their monthly housing expenses."

To qualify, Illinois homeowners must: Have experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic after Jan. 21, 2020, or a hardship that began before that date and

continued afterward.

Currently own and occupy the home in the state as their primary residence.

Be at least 30 days late on their monthly housing payment.

Have a household income at or below 150 percent of the area median income.

Be able to demonstrate they have either communicated with their mortgage provider about their inability to pay or sought counseling with a federally approved counseling organization.

Individuals who participated in a previous round of mortgage assistance may apply again in the upcoming round, but the maximum amount a person can receive is \$30,000 cumulatively.

As of Sept. 22, the state had approved \$20.5 million in assistance through

the program with 1,840 approved applications, according to IHDA. The average assistance amounted to \$12,732 per household. Another 3,721 applications had been submitted to the servicer, 1,485 were under review, and 6,948 had been denied.

IHDA and its housing partners will hold information sessions on the program, and a schedule is posted online at [illinoishousinghelp.org](http://illinoishousinghelp.org). Information can also be obtained by contacting the ILHAF hotline at 1-866-454-3571.

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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

## RTHS: High school launches new podcast featuring students

From page 1

Episode five features Alayna, Felix, Nick, and Abel discussing their favorite sports and books with hosts Arista, Avery, Austin, Evan, Manuel and Mrs. Jinkins.

Episode six featured Choir Director Cory Ellis and his Madrigal cast.

Episode seven reveals why Maleah, Chris, Gisselle, and Damaris love tennis, softball, basketball, and cross country so much in this episode hosted by Arista, Austin, Avery and Mrs. Jinkins.

Episode eight features Mrs. Jen Howard, a para-professional, and her husband/science teacher Mr. Joe Howard. Together they oversee the Key Club. She is a fan of young adult literature while her husband loves the classics.

Episode nine is all about the 2023 Lincoln Award. Listen in as Mrs. Jinkins, Bella, Ornella, Emily, Kyla, Josilyn, and Manuel discuss which of the nominees they've read so far.

Episode 10: GACME & Artist Jerry Moffitt at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library (Part 1). Caleb and Jerry Moffitt (RTHS 2008) discuss how meaningful comic and manga art can be to both creators and readers.

Episode 11 The Cartwrights Play "Do You Know Your Hub?" Join William, Avery, & Austin as they discover who knows the other better, Mr. or Mrs. Cartwright!

Episodes of our HubsREAD podcast are live online at <https://hubsread.buzzsprout.com/>



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Manny, Caleb & crew promoted their podcast at eighth grade curriculum night.

### Rochelle Area

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Faith Lutheran Church** - (14206 E. Flagg Rd.) - "Making Christ Known Through Lives of Faith." In-person worship is available each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. or online at "Faith Lutheran Social" on YouTube. Worship resources are also available on our Facebook page - 'Faith Lutheran Church ELCA.' You may also e-mail Pastor Joy Alsop at [Pastor@faithlcrochelle.org](mailto: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](http://www.firstbaptistrochelle.org)


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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](mailto: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](http://www.rochelleumc.com). Our services are on the radio (93.5 FM) on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. **Our Facebook page is** [www.facebook.com/rochelleumc](https://www.facebook.com/rochelleumc). **Rev. Dr. Katherine Thomas Paisley, Pastor.** 709 Fourth Ave. (815) 562-2164. [admin@rochelleumc.com](mailto:admin@rochelleumc.com). Everyone is welcome and loved!

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

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



# LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

## Advice to Illinois college students: Study abroad

I have some simple — and unsolicited — advice for Illinois college and university students: Do everything possible to study abroad while you are an undergraduate.

I offer this advice based on personal experience and academic research.

I attended Knox College and spent one semester of my junior year on a London-Florence program that Knox sponsored with several other Midwestern schools. This was my first trip overseas and it not only provided a primer on two remarkable countries, it also allowed me to live and study with students from around the United States who I would never have encountered on the Galesburg campus of Knox.

We spent the first eight weeks in London studying English history, with unforgettable visits to the Houses of Parliament, Hampton Court, and the

Tower of London. Our evenings were devoted to attending plays and concerts. This was followed by eight weeks in Florence, Italy, delving into Italian history and learning about the architectural and artistic splendor of not only Florence but Siena, Padua and Pisa as well.

This was an enriching time for me that sparked a lifelong love of travel and an enduring interest in international affairs.

My wife attended Clark University in Massachusetts and spent her entire junior year abroad thanks to its exchange program with the University of Sussex in Brighton, England. There she and a handful of other “Clarkies” were fully immersed in an English university, living and studying with British students.

Not only did her passion for British history, literature, and theater blossom during the year, but she was also able to

spend school vacations traveling around the United Kingdom and Europe. She made two lifelong British friends that year and now, decades later, speaks to them regularly. My wife counts that year in Sussex as one of her life’s best decisions.

Our experiences are not unique.

The State Department makes a powerful case for study abroad programs. “By studying abroad, you will experience new perspectives, learn how to navigate different cultures, work with diverse peers, and communicate in other languages,” the department says on its website. “Whether you are a future innovator, entrepreneur, engineer, scientist, doctor, journalist, teacher or diplomat, these are the skills that will prepare you to solve the world’s toughest



John T. Shaw

challenges, make you more competitive in the job market and transform you into a responsible engaged citizen.”

In a typical year, more than 300,000 American students study, intern, or volunteer abroad for academic credit on programs ranging from two weeks to a full academic year. Studies reveal that about 80 percent of college freshman say they would like to study abroad but only about 10 percent actually do so before they graduate.

Paul Simon was a passionate advocate for international travel and education, especially for students who used the experience to learn another language. In his book, “The Tongue Tied American,” Simon argued that learning a foreign language enlarges our world and makes us better citizens. Two Illinois lawmakers, U.S. Senator Richard Durbin and U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos, recently joined colleagues on both sides of the political aisle to reintroduce the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act in the U.S. Congress.

The legislation has a number of goals. It seeks to boost the number of undergraduate students studying abroad annually to one million students within 10 years; increase the number of minority students, first generation college students, community college students and students with disabilities who study abroad; grow the number of students who study in nontraditional destinations, with an emphasis on economically developing nations; and encourage colleges and universities to place a greater emphasis on study abroad programs.

The bill includes competitive grants for colleges and universities to help them expand access to study abroad programs. It also allows grants to be used to help offset individual student costs related to study abroad — which can be a barrier.

According to CollegeVine, 50 Illinois colleges and universities offer study abroad programs, providing important opportunities for their students.

I encourage students to study overseas, make new friends, see the world — and then return home and make Illinois better.

*Editor’s Note: This op-ed was distributed by Capitol News Illinois on behalf of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. The opinions expressed in this article are the author’s own.*

John T. Shaw is the director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Shaw’s monthly column explores how Illinois can work toward better politics and smarter government.

## That’s a line I won’t cross

An ambulance arrived at a U.S. senator’s house recently and hauled his 14-year-old daughter away for self-inflicted stab wounds.

When I read that news report earlier this month, I just cringed.

That child didn’t choose to be a politician’s daughter. And her problems shouldn’t be exhibited in the news media for all the world to discuss. Fortunately, the staff of the senator, who represents a southwestern state, said her wounds were not life threatening.

Most every news report I’ve read identified the child and her father. I’m sorry, that’s a line I won’t cross.

News organizations shouldn’t write about the travails of politicians’ children unless it would otherwise be newsworthy or the parent misuses their power to get the kid out of trouble.

I have three daughters

ages 12, 14 and 17. It’s never been easy to be a teenager and its especially hard when you have a parent who holds elective office. Your life is in a fishbowl.

Don’t believe me? Well, during every election cycle, I receive phone calls from people telling me about the alleged transgressions of the children of politicians. Yes, every election.

Sometimes the folks who make these calls are political operatives. But often they are ordinary people wanting to feel better about their own screwed up family by pointing out the faults in someone else’s.

This year, I received a call from a member of a prominent Democratic family who reported that the son of two Republican officeholders was ticketed for underage drinking when he was a high school student.

I looked up the case, found that the judicial

system treated the young man like just about everyone else and declined to do a story.

A few years ago, the son of a prominent Springfield politician was arrested on a minor drug charge. I was sitting at the kitchen table reading about the arrest in the city’s daily newspaper when my sister-in-law, who had taught the young man, began hollering, “You’d better not write a story about him. He’s a good kid!”

I replied that I didn’t consider it newsworthy. In fact, I believe the competing newspaper’s reporting to be gratuitously cruel. Still, my sister-in-law eyed me with a bit of suspicion.

When one news organization does something, often everyone in the industry gets painted with the same broad brush.

When I was a young

reporter in Galveston, Texas, the son of a judge was arrested for stalking his ex-girlfriend. During the preliminary hearing, the defendant’s father, who was sitting in the back of the courtroom, rose and addressed the presiding judge as a “friend of the court.” He asked for leniency for his son from a fellow member of the judiciary.

I reported the entire incident because it struck me that his father was misusing his influence to see that his son received preferential treatment.

In 1991, when I was reporter in Iowa, the 16-year-old son of Gov. Terry Branstad was driving home from his part-time job when he was involved in a head-on collision that killed two people.

A two-person fatality would normally warrant a short story with the names

of everyone involved. Ultimately, Eric Branstad was ticketed for improper lane usage and fined \$15.

In the end, media reporting allowed voters to decide whether the prosecutor in the case handled the matter appropriately.

When I was a legislative reporter, a state senator I covered adopted a troubled boy who had been a ward of the state. It can’t be easy to be raising a kid in an environment where everyone knows your family’s business.

For years, I would receive phone calls from the senator’s political adversaries about his boy’s latest transgressions. The malicious calls were an effort to hurt the senator by attacking his child.

I never printed any of the assertions. Why? Because the child isn’t the one holding public office and none of us get to choose our parents. Besides that, it’s got to be hell to be raised in an environment where

everyone knows your mistakes.

In 2007, the son took his own life. I was glad I never reported on any of his transgressions. My conscience is clear.

Ronald Reagan’s daughter Patti Davis once wrote in the Washington Post: “Unfortunately, for political sons and daughters, the fear of how you will be perceived as you go about your life, as you pursue your dreams and goals, underlies everything. It’s a toxic way to live. You have to constantly second-guess yourself, as in, ‘If I were anyone else, this would be a great opportunity, but it’s probably just being offered because of who my father is, and even if it isn’t, it could look that way.’”

No one should be forced to live that way.

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.

### 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

### KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

\* Denotes Chairman/President

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\*John Bearrows jbearrows@rochelleil.us  
Kathryn Shaw-Dickey kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us  
Steve Builta sbuilta@gmail.com  
Ashley Jackson ajackson@d231.rochelle.net  
Stephanie White swhite@d231.rochelle.net  
Eric Van Hise eric.vanhise@gmail.com  
Trisha Vaughn jrvtlv02@msn.com  
Javier Zepeda jzepeda@rthsd212.org

#### Rochelle Elementary School Board

\*Dave Casey dcillini94@gmail.com  
Steve Builta sbuilta@gmail.com  
Ashley Jackson ajackson@d231.rochelle.net  
Stephanie White swhite@d231.rochelle.net  
Eric Van Hise eric.vanhise@gmail.com  
Trisha Vaughn jrvtlv02@msn.com  
Javier Zepeda jzepeda@rthsd212.org

#### Rochelle Township High School Board

\*Tom Huddleston tom.huddleston@rthsd212.org  
Carol Hayenga carol.hayenga@rthsd212.org  
Bill Ravnaas bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org  
Jacky Aguilera jacky.aguilera@rthsd212.org  
Jeff Tilton jeff.tilton@rthsd212.org  
Bobby Chadwick bobby.chadwick@rthsd212.org  
Brian VanVickle brian.vanvickle@rthsd212.org

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Brent Carmichael bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org  
John Dobbs jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org  
Dale Wells dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org  
\*Tim Hayden thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org  
Jodie Hart jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org  
Joe Lenkaitis jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org

#### Ogle County Board Dist. 3

Lloyd Droege ldroege@oglecounty.org  
Dan Miller dmiller@oglecounty.org  
Greg Sparrow gsparrow@oglecounty.org

#### Ogle County Board Dist. 4

Bruce McKinney bmckinney@oglecounty.org  
Skip Kenney skenney@oglecounty.org  
David Williams dwilliams@oglecounty.org

#### Creston Village Board

Wayne Williams jwdw13@yahoo.com  
Jennifer Payton  
\*Tom Byro tommyb\_47@yahoo.com  
Greg Hopkins ghopkins522@comcast.net  
Steve Katzman skatzman@essex1.com  
Mike Kerns ac.kerns@comcast.net  
Mark Hibshman  
Curt Ward caward92@comcast.net

#### Hillcrest Village Board

\*Randy Salsbury rsalsbury@hillcrestil.us  
Pam Pittman ppittman@hillcrestil.us  
Dan Potter dpotter@hillcrestil.us  
Richard Rhoads rrhoads@hillcrestil.us  
Tim Ball tball@hillcrestil.us  
Renee Kerwin rkerwin@hillcrestil.us

#### Flagg Township

\*Bob Withrow flaggtwp@rochelle.net  
Joanna Patrick flaggtwpc@rochelle.net  
Susan Rothenberger assessor@rochelle.net  
Scott Seebach scottseebach@gmail.com

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Eric Gruben egruben@comcast.net  
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\*Jaqueline Dickow dickow@comcast.net  
Teresa Haggstad haggstads@comcast.net  
Michael Scanlan scanlan@comcast.net  
Lanning Nicoloff nicoloff118@comcast.net  
Sheri Klindera alwayslefty2@gmail.com  
Susan Sevedge nit1prl22@yahoo.com  
Darci Waltrip doobs12@comcast.net

### 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



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
Members of the Ashton Franklin Center FFA Chapter traveled to Chicago to accept the award of Illinois Ag in the Classroom Volunteer of the Year. Chapter members present to accept the award were (L-R) Zane Murphy, Kelly Viall (advisor) and Kate Viall.

## AFC FFA chapter receives Ag in the Classroom award

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

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

Volunteering with the Whiteside County Ag in the Classroom program, it’s a family effort for the Mitchell Family to share their experiences with their melon farm outside of Tampico. Like an ever expanding melon vine, the family, including Jeanne Mitchell, Whitney Mitchell-DeWitte, Greg Mitchell and Jean Mitchell, plants the seeds of knowledge regarding their specialty area in agriculture by sharing their passion with students. Family members present to accept the award were Jeanne Mitchell, Doug Mitchell, Brandon DeWitte and Whitney DeWitte.

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

Rounding off the local recognitions by Illinois Ag in the Classroom was Natalie Pratt from Dixon. While COVID 19 protocols dictated that schools were remote learning, Illinois Ag in the Classroom transitioned its lessons online as well, partnering with students, including local Amboy High School student, Natalie Pratt, to host virtual farm tours and lessons. Pratt featured a series titled “Natalie’s Awesome Agriculture” from 2020-2021 and was recognized for her efforts to bring agriculture lessons and facts through social media.

Ag in the Classroom provides free fun and educational resources to teachers and students throughout Illinois by partnering with local Ag in the Classroom programs throughout the state, including Lee and Whiteside Counties. For more information about Illinois Ag in the Classroom, visit [agintheclassroom.org](http://agintheclassroom.org).

### 2022 From The Heart Calendar

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 Prestegard, 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

### MAGIC MAZE • LAST NIGHT'S PARTY

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

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

Cab ride  
Champagne  
Cheering  
Confetti

Countdown  
Dancing  
Festive  
Fireworks

Friends  
Hats  
Midnight  
Mistletoe

Music  
Streamers  
Toasts

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Answers

Super Crossword

LAST NIGHT'S PARTY

### HOCUS-FOCUS

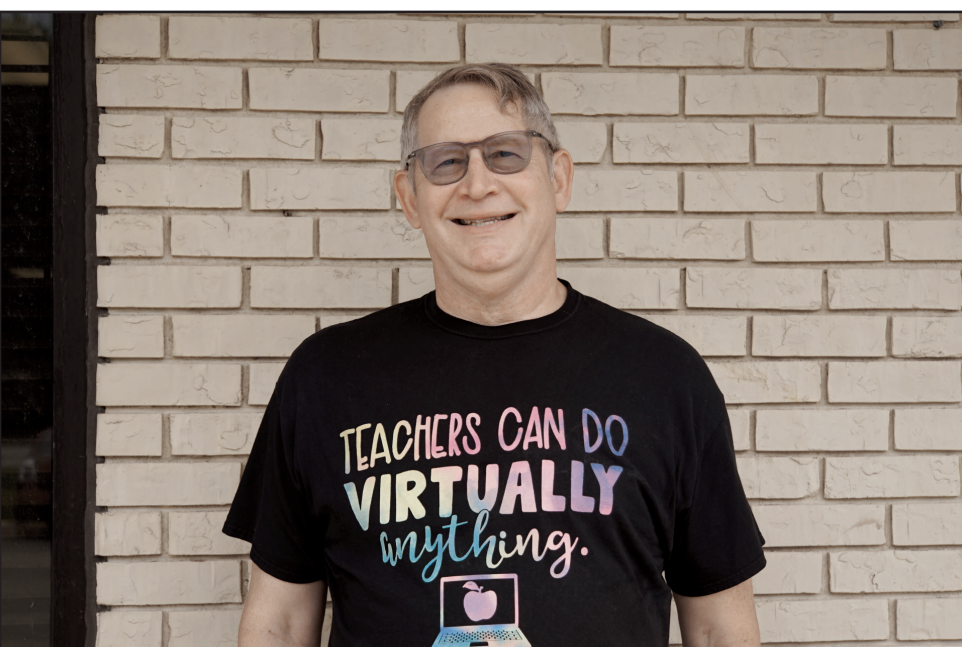


Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Mailbox is missing; 2. Cap is reversed; 3. Number is different; 4. Sign is missing; 5. Backs are missing; 6. Chair is missing; 7. Sign is missing; 8. Chair is missing; 9. Sign is missing; 10. Chair is missing; 11. Sign is missing; 12. Chair is missing; 13. Sign is missing; 14. Chair is missing; 15. Sign is missing; 16. Chair is missing; 17. Sign is missing; 18. Chair is missing; 19. Sign is missing; 20. Chair is missing; 21. Sign is missing; 22. Chair is missing; 23. Sign is missing; 24. Chair is missing; 25. Sign is missing; 26. Chair is missing; 27. Sign is missing; 28. Chair is missing; 29. Sign is missing; 30. Chair is missing; 31. Sign is missing; 32. Chair is missing; 33. Sign is missing; 34. Chair is missing; 35. Sign is missing; 36. Chair is missing; 37. Sign is missing; 38. Chair is missing; 39. Sign is missing; 40. Chair is missing; 41. Sign is missing; 42. Chair is missing; 43. Sign is missing; 44. Chair is missing; 45. Sign is missing; 46. 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# YEAR IN REVIEW



**Rochelle Middle School shop teacher Mark Papke (left) retired earlier this year after 30 years at RMS. A ribbon cutting for Studio C Dance (right) was held in August by the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce. The business, located at 101 8th Ave. (Teen Town), offers dance classes for ages 3-18 in different styles and has competitive and recreational environments for anyone that wants to participate.**

**From page 1**

“\$5 a gallon for fuel, that’s about \$1,000 every time you fuel up. You try not to think about it.”

Fuel prices aren’t the only input expense that farmers have seen rise. Prices of chemicals like fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia and weed control have skyrocketed and have been in shorter supply. Oil and any oil-based products are up in price. Svela said seed costs increased by just a little, and he was surprised that they didn’t increase more.

“Anything that goes into our everyday lifestyle as far as building a crop for the fall,” Svela said. “All of our inputs have seen prices rise.”

The lowest percentage increase that Rochelle-area sweet corn, corn and soybean farmer Jeff Rainwater has seen on an input from last year to this year is six percent. The highest he’s seen is a 19 percent increase.

Farmers often utilize fuel contracts that can get them ahead of the game if prices rise afterwards. But Rainwater’s contract expired at the end of 2021 and by then, prices were already higher and have gone up since.

“Fuel prices are ridiculous compared to a year ago,” Rainwater said. “It’s been going in this direction for a while now. It’s troublesome when you’re trying to run a business. And it’s for no real good reason.”

## July 10

**ROCHELLE** — Mark Papke’s mantra as a shop teacher at Rochelle Middle School when speaking to students was “plan your work, work your plan.”

Papke retired earlier this year after 30 years at RMS. The reason he got into teaching was because he enjoys helping others and showing them how

a process goes. He likes seeing students’ eyes light up when they learn something. He wanted to teach kids to present the best possible project when they take it home finished for their moms and dads.

“I just loved seeing that lightbulb go off and showing them how to use tools and go step-by-step,” Papke said. “I just loved to give students an idea and have them see the process. I think I made an impact on people’s lives. I had a couple that said, ‘Now I know how to build things. Thank you. No one ever taught me before.’”

In Papke’s shop class, sixth graders learned drafting and made can projects and bird houses. Seventh graders worked with plastics and made higher-level can projects and bird houses. Eighth graders did woodworking, learned mass production and again made can projects.

“It was my dream job and I interviewed for it in 1992 and I got it,” Papke said. “Kids loved to make bird houses. They’d bring them home and I’d see parents in the grocery store and they’d tell me they loved it. We made planes, boats and tractors. All sorts of things. I helped with intramurals and the HUB Program after school. I was head wrestling coach for a couple of years. I did the gamut.”

## July 17

**ROCHELLE** — In spring 2020 when Shay Ward and her family were living in Aurora, somebody in their neighborhood put up a little free library (LFL). It was during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown and the family enjoyed it and set out to find other LFLs.

The family loved the idea so much, it decided it wanted one of their own. Ward’s father made up some plans and built it himself. The shingles and

siding were hand-cut and it took him several months to build.

But in the summer of 2020, Ward’s 15-year-old daughter, Ellie, passed away unexpectedly. Last summer, the Ward family moved to Rochelle. This June to mark the two-year anniversary of losing Ellie, the entire family planted a tree and placed a memorial stone in her honor. They also launched the LFL at their 7th Avenue home with a plaque marked in memory of Ellie.

The LFL is stocked with a variety of books for kids, teens, and adults. The books are “always a gift, never for sale” and there’s no need to return them. People can pass books on to others or bring them back for others to enjoy. Books can also be donated to keep the library stocked. The Ward family’s LFL is charter #148288 and can be found on the LFL app or the website [www.LittleFreeLibrary.org](http://www.LittleFreeLibrary.org).

“It was kind of cathartic to have everyone at our house that day,” Ward said. “Everyone was happy to be together to honor Ellie’s memory in a positive way. The kids were helpful and it felt like a bonding experience. It was a therapeutic way to work through the process of losing her. I think it helped all of us.”

## Aug. 7

**ROCHELLE** — After starting Studio C Dance on her own last fall, Cecillia Stover expected to have 20 dancers. Her first season finished in May with over 100 dancers on stage at a recital.

A ribbon cutting for Studio C Dance was held Tuesday by the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce. The business, located at 101 Eighth Ave. (Teen Town), offers dance classes for ages 3-18 in different styles and has competitive and recreational environments for anyone that



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**In July, the Ward family installed a little free library in honor of Ellie Ward, their 15-year-old daughter that passed away in 2020. The family gathered to fill the library and honor her memory.**

wants to participate.

Stover has danced her entire life and has spent the past seven years teaching for other studios. Once she started teaching dance, she realized that was her passion, rather than dancing herself.

“I was probably put into dance by my mom just for something to do when I was about three. But it ended up being my passion,” Stover said. “When I was 16, I went and stayed out in New York by myself and trained with Joffrey and then I went to school at Columbia for dance. There’s a huge group of people in Rochelle who

love to dance like I do. They deserve somebody who’s passionate about it to teach it to them and a program that is actually going to serve them whether they want to just do it for fun or do something with it after high school.”

## Aug. 10

**ROCHELLE** — On Friday, Kennay Farms Distilling hosted a tapping event for Homefront IPA, a beer brewed in collaboration with Hops for Heroes that supports military service members and veterans.

Hops for Heroes is a campaign by national non-

profit Soldiers’ Angels that works with craft breweries of all sizes like Kennay Farms Distilling. 100 percent of proceeds from the beer will be donated to the nonprofit.

Kennay Farms was one of 14 breweries in the U.S. to participate and was sent the ingredients and recipe by Soldiers’ Angels. Along with the first tapping of the beer, the Friday event also featured raffles and giveaways, guest appearances, and complimentary appetizers by Acres Bistro, Brewski’s Bar & Grill and Flight Deck Bar & Grill.

**See page 9**

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# YEAR IN REVIEW



In August, Kennay Farms Distilling (left) hosted a tapping event for Homefront IPA, a beer brewed in collaboration with Hops for Heroes that supports military service members and veterans. On Aug. 25, longtime Colonial Flowers Flowers & Gifts Owner Naomi Baldwin (right) was awarded the Blackhawk Waterways Tourism in Northwest Illinois Above & Beyond for Tourism Award at the organization's annual dinner at Chicagoland Skydiving Center.



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

## From page 8

Soldiers' Angels provided assistance to more than 982,000 service members, veterans, wounded heroes and their families in 2021 alone. Kennay Farms Distilling Owner Doris Kennay said Friday that the cause is near and dear to her family's hearts.

"We have several veterans in our family," Kennay said. "In our production area, we have a veterans wall where my dad and Rick's dad are shown along with several uncles and cousins and our nephew, Adam. We always like to honor them."

## Aug. 21

**ROCHELLE** — A movie crew recently wrapped up filming in the area including locations in Rochelle and Creston.

"Dandelions" stars Scott Michael Foster, Kate Cobb and Kevin Bigley and is about a writer that returns to his rural hometown filled with the friends and places that he's used as inspiration in his successful novels.

"When he comes home to pick up the pieces after his dad dies, he's faced with those people," Bigley, also the writer and executive producer of the film, said. "They're seemingly OK with his success, but what transpires is kind of this twilight zone series of events that makes him unable to leave. His car doesn't work and his phone stops working and he starts to feel like he's potentially being kept there and all of these people that are seemingly fine with his success might be harboring some resentment and a form of payback. It plays with his own perception."

The "Dandelions" film was born out of a short that was shot by the group in Bigley's hometown in Northern California, which he said is similar to rural Illinois. When their production company, Dandelions

Movie, LLC, partnered with executive producers Chicago Media Angels, the story was envisioned in rural Illinois.

"As we did more research and scouting, we found these towns that were kind of a perfect fit," Bigley said. "Not one town in particular was a standout. They all had their own unique buildings and personalities."

The crew set up home base at a hotel in DeKalb and did location scouting and filming around the area including in Rochelle, Esmond, Creston, Malta, DeKalb, Sycamore and Dundee.

## Sept. 7

**ROCHELLE** — On Aug. 25, longtime Colonial Flowers Flowers & Gifts Owner Naomi Baldwin was awarded the Blackhawk Waterways Tourism in Northwest Illinois Above & Beyond for Tourism Award at the organization's annual dinner at Chicagoland Skydiving Center.

Blackhawk Waterways looks to promote tourism in the Northwest Illinois counties of Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside.

Baldwin has owned Colonial Flowers Flowers & Gifts since 1968 and has spent those 54 years trying to bring customers and improvement to the downtown area and business community.

The tourism award surprised Baldwin, who attended the dinner but did not expect it. Her daughter, Robin, and other family members were told ahead of time and Robin presented the award to Baldwin.

"Really seldom do I get surprised by things," Baldwin said. "I can usually tell. I got emotional that evening, especially with my daughter doing the presentation. I guess it makes me proud, because I'm really into Rochelle. I think Rochelle is really a great town. We have

so much to offer, so it's easy to promote Rochelle. From the railroad park to Chicagoland Skydiving Center. To talk about what Rochelle has to offer, it's easy for me. I feel blessed to be where I'm at."

## Sept. 14

**ROCHELLE** — A family with longstanding ties to the Rochelle community has purchased the building at 1010 N. 15th St. that formerly housed the Kishwaukee Family YMCA Child Care Center and plans to open it as a daycare again this year.

Ron and Joni Spartz are the new owners of the building and daycare and their daughter, Kristin Spartz Barlow, will run it as its director. Rochelle has been without a daycare since 2020 when Kishwaukee Family YMCA Child Care Center closed. The City of Rochelle took on preliminary work after the closure in hopes of a daycare coming back to town. It put out a survey to residents last year that came back with overwhelming results in favor of a daycare with 72 percent of respondents saying they're in need of a daycare and 71 percent saying their children would be likely to attend a daycare if it opened in town.

"We saw online that there were a lot of people talking about how there's no childcare here in town," Barlow said. "I've been working in childcare since 2015. It was just sad to see what happened to the daycare situation in Rochelle. I have friends who worked here, my kids went here. I have friends who had kids going here when it closed. It's like nothing was happening for years. I heard it was going to come up for sale. I got the information and went to my mom and talked to her."

**ROCHELLE** — On Saturday at the Rochelle Municipal Airport, the Rochelle Area Community



(COURTESY PHOTO)

In August, a movie crew wrapped up filming in the area including locations in Rochelle and Creston.

Foundation hosted the first annual Planes, Trains & Automobiles fundraiser event.

The RACF and presenting sponsors Zekelman Industries and the City of Rochelle and Rochelle Municipal Utilities put on the event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the proceeds of which will support the RACF and its nonprofit mission as it looks forward to strengthening its community impact. Along with unique aircraft and train exhibits, the event featured cars from each decade going back an entire century including vehicles from The Hamilton Collection, which exhibited several hyper cars from its \$30 million collection.

The event also included an online-only silent auction and food vendors.

"Today has by far exceeded our expectations," RACF Executive Director Emily Anaya said. "The amount of people that have come out in support of this event is truly amazing. We've had people come all the way from California. We have local people here and people from surrounding areas. It's been a great turnout. I think it's been very family-oriented and has brought out a diverse group. It's fun for all."

## Sept. 25

**ROCHELLE** — Now overlooking the downtown gazebo area is a 54-by-24-foot mural depicting flowers and insects.

The mural was designed and painted by local artists and siblings Mat and Mandey Steder and commissioned by the City of Rochelle. Mat owns a tattoo shop downtown and Mandey is a graphic designer.

The Steder siblings said feedback from passersby and social media has been positive since they started work on the mural.

"I think we were looking for something that was for all ages that everyone could relate to," Mandey said. "It brightens up this area. A lot of events are held down here. It's just non-specific. It's floral and it goes with the outdoors. People seem to be loving it when they walk by, no matter the age of the person."

## Oct. 2

**ROCHELLE** — On Tuesday, a ceremony was held dedicating the Illinois Route 251 overpass in the heart of Rochelle to the memory of the late State Sen. John B. "Jack" Roe.

In 1976, Sen. Roe was approached by local civic

and business leaders to obtain assistance and funding to place an overpass on then-U.S. Route 51 through Rochelle. At that time, U.S. Route 51 was the major north-south thoroughfare through Illinois. The City of Rochelle had two sets of railroad tracks, the Chicago Northwestern and Burlington Northern, with as many as 80 trains a day going through the city, creating delays of 15 to 20 minutes for each train. Consequently, Rochelle became known as "Jamtown" and "Delaysville" by truck drivers. Sen. Roe secured the necessary funding to construct the Rochelle overpass to remedy the logjam and facilitate the flow of commerce.

Family and friends of Roe attended the ceremony Tuesday at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library. Mayor John Bearrows spoke at the event along with State Rep. Tom Demmer and State Sen. Brian Stewart, who co-sponsored House Joint Resolution 57 in Springfield to designate the Illinois Route 251 overpass in Rochelle in honor of Sen. Roe. The resolution was passed unanimously earlier this year.

See page 10

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 9

**ROCHELLE** — On Sept. 25, Bryn Kissack of Rochelle celebrated her 16th birthday with a Walk ‘N Roll event to raise money for the Illinois Spina-Bifida Association at the Helms Field track.

Over 400 people attended the event and over \$23,000 was raised. People of all ages joined Kissack by walking or rolling by her side on the track. The Rockford Chariots organization attended and brought wheelchairs. Buzzed by Sonset played live music and Ralfie’s BBQ provided lunch.

“It meant a lot for us to raise that money for the ISBA, and I know it meant a lot to them,” Bryn said. “I’m very thankful we decided to help them out as much as we did because they’ve done so much for me and for our family and they’re still helping and working with us. They’re very supportive of every family with kids that have my disability.”

## Oct. 16

**ROCHELLE** — During Tuesday’s monthly meeting of the Rochelle Elementary School District Board of Education, HUB Program Director Yazmin Nambo said that the district will be receiving grant funding to continue the HUB Program.

The program, which is specifically targeted to support the district’s K-8 at-risk youth using a before and after-school model plus summer school, has been fully-funded by a grant for the past 10 years. In the past, the district has received about \$435,000 per year to run the program at no cost to it and the community.

The district recently had to reapply for the Illinois State Board of Education

Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant cycle. The district was originally awarded the grant 10 years ago, and five years after that, the state decided the awardees of the original cycle would get an automatic rollover for five more years.

## Oct. 23

**ROCHELLE** — On Oct. 7, Headon’s Fine Meats opened a second satellite location at Benny’s Corner Market in Rochelle. Headon’s Owner Mark Hibshman said. The long-time Creston shop also has a satellite location at the Benny’s Corner Market in Davis Junction that opened earlier this year.

The Rochelle location will be stocked with fresh meat each day along with frozen meat products including brats, burgers and hot dogs. There will be deli items and local items like vinegar and oil will be sold as well. The space inside the Rochelle Benny’s became available recently and Hibshman said he decided on the move due to the success of the Davis Junction location. Headon’s products were previously sold at the Rochelle Benny’s on a smaller scale.

“We started selling some of our products outside of the Creston store for the first time here,” Hibshman said. “And then we opened the Davis Junction location in April or May and it’s just been great out there. Especially out in that area, because there’s really no meat markets out there. When this space became available, [Benny’s Corner Market Owner] Tim Hayden and I chatted it all through and decided it would be a good spot to open a little satellite store here.”

Hibshman said the grab and go model has been a good compliment to the main Headon’s shop in Creston.

## Nov. 2

**ROCHELLE** — On Sunday, Oct. 30, a groundbreaking event was held by Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County for its latest home in Rochelle.

The new home at 110 S. 9th Street will be the county organization’s 13th overall and third build in Rochelle. Ashlie Minton, a mother of four, has been chosen as the homeowner. Work on the site began in early October and Habitat is hoping to make significant progress before winter comes into full swing. The home is slated for completion by early summer of 2022.

“We’re excited,” Habitat Board President Gail Tuttle said. “We have a dedicated team and we’re going to get this started.”

## Nov. 13

**ROCHELLE** — On Wednesday, the City of Rochelle and the Greater Rochelle Economic Development Corporation (GREDCO) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Rochelle Intermodal Transload Center (RITC) at 1851 S. Steward Road, a new intermodal container yard in the heart of Rochelle’s industrial park.

The project will return intermodal services to the city after the Union Pacific Railroad’s decision to close the intermodal ramp at Global III in Rochelle in May 2019. The RITC will be served by the City of Rochelle Railroad, a city-owned short line railroad that connects businesses and industries to both the Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern San-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**On Oct. 7, Headon’s Fine Meats opened a second satellite location at Benny’s Corner Market in Rochelle.**

ta Fe (BNSF) main line Railroads.

“To see this project come to fruition today makes me very proud to say the least,” Mayor John Bearrows said. “It represents a public-private partnership that is truly in the best interest of the region. This is truly a monumental milestone for this area relative to the shipping business. With the current fuel cost, labor shortage, supply chain troubles and many other issues that face our smaller and larger shippers alike, this will be their saving grace.”

## Dec. 11

**ROCHELLE** — On Thursday evening, Rochelle’s Community Action Network hosted its annual CAN Shopping Trip event.

Through community donations, each year CAN hosts families and takes children shopping. This year, 225 kids were identified by the elementary school district and volunteers took them shopping at Walmart with a \$75 gift card and a list from their parents. They shop for

clothes and a toy. The event was hosted at the First Presbyterian Church and buses took shoppers and kids to Walmart. A spaghetti dinner was served and families had access to donated coats from CAN’s coat drive and Rochelle Rotary Club donated a book for each child. Santa Claus was also on site to see the kids.

“This is our major event,” CAN Board Treasurer Mike Dale said. “But it’s all volunteers. I guess it’s a lot of work for us, but it doesn’t seem like much because we’ve done it for so long and the board’s been pretty consistent. The thing I like about this event is how it involves the whole community. The schools help, our board is out there, all the people and local service clubs donate to us, Golden K calls the volunteers and Rotary is always donating. The high school’s cheerleaders shop for the younger kids. Walmart gave us a donation and helped us with the shopping. And then people from the community send us checks for the kids to support it. I think it’s a

true community event.”

## Dec. 18

**ROCHELLE** — On Thursday, a retirement party was held at City Hall for K9 Axel of the Rochelle Police Department.

Axel retired recently due to age and his handler, now-Sgt. Ryan Beery, being promoted within the department. RPD employees and members of the community had the chance Thursday to wish the K9 officer well in retirement. Axel will live with Beery and his family going forward.

“It’s been emotional,” Beery said. “It was harder than I thought it was going to be. Leaving for work every day and him staying home has been strange. He’s still getting adjusted to that. It’s going to be a good thing. I’m happy with where I’m at and what I’m doing. All good things have to come to an end. It’s been a good run.”

*The January through June Year in Review appeared in the Wednesday, Dec. 28 edition of the Rochelle News-Leader.*

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# SPORTS



## HUBS TIP OFF TOURNEY

The Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team tipped off the EC Nichols Holiday Classic.

**See page 3 for more details**

## RTHS Girls Basketball

# Rochelle creates chaos

## Defensive tenacity leads to 53-49 win over Aquin Catholic at Dixon tourney

**BY RUSSELL HODGES**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**DIXON** — Creating chaos on defense has been a motivator for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team this season. Rochelle's full-court pressure and quick trapping led to several forced turnovers and transition layups during Tuesday's KSB Dixon Holiday Classic opener.

Junior Alivia Henkel capitalized on the defensive intensity from the Lady Hubs, scoring on a series of first-quarter transition layups as Rochelle built an early lead over first-round opponent Aquin Catholic. Henkel led the Lady Hubs with 24 points as Rochelle held off a late surge from the Bulldogs to score a 53-49 win and reach the second round.

"We needed that win because we've been struggling this season, but we came together today and I'm glad we did," Henkel said. "It's been a challenge for me mentally and I've been in my head a lot recently, but I went out there today and focused on playing the best that I could."



(PHOTO BY BLISSELL HODGES)

**Junior Megan Seebach (left) drives around a screen from sophomore teammate Abby Metzger (right) during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against Aquin Catholic on Tuesday. Rochelle defeated the Bulldogs 53-49 to open the KSB Dixon Holiday Classic.**

**See GIRLS page 6**

## RTHS Wrestling

# Hubs earn three victories at Lakes Super Duals

Rochelle scores wins over Cary-Grove, Grayslake Central and Carmel Catholic

**LAKE VILLA** — The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team went unbeaten at the Lakes Super Duals on Tuesday, earning three wins over Cary-Grove 51-24, Grayslake Central 53-18 and Carmel Catholic 69-9. Rochelle (19-1, 4-0 Interstate 8) will face Winnebago and Belvidere on the road Tuesday, Jan. 3 before hosting Sycamore at RTHS on Thursday, Jan. 5 at 5:30 p.m.

## Cary-Grove

Freshman Keagan Albers scored the first win of the dual against the Trojans, defeating Peter Hayden with an 8-1 decision in the 106-pound bout. After Hunter Lenz recorded a first-period fall over freshman Anthony Milburn in the 113-pound bout, sophomore Xavier Villalobos put the Hubs back in front with a first-period fall against Alex Demos during the 120-pound bout.

Sophomore Joseph Nading extended Rochelle's lead in the 126-pound bout, taking a 7-0 lead before notching a second-period fall over Trenton Klapperich. Sophomore Weylin Nay received a forfeit for the 132-pound bout and Cary-Grove took



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team won all three of its matches at the Lakes Super Duals on Tuesday. Rochelle defeated Cary-Grove, Grayslake Central and Carmel Catholic to reach 19-1 overall on the season.**

the 138-pound bout, with Noah Pechotta winning by injury default over junior Riley Damask. Freshman Brenden Voight got the Hubs back on track, scoring a first-period fall over Adrian Magana to win the 145-pound bout.

Sophomore Grant Gensler took a forfeit in the 152-pound bout for the Hubs. Trailing 33-12,

Cary-Grove claimed the 160-pound and 195-pound bouts, with Luke Bennett recording a third-period fall over sophomore Erich Metzger and Joe Burton earning a second-period fall over junior Alexander McBride. Freshman Roman Villalobos dominated the 170-pound bout against Anthony Betancourt, scoring a first-period takedown and

fall at the 55-second mark.

Junior Brock Metzger outlasted Gabe Simpson for a 6-5 decision in the 182-pound bout, scoring three points on a penalty and a takedown during the third period. Rochelle won the final two matchups of the dual against the Trojans, with sophomore Logan Morris holding off Logan Abrams for a 6-4 decision

in the 220-pound bout and senior Jaden Cook maintaining a 4-3 lead before notching a third-period fall to take down Lucas Burton during the 285-pound bout.

# Grayslake Central

Anthony Alanis won the first matchup for the Rams, recording a first-

period fall over Anthony Milburn in the 113-pound bout. Xavier Villalobos followed with an 11-4 decision against Tyler Weidman in the 120-pound bout, totaling two takedowns and two near falls. Joseph Nadig earned a second-period fall over Liam Halloran in the 126-pound bout.

**See HUBS page 3**





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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Alex  
Foster**

*Year: Freshman  
Sport: Basketball*

**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**

*A: Seven years.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: It's fast paced and the teamwork is imperative.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: Math because it's straight forward and there's one answer.*

**Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?**

*A: Michael Jordan because he's one of the best and he worked hard to get there.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: To be a programmer because you can make good money and it's very flexible for time and location.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**

*A: Somewhere by the beach because I like beaches and warm climate.*

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?**

*A: It's challenging and it takes up a lot of time (I get bored easily).*



**Ben  
Foster**

*Year: Freshman  
Sport: Basketball*

**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**

*A: Six years.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: The versatility of the sport.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: English because of my teacher.*

**Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?**

*A: Michael Jordan because of his work ethic.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?**

*A: My grandpa because he's really nice.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: An entrepreneur because you have an opportunity to make the most money.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**

*A: Somewhere with a beach and nice hotel because it would be relaxing.*

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?**

*A: Getting out of school early.*

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# SPORTS

RTHS Boys Basketball

## Rochelle falls to Grayslake North in tourney opener

### Hubs score consolation win over Marengo at E.C. Nichols Holiday Classic

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**MARENGO**—Winter weather postponed the start of the E.C. Nichols Holiday Classic, with the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team finally taking the court on Tuesday afternoon for a second-round matchup against Grayslake North. Despite a competitive first-half effort, Rochelle struggled down the stretch, scoring only two fourth-quarter points in a 68-45 loss to the Knights. Senior Raul Aguirre led the Hubs (4-7, 1-3 Interstate 8) with 10 points and seven rebounds, while juniors Jack Tracey and Eli Luxton each scored eight points in the game. Dominic Jankowski shined for Grayslake North, leading all players with 27 points on 12-of-18 shooting.

“We really wanted to push the tempo coming out of the Christmas holiday and I thought we did that well throughout the game,” head coach Tim Thompson said. “I felt like we were starting to tire them out, but we went through a lengthy stretch where we couldn’t score the ball and we started to become frustrated, which led to turnovers and run-outs for layups on the other end.”

While Rochelle held the slight rebounding advantage, outperforming



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Senior Colton O’Rorke drives to the basket during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against Grayslake North on Tuesday. Rochelle fell 68-45 to open the E.C. Nichols Holiday Classic at Marengo High School.

the Knights 37-32 on the boards, Grayslake North outpaced the Hubs 50-28 on points in the paint. The Hubs committed 18 turnovers in the game, leading to 15 transition points as well as 22 points off turnovers for the Knights. Grayslake North dished out 20 assists on Tuesday, with Rochelle totaling only seven.

“We weren’t getting

those 50-50 balls and they were able to extend the lead late in the game,” Thompson said. “We don’t have the firepower right now to catch up in games like that.”

Sophomores Cayden Moore and Carson Lewis combined to score 11 points for the Hubs, who shot 28.8 percent from the field and finished 3-of-18 from 3-point range in the game.

Moore tied for the team lead with seven rebounds, while senior Colton O’Rorke had a team-high three assists. Jacob Donahue scored 13 points and Jayden Hunt added 12 points for the Knights.

#### Marengo

The Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team scored its first win of the E.C.

Nichols Holiday Classic on Tuesday evening, cruising over Marengo 82-57 as four players reached double figures for the purple and white. Rochelle (5-7, 1-3 Interstate 8) moved into the fifth-place matchup, where the Hubs will take on Harvest Christian to close out the tournament.

Junior Eli Luxton led Rochelle with 23 points on

10-of-15 shooting while adding four rebounds and three assists. Junior Jack Tracey added 14 points on 6-of-11 shooting with four assists, while senior Raul Aguirre and sophomore Carson Lewis each recorded 10 points in the win. Senior Colton O’Rorke handed out a team-leading five assists.

**See BOYS page 6**

## HUBS: Rochelle improves overall record to 19-1 this season

From page 1

Weylin Nay and Ram wrestler Warren Nash each received forfeits for the 132-pound and 138-pound bouts. Rochelle won the next two matchups by fall, with Brenden Voight defeating Jeremiah Poyser in the 145-pound bout and Grant Gensler downing Jacob Deleon in the 152-pound bout. Erich Metzger compiled two takedowns and three near falls in the 160-pound bout, scoring a 14-1 major deci-

sion against Alonso Perez to give Rochelle a 31-12 advantage.

Roman Villalobos followed with four takedowns and four near falls in an 18-5 major decision over Carter Vincent in the 170-pound bout. Brock Metzger scored a 7-0 decision over Owen Flanagan in the 182-pound bout, recording three total takedowns. Andrew Graham earned the final win for the Rams, notching a first-period fall over Alex McBride in the 195-pound bout. Kaiden Morris and

Jaden Cook earned back-to-back falls over the 220-pound and 285-pound bouts, with Morris beating Alvaro Stoyanov and Cook defeating Andy Galan. Keagan Albers closed the dual for the Hubs with a 10-6 decision over Tyler Callaghan in the 106-pound bout.

#### Carmel

#### Catholic

Rochelle took a 12-0 lead over the first two matchups of the dual

against the Corsairs, with Xavier Villalobos receiving a forfeit for the 120-pound bout and Joseph Nadig surging ahead 8-0 before notching a second-period fall over Vince Holnes in the 126-pound bout. Tony Hinojosa took the 132-pound bout for the Corsairs, scoring a 6-0 decision over Weylin Nay. Freshman Frank Nasca received a forfeit in the 138-pound bout to give Rochelle a 18-3 lead.

A third-period escape and takedown allowed Brenden Voight to earn a 5-2

decision over Nicholas Aslani in the 145-pound bout. After Grant Gensler took a forfeit in the 152-pound bout, Rochelle won the 160-pound and 170-pound bouts with first-period falls from Erich Metzger and Roman Villalobos, who defeated Ryan Harris to put the Hubs up 39-3. Brock Metzger overcame a 7-6 deficit against Philip Goodrich, notching a third-period fall to claim the 182-pound bout.

Alex McBride continued Rochelle’s scor-

ing streak, recording a first-period fall over Luis Arreola in the 195-pound bout before Kaiden Morris earned a second-period fall against Diego Medina in the 220-pound bout. Jaden Cook scored a fall over Willie Hornburger in the 285-pound bout. Rochelle split the final two bouts, with Keagan Albers taking a forfeit in the 106-pound bout and Carmel’s Matt Lucansky scoring a first-period fall over Anthony Milburn in the 113-pound bout.

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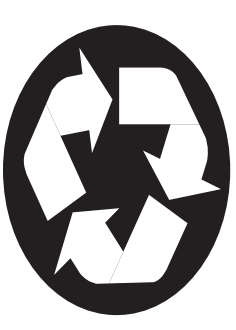
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# SPORTS



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team tipped off the KSB Dixon Holiday Classic with a 53-49 win against Aquin Catholic on Tuesday. Junior Alivia Henkel (left) led the Lady Hubs with 24 points, while sophomore Kendyl Darby (right) scored 10 points to aid the Rochelle offense in the victory.

## GIRLS: Lady Hubs concede second-round loss to Dixon

From page 1

The Lady Hubs (3-12, 1-3 Interstate 8) broke off a 10-3 run to start the game, with Henkel scoring eight points to spearhead the charge for the Rochelle offense. Seven Lady Hub players converted at least one field goal in the second quarter, where the Lady Hubs earned their first double-digit lead of the game and closed out the first half with a 30-18 advantage.

"They ran a zone defense today and I thought

we did a good job of swinging the ball around and getting the ball inside," Henkel said. "That really helped us on the offensive side. We definitely play better when we're creating chaos and we played the best we could today. I'm hoping that we can continue to play this way for the remainder of the tournament this week."

Rochelle utilized its size in the third quarter, where sophomore Kendyl Darby put home three field goals from the low post for six of her

10 points in the game. Senior Torrin Nantz also converted the second of Rochelle's two 3-pointers on Tuesday, helping the Lady Hubs preserve a 45-32 lead entering the fourth quarter. Aquin Catholic brought Rochelle within six points down the stretch, taking advantage of turnovers and scoring on transition layups of their own.

But a strong fourth-quarter finish from Henkel, who scored seven of her team's eight points during the final eight minutes, allowed the

Lady Hubs to fend off the feisty Bulldogs, who sank a 3-pointer with 1.9 seconds left to make it a four-point game. Nantz finished with five points and senior Bailey Jackson added four points, while junior Kara Martinez added a 3-point make in the first quarter.

### Dixon

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team faced Dixon in the second round of the KSB Holiday Classic on Tuesday evening. Junior Alivia Henkel led the

Lady Hubs with 14 points as Rochelle conceded a 45-30 loss to the Duchesses. Henkel added four steals, four rebounds and two assists for the Lady Hubs (3-13, 1-3 Interstate 8) in the loss.

Sophomore Kendyl Darby totaled six points, five rebounds and two assists for Rochelle, while senior Torrin Nantz and junior Kara Martinez each scored three points. Juniors Kennedy Adamski and Megan Seebach chipped in two points each, with Adamski adding four rebounds. Junior

Sydney Tabor compiled four rebounds.

### UTHS

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team played its first consolation game on Wednesday, falling 52-22 against United Township. Rochelle will conclude the tournament with the seventh-place matchup against Quincy.

Senior Torrin Nantz led the Lady Hubs (3-14, 1-3 Interstate 8) with 11 points in the game, while junior Alivia Henkel added six points.

## BOYS: Hubs split first two games at Nichols tourney

From page 3

"We were able to pressure Marengo and as a result, we were able to create turnovers and score easy buckets," head coach Tim Thompson said. "Tuesday was a tale of two teams for us. It was great to see our kids bounce back and I believe their hearts are in the right place. It felt like a summer league setting in that we played one game early in the day and we were able to have dinner as a team and enjoy some bonding time before coming back and playing another game."

Senior David Gerber finished with nine points and three assists for the Hubs, who shot 55.4 percent from the field and went 8-for-23 from 3-point range in the win. Rochelle's ball pressure and full-court energy on defense led to 20 turnovers from the Indians, who trailed the Hubs 26-7 after the first quarter and 53-19 at halftime. Rochelle totaled 21 assists and outpaced Marengo 25-2 in transition points and 23-2 in points off turnovers.

"I thought Eli had a nice game for us and I thought we looked a lot better collectively," Thompson said. "We were able to generate some steals which led to transition layups."

Junior Jack Lodico totaled seven points and a team-high five steals for the Hubs, who held a slight advantage in the rebounding category, outperforming Marengo 32-29 on the glass. Rochelle finished with 13 steals and committed only 10 turnovers.




(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Senior David Gerber shoots a free throw during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against Marengo on Tuesday. Rochelle won the game 82-57.

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