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Vol. 103 • No. 62

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30, 2022

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Students picked for festival

Three RTHS students were selected to perform in the ILMEA Music Festival earlier this month. **Page 7**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
30 18

THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
37 14

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
52 29

SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
48 18

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:

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OBITUARIES

- GERALDINE WHEELER
- HOWARD L. HAYES
- ALLEN L. SWEGLE
- JUAN CARLOS ROSALES

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- FARM & FLEET
- ROCHELLE CHRISTMAS WALK

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City Council approves budget

Discussion held on new radios for city departments

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council held a public hearing for and unanimously approved its fiscal year 2023 budget.

The final proposed 2023 general fund revenues are budgeted at \$13,405,888. This represents an increase of approximately 10 percent compared to the original approved 2022 budget. Budgeted expenses total \$14,702,934, which is approximately 11 percent higher than the 2022 budget. This results in a budget deficit of \$1,297,046.

“The reason we run a deficit this year is because we’ve been very fiscally responsible and have a very large general fund cash balance that we need to start spending down,” City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said. “That deficit is going to cover capital projects and hiring three new police officers in anticipation of future retirements.”

The combination of the general fund, special revenue funds, enterprise funds, internal service funds, trust and agency funds and capital project



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council held a public hearing for and unanimously approved its fiscal year 2023 budget.

funds results in budgeted revenues of \$96,251,524 and budgeted expenses of \$106,616,478.

The council also approved a capital improvement plan for 2023 through 2042. That plan is used for the evaluation and identification of the capital infrastructure projects in need of renovation, repair, and/or construction along with the equipment or vehicle replacement over the next 20 years.

The first year’s program contains projects that are

included in the 2023 city budget. The remaining 19 years reflect staff’s recommended priorities in the future.

Radios

The council and staff held discussion during the meeting on the potential future purchase of Ion Smart Radios for its electric, water and water reclamation departments.

The initial investment in the radios would be \$186,981 and the cost per year over an approximate

10-year lifespan would be \$18,698. The individual cost to departments per year would be \$6,233. Fiegenschuh said if approved in the future, the street department would likely be included as well.

The radios offer the opportunity to consolidate work phones, on-call phones and radios and offer safety features such as GPS, a mayday button and immediate access to 911 dispatch.

See CITY page 3

City looking at installing cameras downtown

City Mgr. Fiegenschuh: Locations of cameras to be determined

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle is looking at the possibility of installing cameras in the downtown area, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said Nov. 21.

The main area that’s being looked at is the municipal parking lot and Page Park.

“I think there’s been some issues in the downtown area,” Fiegenschuh said. “Some city council members had some concerns about some property damage and some other things that have gone on back there. At a minimum, if there’s ever any issues, we’ll have a recorded history of it.”

The city manager said he’s not sure where the eventual cameras would be placed. City staff has been looking into factors such as making sure cameras can be placed on poles with fiber optic cable so there’s enough infrastructure to relay footage to servers.

The city is also reviewing what requirements are



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The City of Rochelle is looking at the possibility of installing cameras in the downtown area, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said Nov. 21. The main area that’s being looked at is the municipal parking lot and Page Park.

for how long footage must be stored.

“That’s a massive amount of data that you’re sending back,” Fiegenschuh said. “How long do we have to store it for? I

told one of our council members we need to be very careful because if we have to store it in perpetuity, it’s going to take up a lot of space on servers. We need to make

sure we know what our requirements through the state are through storage retention.”

Fiegenschuh said that he anticipates cameras could be put up in the next few

months or in the spring. The cost of cameras will depend on camera type and whether they’re close to fiber optic cable.

See CAMERAS pg 2

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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The City of Rochelle's Old Fashioned Christmas Walk is planned for Friday, Dec. 2 downtown from 4-8 p.m.

Old Fashioned Christmas Walk set for Friday, Dec. 2

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle's Old Fashioned Christmas Walk is planned for Friday, Dec. 2 downtown from 4-8 p.m. with additional happenings Saturday and Sunday.

Carriage rides sponsored by the city will take place at the Flagg Township Museum from 4-8 p.m. Santa & S'mores will also take place at the museum from 5-7 p.m.

The Lighted Parade sponsored by the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce

will take place on Lincoln Highway at 5:30 p.m.

The community tree lighting will take place at City Hall at 6 p.m.

Reindeer will be at Terri Schaefer State Farm from 4:30-7 p.m.

It will be Polar Express Night at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library following the parade.

A craft show will take place at the VFW from 4-8 p.m. on Friday and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Breakfast with Santa will take place at the VFW on Sunday from 8-11 a.m.

The city asked residents to enjoy the hospitality of downtown businesses including 926 Custom Embroidery, Acres Bistro, Artists Garden, Blueflame Décor, Colonial Flowers, Down Range, The Fit Hub, Hope Chest, Hub City Furniture, Kennay Farms Distilling, Midwestern Clothing Company, Pickin Station, Scalehouse Lounge and Ralfie's BBQ.

Malta UMC cookie walk Dec. 10

MALTA — Malta United Methodist Church, 201 E. Sprague St., at the corner of South Third Street & Sprague, is host-

ing its annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9-11 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.

Guests will be able to

choose from our huge variety of homemade cookies and candy.

The price will be \$8 per pound.

Leaf vacuum service ends Dec. 2

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle's leaf vacuum service ends for

the season on Friday, Dec. 2. Landscape waste will be collected with North-

ern Illinois Disposal's weekly collection through Dec. 15.

The 2023 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients: Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.

OUR CHARITIES NEED OUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!

For Just \$20 you have a chance to be one of 365 DAILY WINNERS TOTAL CASH PRIZES \$18,250 PLUS Each Calendar Has VALUABLE LOCAL COUPONS

Here are 3 Ways to Purchase Your 2023 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

- ONLINE:** Go to <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org> and click on **CASH CALENDARS**. Once the calendar is purchased we will mail it out to you! Shipping and processing fees will be added to cost.
- IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2023 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:
In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest, Dimond Bros. Insurance and Hub City Senior Center
In Oregon at: Merlin's
In Dixon at: Shining Star
- BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2023 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

CAMERAS: City evaluating need for downtown surveillance

From page 1

He doesn't believe the eventual cost will be "more than a few thousand dollars."

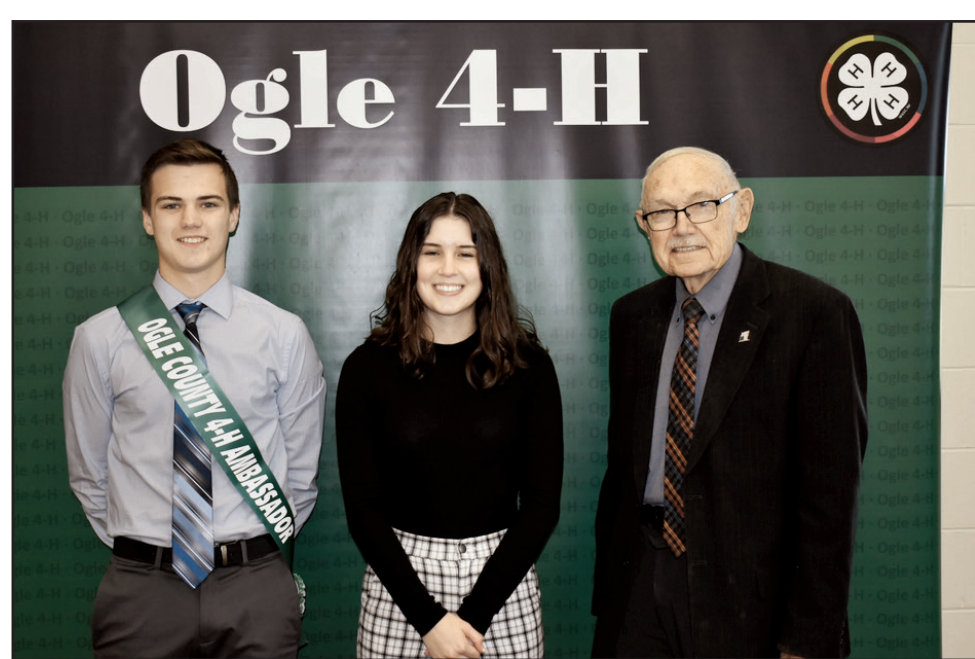
The city manager said he was unsure how common it is for other towns of Rochelle's size to have cameras of their own. He said it's possible other locations downtown and

in the city would lend themselves well to having cameras installed, but the city isn't considering other locations right now.

Staff will soon find out how well the municipal lot and Page Park area lends itself to having cameras.

"I don't know if we can even do it in Page Park," Fiegenschuh said. "We're going to try. The

other thing is, even if you have fiber, you have to have a place to install the camera and it has to be in a location where you can actually catch images. If all you can get is bushes or shrubs, it doesn't make any sense. My staff will let me know where they think the best locations are and that's where we'll end up putting them."



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Clare Montavon (above), Davis Junction, and Alex Williams (not pictured), Leaf River, were awarded the Co-op Watch Award at this year's 4-H Achievement Day. The Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club (below) won the Club of the Year.

Ogle County 4-H members and clubs receive honors

OREGON — Ogle County's top 4-H members and clubs were honored for outstanding achievement at a special program held Sunday, Nov. 13 in the Byron Middle School Theatre.

Top county honors went to 4-H teens Clare Montavon, Davis Junction, and Alex Williams, Leaf River. Montavon, Mighty Clovers 4-H Club, and Williams, Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club, were the recipients of the co-op watch awards sponsored by Ogle County Farm Bureau and its affiliates. Watches are awarded yearly to the two 4-Hers with the most impressive records of long-term leadership and service at the club level and beyond.

Nicholas Cassens, Byron, was the recipient of a \$50 cash award sponsored by the Ogle County 4-H Foundation. The Foundation Award is presented annually to a single 4-Her who has shown leadership skills, a willingness to help with 4-H activities, and has served as a positive example to younger members.

Four youth were challenged to greater leadership and service as recipients of the "I Dare You" Leadership Award. New owners of William Danforth's inspiring book, "I Dare You," these youth were selected based on their previous leadership, citizenship and project work. Winners included: Trent Heller, Grand Detour Greens; Lydia Sherburne, Leaf River Soaring

Eagles; Lacie Williams, Leaf River Soaring Eagles and Tristin Williams, Ogle Jolly.

Other special award winners included:

Outstanding Club President: Ali Danekas, Pine Creek Valley and Sarah-Beth Haenitsch, Grand Detour Greens.

Outstanding Club Vice-President: Courtney Bushman, Pine Creek Valley and David Wehler, Leaf River Soaring Eagles.

Outstanding Club Secretaries: Alexandria Cassens, By-Y-Badgers and Natalie Johnson, Leaf River Soaring Eagles.

Outstanding Club Treasurers: Kendall Boatman, By-Y-Badgers and Kaeden Motszko, Leaf River Soaring Eagles.

Outstanding Club Reporter: Braden Rogers, Ogle Jolly.

Outstanding Club Historians: Lauren Carlson, By-Y-Badgers and Cheyenne Somers, Hub Hickory Nuts.

Ogle County Club Recreation Chairperson: Melinda Goldstick, Byron Emerald Eagles and Lacie Williams, Leaf River Soaring Eagles.

Outstanding Club Junior Leaders: Tristin Williams, Ogle Jolly.

Electricity Achievement Award: Preston Taylor, Hub Hickory Nuts.

Illinois Holstein-Friesian Association Award: Shelby Harbaugh, Carefree.

Several awards were distributed to community clubs throughout

the county to recognize outstanding community service, educational programming, and promotional efforts. Additionally, one club's leadership team was recognized for their exceptional efforts to work together to effectively meet the needs of and coordinate the work of their club. Congratulations to all the following club winners:

Window Display Promotion Award: First place - By-Y-Badgers 4-H Club, second place - Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club and third place - Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club.

Ogle County 4-H Club-of-the-Year: First place - Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club, second place - Summerhill Huskies 4-H Club and third place - Carefree 4-H Club.

Top Leader Team Award: Leaf River Soaring Eagles 4-H Club: Nickie Lingbeck, Kenlie Motszko and Annette Williams.

4-H is an informal youth education program of University of Illinois Extension. For more information or to get involved, call 815-732-2191 or visit us online at <https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo>. Now is the best time of year to join!

If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in programming, contact the Ogle County Extension office, 815-732-2191.

Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your needs.



LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Two swearing in ceremonies were held for Rochelle Police Department promotions. The first was held for the promotion of Ryan Beery to sergeant. He's been with RPD since 2014 and has served as K9 officer for the past seven years. Beery is currently assigned to patrol on the day shift. Joe Sester was also promoted to sergeant within the department. He's been with RPD since 2011 and is currently assigned to patrol and the night shift.

CITY: Rochelle PD officers sworn in after promotions

From page 1

Fiegenschuh said a proposal regarding the radios will be brought before the council at a future meeting.

Software

The council approved

an agreement with Bae-core Group for \$48,293 for professional enterprise resource planning (ERP) and enterprise asset management (EAM) services.

The city is near the end of a two-year process of updating its softwares city-wide. The Bae-core

agreement will allow it to finish that project in coming months.

RPD

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Joe Sester was also promoted to sergeant

within the department. He's been with RPD since 2011 and is currently assigned to patrol and the night shift.

Lottery

City Clerk Rose Hueramo said the filing period for city council petitions

ended at 5 p.m. Monday and a ballot placement lottery will be held Dec. 7 at 8 a.m. at her office for the primary election for incumbent council candidates John Gruben, Tom McDermott and Bill Hayes. That lottery will be open to the public.

BUDGET: Fiegenschuh details 2023 budget approved Monday

"I've been very pleased with it. It's over \$100 million this year. The reason for that is we have some significant capital expenditures we're taking on. Our power purchase costs aren't higher, but they do combine to be a significant portion of our overall budget."

Another "big" expenditure planned for 2023 is hiring additional police officers with recent and future retirements and fewer officers in the current job market.

"When you hire a police officer, if they haven't been to the academy they have to go there and be out on the road with another officer to start," Fiegenschuh said. "They're really not out on their own for up to nine months or more. I asked the council if we could hire an additional three officers in anticipation of some potential retirements next year. Hopefully those officers will be on the street and trained and if we have any retirements we won't see any shortfalls in staffing."

Fiegenschuh said that over the years, the budget's total dollar amount hasn't grown consistently year over year and depends on upcoming projects. A few years ago the budget dipped below \$90 million. Higher numbers over the past few years have been due to spending on capital costs such as a new \$15 million electri-

cal substation on Ritchie Road and a \$2 million well downtown.

The city has plans next year for a \$5.5 million iron removal well on Caron Road and is beginning work on another new substation on the west end of town. Once capital costs like that are expended, the total budget will likely start to decrease again, Fiegenschuh said.

Rising project costs have been seen by the city in recent years due to inflation, supply chain issues and the COVID-19 pandemic. The next phase of its wastewater treatment plant improvements came in double the engineer's estimate and the project had to be put on hold for now.

Fiegenschuh said staff does "a great job" saving up money each year to help with unexpected project increases and the city is "sitting very well financially" and has the money to move forward with a project if it absolutely needs to.

"Rising project prices is something we'll have to be cognizant of as we go forward," Fiegenschuh said. "If we have to do project A and it's twice as much as we anticipated, where are we going to cut back on other capital expenditures so we can finish that project? You really start to re-prioritize. There's only a certain number of dollars to work with. And



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said staff does "a great job" saving up money each year to help with unexpected project increases and the city is "sitting very well financially".

once they're gone, they're gone."

The city manager said the national and state economies are always a consideration when putting together a budget and looking to the future. He credited staff for controlling and monitoring costs, along with the city council for its review of revenues and expenditures each month.

"If the revenues drop, we look at making cuts where necessary," Fiegenschuh said. "And we did that during COVID-19 and the council was proactive during that time. We cut about \$1 million out of our budget in anticipation of potential revenue losses due to the pandemic."

When naming projects he's excited about for 2023, Fiegenschuh

mentioned upgrades to electrical infrastructure, a new iron removal plant at Well five, additional street projects and storm sewer work, new training for employees, energy efficiency programs for Rochelle Municipal Utilities customers and the continuation of the city's facade improvement grant program.

"I'll be honest, I'm

excited about everything," Fiegenschuh said. "I think our budget is very proactive and I think we're doing a pretty good job of being fiscally conscious. Just because our budget is up doesn't mean we're just wasting money. It means we're reinvesting back into infrastructure, which is what people want us to do. There are a lot of great projects."

Alfano's

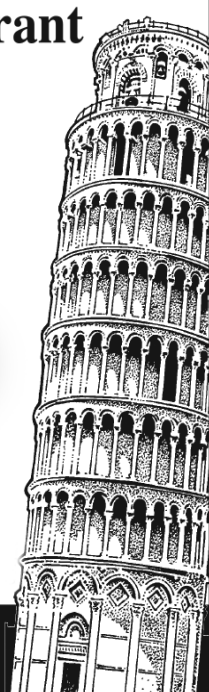
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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Geraldine Wheeler

ROCHELLE — Geraldine Wheeler, 97, passed away peacefully at the Rochelle Rehab and Healthcare Center in Rochelle.

Geraldine was born on March 6, 1925 to John and Edna (Jayne) Maddrill in Thayer, Illinois. On Nov. 10, 1957, she married Louis M. Wheeler in Rochelle. Geraldine was very social. She enjoyed spending time with her family, friends and neighbors.

She was also very active at the Rochelle Senior Center where she was prom queen one year. She loved her flower garden and doing puzzle books.

Geraldine is survived

by her son-in-law, Bruce Mammen of Rochelle; two granddaughters: Melissa Auld and Tiffany Mammen and three great grandchildren: Avery, Teagan and Elise.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Louis, on Dec. 21, 1992; two daughters: Carol Sue Huffstatler on Oct. 19, 1988 and Marjorie Ann Mammen on Feb. 24, 1991; two brothers and two sisters.

The visitation will be held 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle.



The funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. with Pastor Joy Alsop officiating.

The burial will be at Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle. Memorials may be made in Geraldine's memory to the American Cancer Society. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Howard L. Hayes

HOWARD L. Hayes, 55, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 29 at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. Howard was born on June 27, 1967 to Dennis W. and Gretchen (Warmolts) Hayes in Rochelle.

He was an Eagle Scout with Troop 64 in Steward. He proudly served with the United States Army as a paratrooper with Special Forces. Howard then served with the Iowa National Guard as part of their Long Range Surveillance Detachment. He was an owner operator truck driver, known as "purple haze," for various companies over the years, most recently at Unimin in Oregon.

He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Dixon. Howard enjoyed being part of the World War II Airborne Demonstrations Team out of Frederick, Oklahoma. It was his privilege to honor those that served in that capacity

during WWII. He had a great uncle who made the actual jump in France and because of that he had been drawn to participating in the WWII demonstrations and made a memorable jump for operation Dragon.

Howard restored many cars; his favorites were the three land rovers, the 88, 109 and 110, he restored. He loved to travel all over the world. He visited New Zealand, Australia, Cook Island, Hawaii, Germany, France, Italy and England. He also really enjoyed attending U2, Rush and Police concerts. Howard adored his cats and his salt water fish tanks.

Howard is survived by his father, Dennis (Lydia) Hayes of Dixon; sister, Laurel Hayes of Rochelle; nephew, Tylor (Jessica) Childers and three nieces: Natasha (Jonathan) Escobar, Olivia Childers, and Jesse Pagel; step sister, Melissa Goodrich of Rochelle; step brother, Jimmy Lowe of Oregon; and step nephew and niece: Josh and Kim-



berly Goodrich. He was preceded in death by his mother, Gretchen Warmolts and his step mother, Anna Hayes. The visitation will be held from 10-10:50 a.m. Monday, Dec. 5 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle.

A Masonic Service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday with the funeral service, Pastor Dave Schweppe officiating, immediately following. Burial is at White Rock Cemetery in Kings with military services provided by the Eastern Lee-Ogle Honor Guard. Memorials may be made in Howard's memory to a pet rescue of the donor's choice. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Juan Carlos Rosales

ROCHELLE — Juan Carlos Rosales, 54, passed away Sunday, Nov. 27 at his home in Rochelle.

Juan was born on April 7, 1968 to Antonio Rosales Figueroa and Josefina Salazar Martinez in Ameca, Jalisco, Mexico. On Jan. 8, 2000, he married Samanta Rodriguez in Ameca, Jalisco, Mexico.

Juan is survived by his wife Samanta of Rochelle; two children: Ingrid Yamileth Rosales and Odalys Rosales both of Rochelle; three brothers: Orlando Rosales of New Mexico, Gamaliel Rosales of Reseda, California and Jose

de Jesus Rosales of New Mexico; four sisters: Martha Rosales of New Mexico, Matilde Rosales of California, Irma Rosales of Lynwood, California and Evagelina Rosales of Ameca, Jalisco; his cousin, Genaro (Griselda) Salazar of Rochelle and nieces and nephews: Tania, Cindy and Diego Salazar of Rochelle.

Juan was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Antonio Rosales. The visitation will be from 5-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle.



The funeral mass will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 244 Kelley Drive, Rochelle with Father Jesus Dominguez officiating. Burial will be in Mexico at a later date. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Allen L. Swegle

ROCHELLE — Allen L. Swegle, 82, passed away Sunday, Nov. 28 in Rochelle. Allen was born on April 4, 1940 to Donald and Edna (Bothe) Swegle in Rochelle. He worked for Del Monte for 37 years.

He was an avid collector of farm toys and replica cars. He loved listening to old radio show broadcasts and was a diehard Chicago Cubs and Bears fan; thankfully got to see a Cubs World Series winner during his lifetime. He bowled in leagues most of his adult life.

Allen is survived by his sister, Carol Marie Dunn

of Sapulpa, Oklahoma; nephew, Steven (Rose) Tollison of Sapulpa, Oklahoma; two nieces: Sherry (Richard) Templeton of Bangor, Maine and Shelley (David) Mitchell of Locust Grove, Oklahoma and great nephew and niece, Dalton and Sierra Sasser of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers: Larry and Melvin Swegle. The visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 2 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 803 Paddock Ave., Ashton.



The funeral will follow at 11 a.m. Friday with Pastor Joan Scheffler officiating. Burial will be at the Ashton Cemetery in Ashton. Memorials may be made in Allen's memory to St. John's Lutheran Church. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Ogle County Sheriff's Report

Deputies investigate vehicle

OREGON — On Nov. 25 at approximately 8:16 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 100. After investigation, Deputies arrested Marquayvion Flint, 25, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license. Flint was also issued citations for suspended registration, operating an unin-

sured motor vehicle and an equipment violation. Flint was given an I-Bond with a return court date later next month and was released on scene.

On Nov. 27 at approximately 12:51 a.m. deputies investigated a vehicle in the 600 block of North Devils Lane. After further investigation Philip Asbell,

37, of Byron, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Asbell was also cited for illegal transportation of alcohol. Asbell was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Rochelle Police Report

Officers issue arrests

ROCHELLE — On Nov. 25 at 12:02 p.m. Mark A. James, 46, of Marion was cited for failure to yield turning left. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Jan. 27 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 26 at 11:17 p.m. Ivan Munoz, 20, of Rochelle was arrested for no valid driver's license

and cited for speeding 44 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Jan. 27 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 28 at 8:09 a.m. Vanessa K. Pelayo, 20, of Rochelle was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs/combination, no valid driver's license and cited for failure to reduce speed

to avoid an accident. She paid \$300 and was released with a Jan. 27 Rochelle court date.

On Nov. 28 at 10:32 p.m. Jennifer R. Stark, 37, of Rochelle was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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- Volunteers providing special attention and stimulation.
- Assistance with advance directives and community support.
- Provide Education to those we care for

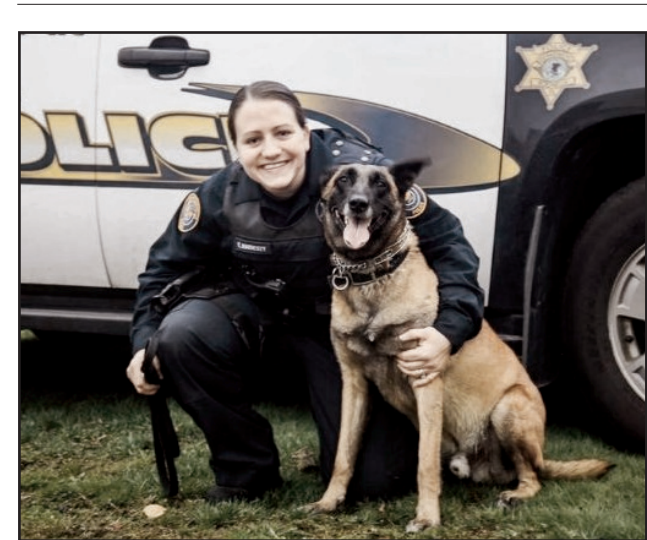
Unity Hospice and Palliative Care

CALL UNITY: (815) 561-8866

915 N. Caron Rd.
Rochelle, IL

@unityhospice

07/01/2020



(COURTESY PHOTO)

In a Facebook post, the Rochelle Police Department announced the passing of its former K9, Don.

Former K9 Don passes away

ROCHELLE — In a Facebook post Monday, the Rochelle Police Department announced the passing of its former K9, Don. The statement was as follows:

"It is with great sadness to announce the passing of K9 Officer Don. Don served our community for seven wonderful years alongside his handler Officer Anderson-Hardesty before retiring in 2017 where he went on to live his best life. Don was not your average K9, he was a fundamental part of our team. Don was known for being the most handsome

boy in the department and the most popular. There was no Officer Anderson-Hardesty without Don and no Don without Officer Anderson-Hardesty. They were the perfect match from day one and it was reflected in their work. Don had a way to bring joy and comfort to everyone he came across. Thank you for your courage and years of service to our community. K9 Don, you will always be remembered and deeply missed. End of watch K9 Don on Nov. 18, 2022. This is the final call, Rest in Peace K9 Don."

ROCHELLE News-Leader

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ASHTON NEWS



Sauk Valley Community College hosts Section 2 FFA Leadership Training School

Sauk Valley Community College hosted Leadership Training School (LTS) for Section 2 FFA Chapters on Nov. 16. FFA students from across the Sauk Valley gathered to hone their leadership skills through LTS. FFA Section 2 schools include the following: Oregon, Byron, Morrison, Amboy, Rochelle, La Moille, Challand Middle School, Chadwick-Milledgeville, Prophetstown, Stillman Valley, Sterling, Ashton-Franklin Center and Polo.

SVCC holds groundbreaking for Ag program greenhouse

DIXON — Sauk Valley Community College broke ground this week for a greenhouse for the SVCC Ag program. The implementation of a greenhouse was made possible through community partnerships including the Lee County Board, the Sterling Park District and various Dixon organizations. The SVCC Agriculture program will utilize the greenhouse to expand its curricula. This past year

the Ag program successfully implemented multiple learning opportunities for students including hands-on experiences with specialty crops such as pumpkins and sunflowers. The addition of a greenhouse to campus will allow students unique opportunities to explore various forms of agriculture. SVCC President Dr. David Hellmich proudly points to the “greenhouse

as just another example of the college and our communities working together to make the Sauk Valley a great place for students and employers.” SVCC is proud to be able to respond to community needs such as educating area students on the specific needs of our local agriculture sector. Feedback and additional community support for this project is welcomed and appreciated.

SVCC Chicago self-guided bus trip set for Dec. 10

DIXON — Sauk Valley Community College invites the public on a self-guided Chicago bus trip on Saturday, Dec. 10. The bus will depart the SVCC North parking lot at 8 a.m. and return at 8 p.m.

Travel with SVCC in person to enjoy the sights and sounds of Chicago. Explore the city’s museums, shops and eateries. This self-guided trip allows attendees to enjoy the city without bothersome schedules, stressful driving and parking hassles. The

bus will arrive at Water Tower Place at 10:30 a.m. and will depart Chicago at 5 p.m. The trip is \$40 per person. All ages are welcome. For more information, or to register, call 815-835-6212. To register online, visit svcc.edu/trips.



(COURTESY PHOTO) The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity boys basketball team went 4-0 to win its home tournament. The Raiders defeated Leland, LaMoille, West Carroll and Durand.

Raider basketball team wins AFC Tournament

ASHTON — The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity boys basketball team tipped off the 2022-23 season with its home tournament, which began on Monday, Nov. 21. The Raiders opened the tournament with a 55-23 win over Leland before defeating LaMoille 68-48 on Tuesday, Nov. 22. Carson Rueff led the Raiders with 17 points in the victory against LaMoille, while Jordan

Harris scored 14 points and Lane Koning totaled 11 points. Koning recorded a team-high 13 points to lead the Raiders over Leland, with Harris and Rueff each following with nine points in the win. The Raiders faced West Carroll after the Thanksgiving holiday, scoring a 66-30 victory on Friday, Nov. 25. Kaleb Goldman led AFC with 14 points, while Carson Rueff added 12 points and

Lane Koning totaled 11 points. Noah Danielson recorded 10 points in the AFC win. AFC battled Durand for the tournament title, emerging victorious 64-59 to open the season with a 4-0 record. Kaleb Goldman shined with 19 points for the Raiders, while Carson Rueff and Jordan Harris each scored 12 points. Noah Danielson added eight points for the AFC offense.

COMMUNITY MATTERS



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812 Main St., Ashton
815-453-2103

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

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Mills and Petrie Memorial Building
Hourly, daily rentals for your event
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CONSTRUCTION

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PO 96, Ashton
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Mimini's General Store
602 Brown Street, Ashton
815-453-7500

FUNERAL HOME

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

HAIR SALON

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

Don Ross Jr.
Construction
P.O. 96
Ashton, IL
815-677-3774

MIMINI'S
GENERAL STORE
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Ashton, IL
815-453-7500
Video Gambling

INSURANCE

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

MUNICIPALITIES

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

NEWSPAPERS/PRINTING

Ashton Gazette
815-453-2551

PLUMBING

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

PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Holiday food prices remain high

AMERICANS look forward to celebrating the simplest of gifts and gathering with family and friends around the table during the holiday season. It is also often a time of giving thanks as Illinois farmers mark the end of another growing season. The past few years have confronted all Americans to pivot, adapt, and learn as we navigate uncharted waters. In March 2018, American farmers were dealing with market destruction because of China's trade wars. The May 2019 spring planting season reminded Midwest farmers that Mother Nature was in charge when many acres

went unplanted. The pandemic that began in March 2020 forced all of us to pivot. Farmers continued to grow food to feed our neighbors in rural, urban and global communities. The curveballs continued in 2022 with high inflation, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and uncertainty for an already fragile economy. Farmers vividly remember the role inflation played in the 1980s farm crisis. That crisis is forever etched in farmers' memories as historically high interest rates reached 19 percent. Many farmers didn't survive the crisis. Those who did spent many years paying off the debt

created by the high-interest rates. Despite the adversity many family farms have faced over the years, 96 percent of Illinois farms are still family-owned. I understand firsthand the role inflation has had inside our home and farming operation. Inflation running at 7-9 percent in recent months is robbing consumers (and farmers) of their buying power. Food price inflation is even higher. Other factors include supply chain disruptions and the war in Ukraine, with other

countries pulling back on exports to protect domestic food supplies. When I've been interviewed by news media over the past four years, the standard question is, "How will this impact consumers?" The truth is a farmer's share of the food dollar is only 7.4 cents. Illinois shoppers participating in the 37th annual American Farm Bureau Federation's Thanksgiving Cost survey captured a statewide average price of \$65.53 for a classic Thanksgiving meal for 10 people, a 13 percent increase over the

previous year's state average of \$58.15. General price inflation is a big part of the increase in cost for the meal. It is likely those high prices will continue through the remaining holidays and into the new year. Food prices reflect many factors including transportation, distribution, and food company marketing costs. Rising costs for fuel, which have more than doubled, and fertilizer, which have tripled, are driving food prices up. As President Kennedy said many years ago, "Farmers are price takers and not price makers."

The food we grow is shared with our family, friends and neighbors. Farmers understand the pain consumers are feeling at the checkout counter this holiday season. As we give thanks again this year for our many blessings, please know farmers will strive to provide affordable food sustainably to make sure our traditions continue. *Richard Guebert Jr. is the president of the Illinois Farm Bureau. This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.*



Richard Guebert Jr.

Another name for gibberish

LATELY "word salad" has become a part of the lexicon meaning that a person is speaking with beautiful words that are not understandable. The term, word salad, actually has its basis in psychiatric theory. According to the Webster Merriam Dictionary category of psychology, the definition of word salad is: unintelligible, extremely disorganized speech or writing manifested as a symptom of a mental disorder (such as schizophrenia). This is often referred to as paraphasia among psychiatrists. Word salad has now devolved into a term referring to speech delivered by apparently

normal people that is not understandable. For instance, a well-known politician said the following in a speech: "We invested an additional \$12 billion into community banks, because we know community banks are in the community, and understand the needs and desires of that community as well as the talent and capacity of community." The first part regarding \$12 billion of expenditure is understandable but the rest of it seems rambling and circular in reasoning. Where else would community banks be located but in the community? So why do people use word salad? There are many reasons. If you are conversing with

a person and winning the argument logically over a particular subject, they may feel threatened and spit back some word salad to confuse you hoping to make you doubt your own core values. People who are lying often spit out word salad when you are getting close to the truth. Some people will use word salad to contradict well-established fact hoping you will second guess what is true and what is not. So what do you do when someone throws out word salad during your conversation? One can inquire on the

meaning of the word salad hopefully getting a better explaining. Don't feel bad if you don't understand what they are saying. If their response in more word salad, especially in an accusatory fashion (suggesting you are stupid), disengage from the conversation. There are plenty of alternative resources in newspapers, the library or on line to verify or debunk what was presented to you verbally. Online search engines such as Google, DuckDuckGo, Brave, Bing, Yahoo, Yandex and Baidu usually help narrow down what

is true and what is not. In my opinion Google covers many topics but if my search deals with politics, Google tends to be biased and other choices may be better such as Brave. Along with regular word salad there is also technical word salad. The late radio talk show host, Rush Limbaugh, put forth an example of technical word salad. He had brought his automobile in for a repair and the mechanic said that he found a problem with his vehicle. The mechanic said that the disgonificator must be replaced or the car will not run without it. The following was the conversation from the Limbaugh radio transcript: "I never heard of that, what

do you mean?" "Well, you can't drive without it. You can leave here and you might get a couple, three miles but you're going to be back here." "How much it cost?" "\$800." If you are not familiar with the technical lingo of the automobile profession, you tend to believe the technical person who is spitting out technical word salad. If you search a listing of automotive technical terms, there is no such thing as a disgonificator in an automobile. We are confronted with various forms of word salad daily. If you are the recipient of word salad, don't hesitate to ask for clarification or get a second opinion from a reputable source.



Chuck Roberts

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:
"How much Black Friday shopping did you do, either online or in person?"

"None this year."

David M. Milroy

"None."

Pat Estes

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
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Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to (news@rochelle-news-leader.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the 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

Three RTHS students chosen to perform at ILMEA festival

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School Band Director Keaton Shumard announced last week that three students in the band program were selected to perform in the Illinois Music Educators Association District 8 Festival on Saturday, Nov. 19 at DeKalb High School.

The students who represented RTHS were Jessica Nguyen (junior, clarinet), Aiden Ramsey (junior, trombone) and Tommy Koziol (senior, trumpet).

These students performed together in the ILMEA District 8 High School Concert Band and got to work with Guest Conductor Alex Kamin-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Jessica Nguyen (junior, clarinet), Aiden Ramsey (junior, trombone) and Tommy Koziol (senior, trumpet) were selected to perform in the Illinois Music Educators Association District 8 Festival on Saturday, Nov. 19 at DeKalb High School.

sky from the VanderCook College of Music.

The group rehearsed all

day and put on a concert that evening.

Shumard said, "The students told

me they had a good experience, and I'm very proud of all their hard work!"

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

Dec. 4 – (Sunday Brunch) – Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Oatmeal, Meat Skillets over Diced Potatoes

KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries

****All menus are subject to change. If you would like to check before coming out, please call us at 815-561-9074 www.KitchenTableRochelle.org**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec. 1

Josh Perkins
Kennedy Smith
Brooks Bridgeman

Dec. 2

Dylan Rosenbach

Dec. 3

Ty Vongsiri
Annabelle Sexton

Dec. 4

Teresa Dodillet

Dec. 6

Kelly Smith

Dec. 9

Claire Johnson

Dec. 10

Mary Helfrich

Dec. 11

Samantha Johnson

Dec. 12

Tim & Megan
South (anniversary)
Jax Sullivan

Dec. 13

Kellen Eggenburg
Kenlee Hayward
Jeff Dickey

Dec. 20

Amanda Avila
Emilyn Voight

Dec. 21

Jacob King
Bill Patrick
Angie Mitchell

Dec. 22

Deb Wooten

Dec. 23

Tristen McGuire
Bailey Dolister

Dec. 24

Luke Gilliam

Dec. 25

Maribel Ortiz

Dec. 26

Annette Sulser

Dec. 28

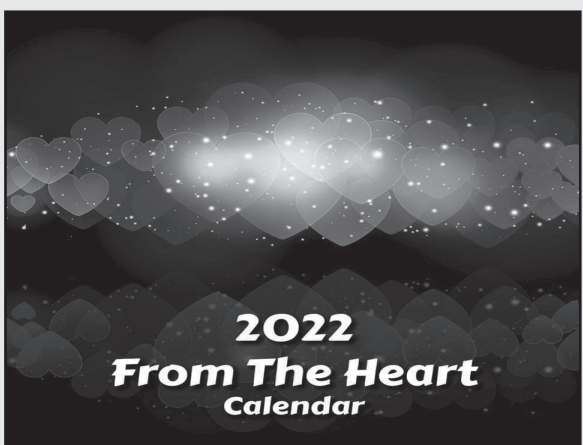
Chris Prosser

Dec. 29

Kelsey Rogers

Dec. 31

Jamey & Nicole
King (anniversary)
Ruth Allen
Hayleigh Jones



Nov. 4 - Foundation for Focus House, \$25

Nov. 5 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 6 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50

Nov. 7 - Jacob Meyers, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 8 - Sharon Watkins, DeKalb, \$25

Nov. 9 - Rachel Huff, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 10 - Pastor Greg & Tina Hoffman, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 11 - Foundation for Focus House, Rochelle, \$250

Nov. 12 - Nancy Pfab, Lindenwood, \$25

Nov. 13 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50

Nov. 14 - Michael Shumack, Amboy, \$25

Nov. 15 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 16 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25

Nov. 17 - Patty Rudolphi, Dixon, \$25

Nov. 18 - Justin Hutchinson, Sterling, \$25

Nov. 19 - Adam Heal, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 20 - Dale Galland, Rochelle, \$50

Nov. 21 - Gary and Sharon Olszewski, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 22 - Colby Capes, Chicago, \$25

Nov. 23 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 24 - Adam Heal, Rochelle, \$500

Nov. 25 - Rochelle Rescue Mission, \$25

Nov. 26 - Sharlene Meadows, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 27 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$50

Nov. 28 - Fran Robertson, Sycamore, \$25

Nov. 29 - Debra R. Mayer, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 30 - Rochelle Foods, Rochelle, \$25

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

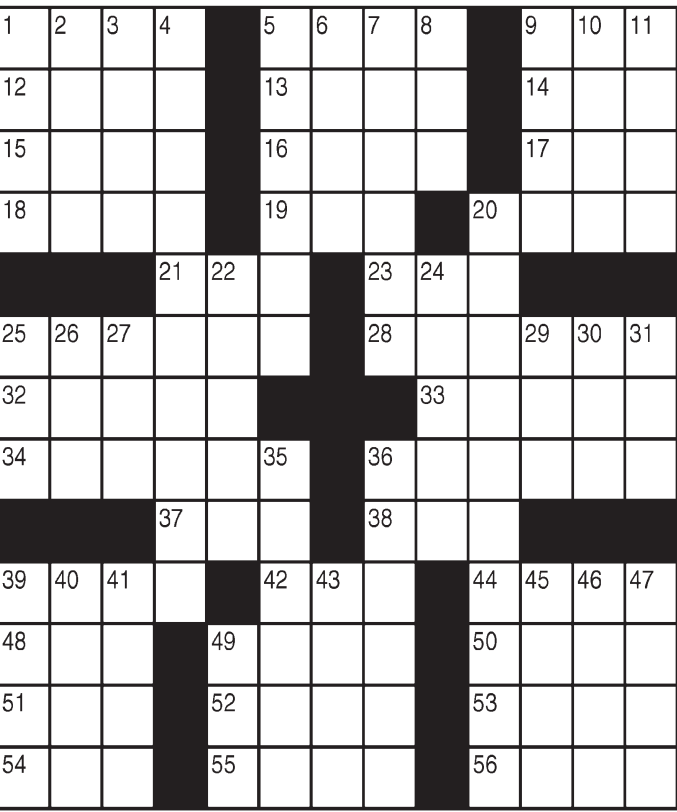


Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Asian desert
5 Weep loudly
9 Swiss peak
12 Mideast gulf
13 "Night" author Wiesel
14 Life story
15 Pantheon members
16 Quest
17 Director Howard
18 Region
19 Texter's "Wow!"
20 Full house, e.g.
21 Dolphins' org.
23 Here (Fr.)
25 Used a hoe
28 Put a price on
32 Dole out
33 Stage
34 Show bad posture
36 Creatures
37 Your
38 Ornate vase
39 Corn castoffs
42 Tavern
44 Party pooper
48 Small battery
49 Ireland
50 Theater box
51 Norm (Abbr.)
52 Swampy terrain
53 Portent



DOWN

- 1 Quite enthusiastic
2 Bloodhound's clue
3 Eliot's "Adam —"
4 Important details
5 Observe
6 Grad
7 Improvise
8 Allow
9 Start of a spell
10 King of the jungle
11 Frogs' hangout
20 Everywhere
22 Command to Fido
24 Prank
25 "Now, where — I?"
26 Right angle
27 "Xanadu" band
29 Cooking fuel
30 Ballpark fig.
31 — Moines
35 Cross
36 Stovetop feature
39 Mama — Elliot
40 Swearword
41 Commanded
43 Suffix for billion
45 "Arrivederci —"
46 On in years
47 Actor Hackman
49 Punk-rock subgenre

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: Z equals S

TQJP ZQHSSL RBMJRHP MJHZRZ
SJR RCSJRQJE HPF RHDG
PCPZRCV, B TCWDF ZHL
RQJL'EJ LHGGBPS BR WV.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



When shaggy Tibetan beasts
get together and talk
nonstop, I would say
they're yakkling it up.

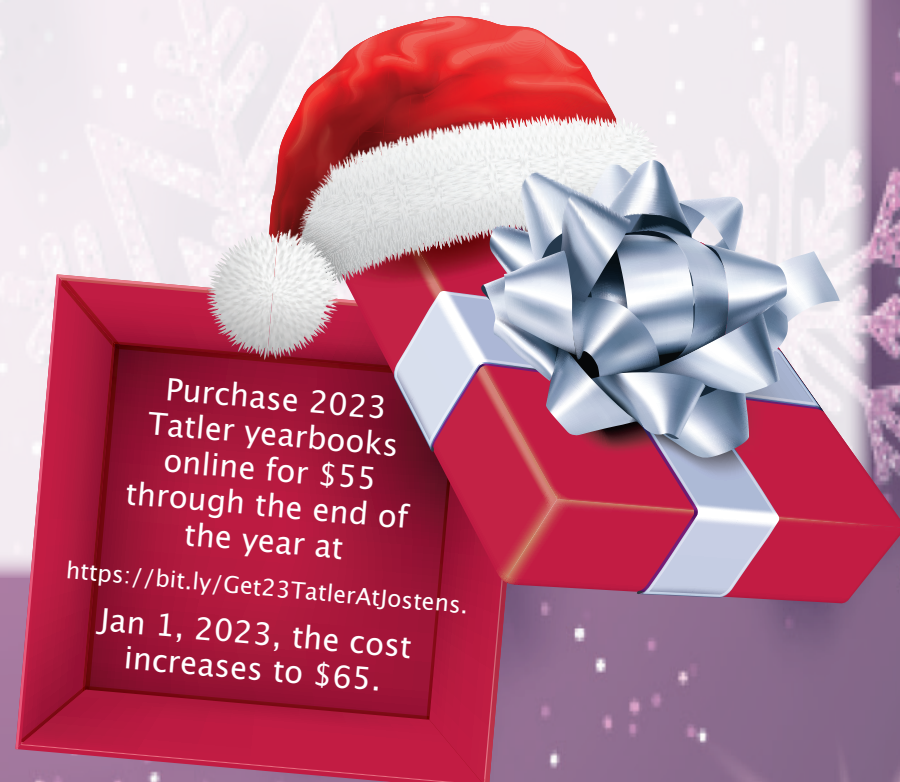
Cryptoquip

December

HUB NEWS @ RTHS

What Is Happening

Dec 1	Senior Cap & Gown order deadline. Order: www.HerffJonesLL.com Call Herff Jones: 815-756-4743	Dec 15	FLEX Day - classes dismiss 2:15 and buses run at 3:05. Teachers will be in classrooms to assist you
Dec 2	11:30 dismissal Madrigal Dinner at The Rec. Tickets \$25 online https://bit.ly/22MadrigalTicketOrderForm		Combined Holiday Concert 7 pm; tickets \$1
Dec 3	Speech team at DeKalb HS Madrigal Dinner at The Rec. Tickets \$25 https://bit.ly/22MadrigalTicketOrderForm	Dec 16	Student Council Dance for Charity 8:30-10:30pm - Benefits Rochelle Christian Food Pantry & Community Action Network
Dec 3-4	Connor O'Rorke Basketball Tournament Steward School - Silver Service volunteers needed	Dec 17	Speech team @ Byron
Dec 6	FFA volunteers at The Kitchen Table Interact Toys for Tots drive ends @ basketball game Interact Movie Night	Dec 19	5:30 pm Board of Education
Dec 7	Community Action Network Coat Drive ends	Dec 20	Day 1 Final Exams 8:05 am to 12:25 pm Purple PM bus routes
Dec 8	USMC Sgt Greg Burdick at 10:35pm in the CC. Community Action Network Christmas Shopping Night - Spanish Club & Cheerleaders volunteer	Dec 21	Day 2 Final Exams 8:05 am to 12:25 pm Purple Bus Routes PM
Dec 9	FLEX Day - classes dismiss 2:15; buses run 3:05pm. Teachers will be in their classrooms to assist you	Dec 22	Day 3 Final exams 8:05-9:30 am End of 2nd 9-week grading period End of 1st Semester SILVER SERVICE claims due before you leave for the break
Dec 10	RTHS Speech Invitational 8pm Pack the stands at Carlson Ice Arena for Rockford Hockey Club - Senior Night - Owen Haas plays for the team	Dec 23-Jan4	Winter Break No School
Dec 12	Delivery of FFA fruit/cheese orders	Jan 5	Teacher Institute No School
Dec 14	FFA meeting/Christmas party	Jan 6	School resumes 8:05 am to 3:05pm



coat DRIVE

thank *you* for helping
to keep others warm

Community Action Network & Kiwanis Club are collecting coats to be given away during the annual Children's Christmas Shopping Trip Thursday, Dec. 8 at the First Presbyterian Church.

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SPORTS



JV WRESTLERS SHINE

The Rochelle Hub JV wrestling team took eighth at the Mike West Invitational.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Boys Basketball

Strong finish at Strombom

Rochelle wins consolation bracket with victories over Sandwich, Sycamore

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

SYCAMORE — Despite playing with four fouls, senior forward Raul Aguirre was aggressive during the fourth quarter of the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team’s consolation-bracket matchup against Sandwich at the Strombom Thanksgiving Tournament on Friday afternoon.

With the Hubs needing a spark and looking to avoid consecutive losses to start the season, Aguirre went to work on the block, hitting three low-post field goals while sinking a 3-pointer from the elbow to score all nine of his points in the fourth quarter. A fast-break layup from junior Eli Luxton, who led Rochelle with 14 points, in the final seconds helped secure a 54-49 win over the Indians.

The Hubs will conclude the holiday tournament with one more game on Saturday. “I wasn’t sure how soon we would win our first game because we have a lot of young guys and we have a lot of work to do,” Aguirre said. “We’re not the team we’re going to be quite yet and we’re still learning to trust each other. I was frustrated early in the game and it felt like things

weren’t going my way, but I kept my head up and did what I needed to do for our team.”

Coming off a nearly 40-point loss against Sterling on Wednesday, Rochelle (1-1, 0-0 Interstate 8) showed better ball movement and shooting in the first quarter, where Luxton provided an early surge and junior Jack Tracey converted a pair of field goals to score five of his nine points to help the Hubs take a 17-10 lead. Both teams had issues with fouls in the first half, with Rochelle allowing the Indians into the double bonus midway through the second quarter.

Sandwich capitalized on the Hub fouls, earning several trips to the free-throw line while the Indians slowed Rochelle down with quality half-court defense on the other end. Sandwich snuck ahead of the Hubs 26-24 at halftime and held a 38-37 advantage after the third quarter, where senior Colton O’Rorke, who finished with 10 points, nailed the second of two 3-pointers in the game. The first of four Aguirre buckets in the fourth quarter gave Rochelle the lead back.

“That first shot went in and I focused on taking smart shots from that point

on,” Aguirre said. “I needed to be cautious since I had four fouls, but it felt good to put some shots into the basket. Being strong with the ball will be huge for us moving forward. Defenders are very aggressive at the varsity level and some of our younger guys are facing that for the first time. We need to continue working on taking care of the ball and making good, solid passes through contact.”

A running floater from senior David Gerber, who had five points on Friday, helped Rochelle maintain a two-or-three possession lead throughout the fourth quarter. Luxton and Gerber each split free throws in the final minute, keeping the Hubs ahead 52-49 as Sandwich ran one final play down the court. But a turnover underneath the basket and a quick outlet pass to Luxton for an easy layup made it a two-possession game with only seconds remaining to seal the win.

Sycamore

The Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team earned its second consecutive win to close out the Strombom Thanksgiving Tournament on Saturday. Junior Eli Luxton scored 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds,



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior David Gerber protects the ball from Sandwich defender Dylan Young during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against the Indians on Friday.

earning All-Tournament honors as the Hubs held on for a 51-45 win against Sycamore to win the consolation bracket.

Rochelle (2-1, 0-0 Inter-

state 8) finished fifth out of eight schools in the tournament. Junior Jack Tracey and senior Raul Aguirre each scored nine points for the Hubs, who will host

Kaneland on Friday at 7 p.m. Rochelle led Sycamore 24-18 at halftime and limited the Spartans to under 35 percent shooting from the field in the win.

RTHS Football



(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)

Seniors Garrett Gensler, Aidan Rodriguez and Trey Taft (left to right) were three of the nine members of the Rochelle Hub varsity football team who received First-Team All-Conference honors from the Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Conference this season. Rochelle also saw five members of the team earn Honorable Mentions.

Nine Hubs earn I-8/KRC First-Team honors

Five athletes receive Honorable Mentions, Gensler named Defensive POY

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Fourteen student-athletes on the Rochelle Hub varsity football team received All-Conference recogni-

tion from the Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River this season. Nine student-athletes earned First-Team awards and five were named Honorable Mentions.

Seniors Garrett

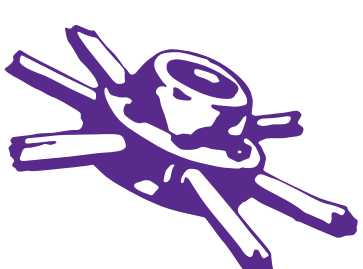
Gensler, Trey Taft, Aidan Rodriguez and Aidan Darby were all named First-Team honorees this season. Gensler, who was also named the I-8/KRC Defensive Player of the Year, rushed for 1,727

yards and 29 touchdowns while adding 47 tackles as a two-way starter. Taft was also a two-way starter for the Hubs this season, rushing for 1,099 yards and 12 touchdowns while adding eight receptions for 200

yards and three touchdowns with 18 tackles. Rodriguez started at cornerback and earned reps at wide receiver for the varsity team, recording 28 tackles and one interception along with two

receptions for 17 yards. Darby started at tight end and earned spot starts at offensive tackle for the Hubs (9-3, 4-1 I-8/KRC Blue).

See HUBS page 3



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Hub JV wrestling team took eighth out of 20 schools in the annual Mike West Invitational at Rockford East High School on Friday afternoon.

JV wrestlers take eighth at Mike West Invitational

BY RUSSELL HODGES

SPORTS EDITOR

ROCKFORD — The Rochelle Hub JV wrestlers combined to take eighth out of 20 schools in the Mike West Invitational at Rockford East on Friday. Nearly every wrestler who participated brought home a top-6 finish for the Hubs, who will host a non conference meet against Rock Falls and Erie-Prophetstown at Rochelle Township High School on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Robert Stoffel finished first in the 220-pound bracket with a 4-0 record. Stoffel began the tournament with a first-round fall over Prairie Ridge's TJ Vahos before scoring a 7-3 decision against Joliet Central's Jose Muscote. Stoffel won the bracket with back-to-back falls over Geneseo's Owen Skovronski and Freeport's Dawson Holland in the semifinal and final bouts.

Anthony Milburn took second in the 113-pound bracket with a 2-1 record. Milburn recorded consecutive falls over Yorkville's Liam Loher and Johnsbury's Jordan Mercado to reach the final round, where Milburn conceded a fall loss against Hononegah's Carlos Borges.

Frank Nasca placed third in the 126-pound bracket with a 3-1 record. Nasca started the tournament with falls over Hononegah's Emily Nguyen and Marian Central Catholic's Josh Gawronski. After losing an 11-4 decision to Joliet Central's Alex Fernandez in the semifinal round, Nasca won the third-place bout with a fall over Johnsbury's Kainoa Ancog.

Keagan Albers finished fifth in the 113-pound bracket with a 2-1 record. Albers conceded a fall to Hononegah's Carlos

Borges before ending the tournament with back-to-back falls over Marian Central Catholic's Chandler Gardner and Yorkville Christian's Josiah Aguado.

Riley Damask took sixth in the 132-pound bracket with a 3-2 record. Damask recorded a fall over Rockford East's Christian Cossia before falling to Hampshire's Max Tyler. Damask earned his way into the fifth-place bout with a 6-5 decision over Rockford East's Nicholas Shook-Hernandez and a fall over Hampshire's Austin Savoia. Damask faced Freeport's Joshua Avila in the fifth-place bout, fighting hard but coming just short in a loss by 5-1 decision.

Alex McBride placed sixth in the 195-pound bracket with a 3-2 record. McBride won by fall over Freeport's Michael Tillmon before conceding a fall to Yorkville's Ryan Stockl. McBride took his next two matches, winning by default over Yorkville's Cameron Burke and by fall over Joliet Central's AJ Hook. McBride faced Geneseo's Aaron Betcher for fifth, losing by 4-3 decision.

Other notable finishers in the "B" brackets include Cammyla Macias (5th at 120), Elijah Mayen (5th at 126), Josey Weber (3rd at 126), Logan Crawford (4th at 126), Connor Macklin (4th at 132), Abel Huerta (2nd at 145), Dempsey Atkinson (3rd at 145), Riley Vondergathen (5th at 152) and Parker Campos (5th at 160). Participants in the main brackets included Colten Manning (1-2 at 106), Victor O'Dell (1-2 at 113), Deegan Schabacker (2-2 at 126), Jordan Bly (0-2 at 152), Josue Albanil (0-2 at 182), Jacob Blondin (0-2 at 195) and Caleb Rodriguez (0-2 at 220).

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SPORTS



(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)

Juniors Brock Metzger and Landon Mickley as well as senior Aidan Darby (above left to right) were named First-Team All-Conference honorees in the Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River this season. Sophomores Grant Gensler, Kaiden Morris and Jack Pavlak (below left to right) were also named First-Team recipients.

HUBS: Rochelle football players earn I-8/KRC honors

From page 1

Juniors Brock Metzger and Landon Mickley each earned First-Team recognition this season. Metzger led the defense with 70 tackles, five tackles for loss and one fumble recovery at inside linebacker. Mickley started at right tackle and

logged snaps at defensive tackle this season.

Sophomores Grant Gensler, Kaiden Morris and Jack Pavlak all received First-Team honors. Gensler totaled 37 tackles and a team-high four interceptions at free safety while rushing for 189 yards and two touchdowns

on offense. Morris, who was named a First-Team honoree as a freshman last season, started at right guard and finished with 36 tackles and a team-high three sacks and two fumble recoveries at defensive tackle this season. Pavlak started at right-side tight end and recorded 16

tackles with one sack at defensive end for the Hubs this season.

The five student-athletes who took home Honorable Mentions include seniors John Green, Hayden Inman, David Gerber and Raul Aguirre as well as sophomore Erich Metzger. Green started at

center this season, while Inman started all 12 games at quarterback, throwing for 419 yards and five touchdowns with one rushing touchdown. Gerber started at wide receiver and cornerback, totaling seven receptions for 176 yards and two touchdowns along with 16 tackles.

Aguirre finished with eight tackles, one tackle for loss and one sack at defensive end this season. Metzger became the starting fullback halfway through the season, rushing for 837 yards and seven touchdowns while adding 32 tackles and three tackles for loss on defense.



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The Rochelle News-Leader

PRIME TIME

How to make bathrooms safer for seniors

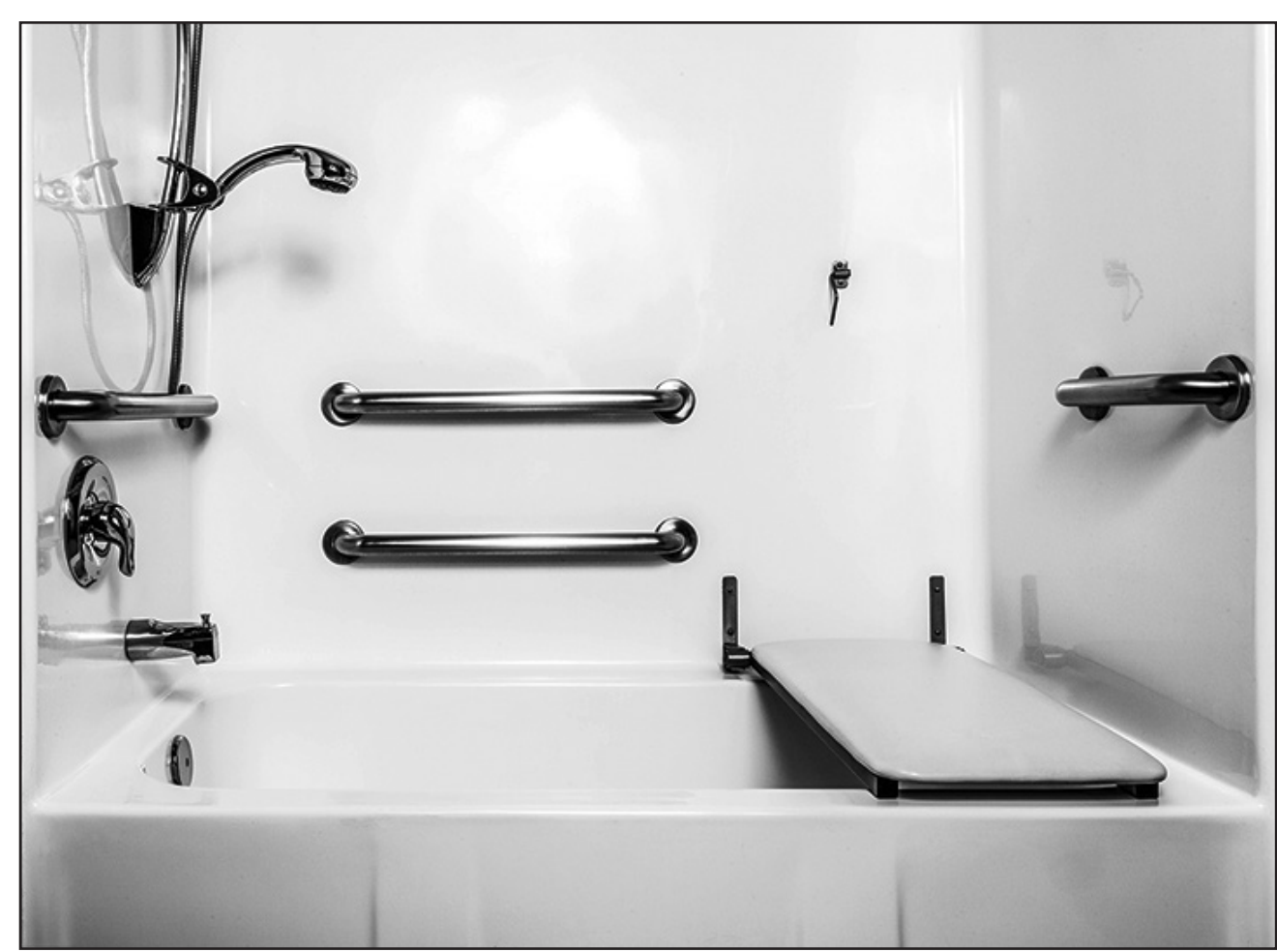
DANGER might not be the first word to come to mind when individuals consider their bathrooms, but perhaps it should be? After all, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that each year more than 1.5 million aging adults visit emergency rooms for fall-related injuries, many of which occur in the bathroom.

Many falls and spills that occur in the bathroom can be prevented. Seniors or their loved ones can make some minor adjustments to bathrooms so falls are less likely to happen.

Install grab bars in the shower and bath and elsewhere, as necessary. Grab bars make it easier for aging men and women to get into and out of the shower or the tub by giving them something to hold onto. This can be especially helpful for seniors who must step up and over their tubs to bathe. Though they're primarily used in showers and tubs, grab bars also can be installed alongside toilets for seniors who could use a little help sitting down

and getting up from their toilets. AARP notes that sheltering arm grab bars provide the best support around toilets. Such grab bars come around both sides of the toilet and look similar to armrests.

Install LED lighting. Poor lighting in a bathroom can make it hard for seniors to see, which can make them more vulnerable to slips and falls. That's especially so for seniors who find themselves making frequent bathroom visits overnight. Even bathrooms with seemingly adequate lighting may be dangerous if they feature dated light fixtures that rely on incandescent bulbs to light the room. Incandescent bulbs burn out with greater frequency than LED alternatives, which can last for years. The longer bulbs last, the less often seniors need to change them, which also reduces their risk for injury. In addition to replacing traditional fixtures with LED alternatives, individuals can plug in LED night lights that make it easy to see when making nighttime visits to the bathroom.



Utilize non-slip bath mats. Non-slip bath mats often utilize rubber-backed liners to ensure the mats stay put even when floors get wet or damp from condensation after a hot bath or shower. Non-slip mats can be placed where

individuals will enter and exit the shower and even by the toilet and sink so individuals always feel steady on their feet.

Clean bathrooms regularly. Bathroom surfaces can grow slippery from soap scum, condensation

and previous spills. Prompt and routine cleaning can reduce the likelihood that seniors will fall in their bathrooms. Seniors who have difficulty keeping up with household cleaning can hire a cleaning service or ask a younger relative to help them keep their bathrooms clean and safe.

Seniors can fall anywhere in a home, but may be more likely to do so in a bathroom. Various measures can help make bathrooms safer for aging individuals.

Lifestyle habits that affect cognitive health

VARIOUS changes to appearance and health are associated with aging. Issues such as diminished vision, waning muscle strength and gray hairs are among the more common and noticeable side effects of aging. Cognitive decline is another symptom often associated with aging, even if that needn't be the case.

Certain lifestyle choices can protect against cognitive decline and dementias. While there is no surefire way to prevent

dementias, here are some good habits for maintaining cognitive function well into your golden years.

Harvard Health reports that exercise, in addition to the many other benefits it provides, may help improve cognitive function in people who have already experienced memory issues. Exercise may be particularly advantageous to people who carry the APOE4 gene variant, which makes people more susceptible to Alzheimer's. Speak with

a doctor about how much exercise is needed and what is safe for your age.

Playing a favorite video game may improve long-term cognitive function. Researchers at Cambridge Brain Sciences found study participants who played non-cognitive-training video games were associated with better performance in several cognitive domains, but only for younger (age 18

to 64) participants. Cognitive training games, on the other hand, were not associated with any cognitive improvement.

According to a study published in the journal Experimental Aging Research, seniors who have high levels of social engagement also have better cognitive function. Getting together with friends, participating in a club, attending religious

studies, and any other activity that gets you out with other people can help with cognitive function.

Eating a diverse array of healthy foods is beneficial. Nutritious diets can help reduce the risk for illnesses that may affect cognitive ability. Eating well also helps keep the brain healthy. A Mediterranean diet appears to lower the risk or slow the progression of dementia in people who have the condition.

Lack of sleep can affect memory and learning. By getting help for sleep disorders, you may reduce your risk for cognitive issues.

While it is not possible to prevent or cure cognitive conditions like dementias with lifestyle changes, certain behaviors can lower the risk of developing these illnesses or reduce their severity.

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
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OGLE COUNTY**
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
MARYELLEN BLUM-
LAZARUS, Deceased.
NO. 2022PR68
CLAIM NOTICE – CRED-
ITORS AND UNKNOWN
HEIRS

Notice is given of the death of MARYELLEN BLUM-LAZARUS, of Rochelle, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 10, 2022, to LEWIS E. LAZARUS, JR., whose address is 117 7th Ave. Unit 3, Rochelle, IL 61068, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068. Claims against the Estate may be filed by any creditor or unknown heir in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than May 17, 2023, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for LEWIS E. LAZARUS, JR., Administrator of the Estate of MARYELLEN BLUM-LAZARUS, deceased
No. 1118

(Nov. 16, 23 and 30, 2022)
**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT OGLE
COUNTY, ILLINOIS**
IN RE THE ESTATE OF
) COLLEEN BEE
)
)
)

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the Estate of COLLEEN BLEE, of Byron, Ogle County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 2nd of 2022, to TORBY CARLSON, whose address is 1901 Glen Echo, Winnebago, IL 61088 of Ogle County and whose attorney is Maria Berger of Berger Law Firm LLC, 418 W. Blackhawk Dr, Suite 102, Byron IL 61010.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, Illinois 61061, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this claim notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. Nov. 15, 2022.

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(Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7, 2022)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Rochelle will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 12th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of Rochelle City Hall, located at 420 N. 6th Street in Rochelle, to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

project. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact Rose Hueramo, Rochelle City Clerk, Rochelle City Hall, Rochelle IL, 815/501-4565 not later than December 9th, 2022. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons

On or about January 19, 2023 the City of Rochelle intends to apply to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This program is funded by Title 1 of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: lining existing sanitary sewers in a residential neighborhood in southeast Rochelle. The total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$1,052,200. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low-and-moderate-income persons is \$627,637. The City of Rochelle also proposes to expend \$300,000 in non-CDBG funds on the project. All of these non-CDBG-funds will be derived from the following source: Rochelle Municipal Utilities' Water Reclamation Capital Outlay account.

Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of November 30, 2022 in the City Clerk's office, Rochelle City Hall, 420 N. 6th Street in Rochelle between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Interested citizens are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by prior written statement. Written comments should be submitted to the City Clerk's office in Rochelle City Hall no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 9, 2022 in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. A plan to minimize displacement and provide assistance to those displaced has been prepared by the City of Rochelle and is also available to the public. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Adam Lanning at 815/561-2065 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or write to Mr. Lanning at P.O. Box 456, Rochelle IL 61068

John Bearrows, Mayor
City of Rochelle
November 30, 2022
No. 1132
(Nov. 30, 2022)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do

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

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

Furman's Lawn Care and Tree Work. Fall clean up, gutters and more. Fully insured. In business since 1999. Rochelle and surrounding areas. Call Jeremy Furman at 815-761-9619. Please leave a message, will return call ASAP.

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY:
Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting...
Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com
ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

SPLIT firewood for sale. Contact 779-251-0254. (12-17-22)

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

ROCHELLE: Large North Side 2-BEDROOM. Free heat and water. No Pets. 815-919-9015. (12-04-22)

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION
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• Refrigerators • Freezers
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ADVERTISE
WITH US

INFORMATION

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815-562-4171
Fax:
815-562-2161
Email:
classifieds@rochellenews-leader.com
Address:
211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle
Mail:
P.O. Box 46
Rochelle, IL 61068

DEADLINES:

Sunday News-Leader: Thursday, 2 p.m.
Tuesday Shopping News: Friday, 10 a.m.
Wednesday News-Leader: Monday, 4 p.m.
(Deadlines subject to change during holiday times)

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

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

DISCLAIMER:

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

Thanks for leaving
your car here last night
and not ending my
family's lives.

Maria Punjabi

SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED.
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U.S. Department of Transportation

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**and receive a Rotary
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(a \$159 total value!)

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holiday gift deal!*

