



ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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Mt. Morris Straw Fest held recently

Mt. Morris recently held its annual straw sculpting competition this past month. **Page 3**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY HIGH LOW 78 55	THURSDAY HIGH LOW 81 54
FRIDAY HIGH LOW 81 55	SATURDAY HIGH LOW 82 57



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OBITUARIES

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- JOANE 'MARIE' SCHABACKER
- WAYNE SILVIUS

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Baldwin honored with award 'We have so much to offer... it's easy to promote Rochelle'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

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



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Longtime Colonial Flowers & Gifts Owner Naomi Baldwin was awarded the Blackhawk Waterways Tourism in Northwest Illinois Above & Beyond for Tourism Award at the organization's dinner at Chicagoland Skydiving Center.

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."

Baldwin's efforts have also included helping to originally start the Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. She said she's enjoyed seeing all of the changes to the downtown over the years and she likes showing visiting family and friends the improvements when they visit.

"It's easy for me to promote Rochelle, and along

with that I'm promoting my own business," Baldwin said. "As visitors from out of town come, that just adds to our economy. And when I go on a road trip with my family, we love to stop in little towns and just check them out. I think that's what a lot of people do when they come through here. Or if they're just here to visit."

See BALDWIN pg 2

Advocating suicide prevention

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Since May, Stephanie White of Rochelle has been working as an advocate for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

White's father, Steven, passed away in February due to suicide. After that, she felt it's important that communities come together to educate everyone on mental health and end suicide. Her work as an advocate has included helping to urge public officials to prioritize suicide prevention and mental health.

"It's really helped with my grief process," White said. "It's been something that's been an outlet for me and you feel like you're making a difference. I heard once that, 'Grief is hard to navigate, but it's hard to be sad when you're helping someone else.' Just staying active to try to help other people has helped me feel better."

See WHITE page 2

Tyler Smith 5K scheduled for Sunday Proceeds benefit nonprofits and scholarships for RTHS students

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The fourth annual Tyler Smith Memorial 5K and after party will take place Sunday, Sept. 11 in Rochelle.

The 5K run/walk begins at 9 a.m. at Atwood Park. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. at Kids Ground at Cooper Park.

The cost to participate is \$25 and includes race entry and lunch. To register, go online to raceentry.com or go in-person to the Rochelle Park District office at The REC Center. The after party will take place at the Rochelle VFW from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include lunch, a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction and music. Tickets for lunch-only are \$10. Proceeds from the events will benefit the Tyler Smith Memorial Fund.

Smith, a graduate of Rochelle Township High School and Western Illinois University, was 23 when he was found dead on Sept. 15, 2018 in Cedar Fork Creek in Galesburg. He was in the Army National Guard and was in



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The fourth annual Tyler Smith Memorial 5K and after party will take place Sunday, Sept. 11 in Rochelle. The 5K run/walk begins at 9 a.m. at Atwood Park. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. at Kids Ground at Cooper Park.

the area at the time for drill training.

After the Galesburg Police Department ini-

tiated the investigation into Smith's death and ruled it accidental from drowning, the Illinois

State Police Division of Criminal Investigation got involved in Sept. 2020 and launched an investigation

into Tyler's case that is still ongoing.

See 5K page 8

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LOCAL NEWS

WHITE: Rochelle woman advocating for suicide prevention

From page 1

After her father's passing, White's family did research and chose the AFSP as the organization that friends and family could make donations to during his memorial service. Funds donated to the AFSP go directly to scientific research and helping families impacted by suicide loss.

After signing up to be an advocate, White was tasked with reaching out to legislators. She's written many letters and emails to representatives asking for their help and consideration and what they're doing for suicide prevention and mental health advocacy.

The main focus of the advocacy has been getting the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline started to make mental health emergencies easier to call in and for people in crisis to be able to talk to a trained mental health professional.

The now-simplified 988 service (previously 1-800-273-8255) is an alternative to 911 and connects callers to Lifeline centers. Those centers de-escalate 98 percent of crisis calls without dispatching emergency services. Well-resourced crisis support systems can connect callers with local resources, including someone to talk to (call centers), someone to respond (mobile crisis teams) and somewhere to go (crisis stabilization centers).

White is currently advocating for HR 7116, the 988 Implementation Act, which would provide fed-

eral funding and guidance for states for 988 crisis services in the United States.

"It was very important to have a number for mental health crises that can be called to talk to someone that's educated and specializes in de-escalating those types of situations," White said. "It's a quick dial and now awareness about it has to be raised so people know to call and advocating has to be done to get the funds to get the appropriate people in place that can continue taking those calls and de-escalating mental health situations of people who are having suicidal thoughts or anxiety attacks that they can't get under control."

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. White wants to break the stigma surrounding suicide and for mental health issues to stop being seen as a weakness. She hopes being an advocate can help to encourage people to get the help they really need.

"I think with any type of mental health, people are scared to talk about it," White said. "Talking and being more open about suicide or all types of mental health can let others know it's OK to talk about it and it's not just them feeling it. Everybody has some sort of struggle or knows somebody that struggles with mental health. Having people feel more comfortable talking about it, I hope that helps them to reach out if they do need help."

Along with scientific research and advocacy, the AFSP does communi-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Since May, Stephanie White of Rochelle has been working as an advocate for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. White's father, Steven, passed away in February due to suicide.

ty walks and raises funds for suicide prevention. White plans to participate in those walks this month and to wear shirts to raise awareness.

The AFSP acts as a support system for people who have been impacted by the suicide of a loved one. White believes her next step is to try to share her personal journey.

"I'd like to not only help get the funding and awareness raised for suicide prevention, but maybe transition to helping other families that have dealt with suicide loss," White said. "That's my next goal."

White called her father "a kind and loving man." He loved tinkering with things, was a welder and was "very artistic." He had all sorts of hobbies, including gardening and fishing. He was an involved grandfather to Stephanie's three children and was at every sporting event and dance recital.

"He was recently retired and picked up a lot of

hobbies and just had a lot of downtime," White said. "On top of being such a happy and wonderful man, he was also struggling with depression and was able to hide it for 10 years."

White said it's easy to be overwhelmed by the sad and traumatic parts of losing a loved one to suicide. She doesn't want those to be the things that are remembered about her father.

"He was a kind and generous man," White said. "I feel like helping other people and trying to make an impact in some way is something he'd want me to do and it makes me feel closer to him. That I can turn something traumatic into something positive to try to help somebody else. Like I said, it's hard to be sad when you're helping someone else."

For more information on the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, visit afsp.org/988. If you're in a crisis, call or text 988 or text TALK to 741741.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

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

BALDWIN: Flower shop owner honored

From page 1

Baldwin said business downtown and in Rochelle as a whole working as a team is the key to tourism success. Having more visitors helps the whole community.

If Baldwin doesn't have something a customer is looking for in her shop, she'll send them to another local business. Sometimes people stop into Colonial Flowers & Gifts just to ask for directions. Baldwin has maps with every downtown business on them.

"That's what brings everything together," Baldwin said. "Businesses working as a team makes it win-win for everybody.

We show them the map and say, 'You need to go see this, this and this.' We send people to the library and the museum. The downtown is absolutely gorgeous thanks to the city. The improvement in the last four years has been great."

After 54 years, Baldwin still enjoys driving down Lincoln Highway into the downtown and seeing the mural, streets, flowers and businesses. She hasn't slowed down her tourism promotion efforts. She spent Tuesday night in a meeting discussing fall plans for the downtown.

"I just continue doing it," Baldwin said. "It's just a part of my DNA I guess."

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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY BRAD JENNINGS)

The Seventh Annual U.S. National Straw Sculpting Competition closed out the final weekend with Straw Fest Saturday, Aug. 27 on the Mt. Morris downtown campus. Four new 2022 "Fine Art in Straw" sculptures, along with 16 additional sculptures from past years, will remain on display through Sept. 11.

Straw sculpting competition held in Mt. Morris

BY BRAD JENNINGS
OGLE COUNTY LIFE EDITOR

MT. MORRIS – The Seventh Annual U.S. National Straw Sculpting Competition closed out the final weekend with Straw Fest Saturday, Aug. 27 on the Mt. Morris downtown campus.

Four new 2022 "Fine Art in Straw" sculptures, along with 16 addition-

al sculptures from past years, will remain on display for all to enjoy sunrise to sunset through Sept. 11.

Winners for the annual event were determined by public and artists voting.

'Sunday Bath' by Steve Lentz of Montello, Wisconsin won first place people's and first place artist's choice.

'The Catch' by Juan

Zelaya of Hoffman Estates, Illinois won second place people's and second place artist's choice.

'The Hero Within' by Doreen White and friends of Forreston won third place people's choice.

'Die Schnecke' by Chris & Cecillia Mann of Rockford won third place artist's choice.

The annual 'Straw Bale Races in the Street' had

eight, two-person teams rolling round bales 75 feet for time. Each team rolled a preliminary round to establish a bracket for the races. Working their way through the quarter finals, semi-finals and final race, the team of Tyler Willman and Levi Schuler, both of Pine Creek, won the event. They also had the fastest roll of the day with a blistering 8.91 seconds

in the semi-final round.

Straw Fest also included blacksmith demos, Wild Bulls mechanical bull riding, Rustic Ridge Ax Throwing, a new crafter's market, straw sculpting awards and more. 'Brass From The Past,' a classic rock and soul band from Chicago, wrapped up the evening with a standing ovation performance on the band

shell.

The Eighth Annual U.S. National Straw Sculpting Competition will be Aug. 11-27, 2023 with Straw Fest on Saturday, Aug. 26 on the Mt. Morris campus.

ENCORE! Mt. Morris, a cultural initiative of Mt. Morris Economic Development Corp., is funded by public donations. Learn more at EncoreMtMorris.com.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Lois Evelyn Hayes

STEWART — Lois Evelyn Hayes, 90, passed away Sunday, Sept. 4 at Liberty Village in Rochelle. Lois was born on June 17, 1932, the daughter of Harland and Evelyn (Aurand) Strawbridge in St. Paul, Minnesota. On June 20, 1970, she married Michael Edward Hayes in Stewart. He preceded her in death in 1991.

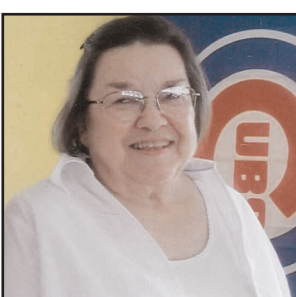
Lois was the head nurse in the obstetrics department at the Rochelle Community Hospital for almost 42 years. She loved spending time at the Rock River with her husband, Mickey, traveling with her nurse friends all over the country after Mickey's passing and spending all the time she could with her many wonderful nieces and nephews. She enjoyed baking and bird watching and was an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs.

She was a longtime member of the Steward United Methodist Church

and the United Methodist Women. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was the 1977 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year for the state of Illinois.

Lois is survived by two sisters: Kay Tripp and Janet Hayes Stocking; 13 nieces and nephews: Philip (Karen) Hayes, Thad Hayes, David (Cherie) Hayes, Nancy (John) Conley, Matt (Rebekah) Hayes, Sherri (Frank) Myers, Susan (Dan) Johnson, Brian (Shawn) Strawbridge, Laura (Jarvis) Butler, Neil Jr. (Pat) Strawbridge, Craig (Nadine) Strawbridge, Sandra (Michael) Shoemaker and James (Cynthia) Tripp; numerous great nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, Lois was predeceased by three brothers: Neil Strawbridge in 2003, Gary Strawbridge in 1996 and infant brother, James Strawbridge in 1939 and two sisters: Phyllis



Strawbridge in 1950 and Sandra Strawbridge in 1952.

The visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 9 at Steward United Methodist Church, 507 Main St., Stewart with Pastor Ilhan You officiating. Burial will follow the service at Steward Cemetery in Stewart. Memorials may be made in Lois's memory to the Steward United Methodist Church.

Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Wayne Silvius

ASHTON — Wayne Silvius went to his heavenly home on Sept. 3. He was born on June 12, 1927 in Warmolts Clinic (which was located by the river in Oregon) to Ross and Nellie Silvius. His growing years were in Mt. Morris, where he attended school and graduated in 1946. After graduation, he went on a United Nations Relief Program to Athens, Greece in which the group called "Seagoing Cowboys" delivered 850 cattle. Wayne also attended two years of college at Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana. In 1950, he married Esther Boyd of Ashton. They lived in Oregon for a year and then moved to Ashton where he spent the rest of his life. They were blessed with three daughters; Ginger (deceased) of Tremont, Illinois, Vickie of Warrenton, Virginia and Lynette of Watertown, Wisconsin.

Wayne worked in several grocery stores before moving to Ashton where he became 'parts manager' for Boyd Motor Sales. After the garage closed in 1958, he became manager of the "Scoop Restaurant" in Ashton for a short time until it closed. After these two closings he worked as a sales representative for

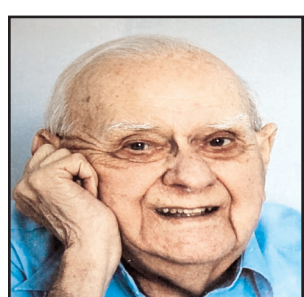
several companies, mainly Keebler Cookies and Rust-O-Leum paint.

After retirement, he and Esther worked with the "Nomads" — a mission organization that went to areas in the states that needed help in various ways. He also volunteered for the Lincoln Highway National Headquarters in Franklin Grove and became president of the Illinois Lincoln Highway Board of Directors. He served as a tour guide at the Franklin Grist Mill and the Chaplin Creek Pioneer Village.

Wayne served on the Ashton Fire Department for 25 years and 15 years as a trustee for the department. He was also a very dedicated Lions member, one of the charter members of the club beginning in 1954 with perfect attendance throughout his life. He was also a faithful member of the Ashton United Methodist Church, serving in various capacities and played in their Bell choir.

His love of travel with his wife met his goal of seeing all 50 states, 20 foreign countries and 12 islands.

He is survived by his wife, Esther; His daughters, Vickie (Bryan) Graham of Warrenton, Virginia and Lynette (Kim) Thompson of Watertown, Wisconsin;



one sister, Doris Ihman of Akron, Indiana; son-in-law, Michael Lynn of Tremont, Illinois as well as seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ross and Nellie Silvius; a sister, Wilma Werner; a brother, Dwight Silvius as well as his daughter, Ginger Lynn.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be donated to the Ashton United Methodist Church or the Ashton Lions Club.

A memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Ashton United Methodist Church, 906 Richardson Ave, Ashton, IL 61006. A memorial service will take place immediately afterwards at 11 a.m. with a graveside service to follow at Ashton Cemetery. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.beverage-lyonsfamilyfh.com.

Joane 'Marie' Schabacker

JOANE "Marie" Schabacker, 93, died on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022 at the Generations Nursing Home in Byron. She was born on March 5, 1929 in Rockford the daughter of Maynard and Evelyn (Baxter) Troxell. She married Orval Schabacker on May 31, 1947, he preceded her in 1999. Marie loved and enjoyed raising her family and the time shared with them. She loved sewing and making quilts. Her family all have a knitted afghan made from her loving hands.

She is also preceded in death by her daughter, Jeanette Miller, son-in-law Robert Miller, sister Helen Windland, grandsons John Kusnierz and Troy Keip, and daughter-in-law Diana Schabacker.

Survived by her four children: Eugene (Karen) Schabacker, Kerry Schabacker, Brian (Cindy) Schabacker and Joane (John) Knoll; 13 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be on Monday, Sept. 12 from



9-10:50 a.m. at the Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. Funeral Service will follow at 11 a.m. on Monday with Pastor Dave Rogula officiating. Burial at Lawnridge Cemetery. Guest book at www.ungerhorner.com

Rochelle Police Department

Officers issue multiple citations

ROCHELLE — On Sept. 2 at 3:38 p.m. Raymond J. Gestach, 62, of Waseca, Minnesota was cited for improper lane usage. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 7 Rochelle court date.

On Sept. 3 at 10:17

a.m. Melissa Urena, 25, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On Sept. 3 at 9:53 p.m. Dakota Ryun, 28, of Fremont, New England was cited for criminal damage to property. He was released on an I-Bond

and given an Oct. 7 Ogle County court date.

On Sept. 4 at 4:54 p.m. Anthony J. Pulido, 19, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 60 m.p.h. in a 45-m.p.h. zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 7 Rochelle court date.

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Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Deputies respond to accident

OREGON — On Sept. 2 at 5:26 p.m. deputies were dispatched to an accident involving injuries at the intersection of North Illinois Route 26 and North Freeport Road. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that a blue 2004 Toyota Rav4, operated by Jennifer N. Bookman, 31, of Freeport, was stopped at the stop sign on North Freeport Road. The blue Toyota then proceeded into the intersection with North Illinois Route 26 and was struck by a southbound white 2020 GMC Terrain operated by Shawnda R. Ludwig, 52, of Forreton. Bookman was extricated

from the blue Toyota, and transported by Forreton EMS to FHN Hospital in Freeport with potentially serious injuries. Bookman's juvenile passenger was uninjured. Bookman was issued a citation for failure to yield to oncoming traffic. Deputies were assisted on scene by Forreton Fire/EMS and the Illinois State Police.

On Sept. 3 at approximately 9:40 p.m. deputies attempted to conduct a traffic stop near the intersection of East Illinois Route 38 and Interstate 39. The offending vehicle failed to stop for deputies, at which time a minor pursuit ensued. Deputies were able to get the vehicle stopped at Interstate 39 at mile marker 102, at which time Jeffrey Carter, 21, of Chicago, was arrested for aggravated fleeing to elude a peace officer, endangering the life of a child and driving while license revoked. Carter was also issued citations for disregarding a traffic control device, speeding, illegal window tint, no taillights, operating an un-

insured motor vehicle and expired registration. Carter was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Sept. 3 at 2:22 a.m. deputies were dispatched to a single-vehicle rollover accident in the 2,700 block of East Lynn Road in Byron. Through the course of the investigation, it was determined that a maroon 2000 Mercury Sable driven by Ethan A. Heslop, 18, of Byron was travelling west on East Lynn Road. The maroon Mercury failed to negotiate the curve on East Lynn Road, causing the vehicle to exit the roadway and overturn. Heslop and his juvenile passenger were both uninjured. Heslop was arrested for illegal consumption as a minor (zero tolerance). Heslop was also issued citations for too fast for conditions, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and possession of cannabis by a minor. Heslop was released on an I-Bond with a court date to appear. Deputies were assisted by the Byron Police and Byron Fire Department/EMS.

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ON THE FARM

Eight sights to see at fall harvest festivals

JUST as summertime is synonymous with concerts and carnivals, fall is a prime time for its own opportunities for seasonal entertainment, such as harvest festivals. Certain features overlap between summer carnivals and fall festivals, but the latter offers some unique offerings as well. The following are some things to expect when fall festival season hits full swing.

Many fall harvest festivals are built on the foods harvested in the fall for that region. In Wisconsin, that may be cranberries, while in Massachusetts it could be oysters. Apples also turn up in many areas starting in September. For those who can't wait to bite into food picked at the peak of its season, a fall harvest festival can't be beat.

Farms and the tools of the farming trade are part of harvest festivals. Wagons transporting crops are a classic sight, even if they're no longer heavily relied upon on

the farm. Rather than a cargo bed full of corn or apples, harvest festivals tote families around on wagon rides or on hay bale beds towed by tractors.

Candied and caramel apples and many other apple products feature prominently at many harvest festivals. Apple fritters, apple turnovers, apple pies, fried apples, and others are bound to be sold by vendors, along with traditional fair foods, like funnel cakes.

Lemonade stands that are staples of summer give way to hot or cold cider offerings come the fall. Cold ciders are perfect for an unseasonably warm fall day while warm varieties are tailor-made for days when there's a chill in the air.

Fall harvest organizers pick and display pumpkins in fields to make it easier for youngsters to find the perfect pumpkin for Halloween carvings. It's a sea of orange this time of year, and things may get more colorful with non-edible gourds in



shades of white or yellow.

Some festivals are geared around chances to view the fall foliage that abounds in primarily rural areas. A mountain or forest backdrop adds vibrant color to any event. Coastal areas may set up fall foliage cruises that

let guests see the leaves from a new perspective.

Fall festivals set up adjacent to or on farms may have corn mazes for the kids. These mazes may be kept up throughout October and repurposed into haunted mazes for older kids looking to get

a scare for Halloween.

Many grape varieties are harvested in the fall, so fall harvest festivals may capitalize on that and invite local vineyards to set up tables providing tastings of their vintages. Vineyards also may host their own fall festivals,

featuring sips and snacks with live music.

Fall offers a host of entertaining festivals geared around the harvest season. These festivals are ideal ways for people to see the sights and nibble on seasonal delights along the way.

Helpful tips for picking and cutting watermelon

WATERMELON is a summertime staple. Each summer, stores and farm stands have an abundance of watermelons on display, and many people feel no picnic or barbecue is complete without watermelon.

Watermelon is a refreshing option on hot days. It's ideal sliced and served, or can be included in fruit salads, smoothies or even "spiked" cocktails. The key to a tasty watermelon is knowing how to pick one that is ripe, while serving watermelon comes down to understanding some easy cutting strategies.

Choose a watermelon that has a firm, symmetrical shape. Avoid melons with bumps, dents or cuts.

Watermelons should be relatively heavy. They're 92 percent water, and that juiciness should be reflected in a substantial weight for the melon's size.

Watermelon.org advises looking for a creamy yellow spot on the underside of the watermelon. This is called the "ground spot." It indicates where the melon sat on the ground and ripened in the sun. Once cut from the vine, a watermelon has about three to four weeks to be consumed.

All parts of the watermelon are edible, including



the seeds and rind. The rind can be pickled or cut up to use in stir-fry dishes.

When bringing watermelon to an event, it is a courtesy to bring it already sliced or cut up. This ensures the host or hostess does not have to tackle what can sometimes be a chore.

Here are three techniques to cut a watermelon easily.

Cubes

1. Cut both ends off of the watermelon.
2. Stand the watermelon on one sliced end. Use the knife to slice down and cut off the rind.

3. After removing the rind from all sides of the melon, cut into discs about 1/2-inch in thickness.
4. Then cut those discs into cubes.

Slices

1. Cut the watermelon in half lengthwise.

2. Take one cut half and place it cut-side down.

3. Cut the watermelon into slices.
4. Repeat for the other cut half.

Strips

1. Cut the watermelon as you would with the slices.

Rather than leaving it in large slices, turn the watermelon and cut the same size slices in the opposite direction. This creates strips that are easy for kids to grab and maneuver.

2. Repeat with the other half of the watermelon in the same manner.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Fall programs at the library

WE are getting ready for fall at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District! If you come to the library, remember to bring your library card. We have some new and exciting things happening at the library throughout the next few months and are looking forward to seeing all of our friends at the library.

Story Time is going to be starting soon. Story Time is for ages up to seven years old with a caregiver. The dates for September Story Times are Sept. 14 and 28. Programs are at 10:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. This program will feature themed stories and crafts.

Books With Friends will begin again on Sept. 6 and 20 from 4-5 p.m. The first half of this program will be reading and the second half will be fun activities. Bring a book and a friend and come and have fun at the library!

We have dates for both of these programs planned through the end of December. To sign up please call Ashley at 815-562-3431 or email ashleyc@flaggrochellepubliclibrary.org.

In September the library will celebrate Constitution Week. We will have a display downstairs in the Children's Department. The library will have the Daughters of the American

Revolution "Patriot Tree" on display and have a word search and a Constitution Scavenger Hunt for kids. "Constitution Week is the commemoration of America's most important document. It is celebrated annually during the week of Sept. 17-23. The United States Constitution stands as a testament to the tenacity of Americans throughout history to maintain their liberties, freedoms and inalienable rights. (https://www.dar.org/national-society/education/constitution-week) This year marks the 234th birthday of our nation's most important document.

The Boo Bash is back! Come to the library on Friday, Oct. 28 from 6-8 p.m. for some spook-tacular family fun, games and activities. All ages are welcome, costumes are encouraged but not required.

Something new and exciting is coming to the library in November! Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more details! To stay up to date with all our programs, events and announcements, find the library on Facebook at Flagg-Rochelle Public Library. Look for the "IHeart Books" profile picture. See you at the library!

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



Sarah Flanagan

Dealing with unwanted 'robo' calls

IT is likely that you have experienced unsolicited phone calls from telemarketers or scammers using direct contact or "robo" call methods. In the direct contact method, a person asks for you by name and attempts to sell you something that you don't want. The "robo" call method is more common because it is more efficient. "Robo" call technology uses a computer to call multiple phone numbers and presents a recording of what they want you to be notified about. In 2019, about half the calls in the U.S. were "Robo" calls (about 60 billion). Some "Robo" calls may be helpful such as notifying you about upcoming medical or car repair appointments, prescription shipments, critical events, etc. Solicitation and scammer calls are the downside. Scammers attempt to talk you into giving them money without any intention of repayment or providing a good or service. So what do you do about it?

There are many suggestions out there, so here are a few: The most prevalent suggestion is to get on the FCC "do not call" registry. Telemarketers are supposed to review this list and not call phone numbers on the list. If you get an unsolicited call, you can report it to the FCC. This registry is intended to prevent sales calls only. Politicians, surveying organizations, charitable organizations and debt collectors are exempt from

the registry. Also if you have done business with a company or returned a call to a company, they can call you anytime. Many companies violate the "do not call" registry since there is a lot of money to be made with little chance of being prosecuted. The net result is that being on the registry eliminates some calls, but not all. So what else can one do about this problem? Having caller ID service can help. If you view a phone number that can't be recognized on your phone, then avoid answering it and let it go to voice mail. (Check your voice mail regularly to make sure it isn't full, if you use this suggestion). If someone really wants to get in touch with you, they will usually leave a message. However, some people just hang up when voice mail starts in the hope they can try again later. If your caller ID shows someone from the IRS, the Social Security Administration or some government organization that you have not recently interacted with, avoid accepting the call. These government organizations always write you a letter and never call unless returning your call.

Scammers have now come up with a way to get around caller ID by spoofing. Spoofing refers to a scammer sending a fake phone number to your phone with a fake caller ID. This practice is illegal.

For instance, I received a call with a caller ID that indicated it came from city hall in Rochelle that turned out to be a telemarketer. Sometimes you may receive a phone call with the ID of a friend with the correct phone number, which may still be a scam. Some scammer recordings invite you to talk with a live person by pressing a button on your phone. Just hang up, since following these directions could result in you buying something that you don't want. (The offer to be removed from their call list, by pressing

a button, has also not been shown to be effective). Avoid giving personal information such as credit card numbers, social security number or bank account numbers over the phone to unknown

callers. Scammers could use this information to make fraudulent purchases and make other financial transactions in your name. If someone asks for you by name, avoid answering "yes," instead ask who is calling or respond with "speaking." A "yes" answer can be recorded and used to claim that you authorized a purchase.

There is call blocking software available that utilizes your list of unwanted numbers to block calls. Scammers merely change their numbers to get around this. If you use a smart phone, you may have the option to send all calls from numbers that

are not in your contact list directly to voice mail. The disadvantage to this option is if you are waiting for a call back from a doctor's office or vendor, they may not use the number you have for them in your contact list and you will miss the call. You may need to temporarily turn off this option. Your phone service provider may also be able to aid in blocking unwanted calls. Many services are now indicating whether a call is validated or is suspected scam on caller ID. There are also a number of different call screening apps that require the caller to identify themselves so you can choose whether to answer the call. Although you don't have to speak to the caller, it is still disruptive to get unwanted calls. Finally, the government is currently working on technology which would prohibit the changing of phone numbers displayed by caller ID, which could reduce these scams.

It is well known that humans are creative in finding new ways to commit crime. Last year scammers using "robo" calling software chalked up about 20 billion dollars in revenue, suggesting that scamming is profitable and will probably continue. Right now it is difficult to determine if the call you receive is legitimate. Trying out some of these suggestions may help relieve the aggravation of unwanted "robo" calls. Hopefully we are moving in the direction of solving this problem. Good luck.



Chuck Roberts

Consider this: Voting in the 2022 midterms

IN November, we have one of the most important elections of our lifetimes coming up. I know that many people say this for every election, but if you think about it, it's true. Every election is important because we get to decide who is elected and who isn't. We get to use our power of voting for a singular purpose. To put persons we want in Washington, and in our individual states, who will decide for us what is necessary and what isn't to our daily lives.

Many of us advertise ourselves as Republican or Democrat. This can be a good thing, but is it really the best thing for us? The parties, on a high level, each

have an agenda for how they will act under certain conditions. They usually publish these in an election year to let voters know how they are thinking. But when it gets down to the local candidates, whether federal or state, do they feel as their party leaders feel? Would it be better for us if they did?

We are, and should be, voting for people that do what we need them to do for us. Residing in Illinois, or in Ogle County, is very different than residing in South Carolina or Franklin County, Illinois. We do get brochures from our local candidates, but do we read them or look on their web sites to find out how they are going to vote

for us? When we vote for them, after focusing our attention on this research, do they vote for rules and laws according to what they have told us? If not, are we watching so that we can remove them when they come up for re-election?

This may seem like a lot of work but remember that it is our lives and livelihoods they can affect. Many do what they set out to do, but many can be affected by other influences or the money that now flows into politics. Although many of us would like to see this stopped, we do have ways to limit

the effectiveness of these dollars and influences. Again, we can vote them out, but we also can call, text, email, or write them on a regular basis if they aren't doing what they promised.

Wouldn't this be much harder for us if we only voted on a strict party basis?

I must admit that when I was young, I tended to vote as my family did. And that was along party lines. But as we sat around and complained that a rule or law that was recently passed affected us negatively, I started to realize that my complaints weren't being heard by the appropriate



Reed Harris

people. As I began to research how those I had voted for were voting themselves, I found that many times they were voting against what they stood for when running for office. I would call or write them asking why they did this and telling them their job would be temporary unless they did what they said they would do. I felt powerful.

At the next election, I would look back to voting rolls and determine if these people were still on my side. If not, their re-election didn't get my vote. Although I was at times, still voting for the party affiliation I used to, that wasn't always the norm. I began to vote for each

candidate that I felt had my interests in mind. Yes, I had push-back from some family and friends, but I had to think about what I felt was going to be good for all of us.

Family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. But my thoughts never strayed from my mouth unless I was asked. We all have our vote and it's just as important for them as it is for me. I like to keep others in mind when I vote but I know that they must vote their feelings and what that means to others they know.

Let's hope that we can all get to the polls in November and do the most important job there is. Voting for us.

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
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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



Vietnam War veterans honored by Rochelle DAR Chapter

As a partner with the Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, the Rochelle Chapter NSDAR had the opportunity to honor five Vietnam veterans from the Elgin Post 57 American Legion Riders with certificates of recognition and lapel pins. Any veteran who served in the US Armed Forces between Nov. 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, is eligible for this recognition, regardless of location of service. Those holding certificates, shown with Rochelle chapter member Lydia Roberts (far right) are left-right: Burton "Bud" Schorr, US Army; Carol Fowler USMC; Tom Jackson, US Army; Tom Leitner, US Navy and John Clyde, US Army. The Rochelle Chapter is available to present this award of appreciation individually or in a group setting to any eligible veteran. Contact VIS.DAR.Rochelle@gmail.com for more information.

Transportation meeting set for Sept. 23

OTTAWA — The next Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) - Region 3 - Transportation Committee Meeting (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle and Putnam Counties) will be held on Friday Sep. 23 at 10 a.m. at Mendota Moose Lodge, 211 E. 12th St., Mendota. Individuals with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged to attend, especially human service organizations serving individuals who use public transportation. If you would like further information, please contact: hstp@ncicg.org or call 815-433-5830. HSTP identifies transportation needs and develops solutions to improve transportation services for the general public. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes and veterans.

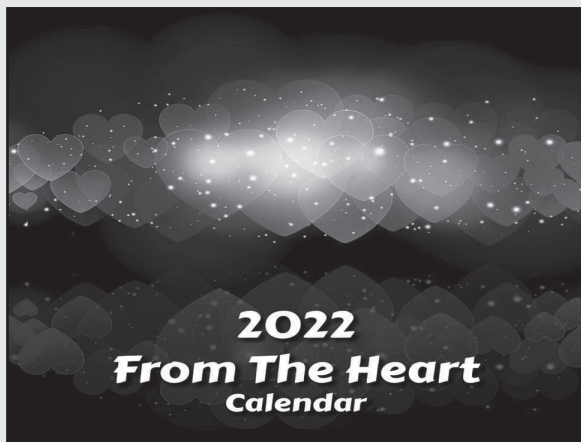
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sept. 7
Kyleigh-Ann McPherson
Sept. 9
Georgia Rogers
Sept. 11
Melinda Pourchot
Sam Oymaian
Wyatt Sexton
Sept. 12
Ianna Smith
Sept. 14
Alivia Law
Blakely Avila
Sept. 15
Emily Lopez

Sept. 17
David Jones
Jenny Rosenbach
Richard & Beverly Hermann (anniversary)
Sept. 18
Amie Eggenburg
Terry & Teresa Dodillet (anniversary)
Sept. 19
Leland & Lucy Hazlip (anniversary)
Madison Wooten
Sept. 20

Jon & Carolyn Bieck (anniversary)
Sept. 22
Krew Sullivan
Sept. 23
John Worley
Chris Doering
Jeff & Diana Dickey (anniversary)
Sept. 28
Ashley Bunger
Sept. 29
Josh Walker
Sarah Kulwicki
Lyndsey OBrien

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



- Aug. 12 - Laura Steinke, Davenport, Iowa, \$25
Aug. 13 - Debra Gorski, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 14 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50
Aug. 15 - Roger Sheely, Oregon, \$25
Aug. 16 - Juana Hernandez, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 17 - Richard E. Bearrows, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 18 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
Aug. 19 - Myra Chattic, Sterling, \$25
Aug. 20 - David Long, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 21 - Rochelle Masonic Lodge, \$50
Aug. 22 - Kyle Kissack, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 23 - Tom Hill, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 24 - Jane Schell, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 25 - Lucinda Zoeller, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 26 - Stephanie A. Guerrero, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 27 - Edward Jones, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 28 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50
Aug. 29 - Caroline Kessen, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 30 - Scott A. Stevens, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 31 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
Sept. 1 - Hub City Senior Center, Rochelle, \$25
Sept. 2 - Jessica Macklin, Winnebago, \$25
Sept. 3 - Rochelle Rotary Club, \$25
Sept. 4 - Daniel Ortiz, Rochelle, \$50
Sept. 5 - Ben Heck, Chana, \$1,000
Sept. 6 - Bridget Blaine, Dixon, \$25
Sept. 7 - Aubrielle Lodico, Rochelle, \$25



Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Milan's La —
6 Mops the deck
11 First game of the season
12 Fortune-telling decks
14 Gift giver's words
15 Not level
16 Italian "three"
17 Trombone part
19 Coach Parseghian
20 Coup d'—
22 Summer on the Seine
23 Not kosher
24 Hose material
26 1955 Platters hit
28 — -di-dah
30 Pinnacle
31 "Pretty please?"
35 From the area
39 Writer Kingsley
40 Highland hat
42 "Elephant Boy" actor
43 UV ray-blocking stat
44 James — Garfield
46 Stanley Cup org.

DOWN

1 Stylish
2 Breakfast bowlful
3 Whatever amount
4 Late July babies
5 As — (usually)

47 Spill the beans
49 "Psst!"
51 Dodged
52 Knight suits
53 Basilica areas
54 Inclines

6 Pupil
7 Diminish
8 "Right you —!"
9 Emma of fiction
10 Sound system
11 Frequently
13 Major mix-up
18 "Am — blame?"
21 Bridge fees
23 Printing errors
25 Aye undoer
27 Texter's chuckle

29 Sites of rapid growth
31 Squander
32 Chevy model
33 Boost
34 Eg. and Syr., once
36 Big gorge
37 Loathes
38 Humdingers
41 Taj —
44 Out of the storm
45 Simple
48 Pro Bowl stats
50 Singer Sumac

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 Y

ZHS FKORRZ WYHSRCQ'U
CDWFKJOFC UYKWK PDQK LKHLRK
PFHN UYK LDQK UFKK WUOUK.
NDQC ZHSF NODQKFW!

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

S	A	P	S	E	S	L	E	A	N	S
S	E	L	U	O	E	D	A	R	S	
S	O	A	E	A	E	H	E	A		
S	P	F	E	T	L	E				
S	H	A	B	R	A	M	A			
S	A	B	A	S	T	A	M			
S	I	L	A	L	O					
S	C	O	L	O						
S	T	O	P							
S	L	A	V	A	N	O				
S	N	O								
S	E	T	E							
S	T	R	E	F						
S	A	R	A							
S	T	R	E	S	L	I	D	E		
S	F	O	R	E						
S	N	E	V	E						
S	T	A	R	E	N	E				
S	S	W	A	B	S					

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

CryptoQuip

answer

You really shouldn't

disregard these fine people

from the Pine Tree State.

Mind your Manners!

LOCAL NEWS

5K: Tyler Smith event scheduled for Sunday in Rochelle

From page 1

“They’ve had several leads and they go through every lead,” Smith’s mother, Sandy Halsne, said. “There have been some promising leads. It’s very hard to be patient, but it just takes time. We hope that something will still come out of it. We know his death is completely different from what they said originally. But they are still working on it. I stay in contact with the state police every week and they update me. They can’t tell me everything, but they’ve made it very clear that this isn’t over.”

Smith’s birthday is Sept. 12, and his mother’s follows a day after. The family always did something together to celebrate. That has continued with the 5K event.

“This is our way of celebrating Tyler’s life,” Halsne said. “Also with him being our only child and him having friends that are now growing and having families and moving forward, it’s nice to get everybody together in memory of Tyler. It’s family-friendly. We’ve had a great response this year. There’s been great support from the community.”

The Tyler Smith Memorial Fund gives two annual \$500 scholarships to Rochelle Township High School students. It has donated to nonprofits in the past as well including military causes to honor Smith’s service. A donation was given to the San Jose Police Department,



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The cost to participate is \$25 and includes race entry and lunch. To register, go online to raceentry.com or go in-person to the Rochelle Park District office at The REC Center. The after party will take place at the Rochelle VFW from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include lunch, a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction and music. Tickets for lunch-only are \$10.

where Smith planned to have a career, for a youth outreach program. The family has also given to the Darkhorse Lodge, an organization that helps veterans.

There’s a Rochelle Area Community Foundation fund in Smith’s honor, which was used last year to give a grant to Central School to help with a sensory room for kids.

“The most important thing is that Tyler wanted to serve people,” Halsne said. “He wanted to be a police officer. He was

staying in the military and that’s serving your country. That’s just the kind of kid he was. He seemed to have friends from all walks of life and didn’t judge anyone. It was important for us to keep that legacy of him going by helping others in his name.”

Halsne said she and her family feel “very supported and blessed” on the day of the 5K event each year. Smith’s friends and family attend and honor his memory. Friends from Rochelle, college and the military make the trip from

long and short distances away.

“We have family members from other states that come,” Halsne said. “It’s really become like a reunion of friends and family and we just all are able to see each other and celebrate his life. We also get to see what’s going on in their lives as well. Not having Tyler around makes it a little harder for us to see everyone and stay in contact with them. It’s really nice.”

Halsne called the local support for the event

“amazing.” Businesses have made donations. The park district has helped with its facilities, taking sign-ups and advertising. The VFW donates its space for the after party. Hicks BBQ donates the food each year.

“It’s amazing how people can give and participate and take the time out of their day or a few dollars out of their pocket to help an organization that helps their community,” Halsne said. “We feel very blessed, honored and humbled by it. It’s about bringing

everybody together and having a good day and getting exercise.”

Halsne said she wanted to thank the community for its support and said the 5K event is a great way to bring people together that knew Tyler, along with those that didn’t, so they can have a chance to get to know his story.

“We can do something positive in Tyler’s name, despite the tragedy that happened to him,” Halsne said. “It’s keeping his memory alive in a positive way.”

RVCU receives honor from Credit Union Journal

L O V E S PARK – Rock Valley Credit Union (RVCU), a local and independent financial institution that offers personal solutions for individual and family banking needs, has been recognized as a “2022 Best Places to Work For” by *Credit Union Journal* (part of American Banker). RVCU was one of three credit unions in Illinois to receive the recognition.

“We are extremely proud of this recognition as it’s based on feedback directly from our employees,” said Darlyne Keller, CEO of RVCU. “We are committed to offering a workplace environment that is engaging, inspiring, and employee-centric with a focus on growth to help

make an impact for our members. We attribute the success of our organization to our amazing team, and we’re continually appreciative of their dedication to RVCU and our members.”

Best Credit Unions to Work For is a research-driven program from Best Companies Group (BCG) that examines the company’s practices, programs and benefits and surveys employees for their perspective. To participate in the process, RVCU had to complete two surveys. The first was an employer questionnaire that detailed the company policies, practices, benefits, and demographics. The second survey was an employee engagement and satisfaction questionnaire which included an

in-depth set of 77 statements that employees responded to on a scale of and open-ended and demographic questions.

Winners of Best Credit Unions to Work For were announced by American Banker on Aug. 30 and included in a special issue of *Credit Union Journal*. The full list of recipients can be

viewed at <https://www.americanbanker.com/creditunions/list/best-credit-unions-to-work-for-2022>.

According to American Banker, 70 credit unions made the list this year. The institutions are headquartered in more than two dozen states and Washington, D.C., and range in size from just 28



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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



LADY HUBS TAKE THIRD

The RTHS varsity volleyball team finished third in the Lady Hub Invitational.

See page 7 for more details

RTHS Football

Hubs steamroll Herscher

Rochelle offense eclipses 400 rushing yards in 49-13 road win over Tigers

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

HERSCHER — One week removed from winning without a single rushing touchdown, the Rochelle Hub varsity football team rediscovered its identity in explosion fashion Friday evening, when the Hubs stamped over Herscher for over 400 rushing yards against the Herscher Tigers on the road.

Looking for revenge after falling against Herscher at home last season, Rochelle rallied behind its three senior running backs, who each exceeded 100 yards on the ground as the Hubs dominated Herscher 49-13 to start the season with two straight victories. Senior Garrett Gensler ran for a team-high 136 yards on nine carries, while senior Trey Taft followed with 120 rushing yards on seven carries and senior Cody Cullum finished with 109 rushing yards on 10 carries.

“We had a much better mindset tonight,” Gensler said. “Our coaches were on last week about playing how we’re supposed to play and I think we did that tonight. We were more

physical and our pads were lower than theirs. We were getting off the ball well and our backs were finding the holes. Losing against Herscher last season forced us to figure out who we were as a team and I’m glad we were able to come back today and really give it to them.”

The Hubs (2-0, 0-0 Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Blue) needed only three plays to strike first, with Gensler taking a toss outside and sprinting 30 yards to the end zone to give Rochelle the early advantage. After a quick three-and-out and a near blocked punt allowed the Hubs to start in prime field position on their next possession, Taft turned his first carry of the night into points, knifing through the Herscher defensive line for a 53-yard touchdown scamper.

Rochelle forced another three-and-out late in the first quarter, gaining possession again and capitalizing on good field position with a 44-yard touchdown run from Cullum, who maneuvered through the middle of the Herscher defense to put the Hubs ahead 21-0.

See **HUBS** page 3



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Jaden Cook celebrates a 2-point conversion with his teammates during the Rochelle Hub varsity football game against Herscher on Friday. Rochelle cruised over the Tigers 49-13 to start 2-0 on the season.

Rochelle Junior Tackle

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



Junior Hubs cruise over Stillman Valley with four-game road sweep on Sunday

The Rochelle Junior Tackle football teams recorded a four-game sweep over Stillman Valley on the road Sunday. The eighth-graders (3-1) won 36-16 while the seventh-graders (3-1) also bounced back with a 24-6 win. The sixth-graders (4-0) remained unbeaten with a 16-6 victory and the fifth-graders (4-0) emerged victorious 36-0 to stay perfect on the season. Rochelle will face Dixon on the road Saturday, Sept. 10 beginning at 10 a.m. Above, seventh-grader Bo Lundquist (left) runs through a Stillman Valley defender and eighth-grader Keegan Cathina (right) follows a block from teammate Tyler Gensler. Below, fifth-grader Maddex Jackson (left) runs for a touchdown and sixth-grader Mikey Chadwick (right) makes a tackle.



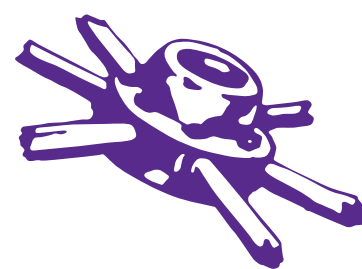
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HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Gavin
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Year: Freshman

Sport: Football

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

A: Five years.

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

*A: It pushes you and it's
just fun.*

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

*A: Ag because I enjoy the
things we talk about.*

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

*A: Saquon Barkley because
he runs hard on every play
and every drive.*

Q: Who is your biggest role

model and why?

*A: My dad because he pushes
me to be my best in school
and in sports.*

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

A: Something in sports.

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

*A: Florida because there's nice
weather down there and it looks
like a good place to be.*

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

*A: Being a Hub and making
new friends.*

**Van
Gerber**

Year: Freshman

Sport: Football



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

A: 10 years.

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

*A: Being with my friends and
enjoying the sport.*

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

*A: Ag because the class is
just fun all around.*

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

*A: Justin Fields because we
play the same position and
he's fun to watch.*

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

*A: My dad because he's helpful
and a good person to look up to.*

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

A: Something in sports.

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

*A: California because it seems
like a good place to be.*

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

*A: All of the memories my friends
and I are making together.*

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SPORTS



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Garrett Gensler (left) takes the carry as senior quarterback Hayden Inman (right) looks to set a block during the Rochelle Hub varsity football game against Herscher on Friday. Gensler rushed for 136 yards and three touchdowns in the win. Below, senior Bradley Cooney makes a tackle behind the line of scrimmage.

HUBS: Rochelle starts season 2-0

From page 1

A fourth-down conversion allowed the Tigers to reach the end zone near the end of the first quarter, with quarterback Brock Wenzelman running outside and scoring on a 4-yard rush.

But Herscher had no answers for the Rochelle offense, which totaled 440 yards including 427 yards on the ground. After Garrett Gensler's 3-yard touchdown run in the second quarter extended Rochelle's lead, sophomore brother Grant Gensler intercepted a halfback pass near the Herscher sideline, returning the ball into the Tiger red zone where Taft cashed in the brief scoring drive three plays later, leaping over a pile of Herscher linemen for a 5-yard touchdown.

The Tigers tried finding success through the air on their ensuing drive, but three straight incomple-

tions resulted in their first turnover on downs. Over the next three plays, Taft ran for 22 yards, Gensler ran for 22 yards and Cullum finished the drive with a 17-yard touchdown rush through the middle. The Hubs went into halftime leading Herscher 41-7. Rochelle's defense also held Tiger tight end and Illinois State commit Travis Jones to only 38 yards on two catches.

"We knew we had to follow him wherever he was on the field," said junior linebacker Brock Metzger, who totaled two tackles including one tackle for loss. "We're competing on defense and we're being nasty out there. It's an amazing feeling to be 2-0. We have to be physical against Johnsburg next week and we have to find a way to win. They have a really good team."

Herscher received the second-half kickoff, but the Tigers didn't hold the



ball for long, with Cullum intercepting an attempted screen pass and bringing the ball into the Herscher red zone.

Rochelle again capitalized on the Tiger mistake when Gensler rushed for a 13-yard touchdown off the right side of the line two plays later. Junior Tommy Tourdot led the Hub defense with six tackles, while Grant Gensler added

five tackles and sophomore Xavier Villalobos had four tackles. Rochelle will shoot for a 3-0 start at Johnsburg on the road next Friday at 7 p.m.

"We're off to a great start but we have to continue getting better every week," Gensler said. "Johnsburg has a good team and we'll be facing even more good teams moving forward."

RTHS Football



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Sophomore Cayden Moore makes a leaping catch for the Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football team on Friday.

Fresh-Soph Hubs crush Herscher

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

snagged an interception to help spark the defense.

HERSCHER — The Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football team crushed Herscher in nonconference action Friday evening, winning 64-14 to start the season with a 2-0 record. The Hubs will look to remain unbeaten when they begin conference play against Johnsburg this Friday at 5 p.m.

Sophomore Brandyn Metzger led the defense with eight tackles, while sophomore Ethan Goodwin recorded seven tackles. Sophomore Ryan Senne had two tackles for loss as well as one sack and sophomore Cayden Moore

Moore also stepped up on offense and special teams, returning a kick 70 yards for a touchdown and hauling in a 40-yard touchdown reception from sophomore quarterback Carson Lewis. Freshman Roman Villalobos found the end zone three times, scoring on 8-yard, 65-yard and 55-yard rushing touchdowns. Sophomore Jackson Smith rushed for a 35-yard touchdown.

Lewis and freshman Keagan Albers each reached the end zone on short-yardage touchdowns runs, with Lewis scoring on a 7-yard rush and Albers surging forward on a 2-yard rush.

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SPORTS

RTHS Volleyball

Rochelle takes third at Lady Hub Invitational

Lady Hubs win matches over Earlville, Freeport and Ottawa on Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team took the court for its home tournament on Saturday, finishing third overall with a 3-2 record over five matches. The Lady Hubs (6-4-3, 0-0 Interstate 8) will begin conference play against Plano on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Rochelle began the pool round with a 25-16, 25-19 win over Earlville. The Lady Hubs continued pool play against Freeport, winning 25-20, 25-13 behind 14 assists from sophomore Ali Ohlinger and nine kills from senior Addie Friestad. Junior Kennedy Adamski added four kills in the win.

Rochelle battled Rockford Lutheran in its final pool match, taking the first set but falling just short in a 25-22, 20-25, 8-15 loss to the Crusaders. Sophomore Taelynn Rodeghero led the offense with seven kills, while Ohlinger recorded 11 assists and senior Macy Ramos scored three service aces. Friestad compiled three kills and two aces for the



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team took third in the Lady Hub Invitational on Saturday. Pictured above from left to right are Alivia Henkel, Macenzie Glosser, Casandra Garcia, Bryn Kissack, Macy Ramos, Addie Friestad, Taelynn Rodeghero (front), Makenzie Liezert, Lauren Basilio-Henry, Kennedy Adamski, Kendell Frankenberg, Dempsey Atkinson, Isela Vasquez, Payton Hale and Ali Ohlinger.

Lady Hubs in the loss.

The Lady Hubs conceded a 22-25, 15-25 loss to McHenry in the first

round of the championship bracket. Rodeghero landed five kills and Ohlinger paced the offense with nine

assists, while sophomore Dempsey Atkinson found three aces behind the service line. Rochelle closed

out the tournament with a 25-17, 25-18 win over Ottawa in the third-place match. Senior Payton Hale

scored five kills to lead the offense, while Atkinson and Ramos each finished with three aces.

RTHS Cross Country

Hernandez, Ortiz medal at Oregon Invitational

Rochelle harriers record top-15 finishes in 5,000-meter race on Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

OREGON — The Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub cross country teams raced at the Oregon Invitational on Saturday. The Hubs finished 12th out of 17 varsity teams with 330 points and the Lady Hubs landed in 13th out of 13 varsity teams with 285 points. The Rochelle harriers will continue their schedule with a quadrangular road meet at Sandwich on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Junior Luis Hernandez earned a medal to lead the Hubs in the varsity race, finishing 14th out of 138 athletes with a time of 17:50:09. Senior Thomas Koziol and fresh-

man Declan McGee took 74th and 76th overall with respective times of 20:31.3 and 20:33.3. Other finishers include freshman Elijah Mayen (108th in 23:16.0) and sophomore Cash Budde (121st in 24:54.4).

Senior Yuelma Ortiz also received a medal to lead the Lady Hubs in the varsity race, taking 13th out of 110 athletes with a time of 22:21:09. Freshmen Rose Luxton and Mary Chadwick placed 87th and 88th with respective times of 28:50.7 and 29:00.09. Sophomores Bridgett Ramirez (100th in 31:15.4) and Aaliyah Losoya (109th in 33:50.9) rounded out the varsity team.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Junior Luis Hernandez (left) and senior Yuelma Ortiz (right) each brought home medals from the Oregon Invitational on Saturday. Both runners finished in the top 15 of their respective varsity races for RTHS.

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SPORTS

NIU Football

Huskies outlast EIU for one-score win

Rochelle's Kissack, Metzger on hand for matchup

BY ANDY COLBERT

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

DEKALB — Taking a cue from what made them famous last year, the Northern Illinois football team won another one-score game. After winning 7-of-10 games in 2021 that were one score or less, the Huskies held off underdog Eastern Illinois 34-27 in the season opener.

It shouldn't have been that close, as NIU took a 28-6 second-half lead against an EIU team that went 1-10 last year and had a new coach in Chris Wilkerson (more on that later).

Early in the fourth quarter, the Huskies still had an 18-point lead after John Richardson booted a 43-yard field goal. EIU cut that to 31-20, but Richardson responded with another 3-pointer to make it 34-20 with 3:39 left in the game.

Jonah O'Brien, sophomore quarterback from Eastern quickly led his team on a 74-yard scoring drive in only five plays to make it 34-27 on his third touchdown pass. EIU outgained Northern 441 to 379 in total yards, a bit of a shocker considering this was the returning MAC champion with nearly its entire starting line up back.

"Eastern Illinois came in and played a good game," NIU coach Thomas Hammock said. "They found ways to dink and dunk on offense."

Richardson, one of the top kickers in the country, had a chance to ice the



(PHOTO BY SCOTT WALSTROM/NIU PHOTOGRAPHY)

game, but missed a 43-yard attempt with just under a minute to play. Hoping to create the biggest upset in the young college football season thus far, the Panthers drove to midfield as time expired.

"In the second half, we got a little sloppy," Hammock said. "People are going to think, maybe, we're not that good. That's perfect. We'll go back, get better and improve. The good thing is we have nine days to get better."

That is when the Huskies travel to Tulsa to take on the Golden Hurricanes of the American Athletic Conference. Then on Sept. 16, the SEC comes to DeKalb in the form of the Vanderbilt Commodores, who barely beat NIU 24-18 in 2019.

It doesn't get any easier a week later when the Huskies face nationally-ranked Kentucky on the road, also out of the SEC.

Tulsa, Vandy and Kentucky will be much higher

echelon opponents than EIU and the program will need to really step up its game. But, the Huskies have shown a unique ability to shock more established D-I programs.

In fact in a rarely reported tidbit, Northern Illinois has been a darling among national sports bettors with its reputation to beat the point spread over the past several years. Ironically, people in Illinois cannot bet on in-state college games. Getting back to EIU coach Chris Wilkerson. Did you know that he was defensive coordinator when Brad Metzger and Kyle Kissack played for the Panthers in the early 2000s?

Both Rochelle residents were in the stands at Huskie Stadium watching with a bit more interest than the average fan.

"Physically, we can't match up with NIU, but I'm proud how hard we are playing," said Metzger, who went from playing

linebacker at Rochelle to defensive lineman for EIU. "When I got there and they handed me number 97, I figured my linebacking days were over."

Kissack saw time as free safety, special teams and quarterback. Famously, he backed up Tony Romo, who went from an unheralded recruit to national stardom on the football field and announcing booth.

"He really enjoyed competing," Kissack said.

Added Metzger, "It didn't matter what it was — basketball, golf whatever, he was a competitor. He may not have hit the weight room as much as anyone else, but would compete harder than them."

Additionally, Kissack brought his varsity football team along to take in the festivities of big-time college ball.

"It's a great opportunity to get them over here and spend time in environment like that," Kissack said.

RTHS Golf



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Senior Griffin Ohlinger receives his first-place medal at the Rocket Invitational on Saturday.

Hubs finish sixth at Rocket Invitational

ROCK FALLS — The Rochelle Township High School varsity golf team took fourth in the large division and sixth overall in the Rocket Invitational at Rock River Golf & Pool on Saturday.

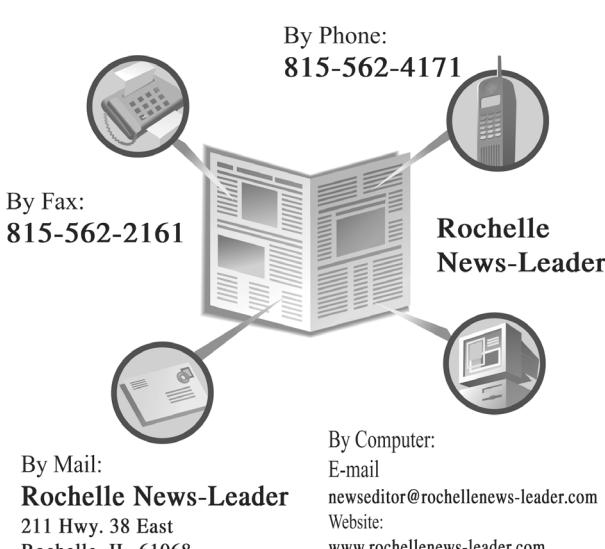
Senior Griffin Ohlinger won the individual title in the large division, shooting a 3-over-par 73 while

freshman teammate Ian Metzger placed second in the division with a 9-over-par 79.

The Hubs (3-5, 0-1 Interstate 8) will travel for a conference meet with Ottawa and Sandwich on Wednesday at 4 p.m. Ohlinger is pictured above receiving his first-place medal on Saturday.

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