



ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

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Vol. 103 • No. 44

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28, 2022

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RCH Golf Outing held Wednesday

The 22nd Annual RCH Golf Outing was held this past Wednesday at Fairways Golf Course. **Page 3**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
59 36	63 35
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
67 41	71 42

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OBITUARIES

• JOSEPH ROBERT KUBIAK

See page 4

INSERTS

- ALDI
- FARM & FLEET
- SCHOOL TIMES

INSIDE

Local News.....2, 3, 5
Obituaries.....4
Opinion.....6
Community.....7



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BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Now overlooking the City of Rochelle's downtown gazebo area is a 54-by-24-foot mural depicting flowers and insects.

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

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

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

The work on the mural has taken about three weeks for the Steders. They've utilized a scissor lift and exterior acrylic latex paint for the project, which will give it the same lifespan as



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Now overlooking the downtown gazebo area is a 54-by-24-foot mural depicting flowers and insects. The mural was designed and painted by local artists and siblings Mat and Mandey Steder and commissioned by the City of Rochelle.

paint on a house. Mat said sealant will likely be put over the mural to protect it from water.

City of Rochelle Community Development Director Michelle Pease reached out to Mat about the mural in recent months.

After Mandey designed the mural, the city approved it within 12-15 hours and asked when the Steders could start work.

"We're not even done yet and they're already asking about a mural next year," Mat said. "That's

cool. And they're telling me to go find a wall. Obviously I have to get it approved, but I can go look for the canvas. That's really cool. After driving around and looking at walls, I'm probably going to pick somewhere that just is a little dim that

needs to be brightened up. I am going to look for a good canvas that's smooth and not on brick. I would like to place them all over. That gets people moving around to see them."

See MURAL page 5

New strategic plan presented City of Rochelle purchases Lincoln Avenue properties

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At Monday's meeting of the Rochelle City Council, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh made a presentation on the city's strategic plan that has recently been in the process of an update.

The city's original strategic plan was made in 2018. The council will vote on the latest update of the plan at its next meeting. The plan guides the city council and staff as they make decisions going forward.

The strategic plan was put together through feedback from the community, city staff, council members and consulting with Northern Illinois University.

"Any initiatives that come from the city really need to be contingent with this document," Fiegenschuh said. "This document is what really guides the public policy that the council creates."

The city's five strategic priority areas from 2018 will be carried over



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Mayor John Bearrows read a proclamation in honor of National Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 9-15 and presented a plaque to Rochelle Fire Department Chief Dave Sawlsville.

including economic & business development, financial management & stability, community inclusivity & engagement, infrastructure effectiveness and improvement, and core service delivery. New to the most recent plan is quality of life.

"I'm proud we were

able to keep the original five and I think adding quality of life is extremely important," Fiegenschuh said. "This plan has some very important goals and I think we really worked hard to try to find some achievable objectives that can ensure the success of each of

those goals."

High-priority short-term goals in the plan include ensuring sufficient staffing, reassessing current debt strategy, workforce support programming and intergovernmental agreements.

See CITY page 2

Kovacs in seventh year with RPD

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Police Department Officer Ryan Kovacs is in his seventh year with the department and currently patrols on night shift.

Kovacs' responsibilities in his positions include patrolling the community and responding to calls for service. He has additional responsibilities in the department, including being a field training officer responsible for training new officers. He's also a less lethal instructor, taser instructor and firearms instructor for RPD. He's a certified truck enforcement officer.

See KOVACS page 5



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LOCAL NEWS



Rochelle Township High School's Homecoming Parade rolls through the Hub City on Thursday

On Thursday, Rochelle Township High School's homecoming parade was held and made its way through the downtown area and the city before students and residents arrived at the high school for the pep rally, coronation and powder puff football game. Longtime RTHS Counselor Laurie Pillen served as the grand marshal.

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CITY: RPD retiree Smith recognized

From page 1

Long-term high priorities include continuing to maintain the city's capital improvement plan, continuing to build trust in the community, development of Illinois Route 251 long term, continuing to improve and maintain infrastructure and further diversifying commercial and retail business throughout the city.

Property

The council unanimously approved a purchase and sale agreement for the purchase of 509 and 509.5 Lincoln Highway downtown for \$170,000 for the purposes of improving and fostering development.

"It will be a great project and thanks to [City Community Development Director Michelle Pease] for all of the work she's done over the past three years on this," Fiengschuh said. "It will definitely improve that corner and I think there's a lot of opportunity to hold events and do some fun things in that area."

Storm water

The council unanimously approved a \$841,214.75 bid from Porter Brothers Construction for phase two of its storm water drainage structure replacement project.

Phase one of the project was substantially completed in early 2022. Phase two of the project will replace over 55 drainage structures throughout the northeast quadrant of the city and north of Illinois Route 38.

The project will also include replacement of curb and gutter, sidewalk ramps, street resurfacing and intersection reconstruction near Crest Lane, North Knoll Drive and Brookside Drive streets.

Two other bids for the work were rejected, including one from Martin and Company Excavating (\$1,032,122.42) and one from N-TRAK Group, LLC (\$930,462.95).

The project will be funded through the capital improvement plan fund along with \$400,000 of American Rescue Plan Act funds.

"The project as budgeted in 2022 was for about \$385,000," City Engineer Sam Tesreau said. "The city was nice enough to designate that \$400,000 towards our storm sewers. I appreciate that. That effectively doubled our project and with the costs rising like they have, it was a much-needed \$400,000. Otherwise our project would have been considerably smaller."

Phase two is expected to reach substantial completion by June 2023.

RMU

Rochelle Municipal Utilities Director of Utility Finance Sarah Brooks made a presentation to the council on the new RMU payment portal.

Work on the upgrade to the new system has taken place over two years and RMU now offers an online portal that gives customers that register access to a variety of amenities including being able to view detailed usage numbers, the ability to view multiple

accounts, online payment and autopay, paperless billing, announcements and text and email alerts.

Out of RMU's 9,122 customers, 2,264 have registered for the portal so far. It can be accessed at rmu.net/bill.

Retiree

The council recognized the recent retirement of Rochelle Police Department Sgt. Chet Smith during the meeting. RPD Chief Eric Higby spoke about Smith's 20 years with the department.

Smith's responsibilities at RPD included supervising fleet ordering and maintenance, supervising the field training program, and the national take back initiative for prescription medication. Smith also participated in various community events.

"Sgt. Smith was an individual that always came to work with a smile because he loved the job and his coworkers," Higby said. "Whoever replaces him as patrol sergeant will have big shoes to fill."

Proclamations

Mayor John Bearrows read a proclamation in honor of National Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 9-15 and presented a plaque to Rochelle Fire Department Chief Dave Sawlsville.

A proclamation was also made in honor of Public Power Week from Oct. 2-9 and Bearrows presented the proclamation to Rochelle Municipal Utilities Assistant Superintendent of Water/Water Reclamation Jay Mulholland.

LOCAL NEWS

22nd Annual RCH Foundation Golf Outing held

RCH CEO Gregg Olson: 'We appreciate your value to the hospital'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Wednesday, the 22nd Annual Rochelle Community Hospital Foundation golf outing was held at Fairways Golf Course.

The outing was rescheduled from Sept. 12 due to rain. The proceeds from the outing will go to general health screenings for the public. RCH CEO Gregg Olson welcomed everyone to the event before the shotgun start Wednesday morning.

"It will go down in the archives as the outing that almost wasn't," Olson said. "We have a good group today and we're happy everybody is here. We have great weather. You can't ask for much more than that. We want to mention the folks that made this happen. This takes a lot of time and energy to put together. Michelle LaPage, thank you for all the work you've done

making this happen and having the reflexes to move things from last week to this week. A job well done. Bob Johns, our chairman of the golf committee, was very much a part of making this happen as well."

Olson thanked the sponsors of the event. The titanium sponsor was OSF Healthcare and platinum sponsors were Holmstrom-Kennedy, PointCore and Hayden Real Estate.

RCH Foundation Board Chairman Reed Harris spoke following Olson's introduction.

"I want to thank you all for coming, especially on this new date," Harris said. "I think it's great that we have this many participants and we appreciate your value to the hospital. I wanted to thank you for all your contributions you've given to the hospital over the many years you have. We're hoping to have more events in the future and we hope you can attend those."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Wednesday, the 22nd Annual Rochelle Community Hospital Foundation golf outing was held at Fairways Golf Course. RCH CEO Gregg Olson welcomed everyone to the event before the shotgun start.

Nuclear plants ran at near 100 percent capacity during summer

WARRENVILLE — Fierce storms, 1,000-year floods and blazing heat dominated national weather patterns this summer, but customers of Constellation nuclear plants from the east coast to the midwest enjoyed some of the nation's highest levels of generation reliability, a Constellation press release said. The organization operates the Byron Nuclear Plant.

Led by 12 carbon-free nuclear plants operating 24/7 and delivering clean energy to millions of

homes from the mid-Atlantic and northeast regions westward to Illinois, the grid experienced no electricity supply constraints.

"One of the greatest challenges we face as a nation is eliminating carbon emissions and continuing to reliably and affordably power our communities in the face of extreme weather driven by climate change," said Bryan Hanson, executive vice president and chief generation officer, Constellation. "Our nuclear plants are among the

most reliable sources of electricity on the planet, while also helping to address the climate crisis by providing carbon-free energy to millions of homes and businesses, when and where they need it."

In the spring thousands of highly-skilled workers performed technology upgrades and power plant equipment maintenance during refueling outages and summer preparedness projects at Constellation nuclear plants. The cutting-edge work and preventive maintenance

efforts ensured millions of American homes and businesses had electricity produced from carbon-free nuclear reactors during the summer. Now, those workers will perform similar fall maintenance projects to ensure the power supply remains available to all residents during the cold winter months ahead.

"Americans are facing many challenges with extreme weather; our nuclear professionals are on site every day to ensure a reliable flow of carbon-free electricity to

the state of Illinois," said Dave Rhoades, chief nuclear officer, Constellation. "Our hard-working employees have dedicated themselves to making our nuclear fleet the best in the country, and that translates to an uninterrupted power supply, regardless of the weather."

Illinois' nuclear stations provided around-the-clock, carbon-free electricity to 10 million homes and businesses during the summer. The fleet's near-perfect summer capacity factor of 99 percent means the

reactors ran at nearly full power every second of every day this summer. That percentage is considerably higher than any other large scale energy sources.

Constellation's Illinois nuclear fleet includes Braidwood Generating Station in Will County, Byron Generating Station in Ogle County, Clinton Power Station in DeWitt County, Dresden Generating Station in Grundy County, LaSalle County Generating Station and Quad Cities Generating in Rock Island County.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Joseph Robert Kubiak

ROCHELLE — Joseph Robert Kubiak, 86, passed away Saturday, Sept. 24 at Liberty Village in Rochelle. Joe was born on Oct. 17, 1935, the son of Kasper and Francis (Wylepski) Kubiak in La Salle. On July 21, 1962, he married Arlene Elizabeth Guccini in Granville, Illinois. He worked for Swift and then for the preceding meat packing businesses that followed: Dubuque, Hormel and FDL Foods, and was an active member of the union.

Joe is survived by his wife of 60 years, Arlene (Guccini) Kubiak of Rochelle; his two daughters: Michele (James) Horvath and Lisa (Kubiak) Rogers

both of Rochelle; eight grandchildren: Jonathan, Rachael (Douglas) Larson, Joseph, Joshua, Gabriel, Philip and Micah Horvath, Tristan Rogers, and great grandson, Wesson Ozinga.

Joe was a veteran of the Korean War. He served with the US Army Corp of Engineers First Calvary Division as a construction equipment operator to rebuild the Country of South Korea after the war. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, hunting, and spending time with his family and friends. He was a lifelong member of St. Patrick's Church in Rochelle.

The visitation will be from 9-10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 29 at the Ung-



er-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The funeral service will follow at 10 a.m. with Father Jesus Dominguez officiating. Burial will be at a later time in St. Hyacinth Cemetery in La Salle. Memorials may be made in Joe's memory to Wounded Warrior Project. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Deputies respond to two-vehicle crash in Stillman Valley

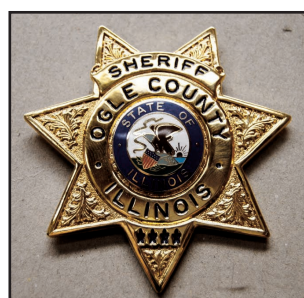
OREGON — On Sept. 23 deputies arrested Andre Adams, 25, of Waterloo, Iowa for driving while license suspended. Adams was arrested by deputies on Interstate 88 near Illinois Route 251 after being stopped for speeding. Adams was released on a I-bond and will appear in Ogle County Court at a later date.

On Sept. 23 at approximately 5:21 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of South Freeport Road. Upon investigation, Leena L. Beebe, 21, of Freeport, was arrested for driving while her license was suspended. Beebe was also cited for obstructed

driver's view. Beebe was released from the stop on an individual bond and given a future court

On Sept. 23 at approximately 7:53 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 39 at mile marker 107 for window tint. After further investigation, deputies arrest Robert Hibbler, 23, of Chicago, for driving while license suspended and a Boone County warrant for failure to appear. Hibbler was transported to the Ogle County Jail for the warrant and given an individual bond for the suspended license.

On Sept. 24 at approximately 7:50 a.m. deputies along with the Stillman Valley Fire Department responded to a two-vehicle crash in the 100 block of West Roosevelt Street in Stillman Valley. After conducting an investigation, it was discovered that a Honda Ridgeline driven by a 17-year-old male crossed over the center line while traveling westbound when the vehicle collided with a Ford Fusion occupied by George and Tamara Delp. George was transported to Saint Anthony's Hospital in Rockford for further treatment. Tamara and the driver of the Honda were treated and medically cleared from the scene. The juvenile male was issued citations for failure to reduce and improper lane usage with a future court date.



On Sept. 25 deputies arrested Daija Fuller, 22, of Rockford for driving while license suspended. Fuller was arrested by deputies on Interstate 39 near Illinois Route 72 after being stopped for speeding. Fuller was released on a I-bond and will appear in Ogle County Court at a later date.

On Sept. 27 at 1:48 a.m. deputies were dispatched to the 7,000 block of South Illinois Route 2 for a single-vehicle accident. Through the course of the investigation, it was determined that Andrew R. Boken, 27, of Oregon, was driving his silver 2007 GMC 2500 pickup truck north in the 7,000 block of South Illinois Route 2 when the truck exited the west side of the roadway, striking a mailbox and a moderate-sized tree. Boken was transported to KSB Hospital in Dixon for non-life threatening injuries, and the pickup truck sustained heavy front end damage. Deputies were assisted on scene by Dixon Rural Fire Department.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Rochelle Police Department

Officers make multiple arrests

ROCHELLE — On Sept. 24 at 2:37 a.m. Terrence L. Jones, 47, of Rochelle was arrested

for driving while license revoked. He was released on an I-Bond with an Oct. 21 Rochelle court date.

On Sept. 23 at 4:03 p.m. a 17-year-old juvenile female of Rochelle was cited for failure to reduce speed. She was released on an I-Bond and given an Oct. 21 Rochelle court date.

On Sept. 23 at 9:02 p.m. a 16-year-old juvenile female of Rochelle was cited for failure to yield turning left. She signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 21 Rochelle court date.

On Sept. 24 at 4:45 p.m. Damien A. Kehl, 27, of Rochelle was arrested for aggravated assault. He was released on an I-Bond and given an Oct. 28 Ogle County court date.

On Sept. 25 at 1:34 a.m. Austin T. Cupp, 25, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On Sept. 26 at 7:57 a.m. Madeline A. Ely, 25, of Amboy was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Nov. 4 Rochelle court date.

On Sept. 26 at 10:57 p.m. Leonard Cook, 54, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant (failure to appear, driving under the influence) and transferred.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Liberty Village hosting ribbon cutting for Memory Lane facility on Thursday

ROCHELLE — On Thursday, Sept. 29, from 2-4 p.m. Liberty Village of Rochelle at 2203 E. Flagg Road will be hosting a ribbon cutting/open house for its soon-to-open, newly-enhanced memory care program titled Memory Lane, fitness

for the mind. The fitness for the mind program has been developed to uniquely focus on an individual's strengths. Those strengths are applied to personalized therapeutic programs, which will exercise existing function.

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Memory Lane also offers a team of memory care specialists and other

professionals designated to managing medication, nutritional needs and more. Monthly support group meetings are available to you and your entire family.

The Liberty Village campus consists of many levels of care to meet families' needs. Facilities include Hawthorne Inn Assisted Living, Manor Court Skilled Nursing Care, a Bounce Back Rehabilitation program, AJ's Fitness Center and a Respite Stay service. Memory Lane is the latest addition to the campus.

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Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the

Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The work on the mural has taken about three weeks for the Steders. They've utilized a scissor lift and exterior acrylic latex paint for the project, which will give it the same lifespan as paint on a house. Mat said sealant will likely be put over the mural to protect it from water.

MURAL: Local artists complete new downtown project

From page 1

The outdoor mural project is out of the comfort zones of Mat and Mandey and it's the first time they've worked on a project like it. Mat called the work "a breath of fresh air," as it's allowed him to take a break from his busy tattooing schedule. Mandey has gotten a reprieve from working on a computer for 12 hours a day.

"I get to be outdoors in daylight instead of by

a computer doing graphic design," Mandey said. "I'm doing real outdoor art. It's been a breath of fresh air for me too. There are times where it gets tiring. But it's been so much fun and I have nothing to complain about. It's been wonderful."

Working on the project together has been enjoyable for the siblings. They've gotten to spend more time together than usual and have learned that they work well together. They've learned different things

about their own and each other's art styles.

"It's been awesome," Mat said. "It's the longest we've hung out in many years. It's really nice. This whole thing has been a neat process. In the beginning, I thought we'd get it done in a week and a half tops. When we got into it, that wasn't even realistic. The work is nonstop all day. We eat and drink at the wall. But I wouldn't trade it for anything. It's been a great time and we're so happy

we decided to do it. It was such a good idea. We're very grateful they decided to ask us."

Being near the heart of downtown, residents that walk or drive by have stopped to talk with Mat and Mandey and offer encouragement.

"It's been all cheering us on and congratulating us on how beautiful it is," Mandey said. "It's positive affirmations that have really made us feel better, especially on the days when

it's been so hot. It gets you excited to finish when you're maybe not having the best day."

The Steders said it's meant a lot to them to be able to leave their mark downtown. Their father, Ron, was active in the community. He passed away in 2020.

"Now it feels like the baton has been passed and we've been asked to do something," Mandey said. "And we're doing it. The community is responding

to us the same way they used to respond to him. It feels nice and welcoming. It just feels right. We love it. The way the community has been, it's a wonderful way for us to honor our father and the community. It will be here for a long time. It will be neat to bring people and show them what we did as brother and sister. It's as cool as you'd think it would be. It's bringing positivity to the town. And we need that. Everyone needs that."

KOVACS: RPD officer reflects on time in Rochelle

From page 1

Kovacs also serves as president of the Rochelle Police Pension Board.

Kovacs has received training in advanced driving under the influence enforcement, medical marijuana, the Illinois Vehicle Code and ARIDE (advanced roadside impairment and drug enforcement) along with crisis intervention training and truck enforcement.

He attended Elgin High School in Elgin and graduated in 2004 before attending Northern Illinois University and graduating in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in sociology with an emphasis in criminology. Prior to working for RPD, Kovacs was a corrections officer for the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office and previously worked as a patrol officer for the Elgin Police Department.

During his freshman year of college, Kovacs was set to become a computer science major. But, he ended up missing a meeting

and had to find a new major.

"My best friend was becoming a police officer so he convinced me to look into it," Kovacs said. "I took criminal justice-related classes and I really liked the material. I ended up doing an internship with the Hoffman Estates Police Department and fell in love with the job and everything that comes with it. To this day, I couldn't see myself doing anything else."

Kovacs and his wife have been married for four years and the couple have four cats together. In their free time, they enjoy traveling. Ryan's hobbies include fitness and woodworking.

The RPD officer said every day on the job is a new experience, and that's why he loves policing.

"I'm not sitting behind a desk doing a 9-5-type job," Kovacs said. "Instead I'm behind the wheel of a car driving around enjoying our community where every day is different. Some days we are very busy handling calls while other days we have less call volume so

I'm able to go out and do proactive police work like traffic stops. No two days are ever alike and I love that."

Kovacs wants the community to know that there is "a great group" of officers working at RPD.

"I enjoy working with every officer and we all genuinely care and want to make our community better," Kovacs said. "Every officer here gives their best day in and day out."

Last year, Kovacs started a breast cancer awareness fundraiser in memory of his mother, Tammy, who passed away from breast cancer in December 2015. RPD sold pink patches and clothing items to raise money to donate to the Living Well Cancer Resource Center in Geneva. The final donation was \$10,000.

The fundraiser will again take place this year in October. T-shirts ranging from adult small to XXL are available for \$25 and additional apparel items are available through 926 Custom Embroidery. Patches



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Last year, RPD Officer Ryan Kovacs started a breast cancer awareness fundraiser in memory of his mother, Tammy, who passed away from breast cancer in December 2015.

cost \$10. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$10 and prizes include a handmade wooden pink line flag, a handmade wooden blue line flag and a t-shirt and patch. 500 raffle tickets are available and the winners will be drawn Nov. 1.

To purchase items from the Rochelle PD Pink Proj-

ect fundraiser, visit or call the police department at 416 N. 6th St., 815-562-2131, cash/check only (payable to Rochelle PD Pink Project) or 926 Custom Embroidery at 404 Lincoln Highway, 815-561-9500, cash/credit card.

"It was really memorable and heartwarming

to see all the members of the police department rally behind a cause and see the huge amount of support we received from the community to help make the fundraiser so successful," Kovacs said. "I am really excited to see if we can beat last year's number this year."

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

The problem of wrongful convictions

EVERY once in a while, you meet someone who changes the trajectory of your life.

For me, that person was Darell Parker, a gentle, kind man who worked in the Moline Parks Department. Back in the early 1990s, I just had begun covering Moline City Hall and a friend told me that Darell was a convicted murderer who maintained his innocence.

I was just 25 and had never thought much about people serving time for crimes they didn't commit. It was a different era, a time when people put much more faith in institutions.

Some folks have this misguided notion that newsrooms are full of bleeding heart liberals. In my 35 years in the news business, that has not been my experience. When I was a young reporter in Texas, my managing editor made

news decisions based on the color of a crime victim's skin.

When I worked as a police reporter in the Midwest the night city editor, was a man not prone to nuance. If someone was accused of a crime, they were automatically a "mope."

Perched on his throne of white privilege, never was there an iota of doubt expressed that the person was guilty. We might as well have slapped the word "guilty" across the accused forehead.

But then I met Darell Parker.

He was a lot like me: white, male, a farm boy and an Iowa State graduate. He'd gone to prison when he was about the same age as I was at the time we met.

Parker suffered the tragedy of having his wife murdered in 1955 and the misfortune a few days later of being interrogated by John E. Reid, a so-called

"expert" in police interrogation. After more than 24 hours of coercion Parker confessed to a crime he didn't commit.

Even though he immediately recanted, based on that confession alone, a jury convicted him. The confession made Reid famous. And what is now known as the "Reid technique" has become the standard form of suspect interviews for police departments across the country. It all started with a false confession.

Decades later, a serial killer on a death row confessed to the murder. And a search of police files found that the killer's car was parked in front of the Parker home the day of the murder. That and other information was never shared with the defense.

It took the state of Ne-

braska more than 60 years to acknowledge they made a mistake in Parker's case and hand him a check for \$500,000.

Parker, who died in February at age 90, never sued. He just asked the state of Nebraska to do the right thing. It would be easy to believe Parker's case is an anomaly.

But I don't believe that is the case. I've met too many factually innocent people who have done time.

This past week, Adnan Syed had his murder conviction thrown out by a Maryland

judge. He became famous during the first season of the podcast "Serial." His defense attorney was bad. Police didn't pursue alternate suspects. And worse yet they never informed the defense of the existence of these alternate suspects.

An innocent man may have served more than 20 years in prison for a crime he never committed.

In 2016, I had never listened to a podcast. But when I was driving across Illinois with my wife we decided to listen to "Serial." About halfway through, I exclaimed, "This is really interesting, but I know a case that is even more interesting."

Before the week was out, I was on the phone with Jay Pierce, the head of the NPR affiliate WVIK and together with producer Lacy Scarmana we produced a podcast that rose to No. 2 in the world on the iTunes charts.

Subsequently, I investigated the case of Barton McNeil, a Bloomington man who was convicted of murder and is currently serving a life sentence. I believe he is innocent and was convicted based on faulty police work and poor

legal representation.

I continue to work for his freedom. If you are interested in the case, listen to season two of the podcast "Suspect Convictions."

In the dozens of wrongful convictions I've written about, it's rare to see a police officer disciplined even in cases involving perjury or incompetence.

Folks sometimes want to know why I ask tough questions of the police. Many work hard and do a good job. Others don't. None are infallible.

I have met many victims of violent crimes whose cases were not vigorously pursued. Worse yet, I've looked into the eyes of too many people convicted of a crime they didn't commit.

If journalists don't hold those in power accountable, who will?

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

Wayne Askvig: Courage and grit

THE movie "Saving Private Ryan" starts with an extremely graphic showing of the D-Day landing on Omaha Beach. The horror of being huddled in a landing craft while enemy fire rained down is far beyond anything most of us could imagine. To make the landing on June 6, 1944 pushed many men to their limits.

For Wayne Askvig, a Rochelle soldier and member of 1st Platoon of the 210th Military Police Company, one landing would have been a dream. Wayne and his fellow military police officers were assigned a two-fold mission. Initially, they would be part of the landing assault, then they would revert back to their policing duties. By the end of the action, Wayne and his unit would earn the Distinguished Unit Badge for their courageous per-

formance.

The story of what happened is taken from a letter Wayne Askvig wrote to his parents Joseph and Rose Askvig, as featured in the Rochelle Leader in 1945, a year after the assault. Wayne was a 1941 graduate of Rochelle High School and played guard on the varsity football team. Like so many of his classmates, after Pearl Harbor, he felt the need to serve.

"I've had a lot of hard times since then, but there will never be a day that was as terrible as D-Day. We pulled out of Waymouth, England, two days ahead of time. There were 16 of us on the LCT (landing craft tank) from the 210 M.P. Company. The rest were 1st Division fellows. Our first landing was perfect, and our ramp fell on solid ground. Just as we were getting off an 88 hit a jeep

in front of the ramp."

The LCT could carry four tanks, four jeeps and one trailer of supplies or various loads of equipment and troops. The LCT was armored fairly well on the front and in crew areas. The payload area was much less secured. This was fine when approaching the beach head on.

The German 88 was a highly-versatile weapon which was used as an anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapon.

"I thought I was a dead duck," Wayne wrote. "That's when I first got scared. Before, I didn't realize that I could be killed. And the fellow next to me was killed. Then we pulled the ramp and pulled back out to sea."

The first attempt at landing had caused damage to

the landing craft and the troops had taken fatalities. The craft made a wide circle and within the hour they tried again. "The second time it was a living death. We met a mortar and 88 barrage that I will never forget."

The tide was receding quickly, and the landing craft had to turn once again and retreat to the open waters.

"The third time in we got stuck on a sand bar for about 20 minutes. When you're standing still for that length of time, the Jerries

(Germans) can really settle down to some straight shooting. But God was with us and we made it out. Finally, after the sixth try, we made it in. Our boat was hit, and we had to get off or go down."

"It was about a 100-yard swim through floating dead bodies. I made it onto the beach, but there were a lot of fellows who didn't."

"A great many men from our company were killed or wounded, but all I got out of it was a bad case of nerves."

The Presidential Unit Citation read as follows: "The M.P. platoon fought as infantrymen alongside the engineers, helped knock out pillboxes, treated and evacuated wounded and carried out traffic control under direct heavy artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire. The fighting M.P.s were prime targets for enemy snipers because of the white-lined M.P. helmets."

The stress of landing at Omaha Beach one time can hardly be imagined by anyone not there. Omaha Beach saw the most casu-

alties of any of the invasion beaches. The thought of attempting to land six times is mind numbing. To have your comrades falling next to you, your landing craft sunk, swimming through open water through the bodies of dead soldiers, and that is just on the way to work.

The real work begins after your get on shore. Wayne Askvig and fellow members of the 1st Platoon of the 210th Military Police Company demonstrated the courage and grit which caused many to refer to them as the Greatest Generation. Wayne Askvig came home after the war and continued with his life. He passed in 1978 and is buried at St. Patrick Cemetery in Rochelle.

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

Letter: Right to work laws in Illinois

THE advertisements are saying that the "Workers' Rights Amendment" will be good for all Illinoisans and that we should vote yes in November.

After doing some read-

ing, I found Illinois is not a "right to work state" while 27 other states in our country are, some of which happen to be our neighbors. Essentially, if passed in November, the amendment could effectively ban "right

to work" laws in Illinois.

In other words, it would get baked into the Illinois constitution and then it would be difficult to change. An example are the difficulties that we have

experienced in Illinois in dealing with the funding of the public workers' pensions.

A right to work law gives workers the choice of whether or not to join a union. I believe

all workers should have that right. This proposed amendment would also tie the hands of our elected legislators to adopt laws to deal with problems in the long term.

Is this what we want in

Illinois?

Give it some thought as to how you want to vote for this proposed amendment in November.

**Edward Hoffman
Rochelle**

How to contact government officials

U.S. Con. Adam Kinzinger
1218 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C.
20515
(202) 225-3635

IL Sen. Brian Stewart
M104A State House
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0180

IL Rep. Tom Demmer
314 Capitol
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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.

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark navy blazer over a light blue button-down shirt, stands in a room. He is gesturing with his right hand, palm facing up, while his left hand is in his pocket. To his left is a tall American flag on a gold pole. To his right, a table is partially visible with autumn-themed decorations, including pumpkins and gourds. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.



2022

From The Heart

Calendar

Cryptogrip
answer
The cereal fungus was rapidly
encroaching upon the yearly crops
of rye and wheat. Ergo, ergot.

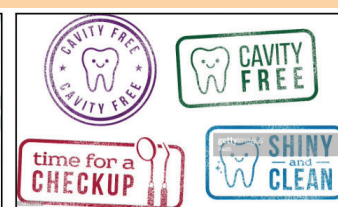
September

HUB NEWS

@ ROCHELLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

What Is Happening

- Oct 1 Final performance of Phantom Tollbooth in the theater
File a FAFSA form at <https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-app/ROLES> for college financial aid
8am to 3 pm Foundation for Focus House car show @ Autumn on Parade at Oregon Park East in Oregon. Trophies awarded 2:30pm.
- Oct 3-7 Parent/Teacher Communication Week
- Oct 7 No School RTHS & KEC - Teacher Institute
5pm F/S vs Sandwich gates open 4pm
7pm HUBS Varsity football hosts Thornridge
- Oct 8 Marching Band competition
- Oct 10 Columbus Day No School
- Oct 14 End of the 1st 9-week grading period
- Oct 15 RTHS Education Foundation Smoker Competition 6-10pm
- Oct 16 Marching Band at Sandwich Musicfest
- Oct 17 Board of Education meets 5:30pm



Please respect Health Office Deadlines

Signed and completed Freshmen physical and immunization records are due in the RTHS Health Office before Oct. 1. A signed and completed Dental Exam record is due before Christmas break. Both are state mandated.

SENIOR parents need to provide proof of meningococcal vaccines before Oct 1. This is also state mandated.

- Oct 21 Senior Night honors Fall Athletes, Cheer, Dance, Flags, Band members 4pm gates open; F/S kickoff 5 pm & Varsity kickoff at 7 pm
- Oct 22 Illinois State marching band competition
- Oct 27 Fall Indoor Marching Band & Jazz Concert
- Oct 28 1st Round IHSA Football Playoffs
- Oct 29 Cross Country Sectional



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Look for the WINNERS section, Sunday, Oct. 9th in the Rochelle News-Leader and Monday, Oct. 10th in the Ogle County Life!

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SPORTS



HUBS DEFEAT MORRIS

The Rochelle Hub soccer team defeated Morris in conference action on Monday.

See page 5 for more details

RTHS Football

Spartans shut out Hubs

Sycamore contains Rochelle rushing attack in 34-0 loss on Friday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity football team’s unbeaten start to the season came to an abrupt halt Friday evening, when the purple and white hosted the top-ranked and undefeated Sycamore Spartans in an Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Conference crossover matchup.

After scoring 40 or more points in each of the last three games, Rochelle struggled to move the football against a physical Sycamore defensive front. The Spartans held the Hubs to 174 rushing yards on 58 carries, while quarterback Eli Meier threw two touchdown passes to Burke Gautcher as Sycamore defeated Rochelle 34-0. The Hubs (4-1, 2-0 Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Blue) will travel and face the Marengo Indians on the road next Friday evening at 7 p.m.

“We need to be more physical at the point of attack with more consistency throughout long drives,” head coach Kyle Kissack said. “When we don’t stay on schedule and the defense brings a ton of pressure, we need to

answer that with our own physicality... We gave up a number of big plays tonight and we have to get that under control. It’s something that has hurt us in a few of our games this season. We have to make sure that our opponents earn the points they get.”

Entering as the No. 4 ranked team in Class 5A, Sycamore received the opening kickoff and quickly marched down the field, capping off a seven-play, 62-yard scoring drive with a 6-yard touchdown run from Meier, who rushed for a team-high 68 yards while completing 8-of-11 passes for 144 yards in the game. Rochelle’s first drive went 32 yards over 10 plays, but a fourth-and-2 stop by the Spartan defense gave Sycamore the ball back near the 50-yard line.

A 44-yard scramble from Meier led to a 3-yard touchdown run by Tyler Curtis that gave the Spartans a 13-0 lead late in the first quarter. The Hubs went 20 yards over six plays on their second drive, but another fourth-down stop, this time on fourth and inches, allowed Sycamore to take the ball back inside Rochelle terri-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Trey Taft (right) attempts to shed a tackler during the Rochelle Hub varsity football game against Sycamore on Friday. The Spartans shut out Rochelle 34-0 to hand the Hubs their first loss of the season.

tory. The Spartans turned the defensive stand into points, with Meier hitting Gautcher for a 41-yard

touchdown that helped put Sycamore ahead 20-0.

“We need to iron things out defensively, but some-

times our best defense is our offense, and we need to come back on Monday and work on being more

physical and getting a hat on a hat,” Kissack said.

See HUBS page 3

RTHS Girls Tennis

Rochelle takes second in Lady Hub Invitational

Senior netters Jackson, Whaley combine to win No. 2 varsity doubles bracket

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team held its annual Lady Hub Invitational at Rochelle Township High School on Saturday. Seniors Bailey Jackson and Marisa Whaley finished first in the No. 2 doubles bracket to lead Rochelle to a second-place performance in the five-team tournament that included DeKalb, Freeport, Newman Central Catholic and Kaneland. The Lady Hubs (2-7, 0-4 Interstate 8) totaled 20 points across five top-3 finishes in the meet.

Jackson and Whaley went 3-1 overall, defeating Freeport’s Caitlyn Simpson and Arazara Lassandro 6-3 before falling 3-6 against Kaneland’s Kaci Randall and Nola Norring. Jackson and Whaley closed out the tournament with an 8-1 victory over Newman’s Laurel Chavera and Kaitlyn Conderman as well as a 5-4 victory over DeKalb’s Eesha Faisal and Alissa Kocjan.

Junior Elin Zheng took second in the No. 1 singles bracket with a 3-1 record. Zheng fell 7-2 against Kaneland’s Anelle Dominguez before bouncing back with a 6-3



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team took second in the Lady Hub Invitational at RTHS on Saturday. Above from left to right are Torrin Nantz, Elin Zheng, Riley Doyle, Abby Tarvestad, Maleah Pointer, Marisa Whaley, Bailey Jackson and Francesca Williams.

win over DeKalb’s Amirah Shakir. Zheng won consecutive matches to close out the tournament, taking down Freeport’s Audra Luecke and Newman’s Emma Oswalt with back-to-back 5-4 scores.

Senior Abby Tarvestad took second in the No. 2 singles bracket with a 3-1 record. Tarvestad edged

Newman’s Maria Ardis 5-4 and fell 6-3 against Kaneland’s Lexi Maberry over her first two matches. Tarvestad finished strong to record her second-place position, cruising 8-1 over DeKalb’s Aubree Judkins and shutting out Freeport’s Ryleigh Bach with a clean 9-0 sweep.

Senior Maleah Point-

er and sophomore Riley Doyle took second in the No. 3 doubles bracket with a 3-1 record. Pointer and Doyle won three consecutive matches to begin the tournament, defeating Newman’s Elise Vanderbleek and Maddy Taylor-Steffens 6-3, Freeport’s Ashlyn Erickson and Hanna Rackow 8-1

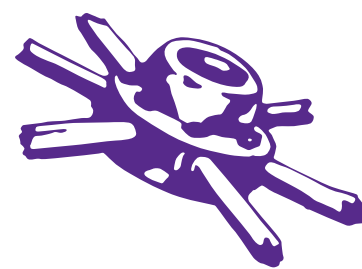
as well as DeKalb’s Nina Christopherson and Reina McGee 6-3. Pointer and Doyle fell 6-3 to Kaneland’s Annika Salchert and Anna Bischoff in Round 5.

Seniors Torrin Nantz and Francesca Williams finished third in the No. 1 doubles bracket with a 2-2 record. Nantz and Williams downed DeKalb’s Ilanie

Castorena and Emma Kraft 6-3 before outlasting Freeport’s Nicole Ocon and Addie Lang 5-4 in their second match. Nantz and Williams lost their last two matches, conceding a 5-4 defeat against Newman’s Julia Rhodes and Emily Beattie and a 7-2 defeat to Kaneland’s Lauren Andrews and Abby Grams.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Annaliese
Koziol**

Year: Freshman

Sport: Cross Country

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

A: This is my first year.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: That it requires me to push myself and accomplish more than I think I can.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My older brother because he got me into cross country and he's

a good person to get advice from.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: To be a nurse practitioner because I have always had an interest in the medical field.

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

A: Having the ability to run and compete with my friends everyday.



**Rose
Luxton**

Year: Freshman

Sport: Cross Country

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

A: This is my first year.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: The coaches make it fun and I can run with my friends.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?

A: History because it's fun to learn about.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?

A: Mary Chadwick because she's always nice and she never gives up.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My sister because she never gives up and she gives good advice.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: To help kids in need.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?

A: Rome because I would love to learn about their culture.

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

A: I enjoy playing sports.

GO HUBS!



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SPORTS



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)
The Rochelle Hub varsity football team faced Sycamore at home Friday evening, falling 34-0 to move to 4-1 on the season. At left, several Rochelle defenders combine to tackle Sycamore's Joey Puleo. At right, senior quarterback Hayden Inman takes the playcall from Rochelle head coach Kyle Kissack.

HUBS: Sycamore hands Rochelle first loss of season

From page 1

“Our backs need to block and be super physical in the run game and that will separate us from other teams as the season moves forward... We win football games by time of possession and playing really good, solid defense. We did neither of those things tonight.”

Trailing 20-0 entering the third quarter, Rochelle received the second-half kickoff in need of an offensive spark. Sycamore’s defense proved too strong once again, however, forcing a turnover on downs after only four plays before Spartan running back Joey Puleo broke several tackles on a 24-yard touchdown rush through the middle. Puleo then intercepted a tipped pass by senior quarterback Hayden Inman early in the fourth quarter that ended another Hub offensive drive.

Meier iced the Sycamore win with a 34-yard touchdown pass to Gautcher down the Spartan sideline. Rochelle’s final drive of the night went 57 yards over 14 plays, but the Hubs were unable to move into the red zone before the buzzer sounded. Senior tailback Garrett Gensler led the Hubs, who averaged 3 yards per carry, with 90 rushing yards in the loss. Junior linebacker Brock Metzger and senior corner David Gerber each had five tackles on defense.

“We were beaten by a really good football team, but we have a really good football team as well,” Kissack said. “There are things we did tonight that are uncharacteristic of who we are. We have to go back to the foundation of what makes us successful, which is being relentless at the point of attack and being reliable to each other. We have to be resilient because we’re going to play tougher opponents and there are more obstacles that we’ll have to overcome.”



(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)
Freshman Hubs cruise over Spartans 36-6 in conference crossover matchup
The Rochelle Hub freshman football team improved to 4-1 overall this season with a 36-6 win over Sycamore on Friday. Roman Villalobos rushed for three touchdowns in the win, while Brode Metzger (above at right) recorded two touchdowns and Gavin Neale (above at left) totaled seven tackles including three tackles for loss. Van Gerber added an interception on defense for the Hubs, who have two games remaining against Oregon on Sept. 29 and Stillman Valley on Oct. 17.

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PRIME TIME

Social media: It's not just for kids anymore

PERHAPS due to the popularity of social media among a generation of young people who grew up with it, platforms such as Instagram and Facebook are often associated with people born in the 21st century. However, a 2018 study from the Pew Institute found that 65 percent of adults between the ages of 50 and 64 used Facebook and 68 percent used YouTube.

Social media is often on the receiving end of negative attention, but it's also a potentially valuable tool that can help men and women over 50 stay connected with their communities. That's not always so easy for adults who no longer have children at home. And as its name suggests, social media can help users connect with others who share their interests. Such connections also can be hard to make for adults over 50.

Adults over 50 may be more comfortable with social media now than they were a decade ago, but it's still a good idea to

brush up on basic security measures that can help men and women protect their privacy as they utilize platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Protect your personal information. No social media user has the right to access your personal information, including your address, date of birth or other data unique to you. Avoid interacting with anyone who requests personal information, employing the function to block such users from connecting with you when possible. It's also important to keep information about travel plans private. For example, sharing details of an upcoming vacation can serve notice to potential criminals that no one will be in your house, making it a potential target for burglars.

Aim for quality, not quantity, when building social media networks. Avoid accepting friend requests from individuals you don't know. Cyber criminals often gain access to victims via social media, so limit your social



media network to people you know and trust.

Turn off location information. The technology behind social media is impressive and even makes it possible to determine where users are when they tweet or post to other platforms. But many users, especially those concerned about their privacy, don't want to share location information with anyone, much less strangers. Turn off location information and routinely double check to make sure it's still turned off.

Discuss others' privacy concerns before posting to social media. Social media isn't for everyone, and some people may not want photos of themselves or their children posted to platforms like Facebook or Instagram. Prior to posting pictures or information about other people, confirm that they're OK with you doing so.

Adults over 50 are engaging with social media. But no matter how comfortable users become, it's still best to keep various social media safety protocols in mind.

A Q&A regarding hospice and palliative care

Illnesses and aging can force families to make challenging decisions regarding the health and well-being of people they love. Care facilities, home health aides and other services can help improve quality of life for those people who are no longer well enough — physically or cognitively — to care for themselves. Palliative and hospice care are part of these care offerings.

Palliative care is specialized medical services for individuals living with serious illnesses. It is not designed to cure or treat

the condition itself, but it is a way to manage symptoms. It is typically used in conjunction with other forms of medicine that are attempting to treat or cure the disease.

Hospice is similar to palliative care in that it is geared to enhancing quality of life. Hospice care is for people in the last phases of incurable diseases and is intended to ensure they live as fully and comfortably as possible, according to the American Cancer Society. Unlike palliative care, which accompanies traditional medical care,



those who accept hospice care typically cease any other care attempting to cure the illness.

The National Institute on Aging says anyone living with a serious illness, such as cancer, dementia, Parkinson's disease, and heart failure, can appreciate the support palliative care provides. It is helpful at any stage of the illness, and is best started soon after diagnosis.

Hospice care is for those who are in the final stages of their illnesses. Generally, hospice services are reserved for people who are expected to live another six months or less if their illness continues to run its course.

The good news about palliative care and hospice care is that wishes are completely driven by the patient and his or her family. If the patient is incapable of making medical directives, his or her medical proxy can make changes to care wishes.

Research indicates that many times hospice care is started too late because people think it's a form of "giving up." However, anyone in hospice care can resume active care if they or their caregivers choose to do so.

The Mayo Clinic says that palliative and hospice care can improve symptoms such as pain, nausea or vomiting, anxiety, depression, constipation, difficulty breathing, fatigue, and trouble sleeping, among others.

Hospice care also can include spiritual and bereavement care. Hospice teams typically follow up with members of the immediate family to offer them counseling or other services.

Patients and their families decide what they want out of these care measures. Palliative care teams are separate from the patient's medical care team that's managing their treatment. Hospice care teams coordinate the majority of care for the patient and communicate with the patient's medical care team.

Hospice and palliative care are considerations for people with serious conditions.



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SPORTS

RTHS Football

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



JV Hubs take down Sycamore 22-14 in Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Conference crossover

The Rochelle Hub JV football team faced Sycamore on Monday, winning 22-14 and improving to 5-0 on the season. Freshmen Roman Villalobos and Brode Metzger each rushed for touchdowns, while sophomore Ryan Senne compiled six tackles for loss and four sacks. Freshmen Parker Slattengren and Reece Harris each notched sacks for the Hubs, who will face Marengo on the road Friday at 5 p.m. Sophomore Carson Lewis threw a 65-yard touchdown pass to sophomore Ethan Goodwin, who also recorded an interception for the Rochelle defense. Above, sophomore Elijah Harley (top left) runs behind a block from Carson Lewis and junior Reiley Bonilla (top right) takes a kickoff return. Below, junior Riley Damask (bottom left) takes a carry and sophomores Brandyn Metzger and Ethan Goodwin make a tackle.

RTHS Football



(PHOTO BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

Freshman Reece Harris brings down the Byron quarterback during the Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football game against the Tigers on Friday, Sept. 16.

Fresh-Soph Hubs score home win over Byron

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football team earned a hard-fought win against Byron on Friday, Sept. 16. Rochelle took the early lead and held off the Tigers late to record a 22-6 victory and

move to 4-0 on the season. Freshman Roman Villalobos rushed for two touchdowns in the win, reaching the endzone from 16 yards out and 3 yards out. Sophomore Ethan Goodwin added a 3-yard touchdown run, while freshman Brode Metzger finished with seven tack-

les including two tackles for loss.

Freshman Gavin Neale rushed for 63 yards and had five tackles on defense in the game. Sophomore Brandyn Metzger compiled six tackles for the Hubs, who played a JV game at Sycamore on Monday.

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BY Hugh McKiski, Village President
No. 0929 (Sept. 28)

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SPORTS

RTHS Boys Soccer

Hubs kick off I-8 tourney with win Casillas nets five goals in 8-2 victory over Morris

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team kicked off the Interstate 8 Conference tournament with an explosive offensive performance against Morris on Monday evening.

Sophomore forward Alberto Casillas cashed in a season-high five goals as the No. 3 seed Rochelle dominated the first half to win 8-2 over the No. 6 seed Morris. Three forwards including junior Diego Salazar, sophomore Fernando Diaz and freshman Kevin Orozco each scored goals for the Hubs, who will face the No. 2 seed Kaneland on the road Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in the semifinal round. Rochelle battled the Knights earlier this season, conceding a tough 2-1 loss.

“We know Morris has a good team, but winning how we did today is a big confidence booster for us,” senior defender Nolan Fonfara said. “We had a few miscommunications on defense, but we stuck together and we have a lot of confidence in each other... Kaneland has a very fast team and we have to come out with a renewed sense of ourselves and be really aggressive from the start. If we can get a few goals early in the match, I think we’ll have a good chance to win.”

Senior goalkeeper Jarrett Milan recorded three saves for the Hubs (8-6, 4-2 Interstate 8), who outshot the Redskins 28-9 and 14-6 in shots



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)
Senior Nolan Fonfara dribbles around Morris midfielder Ethan Barlow during the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer match against the Redskins on Monday.

on goal. Rochelle struck first in the conference tournament opener, with senior midfielder Jared Montano finding Casillas for back-to-back goals during the ninth and 14th minutes to give Rochelle a 2-0 advantage early in the match.

Morris answered with a goal in the 22nd minute, but the Hubs bounced right back with consecutive unassisted goals from Diaz and Orozco in the 24th and 29th minutes to maintain a healthy lead in the match. Rochelle added to its lead late in the first half, where Casillas converted two more goals, including one off an assist from Orozco,

in the 33rd and 34th minutes. Salazar’s goal during the 40th minute gave the Hubs a 7-1 halftime advantage.

“We’ve been working on our passing a lot and we’re trying to build off of the back more often so we can get the ball into the midfield,” Montano said. “We changed our formation as well and I think it’s a better fit for how we want to play... We’re too passive to win the ball sometimes and we need to work on winning the ball and being first to the ball if we want to beat Kaneland.”

Leading 7-2 midway through the second half,

Rochelle iced the opening-round win with another Orozco-Casillas connection during the 65th minute, where Orozco rolled a pass to Casillas inside the Morris box for his fifth and final goal of the match. Casillas totaled 11 shots and seven shots on goal, while Salazar and junior Jesus Mondragon each finished with four shots on goal.

Kaneland defeated the No. 7 seed Ottawa 2-0 on Monday, while the No. 1 seed Sycamore beat the No. 8 seed Sandwich 6-0. The No. 4 seed LaSalle-Peru edged the No. 5 seed Plano with a 2-1 victory on Monday.

RTHS Girls Tennis



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Abby Tarvestad won the No. 2 singles match for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team during Monday’s nonconference match against Mendota.

Mendota sneaks past Lady Hubs

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Junior Elin Zheng and senior Abby Tarvestad each secured singles win during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team’s home match against Mendota on Monday.

Zheng outlasted Ella Lewis 6-4, 6-3 on the No. 1 singles court, while Tarvestad held off Natalia Salinas 6-2, 6-4 on the No. 2 singles court. The match came down to the No. 2 doubles court, where seniors Bailey Jackson and Marisa Whaley took a first-set lead but fell just short in a 6-4, 3-6, 6-10 loss to Isabelle Escatel and Cassie

Gonzalez. The win allowed the Trojans to escape with a 3-2 victory over the Lady Hubs (2-8, 0-4 Interstate 8), who’ll host Sycamore on Tuesday.

Mendota swept all three doubles matches to earn the nonconference win on Monday. Seniors Torrin Nantz and Francesca Williams battled back in the second set of their 1-6, 3-6 loss to Alexis Finley and Talya Schwaegerman on the No. 1 doubles court. Senior Maleah Pointer and sophomore Riley Doyle played a competitive match against Julia Kruger and Mariah Figueroa on the No. 3 doubles court, nearly earning a third-set tie-breaker in a 5-7, 4-6 defeat.



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QUALIFICATIONS:

- Problem solver and Team oriented.
- Able to work with people, strong work ethic, must be capable of multi-tasking in a fast paced environment, strong communication skills, must be able to read and write and be able to stay focused.

EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE:

- At least 5 years of experience in a manufacturing environment.
- Prior manufacturing, maintenance, electrical and mechanical experience preferred.
- The military equivalent will be recognized in lieu of education and/or experience.

MATHEMATICAL SKILLS:

- Basic mathematical skills and understanding of NFPA 70 handbook.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

- Manufacturing facility
- Personal Protective Equipment required at all times
- Controlled Noise exposure
- Activity level is high - continuous movement
- Must provide own tools

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Progressive pay range based on knowledge demonstrated ability and performance
- Full benefits package (Medical, Dental, Vision, Flexible Spending Accounts and Life Insurance)
- 401(k) with company match
- Vacation



ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Has a solid understanding of all the Mechanical, Pneumatic, and Hydraulic Systems of the equipment that comprises its operation.
- Reads, edits, and creates PLC Ladder Logic as it relates to the operation & modification of our production equipment.
- Follows all the safety procedures per the Company Regulations and also the State and Federal Regulations (NFPA70E, OSHA, etc.).
- Maintains the entire plants electrical systems and installs new electrical systems without supervision.
- Implements, Upgrades, Troubleshoots, Repairs, Maintains, and Installs the control systems to help improve the safety and productivity while limiting downtime.
- Performs preventative maintenance and routine inspections of all control systems.
- Responsible for maintaining the backup documentation for the settings on all pieces of equipment within the facility.
- Participates in the creation and implementation of training programs for other maintenance employees or operators when changes or new control systems are implemented.
- Gathers information on new and/or existing equipment.
- Can proficiency bend conduit, pull and terminate wire.
- Comfortable around 120V, 277V & 480V Equipment.

SPORTS

Rochelle Junior Tackle

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



Junior Hubs finish 2-1 over three games against Rockton on Saturday afternoon

The Rochelle Junior Tackle football program faced Rockton on the road Saturday afternoon. The eighth-graders (6-1) received a forfeit, while the seventh-graders (5-2) cruised to a 46-14 win. The sixth-graders (5-2) suffered their second straight loss, falling 22-0 in a shutout. The fifth-graders (6-1) bounced back with an 8-6 win on Saturday. Above, sixth-grader Kyler Rowe (top left) makes a tackle and fifth-grader Elijah Underwood (top right) runs the ball outside. Below, seventh-grader Maddox Hueramo (bottom left) escapes a Rockton defender and seventh-grader Holden Liebhaber (bottom right) hauls in a reception.

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