



ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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Kiwanis Golden K inducts members

The Rochelle Kiwanis Golden K inducted two new members at its recent meeting. **Page 7**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
83 53

THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
78 56

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
77 54

SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
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OBITUARIES

• GREGORY TORRES

See page 4

INSERTS

• ALDI
• FARM & FLEET

INSIDE

Local News.....2, 3, 5, 8
Obituaries.....4
Opinion.....6
Community.....7



Building improvements approved

Council accepts bid for rail crossing improvements

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an ordinance waiving competitive bidding requirements for the first phase of improvements to the building it purchased last year at 1030 S. 7th St. that houses its water, water reclamation and electric departments and will soon include its engineering department.

Office space is needed to accommodate the engineering department's current and future needs including file and plan storage, a conference room, equipment, bathroom addition, fixtures, HVAC and plumbing adjustments/extensions, exterior façade improvements and more.

The council's Monday approval will allow City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh to enter into contract construction agreements and/or purchase materials to complete the project. City Engineer Sam Tesreau has developed cost estimates for the work at a total of \$158,700 for the



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)
City of Rochelle Economic Development Director Jason Anderson speaks during the Rochelle City Council meeting Monday evening.

phase and will oversee the project, eliminating the need for an engineering contractor.

Tesreau said the work will include a new sign out front. The city hopes to begin the work around Sept. 1 depending on the availability of materials.

The second and final phase of the improvements to the building is planned for next year and the estimated cost for that is just under \$500,000, Tesreau said.

"The second phase is planned for more of a Rochelle Municipal Utilities project to build facilities for their crews such as bathrooms, locker rooms and a break room area," Tesreau said. "Right now they're just meeting at tables and there aren't enough bathrooms down there. There will be a location where we can meet with other staff members and customers and developers."

Phase two of the project

will also include new fencing and automatic gates.

Crossings

The council unanimously approved a proposal from Ameritrack Rail Services for at-grade replacements of two city-owned railroad crossings at a cost of \$587,388.

Railroads are responsible for maintaining and replacing at-grade crossings of public streets.

See CITY page 3



Distillery holds event for nonprofit

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

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

Hops for Heroes is a campaign by national nonprofit Soldiers' Angels that works with craft breweries of all sizes like Kennay Farms Distilling. 100 percent of proceeds from the beer will be donated to the nonprofit.

Kennay Farms was one of 14 breweries in the United States to participate and was sent the ingredients and recipe by the Soldiers' Angels nonprofit.

See BEER page 5

Ribbon cutting held for The End Zone

'We just wanted something different for the community'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Friday, a ribbon cutting event was held downtown for The End Zone, a new bar at 417 Cherry Ave. owned by Kevin Crandall and Shane Erdman.

Erdman said he's enjoyed working on the business and that he and Crandall wanted to "build something different" downtown. The duo have added TVs and a sports bar theme. The goal is to have a different sports game on every TV.

"We wanted to add the whole sports aspect and things like TVs and different options to watch," Erdman said. "We wanted to provide an environment where it's pleasant to be here and have a lot of media to look at and have a good time. We put a lot into the digital aspect. We have a built-in DJ system. We just wanted something different for the community. And the community has responded well."

The theme is a natural fit for Crandall, the former



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Friday, a ribbon cutting event was held downtown for The End Zone, a new bar at 417 Cherry Ave. owned by Kevin Crandall and Shane Erdman.

longtime Rochelle Township High School head football coach.

"It's been a lot of work, but it's also been enjoyable to transform it from what it was into a sports bar and try to make it a place where everybody is welcome," Crandall said. "So far, it's been a really positive experience. You can get a different game on every TV. We're really looking forward to football

getting going and doing it all day on Saturdays and Sundays.

Crandall and Erdman's desire to open up a bar downtown has been in the works for a few years. They had something planned before the COVID-19 pandemic hit and decided to wait. Once COVID-19 started to lighten up, the pair had the chance to buy the 417 Cherry Ave. location, formerly occupied by

Sissy's Wild Card Saloon.

Erdman has owned a business downtown for 13 years. He said he's always believed in building up the downtown and keeping it up and historical.

"We hope people come down and check it out," Crandall said. "We think they'll enjoy it."

Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera welcomed Crandall and Erdman and their business

to the community Friday.

"When Shane came to us and said they were ready to join the chamber, we were very happy," Herrera said. "I've known him for a long time. We're very happy and proud that you and Kevin made the investment. It's nice to have a nice place. Welcome to the chamber. We're all partners in this. Anything we can help with, please let us know."

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LOCAL NEWS

Sales tax deduction on school supplies began Friday

Tax on eligible items decreasing from 6.25 to 1.25 percent from Aug. 5-14

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Beginning last Friday and lasting through Aug. 14, the state will reduce its sales tax rate from 6.25 percent to 1.25 percent for certain clothing items costing less than \$125 and school supplies.

The “tax holiday” was included in Gov. JB Pritzker’s “family relief plan,” one prong of several bills making up the Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget. The tax breaks passed with nearly unanimous support in the General Assembly and provided an estimated \$1.8 billion in tax relief for Illinoisans.

“These past two-and-a-half years, for everyone, of managing through the pandemic has been hard,” Pritzker said at a news conference Thursday. “And the last nine months of inflation on top of that has strained the budgets of parents and teachers alike. Prices have risen for everything from gas to groceries to school supplies, and everyone is taking a hit. It’s at moments like these that we need thoughtful and creative solutions that provide financial relief for Illinois families.”

The state estimated the sales tax reduction would amount to \$50 million in savings for taxpayers.

The 10-day tax reduction includes clothing items costing less than \$125 individually.

Clothing items, as defined by the law, include the standard items such as

shorts, pants, skirts, shirts and underwear. The tax reduction will also apply to aprons, hats, caps and earmuffs, coats and jackets, belts and suspenders, rubber pants, lab coats, hosiery, scarves, bathing suits, school uniforms and neckties.

It also applies to footwear — shoes, shoelaces, slippers, insoles, boots, socks and sandals.

Excluded items

But it does not apply to ballet, tap or athletic shoes, roller or ice skates, ski boots, waders, or fins.

Shoppers also should not expect the reduced sales tax rate on accessory items such as briefcases, hair bows, handbags, jewelry, sunglasses or wigs. The reduction also does not apply to sports gloves, goggles, hand and elbow guards, life preservers, wetsuits, shoulder pads, shin guards or mouth guards.

Also excluded are protective equipment items such as breathing masks, hearing protectors, face shields, hard hats and helmets, respirators, protective gloves, safety goggles or tool belts.

Included school supplies

Binders, book bags, calculators, cellophane tape, blackboard chalk, notebooks, erasers, folders, index cards, legal pads, lunch boxes, pencils and sharpeners, supply boxes, protractors, rulers, compasses, and scissors are all eligible for the reduced



tax rate.

So are glue, highlighters, markers, crayons and colored pencils.

Excluded items

Shoppers should not expect other art supplies to be eligible for the reduced rate, however. Clay and glaze, paints and paint brushes, sketch pads and drawing pads will all be taxed at the regular 6.25 percent rate.

Textbooks, reference books, maps and globes are all excluded from the “holiday” as well.

Electronics and computers will also be taxed at the regular rate. That includes computers and related sup-

plies such as flash drives, memory cards, data storage, computer cases, cables, printers and ink.

Shoppers also should not expect any breaks while buying cameras, cellphones or handheld electronics.

The task of adjusting the tax rate for individual items will fall on retailers, who collect sales tax and remit it to the state.

Guidance from the Illinois Department of Revenue on qualifying items can be found on its website.

Other tax relief

Other tax relief measures approved in the budget include a property tax

rebate up to 5 percent of the homeowner’s tax bill up to \$300, and a one-time income tax rebate of \$50 per individual and \$100 per dependent, up to a limit of three children per family. Those would be available to individuals with incomes up to \$200,000 and joint filers with incomes up to \$400,000.

The package also suspends for one year the 1 percent tax on groceries and puts a six-month pause on the automatic inflationary increase in the state’s motor fuel tax, which was estimated to be 2.2 cents per gallon.

The plan also permanently expands the state

earned income tax credit from 18 to 20 percent of the federal credit while also expanding the number of households that can claim the credit.

The measure also sets an income tax credit for teachers buying classroom supplies at \$250 for the current year and \$500 beginning Jan. 1, 2023.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Live life to the **FULLEST.**

McCoy named Extension assistant director for region

STERLING — Janice McCoy has provided University of Illinois Extension educational programs and leadership for residents of Carroll, Lee, and Whiteside counties for more than 20 years. Now, McCoy will oversee 39 counties in western and central Illinois as the region’s newest Extension assistant director.

Extension has a local presence in every Illinois county, allowing it to seamlessly link communities, businesses, and the public to the innovative research of the university and its partners. A regional network provides support for the organization’s 650 staff members.

McCoy’s Extension career began in 2001 as a family life educator before transitioning to county director for Carroll, Lee and Whiteside Counties.

“My most important role as assistant director will be to ensure that each of the 10 units has a solid program plan that serves the needs of their communities,” McCoy said. “Designing research-based programs that improve the lives of individuals and communities is the core mission of Extension, and our local counties are the point of access.”

McCoy transitioned to her new role on Aug. 1.

“Extension is a tremendous resource for local communities,” McCoy said. “We harness the groundbreaking research done in a myriad of areas and make that useable for all people.”

McCoy believes Extension transforms people’s lives.

“We are developing young leaders in our 4-H programs—the next generation of the workforce, public servants, and volunteers. We are helping farmers increase their productivity to feed the world. Families benefit from learning how to raise their children, nourish their households, and care for those they love.”

A network of volunteers assist in the development and delivery of Extension programs, including those volunteers who work with 4-H, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and Money Mentor programs.

“Extension really is the glue that brings groups together to make a difference,” McCoy said, “and our local staff are incredible resources. They work every day to help their communities thrive and prosper. They are focused on the mission of Extension and helping people improve the quality of their lives.”

McCoy is the current president of the Illinois Epsilon Sigma Phi professional association chapter and has been an active member of the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, receiving the Distinguished Service Award in 2014.

As the outreach arm of the state’s land-grant university, University of Illinois Extension translates research and knowledge into practical applications for Illinois residents to help them create solutions to local challenges.

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To learn more about XCEL Orthopedics or schedule an appointment with Dr. Delisca, call **815-562-3784** or visit rochellehospital.com/orthopedics.

LOCAL NEWS

CITY: Council approves new signage for Acres Bistro

From page 1

The two crossings that will see improvements are at Steam Plant Road and Caron Road. The crossings were constructed in 2006 and now need replacement including ties, rail, concrete crossing panels and the adjacent roadway pavement. Three bids were received ranging in price from \$587,388 to \$690,966. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$564,929. The project will be funded by city railroad revenue.

City Economic Development Director Jason Anderson said the critical component to the project is that the railroad and road will have to be shut down during the work.

"It will impact every industry in the industrial park and every industry that uses our railroad," Anderson said. "It's a big project that we will hopefully get done sometime in the next couple of months. The closure and work won't take long. We really can't afford to have it be closed for replacement for more than a week."

Signage

The council unanimously approved a special use and variance of code for new signage that will be put in at Acres Bistro and the Scalehouse Lounge located downtown at 407 Lincoln Highway.

The signage will include a three-dimensional, lighted roof sign on the back of the building and a three-dimensional sign on the front of the building. The City's Planning & Zoning Commission unanimously recommended the special use and variance of code to the council at its meeting last week.

"They're getting creative with some downtown signage to bring in patrons to their businesses," City Community Development Director Michelle Pease said. "They wanted to do something unique."

Phosphorus

Rochelle Municipal Utilities Water/Water Reclamation Superintendent Adam Lanning made a presentation at the meeting regarding phosphorus removal issues at the city's wastewater treatment plant.



During the meeting, Sydney Jackson was sworn in as a Rochelle Police Department officer. In July, Jackson graduated from the Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center. She's currently assigned to the patrol division, where she's in the field training program.

"We're getting good removal at times of the year and not good removal at other times of the year," Lanning said. "Right now, we don't know why and

we're still trying to pin that down. I'm hopeful we can get these peaks down with the system we have in place. But if we don't, the impact is going to be having to install chemical

removal. That cost would be \$1.1 million with a \$30,000-50,000 annual operating cost."

Swearing in

During the meeting,

Sydney Jackson was sworn in as a Rochelle Police Department officer. In July, Jackson graduated from the Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center.

Howard and the White Boys playing in Mt. Morris

MT. MORRIS — The Mt. Morris Jamboree is pleased to announce the return of Howard and the White Boys to its bandshell on Friday, Aug. 12 for a free concert starting at 7 p.m. Considered one of Chicago's finest live blues acts of the last two decades, Howard and Boys were mentored by Buddy Guy (who has taken the band on several Midwestern tours as his opening act, and appeared on their third CD, "The Big Score"). HWB's new CD, "Rosa's Lounge", bears witness to the power and raw energy of the group when they perform live on stage.

Howard & the White Boys began jamming together just for fun, but their fast-growing popularity soon convinced them they could make a career of it. After only a few months, they got their first big break by opening for B.B. King. Their reputation grew in Chicago and they began performing with the biggest names in blues: Koko Taylor, Otis Rush, Albert King, Junior Wells, Lonnie Brooks, Luther Allison, Bo

Diddley and Chuck Berry.

The group made two highly acclaimed recordings, 'Strung Out On The Blues' and 'Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?' for L.A. based Mighty Tiger Records. They began traveling extensively across the U.S. with their growing popularity capturing the attention of Philadelphia-based Evidence Records. 'The Big Score' was the first of three successful discs released by Evidence, and the band wasted no time in promoting it via many trips to Europe. Evidence released two more well-received HWB discs, 'Live at Chord On Blues,' and 'Made in Chicago,' which showcased the group's versatility and encompassed the funk, R & B and rock styles that have become Howard & the White Boys' trademark.

Howard and the White Boys are: Howard McCullum - bass, vocals; Rocco Calipari - guitar; Pete Galanis - guitar and Jim Christopoulos - drums.

This will be an extra special night on the campus as we celebrate our Band-

shell's 100th Birthday with a presentation of the history of bandshells in Mt. Morris just before the concert. Our annual Straw Sculpting Competition commences that evening as well, with many sculptures displayed on the campus.

Concessions for the events are courtesy of the Village of Mt. Morris, serving pork chop sandwiches, water and cake starting at 6:30 p.m. Spring Valley's food truck will serve burgers, italian beef, corn dogs, chips, fresh-squeezed lemonade and home-brewed iced tea. Just For Fun Ice Cream will be with us, too, both serving from 6 p.m. on.

Please bring a blanket or chair, or enjoy our benches and join the fun on our beautiful, historic Campus in the center of Mt. Morris, two blocks south of Illinois Route 64 on Wesley Avenue and enjoy the free blues concert. In the event of rain, the whole show moves to the Pinecrest Grove Community Center, located at 500 Evergreen Lane, seven blocks south of Illinois Route 64 on McKendrie Street at the same times.



Shown in the photo above is Rochelle Moose member Clark Baum emptying a pair of pop tops into a bin at the Ronald McDonald home in Madison, Wisconsin. A total of 12 gallons/39 pounds were dropped off on Aug. 6.

Rochelle Moose collecting pop tops for a good cause

ROCHELLE — For 25 years, the Rochelle Moose has been collecting and donating pop tops to Ronald McDonald Homes.

This past March at the Illinois Moose Association mid-year conference in

Springfield, 750 pounds of pop tops were collected for the Ronald McDonald Home in Springfield. The Rochelle Moose contributed 48 pounds to that effort. A total of 12 gallons/39 pounds were dropped off

on Aug. 6.

Anyone wanting to assist the Moose in providing affordable housing for families with hospitalized children can drop off their pop tops at the Moose Lodge.



Shumard named new RTHS band director

The Rochelle Township High School Hub Marching Band recently welcomed new director Keagan Shumard. The 60 members of the HMB have worked hard this week and performed a preview Friday night. SHINE is the name of the band's 2022 show. HMB Drum Majors Mikayla Preston and Bella Nauman will play leadership roles in the HMB this year.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Gregory Torres

ROCHELLE — Gregory Torres, 48, of Rochelle, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 9 at home with his family by his side. Greg was born on Nov. 3, 1973, the son of Jesse and Guadalupe (Silva) Torres in Snyder, Texas. On May 13, 2000, he married Yolonda Huffman in Sycamore.

Greg was a 1992 graduate of Rochelle Township High School. In school, he won several wrestling and cross-country medals. He loved spending time with his family, especially his wife, kids and grandkids; he was one proud PopPop (as his grandkids called him). Greg always worked his hardest, doing whatever it took to make sure his family was taken care of and provided for. He always coached and encouraged his kids in everything they did. He was their biggest fan.

Greg was the best husband and father a family could ever ask for.

Greg is survived by his wife, Yolonda; two sons: Alexander (Kaylee Jones) Torres and Jordan Torres; three grandchildren, Josue Albanil, Sofia Cabanas, and Mateo Torres; the mother of his grandchildren, Lynn Rodriguez; his mother, Guadalupe Torres; brothers and sisters, Jesus (Olga) Torres Martinez, Rodrigo (Guadalupe) Torres Martinez, Tim (Sarah) Tijerina, Julian (Pam) Tijerina, Frances Tijerina, Josie Tijerina, Willie Walker, Susie (Corey) Kreider, Vicki Torres, Rosemary Vasquez and Jesse Torres; father-in-law, Roy Huffman and several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father, Jesse Torres, and mother-in-law, Carole Huffman.



The visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 12 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home with Pastor Angelo Bonacquisti officiating. Burial will follow the service at Trinity Memory Gardens in Rochelle. Memorials may be made in Greg's memory to the family for a memorial to be established.

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



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Roberts Armory World War II Museum will be open from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20 as part of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival in Rochelle.

Roberts Armory World War II Museum opening Aug. 20

ROCHELLE — The Roberts Armory World War II Museum will be open from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20 as part of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival in Rochelle.

The museum displays artifacts from WWII,

specializing in the history of the 70th Tank Battalion, 10th Mountain Division of WWII as well as local veterans from WWII. The museum is only open three times a year.

There is no admission charge. To find the museum, go to the intersection

of Illinois Route 251 and Intermodal drive in Rochelle (an Army truck is at this intersection). Just follow the signs, about three miles to the museum.

More information is available at <http://www.robertsarmory.com>.

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Deputies respond to motor vehicle accident

OREGON — On Aug. 5 at approximately 9:03 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of East Illinois Route 64 and Mulford Road. After investigation, deputies arrested Demarcus Mitchell, 40, of Freeport, for aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol, aggravated driving while license revoked and driving under the influence of alcohol. Mitchell also received citations for suspended registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Mitchell was subsequently transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending an appearance before a judge.

On Aug. 5 at approximately 10:37 p.m. deputies, Byron Police and Byron EMS responded to the vicinity of North Barker Road and Twin Oaks Drive in Byron for a reported motor vehicle accident. Upon arrival, deputies discovered a Chevrolet Silverado had

struck a tree before being overturned. After an initial investigation, the vehicle's operator, Nicholas J. Tassoni, 25, of Rockford, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Tassoni was additionally cited for failure to reduce speed. Tassoni was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Aug. 6 at approximately 1:19 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Illinois Route 2 and Kennedy Hill Road. After investigation, deputies placed Anastase Man, 20, of Dixon, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Man was also issued a citation for speeding. Man was released on a \$2,500 I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date.

On Aug. 7 at approximately 2:47 p.m. deputies responded to a reckless driving complaint near the intersection of Illinois Route 72 and Conger Road. While checking

the area, deputies located the vehicle and driver in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies placed Daniel Owens, 57, of Leaf River under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Owens was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Aug. 7 at approximately 12:53 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of East Illinois Route 38 and Brooklyn Road. After investigation, deputies arrested Pablo Alvarez, 23, of Rochelle for aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol, no valid driver's license and driving under the influence of alcohol. Alvarez was also cited for improper lane usage. Alvarez was subsequently transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending an appearance before a judge.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Rochelle Police Department

Officers make several arrests

ROCHELLE — On Aug. 5 at 7:52 p.m. Dominic Mireles, 40, of Rochelle was arrested for aggravated battery and mob action and transferred.

On Aug. 6 at 8:56 p.m. Trumaine J. Henderson, 38, of Rochelle was arrested on two outstanding Ogle County warrants and transferred.

On Aug. 7 at 12:23 a.m. Cornelio Hernandez, 32, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On Aug. 1 at 2:20 p.m. Niki L. Smith, 29, of Davis Junction was arrested for retail theft. She was released on an I-Bond and given a Sept. 2 Ogle County court date.

On Aug. 6 at 1:48 a.m. Omar Penaran, 23, of Rochelle was arrested for no driver's license and cited for leaving the scene of an accident, failure to report and improper lane usage. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Sept. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Aug. 8 at 8:06 p.m.

Chiffon S. Felix, 44, of Rochelle was arrested on five outstanding Ogle County warrants and transferred.

On Aug. 8 at 9:28 p.m. Deion M. Commack, 26, of Rochelle was arrested on three outstanding Ogle County warrants and transferred.

On Aug. 9 at 3:06 a.m. Brittany R. Terry, 31, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

DAR Patriot Tree on display at Flagg Township Museum

ROCHELLE — On July 4, 2026, we celebrate

America's 250th birthday — the Semiquincentennial — and while 2026 is a long way off, start celebrating today at the Flagg Township Museum by viewing the Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Patriot Tree. The Patriot Tree will be on display during the month of August at the museum.

The Patriot Tree was compiled by the DAR to recognize 90 patriots, ancestors of the chapter members, who aided the cause of the American Revolution as soldiers, elected officials, merchants, laborers and sup-

porters. Americans continue to celebrate freedom as a result of the Declaration of Independence established by the then 13 American colonies on July 4, 1776.

The mission of the Flagg Township Historical Society and Museum is to stimulate interest in Flagg Township history through education, research, collection and preservation of information for the benefit of the public of today and in the future. The museum is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday is free day.

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LOCAL NEWS

BEER: Tapping event held to support Hops for Heroes

From page 1

Along with the first tapping of the beer, the Friday event also featured raffles and giveaways, guest appearances, and complimentary appetizers by Acres Bistro, Brewski's Bar & Grill and Flight Deck Bar & Grill.

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

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

Homefront IPA will be available on tap at the distillery until supply runs out, and Kennay said she hopes the community will come out and try it to support the nonprofit. It is the first time that Kennay Farms has worked with a nonprofit on a collaboration.

"It was kind of getting our feet wet early on with the business and starting



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Friday, Kennay Farms Distilling hosted a tapping event for Homefront IPA, a beer brewed in collaboration with Hops for Heroes that supports military service members and veterans. Hops for Heroes is a campaign by national nonprofit Soldiers' Angels that works with craft breweries of all sizes like Kennay Farms Distilling.

to be able to do more and more," Kennay said. "We're finally catching some momentum now that we're a year plus outside of COVID-19 and are gaining strength again. We want to do more of this in the future. At least once or twice a year to give back and do things that promote other organizations as well as ours."

Soldiers' Angels was established in 2003 by

a relative of General George S. Patton. Patti Patton-Bader founded Soldiers' Angels when her oldest son, Staff Sergeant Brandon Varn, was deployed in Iraq.

For its first 10 years, Soldiers' Angels focused on supporting deployed service members. It now supports veterans and their families as well.

Care packages are sent to deployed service mem-

bers. Work is done at VA hospitals including transportation for medical appointments and food vouchers are donated for VA cafeterias. Mobile food distribution and hygiene kit donations are also included in Soldiers' Angels programs.

Kennay said Friday that collaborations are important to the distillery, both with nationwide organizations like Soldiers'

Angels and with their neighboring businesses in Rochelle that helped Friday with appetizers.

"A rising tide lifts all boats," Kennay said. "That's how we've always felt. When we came into the community we hoped our business would motivate other businesses and we feel like that's been happening downtown. We don't serve food here, but we have wonderful

partners that do. I think we make really good spirits and craft beer and we bring in their food and it's a win-win for everyone. We want a winning community and want people that enjoy coming downtown and have more places than one to go to. It's really important that locals come and support their businesses downtown and throughout Rochelle."

County electronics recycling event scheduled Aug. 26

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, Aug. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and

a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecounty.org. Provide name, address and phone number in your email request.

Accepted items include all televisions and computer monitors, computers,

computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones and chargers, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCRs, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios,



digital clocks, cameras, calculators, phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVDs and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens are accepted and are \$5 per unit.

Limit seven large or bulky items per permit and one permit per household per month. Permits come with a full list of accepted items for recycling. Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events. If you have business or institutional electronic

items to recycle call the number above to set up an appointment.

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

Kishwaukee College offering workforce training through partnership

MALTA — Elgin Community College, Kishwaukee College and Waubesa Community College have partnered with the Kane County Office of Community Reinvestment to offer job skills training services through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The collaboration between the colleges and Kane County allows each institution to share resources and connect WIOA-eligible job seekers to credential training programs. Unemployed adults and underemployed workers in Kane, Kendall and DeKalb counties can qualify for access to funding to cover training expenses for in-demand careers.

"This exciting partnership provides an extraordinary boost to our local workforce by helping individuals retool and train for high-demand jobs in our region," said Ron Ford, chair of the Workforce Development Board. "Most importantly, this initiative offers life-changing opportunities by providing industry credentials at little to no cost to the job seeker."

WIOA is a federally-funded program geared toward helping individuals gain the professional skills necessary to start or advance their careers. To expedite the earning of corresponding credentials, small cohort training options will be offered at each college and class costs for books, tuition

and supplies will be supported by WIOA funding for eligible and suitable individuals. These accelerated training programs will also offer career counseling and support to match job seekers with local employers based on their skill set.

Upcoming programs at the colleges include: Basic Nurse Assisting,

Pharmacy Technician, Information Technology (IT), Truck Driver Training, Welding, Supply Chain Management, Automotive, Adult Education and more.

For more information regarding the programs available and WIOA eligibility, visit: Elgin Community College at <https://www.elgin.edu/>

about-ecc/workforce-development/ Kishwaukee College at <https://kish.edu/faculty-staff/job-skills-partnership.php> and Waubesa Community College at <https://www.waubesa.edu/community-offerings/resources-unemployment>.

To learn more about general job search assistance and support ser-

KC KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE

vices available across the three-county area, you can also contact workNet Batavia at 630-762-2120 or <https://worknetbatavia.com/>.

Funding is through the Workforce Innova-

tion and Opportunity Act (WIOA,) as authorized by the local Workforce Development Board that services Kane, Kendall and DeKalb County, and is available to individuals meeting eligibility

Rochelle Masonic Lodge
2022 Gun Raffle

Drawing: Saturday, August 20 at 2pm

First Winner Has Choice
1. Glock G42 2. Glock G43-9mm 3. S&W M&P9 Shield 9mm 4. IL CC Class (Down Range LLC 5. 9mm Holster
6. 100 Rounds-38 Special Center Fire
7. 525 Rounds-22 Lone Rifle Hollow Point

\$5 per ticket or \$20 for 5 tickets

Call for tickets:
Paul 815-761-2845 Jerry 815-262-4416

You do not need to be present to win. Only 2,500 sold. Firearms supplied by COPS Inc.

Horicon Masonic Lodge #244
2022 Gun Raffle
⇒ First Winner Has Choice ⇐
1. ~ Glock G42 4. ~ IL CC Class (Down Range LLC)
2. ~ Glock G43 - 9mm 5. ~ 9mm Holster
3. ~ S & W M&P9 Shield - 9mm 6. ~ 100 Rounds - 38 Special Center Fire
7. ~ 525 Rounds - 22 Lone Rifle Hollow Point
\$5.00 per ticket or \$20.00 for 5 tickets
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Shell Express Lane
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DIXON: Shamrock Pub

SUBLETTE:

Bonnell's General Store
Sublette Saloon
Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet, Inc.

OHIO: Harry's

Ticket sales will end on Saturday, Aug. 27 at noon, at the Dixon, Ohio and Sublette locations.

Amboy locations will sell until noon on Sunday, Aug. 28.

Depot Days Drum is located at Amboy Food and Liquor.

For more information, check out the Amboy Depot Days 50/50 Facebook page.

Drawing Sunday, August 28 after the Car Show

Proceeds to benefit Community Projects

8/17/2022

LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Before the overpass

I was looking for a word to describe Rochelle and its past the other day. And I came up with the word “unique.” Webster’s dictionary describes the word as one and only, single, sole, having no like or equal, highly unusual, extraordinary, rare. Rochelle has been “unique” in many different ways. Some good and some not so good. The situation I am about to describe was not so good.

Let’s step back in time before Interstate 39 was built; before there was an overpass over the railroads on Illinois Route 251. Illinois Route 251 was then Illinois Route 51, a major transcontinental highway that goes from the Canadian border south to New Orleans. It went through the heart of our community carrying thousands of cars and trucks. To do this they all had to cross the two major railroad crossings right in the middle of our community. 100 trains a day and countless switch engines crossed town to serve our many industries. Oftentimes the gates at the crossings were down more than they were up. Sometimes they were both down at the same time, or one would go up and the other gates would go down just as soon as you crossed the first set of tracks. Oftentimes the gates would be down and there were no trains in sight.

It was not uncommon for full trains to pull into town and shut down all the crossings in town while waiting for a train on the other railroad to cross the diamond.

We were the bottleneck of the world. Truck drivers called Rochelle “Choo Choo town” or worse. if you lived on the north side of town and worked on the south side, as most people did, it was the best excuse in the world for being late for work. Truck drivers would get so angry that it was not uncommon for them to crash right through the gates as they waited for a train to come, only to be held up at the next set of tracks.

I remember one incident when a switch engine was blocking a crossing on Illinois Route 51 for an extremely long time and a police officer climbed up into the cab of the engine and ordered the engineer to move the train or he

would throw him in jail, and throw him in jail he did. Boy, did that raise a stink between the railroads and the city.

As a boy who grew up on the south side of town, it was not always easy trying to get to school on the north side when trains were stopped on the main street crossings. I was fearless in those days, and simply climbed over the couplings or under the cars to get to the other side. Town kids didn’t have buses to take them to school in those days.

Occasionally traffic would be backed up through town in both directions. It really got bad when National Guard convoys would come through, headed for Camp McCoy in Wisconsin. They always seem to come through on holiday weekends when traffic was the heaviest. If they hit the trains just right, traffic would back up south all the way to the airport.

This also created a major problem for our fire and police departments trying to answer calls on the south side of town when all the crossings were blocked.

An overpass over the tracks was talked about for many years. But there was opposition from residents along Illinois Route 51, as the state wanted to make the overpass and Illinois Route 51 a four-lane road through town. Fortunately in the late 1970s the state finally built the two-lane overpass as well as Interstate 39. For those of us that lived through this time it was always a “crap shoot” trying to get across town. We cursed and hated those trains. Now it is just a memory that we love to talk about. Today the through traffic passes around our town on Interstate 39 and Interstate 88. Local traffic goes over the overpass without giving trains a second thought.

Today, we have a beautiful railroad park, and invite the world to come to Rochelle to watch the trains here. And come they do, from every state in the country, and from other nations. Many of them stay for an entire weekend with their video cameras, clipboards and radios. How ironic is this?

We are truly a “unique” community. Talk to you later.



Pal Colwill

What is it?

THE term climate change has been bandied about by the media, politicians and environmentalists for several years. But what does it mean? Initially, the term global warming was used but evolved into the term climate change. Climate change is typically defined as a change in climate (global temperature, wind direction and intensity, precipitation patterns and other measures of climate) over a period of decades. This is not to be confused with weather patterns where extremely hot or cold days appear during a year, which are not an indicator of climate change. In Illinois, if you don’t like the weather now, just wait a few minutes and it will change. In the past, climate change has been considered to be a result of natural cycles such as solar activity, volcanic activity, changes in continent and ocean configuration, changes in the earth’s orbit and meteor impact (the theoretical cause of dinosaur extinction).

Now, the current changes in climate are being attributed to human activity, specifically the burning of fossil fuels. A significant basis for this determination is the usage of mathematical models to determine climate conditions in the past and in the future. A mathematical model is a computer program based on scientific numerical calculations that takes in input

data (solar input, reflectivity, carbon dioxide concentration, etc.) and spits out results (earth temperature, precipitation rate, wind intensity, ocean currents, etc.). Mathematical models can be a valuable guide in predicting past and future events, but they are subject to error from two major sources: bad input data or improper mathematical formulation of the phenomenon modeled, or both. For instance, take a look at the variety of mathematical models used to predict hurricane tracks. They have a wide variety of hurricane track predictions for a time frame of only a few days. This is similar to the use of models to predict temperature rise in the future based on current conditions.

Carbon dioxide emissions are considered to be the primary greenhouse gas that elevates global temperatures. This has led to computations that greenhouse gases are significantly higher now than in pre industrial times, suggesting that human fossil fuel usage is the cause since carbon dioxide is a product of combustion. Since no actual reliable data exists for that period of time, carbon dioxide in the air before industrial times is estimated in order to conclude that emissions have increased.

The scientific method involves coming up with a theory and then testing it (questioning it) to determine its validity. In the

past, scientists would question the concept of climate change as a result of human activity. This is appropriate with respect to the scientific method. In the scientific method, when a scientist questions your theory, you offer additional data or reasoning to prove your theory. In recent years, anyone questioning the theory of climate change is labeled a “climate denier.” Calling the questioning scientist names is not part of the scientific method but more a part of political science. Many have bought into the theory of climate change to the extent that they are attempting to alter the norms of the country. There is a war, by some, on fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, coal, etc.) based on presumed climate change, although no suggestions are made on what is an equivalent energy alternative. Solar and windmills will not get a passenger jet off the ground. Many everyday products come from oil such as plastics, lubrication for machinery, medicine, etc. Electric vehicles require power which is currently primarily generated by fossil fuels.

It appears that climate change has devolved into a means that justifies the ends (control). The present high gasoline and diesel prices are mostly a result of a climate change-based policy. The discussion has to return to a more common sense approach: vis-a-vis efficiently utilizing fossil fuels along with the development of practical alternatives.



Chuck Roberts

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question: What is your favorite old TV show to watch?

“The Andy Griffith Show.”

Christine Hawkins

“Chips, Adam 12, Squad 51, All in the Family, Hazel and Partridge Family.”

“Three Stooges.”

Jesse Torres

“The Andy Griffith Show.”

Robert Bozek

“Golden Girls.”

Sydney Webster

“Leave it to Beaver, 3 Stooges, I Love Lucy, The Big Valley, Bewitched and the list goes on.”

Michele White

“I like to watch Sven-goolie. He shows old horror movies.”

Mark G Schabacker

“Three’s Company, Happy Days, I Love Lucy.”

Alicia Contreras
O’Rorke

“Little House on the Prairie.”

Delores White

“Seinfeld.”

Norene Bunger

“Gunsmoke.”

John Elliott

“Disney Movie at 6 p.m. on Sundays.”

Jeannine Cote Harms

“Futurama.”

Cody Dale

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

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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



Kiwanis Golden K inducts new members

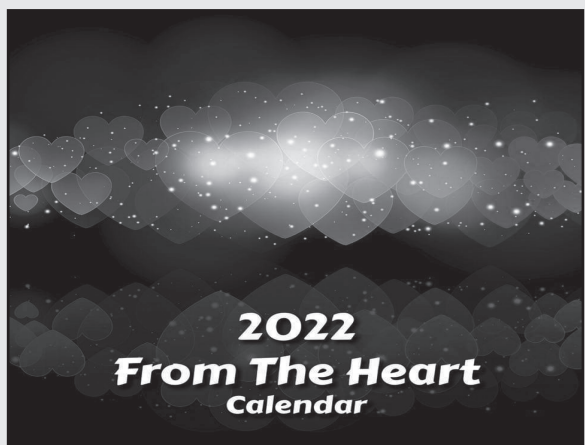
Last month, the Rochelle Kiwanis Golden K club inducted two new members, Phil Lascola and Keith Holland. “They will be a great addition to our group,” A Kiwanis Golden K press release said. “Thank you guys, for volunteering your time to helping this community!” Pictured are Will McLachlan, Don Horner, Lascola, Holland and Ric Taylor.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Aug. 10
Phyllis Vaught
Aug. 12
Kevin Sherburne
Hayden Smith
Adam Baker
Aug. 13
Becky Anderson
Aug. 14
Windy Turner
Carter Johnson
Aug. 15
Corey Gilliam
Alana Rodriguez
Haley Simmons
Aug. 16
Kenzi Perkins
Brian Smith

Aug. 17
Josh Perkins Jr.
Jenson South
Aug. 18
Kelise OBrien
Dyandre OBrien
Aug. 19
Eddie & Melissa Villalobos
Aug. 20
Jose & Amanda Avila
Kim Patrick
Nick Henson
Oaklyn South
Benjamin Navejas
Aug. 22
Larry & Teresa Baker
Aug. 23
Lyle Allen

Aug. 24
Alex Avila
TJ & Kelsey Rogers
Aug. 25
Megan South
Kevin & Amie Eggenburg
Aug. 26
Derek & Christy Oleson
Mandy Ferrari
Aug. 27
Quade Dickey
Aug. 29
Brad Arnold
Aug. 31
James OBrien



- July 15 - Betty Henley, Rochelle, \$25
- July 16 - Sara Martinez, Rochelle, \$25
- July 17 - Michelle Mairs, Rochelle, \$50
- July 18 - Rochelle Hospitality, \$25
- July 19 - Hope of Ogle County, \$25
- July 20 - Claude Blasing, Lindenwood, \$25
- July 21 - Evan White, Oregon, \$25
- July 22 - Joelle Builtta, Rochelle, \$25
- July 23 - Aubrey Meinen, Davis Junction, \$25
- July 24 - Lori Miller, Dixon, \$50
- July 25 - Robert Gemmell, Oregon, \$25
- July 26 - Rich Vogeler, Ashton, \$25
- July 27 - Megan Alexander, Plainfield, \$25
- July 28 - Rochelle Rescue Mission, \$25
- July 29 - Rochelle Food Pantry, \$25
- July 30 - Marcy DeLille, Steward, \$25
- July 31 - Rochelle Hospitality, \$50
- Aug. 1 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
- Aug. 2 - Village of Progress, Oregon, \$25
- Aug. 3 - From the Heart, \$25
- Aug. 4 - Judy Witasik, Steward, \$25
- Aug. 5 - Joel Staley, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 6 - Heidi Martinez, Byron, \$25
- Aug. 7 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50
- Aug. 8 - Michele Perez, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 9 - Peggy Phipps, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 10 - Caleb & Canyon Ritter, Rochelle, \$25



Coffee Break

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mimics
- 5 Satchel
- 8 Blue hue
- 12 Tibetan monk
- 13 Crew tool
- 14 Galoots
- 15 Spring flower
- 17 Marathon fraction
- 18 Vagrant
- 19 Nearsighted
- 21 Pie-in-the-face sound
- 24 Blueprint
- 25 San — Obispo, CA
- 26 Lose weight
- 30 Web address
- 31 April forecasts
- 32 Pi follower
- 33 Pained expressions

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | | 13 | | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | | | 16 | | | | 17 | | | |
| | | | 18 | | | | 19 | 20 | | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | | | | 24 | | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | 26 | | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | |
| 30 | | | | | 31 | | | | 32 | | | |
| 33 | | | 34 | | | | | | 35 | | | |
| | | | 36 | | | | | 37 | | | | |
| 38 | 39 | 40 | | | | | 41 | | | | | |
| 42 | | | | | 43 | 44 | | | 45 | 46 | 47 | |
| 48 | | | | | 49 | | | | 50 | | | |
| 51 | | | | | 52 | | | | 53 | | | |

- DOWN**
- 1 Jungfrau, for one
- 2 Standard
- 3 Brit. record label
- 4 Brazilian dances
- 5 Prosperous period
- 6 Small batteries
- 7 Glitch makers
- 8 Candy bar nut
- 9 Witticism
- 10 Wrinkled fruit
- 11 In — (shortly)
- 16 Trench
- 20 Orange veggies
- 21 Punch
- 22 Kitten's sound
- 23 Leslie Caron film
- 24 Snoops
- 26 Strategic
- 27 Guesser's words
- 28 Caprice
- 29 Proboscis
- 31 Wheelchair access
- 34 "Cats" show-stopper
- 35 Demand
- 37 Wrigley product
- 38 Espy
- 39 Lake of Lombardy
- 40 Arkin or Alda
- 41 Lass
- 44 2016 Olympics city
- 45 "Unh-unh"
- 46 Census stat
- 47 Non-clerical

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: **F** equals **H**

CFRM AEO VNLB SEMH EK KJOKKA
ZOLB KRNSFRXH EMSE N SXNMHVEXS
HFQV, Q IORHH SFNS'H ZECM-
JENZQMI.

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Cryptoquip
answer
When you pack tons of fluffy duck feathers onto a transport ship, I guess that's down-loading.

LOCAL NEWS

Eagle's Nest offering glass art class

OREGON — Eagle's Nest Art Group is offering a class in the art of glass work on Saturday, Sept. 3, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at its Conover Square Mall second-floor studio, 201 N. 13th St., Oregon.

This workshop is open to the public; membership in ENAG is not required. Participants will be guided by glass artist Valerie Butcher who will assist students in creating a 10" round glass work of art using various types of glass including noodles, stringers and frit. Students can create their own design. Designs can vary from simple florals to designs inspired by stained glass. An example of a simple air balloon design is attached to this article.

Class size is limited so that participants can receive plenty of individual atten-



tion. Participants must wear closed-toed shoes since they will be working with small pieces of glass.

The cost is \$60 which includes all materials, tools

and the double "firing" of each piece. You must pay in advance by credit card over the phone. Register for the workshop by contacting Valerie at (815) 441-2161.



RCH's LaPage presents at Rotary meeting

At Tuesday's meeting of the Rochelle Rotary Club, Michelle LaPage of Rochelle Community Hospital made a presentation about the RCH Foundation's All About Me program. The All About Me fund provides grants and resources to qualified cancer patients at RCH so they can better manage their road to recovery.

Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival

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Friday, August 19, 2022

8-10 PM - Soul 2 Soul
6-7 PM - Little Miss Peanut

Saturday, August 20, 2022

8 AM-3 PM - Hub City Cruisers Car and Motorcycle Show

Pancake Breakfast
FREE Kids Zone
10-11 AM - Rochelle Performing Arts
4-9 PM Haunted Maze (Moose)
Noon-1 PM - Class Field Trip
2-4 PM - Burn-n-Bush

5-7 PM - Project Nostalgia

8-10 PM - Hi Infidelity

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Pancake Breakfast
Church Service
11 AM-6 PM - Magic Matt's Family Fun Show will be strolling the Festival grounds

11:30 AM-12:15 PM - Ballet Folklorico Xochiquetzal on the main stage
Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social
1 PM - Parade
After Parade - **Andy Linder - Hacky Sack World Record Holder** - Strolling Festival Grounds
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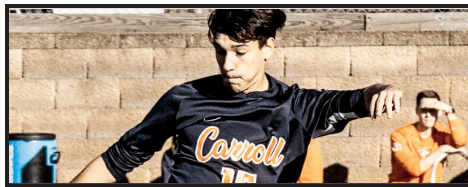
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SPORTS



GAINING CONFIDENCE

RTHS alum Walters scores two goals in freshman season at Carroll University.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Football

Fall season kicks off

Rochelle looking to build on 8-3 record and second-round playoff exit in 2021

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Township High School football team kicked off the 2022 season with its first official practice Monday morning. The Hubs, who went 8-3 and reached the second round of the IHSAA 5A Playoffs last season, return several starters on both sides of the ball.

“We have a healthy amount of kids in our program this season,” head coach Kyle Kissack said. “Our kids have bought in and we’ve maintained the momentum that has been generated at the youth levels. We’ve seen a lot of resiliency from our kids and I think our battles for starting jobs have brought out a lot of competitiveness. There’s a lot of potential for us, but our message to the kids is about remaining humble, protecting the team and turning potential into production.”

The Hubs face Woodstock at home on Friday, Aug. 26 at 7 p.m. for their first Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River crossover of the season. Rochelle will begin the I-8/KRC Blue Divi-

sion schedule with a road contest against Johnsburg on Friday, Sept. 9. With Sandwich unable to field a varsity team this season, Rochelle will instead battle Thornridge at home on Oct. 7.

“We want to get better each week and each day,” Kissack said. “Whatever happened last season is done and over with and we’re onto this season. It’s a really tough schedule and we’re going to face some really good football teams with good players. It’s a great challenge for our kids and that’s what we want as competitors. We want to earn the right to be in the postseason.”

Rochelle returns three starters on the offensive line including seniors Jaden Cook, Bradley Cooney and sophomore Kaiden Morris, who each earned All-Conference recognition last season. The Hubs also return three starting running backs in Garrett Gensler, Cody Cullum and Trey Taft, who were each First-Team All-Conference winners last season. Senior Hayden Inman enters his second varsity season and his first as the team’s No. 1 quarterback.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Seniors Bradley Cooney (left) and Trey Taft (right) are two of the seven starters on offense returning to the Rochelle Hub varsity football team this season. Rochelle will face Woodstock at home on Friday, Aug. 26.

“We have seven total starters returning on that side,” Kissack said. “There are a lot of important pieces

of our offense that are back and it’s an opportunity for those kids to build on a solid season last year. Every

team is different, though, and having that experience doesn’t automatically mean anything for this season.

Our message is always about getting better.”

See HUBS page 4

RTHS Golf

Hubs shooting to improve on winless season

Four-year varsity starters Ohlinger, Harrington highlight returning players

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Township High School golf team teed off the 2022 season Tuesday morning, hosting its first practice at Fairways Golf Course. The Hubs, who have several upperclassmen returning, are looking to improve on a winless 2021 campaign.

“I’m excited that we’ll have a lot of senior leadership this season,” head coach Glen Mehrings said. “I’ve been in touch with a lot of the guys throughout the summer and they’ve been playing quite a bit of golf during that time. We’ll have some varsity spots to fill and I know we’ll have some new and returning players who can fill those roles. We have a nice group of kids who are strong and athletic. They have great attitudes and I think they’ll blend well with each other.”

The Hubs will face Dixon and Freeport on Tuesday, Aug. 16 at Park Hills Golf Course for their first nonconference match of the season. Rochelle’s home opener will be a non-conference meet against Mendota and Amboy on Thursday, Aug. 25. The Hubs will begin Interstate 8 Conference competition

with a road match against the LaSalle-Peru Cavaliers on Tuesday, Aug. 30.

“We tend to struggle at the beginning of the season because we have a lot of players who’ve only played locally,” Mehrings said. “It can be tough to adapt, but I know a few of our players have been playing tournaments during the summer so I’m hopeful that our short game and our putting will translate over to the other courses. A lot of younger players lose strokes that way and it usually takes a few weeks for the kids to build their confidence around the greens.”

Among Rochelle’s returning varsity players are seniors Griffin Ohlinger and Damen Harrington, who played out of the No. 1 and No. 2 varsity slots last season. Senior Wade Smith earned varsity experience last season, while freshman Ian Metzger, who won at the Ogle County Junior Open earlier this summer, could make an immediate impact for the varsity team. The Hubs will have two newcomers in the mix including senior David Wanner and junior Parker Lenkaitis.

“Griffin and Damen playing strong will be huge for us,” Mehrings



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Seniors Griffin Ohlinger (left) and Damen Harrington (right) are two leading returners for the Rochelle Hub varsity golf team this season. Rochelle will face Dixon and Freeport on the road Tuesday, Aug. 16.

said. “I’d like to see us shoot between 160 and 170 this season. We struggled to shoot scores close to

that range last season, but we can be competitive in nearly all of our matches this season if we can score

in that range... We don’t have many home matches so it’ll be important for us to play well on the road at

our tournaments and in the conference. I’d like for us to finish with a winning record this season.”



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO COURTESY OF CARROLL UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS)

Former Rochelle Township High School soccer standout Zane Walters scored two goals and added one assist during his freshman season at Carroll University.

Walters gaining confidence with Carroll University soccer team

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

A stronger sense of confidence allowed former Rochelle Township High School soccer standout Zane Walters to find success during his freshman season at Carroll University this past year.

Walters appeared in 17 games with 13 starts for the Pioneers during the 2021 season, helping lead the team to an 8-8-1 overall record. Walters scored his first collegiate goal and recorded his first collegiate assist during the team's 6-0 victory against Ripon College on Sept. 15. The RTHS alum added a game-winning goal when the Pioneers outlasted Millikin University 2-1 on Oct. 16.

"I'm really enjoying soccer at the collegiate level," Walters said. "It's a lot more intense and the game moves a lot more quickly, but it's really enjoyable when we're able to pass the ball well. I worked my way into the starting lineup and I really developed some confidence going into my sophomore season. I feel like I'm a lot more confident on the ball and having the opportunity to play against All-American caliber players has really motivated me to become a better player."

Walters totaled 28 shots and 11 shots on goal during his freshman campaign. Walters, who said he's added about 20 pounds to his frame since graduating from RTHS, said his goals for the upcoming season are to convert more shots and to be more aggressive on the

offensive end.

"I was about 145 pounds when I left high school and I'm about 165 pounds right now," Walters said. "That added muscle is definitely needed at the collegiate level, where we're facing tall and strong defenders who're more than capable of pushing players off the ball at any time. I want to be more physical next season. My role coming in as a freshman was to be creative and try to create offense for my team. I'm hoping to be more of a leader and an attacker next season."

In addition to practicing with the Carroll University team during the spring, Walters competed with DeKalb County United over the summer, playing alongside other collegiate and semi-professional athletes in order to prepare for his sophomore season with the Pioneers. The summer experience allowed Walters to pick up on techniques used by other high-level players. Walters is currently majoring in biochemistry with an emphasis in pre-dentistry at Carroll University.

"I've had friends on the DeKalb County United team and I've known the president of the club since I was little because he was involved with the Rochelle AYSO," Walters said. "I tried out and I played well enough to earn a spot on the first team. We had two All-Americans and a couple of Division I soccer players on our team. Having the opportunity to practice and play matches with so many quality players all summer was a great learning experience for me."

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SPORTS

Fairways Golf Course

Johnson wins 10th Annual Fairways Club Championship

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Josh Johnson was nearly perfect on hitting greens in regulation during the 10th Annual Fairways Club Championship on Saturday. Johnson's success on the approach led to him firing a 2-over-par 104 to win the Men's Championship Flight for the first time in 10 years.

"It felt really good," Johnson said. "It was quite a surprise. There are four or five of us who play with each other all of the time and I knew any one of us could get hot and win the whole thing. It was a different day for me because I'm more of a scramble golfer, but I hit 24 greens over 27 holes. I didn't make many putts throughout the tournament, but I was always in the middle of the green and I tapped in a lot of pars. I was very steady and it wasn't a very stressful round."

It's the fourth career club championship win for Johnson, who finished three strokes ahead of runner-up George Weber (5-over-par 107) and defending champion Thomas Brennan (6-over-par 108). While the tournament is normally played over 54 holes across Saturday and Sunday, action was canceled Sunday due to inclement weather. Colton Guy and Steven Gadiant each fired a 8-over-par 110 to finish tied for fourth place in the championship flight.

"It's a nice feeling because Thomas and Jon



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Josh Johnson (right) won the Men's Championship Flight at the 10th Annual Fairways Club Championship. Johnson received the trophy from defending champion Thomas Brennan (left).

[Woepfel] have been winning the tournament over the last seven or eight years and it's nice to let those young guys know that this old guy can still play," Johnson said laughingly. "We all have a friendly rivalry with each other and we know we have to bring our best in order to beat each other. It's a fun tournament to play and it's been 10 years since my last tournament win. It's been a long time coming and it's a good feeling."

Tim Duncan scored a 13-over-par 115 to win the Men's A Flight and two players (Larry McGee and Greg Folmer) tied for second place with a 19-over-par 121. Bill Kubale shot a 7-over-par 73 over 18 holes to win the Senior Flight and Amber Fellows scored a 28-over-par 94 over 18 holes to claim the Women's Championship Flight, outlasting runner-up Cecilia Peterson (29-over-par 95) by one stroke.

RTHS Girls Tennis



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Abby Tarvestad (left) will be the lone player for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team that returns with varsity experience this fall.

Lady Hubs ready to rebuild after seven-win season

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub tennis team held its first practice of the 2022 season Monday morning. After losing 14 seniors and nearly all of her varsity players from last season, head coach Lizzie Cartwright said this season will be a rebuilding year for the program.

"I'm excited to start the season," Cartwright said. "Our younger players are upperclassmen now and I'm eager to see their growth this season. It's going to be more of a rebuilding season because we graduated so many seniors and our numbers are a little down for that reason, but I'm optimistic that we'll be able to continue building those numbers back up in the future."

The Lady Hubs will

face Harlem at home on Monday, Aug. 22 for their first nonconference match of the season. Rochelle will begin the Interstate 8 Conference schedule with a road contest at Kaneland on Tuesday, Aug. 30. The Lady Hubs are looking to replace seven varsity players from last season including two-time state qualifiers Jordin Dickey and McLisa Young.

"I want our girls to give it their all during practice and in every match," Cartwright said. "Anything can happen during a tennis match and I want our girls to take everything point by point and make adjustments when needed. We had girls come out to our open courts during the summer and I saw a lot of growth in terms of their serving, their consistency and their dedication."

Senior Abby Tarvestad

returns as Rochelle's lone player who earned varsity experience last season. Senior Torrin Nantz and junior Elin Zheng, who finished first in singles at the Princeton Fresh-Soph Invitational last season and is the younger sister of former RTHS tennis players Jason and Kevin Zheng, are two more players who could move into varsity roles this season. Senior Francesca Williams and sophomore sister Catherine Williams also return this fall.

"Abby came out a lot over the summer and she played in our summer tennis tournament as well," Cartwright said. "The Williams sisters were out there as well which was encouraging to see. We want to see all of our girls continue to improve and take the wins where we can."

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The Rochelle News-Leader

SPORTS

HUBS: Rochelle hosts Woodstock on Friday, Aug. 26

From page 1

Gensler, Cullum and Taft headline Rochelle's returning starters on defense, with all three expected to command the defense from the linebacker positions. Morris, Cooney and Cook return to anchor the defensive line, while senior Aidan Rodriguez returns as the team's lone second-year starter in the secondary. Rochelle's conference schedule this season includes matchups against Johnsbury, Harvard, Marengo, Plano and Richmond-Burton.

"Most of our inside box players are back so that's created a challenge for our perimeter kids to be up to speed this summer," Kissack said. "We've thrown a lot at them over the summer and they've really embraced those challenges. We're in a tough conference with a lot of talented quarterbacks and wide receivers so we're going to be tested on the outside and the backend. Having those inside box kids back will be something we have to lean on early in the season."



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Garrett Gensler is one of three starting running backs returning to the Rochelle Hub varsity football team this fall. Gensler is also one of three starters back at the linebacker position.

Rochelle Rampage hosting tryouts for 2023 season

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Rampage tryouts will be held Sunday, Aug. 14, and Sunday, Aug. 21 at the Floyd J. Tilton Park

major league fields.

Times are as follows: 9U and 10U – 12-1:30 p.m., 11U and 12U – 1:30-3 p.m., 13U and 14U – 3-4:30 p.m.

Every player must tryout, no spots are guaranteed from the previous year's roster. Players only need to attend one tryout

date, but are welcome to attend both. If you have a scheduling conflict, please reach out to make other arrangements.

Each player will be evaluated by a team of coaches according to the following categories: hitting, fielding, throwing,

speed, pitching, catching and attitude. Please make sure all players bring cleats, gloves, bat and helmet.

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How to prepare kids to go back to school

THE end of summer can be a bittersweet time for students. While many students look forward to seeing their friends, few want to say goodbye to the relaxing days of summer.

Parents know that getting their children back in the school day swing of things can be a challenge. The following are some ways to make that transition go smoothly.

Introduce more structure as summer vacation winds down. The chance to unwind in a structure-free setting can benefit students at the onset of summer vacation. Many parents grapple with the notion that their children's lives are overscheduled, and the Cleveland Clinic notes that

limiting organized activities clears up downtime for kids to play and relax and spend time with their families. So it's important that parents afford their children this down time during summer vacation, only gradually introducing more structure as the school year draws closer.

In the weeks before the school year is slated to begin, start waking kids up a little earlier and reintroducing bedtimes for younger children who may have been staying up later over the last couple of months. This can be an effective way to begin slowly preparing youngsters for the structure of the school year.

Encourage children to read throughout the summer. A report from the education publishing com-

pany Scholastic found that 47 percent of parents are unaware of the "summer slide," which refers to the loss of academic skills that occurs when school is not in session. Scholastic notes that the slide is largely attributed to a lack of reading when school is not in session.

By encouraging kids to read during their summer vacations, parents can make sure youngsters' brains stay sharp and are ready to learn once the school year begins.

Focus on the positive. Even kids who love school may be apprehensive about returning to the classroom. After all, summer vacation is fun. Parents can confront that apprehension by focusing on the positives of returning to school. Empha-



size the chance to see friends every day or participate in a beloved extracurricular activity, like sports, band or a favorite academic club.

Let kids do some of their own back-to-school shopping. The items that

constitute back to school supplies may have changed since parents were in school. But many parents still take their children on back-to-school clothes shopping excursions. Let kids choose their own clothes, as an op-

portunity to wear clothes they picked themselves might make them excited for the new school year.

Parents can take various steps to make the transition back to school a successful one for their young students.

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The Rochelle Township High School Board of Education will hold a Special Budget Workshop Meeting on August 15, 2022 at 5:15 pm for the purpose of reviewing the tentative 2022-2023 budget. This meeting will be held in the BoardRoom at Rochelle Township High School, 1401 Flagg Road, Rochelle, Illinois.
Tom Huddleston, President
RTHS Board of Education, District 212
NO. 0811 (AUG 10)

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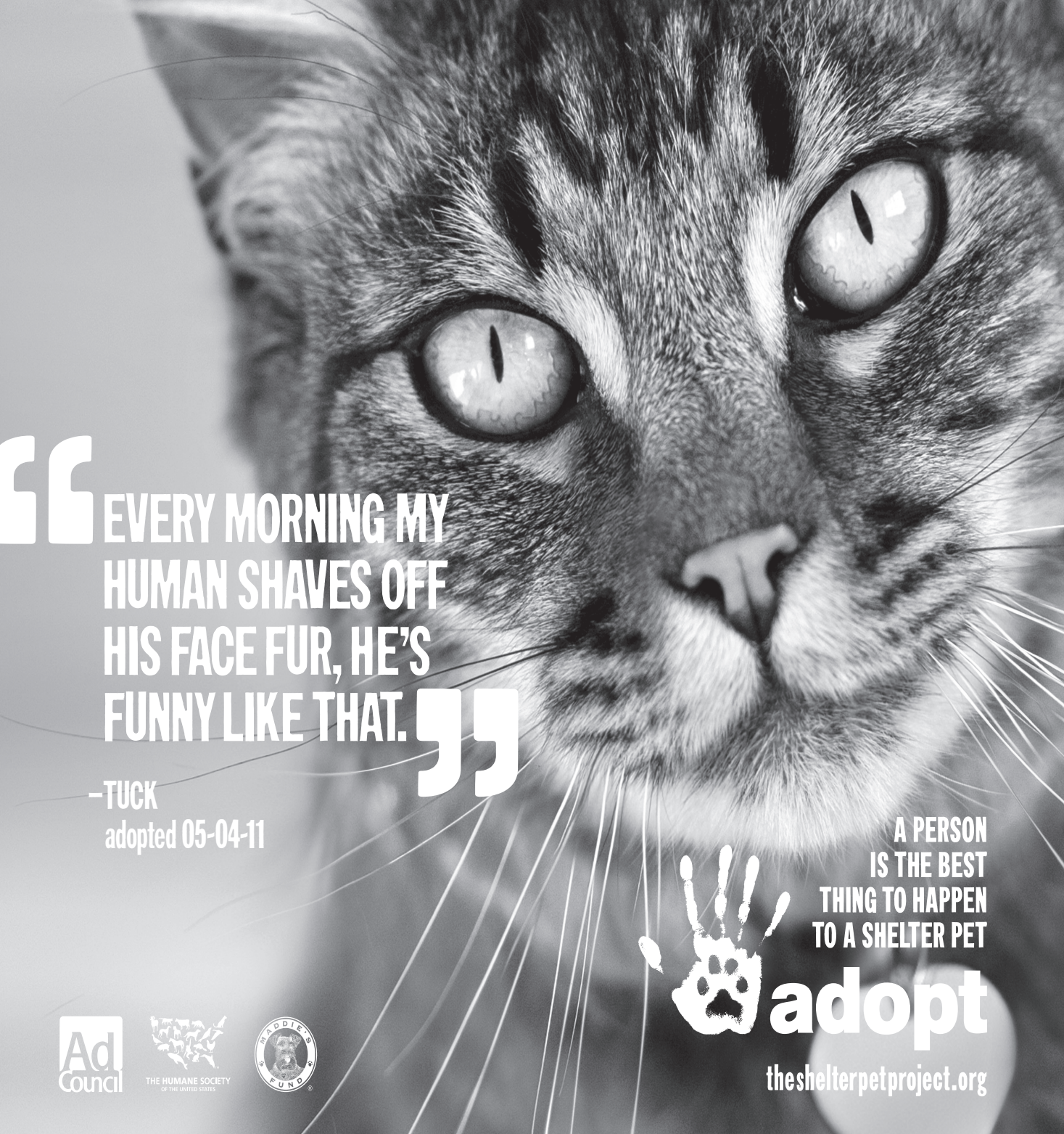
Part-time mailroom position

The Rochelle News-Leader has a part-time mailroom position open that would include inserting flyers, banding bundles and occasionally help stacking papers coming off the press.

The position typically calls for 24-28 hours per week over four or five days per week, and includes mandatory shifts on Fridays and Saturdays when work load is heaviest. Applicants must be able to quickly insert advertising flyers into newspapers, strap and lift medium-sized bundles onto a delivery truck, and work well as a team with others to follow instructions, pay attention to detail and get newspapers out the door. Mailroom staff members are also asked to perform other basic duties in the department as needed, and may be trained to drive a fork lift.

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SPORTS

NIU Football

Huskies begin preseason practices Monday, Aug. 1

Selective approach to transfer portal working for NIU football program

DEKALB — The Northern Illinois University football team was back to work bright and early Monday morning, opening fall camp at Huskie Stadium to start the 2022 season.

"Today was a great start," said head coach Thomas Hammock, entering his fourth season as head coach. "The guys were excited to get after it. We split up the practice into two sessions so everybody could get work. It's important for us as coaches to coach all 110 guys and work with each player to improve our football team."

The Huskies were split into two groups with each practicing for 90 minutes starting at 7 a.m. There was a 30-minute period for special teams between the two practice sessions. NIU returns a wealth of experience from last season's team that won the Mid-American Championship, but Hammock said the split practice allowed each player to get the instruction needed as the preseason camp begins.

"We have a lot of veteran guys coming back, but I want to put the emphasis on teaching each player and have them all understand that they have a chance to compete for a job," Hammock said. "We're going to have our eyes on each player, we'll have a lot of film to evaluate and we're going to give everybody an opportunity



(PHOTO COURTESY OF NIU ATHLETICS)

to play."

Transfers

In his fourth season leading the Northern Illinois University football team, Hammock has often referred to the Huskies as a "developmental program" with a focus on bringing in young players — both scholarship and walk-ons — and helping them grow in the weight room, in the classroom and on the field. That philosophy helped Hammock lead one of the youngest team in the country to a nine-game turnaround and a Mid-American Conference Championship a year ago.

While focusing on freshmen during the recruiting process, Hammock and his staff have also had great success in selectively adding transfers during his tenure. Transfers Rocky Lom-

bardi, Clint Ratkovich, Jordan Gandy and Miles Joiner played huge roles in NIU's turnaround in 2021.

As preseason practices continued at Huskie Stadium Tuesday morning, more experienced veteran newcomers are showing that they have the opportunity to make an impact for the Huskies in 2022.

After joining the team in January, defensive end Izayah Green-May (Bolingbrook/Bolingbrook HS/Wisconsin), wide receiver Shemar Thornton (Miami, Florida/Hallandale HS/FIU) and safety Jordan White (Havre de Grace, Maryland/Havre de Grace HS/Youngstown State) are all making their case to contribute.

"If a guy comes in in January and is able to go through the offseason program, go through spring ball and get a chance to get

around the guys, that puts him a lot further ahead and gives him an opportunity to compete," Hammock said. "Zay [Green-May] has every opportunity to start. Shemar is putting himself in a position to be one of our top receivers this season and Jordan White is fighting to be a starting safety in our program. Those three guys, we feel, are potential starters that we brought in as transfers which makes a difference on the football team."

Hammock said the key in bringing in transfers is that word "selective" and that NIU's emphasis on development has not changed.

"We don't bring in many [transfers] because we feel we are a grass roots program," Hammock said. "We want to develop high school players, but we will

be selective with what we bring into the program to fill some needs. These guys have come in and done a phenomenal job with their work ethic, with their mentality, with their approach, they have bought into the way we work and how we work, the way we do things. They give us a chance to be a much better football team."

The second day of Northern Illinois University preseason football practices saw the Huskies once again split into two groups for the non-padded morning workout, with an overlapping special teams session in the middle. In the early session, the first and second team offense took center stage, while the first and second defenses had the best of the offense in the second half of practice, including an interception by linebacker

Jaden Dolphin.

Hammock liked the way the Huskies worked heading into Wednesday's full team practice in shoulder pads, shorts and helmets.

"We have a unique football team in the sense that these guys just work, and it's been fun to see the maturation process," Hammock said. "We don't need the bells and whistles to try to get them over the hump. They just come out and they understand the task and they attack the task and I think that's the most exciting part for me. You have a group of guys that understand the standards, the expectations of our program, and they want to go out there and attack it. What you see is a group focused on just getting better and I think that's the most exciting thing for me."

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SPORTS

NIU Football Huskie connections provide Onyebuaga with NFL opportunity NIU tight end coach completed fellowship with the Los Angeles Chargers

DEKALB — Connections made 17 years ago as a Huskie offensive lineman led current Northern Illinois University tight ends coach Jason Onyebuagu to training camp with the Los Angeles Chargers last week as part of the NFL Bill Walsh Diversity Coaching Fellowship program.

Onyebuagu, who met Chargers head coach Brandon Staley during his freshman season at NIU in 2006, spent the week attending staff and position meetings and working with the Chargers offensive line. He was welcomed as part of the team from the time he arrived.

“It was awesome,” Onyebuagu said. “You know, Coach [Staley] pulled us right in the staff meeting, introduced us to the whole team and gave us the opportunity to be one of them. Every meeting was open. Every coach had their door open and wanted us to come talk ball and ask questions and just invited us to come gain knowledge.”

Onyebuagu returned to his offensive line roots during the week.

“For the week I got to work with the o-line,” he said. “It was fun getting a

chance to get in there with the big boys. They have a great group of guys and they welcomed me right into the room and we got some really good work in. It was great to see the flow of [their practices] up front and be right there in the mix and get a chance to get your hands on guys and coach. In the end it was football, it was training camp, the same thing we’re going through now.”

NIU head coach Thomas Hammock was a running backs coach on the 2006 Huskie team that included Staley, then a defensive graduate assistant and Onyebuagu, who made five starts and played in every game as a true freshman offensive lineman. Hammock said the fellowship provides a great opportunity to network and develop as a coach.

“Obviously Brandon Staley knows us, and they had originally talked about JO going out last year,” Hammock said. “It’s tremendous for him to get that experience. It’s a great opportunity to network, to see different ways of doing things and how the NFL runs training camp. It broadens your horizons and I’m glad it worked out this year for him to go out



(PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT WALSTROM/NIU ATHLETICS)

and do that.”

Onyebuagu said the relationships forged at NIU with Hammock and Staley have remained strong as he embarked on his coaching career.

“[Staley] has been great,” Onyebuagu said, “He’s tracked me through his career, and he’s always done a good job of reaching out and saying, ‘keep working, keep progressing.’ Obviously, we built that relationship while he was here when I was a player and he was a young coach, and that’s the NIU family. That’s what we’re about.”

Onyebuagu was excited to bring what he learned and what he observed, especially in the way that the pros conduct themselves, back to the NIU players.

“One of the biggest takeaways was just seeing the extra work those guys put in on their own and seeing how they practice,” Onyebuagu said. “They’re there a half an hour early working on things that they might not get to practice, but they need to get better. They are always looking to find more information and exactly how to do things, pay attention to the details, the way they ask questions and try to build knowledge in the meetings.”

The Bill Walsh Diversity Fellowship Program is more than 30 years old. The program is designed to give young coaches the opportunity to observe, participate, gain experience and make connections with current NFL coaches during training camps, off-season workout programs and minicamps.

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