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SATURDAY HIGH LOW

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WEATHER

WEDNESDAY

HIGH LOW

FRIDAY

**HIGH LOW** 

72

TODAY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022

Vol. 103 • No. 14

\$1

# **Businesses dealing with high fuel prices** 'I can say that this is not helping small businesses stay alive'

**BY JEFF HELFRICH** MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE Queens Trucking and Construction, Inc. President Sarah Smith said that her business has seen fuel costs triple over the past two years.

The family-owned and run business in Rochelle employs anywhere from 35-55 employees at any given time and does both union and non-union work within the Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota areas, specializing in local freight hauling on the fleet side of the company and large-scale drain tiling, site cleanup and management along with equipment hauling on the construction side.

With gas prices across the country spiking, Queens Trucking and Construction, Inc. is one of the particularly-impacted local businesses.

"This has affected us first and foremost with our customer base," Smith said. "We have suffered the loss of a few longterm customers due to the need to raise prices, which is not something we take lightly. We first



Queens Trucking and Construction, Inc. President Sarah Smith said that her business has seen fuel costs triple over the past two years. The family-owned and run business employs anywhere between 35-55 employees.

had to raise our base rates to cover the employees' increased hourly wages to compensate for the high amounts they are paying to just get to and from work. We have also had to start charging a fuel surcharge which up until two years ago was not something we ever did.'

Smith said her business is also seeing high costs for oil, antifreeze, parts and supplies that are necessary to keep the fleet

and construction company running.

Along with fuel surcharges on fleet loads and employee raises to help them get to and from work, Queens Trucking has taken other measures to offset

high fuel costs such as selling off unnecessary inventory and making management changes to try to be more efficient on all fronts, Smith said.

See FUEL page 8



Development agreement approved





1115 Turkington Terrace 815-562-3312

#### **OBITUARIES**

DEE ANN WITHROW

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#### INSERTS

ALDI FARM & FLEET

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#### **BY JEFF HELFRICH** MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its Monday meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a development agreement with Seldal Properties, LLC for the redevelopment of five downtown properties on Lincoln Highway.

The agreement is for 318, 320, 322, 324 and 326 Lincoln Highway and the redevelopment will consist of mixed-use retail and residential space. The total project will be just over \$1 million. The city will reimburse Seldal Properties, LLC \$300,000 in five separate \$60,000 payments, starting upon the acquisition and completion, but no sooner than Dec. 31, 2023. The money will come from the city's downtown and southern gateway tax increment funding (TIF) district.

"I think this is a classic example of a public-private partnership," Mayor John Bearrows said. "We've said we need housing and we want to fill the stores



The city presented a check for \$32,142 to Rochelle Area Community Foundation Executive Director Emily Anaya as part of its yearly donation that comes from deductions to employee paychecks if they choose to take part. 51 city employees took part in the program this year.

up downtown. We're using TIF money to reinvest in the community. I commend [Seldal Properties, LLC Owner Bruce Seldal] for his efforts to do this because it will change the appearance of that whole downtown. I'm anxious to see it."

Seldal answered questions at the meeting and said he plans to do an "extensive remodel" of the facade on the front of the downtown building that

would see it rebricked and new glass windows and doors would be put in.

"From the outside, it would look like a new building," Seldal said. "The rest of the funds would go into the interior of the buildings. A significant amount of upgrades need to be done not only to the rentals, but on three of the commercial spaces. Two spaces are currently leased that would probably not see any renovations. It

would definitely be a huge improvement and beautification of downtown Rochelle."

The 10 upstairs apartment units are planned to be remodeled. They would likely be one-bedroom apartments that will rent in the \$700-800 per month range, Seldal said.

"They'll be unique and something we don't have here in town," Seldal said.

See CITY page 5

### Sarah Flanagan Reading program underway

**BY JEFF HELFRICH** MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Flagg-Rochelle Public Library's Summer Reading program is in full swing after offerings were limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Director Sarah Flanagan said.

The program's theme this year is "Read off the Beaten Path" and programs are offered for all ages. A kickoff event was held June 4 with an ice cream party, lawn games and activities.

The "Books with Friends" program will be held for ages 7-12 every Monday in June and July from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

See LIBRARY pg 3



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### Rural residents at a disadvantage with mental health services

**BY TAMMIE SLOUP** FARMWEEK

HE sea of dark purple on a map of Illinois counties told a concerning story.

Most of the counties were dark purple, indicating a shortage of mental and behavioral health providers in those areas. Only a handful of counties, mostly in Cook County and the collar counties, had no shortage or partial shortages.

But it's not just an Illinois issue. Mental health care in rural areas throughout the U.S. is in crisis.

Heather Whetsell, Southern Illinois University Medicine Population Science & Policy administrative director, presented findings of a yearlong study into mental health care in rural areas during the National Rural Health Association's (NRHA) Annual Rural Health Conference. The research was conducted by the NRHA Rural Health Fellows mental health workgroup.

Barriers to mental health care in rural America are driven by three factors: availability of health care, access and acceptability, the fellows found.

"There are a lot of efforts going into trying to recruit and retain providers in these areas, but as you know, it's an uphill battle," said Janessa Graves, associate professor of nursing, Washington State University, who grew up in central Illinois.

When it comes to acceptability, the fellows are specifically referring to stigma.

"It's a documented problem in rural communities; mental health stigma both for discussing issues but then also accessing services," Graves said. "Also, health literacy is an issue and then lack of privacy. I live in a town of 2,000 people and

everyone knows when I go get my hair cut, much less if I'm frequenting a mental health care provider in my town."

The report was not all doom and gloom, as part of its policy brief includes recommendations as well as innovative projects already in the works.

A heavy emphasis was placed on workforce recruitment and retention, including stipends and paid internships for rural providers, expansion of loan repayment programs, salary and bonus incentives and equitable grant making so all government funding isn't going to larger, urban health centers with experienced grant writers.

The health and wellness of the workforce also must be maintained and even enhanced for mental health providers to stay in rural areas.

"You can't pour from an empty cup," said Brenda Mack, assistant professor of social work, Bemidji State University. "If we are emotionally exhausting our mental health care providers, they're not going to have anything else to give to the patients."

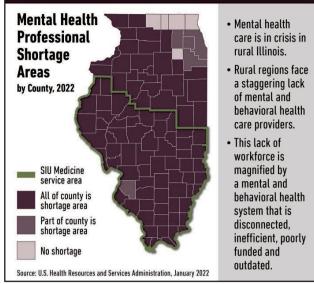
Other recommendations to address barriers included co-locations of services, expanding prevention programs, Medicare expansion for mental health providers and community engagement activities.

Mack hosts a monthly project called Cultivating Resiliency for Women in Agriculture, which is essentially a virtual coffee chat with an emphasis on wellness and well-being.

"We have folks who are joining us from their tractors and from their barns," she said.

In Illinois, Whetsell outlined the Healthy Hillsboro project, which launched when a frightening trend of youth suicide attempts emerged in the community.

The Partnership be-



tween SIU Medicine Department and Hillsboro Area Hospital won the 2022 NRHA Outstanding Rural Health Program Award for developing an assessment of contributing factors to the trend while involving a coalition of community members to best choose programs to meet the needs of local youth. we've seen already is a decrease in stigma around mental health," Whetsell said. "And getting the youth to talk about it."

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visitFarmWeekNow.com.

"One major benefit that

### Fehr Graham named Engineering News-Record Top 500 Design Firm

**ROCKFORD**—Fehr Graham, a leading midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce being named to the Engineering News-Record (ENR) Top 500 Design Firms list. ENR's ranking is widely considered the industry benchmark for excellence.

The comprehensive survey ranks engineering firms based on revenue for engineering design services provided the previous year. Fehr Graham made the list for the first time in the firm's 49-year history, ranking No. 494. The list includes the 500 largest engineering, architectural and environmental consulting firms in the United States.

"As Fehr Graham continues to grow, our talented and dedicated staff continue to demonstrate our daily commitment to customer service. The personal connection we make with our clients ensuring we preserve that small firm feel our team and our clients appreciate and our deep bench of highly experienced people enabling us to provide big firm capabilities is the driving force behind making the ENR Top 500 list," said Mick Gronewold, board chairman and one of the firm's owners. "Earning this spot also shows how our experience, diverse backgrounds and teamwork are really something special. Our commitment continues to create constructive shifts for the

company and positive experiences for our clients."

Fehr Graham's engineering group partners with private and public entities to help design and advance projects ranging from water and wastewater treatment plants to roads, bridges and highways. The team also designs stormwater solutions, sanitary sewer collection systems, water distribution, production and storage facilities, parking lots, residential and commercial devel-



opments, parks and much more.

#### **Zweig Group**

Fehr Graham, a leading midwest engineering and environmental firm, is proud to announce being named to Zweig Group's Hot Firm List.

Ranked No. 76 of 100 firms, Fehr Graham is recognized as one of the fastest-growing firms in the United States and Canada.

This is the firm's seventh time on Zweig Group's Hot Firm List. Being named to the list again and making it reflects a company-wide commitment to growth.

"It's an honor to be on the list," said Mick Gronewold, board chairman and one of the firm's owners. "It reminds us how far we've come since our humble beginnings with five employees in one office in Freeport. Our success reflects our extraordinary employees' commitment to continuous improvement and putting our clients first." Zweig is a business management group that annually honors the 100 fastest growing firms in the architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) industry. Rankings are determined by revenue growth by percentage and dollars over a threeyear period.

Fehr Graham designs projects ranging from water and wastewater treatment plants to roads, bridges and highways. The team also designs stormwater solutions, sanitary sewer systems, water distribution and treatment facilities, wells, pumps and lift stations, parking lots, parks and much more.

"Demand for services and expertise on the client side and meaningful career growth on the employee side has made it fundamentally important that every AEC firm has growth embedded into their strategy," said Jamie Claire Kiser, managing principal and director of advisory services at Zweig Group. "We congratulate the 2022 Zweig Group Hot Firm winners for seizing the opportunity and celebrate their successes today as well as the successes that are outcomes of the growth culture that the Hot Firm winners embody." Winning firms will be recognized at the 2022 Elevate AEC Conference Sept. 14-16 in Las Vegas and are featured in the Zweig weekly management newsletter, The Zweig Letter. View the winners here. To learn more about Fehr Graham's culture and job opportunities, visit its careers page.

#### MENTAL HEALTH IN RURAL ILLINOIS









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# LOCAL NEWS LIBRARY: Summer Reading Program back in session

From page 1

Kids can bring their favorite book and join friends for reading and activities.

The "Storytime" program is for children up to age six with a caregiver on every Wednesday in June and July from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Each week will feature a different book and activity.

The "Secret Garden Tea Party" program is Saturday, June 25 from 10:30-12:30 p.m and participants can enjoy tea and treats and make their own secret fairy garden. It is for all ages. Those under 10 years old must come with a caregiver.

"Storytime with Pam Tobler" is July 16 at 10:15 a.m. for all ages. Local author Pam Tobler will read her latest picture book "Lily the Ladybug: Day at the Park."

"The UnBook Club" is Thursday, June 23 and Thursday, July 21 from 4-5 p.m. for ages 13-19. The club goes beyond just books and extends to audio books, podcasts, TED Talks and more.

The "Morning Book Club" meets the last Wednesday of the month at 10:15 a.m. Stop by the library to check-out your book.

"We are excited," Flanagan said. "This year, we've really been able to fully open and give the kids a cool summer reading experience. After COVID-19, the patron pattern and the way people are doing things have changed. They are way more interested in getting out and just experiencing things. Living in Rochelle, we're in a small community, so we know



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Flagg-Rochelle Public Library's Summer Reading program is in full swing after offerings were limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program's theme this year is "Read off the Beaten Path" and programs are offered for all ages. A kickoff event was held June 4 with an ice cream party, lawn games and activities.

a lot of people that come into the library. And I think that's important because we've been kind of shut in for the last couple of years."

Library Outreach Clerk Ashley Capes said a "remarkable increase" in program signups has been seen this summer. All ages are being targeted, especially the teenage demographic. She hopes even those who don't see reading as their favorite activity will still come out and have fun.

"It's not just sitting and reading a book and talking about it," Capes said. "It's getting involved and having an activity that relates to a book. You don't necessarily have to sit down and read for a certain amount of minutes or pages. Just come and have fun and experience the library and what we have to offer.

Experience a book."

Capes said the library has been planning for its summer program since March and called it "a lot of work." But, she said it's worth it when she sees regulars come into the building along with new faces. Putting together new programs has also been enjoyable, she said.

Flanagan said that during the summer, some children don't read enough and are subject to the "summer learning slide," which can impact them upon returning to school in the fall.

"What happens is, they move backwards," Flanagan said. "Where they were at the end of the school year, they spend the first two months of the new school year trying to get their reading levels back up to where

they were at the end of the year if they do nothing. If they read and they're exposed to reading, even if that's a parent reading to them or listening to a story here, it helps. If they find an interest in something they like and read, they're more likely to be at that same level or even higher when the school year starts. And that's important."

The library has worked to act as a resource for students that have had a

tougher learning experience at school during the pandemic. More materials are offered there than at school libraries that can help with things like reports. The library is also used by tutors in town.

"We act as that third space where they can come and get a little bit of extra help," Flanagan said. "They can order other materials and look at books here. Plus it gets them into the building. We can sup-

plement other materials for school work or they can get into something they like reading here."

The library director said she and her staff want to encourage the community to come and visit them this summer.

"We just want people to come and have a good time," Flanagan said. "That's the most important thing, that people are here, they're visiting and they're reading."

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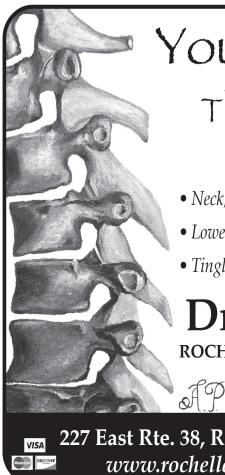


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#### Obituaries

### Dee Ann Withrow

**ROCHELLE** — Dee Ann Withrow, 75, passed away at her home on Sunday, June 12 with her family ather side. She was born on Dec. 24, 1946, in Canton, Illinois, the daughter of Kenneth and Carol (Patterson)Parry.OnAug. 3, 1968, she married Bob Withrow in Farmington, Illinois. Dee loved spending time with her family and many friends. She had an eye for design and was always doing something crafty. If she wasn't at home, you could find her shopping. She had a quick wit, and if sarcasm was a sport, she could have medaled in the Olympics. She was a fan of the outdoors in the way that she liked having a glass of wine on the patio. Especially if that patio was during her winters in Florida. She offered great advice, and had a wonderful sense of humor that could light up any room. Dee was part of the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, working as the office manager for over 30 years and was treated like family. So much so, it took her daughters years to realize they were not actual blood relatives. Dee absolutely adored her two grandchildren, Ben and Kate. She attended countless sporting events and



activities through rain, sleet or snow. She was so proud of who they were, and who they would become.

Survived by her husband of 53 years, Bob; two daughters: Nicki (Joe) Yaney of Barrington, Illinois and Stacey (Adam Feltner) Withrow of Arlington, Texas; two grandchildren: Ben and Kate Yaney; her cousin, who was like a sister, Joan Gingerich of St. Charles, Missouri and many dear friends.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, June 16 from 4-5:50 p.m. at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The funeral service will follow at 6 p.m. A reception will follow at Kennay Farms Distilling. Cremation care will be accorded following the services. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to JDRF.

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

#### Ogle County Sheriff's Department Deputies respond to two-vehicle accident

**OREGON**—On June 10 at approximately 8:10 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Big Mound Road and Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies placed Kristopher Zaugg, 38, of Rockford under arrest for a McHenry County warrant for violation of bond conditions, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance (heroin) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Zaugg was additionally issued citations for no front registration, loud exhaust and operating an uninsured vehicle. Zaugg was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge. All individuals are presumed innocent.

On June 12 at approximately 8:03 p.m. deputies responded to the 300 block of Main Street in Leaf River in reference to a driving complaint. After an investigation, deputies placed John H. Huenefeld, 56, of Leaf River under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Additionally, Huenefeld was cited for improper lane usage. Huenefeld was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond. All individuals are presumed innocent.

On June 12 at approximately 12:27 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Mongan Drive. After investigation, deputies placed Joaquin Roque Santiago Cruz, 46, of Woodstock under arrest for aggravated DUI (class 4 felony), driving without a BAIID (class 4 felony), driving under the influence of alcohol and driving while license revoked.

Santiago Cruz was additionally issued citations for improper lane usage, improper turn signal, failure to obey a stop sign and operating an uninsured vehicle. Santiago Cruz was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge. All individuals are presumed innocent.

On June 12 at 7:56 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the intersection of East Hemstock Road and South Center Road for a report of a two-vehicle accident with injuries. During the course of the investigation it was determined that a white 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe, operated by a 16-year-

old juvenile, was traveling eastbound on East Hemstock Road and had stopped at the intersection at South Center Rd. The white 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe then entered the intersection, where it failed to yield, to a black 2021 Kia Soul, that was traveling southbound on South Center Road and driven by Edith H. Lynch, 82, of Chana. The black Kia collided with the white Chevrolet, causing both vehicles to exit the roadway to the southeast side of the intersection. The 16-year-old was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital for evaluation of possible injuries by Rochelle EMS. The 17-year-old juvenile passenger in the white Chevrolet Tahoe was uninjured. Lynch was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital by Rochelle EMS for suspected serious injuries. The 16-year-old was issued a citation for failure to yield. Deputies were assisted on scene by the Rochelle Fire

Department. On June 13 at approximately 5:50 p.m. deputies and Lynn Scott Rock Fire Department responded to the 18,000 block of East Illinois Route 64 for a single-vehicle rollover with injuries. After a brief investigation, it was



determined that a Ford F-150, driven by Joshua Beach of Machesney Park, left the roadway, striking a guardrail and rolling once. Beach was evaluated and transported to an area hospital for possible serious injuries. Beach was issued citations for improper traffic lane usage, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and failure to wear a seatbelt. All individuals are presumed innocent.

On June 13 at approximately 7:31 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 600 block of South 1st Avenue in Forreston. After an investigation, Nickole Butler, 38, of Forreston was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Butler was also cited for improper lane usage, expired registration and illegal transportation of alcohol. Butler was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond. All individuals are presumed innocent.

### DeKalb resident arrested for attempted retail theft

**ROCHELLE** — On June 9 at 5:38 p.m. Chancie D. Perkins, 24, of DeKalb was arrested for attempted retail theft and cited for unauthorized use of a handicap parking space. He was released on an I-Bond and given a July 8 Ogle County court date.

**Rochelle Police Department** 

On June 9 at 9:10 p.m. Brandon E. Anderson, 33, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On June 9 at 10:49 p.m. Stephanie B. Swanson, 26, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On June 10 at 4:26 a.m. Robin C. Novak, 53, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license revoked. She was released on an I-Bond and given a July 22 Rochelle court date.

On June 10 at 5:33 p.m. Joshua Nance, 40, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On June 11 at 7:12 a.m. Genesis T. Cruz, 20, of Kenosha, Wisconsin was arrested for driving while license suspended and cited for improper lane usage. He p.m. Craig Larson Jr., 25, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and assault and transferred.

On June 11 at 8:07 p.m. Stephanie O'Neill, 33, of Rochelle was arrested for battery. She was released on an I-Bond and given a July 15 Ogle County court date.

On June 12 at 10:18 a.m. a 17-year-old male of Rochelle was cited for failure to yield from a private drive. He was released on an I-Bond and given a July 22 Rochelle court date.

### U of I Extension offering summer garden activities

**OREGON** — Free summer Learning in the Gardens programs for youth ages 8-12 offer opportunities for fun and exploration at the Ogle County Fair Grounds.

Studies show that nature impacts our well-being and children who develop a connection with nature can release stress and focus better. Led by the expertise of the Ogle County Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners, kids will have one on one opportunities to nurture their curiosity in the natural garden world in a series of events. The 45-minute outdoor activities will take place twice a month beginning at 6 p.m. and include the following topics: June 20: Parts of Plants (Investigate the function of plant parts and their role in the food chain). July 11: Plant Propagation(Divide and start plants from root and leaf cuttings). July 25: Habitat (food,

water, shelter - Learn what our backyard friends need to survive).

August 15: Pollinators (Who are our pollinators and how do we attract them to our gardens?)

August 22: Seed Saving (Learn how to save seeds from this year's plants.)

Sign up for Learning in the Gardens this summer



#### signed a promise to comply and was given a July 22 Rochelle court date.

On June 11 at 4:01



A love offering will be taken

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# News-Leader

#### 211 IL Route 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068 (815) 562-4171

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to have fun, enjoy the outdoors, and learn something new. Registration is required to attend each session, go to https://go.illinois.edu/Learninginthe-Gardens to register. Group size is limited, so please register early.

For any questions regarding these learning opportunities or if you need a reasonable accommodation to attend, please contact Cindy Jankiewicz, program coordinator: cjankie@illinois.edu or 815-732-2191. Early requests are encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

#### Kishwaukee College seeking input for strategic plan update

MALTA — Kishwaukee College's current Strategic Plan was created in 2018. Due to the changing landscape of education over the past four years, the college is reviewing plans to meet the evolving needs of students and the community.

"As a community college, it is important we continually listen to input from our stakeholders," Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College, said. "The survey feedback will be used in discussions to help shape the future of the college."

The online Community Strategic Plan Survey will be available through Monday, June 20. The survey is five questions and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

To take the survey, visit kish.edu/strategicplan.

#### **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.

### **CITY:** Council approves bargaining agreement with union

#### From page 1

"They'll be a little higher-end. I think updating these units will definitely bring some new life to downtown."

The downstairs commercial spaces would be renovated inside to a point, but would be able to accommodate different types of business to eventually rent them.

"The reason I came forward is, the section I think that needs the most help is the commercial retail side," Seldal said. "We don't know what kind of tenants will come in for the commercial space. We'll beautify the front and basically provide a box and market it for rent. Depending on what tenant shows up, then you go in and remodel. The building has sat vacant for about six years."

#### Water rates

The council unanimously approved a resolution establishing water rate increases that will take effect Jan. 1, 2023

An average rate increase per year for the next five years will be as follows: residential 4.9 percent, commercial 5.4 percent and industrial 2.8 percent. A recommended fee schedule will also be included for establishing outside lab testing services. The rate increase will run through 2027.

The rate increase was approved to help offset the costs of recent and future improvements to the city's water supply and distribution system including constructing a new wellhouse and elevated storage tank, two radium removal plants and a new wellhouse set to startup on June 1. Well 8 is currently under design for the construction of an iron removal plant as the well has been "basically unusable" since the 1990s. A rate analysis was conducted that yielded the rate increase



The Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a collective bargaining agreement with the union that represents its Streets and Cemetery department that will run until April 30, 2026. The union ratified the agreement on May 19.

units. The city's planning & zoning commission unanimously approved the preliminary and final plat of subdivision at its meeting last week.

#### **ARPA funds**

The council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing City Manager JeffFiegenschuh to change plans for American Rescue Plan Act funds from the federal government. The city has already received half of its \$1.23 million total and will get the rest this fall.

The rules for types of project the money could be used for changed, necessitating Monday's decision. Originally the city council approved rehabilitation and painting of the overpass water tower for \$940,000, investments in updating fiber infrastructure for \$225,000 and updates to Railfan Park for \$60,000. The plan is now to use the money for \$600,000 worth of water projects, \$135,000 worth of updates to Railfan Park, \$400,000 for community storm sewer projects and \$100,000 for resident energy efficiency and security projects.

#### Union

#### agreement

The council unanimously approved a collective bargaining agreement with the union that represents its Streets and Cemetery department that will run until April 30, 2026.

The streets and cemetery union met and ratified the collective bargaining agreement on May 19. The agreement includes a yearly

three percent increase in wages and a new certification incentive program.

#### Property sale

The council unanimously approved a resolution approving the sale of two parcels of land it owns at 201 N. Washington St. and undeveloped land at the southwest corner of 2nd Avenue and Washington Street.

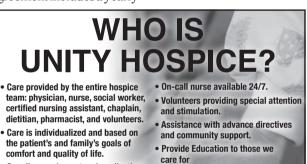
The meeting's agenda

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915 N. Caron Rd.

Rochelle, IL



packet said the property is "surplus real estate" and it is no longer necessary for the city to retain ownership. A request for proposal will be circulated to facilitate the process of selling the properties and make sure they're sold or leased to ensure best possible uses.

#### Check

#### presentation The city presented a

check for \$32,142 to Rochelle Area Community Foundation Executive Director Emily Anaya as part of its yearly donation that comes from deductions to employeepaychecksifthey choose to take part. 51 city employees took part in the program this year.

"I just want to say thank you so much," Anaya said. "We're truly humbled by the generosity of city staff and employees."

#### We are now offering **LIPO MINO MIX injections Introductory price \$25** Call for an Appointment!

This lipotropic combination of B12 and methionine, an essential amino acid and other B vitamins can promote:

Increase Fat metabolism

decision.

đ

#### Storage

The council unanimously approved a preliminary and final plat of subdivision for property located at 15th Street and 8th Avenue after a petition by Haywell, LLC for the development of a self storage facility with six

counseling. Ancillary Therapies: Music, Physical/ Occupational, Speech, Massage, Pet,

Supplies, equipment and medications.

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# LOCAL VIEWS

#### **Guest column**

# Geo-tracking and the election

HETHER you like it or not, your cell phone spits out information on your location and time of day at that location

(geo-tracking) even if "location services" is turned off.

This information is collected and sold to many brokers who resell it to a variety of customers. Amazon

Web Services (AWS) is a big player through Amazon AWS Data Exchange. By tracking your location and time at that location, for instance, advertisers learn about where you sleep (most likely where you live), what places you visit such as a gym, where you dine and what stores you visit.

Law enforcement, the FBI and the military use this data. The data is often very accurate within yards of your location and is used in targeted advertising. Now enter Greg Phillips, a person experienced in analyzing geo-tracking data. He purchased over a petabyte (1 million gigabytes) of geo-tracking data from various cities across the country at specific areas in the city (geo-fencing) from Oct. 1, 2020 to the November 2020 election. This investigation revealed thousands of geo-tracks where individuals visited multiple ballot drop boxes at all hours of the day, especially in the early morning hours such as 2 a.m. and 3

freedom of information requests show individuals inserting multiple ballots into ballot boxes.

Geo-tracking revealed the same indi-

vidual visiting multiple ballot boxes, which was verified by surveillance video. The videos show people taking photos Chuck of themselves **Roberts** stuffing ballot boxes, presum-

ably to prove that they did it so they can get paid. Later on, in some run-off elections, people stuffing ballot boxes were using plastic gloves. The use of plastic gloves started shortly after some were indicted for election fraud based on finger print evidence on ballots.

It is interesting to note that it is often claimed that the 2020 election was the most honest in history despite the evidence of election fraud illustrated in approximately four million minutes of video.

This new study using geo-tracking adds to the evidence of possible systematic election fraud in many cities. Critics of this study say geo-tracking is not accurate, the study results are biased, the author has a political agenda, etc. Geotracking is accurate and the methodology in the study is scientifically sound. Political agendas are political science. There appears to be little interest in investigating this evidence of election fraud from either side of the aisle and the media. The solution to this problem is simple. Eliminate the ballot drop boxes (both state and privately-owned) and stop sending out ballots to people who have not requested an absentee ballot. Don't hold your breath.

# Eight named farm bureau scholarship winners

AYLA White, Renee Gehrke, Megan Hagemann, Jack Richolson, Hannah Seaworth, Isaac Charbonneau, Breanna Cisketti and Grace Pfeiffer were all recently

named as recipients of scholarships awarded by the Ogle County Farm Bureau in 2022.

White was awarded the Del Flessner Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500. This **Ron Kern** scholarship was created to honor the legacy of long-time Ogle County Farm Bureau Manager Del Flessner. She is the daughter of Ryan and Michelle White. Kayla is a 2020 graduate of Stillman Valley High School and is currently majoring in agronomy at Highland Community College with plans to attend Iowa State University next fall.

Gehrke and Hagemann were named winners of the \$1,000 General Farm Bureau Scholarship.

Gehrke is the daughter of Jason and Kathi Gehrke, Byron. She is a 2021 graduate of Byron High School and currently attends Highland Community College majoring in dairy science. She plans to continue her studies at Iowa State University next fall.

Megan Hagemann is the daughter of Brad and Jean Hagemann, Mt. Morris. She is a 2020 graduate of Forreston High School and attends Highland Community College majoring in

animal science.

Richolson was named the recipient of the \$1,000 Don Bybee Memorial Scholarship, sponsored through the generosity of the Bybee Family to honor Mr.

> Bybee for his many years of service to agriculture in Ogle County. Jack is the son of Brad and Julie Richolson, Lindenwood. Jack will graduate from Rochelle Township High School this spring and will continue his studies at Iowa State University studying agriculture

business Seaworth is the recipient of the

Mark Detig Memorial Scholarship awarded in the amount of \$1,000. This scholarship honors the late Mark Detig for his service to the Ogle County Pork Producers Association and Ogle County agriculture. Hannah is the daughter of Todd and Norna Seaworth, Lindenwood. Hannah will graduate from Stillman Valley High School this spring and continue her studies in biology at the University of Louisville.

Charbonneau is the \$1,000 Ag Technology Scholarship winner. Isaac is the son of Melinda Charbonneau, Leaf River. He graduated Byron High School last year and will continue his studies at Kishwaukee Community College majoring in diesel mechanics.

Pfeiffer is the recipient of the Mary LeFevre Memorial Scholarship, sponsored in cooperation between the farm bureau

and the Jeff and Joyce Tremble Family. The scholarship focuses on students pursuing careers in healthcare. Grace is the daughter of Jason and Angela Pfeiffer, Davis Junction. She will graduate Stillman Valley High School this spring and attend the University of Wisconsin - Platteville majoring in biology. The scholarship is awarded at \$1,000.

Cisketti was awarded the George LeFevre Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. It also is funded with the cooperation of the Jeff and Joyce Tremble Family, recognizing Mr. Lefevre for his lifelong service to Ogle County agriculture. Breanna is the daughter of Brian and Brandi Cisketti, Polo. Breanna will graduate Polo High School this spring and go onto study agribusiness at the University of Wisconsin - Platteville.

This marks the 24th year that the Ogle County Farm Bureau has awarded scholarships to member dependents who seek to pursue course studies in agriculture at an accredited institution of higher education.

Scholarships will again be awarded in 2023 and applications will be available in January. For information on the Ogle County Farm Bureau Scholarship Program contact me at 815-732-2231.

"A lot of parents in the summer pack up their troubles and send them off to camp." - Anonymous.

Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.

#### **VOICE ON THE STREET**

# Question:

With gas prices up over \$5 locally, how much does it cost to fill your tank?

"Well, let's put it this way. I valued my trade recently with Kelly Blue Book and one of the questions was if it was empty or full." Steve Frye

"Better question is, what percentage of your weekly income does it take to fill up your tank? Leif Erickson

"Silverado takes a little over \$100 to fill."

Denise Montgomery

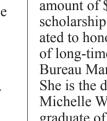
"Suburban takes \$100 to fill." Katie Paulsen

"\$150 (36-gallon tank)."

"Too damn much!" Jennifer Phelps Winch

"\$75...ridiculous." Dawn Estes Johnson

"\$60 every week to go back and forth to work. Taking a good chunk of the extra money we would spend at restaurants around town." John Conway



a.m.

Surveillance cameras at ballot box locations (as required by law) revealed people inserting on the average of six ballots into ballot drop boxes at times and locations indicated in the geo-tracking data. Four million minutes of state government surveillance video that was obtained through

"Over \$150 per week goes in the gas tank in our home just to go to work. It's insane. Add that to inflated prices for groceries, tax increases in property tax, utilities more than doubling. Working class people can't afford any extras." Wendy Nobles Bill Iracey

"What did it cost? Everything." Mike Fonfara

"\$40+. I only have a 10-gallon tank."

Mark G Schabacker

"\$60.64 today but if I was completely empty it would be about \$70."

Alyssa Brynn Mickley

"Today I paid \$61.80 for my car which takes regular unleaded. Can't imagine what my car that takes super unleaded will be." Silene Q Walters

"\$62.41. I paid \$5.905 per gallon in Rochelle. It was \$5.35 in DeKalb. The difference paid for my drive." Jeff Lieving

#### How to contact government officials

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

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

IL Rep. Tom Demmer 314 Capitol Springfield, IL 62706 (217) 782-0535

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

#### **KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS**

\* Denotes Chairman/President

В	Rochelle City Council *John Bearrows Kathryn Shaw-Dickey Bil Hayes Rosaelia Arteaga Dan McDermott Tom McDermott John Gruben	jbearrows@rochelleil.us kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us bhayes@rochelleil.us rarteaga@rochelleil.us dmcdermott@rochelleil.us tmcdermott@rochelleil.us jgruben@rochelleil.us	Flagg-Rochelle Par Brent Carmichael John Dobbs Dale Wells *Tim Hayden Jodie Hart Joe Lenkaitis	<u>k Board</u> bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org	Hillcrest Village Board *Randy Salsbury Pam Pittman Dan Potter Richard Rhoads Tim Ball Renee Kerwin	rsalsbury@hillcrestil.us ppittman@hillcrestil.us dpotter@hillcrestil.us rrhoads@hillcrestil.us tball@hillcrestil.us rkerwin@hillcrestil.us
rt	Rochelle Elementary Sch	hool Board	Ogle County Board	Dist. 3	Flagg Township	
i	*Dave Casey Steve Builta Ashley Jackson Stephanie White	dcillini94@gmail.com sbuilta@gmail.com ajackson@d231.rochelle.net swhite@d231.rochelle.net	Lloyd Droege Dan Miller Greg Sparrow	ldroege@oglecounty.org dmiller@oglecounty.org gsparrow@oglecounty.org	*Bob Withrow Joanna Patrick Susan Rothenberger Scott Seebach	flaggtwp@rochelle.net flaggtwpclerk@rochelle.net assessor@rochelle.net scottseebach@gmail.com
	Eric Van Hise	eric.vanhise@gmail.com	Ogle County Board	Dist. 4	Board of Trustees	seouseeouen@gmun.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 rom 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 **Little Miss Peanut contest** scheduled for Aug. 19

ROCHELLE—The Rochelle Kiwanis Golden K is back this year with the "Little Miss Peanut" contest at the Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival on Friday, Aug. 19 from 6-7 p.m. on the downtown gazebo stage. Golden K kicked it off earlier this month with flyers and applications to area elementary schools, and it welcomes all girls ages 6-8 years old at the time of the festival.

Little Miss Peanut will represent the Kiwanis in various activities and fundraisers, such as the festival parade on Sunday, Aug. 21, the Creston Booster Days parade on Sunday, Sept. 18, the annual Peanut Day fundraiser and the Salvation Army Collections in December.

If your child is interested in participating in the contest, please email rochellegoldenk@gmail.com and it will email you an application with all of the instructions included. The deadline for all applications to be submitted is July 1.

Completed applications will be reviewed by the committee and from those, 10 girls will be selected to go on to the final competition at the festival.

The girls will be asked questions while they are on the stage, and our three judges will select two top candidates. One will be crowned "Little Miss Peanut" and the other will be the runner-up. Prizes will be awarded to all 10 selected for the finals.

Golden K is also interested in having previous Little Miss Peanut winners join it at the beginning of the contest, so please reach out if you are a previous Little Miss Peanut.

Any questions, please email rochellegoldenk@gmail.comorcontact Kiwanis President Ric Taylor at (630) 330-2444.





#### **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Betty Armstrong** June 25 David & Courtney Jones **Treavon Huff Chyanne Bozek** Cruz Hord June 27 **Brittany Avila** Gary & Rachelle Phillips

June 28 Grace Sherburne Harold Sanders Greg Danekas June 29 **Derek** Oleson

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

#### THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

June 16 (Thursday) - Shrimp fettucini, salad, garlic bread

June 17 (Friday) - BBQ Baby Back Ribs, coleslaw, twice baked potatoes

June 21 (Tuesday) - Chicken Parmesan or Chicken Alfredo w/broccoli, salad, bread

June 23 (Thursday) - burgers - beef or venison - fries or tator tots, baked beans

June 28 (Tuesday) - BBQ Chicken (leg/thigh, breast), mashed potatoes, roasted veggies

June 30 (Thursday) - Pierogi Day! Fresh, homemade Pierogis. Kielbasa, cheese or potato piergies., sauerkraut and applesauce

July 3 (Sunday Brunch) - Serving time changed to 9-12 - to be determined due to the holiday weekend If you would like to check before coming out, please call us at 815-561-9074 as we will put the menu on the answering machine. All menus subject to change.

Visit www.KitchenTableRochelle.org



May 20 - Annie Stahlfield, Rochelle, \$25 May 21 - Bob Johnson, Waterman, \$25 May 22 - Bobbie Colbert, Rochelle, \$50 May 23 - Cathy Larkin, Rochelle, \$25 May 24 - Andy Graber, Rockford, \$25 May 25 - Brian D. Stoll, Rochelle, \$25 May 26 - Bill Saunders, Polo, \$25 May 27 - Tricia Turner, Rochelle, \$25 May 28 - Rochelle Rotary Club, \$25 May 29 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50 May 30 - Denise Stevenson, Mendota, \$1,000 May 31 - Dianne Jenner, Rochelle, \$25 June 1 - Laurie Miller, Davis, \$25 June 2 - Village of Progress, Oregon, \$25 June 3 - Cate Myers, Rochelle, \$25 June 4 - Nancy Pfab, Lindenwood, \$25 June 5 - Tammy Forsell, Rockford, \$50 June 6 - Tara Scmitt, Janesville, \$25 June 7 - Cathy Larkin, Rochelle, \$25 June 8 - Charity Prose, Rochelle, \$25 June 9 - Rochelle Area Chamber of Commerce, \$25 June 10 - Francely Vazquez, Rochelle, \$25 June 11 - Lubos Andel, Dixon, \$25 June 12 - Caleb and Canyon Ritter, Rochelle, \$50 June 13 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25 June 14 - Presleigh Belt, Rochelle, \$25

June 15 - LOTS, Rochelle, \$25



# Coffee Break

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### by Linda Thistle

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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.

#### THIS WEEK: DIFFICULTY

 Challenging Moderate HOO BOY!

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc

### 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: W equals L

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HK YF VYOWW HSEAHHL ZLMWW,

AHDV EJOE YOTD ME O

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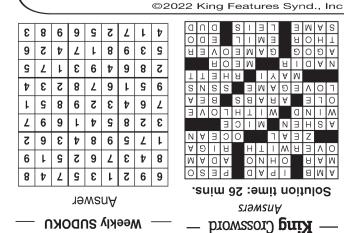
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I M H



blotchy hibachi? does that make it a on my small outdoor grill, Because I got ink stains JAWSUS CryptoQuip

## FUEL: Local businesses discuss effects of rising gas prices

#### From page 1

The business is currently trying to "move anything" and take on any projects that pay enough to cover increased costs.

"We have started running loads that we normally wouldn't have," Smith said. "We had to move to using load boards versus just word of mouth to pick up additional work and fill in where we lost out when we had to increase prices. We have started pursuing backhaulsharder, however, being a local trucking and construction company, our guys are home every night so we have to worry about hours of service restrictions to get employees back."

Smith said she knew fuel prices were going to go up, but she did not expect them to reach current heights as fast as they did. That put Queens "behind the ball" when it came to increasing prices.

"We are seeing running costs that we have never seen before," Smith said. "The predictions are that fuel could reach \$10 per gallon by the end of the year with no relief. I can say that this is not helping small businesses stay alive. Using local companies may be more expensive than using some national company, but we are not raising the costs to do anything other than feed our employees' families."

#### Alfano's

Alfano's Pizzeria and Italian Restaurant Owner Pete Alfano said that high fuel prices have impacted nearly every aspect of his business.

His product suppliers have raised delivery charges. Tomato product costs have gone up 35 percent in the past two



Alfano's Pizzeria and Italian Restaurant Owner Pete Alfano said that high fuel prices have impacted nearly every aspect of his business. His product suppliers have raised delivery charges.

quarters.

"And that's one product," Alfano said. "Let's say we have 1,000 different items, anything from salt to mozzarella cheese. Every single item has gone up. You have inflation on top of that. And then you have the delivery situation."

Alfano's pays its delivery drivers an hourly wage along with 100 percent of the delivery charge and their tips, but high gas costs add up on a night of deliveries. Alfano saidhe's noticed delivery customers being more generous with tipping recently due to gas prices being high, but he anticipates that may change due to the fact that he expects gas prices to remain high at least through the summer, if not longer.

"It's harder to find delivery drivers right now," Alfano said. "Because folks know the expense of delivery. You have the upkeep on your car, which has gone up too like gas and oil. Let's say before they may have put in \$20-25 a night in gas, now it's going to be \$50 a night. On a Friday night, I guarantee you my drivers will use at least \$50 in gas each."

Alfano said he believes delivery numbers have remained "about the same" since fuel prices spiked. But, since opening up after the COVID-19 shutdown, to-go orders increased and he's seen them increase even more recently.

"You will see more where people will pick up their food," Alfano said. "Because when they get that delivery, they know there's going to be a delivery charge and gas is high and they're more likely to tip more. I've noticed pickups have gone up."

Since the fuel price increase, Alfano's has noticed that it sees less of its out-of-town customers from surrounding cities like DeKalb, Dixon and Genoa.

To be successful while

dealing with high fuel prices and other input costs, businesses must "think outside the box" and stay within their margins, Alfano said. He's been in the restaurant business for 45 years, and he can't recall a more difficult time in the industry than today. "Not even during

"Not even during COVID-19, which was extremely difficult," Alfano said. "But that was a walk in the park compared to this."

While the easiest solution to higher expenses may be to raise prices, Alfano said that could result in businesses pricing themselves out of the market, because consumers are struggling too. He knows people have been going out to eat less now. He's seen pizza sales increase and pasta sales go down due to people trying to feed their families more efficiently.

"For less money, you can get a pizza and feed the whole family," Alfano said. "Folks are changing. But we'll make it. We'll get through it. I've traveled to different places and different countries. In the United States, we're far more lucky and blessed than most. We're going to be alright."

### Piloni earns high honors at UW-Stevens Point



STEVENS POINT, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point honored more than 2,130 undergraduate students for attaining high grade point averages during the spring semester of the 2021-2022 academic year, including Olivia Piloni of Rochelle, who received high honors.

Full-time undergraduates who earned grade points of 3.90 to 4.0 (4.0 equals straight A) are given the highest honors designation. High honor citations go to those with grade point averages from 3.75 to 3.89 and honor recognition is accorded to those with grade point averages from 3.50 to 3.74.

Personalized certificates of scholastic achievement are sent to those who earned highest honors distinction.

## Schabacker makes Iowa State University spring dean's list

AMES, Iowa — Approximately 9,500 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the spring semester 2022 dean's list, including Morgan Rae Schabacker of Rochelle (third year, agricultural business). Students named

to the dean's list must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.0 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credithours of graded course work.



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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1



01252021

#### NATIONAL MEDALIST

Rochelle freshman Roman Villalobos shined at the USAW 14U National Duals.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Football

# Hubs kick off skills camp Summer schedule includes lineman camp, sevens, padded camp and more

#### **BY RUSSELL HODGES** SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Hub football team kicked off its summer schedule earlier this month, with returning and incoming student-athletes taking the field for the team's annual skills camp and lineman camp. The Hub Power strength and conditioning program is also underway.

Skills camp began on Monday, June 6 and runs every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-10 a.m. for sophomores, juniors and seniors as well as 10-10:30 a.m. for incoming freshmen. Head varsity coach Kyle Kissack said the main focuses of the skills camp include fundamentals, offensive and defensive assignments and attention to the small details.

"We always start with the foundation and the small details that are really important," Kissack said. "Those details make a huge difference for us because we're usually in games against very talented teams and we've had opportunities



Rochelle head football coach Kyle Kissack (above) addresses players after the conclusion of skills camp Monday morning. The camp will run on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the month of June.

starting at the foundational level and focusing on what will make us successful during the fall."

Monday evening. The four-day camp will run Monday through Thursday from 4:30-5:45 p.m. The one-week lineman While many of the athletes

ning backs and wide receivers, the lineman camp allows both offensive and defensive linemen to get more work in the trenches.

positions, but we have to address our offensive and defensive line as well," Kissack said. "Those kids will come in and they'll "We have the skills start at the foundational juniors and seniors started clude quarterbacks, run- camp for all of our skill level as well. We're mak-

ing sure that every detail is coached this summer. They'll have their pads on and they'll be getting physical."

to be successful because of the small details. We're

camp for sophomores, attending skills camp in-

See HUBS page 3

### **RTHS Wrestling Morris medals at USAW 16U National Duals** Sophomore standout leads Illinois to top-6 finishes in freestyle, greco events

#### **BY RUSSELL HODGES**

SPORTS EDITOR

LOVES PARK-Rochelle sophomore Kaiden Morris is motivated to qualify for the IHSA State Championships when his next wrestling season begins later this year. If his recent success is any indication, Morris has already taken a significant stride forward from his freshman year.

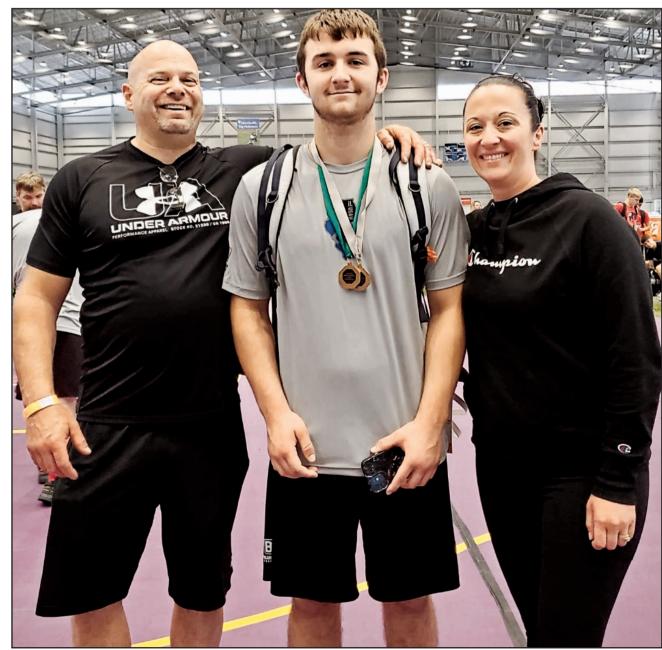
Morris was selected to wrestle for the Illinois 16U team at the 2022 USAW 16U Freestyle & Greco-Roman National Championships, which were held in Loves Park over the weekend. The 220-pound sophomore went 5-5 with four technical falls and one pin over 10 combined freestyle and greco-roman matches. Morris helped lead Illinois to a fifth-place national finish in the freestyle tournament and a sixthplace national finish in the greco-roman tournament.

"It was a great opportunity to wrestle against the best kids from other states," Morris said. "Learning freestyle and greco-roman wrestling was definitely a new experience for me, but coach [Alphonso] Vruno

and coach [Nelson] Baker have been really helpful and I've learned a lot from them. The rules are a lot different from folkstyle wrestling, but some of the skills are the same. I think this experience will help me tremendously when the high school season starts.'

Already an Interstate 8 Conference and IWCOA Fresh-Soph State Championship winner in his young wrestling career, Morris finished second and first at the USAW Illinois Freestyle & Greco-Roman State Championships back in April. The talented sophomore then secured first and thirdplace finishes at the 2022 USAW Northern Plains Regionals in Wisconsin last month.

"I feel like my strength and conditioning has improved a lot from freestyle and greco-roman wrestling," Morris said. "That improvement will definitely help me for football. I think freestyle and greco-roman wrestling has also pushed me to work harder and have a tougher mindset mentally. The national meet was nerve-racking, but it was an awesome experience overall."



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES) Rochelle sophomore Kaiden Morris earned two medals during the 2022 USAW 16U Freestyle & Greco-Roman National Duals over the weekend. Morris led the Illinois team to two top-6 national finishes.



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# WE SUPPORT OUR HUBS!

# **HUB SPOTLIGHT** Villalobos shines at USA Wrestling 14U National Duals

BY RUSSELL HODGES SPORTS EDITOR

OCKING hands and having more freedom on the mat are some of what Rochelle freshman Roman Villalobos enjoys most about freestyle and greco-roman wrestling. Villalobos earned the opportunity to test his skills against some of the elite athletes in the United States over the weekend, when Villalobos suited up for the Illinois 14U team during the 2022 USAW 14U Freestyle & Greco-Roman National Championships at Warren Central High School.

Villalobos alternated between the 165-pound and 187-pound weight classes for Illinois, finishing with a 6-4 overall record over 10 freestyle and greco-roman matches. The talented freshman helped lead the state to a third-place national finish in the greco-roman tournament and a fourth-place national finish in the freestyle tournament. Illinois went 12-4 over 16 total duals.

"It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed representing my city and the state," Villalobos said. "It was a really cool experience and it was a huge confidence booster for me. I felt like this was the first step toward a lot of things that are coming up for me during the high school season. My goals for the upcoming season are to win a lot of matches and to qualify for state in Champaign."

The national tournaments capped off a highly successful eighth-grade year for Villalobos, who took third in 164 Senior Division at the IKWF State Championships in March. Villalobos then won both the 14U 165 USAW Illinois Freestyle and Greco-Roman State Championship titles before finishing first and second at the











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2022 USAW Northern Plains Regionals in Wisconsin.

"The shots, movements and stances in freestyle and greco-roman wrestling are a lot different than folkstyle wrestling," Villalobos said. "I've been wrestling for about nine years and what I enjoy most about the sport is being able to compete against whoever's in front of me. The national meet made me feel very accomplished and it made me feel like more of a leader."



(COURTESY PHOTO) Rochelle freshman Roman Villalobos brought home two medals from the 2022 USAW 14U Freestyle & Greco-Roman National Duals.

"It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed representing my city and the state. It was a really cool experience and it was a huge confidence booster for me. I felt like this was the first step toward a lot of things that are coming up for me during the high school season."

**Roman Villalobos** 



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GO HUBS

# **SPORTS HUBS:** Football players return for summer skills camp

"These camps provide our kids the opportunity to put themselves at the top of the depth chart right now, but they have to be consistent."

The skills camp and lineman camp kick off a busy summer schedule, which includes multiple 7-on-7s with schools like Ashton-Franklin Center, Kaneland, Sterling and Byron. Rochelle will also hold a combined team camp with Forreston on Wednesday, July 20 as well as its annual Lift-A-Thon at RTHS in late July. The two-week padded camp for high-schoolers, which runs from July 18-28 later this summer, will run every Monday through Thursday from 8-10:30 a.m.

"We have over 70 athletes in the weight room during the morning and that's only the sophomores, juniors and seniors," Kissack said. "I'm impressed with the retention rate of our program and our numbers have been consistent since the summer started. We have a number of competitions happening this summer, which will breed some competitiveness that some of these kids haven't been able to show before. That's exciting to think about as a coach."



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

K Sophomore Brandyn Metzger (middle) takes the ball from senior David Gerber (right) during the Rochelle Hub football team's skills camp Monday morning. Rochelle will kick off the 2022 season with a home game against Woodstock on Friday, Aug. 26 at 7 p.m.

#### Kishwaukee College RTHS alums earn NJCAA, Arrowhead Conference honors

MALTA—Kishwaukee College saw 33 student-athletes nominated for the Arrowhead Conference Bob BoppAcademic Excellence Team during the 2021-2022 season. The award is named to honor Bob Bopp, a major supporter of the Arrowhead Athletic Conference and its athletes. The recognition is given to student-athletes who complete at least 12 credits per semester while achieving a 3.00 or higher Men's Baseball — Tyler Jacobsen, Algonquin; Declan McGrath, St. Charles; Blake Novinsky, Sycamore; Ryan Pitzer, Dixon; Tyler Potter, McHenry; Nate Stear, Mapleton

Men's Basketball — Austin Brown, Rochelle; Sean Etzkorn, Lisle; Avery Medina, DeKalb

Women's Basketball — Bridget Babb, Genoa; Megan Buttens, Mount Morris; Latonia Lacy, Freeport Rochelle; Aaron Olson, DeKalb; Daniel Thirtle, Sycamore

Women'sGolf—Megan Buttens, Mount Morris; Amber Fellows, Genoa; Kylee Heck, Kirkland

Men's Soccer — Louis Avendano, Davis Junction; Alex Chavez, DeKalb; Andrew Prescod, Orlando, Fla.; Griffey Rodriguez, Dixon; Francis Zaylik, DeKalb

Women's Soccer — Megan Buttens, Mount Morris; Guadalupe Carrillo, DeKalb; Valeria Gonzalez, Aurora; Oleksandra Kruger, Genoa; Leslie Munoz, Sycamore; Skyler Stanis, Genoa

Women's Softball — Kendal Ansteth, Rochelle; Carli Klein, Warrensburg; Katie Taylor, DeKalb; Reese Ward, Sycamore.

#### NJCAA

In addition, 10 studentathletes also received National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-Academic nominations. Student-athletes with a 4.00 GPA earned NJCAA All-Academic First Team. Student-athletes with a 3.80-3.99 GPA earned NJ-CAA All-Academic Sec-

ond Team. And studentathletes with a 3.60-3.79 GPA earned NJCAA All-Academic Third Team. The following student-athletes were nominated:

First Team — Sean Etzkorn, Lisle; John Knapp, Rochelle; Riley Runowiecki, Sycamore; Francis Zaylik, DeKalb

Second Team — Zachary Anderson, Shabbona; Valeria Gonzalez, Aurora; Amber Fellows, Genoa;

year was another fine year in competition, but we are even more proud of the number of student-athletes that achieved academic recognition," said Scott Kawall, director of student involvement, athletic director. "Their collective efforts both inside and outside the classroom are extraordinary, including extra studying and tutoring, practices, traveling to games, or working part-time jobs. All 33 student-athletes showed dedication to be successful while being role models to the College and community."

cumulative GPA for the academic year.

The following Kishwaukee student-athletes were nominated: Men's Bowling—Zachary Anderson, Shabbona; Aaron Olson, DeKalb; Riley Runowiecki, Sycamore Esports — John Knapp, Blake Novinsky, Sycamore

Third Team — Bridget Babb, Genoa; Guadalupe Carrillo, DeKalb

"The 2021-2022 athletic comm





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> No one wants to have to make an insurance claim, but it's painless when your agent is your neighbor.

You don't have to convince them that there was a hail storm, or that the wind nearly took your roof off. They know because they live here. Which do you want when you've had a bad day: A face-to-face meeting with your local agent, or a machine answering the phone at that big national insurer that advertises on TV?



Time is money. It's simple math (especially when you figure in gas mileage.) Shopping locally can actually both time and

save you both time and money!

computers and electronics sometimes have glitches. Would you rather box yours up, send it to who knows where, and wait six to eight weeks, or just go back to thenice guy that helped you when you bought it?

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# **SPORTS**

### **NIU Football** Huskie season opener rescheduled to Sept. 1

**DEKALB** — The defending Mid-American Conference Champion Northern Illinois University Huskies will get a jump on the 2022 football season by moving the season opener versus Eastern Illinois up two days, to Thursday, Sept. 1. The revised date was announced along with kickoff times and television information for six different games on the 2022 schedule.

The Huskies and Panthers will kick off the 2022 season at Huskie Stadium in just 98 days with kick off set for Thursday, Sept.

1 at 7 p.m. on ESPN+. The game will mark the 39th meeting between the teams in a series that dates back Season to 1902. NIU also learned Thursday that its game at Tulsa on Saturday, Sept. 10 will kick off at 6 p.m. (CT) on ESPN+.

"We're excited to start the season with a

Thursday night game at Huskie Stadium," said NIU head coach Thomas Hammock. "This gives us the opportunity to start camp earlier, get to work and get our team ready to play Eastern Illinois. We want to start fast and get the season underway as soon as we can to continue to build on the momentum of last year. Playing on Thursday night to kick off the Labor Day Weekend will be an awesome opportunity for the students, faculty and staff as well as the community to come out, provide a great atmosphere for our team and help get the season off to a great start."

Kickoff times for NIU's home games versus Vanderbilt (Sept. 17) and Toledo (Oct. 8) have been set for 2:30 p.m. The game with the Commodores marks just the second visit for a Southeastern Conference opponent to Huskie Stadium; that game will air

on CBS Sports "We're Network. NIU plays host to Toexcited to ledo in the 115th Homecoming start the game with the network to be announced 12 with a days in advance. The Hus-Thursday kies' Novemnight game ber MACtion games will once at Huskie again see NIU football in the Stadium." national spot-Thomas light. The NIU-

> Hammock Central Michigan game on Wednesday, November 2 will kick off at 6 p.m. and air on ESPN2 or ESPNU. One week later, the Huskies' game at Western Michigan (Nov. 9) is set for a 6 p.m. (CT) kickoff on ESPN2, ESPNU or CBS Sports Network. Finally, the Huskies' Mallory Cup game versus Miami on Wednesday, November 16 will start at



either 6 or 7 pm and air on ESPN2 or ESPNU.

The MAC and ESPN also announced that the 2022 MAC Championship game at Ford Field in Detroit will kick off at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec.3 and will be broadcast on ESPN.

NIU returns 18 starters and 54 letterwinners from the 2021 team that posted a 9-5 record and won the program's sixth MAC Championship. Season tickets for the Huskies' six home games are on sale now and offer the best value, with prices as low as \$15 per ticket with the Huskie Plan (a minimum of four season tickets in section A, G for \$88 each). A reserved seat season ticket in sections C, D or E (between the 35s) is just \$162 for a great seat to all six games.

Discounts on West Side reserved tickets are available for seniors (62+), Varsity Club and/or NIU Alumni Association members, Young Alumni (graduated in last five years) and DeKalb County residents, as well as NIU faculty and staff. To purchase season tickets anytime, go to NI-UHuskies.com/tickets or call815-753-PACK(7225) Monday through Friday.



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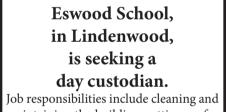








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#### **Real Estate & Personal Property** AUCTION

Having made her home in a retirement center, we will offer at Public Auction the following described Real Estate and Personal Property at Public Auction. This auction will be held on site at 628 N 10th St., Rochelle IL. 61068 On Auction Day watch for Bearrows Real Estate & Auction signs at the corner of 7th Ave. & 9th Street in Rochelle IL: Contact Auctioneer John Bearrows at 815-739-9150 for a private viewing or visit our web site at www.bearrows.com for further information & pictures

#### Saturday July 23rd, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Auctioneers Note: Bill & Carole spent decades collecting glassware and Antiques of all types. Therefore, the following list is extremely condensed. There will be antiques, furniture, and other items for everyone. This auction also features a a super clean, well-cared for home. Real Estate will be offered at 10AM followed by the personal property. Plan now to attend.

DESCRIPTION OF REAL ESTATE: This is a well-cared for, 1526 sq ft 3-bedroom home in a very well-established quiet neighborhood. It features 2 bedrooms on the first floor, Full bath, living room with masonry fireplace, formal dining room & updated kitchen. (First floor features 9ft ceilings) Upstairs has the large 3rd bedroom. The full partially finished basement also features a family room, and laundry hookups The home has natural gas FA furnace and central air, updated vinyl windows and vinyl siding. It also has a 40-gal gas water heater, and the house roof has been updated as well as the electric panel. There is also a 2-car detached garage (with new overhead doors) included, and all sitting on a large 66x123' corner lot. Amazing natural Oak woodwork and hardwood floors; This home is a must see!

REAL ESTATE TERMS: \$5,000.00 down the day of the auction, with the balance due on or before August 31st, 2022, at which time full possession will be given. Selle to provide a stamped deed as well as a merchantable Title Policy in the amoun of the purchase price. This property is being conveyed in its "As-Is" condition without any contingencies with regard to financing and/or the sale of another piece of property. All announcements made the day of auction take precedence over all prior advertising

(Full listing of personal property to follow in future papers or available at www.bearrows.com)

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# FATHER'S DAY Father's Day gift ideas for all types of dads

**THIS** Father's Day, families L will gather to thank dads for all they do. Gifts often are part of Father's Day celebrations, and here's a list of gift ideas for dads with various interests.

#### Gaming Dad

The draw of popular video games doesn't abate for some men as they get older. If your dad is at home with game controller in hand, then gifts that feed his hobby can be ideal.

Virtual reality has made great strides. Devices that enable VR game play and other entertainment may appeal to Dad. There are a few options on the market, like the Oculus, Pico Neo, HTC Vive, and Valve Index.

Another option is to gift the Nintendo Switch Console, which enables your dad to play at home connected to the television or on the go with the handheld controller and screen combination so he never misses a chance to engage in game play.

#### **Sports Dad**

Tap into your father's love of sports with gifts tailored to his passion. Baseball and soccer are played during warm months, so tickets to a game is something dads and their children can do together. You also can cheer his team on in front of a new big-screen television he gets for being such a great dad.

#### Outdoorsman

If your dad is most at home with a fishing pole and tackle box, kayaking a nearby body of water, or hiding in a tree stand during hunting season, then gifts that cater to his love of the great outdoors are perfect. Insulated thermoses, waterproof bags for storing phones or wallets, multitools, backpacks, and hiking boots make great gifts.

#### Tech Dad

Does the idea of the latest "smart" offering get your father all revved up? Then purchase gifts that cater to his love of

gadgets. Maybe he can use a new tablet or laptop that bridges the gap between home and office. Could it be time to upgrade his smartphone? A doorbell camera or home security kit can help Dad keep an eye on the comings and goings around the house when he's away. Or help him create surround lighting effects that can react to content on the screen or music being played with LED smart lighting strips.

#### **Practical Dad**

Some fathers don't want flashy gifts, instead preferring ones that can be used everyday. Think about a new paper shredder or identity block roller stamp to keep sensitive information safe. If Dad takes long road trips, then he might be able to use a car visor extender or a smartphone holder. Shelving, racks or storage straps for the garage also may put a smile on Dad's face.

This year, make Father's Day a smash hit with gifts that cater to Dad's interests.





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Holes \$16	
loles \$13	
With Cart	
Holes\$27	
loles\$21	

**GOLF COURSE** 

Rochelle, Illinois

533 S. 7th St., Rochelle

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<u>Weekends</u>
18 Holes \$18
9 Holes \$15
With Cart
18 Holes\$31
Holes \$23

Father's Day

Special!

Online Prepaid rate of

\$25 for 18 holes with

a cart!

Book on the website!

06132022



- Father's Day Sale 10% off all container trees & shrubs
- 40% off 4  $\frac{1}{2}$ " annuals & hanging baskets (while quantities last)
- Great selection of blooming hydrangeas & roses-perfect for gift giving
- Check out the new Perennial and Hosta varieties



Unique Trees, Shrubs, Perennials, Annuals, Mulch & More!

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ter is open, Tuesday-Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm. Sun. 12pm-5pm Online ordering available for pickup and delivery.