



ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

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KNOW IT TODAY



Kiwanis presents annual awards

The Kiwanis Club recently held its annual awards banquet.

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WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
79 55

THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
63 48

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
54 43

SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
64 41

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:

ROCHELLE
Community Unity member:
Shop • Play • Stay

318 4th Ave.
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OBITUARIES

• CALVIN JERRY MESSER

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INSERTS

- ALDI
- FARM & FLEET
- SUMMER SIZZLER

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Fostering small business growth

The Spark Shop opened in Rochelle this past fall

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE— Since the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, Rochelle Retail Advisory Board and the City of Rochelle opened The Spark Shop last October, things have been “going well” at the retail incubator for local small business owners, Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera said May 31.

The Spark Shop is housed in the historic filling station building downtown. It’s for businesses that are currently home-based but are looking to someday have their own brick and mortar location. About 10-12 vendors are in the space at a time selling merchandise on a quarterly basis. Vendors at The Spark Shop also have access to the Small Business Development Center at Kishwaukee and Waubesa Community Colleges that are aimed at helping small businesses.

“We have some new vendors coming in this quarter that starts June 1,” Herrera said. “We had some good turnout for holidays like Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day. The products in that store are very geared towards those types of holidays.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Since the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, Rochelle Retail Advisory Board and the City of Rochelle opened The Spark Shop last October, things have been “going well” at the retail incubator for local small business owners.

Easter too. The vendors are starting this week and we have three new ones coming in. They’ll be locked in for the popular fall/holiday season. Our vendors that are in there now have all chosen to return.”

Two businesses that have been through The Spark Shop are already starting to look at storefront spaces and are putting business plans together and meeting with the SBDC.

“All of the things that

program is designed to do,” Herrera said. “We didn’t expect people would be so far so early in the program. Because opening a business takes a lot of time and courage to go out on their own. In two of the businesses, we’re much further in the planning than we thought we would be at this point.”

Herrera said The Spark Shop project has been “great to work on” so far. It’s been a learning

experience due to it being unprecedented. For example, a point of sale system had to be worked out when being used for 10 vendors as opposed to just one. Signage had to be worked out due to not being able to place larger signs or attractions at the historic building. Vendors had to learn about paying for expenses like lawn care and snow removal.

See SHOP page 8



Hickory Grove proposals requested

ROCHELLE – The City of Rochelle is excited to accept proposals for the site of the former Hickory Grove building, a Thursday press release said.

The two-acre parcel is located near the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Illinois Route 38 in the heart of Rochelle and would make an ideal location for a new business endeavor, the release said.

“Our city council is looking forward to reviewing creative proposals for the best use of the site,” city manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said. “The space is full of potential and should make Rochelle residents proud.”

With traffic counts of over 18,000 per day on each respective highway, the Illinois Department of Transportation is currently in the design phase of improvements along Illinois Route 251 and at the Illinois Route 251 and Illinois Route 38 intersection.

See CITY page 8

RACF announces \$85,000 to support nonprofits

Exec. Director Anaya: ‘Every single donor dollar remains local’

ROCHELLE – The Rochelle Area Community Foundation proudly announces the 2022 Community Needs Grant recipients totaling \$85,000 in local support. Kathy Hollonbeck, chair of the Grants Committee and RACF Board Member, wishes to “congratulate all of the grant recipients this year. Rochelle, and the surrounding areas, are full of many programs that offer unique support to those who truly need it. We are so proud to give grants to these worthy recipients.”

The RACF Community Needs Grants opens every year on Feb. 1 through March 1. RACF serves the communities of Chana, Creston, Esmond, Kings, Lindenwood, Rochelle and Steward. Organizations eligible to apply for grants are nonprofit organizations with valid 501(c)(3) designation. Units of government including but not limited to public libraries, schools and municipalities. Organizations may apply

yearly for funding. The grant amount given out each year depends on endowment growth and yearly distributions from investments.

“To be able to fulfill the need of 26 community nonprofit partners can only be accomplished through the generosity of our donors,” Emily Anaya, RACF executive director, said. “Every single donor dollar remains local and in support of our community’s essential needs. More importantly, every donation significantly impacts funding availability each year. We truly couldn’t grant out these funds if we didn’t have generous community partners, committed businesses and philanthropist through donor-advised funding.”

The following is a listing of the 2022 Community Needs Grant recipients:

Camp Cedar Illinois Inc. Weekend Camp Cedar Program- \$5,000.

See RACF page 5



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Area Community Foundation proudly announces the 2022 Community Needs Grant recipients totaling \$85,000 in local support.

Community SHRED DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

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Stillman BANK
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Stillman Bank, Stillman Valley
8:00am - 10:00am

Stillman Bank, Byron
10:15am - 12:00pm

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Community President
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David Eckhardt
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LOCAL NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Kiwanis Club holds annual awards banquet

Last Thursday, the Kiwanis club held its annual award banquet. It was a great success and a wonderful time showing our appreciation to the members who do so much to help the kids of our community. Will McLachlan received the Zellar award. Ken Esgar was awarded the Hixon Fellowship Award and Jody Taylor was awarded the Kiwanian of the Year. Congratulations to all, especially Jody on a well-deserved award. Thank you for all that you do. Pictured are: McLachlan, Taylor, Ken Esgar, and Ric Taylor (president).

Rockford Road Runners scholarship open

ROCKFORD — Rockford Road Runners (RRR) is now accepting applications for its Founders scholarship.

The scholarship is for area high school students who participate in a running program either in their school or in their community. It was established in 2018 as part of the club's 50th anniversary celebration. The Rockford Road Runners Founders Scholarship commemo-

rates the club founders and those following in their footsteps who share their passion and vision for a healthy and active lifestyle through the sport of running.

The \$1,000 scholarship is available to a graduating senior who is committed to attending college/ accredited trade school and has been active in a running program. Applicants must be residents of Winnebago, Boone, Ogle

or Stephenson Counties, have a 3.0 or higher grade point average and have a history of community service or volunteer work. Those applying also must submit an essay and two recommendation letters. The application deadline is June 30, 2022.

RRR was organized Sept. 17, 1968 with the prime objective of promoting and encouraging running and walking and educating the public about

their health benefits. The club sponsors or conducts numerous races, educational activities and social events along with monthly newsletters, websites and recognition awards. Currently there are more than 500 individual members of the Rockford Road Runners.

For application forms and scholarship details www.rockfordroadrunners.org/rrr-founders-scholarship.html.

Area students awarded Focus House scholarships

ROCHELLE — The Foundation for Focus House and Community Programming is pleased to announce the four scholarships that were awarded on May 18.

The LaVerne & Margaret Franklin Adams Scholarship Fund was established in May of 2002 following Mr. Adam's death. A longtime resident of Ogle County, Mr. Adams sat on the Ogle County Board from 1972 until 2002. At the time Focus House was established in 1975, Mr. Adams was appointed and served as the chairperson of the county committee that oversaw the operation of the program. Mrs. Franklin Adams was also very dedicated to our community and the youth at Focus House. Their family added to the scholarship in LaVerne's name when Margaret passed away in 2020, to honor the bequest she left. They both had a great commitment to the youth of Ogle County and the Focus House program. The recipient of the LaVerne & Margaret Franklin Adams Scholarship is Clare Montavon, Stillman Valley High School, Class of 2022.

Judge F. Lawrence Lenz Scholarship Fund was established in April

2003 by his family following his death. As an Ogle County Circuit Judge, Judge Lenz was elected to be the juvenile court judge. In this capacity he was one of the instrumental supporters of the opening of Focus House in 1975. From the bench he believed in the value of having community-based programs and was an advocate of Focus House until his death. The recipient of the Judge F. Lawrence Lenz Scholarship is Addyson Myers, Byron High School, Class of 2022.

The Foundation for Focus House and Community Programming, established in 2005, exists to receive and administer contributions, gifts, memorials, and bequests for the exclusive purpose of enhancing programming for the youth receiving services at Focus House and offering community programs that enhance, enrich, and supplement individuals involved in court services. The recipients of the two Foundation for Focus House and Community Programming Scholarships are Jordin Dickey, Rochelle Township High School, Class of 2022 and Natalie Roesslein, Oregon High School, Class of 2022.

Mount Morris summer concert schedule finalized

MT. MORRIS — Summer's finally here and, with any luck, the COVID-19 scare should be fading into the past. This signals the time for celebration with free concerts on the campus in the center of Mt. Morris.

Marking our 10th year of doing just that, the Mt. Morris Jamboree aims to please with a full schedule of 12 free shows on Friday nights including food concessions provided by local charitable organizations and food trucks. All concerts begin at 7 p.m. with food being served from 6 p.m. until midway through the show. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on our beautiful and historic village square for a night of family friendly entertainment.

Here's your list of fantastic performers for 2022:

June 10: The Neverly Brothers - Elvis through the Beatles. June 17: Generation - classic rock and soul. June 24: Grass Attack - bluegrass. July 1: The Sting Rays - oldies/ classic rock. July 8: SHiN-DiG! - oldies R&R. July 15: Fortunate Sons - Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute. July 22: Jonny Lyons and the Pride - classic rock. July 29: The Harman - bluegrass. Aug. 5: The Jimmys - blues, funk, soul and R&B. Aug. 12: Howard and the White Boys - blues. Aug. 19: Dirty Fishnet Stockings - rockabilly. Aug. 26: - Chicago Tribute Anthology - music from the band Chicago and more.

Neverly Brothers

The Neverly Brothers will be making their debut

in the Mt. Morris downtown band shell with a free concert on Friday, June 10 from 7-9 p.m. Their show is billed as a rock 'n' roll tribute from Elvis to the Beatles, presenting a tribute to one of the most exciting chapters in music history: the birth, near-death and resurrection of rock and roll. Their one-of-a-kind high energy stage performances take you on a musical guided tour of rock history from 1955-1965.

The first half of their concert pays tribute to the music created by the 1950's pioneers of American rock and roll, which by 1960 had become a distant memory, but became the inspiration for the next wave of young rock bands from Britain. The second half then pays tribute to the 1964 British Invasion bands that re-recorded the forgotten 1950's American rock music and lesser known early 1960's rhythm and blues songs, recorded their own originals and pulled R&R from the edge of extinction by re-inventing and re-energizing it for a new generation. You'll learn rock history and be thoroughly entertained by their exciting show.

Concessions will be served by the Let Freedom Ring committee, providing sloppy joes, chips and drinks starting at 6 p.m. So please plan to join us and bring a chair or enjoy our benches on our beautiful and historic campus for a family friendly night of entertainment. In the event of rain, the whole event moves to Pinecrest Grove Community Center at 500 Evergreen Lane at the same times.

Rochelle Community Hospital

SPORTS PHYSICALS

JUNE 30, 2022 • 4-7 PM

At the Family Healthcare Clinic
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Those seeking College sports physicals need to schedule an appointment with their primary care provider.

Parent attendance required for consent and medical history.

All proceeds will be donated back to the schools/organizations represented.

Family Healthcare Clinic
a department of
Rochelle Community Hospital

LOCAL NEWS



A Rochelle man was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital and treated for injuries after a Friday afternoon vehicle accident near South Mill Pond Road in Flagg Center, an Ogle County Sheriff's press release said.

Rochelle man transported to RCH after Friday crash

ROCHELLE — A Rochelle man was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital and treated for injuries after a Friday afternoon vehi-

cle accident near South Mill Pond Road in Flagg Center, an Ogle County Sheriff's press release said.

On June 3 at approxi-

mately 2:50 p.m. deputies along with the Rochelle Fire Department and Flagg Center Fire Department responded to a single-vehicle crash in the



(PHOTOS BY MIKE FELTES)

5,000 block of South Mill Pond Road. After conducting an investigation, it was discovered Erik Gilbert, 51, of Rochelle, was traveling westbound

on Flagg Road when he experienced a medical emergency causing him to leave the roadway.

Gilbert traveled several hundred feet before

striking a tree and coming to rest. Gilbert was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital where he was then treated for his injuries.

(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rotary's Afternoon at Atwood event scheduled for Saturday

ROCHELLE — An Afternoon at Atwood, an event presented by the Rochelle Rotary Club, will take place from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Atwood Park on Saturday, June 11.

The event will include live music, 60+ craft and artisan vendors, a car show, food trucks, kids'

games and a beer garden. Live music will include Truman's Ridge at 1 p.m., SoapStone at 3:30 p.m. and Buzzed by Sonnet at 6:30 p.m.

Food trucks will include Hicks BBQ, the Kiwanis Club, Tacos Al Pastor #1 and El Senor De Los Tacos.

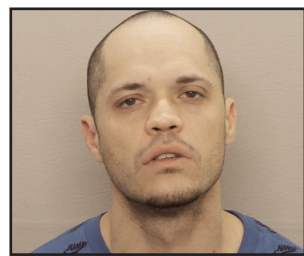
All makes and models are welcome in the car show from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and same-day registration costs \$10 and can be done at the intersection of 20th Street and 10th Avenue. There will be door prizes, trophies and entertainment by 3-D Sound Company.

Rochelle man wanted on outstanding county warrants

OGLE COUNTY — Ryan Fenton, 35, of Rochelle is wanted on two outstanding Ogle County warrants, an Ogle County Sheriff's Office Facebook post said Wednesday.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for

information leading to an arrest. Anyone with information regarding Fenton's whereabouts is encouraged to call the Ogle County Sheriff's Office at 815-732-2136 or Ogle/Lee Crime Stoppers at 1-888-228-4488.



Ryan Fenton



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad has notified the City of Rochelle of rail crossing work beginning June 7 in the early morning hours.

BNSF Railway work underway

ROCHELLE — Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad has notified the City of Rochelle of rail crossing work beginning June 7 in the early morning hours.

Work will begin at Steam Plant Road, moving west to Oregon, closing one crossing at a time. The crew will then come

back through a second time moving west to east to complete the project. This project does not include the Washington Street and Route 38 crossings.

Advance warning, detour and other temporary traffic control devices will be posted near the affected area. Please use

caution while traveling in this area and pay special attention to the advanced warning signage, road closed signage and other temporary traffic control devices within or in advance of the work zone.

The City of Rochelle said it appreciates the community's patience during the project.

Ramaker earns bachelor's degree from University of Minnesota Crookston

CROOKSTON, Minn. — The Office of the Registrar at the University of Minnesota Crookston recently an-

nounced its list of spring 2022 graduates. Students completed their degree requirements during the spring semester 2022.

Spring semester graduates included Joann Ramaker of Rochelle, who earned a bachelor's degree in applied studies.



Kish donor, scholarship recipient build connection

Peter Rood and Anthony Patino, past recipient of the Kishwaukee College Foundation Mathew J. Rood Diesel Power Technology Scholarship, pose for a photo following a breakfast earlier this month. Peter Rood, the father of former Kish graduate Mathew Rood, established the scholarship in memory of his son to benefit Kish Diesel Power Technology students. Patino was the first recipient of the scholarship and is currently working to complete the DPT program. He is an active service member in the United States Army Reserves and is pursuing his education in diesel power technology to help advance both his military and civilian careers.

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Heb. 13:8



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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Calvin Jerry Messer

ASHTON — Calvin Jerry Messer, 15, of Ashton was unexpectedly taken from us on June 2. Calvin was born Aug. 25, 2006 in Dixon to Stacey (Kelley) and Michael Messer. Our Calvin had a zest for life! From the moment Calvin was born, we knew he was destined for great things and definitely did not disappoint. Calvin loved all things outdoors, but had a special passion for football, basketball and baseball. He was not only passionate about playing sports, but also an avid sports card collector. Calvin loved to sing; anything from oldies, country, rap, he loved music. He excelled at school, had a contagious smile and always put his friends first! He loved his older brothers and sister; and adored Lane, his best friend and younger brother. Calvin

was an active member of the Ashton United Methodist Church. He was always willing to help at church and do whatever he was called to do! When something needed to be done, Calvin was there. He was so full of life and exuded love for it. He made everyone around him feel important. He especially took pride in being part of his nieces' and nephews' lives. His loving family that misses him dearly include his parents Mike and Stacey Messer, brother Lane at home, brother Ryan (Melissa) Messer of Ashton; brother Zach Messer of Clearwater, Florida; sister Brooke (Jeff) Monson of Byron; Grandparents Russell and Pam Kelley, Lynn Messer. Great grandparents Jean (Paul) Vest and Jimmie Jordan. Special nieces and nephews Parker, Rhett,



Landric, Josie, Nolan and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Calvin was preceded in death by his grandfather Jerry Messer. Visitation will be at the AFC High School from 2-8 p.m. on June 7. Funeral services will be held on June 8 at 10 a.m. at the Ashton United Methodist Church with Pastor Jan Shaulis officiating. Burial will follow at the Ashton Cemetery. A memorial fund is to be established in Calvin's name. Visit www.ungerhorn-er.com for online video tribute and to sign the online guest book.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle Police Department Sgt. Gilliam graduates
The Rochelle Police Department recently congratulated Sgt. Jim Gilliam on graduating Northwestern's School of Police Staff and Command on May 20. Gilliam started working for the department in 2005 and was later promoted to sergeant this year. An RPD Facebook post thanked Gilliam for his hard work and dedication to the department.

Rochelle Police Department

Two arrests made on outstanding warrants

ROCHELLE — On June 3 at 6:06 p.m. a 14-year-old male of Machesney Park was arrested for retail theft and released on an I-Bond with no court date listed. On June 3 at 10:42 p.m. Joshua R. Seaton, 27, of Rochelle was arrested

for domestic battery and transferred. On June 4 at 12:16 a.m. Scott F. Cook, 36, of Rochelle was arrested on two outstanding Ogle County warrants and transferred. On June 4 at 6:15 p.m. James E. Daley, 47, of Rochelle was arrested

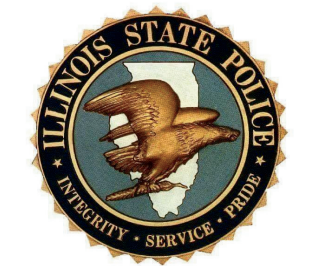
for domestic battery and transferred. On June 5 at 1:58 p.m. Apolo Gatica Ramos, 31, of Carpentersville was arrested on an outstanding Kane County warrant. He paid \$1,000 and was released with a July 14 Kane County court date.

Illinois State Police

Woman transported to county jail

OGLE COUNTY — Sonia Sanchez, 27, of Wheaton, was stopped for speeding on May 28 at 1:07 p.m. on Interstate 39 northbound at milepost 106 in Ogle County and was wanted on an

Ogle County warrant and Boone County warrant for failure to appear. Sanchez was also charged with driving while license suspended and speeding. Sanchez was transported to the Ogle County Jail.



Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Deputies investigate disturbance at Pilot gas station

OREGON — On June 1 at approximately 3:45 a.m. deputies responded to the Pilot gas station in Rochelle to investigate a disturbance that occurred in a vehicle on Interstate 39. After investigation, Lessi Stewart-Strahm, 23, of New Glarus, Wisconsin, was arrested for aggravated unlawful use of a firearm. Stewart-Strahm was transported to the Ogle County

Jail where she was held in lieu of bond. Additionally, Nanyamka James, 27, of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, was arrested for driving while license suspended and released by I-bond with a return court date. All subjects are presumed innocent. On June 1 at approximately 9:50 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of East Illinois Route 38 and Quitno

Road. After investigation, deputies arrested Austin Cantrell, 25, of DeKalb, for possession of a controlled substance, resisting a peace officer and driving while license suspended. Cantrell was also issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and an equipment violation. Cantrell was subsequently transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond. All subjects are presumed innocent. On June 3 at approximately 10:52 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at

Illinois Route 38 and Mulford Road. After investigation, Amanda Graham, 30, of Rochelle, was arrested for no driver's license. Graham was released on an individual bond and given a return court date. All individuals are presumed innocent. On June 3 at 10:44 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 88 at mile marker 77. After a short investigation, deputies arrested Jean Resendez, 27, of Melrose Park, Illinois for no valid license, improper container/driver and a valid Will County

arrest warrant. Resendez was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond. All individuals are presumed innocent. On June 3 at approximately 4:50 a.m. deputies along with Stillman Valley Fire/EMS responded to Interstate 39 at mile marker 111 for a crash involving two commercial motor vehicles. After conducting an investigation, it was discovered that a 2016 Freightliner driven by Preston Fouke, 21, of Mendota struck the rear end of a 2007 Mack trailer causing both units to become stuck together. Fouke and his front seat passenger, Angelcelina Escatel, 17, of Mendota, were transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries. Maggio's was contacted to remove the vehicles and Fouke was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident with a return court date.

On June 6 at approximately 11:19 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,500 block of Lincoln Avenue in Rochelle. After investigation, deputies placed Aron Anderson, 28, of Rochelle under arrest for driving while license suspended. Anderson was additionally issued a citation for following too closely. Anderson was released on an I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date. All individuals are presumed innocent.

Click It or Ticket

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office recently announced it issued 285 citations during the recent Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket" enforcement period. "Through the Memorial Day enforcement campaign, we helped make Illinois roads safer and spread the word that seat belts and child safety restraints save lives," Sheriff Brian VanVickle said. While Illinois' 2021 seat belt compliance rate was 93.5%, unbelted occupants still account for over half of those killed in traffic crashes. The "Click It or Ticket" campaign aims to change the behavior of the millions of people who don't buckle up. Thousands of lives could be saved each year if every vehicle occupant was properly restrained when traveling. During the enforcement period, The Ogle County Sheriff's Office wrote seven citations for seat belt violations and took the following additional actions: two child car seat citations, seven DUI arrests, 27 arrests for no driver's license/suspended/revoked licenses, 24 uninsured motorists citations, 142 speeding citations, two felony drug arrests and two misdemeanor drug arrests.

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News-Leader

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Report policy

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

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

LOCAL NEWS

RACF: Foundation announces \$85,000 for local nonprofits

From page 1

Casa-15th Judicial Circuit (Ogle County) for New Laptops- \$1,458. Central School Project Get with the Times and CRICUT!- \$399. Central School Program Increasing Student Independence and Autonomy Through Organized Systems- \$151. Creston Booster Club Project Experience Our House- \$2,500. Creston Dement Public Library Project Easier Access Design for Children's Area- \$2,500. Flag Township Museum Project Come Down without Going Down- \$2,000. Foundation for Focus House and Community Programming Ogle County New Horizons Specialty Courts- \$3,000. Community Advancement Fund of RACF Grant recipient: Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County, Inc. Project Habitat-2022 Mission of Hope- \$6,000. Rochelle Foods Hunger Challenge Fund or RACF Grant recipient: Northern Illinois Food Bank Program Rochelle Mobile Market Distributions- \$7,500. Disaster Preparedness and Relief Fund or RACF Grant recipient: Rochelle Community Consolidated School District #231 Program Enhancing Social Emotional Learning in D231- \$2,161.

Tyler "Smitty" Smith Memorial Fund Grant recipient: Central School Project Sensory Room for Students with Special Needs- \$635. Jacobs Family Fund Grant Recipient: Com-

munity Action Network Program CAN Backpack Program- \$4,400. Jeffrey W. Cole Family Memorial Fund of the RACF Grant recipient: Flagg-Rochelle Public Library's Program Read Beyond the Beaten Path- \$1,782.

Human Services Fund of RACF Grant recipient: Floyd J. Tilton VFW Post 3878 Bathroom Project- \$3,000.

Berg-Burkholder Family Fund in collaborations with the RACF Endowment Fund Grant recipient: Foundation for Focus House and Community Programming Ogle County New Horizons Specialty Courts- \$3,000.

Community Advancement Fund of RACF Grant recipient: Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County, Inc. Project Habitat-2022 Mission of Hope- \$6,000.

Rochelle Foods Hunger Challenge Fund or RACF Grant recipient: Northern Illinois Food Bank Program Rochelle Mobile Market Distributions- \$7,500.

Disaster Preparedness and Relief Fund or RACF Grant recipient: Rochelle Community Consolidated School District #231 Program Enhancing Social Emotional Learning in D231- \$2,161.

Inspire Learning Fund of RACF Grant recipient: Rochelle Elementary School District #231 Project Classroom Library Overhaul- \$185. Tom Hall Community Giving Fund in collaboration with the RACF



(COURTESY PHOTO) The RACF Community Needs Grants opens every year on Feb. 1 through March 1. RACF serves the communities of Chana, Creston, Esmond, Kings, Lindenwood, Rochelle and Steward.

Classroom Support Fund Grant recipient: Rochelle Elementary School District #231 Project Classroom Library Overhaul- \$185. Tom Hall Community Giving Fund in collaboration with the RACF

Endowment Fund Grant recipient: Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center Program Child and Caregiver Mental Health Services- \$9,000.

Steve Pfeiffer Memorial Endowment Fund Grant recipient: Tilton Elementary School Project Building the Tilton School Spanish Library- \$3,000. If you would like to

make a donation, open an endowment or become a partner with the RACF, please contact Anaya at 815-561-3600 or visit our website at www.rochelle-foundaiton.org.

Ogle County ASA named to 2022 40 Under Forty list

OREGON – Allison Huntley, Assistant State's Attorney, Ogle County, was recently named one of the 2022 40 under Forty by the Rockford Chamber of Commerce.

Highlighting individuals who are compelling, interesting, and "doers," 40 under Forty honorees are people who have distinguished themselves in their professional field or organization, are engaged citizens, and provide leadership by volunteering their time and talents to community groups and causes.

40 under Forty began in 2008 and, including this year's class, has honored 240 leaders since then. This year's class is comprised of men and women representing a variety

of industries, including health care, government, nonprofits, finance, education and professional services. Honorees are leaders who impact their respective organizations and who positively affect their communities.

Huntley has been with the Ogle County State's Attorney's Office since December 2020, joining Mike Rock and his team on day one. She is responsible for domestic violence prosecutions in the office. She also serves on the Ogle County Strangulation Task Force, a group founded by the Ogle County State's Attorney's Office and HOPE of Ogle County. Away from work, she volunteers with several community organizations and enjoys

spending time with her husband Dan Huntley and her two sons.

"I'm honored to be part of this year's group of 40 under Forty," she

said. "Thank you to Mike Rock for supporting me. It is a privilege to serve the

citizens of Ogle County in the State's Attorney's Office."

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PET OF THE WEEK

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Stout

Check me out, I'm a certified good boy who wears sunglasses! Hello, Stout is my name and snuggles is my game. I'm a very playful, affectionate, and outgoing boy that'd be thrilled to join your family. I've hit a rough patch in my life where I'm now homeless and just searching for my furr-ever home. I enjoy going out on walks, running around in the fenced in yard, playing in water, playing with all sorts of different toys, and snuggling with my people after a very long day of being me. I adore every person I meet, even the youngsters! I'm even said to be good with other dogs! If you do have another dog in the home, my friends at Tails encourage meet-and-greets just to make sure we all get along! I'm working really hard on my housetraining, I promise you I'll be a very good listener and learn your routine in a jiffy! But hey, I am crate trained! I do need some training, but training will be fun as I'm very open-minded and very food motivated!

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

A momentous 2022 and volunteer work

WHAT a momentous year 2022 is shaping up to be. Our extraordinary team at Rochelle Municipal Utilities and BHMG Engineering worked with ComEd to complete our new 100 MWh substation by the self-imposed deadline of May 31.

The RMU water and water reclamation team has been working hard to complete and bring online the rehabilitated well four located at 2nd Avenue. Our staff in community development is overseeing the redevelopment of Hickory Grove and several projects in the downtown and southern corridors. The team in economic development continues working to help Zekelman Industries and many other industry partners with workforce development issues and probable future growth opportunities.

Finally, partnering with Northern Illinois University, our exceptional mayor and city council are leading our entire organization through a new strategic planning and goal setting process. It is such an exciting time to be your city manager.

All these wonderful projects coming to life continues to remind me how blessed and honored I am to serve the City of Rochelle. However, it is not always about the city as an organization.

After all, we only exist because of our residents and business owners. There are many amazing groups I have had the pleasure of volunteering for and working with the past few years. There are

too many to name and I do not want to leave anyone out.

However, what I will encourage everyone to do, if you feel a calling to it, is volunteer. Sure, the city as an organization can be successful, but as a community we cannot, without volunteers supporting all the local nonprofits and social service organizations that serve our community.

For the past several months a small group of volunteers planned and implemented the Cinco De Mayo event in early May. I attended the event and heard from numerous residents about their appreciation. I could not agree more, however that event would not have happened without the resolute volunteers who worked to see it happen.

In August, our community will once again host the Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival. Again, another community event completely started by and run by volunteers. I urge you to reach out to them to volunteer and give of your time.

Thank you to everyone who gives more than they receive and who works to make our community a better place. Blessings to you all.

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”- Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Volunteer! Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” -Arthur Ashe

Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, MPA, ICMA-CM is the city manager of the City of Rochelle.



Jeffrey Fiegenschuh

No longer a meat and potato society

TO satisfy a more sophisticated, educated and engaged customer, the food and beverage service industry is always on the lookout for the latest trends and most efficient ways to deliver those eats and drinks.

Operators representing fast food, casual dining, bakeries, institutional feeding, catering, liquor establishments and plain old street vendors came together May 21-24 at McCormick Place in Chicago for the 100th National Restaurant Association Show. More than 50,000 attendees from all over the world had the opportunity to view exhibits and educational forums, covering various food, beverage, equipment and technology innovations.

This is not the food and beverage industry of 10-20 years ago. With the advent of technology, changing consumer palates and food allergies, it’s not even the same business as two or three years ago. What, where and how we eat and drink is undergoing the biggest change ever, and owners and managers of food operations that do not keep up with the latest trends might find themselves at a financial disadvantage or go out of business.

What potential diners look for most in selecting restaurants are service, quality, value, favorite items, location and nutrition.

Today’s foodies have also made it known they want it made “fresh.” A growing segment has come to demand natural ingredients with local sourcing and environmental sustainability in the equation. Sure, some people still crave deep-fried foods or a big porterhouse, but there is a movement afoot to provide healthier options, with an added emphasis in school cafeterias.

In walking the aisles of McCormick Place, it’s apparent we’re not a meat-and-potato society anymore. Vegetable-based proteins, exotic fruit blends, allergy-free products, indigenous grains and anything low-fat were on display everywhere.

By now, everyone has heard of plant-based burgers, but did you know that fishless fish has also entered the market. With oceans being over-fished, a less-expensive, plant-based product has been developed.

Some people aren’t ready to commit to a strict vegetarian or vegan diet, so the term ‘flexitarian’ has been coined for anyone that eats both meat and plant-based foods.

With celiac disease and other allergy and health-related concerns on the rise, the food industry has changed its focus and is become more accommodating in its menu planning. No longer is gluten, dairy, soy or nut-free considered a nuisance to food operators, but an essential part of creating a secure and safe dining experience.

One hot trend at the NRA show was the incorporation of allergy-free

food products into the total dining experience. It’s not so much what you want on your pizza, but whether the crust is regular or gluten-free, such as made with cauliflower.

NRA research shows that today’s consumer is more adventuresome and willing to sample more exotic dishes. Television channels like Food Network and Travel Channel also contribute to a more engaged dining patron. The corny era of Julia Child (French Chef) and Graham Kerr (the Galloping Gourmet) on TV is so passé.

Among ethnic cuisines, Vietnamese, Peruvian, Korean, Ethiopian, Brazilian and Filipino (ever had purple yam ube pancakes?) are on the move. None are ready to supplant long-time faves Mexican, Italian or Chinese as the most popular among us, but they have begun to make inroads in our eating consciousness.

The American public hasn’t gone completely bonkers in abandoning old favorites, though. One of the original comfort foods – macaroni and cheese – is riding a wave of newfound popularity via a variety of menu reincarnations. And an NRA survey shows that BBQ, hamburger, pizza, French fries, ice cream and fried chicken remain perennial favorites.

High-priced steakhouses aren’t going away either. With the fascination with all things food, there is plenty of room at the table for the meat and potatoes crowd and the sprout eaters.

Anyone for drinks such as pistachio milk, hard seltzers, flavored sparkling waters or CBD-infused tea? Starbucks coming to Rochelle is an indication of the growing trend of the sophistication of non-alcoholic quaffs. A far cry from the days of coffee percolators and cream/sugar only.

Civic leaders in Rochelle are quite aggressive in promoting the Hub City to potential businesses and in Starbucks case, utilized a real estate development company.

That company, Location Finders International, laid the groundwork for the first drive-thru Starbucks in Illinois and also has close ties with Jimmy Johns, another chain that has made Rochelle one of its nearly 3,000 sites.

Getting a fast food chain to come a town is relatively easy. Landing a full-service chain, such as an Olive Garden or Texas Roadhouse is a different story.

Those operations will look to the Quad-cities or Rockford first, with a secondary market being the Sycamore/DeKalb corridor, Freeport or Sterling.

The location of Rochelle is widely acclaimed, but its population base puts it at a disadvantage to the bigger markets.

Having a busy Interstate 39

doesn’t help much either, as research has shown that those travelers want to grab eats and back on the road as soon as possible. Perfect for the Culvers and Taco Bell, not so much for sit-down meals.

Today’s food service operators face so many more challenges than their predecessors. There had always been a high turnover in labor, but the problem has been compounded with lack of workers and rising wage costs.

Starbucks at Rochelle was an exception, readily able to fill its positions. Being a hip national brand helps.

With so many fast-food establishments unable to staff in-house and depending on drive-thru, a heavy emphasis has been on carry-out or delivery meals.

It was a growing market prior to COVID-19, but really catapulted since then.

Fast food pioneer McDonalds did not have its first drive-thru until 1975, but they now account for 70 percent of its revenue.

Another burgeoning trend are non-traditional set ups for banquets, weddings receptions, meetings, etc. Several can be found throughout the area, be it a refurbished barn or a simple metal building.

With the ability to charge more for meals than what restaurants and the luxury of knowing how many guests to plan for, these places can be easier to manage than a seven-day a week operation that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

A significant change in food service on display at the NRA show was in technology. A vast area of the McCormick floor space was set aside for tech only, something unheard of years ago when restaurants were still using manual credit card machines.

An NRA survey found that a tablet or iPhone is used by 70 percent of adults when dining out, for things like a restaurant’s hours/location, making a reservation, menu, nutritional info reviews and paying the bill.

Understanding and engaging millennials can be critical to the bottom line, especially for the national chains.

The real bottom line, though, is delivering a quality product on a reliable basis. For example, the Beacon did that in Rochelle for decades without any need for technology or engaging its clientele.

People of all ages went there because Paul Stavrakas offered good food and service.

The National Restaurant Show had everything connected to the food business one could ever imagine, except for the one key component that makes it all work. And that is the owner/operator that is truly invested pouring his/her heart and soul into the business.

Andy Colbert is a certified executive chef with the American Culinary Society and has a degree in nutrition.

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

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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

RCH offering sports physicals at Family Healthcare Clinic

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital will be offering sports physicals on Thursday, June 30 from 4-7 p.m. at the Family Healthcare Clinic in the Health & Wellness Center south side of the hospital.

Any high school, middle school or Rochelle Junior Tackle athlete is invited. Masking is required along with screening. A parent is required to be present for consent. To schedule an appointment, call 815-562-2181 and dial "0".

Included with the sports physical is a free physical

therapy assessment offered by RCH Rehabilitation Services staff. XCEL Orthopedic Specialist Dr. Gadini Delisca will also be on hand to answer any questions.

The cost is \$35, cash or check only. No insurance will be accepted.

We'd like to remind parents that this physical does not meet the requirements for incoming sixth graders, freshman school physicals or college sports physicals.

All proceeds will be donated back to the school/organizations represented.

Wagner named distinguished scholar at Rockford University

ROCKFORD — Abigail Wagner, a resident of Rochelle, is announced as a spring 2022 distinguished scholar at Rockford University.

Full-time (12 or more credits) students who earned at least a 3.75 GPA with no grades below "C" and completed all requirements for the semester are named distinguished scholars.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 8
Scarlet Jones

June 9
Minnie Losoya
Sammy Navejas

June 10
Eleanor Kulwicki
Tanya Sage

June 11
Emmalyn Eggenburg
Caleb Smith

June 12
Robby Long

June 13
Chrissy Norris

Jaelyn Gonzales

June 14
Gabe Aleman

June 15
Brayden Moser

June 16
John & Carolyn Overstreet

June 17
Ellie Sherburne

June 19
Eddie Villalobos

June 22
Isaac Bonilla
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 9 (Thursday) - Roast Beef Manhattan - thick sliced roast beef, mashed potatoes, beef gravy on top, green beans

June 14 (Tuesday) - Lasagna Rolls, garlic bread, salad

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.

2022 From The Heart Calendar

May 14 - Romey Burgess, Steward, \$25

May 15 - Jennifer Brown, Rochelle, \$50

May 16 - Breynn Baiocco, Rochelle, \$25

May 17 - Annabelle Duffy, Rochelle, \$25

May 18 - Michelle Samano, Rochelle, \$25

May 19 - Jeffrey Leininger, Rochelle, \$25

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

Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Bridge

5 Dallas hoopster, briefly

8 Untalkative one

12 Architect Saarinen

13 Inseparable

14 Reply to "Shall we?"

15 Legal document

16 Sailor

17 Privy to

18 Debriefed person?

20 Crib cry

22 Enigma

26 Mudville slugger

29 "Certainly!"

30 Half of CIV

31 Exploits

32 Goof up

33 Fine spray

34 Pickle holder

35 "— was saying ..."

36 "Olympia" artist

37 Batting position

40 Scruff

41 Help

45 Eager

47 Energy

49 Yon folks

50 Anti-fur org.

51 Before

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
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45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

DOWN

1 Stitched

2 Andean land

3 Saharan

4 Observes

5 Slogan

6 Santa — winds

7 Dutch artist

8 Scale

9 "Chocolat" actress

10 From — Z

11 AOL rival

19 Devious

21 TV spots

23 Aleppo's land

24 French river

25 Chanteuse

26 Stephen King pooch

27 Now, in a memo

28 Peace

32 Emilio of "The Breakfast Club"

33 Address for Toscanini

35 Venomous viper

36 Roast VIPs

38 Tennis star Rafael

39 Identified

42 "If — a Hammer"

43 Big rig

44 Ilk

45 Suitable

46 Dog doc

48 Rage

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: T equals S

GVED TVCM RVCROFCWCM HAO
SESFLWCM ESRD VG VSHA-HSDOFT
WC HAOTO HWLOT: "YAOFO ASUO
SEE HAO UVOYFT MVCO?"

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

Answer

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

King Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

CryptoQuip

answer

Folk song concerning the

alarming lack of oath-takers

in these times: "Where Have

All the Vowes Gone?"

LOCAL NEWS

SHOP: Herrera discusses successes of The Spark Shop

From page 1

Vendors have had to learn how to make decisions about other things such as where and how to advertise their businesses. What's been a learning experience for all is exactly why The Spark Shop was formed.

"It's for the small businesses, and then it's going to enhance the community when those get bigger," Herrera said. "Several of our vendors have said, 'This is great for us. This is exactly what we needed to do. We just didn't know how to get started.' And that's what that program is about. I think it's doing exactly what it's supposed to be doing. And I think people know about it and they're stopping there to shop."

The Spark Shop's biggest challenge since opening has been staffing, Herrera said. Part of being a vendor means you have to staff the shop yourself



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Spark Shop is housed in the historic filling station building downtown. It's for businesses that are currently home-based but are looking to someday have their own brick and mortar location.

every so often, and a lot of its vendors have full-time jobs during the week when the shop is open.

Herrera said a vendor hasn't always been available to staff the shop and sometimes the responsibility has fallen back on the chamber office and volunteer students from

Rochelle Township High School have staffed it to earn silver cord hours.

Since The Spark Shop's inception, the neighboring communities of Oregon and Sycamore have started up similar incubators. Herrera said what sets The Spark Shop apart is the fact that the

city donated the use of the filling station building and vendors don't have to pay the overhead cost of rent.

Seeing vendors' success has been an enjoyable part of the project, Herrera said. She loves sending checks to vendors once a month and hearing the amounts were more than

they expected. One vendor recently got the largest custom order they've ever received due to exposure from The Spark Shop. Another got 250 new likes on social media after announcing they were a new Spark Shop vendor.

"Those kinds of things are what makes it all

worth it for me," Herrera said. "It's fostering that small business growth and adding to the community."

The Spark Shop is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The shop is also open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Weichert Realtors celebrates award-winning agents

DEKALB – Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals announces that multiple real estate professionals from their office received awards and recognition at the recent HomeTown Association of REALTORS® (HAR) annual meeting. Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals is an independently owned and operated Weichert® affiliate with offices in DeKalb and Rochelle. It serves DeKalb, Kane and Ogle Counties.

"We had multiple awards and winners from Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals," said Carrie Ottum, owner of Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals and the designated managing broker of the DeKalb office. "We are all very proud of our amazing team members."

Christopher Tenggren

from the Rochelle office and Aaron Schwartz from the DeKalb office each received the HomeTown Association of REALTORS® - 2021 President's Award. This award is presented each year at the discretion of the outgoing president of the HomeTown Association of REALTORS® in recognition of great service to the association during the president's term. Tenggren is a broker/realtor with 20 years of experience in the business and is the designated managing broker of the Rochelle office. Schwartz, a broker/realtor has eight years in the industry.

Kimberly Lancaste from the Rochelle office, who received the HomeTown Association of REALTORS® - 2021 Lamp-lighter Award. This award was created in the memory of HomeTown Association of REALTORS® mem-

bers Stephanie Chown & Dave Allen. The nominee must be a realtor or an affiliate member of the HomeTown Association of REALTORS. According to Ottum, those who are honored with this award fit this description: "You may not know them or ever see them, but their way has been marked by the lights they have left burning."

All of the award-winning agents are members of the HomeTown Association of REALTORS®. Tenggren is also a member of the HomeTown Association of REALTORS®, REALTOR® Association of the Fox Valley, and the Rockford Area Association of REALTORS®.

"We are always proud when members of the Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals team are recognized by their peers in the REALTOR® family for their amazing



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Christopher Tenggren (middle) from the Rochelle office and Aaron Schwartz (right) from the DeKalb office each received the HomeTown Association of REALTORS® - 2021 President's Award. Kimberly Lancaste (left) from the Rochelle office, who received the HomeTown Association of REALTORS® - 2021 Lamp-lighter Award.

service to our industry, our company, and our local communities," said Ottum. "Christopher, Aaron, and Kimberly are all

outstanding examples of agents who give back in a meaningful way!"

Weichert, Realtors® - Signature Professionals is

an independently owned and operated Weichert® affiliate. The company serves DeKalb, Kane and Ogle Counties in Illinois.

CITY: Officials requesting Hickory Grove development proposals

From page 1

The work will include improved roadway pavement and turning lanes which will improve access to the site. City water, sewer, I-Fiber and electrical

utilities are on site.

The site is currently zoned B-2 commercial highway and potential site development could include residential, meeting space, retail shops, dining, professional offices, cor-

porate events, tourism activities or an event center. Proposals are due to the City of Rochelle by July 15 and detailed specifications are available on the City's website at www.cityofrochelle.net.

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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



LADY HUBS AWARDED

Rochelle Lady Hub softball players take home RTHS, Interstate 8 awards.

See page 7 for more details

RTHS Baseball & Softball

All-Conference honorees

Rochelle seniors Burdin, Dickey receive Interstate 8 First Team recognition

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Senior infielder Jordin Dickey overcame a slow start to her fourth and final season with the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball team, finishing as a leading contributor on offense while stepping up at shortstop on the defensive end. Dickey’s efforts garnered All-Conference recognition from the Interstate 8 for the second consecutive season.

Dickey, who earned an Honorable Mention last season, received First Team honors from the Interstate 8 this season. The left-handed-hitting senior slashed .387/.441/.758 while leading the team with 24 hits, seven doubles, four home runs, two triples and 15 RBIs in 23 games played.

“It’s a wonderful experience to receive this honor,” Dickey said. “I felt like my defense was very solid throughout and my defense was helped by having solid pitching throughout the season. I struggled at the plate to start the season, but I worked hard after practice over the last month of the season and my coaches really motivated me and helped me become the player I am.”

Dickey will be continuing her softball career

at Highland Community College next year. Junior Morgan Smardo and senior MeLisa Young received Honorable Mentions from the Interstate 8 this season. A First Team honoree last season, Smardo slashed .311/.391/.508 with 19 hits, two home runs and nine RBIs while leading Rochelle with 98 strikeouts in 68 innings this season. Young slashed .333/.393/.451 as the starting second baseman, totaling 17 hits and 15 RBIs.

“My favorite thing about playing at RTHS was how much we felt like a family,” Dickey said. “We grew closer and closer every single year and I’ll never forget how awesome it felt when we came together as a team and defeated Kane-land. Every player on our team contributed to the win and I was so proud of us. I’ll miss our coaches and teammates because they were always there for me when I needed them the most and I will forever love the bond that we shared.”

Baseball

Nate Burdin set a goal before his senior season of earning All-Conference First Team honors from the Interstate 8. After leading the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team in several statistical categories includ-



Seniors Jordin Dickey (left) and Nate Burdin (right) were named All-Conference First Team honorees in the Interstate 8 for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball and baseball teams this season.

ing batting average, hits and ERA, Burdin received First Team recognition for the first time. Senior Andy Buskohl took home an Honorable Mention.

Burdin appeared in 21 games for the Hubs this season, recording a .462/.514/.554 slash line while totaling a team-leading 30 hits including six doubles. The left-hander stole eight bases and finished with nine RBIs. Burdin will continue his career at Lawrence University

next year.

“I thought I played well this season,” Burdin said. “I competed well against every team in our conference, whether it was on the mound or at the plate, and I have to give my teammates credit for having my back and always putting me in positions to be successful. I think I battled tough pitching really well this season. It seemed like no pitcher could get me out easily. I was seeing the fastball great and spraying hard



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

hits wherever the ball was pitched to me.”

After largely throwing as a reliever for the Hubs last season, Burdin finished his senior season as Rochelle’s leading starter, recording a team-low 2.77 ERA with 39 strikeouts in 43 innings pitched. An Interstate 8 All-Conference First Team honoree last season, Buskohl slashed .426/.517.723 with 20 hits, eight doubles, two home runs and 13 RBIs for Rochelle this season.

“I thought I mixed the

hitters up really well and I hit spots with all four of my pitches,” Burdin said. “My approach at the plate really improved this year and the muscle I added during the winter translated into much harder hits than I had during my junior season. I enjoyed playing the game I love with the friends and teammates I grew up playing and learning the game with. I will miss taking the field, hearing our names called and wearing the purple and white the most.”

RTHS Girls Soccer



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior defenders Lizbeth Milan (left) and Lucy Monroy (right) each earned All-Conference First Team recognition from the Interstate 8 this season. Junior Kailey Harris and freshman Makayla Lara were each given Honorable Mentions. The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team finished with a 10-10 overall record this season.

Milan, Monroy earn Interstate 8 First Team honors

Harris, Lara take home All-Conference Honorable Mentions this season

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team saw four players earn All-Conference honors from the Interstate 8 this season. Seniors Lizbeth Milan and Lucy Monroy were named First Team honorees, while junior Kailey Harris and freshman Makayla Lara

received Honorable Mentions. The Lady Hubs finished 10-10 overall this season.

Milan finished her RTHS career as a two-time Interstate 8 All-Conference First Team honoree. The senior defender and co-captain, who had one goal and one assist as a starting center back for the Lady Hubs this season, spent all four years of her RTHS

career on the varsity team.

“I’m very proud of myself,” Milan said. “I worked hard this season and I wanted to earn All-Conference so I made sure I put the work in. I thought I improved on being a better leader for our team. I did my best to keep everyone together and have a positive attitude during practice and in games. I enjoyed all the bonds and friendships I

created throughout my four years at RTHS. I’ll miss all of my teammates and coach [Brad] Male. He had a lot of confidence in me.”

Monroy was named to the First Team after earning an All-Conference Honorable Mention from the Interstate 8 last season. A four-year varsity player and starting defender who will be continuing her career at Kishwaukee Col-

lege, Monroy totaled two goals for RTHS this season.

“I was pretty surprised that I received the award because I thought a lot of my teammates deserved it,” Monroy said. “I’m really happy that I received it because all of the hard work I put in this season really paid off. I thought I communicated with my teammates better and I improved on being more

confident and being more aggressive on offense when coach Male moved me into the midfield. What I’ll miss the most is the friendships I created with my teammates.”

Lara scored 24 goals while adding six assists in her first season with the Lady Hubs. Harris started at center back, helping the defense limit opponents to three goals per game.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Former Rochelle student-athlete Katherine Bakken (right) earned All-American honors in two events for the University of St. Francis track and field team during the 2022 NAIA Women's Outdoor National Championships this past month.

Bakken earns NAIA All-American track honors

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

earlier this year. A CoSIDA Academic All-District Team honoree this year, Bakken's goals for her senior season include earning All-American status once again.

"My junior track season was really exciting because I was able to try the 10K and I became an All-American in an unfamiliar event," Bakken said. "I'm looking forward to being more successful next year and trying to earn All-American honors again. I thought my mental strength really improved this season and racing 5K events throughout the season helped me improve there."

Bakken, who also competes for the St. Francis women's cross country team, has now earned All-American honors four times throughout her three-year athletic career with the Fighting Saints. After helping the cross country team win the 2020 NAIA Women's National Championship, Bakken concluded her junior season as an All-American once again, finishing 28th overall with a time of 18:12.5 at the 2021 NAIA Women's National Championship.

“Earning All-American honors in cross country for the second time was really exciting because I worked alongside my teammates all season,” Bakken said. “My cross country season was one of the most fun seasons I’ve had because it was the first time that my teammate Daly [Galloway] and I were really healthy. My goal for next season is to place higher at the national meet. My overall experience at St. Francis has been great. I love spending time with my running family.”

Bakken currently studies medical laboratory science at the University of St. Francis. With her education, The former Lady Hub standout said she plans to pursue a career in a clinic lab.

FORMER Rochelle student-athlete Katherine Bakken was eager to compete in the 10,000-meter run for the first time as she prepared for her junior season with the University of St. Francis track and field team. Already an experienced athlete in the 5000-meter run, Bakken flourished in the 10,000-meter event, bringing home NAIA All-American honors at the 2022 NAIA Women's Outdoor National Championships, which were held in Gulf Shores, Alabama this past month.

Bakken took fifth out of 28 runners nationally in the 10,000-meter run, finishing with a time of 36:32.55 to earn All-American honors. Bakken's experience at the three-day national meet wasn't done, however, with the Fighting Saints moving her into the starting lineup for the 3200-meter relay team, which placed eighth and earned All-American status with a time of 9:47.57. Originally an alternate runner, Bakken was asked to fill in shortly before the race.

"It felt like all of my work had come to fruition to earn All-American honors in the 10K, especially because it was only the second time I raced that distance," Bakken said. "I really loved helping my team out in the 3200-meter relay because it showed we're all willing to do the extra work."

Bakken has spent three years with the St. Francis women's track and field team. Her indoor season culminated with a Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference title in the 5000-meter run and a ninth-place performance in the 5000-meter run at the NAIA Women's Indoor National Championships.

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An advertisement for Country School Drive-In Restaurant. At the top, the text "Busy Schedule?" is in a large, bold, black font, followed by "Leave the cooking to us." in a large, bold, italicized black font. Below this, a list of three items is shown: "• Large menu of foods", "• Rochelle's famous chicken by the dinner or bucket", and "• Hand dipped ice cream (16 flavors)". To the right of the list is a cartoon chicken mascot wearing a pink ice cream cone on its head and holding a tray with three ice cream cones. At the bottom left is the Country School Drive-In Restaurant logo, which includes a stylized school building and the text "COUNTRY SCHOOL DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT". At the bottom center, the address "251 N. ROCHELLE" and phone number "• 562-6039" are listed. At the bottom right, the text "NEF2016" is visible.

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The advertisement features the Morton Buildings logo at the top, which consists of a stylized orange hexagon with a white mountain-like shape inside, followed by the text "MORTON BUILDINGS" in large, bold, orange capital letters. Below the logo is the tagline "If you can dream it, we can build it." in a cursive, italicized font. The central image is a photograph of a large, two-story house with a grey shingled roof, white siding, and a prominent stone chimney. The house has a covered front porch with white columns and is surrounded by a green lawn and trees. In the bottom right corner of the photo, the text "HSF2016" is visible. At the very bottom, a dark blue banner contains the contact information "Rochelle Sales Office • Hwy. 251 N. • 877-613-3050" in white text.



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SPORTS

RTHS Softball

Seniors lead Lady Hubs to seven-win season

Rochelle totals three All-Conference honorees under first-year coach Jacobs

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball team saw several seniors take on critical roles this season. With those seniors departing from the program this offseason, head coach Deanna Jacobs will look to some up-and-coming athletes for greater production next season.

Rochelle finished 7-15 overall and sixth in the Interstate 8 Conference with a 4-10 record in Jacobs' first season as head coach of the Lady Hubs. Rochelle swept its home-and-home series with Plano while splitting two-game sets against Sandwich and Kaneland. The Lady Hubs will graduate six seniors this offseason including starting infielders Jordin Dickey (First Team) and MeLisa Young (Honorable Mention), who each earned All-Conference honors this season.

"I thought the girls worked really hard to

improve every day and I thought their effort was evident by the end of the season," Jacobs said. "They were hitting the ball better, cutting down on their errors and pitching the ball better. I thought we finished the season as a much stronger team than we were at the start. Our hitting really came together as the season progressed."

Seniors Ashley Knight, Lauren Jackson, Regan Underwood and Leslie Rodriguez will also depart. Rochelle will have multiple starters eligible to return including junior Morgan Smardo, who earned an All-Conference Honorable Mention after leading the Lady Hubs in innings pitched, strikeouts and wins. Junior outfielder Addie Friestad, sophomore catcher Ella Alfano and freshman infielder Lauren Dyer are three starters who could play a larger role next season.

"It will definitely be tough to lose our seniors, especially since we're losing basically our entire



Senior MeLisa Young (left) and junior Morgan Smardo (right) were each named All-Conference Honorable Mentions in the Interstate 8. Young is one of three starting infielders who will depart this offseason.

infield," Jacobs said. "We fortunately won't be losing any pitchers though

and we'll also have our catcher back, which is really exciting. It will be



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

nice to have those staple positions filled already and we're looking forward

to having players like Morgan, Lauren and Ella back next season."

Rochelle Rampage



12U team finishes first in Experience the Turf tournament

The Rochelle Rampage 12U baseball team competed at the Experience the Turf tournament in Rockford this past weekend. Rochelle went 1-1 in pool play, defeating Athletics HQ 10-5 after falling 12-0 against CDBL Rocket 12U Blue. The Rampage entered the bracket as the No. 4 seed, edging Athletics HQ 5-3 before beating the Rockford Big Dogs 7-6 and the Spring Valley Red Devils 14-1 to finish first in the tournament with a 4-1 overall record. The 12U team includes John Williams, Luke Chadwick, Alex Dyer, Tyler Johnson, Angel Argueta, Brayden Harley, Eli Schweitzer, Jace Spears, Andrew Eyster, Bo Lundquist, Dayton Mellor and Andrew Huerta. The team is coached by Ben Eyster, Josh Johnson and Corey Kreider.

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SPORTS

RTHS Athletics

Registrations open for RTHS summer camps

Additional information available at athletic office or online at rthsd212.org

ROCHELLE — Registrations are open for several summer camps that will be held at Rochelle Township High School this year. Those interested in attending an athletic summer camp can contact the RTHS Athletic Office at 815-562-4161 to register or obtain additional information.

Additional information can be found online at <https://www.rthsd212.org/summercamps>.

Tennis

The Rochelle youth tennis camp will be held from June 14-17 for athletes between third and eighth grade. Third through fifth-graders will play from 8-9:30 a.m. and sixth through eighth-graders will play from 9:30-11 a.m. High school players will volunteer during the camp.

The Rochelle tennis high school camp will be held on Mondays from 12:30-2:30 p.m., Tuesdays from 5-7 p.m. and Wednesdays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. from June 1 through July 27. Additionally, the 2nd Annual Rochelle Hub Tennis Tournament will be held at RTHS from July 29-30.

Questions regarding the kids camp and the high school camp can be directed to head boys coach Kristy Eckardt at 815-677-1473 or head girls coach Lizzie Cartwright at 217-979-9879.

Cheerleading

The RTHS cheerleading team will conduct practice on Mondays and

Thursdays from 6-7:45 a.m. and lifting sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-9:30 a.m. Make-up lifting days will be held on Fridays from 9-10 a.m. There will be no practice the week of Monday, June 20.

The RTHS cheer camp will be held on Friday, July 22 from 10-4 p.m. and boot camp will be held on Friday, July 29.

Questions can be directed to head coach Trish Rodeghero at 815-761-9864.

Track

The Rochelle Area Track Club will begin on Monday, June 6 and run through Thursday, June 30 at the RTHS track and field facility. Practices will be held Monday through Thursday from 5:30-7 p.m. and be run by head boys coach Dale Bergeson, head girls coach Alison Vrana as well as high school athletes. Sign-ups will be held on Wednesday, June 1 and Thursday, June 2 from 5:30-7 p.m. The cost is \$50 which covers USATF membership, insurance and a club souvenir.

There is an option to rent a uniform for \$30. To sign up by mail, complete the online form and mail the form along with a birth certificate copy, \$50 club fee and \$40 refundable track meet worker fee to Rochelle Area Track Club - Alison Vrana, 210 Drake Ave., Rochelle, IL, 61068. Questions can be directed to Vrana at avrana@rthsd212.org or 630-536-7827.

Football

The Rochelle Hub football camp for first through eighth-graders will be held from Monday, July 18 through Thursday, July 21 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the RTHS practice fields. The cost is \$40 (includes T-shirt) and the camp will be run by RTHS coaches and players.

Completed sign-up forms can be returned to the RTHS Athletic Office at 1401 Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL, 61068.

The Rochelle Hub high school padded camp will run from July 18-21 and July 25-28 from 8-10:30 a.m. The camp is for all freshman, sophomore, junior and senior players who plan to play football at RTHS in the fall. The cost is \$50 or \$75 per family and equipment will be issued after the skills camp on July 11 for sophomores, juniors and seniors and on July 12 and 14 for incoming freshmen.

Completed sign-ups forms can be returned to the RTHS Athletic Office.

Hub Power

The summer strength and conditioning program will run from June 6 through July 28. Hub Power lifters will train on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:45-8:30 a.m. (sophomore, junior and senior boys), 8-9:30 a.m. (incoming freshman girls through senior girls) and 10:45 a.m. to noon (incoming freshman boys). Hub Power Elite lifters will also train on Fridays.

Middle-schoolers (sixth



through eighth-grade) will lift from June 14 to July 14 every Tuesday and Thursday from 12-1 p.m. There is no cost to attend. Make-up sessions are on Fridays at 8 a.m.

encouraged to attend Hub Power. Camp cost is \$50.

Questions can be directed to Tim Thompson at tthompson@rthsd212.org or 815-761-4124.

Boys

Basketball

The Rochelle Hub youth basketball camp will run from June 27-30 from 8:30-9:45 a.m. for first through fourth-graders and June 27-July 1 from 10 a.m. to noon for fifth through eighth-graders. The cost is \$40 for the June 27-30 session and \$50 for the June 27-July 1 session.

The Rochelle Hub high school basketball camp will run from June 7-30 from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All athletes are

Girls

Basketball

The Rochelle Lady Hub youth basketball camp will run from June 27-29 from 8-10 a.m. for third through fifth-graders and 10 a.m. to noon for sixth through eighth-graders. The cost is \$50 with a \$5 discount off a second camper from the same family. The camp shirt deadline is June 10.

The Rochelle Lady Hub high school camp will run from May 31 through June 29. The camp will run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-

8 a.m.

Questions can be directed to Ryan McQuade at rmcquade@rthsd212.org or 630-383-9444.

Volleyball

The Rochelle Lady Hub youth volleyball camp will run from July 11-14 from 11-12:30 p.m. for fifth through eighth-graders. The high school camp will run from July 11-14 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. for incoming freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors.

The cost is \$35 for the youth camp and \$40 for the high school camp. Both camps offer a \$5 discount for a second camper from the same family.

Questions can be directed to Molly Sly at msly@rthsd212.org or 815-590-1720.

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SPORTS

RTHS Softball

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Lady Hubs take home RTHS, Interstate 8 awards

The Rochelle Lady Hub softball team held its season-ending team banquet, with several student-athletes earning RTHS and Interstate 8 Conference awards. Five Lady Hubs (above from left to right) took home RTHS awards including Anna Toczylowski (Most Improved JV Player), Abby Metzger (Most Valuable JV Player), Jordin Dickey (Most Valuable Varsity Player and High Batting Average), Ashley Knight (Sportsmanship) and MeLisa Young (Most Improved Varsity Player). Five Lady Hubs (middle) also received Academic All-Conference honors including Lauren Jackson, Ashley Knight, Jordin Dickey (Honorable Mention), Morgan Smardo (Honorable Mention) and MeLisa Young (Honorable Mention). Three Lady Hubs (below) were named All-Conference players including Jordin Dickey, Morgan Smardo (Honorable Mention) and MeLisa Young (Honorable Mention).

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