



ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

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Vol. 103 • No. 8

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

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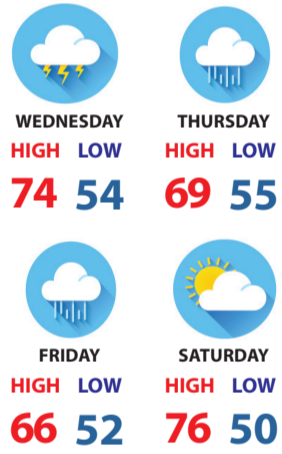
KNOW IT TODAY



Key Club sorts bottle caps

Members of the RTHS Key Club sorted and bagged over 200 bottle caps on Sunday, May 15. **Page 7**

WEATHER



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OBITUARIES

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• SALLY ANNE MISCIASCI
• BARBARA ANN STEWART

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Ogle-Lee Fire agreement approved

Rochelle City Council approves bid for seal coat work

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its Monday meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a \$135,560 bid from Helm Civil Constructors, Inc. and the appropriation of up to \$170,000 in motor fuel tax funds for its 2022 seal coat work in town.

The city's sealcoating plans for this year include portions of 1st Avenue, Avenue A, Avenue B Avenue C, Lakeview Drive, Garfield Drive, South 8th Street through South 12th Street, South 2nd Street, South 3rd Street, Avenue E and 20th Street north of Flagg Road.

Additional areas may be considered by City Engineer Sam Tesreau during the construction process as funds allow. Only one other bid was received for the work, which was from Porter Brothers for \$208,286.20. The low bid was approximately 11 percent lower than the engineer's estimate of cost.

The city's street department will provide pavement patching, surface preparation and



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its Monday meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a \$135,560 bid from Helm Civil Constructors, Inc. and the appropriation of up to \$170,000 in motor fuel tax funds for its 2022 seal coat work in town.

sweeping in advance of seal coat operations. The city will also be participating in the Ogle County seal coat operations at a cost of approximately \$18,000 along Queens Road adjacent to Flagg Township. This will also

be paid from the city's motor fuel tax funds and will be paid to the county once the work is complete.

Fire agreement

The council unanimously approved a motion authorizing City

Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District, which consists of departments in Steward, Hillcrest, Flagg Center and Creston.

The city and Rochelle

Fire's current agreement with the OLFDP is set to expire on Sept. 30. According to the meeting's agenda packet, the current contract is working well for both organizations.

See CITY page 5

No injuries after local basement fire

RFD Chief Sawlsville: Home's residents and pets vacated safely

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — A Sunday afternoon basement fire at a home on North 11th Street in Rochelle ended with no injuries to its residents or pets, Rochelle Fire Department Chief Dave Sawlsville said.

At about 12:35 p.m. Rochelle Fire was called to a report of heavy smoke at 956 N. 11th Street. First responders to the scene were told by the homeowner that the fire was in the basement and took a hose line down and found "really thick, black smoke" that they were unable to see through, Sawlsville said.

A thermal imaging camera was used to locate the fire in the corner of the basement and aerosol cans started to explode in the area of the fire.

"They located the area and were able to get a good knock on that," Sawlsville said. "On Sundays, sometimes staffing is a little short. We ended up having to call mutual aid companies from Ogle-Lee Fire



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

A Sunday afternoon basement fire at a home on North 11th Street in Rochelle ended with no injuries to its residents or pets, Rochelle Fire Department Chief Dave Sawlsville said.

Protection District, Stillman Valley Fire and Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire. Ogle-Lee responded with an engine, Lynn-Scott-Rock brought an engine and Stillman Val-

ley covered our station with an ambulance. The initial crew kept the fire confined to that corner."

Sawlsville said fire crews were told on scene

that there was a dog and a lizard still inside at the time of the fire. Both pets were located safely and are going to be OK, he said. The Rochelle Fire chief said the

home is going to be OK structurally, but had heavy smoke damage throughout its interior.

See FIRE page 5

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LOCAL NEWS

Poliska wins IPA Non-Certified Support Personnel Award

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School District 212 recently announced that RTHS Athletic Secretary Ronda Poliska is recipient of the Illinois Principals Association 2022 Non-Certified Support Personnel award for the state's Northwest Region.

In his nomination, RTHS Principal Dr. Chris Lewis wrote, "Ronda has been an RTHS athletic/activities secretary for the past 18 years. She worked with former Athletic Director Kevin Crandall and helped smooth the transition for our current RTHS AD Rich Harvey four years ago. This was to a great extent due to Ronda's leadership and expertise."

"From bus schedules, checking on officials, making sure students submit required paperwork, and weekly eligibility reports, her day is hectic. Rather than enumerating her long list of daily tasks, I want to note she checks student grades, acting as a conduit between teachers, students, parents, and coaches in or-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle Township High School District 212 recently announced that athletic secretary Ronda Poliska is the recipient of the Illinois Principals Association 2022 Non-Certified Support Personnel award for the state's Northwest Region.

der to help the student maximize their performance in the classroom. Without Mrs. Poliska keeping an eye on student performance, far more students would risk becoming ineligible."

"I can't thank Ronda enough for all she does for RTHS athletics and activities," Lewis continued. "She keeps things going at that end of the campus. Her organization and leadership keep everyone on track, providing our kids the best experience possible. I can't

think of a better person to receive this IPA leadership award."

Of the recognition, Mrs. Poliska said, "While I am honored to be our region's recipient, it is important to point out that I have been fortunate to work with teachers and staff committed to achieving our goal of providing the best educational opportunities for all students. This recognition is a byproduct of the dedicated professionals I work with in Rochelle."

Roberts Armory WWII Museum opening on Memorial Day

ROCHELLE — The Roberts Armory World War II Museum will be open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30 from 1-4 p.m.

The Higgins Boat will be open for viewing, weather permitting. The next opening will be Aug. 20. To get to the museum, follow the signs on the Army truck

at Illinois Route 251 and Intermodal Drive (approximately three miles).

Many WWII artifacts are on display including tanks, trucks, cannons and Rochelle News-Leader newspapers from 1945 presenting photographs of Rochelle residents who served during World War

II. Museum vehicles will also be in the Memorial Day parade in Rochelle.

More information is available on the Rochelle website at: <http://www.enjoyrochelle.com/online-directory/what-to-do/history-attractions/robert-s-armory.html>. There is no admission charge.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle Township High School Alumnae Hannah Busching recently received the RTHS Student Council's Upbeat Attitude Award.

Busching earns RTHS Student Council's Upbeat Attitude Award

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School Alumnae Hannah Busching has completed her fifth year teaching, but began her commitment to service as a high school freshman. She began using the Spanish she was learning at the Hand in Hand Mission downtown, gaining more inspiration while traveling throughout Mexico.

Graduating from Augustana College, she returned to Rochelle to teach bilingual grade one at Central School, then English-Spanish language at Rochelle Middle School and then came to RTHS where she has taught Spanish 1, Spanish 2, and Native Speakers.

While here, she has coached speech and been advisor for International

Club which allows her to share her love of culture.

She said she loves all of the connections she has made in Rochelle over the last 21 years and has enjoyed knowing younger siblings of her students were next in her classes.

Outside of her classroom she has enjoyed singing with the Praise Team at the First Presbyterian Church as well as working with the church youth group, vacation bible school. She helped establish the church's ESL program, served with Reaching Out to Christ's Kids retreat, acted with the Vince Carney Community Theater and competed through park district programs like tennis.

It is ironic that the song she and the faculty band performed for seniors, Green Day's *Time of Your Life*, is an ode about embracing all that lies ahead.

Hannah is leaving RTHS to fulfill a lifelong dream. She has accepted a position to teach ESL and one middle school Bible class with the Mercy Ships Academy aboard the Global Mercy. She will land on Tenerife in the Canary Islands to begin teaching aboard the ship! The ship will sail from Tenerife to various countries in Africa, mainly on the western coast.

"I'll be teaching the crew members' children—so the kids of the doctors, cooks, mechanics, nurses, etc.," Busching said. "The ship has an incredibly international population, and I'm really looking forward to teaching and engaging with a new, multicultural community, both on and off the ship!"

Congratulations and farewell Hannah. We hope you have the time of your life.

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LOCAL NEWS



The following Rochelle Township High School language students earned the 2021-22 RTHS Foreign Language Quarterly Merit Award for this school year. Above are Erick Fulgencio, Jimmy Chavez, Aaliyah Losoya, Grecia Orozco, Andy Buskohl and Raul Aguirre. Below are Margaux DaCosta (left) and Riley Flanagan (right).

RTHS names foreign language quarterly merit award winners

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

ROCHELLE — The following Rochelle Township High School language students earned the 2021-22 RTHS Foreign Language Quarterly Merit Award for this school year.

French students honored were Aaliyah Losoya, Jimmy Chavez, Grecia Orozco and Andy Buskohl. Honored Spanish students were Julia Livingston, Alivia Henkel, Erick Fulgencio Milán and John Green.

Raul Aguirre, son of Mr. and Mrs. Aguirre

of Rochelle, earned this year's *El Premio Quetzalcoatl*, the highest RTHS Spanish Award, for outstanding work as an AP Spanish student. This award was presented to Raul by Mrs. Eva Lenkaitis, RTHS Spanish teacher, at a banquet on May 2 to honor French and Spanish language award winners.

Each year RTHS Spanish teachers honor their best Spanish students who are chosen for their skills and enthusiasm in their Spanish studies. Raul plans to continue his academic achievements to one day become an

architect.

Margaux DaCosta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. DaCosta of Rochelle, is the winner of this year's highest RTHS French Award, the *Prix de Merite*, for her efforts as an outstanding senior French 4 student.

This award was presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Cartwright, RTHS French teacher, at a banquet on May 2 to honor French and Spanish language award winners. Each year RTHS the French Teacher honors her best French students who are chosen for their skills and enthusiasm in

their French studies. Next year Margaux plans to continue her studies at Kishwaukee College to become a dental hygienist.

Riley Flanagan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Flanagan of Lindenwood, earned this year's *El Premio Quetzalcoatl*, the highest RTHS Spanish Award, for outstanding work as an dual credit Spanish 4 student. This award was presented to Riley by Mrs. Eva Lenkaitis. In the fall, Riley will attend Carthage College to pursue a degree in public relations and graphic design.

St. Paul names fourth quarter honor roll

ROCHELLE — St. Paul Lutheran School recently named its fourth quarter high honor roll and honor roll lists.

Fourth quarter high honor roll: Isabella Biggs, Meredith Bruns, Hailey Bunger, Alison Dyer,

Cambrey Rodeghero, Owen Carmichael, Johnny Chadwick, Magdalene Good, Jillian Bruns, DeLaney Heal, Mia Heitkamp, Tyler Johnson, Axel Alsop, Joey Chadwick, Esam Farraj and Makenzie Johnson.

Fourth quarter honor

roll: Paloma Albaugh, Corrie Hill, Jorja Mulholland, Bane Workman, Brody Bruns, Ben Miller, Taylor Rogers, Warren Schweitzer, Mackenzie Bybee, Cohen Haedt, Eli Schweitzer, Chase Atkinson, Braxton Bruns, Hai-

ley Chapman, Annaliese Cox, Elijah Good, Owen Heitkamp, Om Shah and Vinny Tornabene.

The 2022 St. Paul valedictorian was Hailey Bunger and the salutatorian was Cambrey Rodeghero.



(COURTESY PHOTO)
RTHS production technology teacher Kurt Wolter (right) is retiring after nearly 30 years at the school.

Wolter retiring from RTHS as production technology teacher

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

ROCHELLE — The fact that Kurt Wolter is adaptable and eager to learn new technologies he can teach his students has been elemental to his success at Rochelle Township High School. Drafting and the technology courses Wolter has taught have changed immensely over the years.

Colleague Glen Mehrings says he appreciates Wolter's ability to change it up. "Kurt, Rick Bunton and I were once sitting around troubled over a kink in a new computer program. Frustrated, I remarked I was ready to quit (working on it) and Kurt says, 'Gentlemen, are we mice or are we men? We are men and we are going to conquer this.'" Mehrings said eventually, they did!

You may or may not have utilized one of Wolter's production design students' locker shelving units. His students made, sold and stored them for students over summers.

Bunton said, "Kurt is one of the most diligent and hardworking people I taught with. It didn't matter if it was teaching

or not...he was always focused on the matter at hand. We spent a lot of time together on the road to conferences. Kurt was always looking for an authentic experience, so we ate and drank in some fun and interesting places. The best was a hole in the wall in Nashville that featured live country music. They played requests, so we tried to play 'Stump the Band,' but we never did."

Over the course of his career, Wolter has taught drafting, CAD computer-aided drafting, business technology, game design, product management, internet technology, computer coding, drafting, engineering, robotics and introduced students to 3-D printing. He has long designed and created sets for the theater department and was a Kishwaukee College adjunct professor.

Wolter started in August 1993 as industrial technology teacher and assistant girls track coach. He was head cross country coach 1995-1996 and oversaw the summer running program. Kurt was the assistant play director 2005-2006, play director 2006-2007 and technology department chair 2008-2009.

County Clerk releases early voting notice

OREGON — Early voting for all Ogle County precincts began Thursday, May 19 at the historic courthouse. The hours will be Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with the exception of holidays.

As part of the candidate certification process,

Governor — Democratic Primary contest is under review by the courts. A judge may order a change to the ballot in that contest.

If you choose to vote early in that race, you will not be able to vote again should the court order a ballot change.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Bob Erwin

ROCHELLE — Bob Erwin of Rochelle passed away in Sycamore on May 20. He was 95 years old.

Bob was a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, teacher, coach, mentor, leader, humanitarian, substitute father and friend. He was kind, generous, loving, compassionate, honorable, moral, humble, soft-spoken and faithful. His influence will live on through his family, his students, his athletes and many of the other lives he touched.

Robert Herman Erwin was born on Jan. 3, 1927, in Kansas City, Missouri to Harvey "Cecil" and Minnie "Gladys" (Chapman) Erwin. He had one younger brother, Tom. His father worked for the Kansas City Power and Light Company and his mother was a teacher and principal. Bob spent many summer months on his grandfather's farm in nearby rural Missouri. He was a Boy Scout and later became a youth leader in the Scouts. He played football, basketball and competed in track and field in high school.

Bob attended Southeast Missouri State University for a year and enrolled in the V-12 program, similar to today's ROTC, to prepare for a commission in the military. He transferred to Iowa State University where he earned his B.S. in mathematics while also continuing his preparatory work for the Navy and playing football for the Cyclones. After graduating, Bob took a job teaching math and coaching at Clear Lake High School in Clear Lake, Iowa. While there, he met Gloria Scott and

they married in 1952. They lived in Clear Lake except for two years of active duty in Charleston, South Carolina.

Bob's active duty included a brief time during the Korean War, when he was assigned to a mine-sweeper in the Mediterranean Sea. While they were stationed in Charleston, Bob and Gloria's first child was born shortly after the war. Bob was fortunate to be home just long enough to hold his new daughter before reporting back to his ship in the Caribbean. The next two Erwin children were born in Clear Lake and in 1957 the family moved to Rochelle, where he continued teaching math and coaching. The last of their children was born in Rochelle. Bob earned his master's degree from Northern Illinois University while teaching in Rochelle. He coached football, basketball and track and field for years, coaching track and field until he retired in 1989.

Bob continued serving his country in the Naval Reserve, attaining the rank of lieutenant commander before his military retirement. Because students saw him in uniform outside of school, he got the nickname "Captain Bob." The family took numerous trips across the country for his summer reserve duty, camping from coast to coast while heading to bases in San Diego or Newport, Rhode Island. They took many circuitous routes, visiting as many states as possible as well as Canada and Mexico.

Bob had many "extra-curricular" activities. Many summers he painted houses with a crew of



other teachers. His hobbies included gardening, reading, macrame, stained glass, refinishing antique furniture and coin collecting. He played bridge with Gloria and friends for decades and later scored enough points to earn the title of Life Master through his involvement with a bridge club in Rockford. After Gloria passed away in 1997, he traveled the world doing humanitarian work with Global Volunteers in Australia, the Cook Islands, Mexico, Ecuador, Northern Ireland and to the Black Feet Indian Reservation near Glacier National Park in Montana. His family has fond memories of volunteering with him on the Montana trip. Bob served First Presbyterian Church of Rochelle in a variety of roles, including leading Youth Fellowship with Gloria, heading fundraising efforts and serving as an Elder on the Session. He also participated in three mission trips to Kenya with other church members.

Bob is loved and will be missed by his four children, Sue (Dave) Kapraun, Spring Grove, Illinois; Scott (Vicki) Erwin, DeKalb; Sarah Mariani, Rockford; Steve (Donna) Erwin, Woodstock; his four grandchildren, Laura (Jason) Owen, Peoria, Arizona; Abby Erwin and her husband Dominic Nocerino, of New York; John (Jennah) Mariani, Milwaukee, and Nate Erwin and his fiancée Keri Woltz, Portland, Oregon; two great-granddaughters, Quinn and Ella Mariani; sister-in-law Birgit Scott and nephews, Hans-Erik Scott and Peter (Kristen) Scott.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Tom, his wife Gloria, brother-in-law Jerry Scott, and son-in-law Arnold Mariani.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, June 11 at 9 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Rochelle, 1100 Calvin Road., Rochelle, IL, 61068, followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m.

Join the family afterward for a luncheon in the fellowship hall. Memorial donations in Bob's honor may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Rochelle or Rochelle Township High School at 1401 Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL, 61068.

Hershel L. Burton

MADISONVILLE, Tenn. — Hershel L. Burton, 83, of Madisonville, Tennessee was called by his Lord and Savior to his Heavenly home on May 15. He was born in Cherry Valley, Arkansas, the son of Elay and Faye (Watson) Burton on Jan. 3, 1939. He married Gayle Futrell at the Landmark Missionary Baptist Church on June 27, 1959 in Rockford.

Hershel worked his whole life, first starting out at Rochelle Printing and then beginning in the early 1970s started selling insurance from which he retired after more than 40 years. Hershel loved the Lord, enjoyed attending church and was a faithful Christian.

He was a Sunday school teacher and song leader for the congregational singing every Sunday. Hershel liked spending

time outdoors whether it was hunting, fishing or just being with his family. More recently he enjoyed playing guitar with his special friends at the music jam sessions while wintering in Texas.

In addition to his parents, Hershel was preceded in death by two brothers, Jerry and Eddie Burton, and a nephew, Tim Burton. Surviving are his wife of almost 63 years, Gayle of Madisonville, Tennessee; his son Vinnie (Lisa) Burton of Vonore, Tennessee; his daughter Christy (Chad) Hall of Gallatin, Tennessee; sisters: Norma (Harry) Cotton of Moon Lake, Mississippi and Jeannie (Dickie) Poe of Fulton, Mississippi; brother: Tommy Burton of Horn Lake, Mississippi; 5 grandchildren: Jake (Rachel) Burton of Vonore, Tennessee, Katie (Matt)



Gille of Crete, Illinois, Skylar and Graham Hall of Gallatin, Tennessee and Riley Hall of Monroe Center; four great grandchildren: Mia, Brody and Declan Burton of Vonore, Tennessee, and Ella Gille of Crete, Illinois and several nieces and nephews.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle and friend and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

There will be a memorial service held at a later date.

Barbara Ann Stewart

ROCHELLE — Barbara Ann Stewart, 81, of Rochelle and formerly of Dixon, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 23 after a battle with cancer at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb. Barbara was born May 12, 1941, in Dixon, the daughter of Ralph Jennings and Kathryn (Dimmig) Lusz. She graduated from Amboy High School in 1959.

Barbara married David Stewart on Sept. 5, 1959, in a ceremony on the Lusz family farm in Eldena, Illinois. David and Barbara lived in Sandwich for over 30 years where Barbara worked as a librarian at the public library. She was an award-winning artist winning many state awards.

Barbara was also a member of the legacy group of classmates called the "chicks" who met regularly for over 30 years. She currently lived in Rochelle where she attended St. Paul Lutheran Church and served on various committees.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, David Stewart of Rochelle; son-in-law, Raymond (Bud) Forrer, III; two grandsons, Alan (Kristina Ekes) Day, and Richard (Lainee) Day; and one great-granddaughter, Arayah Day; several nieces and nephews and a special sister-in-law Peggy Lusz.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents; one daughter, Dawn Day; three brothers, Larry Dean



Lusz, John William Lusz and Bruce Gregory Lusz.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Cremation Rites have been accorded. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1415 10th Ave., Rochelle, IL 61068.

Arrangements were completed by Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon. Condolences may be sent to prestonsschilling.com.

Sally Anne Misciasci

ROCHELLE — Sally Anne Misciasci, 75, passed away Friday, May 20 surrounded by her family. Sally was born on March 5, 1947, to Kenneth & Alice Smith in Linton, Indiana. She worked at Kishwaukee College for many years. After a 17-year "secret engagement" on March 5, 1999, she married Tom Misciasci in Jamaica.

Sally was an avid golfer, knitted countless baby blankets for friends and family, and enjoyed spending time with her grandkids. Sally always enjoyed spending time with her life-long friend Joyce Manning. In the past few years, she experienced the effects of Alzheimer's. In the last few days, she was able to briefly communicate; enjoyed singing songs with her great granddaughter Hazyl and her "honorary" granddaughter Jasmine. She enjoyed a good laugh with her children, Denise and Dan, and her grand-

daughter Amanda. These last few moments of clarity will always be cherished.

Sally is survived by five children: Denise (David) Fry of Rochelle, Edward (Julie) Greffe of Gobles, Michigan, Daniel (Tanya) Greffe of Newark, Illinois, Thomas (Gina) Misciasci Jr., of Burleson, Texas and Tammy Mellor of Rochelle; 12 grandchildren: Stephanie (Jed Frey) Misciasci, Anthony (Kelsie) Misciasci, Krystal (Owen) Freeman, Kate-lynn (Cody) Clark, Amanda (Charles Kinney) Fry, Wesley (Krystyn) Mellor, Hannah Misciasci, Kelsey Crosby, Emma Greffe, Sarah Greffe, Tucker Greffe and Avery Greffe; 12 great grandchildren and one sister, Connie Mershon of Rochelle.

In addition to her parents, Sally was preceded in death by her beloved



husband, Tom; brother, Ron Smith; sister-in-law, Jan Smith; brother-in-law, Charles Mershon; and son-in-law, Bradley Mellor.

Celebration of Life will be from 5-6 p.m., Wednesday, May 25 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. A small service will follow at 6 p.m., with Pastor Katherine Paisley officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Sally's memory to Rochelle United Methodist Church.

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

Rochelle Police Department

Officers make arrests

ROCHELLE — On May 17, Antwon M. Woodson, 29, of Rochelle was arrested on two outstanding Ogle County warrants and transferred.

On May 21, Jason L. Otten, 44, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On May 21, Arturo P. Pena, 23, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. He paid \$814 and was released.

On May 21, Kristen J. Hoekstra, 32, of Steward was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. She paid \$201 and was released and given a June

8 Ogle County court date.

On May 21, Christopher D. McGill, 37, of DeKalb was cited for leaving the scene of an accident and improper lane usage. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 8 Rochelle court date.

On May 23, Matthew J. Fronk, 24, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license suspended. He was released on an I-Bond and given a July 8 Rochelle court date.

On May 23, Jesse J. Mohica, 21, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and a Lee County warrant. He paid \$476 and was released with no court date.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Caron Spinning: The fabric of our community

ROCHELLE was built on the backs of immigrants. Honestly, until around 1832, only trappers and Native Americans populated the area.

Ovidas Joseph Caron was an immigrant. Born in 1886, O.J. started life in the French-speaking Canadian village of St. Adrian. O.J. and his widowed father moved to the United States when he was five years old. O.J. started his textile background with the LaFayette Worsted Mills of Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

After a short run as a sales representative for the Percy Legge Company, O.J. was ready to go into business for himself. O.J. Caron opened his own business in 1906. He was an unrelenting yarn salesman. O.J. had only a minimal education, but he knew one thing for sure, if you work harder than your competition you can emerge victorious.

It was 1915 when O.J. moved to buy the Vassar-Swiss Underwear Mill plant. To avoid labor problems in Chicago, George Rutledge, Emil Basener and Frederick McCoy had moved their company to Rochelle.

Vassar-Swiss Underwear Mill was a large producer of the “union suit” style of underwear. The company had been bought out and moved back to Chicago. O.J. was little interested in the underwear market, he did however want the property.

Caron Spinning opened in 1916 and employed 30 employees. Caron produced worsted wool. Worsted wool is a long-fibered smooth wool utilized for clothing. The Rochelle plant quickly

became an international concern.

Wool was purchased from around the world; Australia, New Zealand and across South America. Buyers sought out only the highest quality materials. Over eight million pounds of raw wool was processed each year to produce three million pounds of processed wool.

Caron Spinning was not simply in the community, it was of the community. Fathers, mothers and frequently children of the same family worked at Caron. Alphonse Plourde, Phillippe Cote and Arthur Caron brought families from Canada to Rochelle. They brought with them the skills and work ethic required to make Caron Spinning a success. They also helped to establish the family feel of the work site.

O.J. took care of his people and his people took care of his company. During the war years Caron produced high-quality wool for the armed forces. Blankets, gloves, sweaters and caps were all made from wool processed at the Rochelle plant.

The wool business was very competitive, and so was O.J. Caron. During the depression he managed to keep his people employed. Change was his strength.

As the market shifted from wool toward other fabrics Caron shifted toward craft supplies: yarn for handknitting, needle point and embroidery. Caron Spinning produced a full range of do-it-yourself supplies. When Nylon and Orlon synthetics were created in the 1940s, O.J. incorporated them into his yarns.

Even television threatened Caron Spinning. As more households could afford televisions, people were enamored with the miracle of home entertainment. Luckily the industrious homemaker found that there was one thing they could do while watching their favorite show. They could knit clothes for their family.

Fashion trends moved toward a more leisure dress. Outdoor sports called for bulky sweaters, warm socks and gloves. In the 1960s Caron once again read the market and went from selling only to wholesalers to dealing directly with a new breed of seller known as the chain store. Caron Spinning sold their yarn and other products through Sears, JC Penney and W.T. Grant, three of the largest chain stores of the day.

From a small 30-person plant to an internationally recognized manufacturer, Caron Spinning at one time employed 1,000 people. They boasted 10 plants in four states and bought wool from nine countries.

Sadly, cheap and easy became the words of the day. Few people will take the time to make their own clothes when they can pick up hats, gloves, socks and sweaters at the local Wal Mart. Caron Spinning opened here in 1916 and closed in 1995. Caron Spinning may be gone, but the influence remains. We are still blessed with Cotes, Plourdes and Carons. The greatest contribution that Caron Spinning made might just be to the fabric of our community.

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



Tom McDermott

Consider this: Traveling abroad

SOMETIMES I wonder why. Why we are so harsh to people of other ethnicities, other thoughts, other ideas and other ages? Traveling through Canada and back through the United States I met



Reed Harris

taught in school.

Not one of them, young or old, were hung up on anything but the fun they were having and the lessons they were learning. I asked the young people how they could be traveling, all alone many of them, on a world scale at

20 years old? All said their parents were all for it and either were financing part of the travel or their government was. Living in hostels or other such places on the cheap, they weren't struggling, but were having a good time. Interesting, these thought processes of learning about what to expect in life before actually being thrown into it like a baby given their first bath.

Of course, you might say that learning this way is the same thing as being the baby. The reason I would beg to differ is because they are learning to get along with and study other types of people. Other than their fellow countrymen. Some even learn new languages or improve on those already known. So, who in this country at these tender ages can afford this travel? Well, I guess, those who are willing to stop and work for a time to build up finances or those of rich families.

Would our government be willing to finance some of these types of trips as others do? If it did, most of us would cry socialism. But isn't helping our children to be their best what we want?

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:
What streaming service do you use most?

“Pureflix.”

Krynn Sage
Hayward

“Hulu.”

Cambrai McBride

“Hulu.”

Joyce Fruit

“HBO Max.”

Francisco Antonio
Montelongo

“Philo.”

Cathy Haas

“Hulu.”

Lois Moreland

“Pluto.”

Becky Agp

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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



RTHS Key Club sorts bottle caps for bench

On Sunday, May 15, members of the Rochelle Township High School Key Club sorted and bagged over 200 bottle caps for a six-foot bench at Rochelle Middle School. Pictured are Past President Madison Ost, Treasurer Samantha Thorne, Sophomore Representative Charlotte Simmons and Member Jacob Ost.



- April 29 - Dr. Lonn, DeKalb, \$25
- April 30 - Jeff Fiegenschuh, Rochelle, \$25
- May 1 - Jeffrey Birr, Rochelle, \$50
- May 2 - Heather Fenwick, Broadhead, Wis., \$25
- May 3 - Kathleen Wayman, Oregon, \$25
- May 4 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
- May 5 - Calvin Jacobs, Rochelle, \$25
- May 6 - David Cartwright, Rochelle, \$25
- May 7 - Christine Polz, Rochelle, \$25
- May 8 - Ben Weinstein, Rochelle, \$50
- May 9 - Anne Brodersen, Stillman Valley, \$25
- May 10 - Shane Peterson, Rochelle, \$25
- May 11 - Debbi Ramsey, Rochelle, \$25
- May 12 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- May 13 - Karen Kereven, Oregon, \$25
- May 14 - Romey Burgess, Steward, \$25
- May 15 - Jennifer Brown, Rochelle, \$50
- May 16 - Breyann 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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- May 25**
John & Kristi Gonzales
Harry & Valerie Rogers
- May 27**
Leland Hazlip
- May 29**
Tristan Perkins
Kathy Marchesi
- June 1**
Brandi Ferrari
Nina Ramos
- June 4**
Barb Manning
- June 6**
Chonito Astudillo
- June 7**
Keli Perez
- 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

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

May 26 – (Thursday) – Pork Chops or Pork Medallions with Demi Glaze, Scallion Potato Cakes, Veggies

May 31 – (Tuesday) – Spaghetti, Green Beans, Salad and Garlic Bread

June 5 – (Sunday Brunch) – Serving Time Changed to 9 to 12 - Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Meat Omelets over Hash Browns, Fresh Fruit

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



Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Ancient Brit

5 Started

8 Fail to see

12 River to the Baltic

13 Spanish gold

14 "Do – others ..."

15 Opera set in Egypt

16 Used a Hoover, say

18 Baseball divisions

20 Diving ducks

21 Leb. neighbor

22 Ostrich's kin

23 Sousa composition

26 Empty, as a stare

30 Commotion

31 Melody

32 "Top Hat" studio

33 Flu forestaller

36 Autocrats

38 Tummy muscles

39 Chatter

40 Skirt style

43 Set of words

47 Work break

49 Nitwit

50 Pedestal occupant

51 In shape

52 Ancient Dead Sea land

53 Taxpayer IDs

54 NBC week-end show

55 Scarce

DOWN

1 Furnace fuel

2 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"

3 Spartan queen

4 Very sad

5 Paramour

6 Historic periods

7 Physician's nickname

8 Hawaiian garment

9 "By the power

10 Leftovers recipe

11 Lays down the lawn

17 Gomer Pyle's org.

19 Show to a seat, slangily

22 Hearing thing

23 Dallas hooper, briefly

24 Nabokov novel

25 Sinbad's bird

26 Compete

27 Man-mouse link

28 Kiev's land

29 "Mayday!"

31 Reply (Abbr.)

34 Suez and Erie, e.g.

35 "Yeah, right"

36 Levy

37 Web master?

39 Streisand title role

40 Hertz rival

41 Young fellows

42 PC picture

43 Pork cut

44 Musical finale

45 Bloodhound's clue

46 Alaskan city

48 Conditions

vested – ..." (Abbr.)

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3					2			1
	1		9		7	8		
		8		6			4	
	3			7				6
2					1	4		
		5	3				1	9
5	4				6		3	
	7			9				2
		1	8			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: R equals S

MFFY HB RFH ILWBLWHWFR?

KBMRTQH S IWSMB HFKOMWKWSM.

HOFV'LF RNWQQFY SH SYLFRRWMP

NFV WRTFR.

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Answers

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

Answers

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

key issues.

They're skilled at addressing.

Consult a piano technician.

Need to set priorities?

answer

CryptoQuip

LOCAL NEWS

Kishwaukee College holds commencement ceremony

MALTA — For the first time in more than two years, Kishwaukee College held its commencement ceremonies in person. Approximately 275 students attended two ceremonies held on Saturday, May 21, to celebrate spring 2022 commencement.

“After two years of holding virtual ceremonies, it is so good to be here in person celebrating with you all today,” said Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College.

The first ceremony recognized 155 graduates who earned Associate in applied science degrees, certificates of completion, and Illinois High School Equivalency credentials. The second ceremony honored 120 graduates earning associate in arts,

associate in fine arts, associate in science, associate in engineering science and associate in general studies degrees. Overall, 402 students completed a program or certificate requirement this semester. Additionally, graduates from the Summer and Fall 2021 semesters were invited to attend the in-person ceremonies.

Dennysha Kizer, a graduate of Kish’s nursing program, served as the student speaker during the first ceremony, emphasizing how the college served as a support system through the pandemic.

“Even during COVID-19, when social isolation weighed over us, I always had someone within reach, whether it was a phone call, FaceTime, email, or just socially distancing in our cars.

The community that this College has provided me with helped me achieve my goals,” Kizer said. “Kish has provided us with the skills, and now it is our time to put them to use. Go start the career you have always wanted. Earn that bachelor’s or master’s degree. Continue chasing your dreams.”

Sierra Price, a graduate earning her associate in arts degree and the student speaker for the second ceremony, also acknowledged the challenges of the pandemic and drew on Benjamin Franklin’s advice, “Out of adversity comes opportunity.”

“Let your achievements these past two years remind you to prepare for inevitable changes and embrace the opportunities that accompany them — even when they may not



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On Saturday, May 21, Kishwaukee College held its commencement ceremonies in person for the first time since fall 2019. Pictured (left to right) are Bob Johnson, board chair; Kathleen Spears, board secretary; Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College; Kathy Countryman, trustee and Dr. Robert Hammon, board vice-chair.

always align with your desired vision,” Price said. “When feelings of uncertainty arise, take them in stride and accept the option

that scares you most. Then, perhaps, you will find yourself in positions you’d never imagined possible.”

Both ceremonies were

livestreamed on Kish’s social media channels and website. To view either ceremony, visit www.kish.edu/commencement.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



CHEERING IN COLLEGE

RTHS senior Liberty Hayes will cheer at the University of Dubuque next year.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Girls Track

Season concludes at state

Lady Hub athletes reflects on recent IHSA State Championship experience

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLESTON — Alivia Henkel had never competed in the 300-meter hurdles prior to beginning her sophomore season with the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity track and field team. Her season ended with a medal from the IHSA State Championship meet at Eastern Illinois University this past weekend.

Looking to build on her first-place performance in the IHSA 2A Genoa-Kingston Sectional, Henkel successfully qualified for the finals in the 300-meter hurdles on Friday, running a time of 47.60 seconds to take eighth out of 22 athletes in the preliminary round. With a state medal clinched, Henkel raced to the finish in the finals on Saturday, placing ninth in 47.17 seconds.

“My first state track experience was amazing,” Henkel said. “It was really cool to see the competitive nature of the other athletes and I really enjoyed watching runners compete in races that I’ve been running

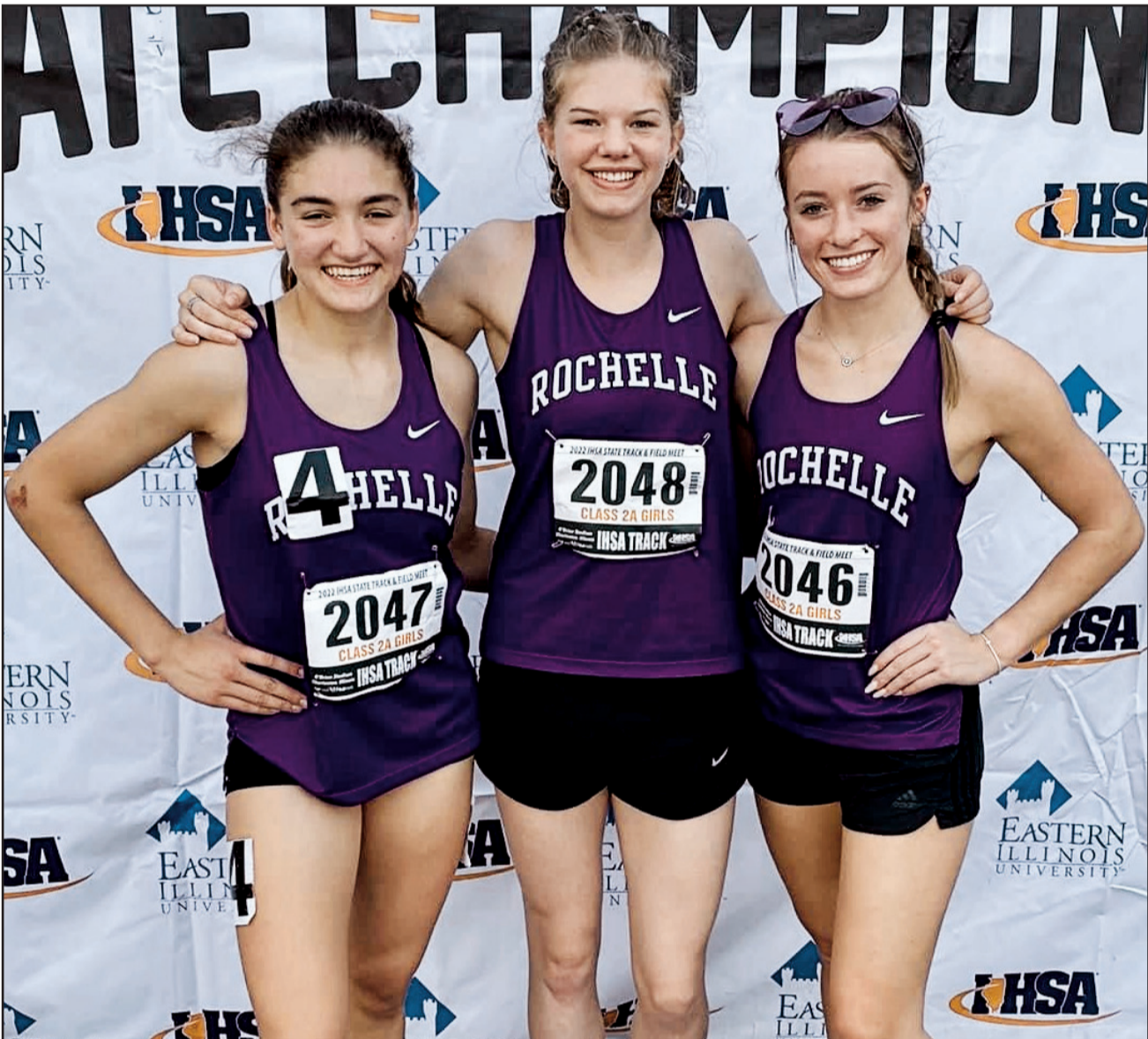
all season. I’m proud of how much I’ve improved in the hurdles in a short amount of time. It was so exciting to even make the finals and it meant even more to medal.”

The state meet capped off a successful sophomore campaign for Henkel, who won the Interstate 8 Conference title in the 400-meter dash and was a leading contributor in both the sprints and the sprint relays this season. Henkel, who was the first girl from Rochelle to run the 300-meter hurdles at state since Brooke Hatfield in 2011, said her goal for next season is to break the school record of 46.2 seconds. Henkel’s sectional title time was 46.6 seconds.

“Going to state was a great example of what I’m capable of and I think with more work and experience in the hurdles, I can be a real competitor at state in the coming years,” Henkel said.

Seniors Liberty Hayes and Teagan Meyers also represented the Lady Hubs in the state meet this season.

See **TRACK** page 3



Rochelle Lady Hub varsity track and field athletes Alivia Henkel, Teagan Meyers and Liberty Hayes (left to right) closed out their respective seasons at the IHSA State Championship meet this past weekend.

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

RTHS Softball

Eight-run rally lifts Rochelle over Kaneland

Smardo strikes out 13 batters as Lady Hubs outlast Knights 10-9 in finale

ROCHELLE — Morgan Smardo dug deep and worked for every out as the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball team attempted to close out its home finale against Kaneland on Thursday.

Looking for revenge after falling 10-0 to the Knights earlier this season, Rochelle took the late lead with an eight-run outburst in the bottom of the fifth inning. Kaneland refused to back down, however, bringing the Lady Hubs within one run and putting two runners in scoring position with two outs in the top of the seventh inning. Already with 12 strikeouts in the game, Smardo took a deep breath before firing the full-count pitch to left-hander Sammy Dunne.

Using the elevated fast-ball that worked well all game, Smardo forced a check swing from Dunne, resulting in a called third strike and a 13th strikeout that clinched Rochelle’s 10-9 win over the Knights. The Lady Hubs (7-14, 4-10 Interstate 8) will seek to build on their newfound momentum as they prepare for the IHSA 3A Sterling Regional Semifinals on Tuesday.

“I knew I had to throw that last strike because I knew there was a runner on third and I didn’t want to load the bases,” Smardo

said. “I controlled myself and I was able to come through. Kaneland’s one of the toughest teams we’ve played this season and to finish with that many strikeouts was a big deal to me. This win means a lot more, especially after that first loss, because I felt like we played more as a team and our bats were able to come through.”

The Knights surged ahead early, scoring three runs on four singles and an error in the top of the first inning. Rochelle responded with one run in the bottom of the first inning, where freshman Lauren Dyer and senior Jordin Dickey slapped back-to-back singles through the infield before senior Melissa Young came through with an RBI single of her own. Dickey singled to lead off the bottom of the fourth inning, eventually scoring on an RBI groundout from senior Ashley Knight.

“It’s such a good feeling to win because we’ve been run-ruled practically every time we’ve played against Kaneland,” Dickey said. “We came together as a team and everyone was giving everything they had. Our energy was awesome and winning this game feels like a dream.”

Trailing 5-2 after Kaneland tallied two runs in the top of the fifth inning, Rochelle broke the game



Senior Melissa Young (left) recorded three hits and four RBIs during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball game against Kaneland on Thursday. Junior Morgan Smardo (right) struck out 13 Knights in the circle.



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

wide open with eight runs on 10 hits in the bottom of the fifth inning. The Lady Hubs strung together four consecutive one-out singles to score one run before Young cleared the bases with a three-run triple to the right-field fence. Four players including seniors Lauren Jackson and Regan Underwood, Smardo and

Dyer delivered two-out RBI singles to keep the offense going.

“That inning was one of the best moments I’ve experienced throughout my four years with the softball team,” Dickey said. “It meant a lot more to do it against Kaneland because they’re such a great team and they’re normally one

of the higher ranked teams in the state. It’s a huge confidence booster for us to win this game and I think we’re playing with a lot more energy.”

The Knights earned one run back in the top of the sixth inning before threatening to steal the game in the top of the seventh inning. Kailey Plank doubled to

lead off the frame, while Izzy Stombres walked and Emily Olp singled over the next two at-bats. A flyout and a strikeout brought Rochelle within one out of victory, but the Knights rallied with consecutive singles from Abby Latka and Olivia Stoker. But strikeout No. 13 for No. 13, Smardo, sealed the Rochelle win.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT

Hayes makes University of Dubuque cheer team

LIBERTY Hayes has spent four years with the Rochelle Township High School varsity cheerleading team, but it wasn't until her senior year that her love for the sport and the support she received from her teammates motivated her to continue performing at the next level.

Hayes was initially focused on finding a school where she could pursue an education in aviation, a fitting industry for a student-athlete who performed as a flyer for the varsity cheerleading team at RTHS. That search led her to the University of Dubuque, where the RTHS senior said she immediately felt at home. After earning acceptance to the university and completing a virtual tryout earlier with the Dubuque cheer program earlier this year, Hayes learned during her first track and field meet of the spring that she had qualified to perform and compete for the team.

"I love cheerleading," Hayes said. "I love the atmosphere of being on the football field and being in the gym. My main focus wasn't to do a sport in college, but when I arrived at Dubuque, everything was really laid back and it felt like I could have a family there. I really like the coach and I've talked with a few of the girls who will be on the team. I'm excited for a new opportunity."

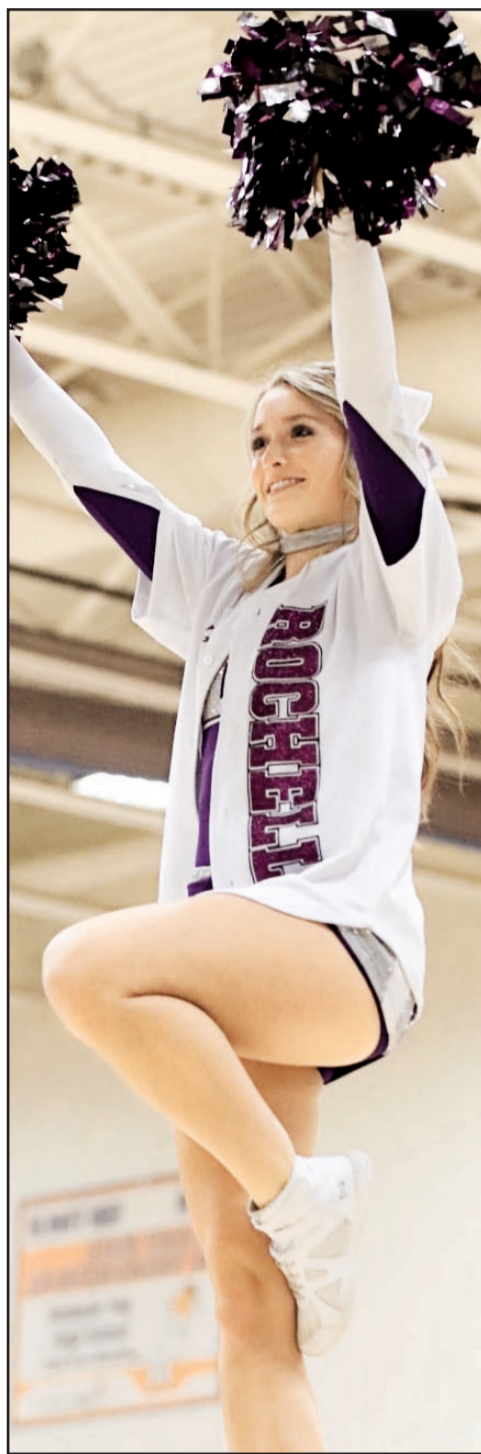
Hayes finished her four-year varsity cheerleading career at RTHS on a high note, earning Interstate 8 All-Conference First Team honors and receiving the Co-Cheerleader of the Year Award from head coach Trish Rodeghero. A multi-sport student-athlete at RTHS, Hayes also competed with the varsity track and field team for four years, earning multiple All-Conference honors and becoming an IHSA State Championship qualifier in the 100-meter dash.

"Dubuque is lucky to have Liberty," Rodeghero said. "She's a well-rounded athlete with not only tremendous skill, but amazing leadership. She has always stepped up and done what she needed to do for the betterment of the team. She's always looking to improve her skills and she grew so much as a flyer over the last four years. I'm so excited for her to continue her athletic career in college and I think she will be a tremendous asset to their cheerleading program."

Also a two-year tennis player at RTHS, Hayes said she hopes to use her education in aviation to pursue a career as a pilot. Hayes began her cheer career at RTHS as one of only two freshmen on the varsity team, but she departs as one of only two seniors on the team this year.

"My teammates pushed me to keep cheering in college. I originally didn't want to do a sport, but after this year, the girls were so supportive of me."

Liberty Hayes



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Senior Liberty Hayes will continue her academics and her cheerleading career at the University of Dubuque next year.

"When I tried out for cheer and made the varsity team as a freshman, I was with a lot of girls who had a lot of experience already," Hayes said. "They pushed me to learn new skills and they helped me through my struggles early on. I thought this year was my best year with the team and I really enjoyed our team bond. My teammates pushed me to keep cheering in college. I originally didn't want to do a sport, but after this year, the girls were so supportive of me."

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SPORTS

RTHS Boys Tennis

Hubs bow out at IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional

Senior netter Zheng wins two singles matches, leads Rochelle to eighth place

ROCHELLE — A successful season came to a conclusion for the Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team Friday evening, when the purple and white hosted the IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional.

Senior Jason Zheng led Rochelle in the singles tournament, winning two matches and scoring all four points for the Hubs, who tied for eighth place out of 11 schools in the sectional meet. But with no winners elsewhere, Rochelle (12-3, 4-0 Interstate 8) will not send any players to the IHSA State Championship. Zheng fell 0-6, 0-6 against Geneseo's Alex Slaymaker in the third round, falling one win short of qualifying.

"I'm really proud of how our kids played today," head coach Kristy Eckardt said. "David [Wanner] and Owen [Haas] drew the No. 1 seed in the doubles bracket and they battled throughout that entire match. John [Green] and Peter [Forsberg] were able to overcome a first-set loss and take their match to a third set. We played good tennis and it was nice to go out the way we did."

Zheng began his tourna-

ment run in the first round, cruising over Freeport's No. 1 singles athlete Nate Wilks 6-3, 6-2. The Hub senior faced a tougher challenge in the second round, where he faced the No. 1 singles player from Rock Falls, Dawson Newendyke. After conceding the first set, Zheng fought back to split the match before outlasting his opponent in the third set to seal a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory.

"I'm so proud of how Jason played today," Eckardt said. "We knew Jason had a chance to win the first match and then going against a second-round opponent who's played No. 1 singles all season while Jason's been our No. 2 singles player, I thought he battled back and played really outstanding tennis. We knew the top four seeds in the singles tournament were extremely tough, but Jason went toe-to-toe with some of the players around here and I'm proud of him."

Senior Alex Gilbert also competed in the singles tournament, falling 2-6, 3-6 against Dixon's Grant Boss in the second round. Juniors David Wanner and Owen Haas showed



Juniors John Green (left) and David Wanner (right) were two of the four Rochelle Hub varsity tennis players who battled in the doubles tournament during the IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional on Friday.

resiliency in their second-round doubles match against Geneseo's Samuel Robinson and Connor Nelson, falling just short in a 1-6, 4-6 loss. Junior John Green and Peter Forsberg also bowed out during the second round, conceding a 2-6, 6-4, 4-6 loss against Alleman's Connor Anderson and Lincoln Dorsey.

TRACK: Lady Hubs close out postseason at state meet

From page 1

Hayes, who qualified after finishing second in the 100-meter dash at the sectional, concluded her four-year varsity career with an enormous personal record of 12.87 seconds during the Friday prelims, shattering her previous best of 13.25 from her freshman season. Hayes now ranks among the 15 fastest 100-meter sprinters in school history at RTHS.

"When coach [Alison] Vrana told me my time, my immediate reaction was denial," Hayes said. "Once we went back to the bleachers and watched the replay of

the race, I was really happy that I achieved my goal of setting a new PR at the state meet. Ending my career with a PR at the state meet was amazing because I did exactly what I wanted to do. Running against so many fast and talented athletes raised the bar for me and pushed me to run my fastest race ever."

Meyers competed in the high jump, returning to the blue track in Charleston and concluding her four-varsity career as a two-time state qualifier. The senior breezed through the preliminary round on Friday before bowing out on Saturday with an 11th place finish at

1.52 meters. Meyers was the only Lady Hub this season to reach state during the indoor and outdoor seasons.

"I love the culture of our team," Meyers said. "I love the high energy and the good spirit we have. I also really enjoyed competing for myself and doing the best I could while getting points for my team in the process. I'm going to miss the track atmosphere and how everyone's encouraging each other and building each other up. I'll forever be thankful that I went out for track because I met so many great people and made so many new friendships with teammates and coaches."



Above from left to right are Alivia Henkel, Teagan Meyers, Liberty Hayes and Rochelle Lady Hub head track and field coach Alison Vrana.

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Part-time mailroom position

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

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

Anyone (18 years or older) interested in this position should apply in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office, 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle, IL 61068.

HW

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PRIME TIME

How to make new friends after age 50

THE early years of midlife are a hectic time for many people. Around the time many people reach their late 30s and early 40s, they're balancing the responsibilities of a career and a family. But as people enter their 50s, some of those responsibilities tend to be less significant, leaving more time for recreational pursuits.

Hobbies and other pursuits outside of work are often more fun when enjoyed with friends. People over 50 undoubtedly recognize that it's not always so easy to make new friends, even though it's undeniably beneficial to have supportive relationships into your golden years. A 2017 study from researchers at Michigan State University found that valuing friendships was a stronger predictor of health and happiness among older adults than valuing family. Those results align with an earlier Australian study that found Australians age 70 or older tended to live significantly longer if they had more strong friendships.

Making friends after 50

might not be as simple as it was during your school days, but these strategies can help men and women in midlife build new friendships.

Identify your interests. Fiftysomethings who have spent the last couple of decades building a career and raising a family can give some serious thought to their interests outside of work or passions they hope to pursue now that they have more time to commit to such pursuits. The more interested you are in a given activity, the more likely you are to stick with it. And the longer you stick with something, the more likely you are to meet like-minded individuals (i.e., future friends) willing to make similar commitments.

Utilize social media. In years past, men and women over 50 may not have had any readily available tools to reach out and connect with new people. Social media has made it much easier to build such connections. Even the most obscure passions likely have a social media group of locals devoted to them,



and these groups can be great ways to meet new people. A local runner's club may have its own social media accounts, and local governments and community groups often share information about sports leagues and other groups via social media.

Sign up for group out-

ings. Communities often sponsor group outings to museums, the theater, sporting events, and other day trips. Signing up for a bus trip to a local museum presents a great opportunity to meet people who share your interests, providing the potential to build lasting friendships built on a foun-

ation of shared interests. Broaden your horizons. Just because you're in your 50s doesn't mean your friends have to be. Don't hesitate to invite younger or older acquaintances and colleagues over for dinner or on weekend excursions. Friends come in all shapes, sizes and ages, so you could

be missing out if you're not willing to extend a hand in friendship to people of different ages and backgrounds.

Making friends after 50 can be challenging. However, various strategies can help men and women over 50 connect with new people.

Several methods to organize a social club

THE early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic taught the world many lessons, not the least of which was how easy it can be to take socializing for granted. Lockdown was a big part of life during the early days of the pandemic, as people were forced to stay home from work and school and remain largely isolated, even from their own friends and family members.

The sense of isolation that many people developed during those early days of the pandemic likely didn't come as a surprise to

medical researchers, particularly those who have studied the effects of isolation on aging populations. The National Institute on Aging indicates that social isolation and loneliness are linked to depression as well as a host of other negative health outcomes, including high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, and cognitive decline.

Social clubs can be a great way for adults over 50 to avoid isolation and loneliness. Such clubs can provide opportunities to connect with individuals who share similar interests,

laying the foundation for new friendships that can be hard to develop in midlife.

Perhaps the best thing about social clubs is that anyone can start one. These tips can help individuals over 50 start social clubs that appeal to locals who are on the lookout for fun ways to meet new people.

Think of a hobby unique to your location. One of the best ways to attract other locals is to find a hobby that caters to residents in your area. For example, coastal residents may want to start a local fishing club, while city dwellers may draw

more interest starting a club focused on local museums or restaurants.

Take all comers. Individuals over 50 may aspire to meet people in situations similar to their own, but they should still allow anyone interested in their club to join. Adults in the early stages of midlife (i.e., their thirties and forties) are often too busy with their personal and professional lives to make much time for social clubs, so it's likely that those interested will be 50 or older. But accepting all who are interested can increase the chances

of starting a diverse and engaging group.

Spread the word. Meetup (meetup.com) has been facilitating connections for two decades, making it a great place to start a group for people with shared interests. In addition to utilizing a service like Meetup, founders can spread the word through their social media apps and create fliers to post on public boards at local community centers and libraries.

Find a public place to get together. It's best to

avoid hosting club events and meetings at a private residence, including your own. Instead, prior to starting the club, look around for meeting places, which can include local churches, libraries or community centers. Ask about reserving spaces for meetings and look for places that are accessible for all people, including those with mobility issues.

Starting a social club can be a great way for individuals over 50 to meet new people and explore new or existing passions.





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SPORTS

RTHS Girls Soccer

Lady Hubs fall in IHSA 2A Regional Championship

No. 1 seed Boylan Catholic shuts out No. 6 seed Rochelle 8-0 for regional title

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team saw its season conclude during the IHSA 2A Rochelle Regional Championship match against Boylan Catholic on Friday.

Appearing in their first regional final since 2009, the sixth-seeded Lady Hubs fought hard to hold back the top-seeded Titans from taking the early lead. But the NIC-10 Conference champions ultimately broke through midway through the first half, scoring in the 18th and 29th minutes to spark a string of eight unanswered goals. Boylan Catholic showed why it was the No. 1 seed in the regional, defeating Rochelle 8-0 to advance to the IHSA 2A Freepoint Sectional Semifinals.

"I was very pleased with how we fought early in the match," head coach Brad Male said. "We played a solid 20 minutes of soccer, but it's tough to face a team that has the depth and the skill that Boylan Catholic does. I was happy

with how we came out and I hope that our girls who are coming back next year will continue to carry us down the path we started on this season."

The Titans built a 5-0 lead at halftime, dominating the time of possession and using quick passes to swing the ball around the field. After earning the 2-0 advantage late in the first half, Boylan Catholic followed with goals during the 31st, 34th and 39th minutes. The Titans clinched their regional title win with three more goals in the 44th, 48th and 57th minutes. Sophomore goalkeeper Danica Ward recorded 15 saves for the Lady Hubs (10-10, 4-2 Interstate 8).

"We always hope that our girls come back to the team during the following year," Male said. "I'm proud of our girls and I thought their hard work throughout the season allowed them to be in the position they were today to play for a regional championship. Hopefully we can



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)
Junior Kailey Harris chases down Boylan Catholic's Kyra Cruickshank during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team's regional championship match against the Titans on Friday. Boylan Catholic won the match 8-0.

continue our progression and be back in the same position next year and pos-

sibly go even further."

Boylan Catholic outshot Rochelle 30-4 and 23-3 in

shots on goal while totaling seven corner kicks. Freshman Makayla Lara had two

shots on goal, while senior Madison Ost added one shot on goal.

2022 FOOTBALL

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