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LEOs read to
Chana students

Local law enforcement officers read to students at the Chana Education Center. **Page 7**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
36 22	27 19
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
27 12	22 6

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- MARY JANE OWENS

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Project Jackpot revealed

Zekelman Industries to fill former Nippon Sharyo buildings

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The long-awaited mystery company that is filling the former Nippon Sharyo buildings at 1600 Ritchie Court in Rochelle is Zekelman Industries, the largest steel pipe and tube manufacturer in North America, a City of Rochelle press release said Friday.

Operations will commence in Rochelle this fall and the development is expected to create between 100 and 150 jobs locally, the release said. The city expects the project to foster further industrial and commercial development in the community.

“The City of Rochelle is pleased to welcome Zekelman Industries to our community,” Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows said in the press release. “The city was only able to attract this type of development because of our ongoing investment in our utility infrastructure.”

In the past, Zekelman Industries has been said to be making a capital investment of over \$130 million in the facility and



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The long-awaited mystery company that is filling the former Nippon Sharyo buildings at 1600 Ritchie Court in Rochelle is Zekelman Industries, the largest steel pipe and tube manufacturer in North America, a City of Rochelle press release said Friday.

its jobs will pay an average of \$52,000 per year before benefits.

The Lee-Ogle Enterprise zone was amended by the Rochelle City Council and other area members to attract Zekelman Industries by adding 10 years of 50 percent abatement, creating a category for companies that make an investment of \$100 million or more plus adding at least 125 new jobs and a pay rate of \$50,000 or more before benefits and maintaining 95

percent employees. There are a total of 12 years of abatement for Zekelman Industries’ west building. The east building won’t be abated at all. The city also reached a development agreement with Zekelman Industries.

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh has said previously that the city has invested a “significant” amount in attracting Zekelman Industries in terms of incentive dollars and staff hours. Infrastructure

like the current substation project going on next to the Zekelman Industries site has also been put into place.

“This announcement was made possible through the efforts of the mayor, city council, and city staff over almost two years,” Fiegenschuh said in the Friday press release. “This project demonstrates that Rochelle is an economic engine for the region and that our community is an attractive location for families.”

City officials signed

non-disclosure agreements about Zekelman Industries and were previously unable to reveal the identity of the company. It has been referred to as “Project Jackpot” by city staff and around the community.

Zekelman Industries is currently completing the redevelopment of the two buildings on its site, the press release said. When complete, the facility will be “state-of-the-art” in pipe and tube-making technology.

Seven C’s Mission helping those in need

Local outreach ministry located at 1135 Lincoln Highway

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Seven C’s Mission began in 2013 when a member of Crossroads Community Church was getting rid of some belongings.

“A lady came and said she’d take it all,” Amanda Barnes, a volunteer at Seven C’s Mission said. “A friend of mine was the one giving things away. Through conversation she learned that the lady had nothing and she prayed about it for a while. That all stirred her heart and she pitched it to me and it just went from there. It was just being touched by people and their needs. You go through your day, you don’t really notice that people are hurting and in need.”

Seven C’s started out at Crossroads and moved to 1135 Lincoln Hwy. in town four years ago. The mission is an outreach ministry of Living Water Community Church located at 405 N. Main St. It hosts monthly giveaways



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Seven C’s started out at Crossroads and moved to 1135 Lincoln Hwy. in town four years ago. The mission is an outreach ministry of Living Water Community Church located at 405 N. Main St.

on the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. where it helps meet the needs of people by offering donated new and gently used clothing, hygiene items and other small housewares, as well as providing lunch free of charge.

Beginning April 21,

Seven C’s will begin hosting a second giveaway on the third Tuesday of each month from 4-7 p.m. Giveaways are currently by appointment only. However, beginning May 14 it will begin serving the community on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Some volunteers at Sev-

en C’s serve as personal shoppers who walk each person or family through the mission and get to know them through conversation while they pick out clothes or other donated items. The mission also takes appointments throughout the month to assist people in crisis.

“Every month we seem to have one or two more people come in that need help,” Barnes said. “We just want to let the community know we’re here. It’s rough out there and we know a lot of people are hurting and we just want to help.”

See MISSION page 8

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LOCAL NEWS

Local leaders join for bimonthly city update

Bearrows, Fiegenschuh, Demmer discuss utilities, COVID-19 fund use

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE
— During Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows' bimonthly update on Thursday he was joined by City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh and State Rep. Tom Demmer on Facebook live for discussion that involved utility issues and federal COVID-19 fund use.

During last week's city council meeting, a net metering policy was passed for residents and small commercial business customers of Rochelle Municipal Utilities that want to install solar

panels in the future. RMU will be giving a credit back to customers that generate more power than they need that gets put back onto RMU's grid. New energy legislation passed by the state last year required cities with public utilities to pass net metering and interconnection policies.

RMU customers that generate solar power that goes back onto RMU's grid won't receive a full "one-to-one" credit due to the city needing to pay expenses of maintaining its power grid.

"We're essentially giving them a credit for our wholesale power

cost," Fiegenschuh said. "We're not giving them a larger credit because we still have a distribution system to run. If they're not producing power 100 percent of the time, then they're using power off of our distribution lines and we have to pay our linemen. We have to maintain our system."

Last year's energy bill legislative process saw impacts on the area when the fates of the Prairie State Energy Campus, which the City of Rochelle is a part owner of, and the Byron Nuclear Plant were on the table. An eventual bill kept Prairie State open until at least 2038 and Byron was kept open after a September 2021 closure was possible.

"Energy policy has been at the forefront on the state level quite a bit over the past couple of years," Demmer said. "And now there are some local decisions being made on zoning and siting for solar farms. We've been dealing with wind farms for years, but there's upgrades happening on those now. The energy world shows just how interconnected a lot of these decisions are."

Bearrows and Fiegenschuh both stressed that they're in favor of renewable energy during the bi-monthly update and discussed the importance of moving towards it in a thought-out fashion.

"It's very complex and it may be the wave of the future, but what scares me is the more we talk about electricity and try to gear



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

During Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows' bimonthly update on Thursday he was joined by City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh and State Rep. Tom Demmer live for discussion that involved utility issues and federal COVID-19 fund use.

more towards solar and wind and electric cars are coming online more," Bearrows said. "It's just a lot of change. It's not that we're against it. We're not opposed to making these changes, but we have to have time to work into the changes. You can't just flip the switch overnight."

Fiegenschuh said he believes more electric cars in the future will put a greater burden on electric distribution systems like RMU's. That will call for upsizing transformers and line sizes.

COVID-19 funds

When asked about the state's biggest challenges in the future, Demmer discussed how the state, counties and cities will spend federal COVID-19 relief dollars. He called

it an "unprecedented" amount of money and said there have been a lot of different ideas on what to do with it.

The funds are subject to some restrictions by the federal government on what they can be used for. Local governments will have to find the most responsible ways to spend the money. Demmer said he's been trying to get more transparency on how the money is spent to prevent unethical actions.

"Those are important decisions," Demmer said. "First, every decision about how we spend taxpayer dollars is important and we should pay close attention to how we allocate those dollars. These are one-time funds and they're really significant. It's a meaningful amount of money. That will be a challenge over the next

year." Fiegenschuh agreed with Demmer about the money amount being unprecedented. The City of Rochelle received \$1.2 million in federal dollars and the city council has approved what to spend it on.

"We're going to use them on what was named in the act: water, infrastructure, storm sewer improvements and we're actually talking to Habitat for Humanity about doing some kind of project where we provide some assistance to low-income residents to do energy efficiency upgrades to their homes and we're working with landlords on those in apartments," Fiegenschuh said. "I applaud what we're doing with the dollars. We're going to send a brochure out so people can see what we're spending it on."



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LOCAL NEWS

IDPH Director Ezike stepping down March 14

Gov. Pritzker declares March 1 'Dr. Ngozi Ezike Day' in the state

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike will resign on March 14 after three years leading the agency and two years navigating a deadly pandemic that has claimed the lives of more than 32,000 Illinoisans.

Ezike, who was appointed IDPH director in 2019, became a widely recognized public figure in the state as the COVID-19 pandemic upended daily life across the globe.

"There is something particularly heroic about the service of an extraordinary individual who did not seek greatness, but found it anyway," Gov. JB Pritzker said, proclaiming March 1 "Dr. Ngozi Ezike Day" in Illinois.

When she got the call from Pritzker in January 2019, she said she wrote in her journal, "I'm so excited to grow and be stretched to new limits."

"I didn't exactly know the full impact of that," she said through a laugh Tuesday after reading the passage.

Beginning with daily updates in March 2020, Ezike appeared at more than 160 COVID-19-related news conferences alongside the governor, putting a public face on the medical side of the state's executive branch-driven pandemic response.

"IDPH consists of a

team of unsung heroes, that by nature and definition works behind the scenes, who's committed to public health. And that commitment gave me strength every day," she said.

Pritzker said the department will be led in the interim by Dr. Amaal Tokars, an IDPH top deputy who has at times appeared next to the governor at his news conferences as well.

Ezike, a mother of four, thanked her family for "tolerating the absences" over the past two years.

"You have stood by and you have supported me and you've not complained and you have made dinners and you've done all the pickups and the drop-offs," Ezike said. "But now it's time for me to make you my priority. And give back a portion of the attention and the encouragement and the support that you lavished on me."

An emotional Ezike thanked the governor and the people of Illinois for giving her strength in a difficult time.

"I acknowledge and mourn with the families of all the lives lost not just to COVID, but to gun violence, to suicide, to drug overdose, to racism, to cancer, and all the other diseases and ills that public health officials and all of our partners work tirelessly to curb," she said.

Ezike also said that while the statewide indoor mask mandate was lifted as of Monday, it's important

to be respectful of Illinoisans who still choose to wear face coverings for medical or other reasons.

"We have embarked on a new chapter in our COVID journey, and I just want to highlight that as the mask requirement has been lifted it does not mean that it's not recommended," she said. "And as we think about our individual situations... It may absolutely be the case that you are an individual either because of your own self-assessment... or because of those that you live with, that you will continue to wear a mask."

Ezike said declining COVID-19 transmission rates and hospitalizations, as well as increasing vaccination rates, are leading to a lull in the pandemic that created a window for her to step down.

"I'm hoping that with all the vaccinations and the therapeutics that are available that we will have, you know, a quiet spring. Spring and summer have typically been stable times. So this is my chance," she said.

She said IDPH will continue to monitor for future surges and adapt accordingly.

Pritzker also warned that despite the mandate being lifted, "COVID has not been eradicated."

Tuesday marked two years to the day that Illinois' third and fourth confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported, Pritzker



(CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS PHOTO)

Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike appears with Gov. JB Pritzker in his office in Springfield in March 2020. She announced Tuesday she is stepping down as IDPH director after three years.

said. Since that time, Ezike has dedicated long nights to overseeing the state's pandemic response, he added.

"With all her being, she has dedicated each day — and I mean every day — to the agency's mission to protect the health and wellness of the people of Illinois," he said. "For much of the last two years, she's dedicated every night too, even with this unprecedented internal workload."

The governor credited the outgoing public health director for "providing not only the latest expertise and data, but also her empathy and her compassion."

Ezike has been "a beacon of stability for millions during a time of tremendous uncertainty," he said, crediting her for giving updates in English and

Spanish.

"This pandemic is a collective trauma that has, for many, numbed their ability to comprehend death on a massive scale," Pritzker said. "Not Dr. Ezike. No number of sleepless nights and endless days could wear her down in her commitment to think first and foremost of Illinois' most vulnerable."

In announcing Ezike's plan to leave the department, Pritzker called it a "change that I'm loathe to accept."

"But perhaps she can finally get a good night's sleep and precious time with her husband and her four kids," he said. "I have utmost faith that Dr. Ezike's next journey will also bring more good to the world, as has been the

hallmark of every step of her career."

Illinois Senate President Don Harmon also praised the outgoing director.

"Throughout this pandemic, Dr. Ezike has been a calming, compassionate voice offering reassurance and information to the people of Illinois in at least two languages," he said. "I want to thank her for her commitment to the public health of this great state and wish her the very best in her next endeavors."

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



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Golden K donates to Pegasus Special Riders

Rochelle Kiwanis Golden K recently presented a check to Ms. Nancy Reed of Pegasus Special Riders to help cover costs of storm damage to horse stables. Pictured are Kiwanis Golden K Member Dennis Swinton, Reed and Kiwanis Golden K Treasurer Bill Paulin.

RMU Customer Service office closed March 22-25

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Municipal Utilities Customer Service Office will be closed Tuesday, March 22 through Friday, March 25 as RMU begins a software conversion. The office will re-open on Monday, March 28 at 8:30 a.m.

During the closure, outages may be reported through our regular phone number 815-562-4155,

where calls will be routed to our after-hours call center. Payments may be made online or dropped in one of two drop boxes located on the building. Payments will continue to be processed daily. Phone payments may be made by calling RMU's processor directly at 877-885-7968.

While the customer service office lobby

is closed, Community Development and Engineering Departments are in the office and available by phone. For community development, please call 815-562-8717 and for engineering please call 815-561-2023 or 815-561-2025.

If you have any questions, please contact RMU customer service at 815-562-4155.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Roy Francis Cardott

ROCHELLE — Roy Francis Cardott, 83, passed away Sunday, March 6 at Pinecrest Terrace in Mt. Morris. Roy was born on Jan. 16, 1939 to Edward and Irene (Austin) Cardott in Rochelle. On June 23, 1961, he married Eddie Mae Russell in Kings. He retired from Sawicki Motor Company in 2000 after 36 years of service.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Eddie Mae on Nov. 17, 2014; brother, Ron Cardott and two sisters: Roxie Hill and Rosey Nordick.

Roy is survived by his three daughters: Iona (Jim) Case of Rochelle, Ramona (Steve) Kraft and Renee (Burt) Lederer both

of Dixon; four brothers: Rick Cardott of Cordova, Illinois, Ralph (Barb) Cardott of Mt. Morris, Randy Cardott of Cordova and Rusty (Shirley) Cardott of Alberta, Canada; seven grandchildren: Denise (Pete) Johnson, Jacki (Jake) Nauman, Aryn (Liz Pardo) Case, Zach (Hope) Kraft, Erica (Cody) Boyle, Tyler (Courtney) Thomas and Ashley (Travis Cox) Thomas; eight great grandchildren: Andrew Johnson, Isabella Nauman, Beau Kraft, Auggie and Evy Boyle and Nolan, Grant and Indie Thomas.

The visitation will be from 10-11 a.m., Thursday, March 10 at the Unger-Horner Funeral



Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. Thursday with Chaplain Judy Williams officiating. Burial is at Trinity Memory Gardens in Rochelle. Memorials may be made in Roy's memory to Serenity Hospice and Home.

Visit www.ungerhorn.com to sign the online guestbook.

Mary Jane Owens

LINDENWOOD — Mary Jane Owens, 78 of Lindenwood, passed peacefully Friday morning, March 4. She was born July 17, 1943, in Chicago to Thomas and Mary O'Malley. The family moved to Rochelle in the winter of that same year.

She graduated from Mt. St. Clare Academy and College. She attended Illinois State University, earning a BA degree in education and loved teaching primary grades. She met her true love, Barney Owens, at The Beacon in Rochelle and they married within the year. They created a beautiful life together, and "Barn" lovingly and faithfully took care of his "Jane Darlin" through her battle with scleroderma until the very end.

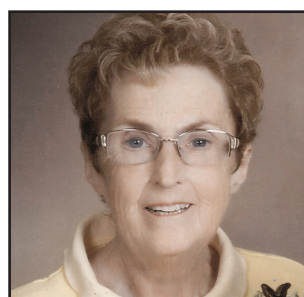
Mary Jane was a strong, independent woman of faith. She loved and longed for the beach and always marveled at God's glorious sunsets. She never met a stranger, and within minutes could be chatting with anyone, making a connection and a friend for life. Once a friend, you soon discovered her Irish wit, and no topic was off the table.

Her proudest accomplishments were her three children. She rarely missed anything in which her children and grandchildren were involved, whether it be a sporting, musical,

church or community program. She was tech savvy enough to stream an event she had to miss, and she loved texting to keep in touch with anyone who could keep up—the more emojis, the better! If she wasn't texting, you could count on a card in the mail for any little thing, and it most likely had a \$2 bill, or a few singles tucked inside for "a little treat."

She was one of the integral parts of holding the "O'Malley Clan" together and was the "constant" for so many people in her life, both young and old. She lived her Catholic faith by example, encouraged all and was proud of any progression a person was making. The best lesson she left us was to ALWAYS look for the blessings in ANY situation.

Mary Jane was preceded in death by many special relatives and friends. She is survived by her husband, Barney, and her children: Chip (Megan) Owens of Quincy, Kelly Keppen of Woodstock and Marguerite (André) Brass of Byron. She leaves behind eight grandchildren who adored her: Delaney and Chloe Keppen of Woodstock, Nolan, Nick, Madeleine and Nate Brass of Byron, Marissa (Dan) Boebel of Leaf River and Mallory (Zac) Sanders of Virginia Beach, Virginia, along with two great



granddaughters, Genevieve Boebel and Riley Sanders. She will be terribly missed by her three siblings, Pat (Jim) Hanley of Rochelle, Tom (René) O'Malley of Sherman Oaks, California, and Neil (the late Billie) O'Malley of Belvidere along with many nieces, nephews, and close friends.

Visitation will be on Thursday, March 10, from 4-7 p.m. at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The funeral mass will be held the following morning at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 11 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Rochelle with Father Richard Rosinski and Father Jesus Dominguez officiating. Burial will follow at St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Scleroderma Foundation of Greater Chicago for Research or the Poor Clare Nuns of Rockford, both C/O Unger-Horner Funeral Home, PO Box 87, Rochelle, IL 61068. Guest book at www.UngerHorn.com.

Ogle County Sheriff's Report

Deputies investigate report of residential burglary

OREGON — On Feb. 27 at 4:18 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,700 block of North David Court in Oregon. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Charles Peterson, 42, of Pecatonica for driving while license suspended. Peterson was taken into custody without incident and released on a \$2,500 or 10 percent individual bond with a return court date. Peterson was also issued citations for no front registration and expired registration.

On Feb. 27 at approximately 8:37 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 500 block of North Illinois Route 251 for speeding. Upon further investigation, deputies arrested Jason Mireles, 41, of Rochelle for possession of a controlled substance (crack cocaine). Additionally, Ryan Fenton, 31, of Oregon, was arrested for an Ogle County warrant for possession of a stolen vehicle. Both individuals were transported to the Ogle County Jail in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 27 at 11:30 p.m.

deputies arrested Jacob Saenz, 18, of Rockford for driving with no valid driver's license. Deputies arrested Saenz on Illinois Route 251 near Scott Road after he was stopped for speeding. Saenz was released on a I-bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

On March 1 at approximately 12:05 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 northbound near mile marker 110. Upon further investigation, Lucero Montalvo, 30, of Rochelle, was arrested for driving while license revoked. Montalvo was also cited for operating an uninsured vehicle and no rear registration light. Montalvo was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she is held in lieu of bond.

On March 1 at approximately 9:17 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and White Rock Road. After further investigation Nicholas Parsons, 20, of Mt. Morris was placed under arrest for unlawful possession of

cannabis/improper container. Parsons was also cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and loud exhaust. Parsons was released on an individual bond and will appear in court at a later date.

On March 3, deputies investigated a report of a residential burglary in the Mt. Morris Estates Trailer park. After an investigation, Nancylee Limond and Kenny Adams were both arrested for residential burglary and theft over \$300. Both Limond and Adams were taken into custody and transported to the Ogle County Jail and are being held in lieu of bond.

On March 3 at 7:13 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of S. White Rock Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Christina N. Dodd, 26, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin for no valid driver's license. Dodd was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond. Dodd was also cited for improper turn signal.

Rochelle Police Report

Man arrested for domestic battery and transferred

ROCHELLE — On March 4 at 1:37 p.m. Malaysia A. Reyes, 18, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 61 m.p.h. in a 40-m.p.h. zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 22 Rochelle court date.

On March 4 at 3:29 p.m. Angel M. Grasty, 43, of Rochelle was arrested

for domestic battery and transferred.

On March 4 at 8:10 a.m. Joann B. M. Ramaker, 35, of Creston was cited for speeding 65 m.p.h. in a 40-m.p.h. zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 22 Rochelle court date.

On March 5 at 4:04 p.m. Ralph Rod, 93, of Princeton

was cited for improper lane usage. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 22 Rochelle court date.

On March 8 at 12:42 a.m. Christina Smith-Espitia, 49, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. She paid \$1,000 and was given an April 6 Ogle County court date.

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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.

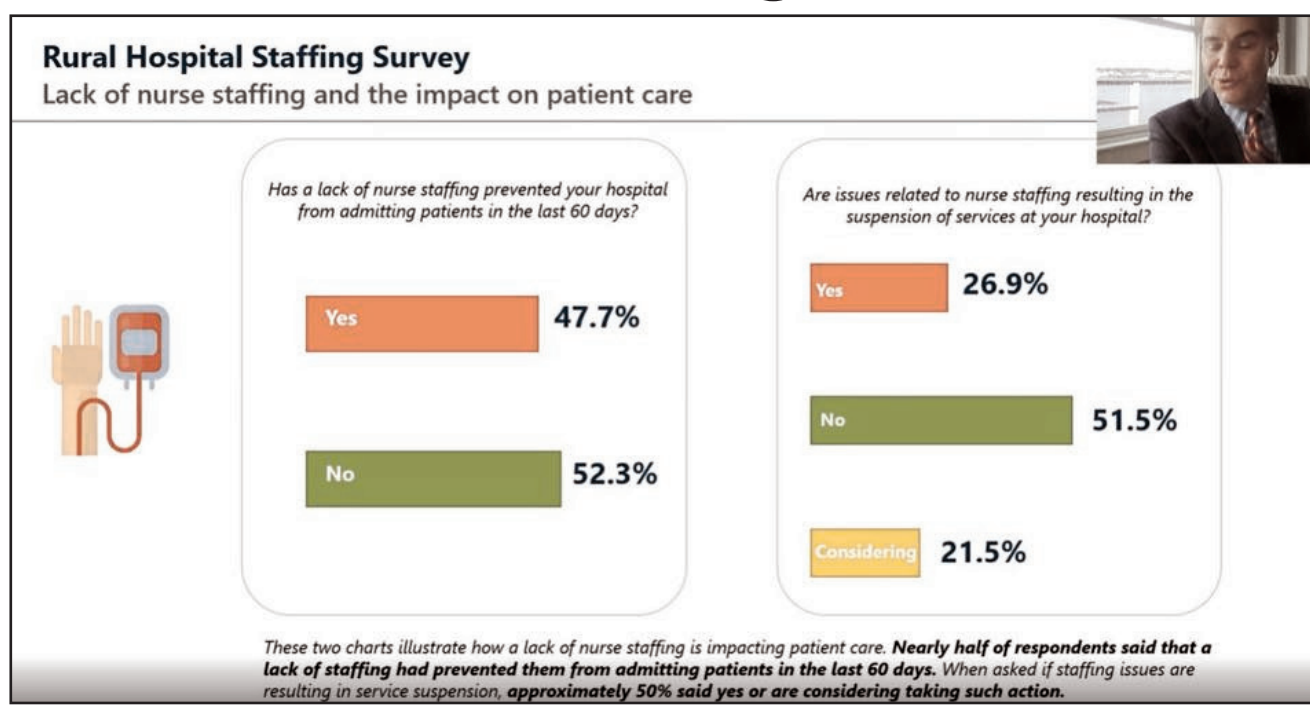
LOCAL NEWS

Loss of rural health services creating care deserts

BY TAMMIE SLOUP
FARMWEEK

Rural health care advisory and analytics provider has found nearly half of rural hospitals have refrained from admissions because of nursing shortages this past year. Additionally, more than a quarter of rural hospitals have ceased offering some services due to staffing challenges. “Alarm bells should be ringing on this topic. This is a very big deal,” said Michael Topchik, the national leader of The Chartis Center for Rural Health, during the National Rural Health Association’s Policy Institute on Feb. 8. Utilizing analytics and data to understand and address issues challenging the rural health safety net including health disparities and inequity, provider vulnerability and sustainable performance improvement, Topchik said that while pandemic funding has provided temporary stabilization to rural hospitals, the emerging nursing shortage continues to worsen. “This is the No. 1 need in our surveys and across a variety of ways we’ve looked at this, this is the biggest challenge rural hospitals tell us they have

is staffing, staffing, staffing,” Topchik said. The majority of nurses who have left rural hospitals exited for more lucrative positions, while others report being burned out from the pandemic and having to cover as a result of shortages. Staffing shortages have also impacted services. While some services were suspended by law during the pandemic, Chartis data highlighted trends with obstetric and chemotherapy services, which did not fall under that umbrella. Between 2011 and 2021, 198 rural hospitals ceased to provide obstetrics, while 311 rural hospitals ceased to provide chemotherapy between 2014 and 2017. “I’m afraid to say that it’s really the story behind the story of the hospital closure crisis. It’s the story behind the story of the pandemic, which is that we’re seeing the loss of these services in rural areas, creating virtual deserts of care for very important services,” Topchik said. Nearly half of rural hospitals are operating with a negative margin (excluding relief funds), with two rural hospitals closing in 2021, he said. The \$12.6 billion in pandemic relief payments has helped, but only temporarily. And Topchik anticipates rela-



While pandemic funding has provided temporary stabilization to hospitals, the emerging nursing shortage continues to worsen, according to Michael Topchik, national leader of The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

tive stability through 2022. “There’s been some bright news, which is last year we didn’t see that many closures and we are predicting this year we won’t see that many either,” he said. Attendees of the policy institute also met with members of Congress – including a handful from Illinois – to discuss emerging issues facing rural communities. Following his meeting with Illinois rural health representatives, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield, issued a news release about the discussion in which he highlighted the \$1 billion secured in the American Rescue Plan for the National Health Service Corps and Nurse Corps to build a more diverse pipeline of clinicians and recruit more health providers to serve in shortage areas. To address other rural health care workforce issues, Durbin has introduced the bipartisan Rural America Health Corps Act, which would create a National Health Service Corps pilot program to test whether an expanded loan repayment award and service commitment – \$200,000 over five years – would improve retention in rural communities, according to the news release. The Chartis Group also announced the 2022 Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals and the 2022 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals. Based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX, this annual recognition program honors outstanding performance among the nation’s rural hospitals. A handful of Illinois hospitals made the lists, including Wabash General Hospital in Mount Carmel (critical access hospital); and HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital in Breese, Jersey Community Hospital in Jerseyville and OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa (rural and community hospitals). This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Oregon Antiques Show scheduled for March 26-27

Hack’s Auction & Realty Services offering appraisals on March 27

OREGON — The fourth weekend in March is the much-anticipated return of the Oregon Antiques Show, Sponsored by the Oregon Woman’s Club! This year this noteworthy event is on March 26 & 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Quality antiques from the early 1800s through the retro era of the 1950s includes all areas of collecting – furniture, glass, china, pottery, toys, primitives, textiles, jewelry, dolls, silver, decorator items and more. You will be amazed at the selection available. There will be items for all collecting tastes and budgets, for both the new and advanced collector. Many changes have taken

place during the past 70+ years developing one of the premier antique shows in northern Illinois. This year is no exception, with the addition of new and returning dealers, it is shaping up to be another great event. The Oregon Woman’s Club, a member of the General Federation of Woman’s Clubs, sponsors this show as a major fund-raising event and uses the proceeds to help fund various community projects and charities. As in past years, the show will be held at the Blackhawk Center Sports Arena, located on the Oregon public school campus. The facility offers ample parking, handicap accessibility and a huge area for our 40+ Midwest antique dealers to display their

merchandise for sale. There will be items for all collecting tastes and budgets, for both the new and advanced collector. We like to think of it as “comfort food for the eyes.” The food concession will be provided by the Chana United Methodist Ladies. The menu will include homemade chicken and noodles, plus a selection of sandwiches, chips, beverages and delicious desserts. On Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hacks Auction will offer verbal appraisals of your small treasures for \$5 per item. Please supply photos of large items. If a written appraisal is needed, discuss details with the agents. Entry to the show is \$6 per person, which is good

for the weekend. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day, both days of the show. The show is located at the Blackhawk Center, 1101 W. Jefferson St., one block south of Illinois Route 64 (Washington Street), Oregon, IL, 61061. Watch for directional signage. Mark your calendar and make plans to enjoy the day or the weekend in beautiful Oregon. For additional information visit www.oregonil.com. **Appraisals** Founded in 1961, Hack’s Auction & Realty Services, Inc. is a third-generation family owned and operated business in Pecatonica. A full-service, full-time, fully-insured company

licensed in Illinois and Wisconsin, Hack’s started more than 50 years ago when Henry and Nancy Hackmeister conducted their first auction. Hack’s has evolved into a premier auction company in northern Illinois. Greg and Swan, sons of Henry and Nancy, are leading Hack’s Auction into the future. The Hackmeisters are no strangers to the Oregon area. The Oregon Women’s Club invites you to join Hack’s auction staff as they provide their appraisal services on Sunday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A \$5 fee per item will be charged as a donation to the Oregon Women’s Club. Bring in a family heirloom or antique that you are curious to identify or to find out what it is

worth and Hack’s auction staff will provide you with an appraisal. Photographs of large items may also be appraised. A written appraisal can be discussed with the Hack’s agents. Allow plenty of time to also enjoy over 40 antique dealers exhibiting their items for sale. Don’t forget to enjoy a lunch from the Ladies of Chana United Methodist Church. The Antique Show will be held on Saturday, March 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Located at the Blackhawk Center, 1101 W. Jefferson St., Oregon, IL 61061, with plenty of free parking and handicapped access. For additional information email kathew1968@yahoo.com.

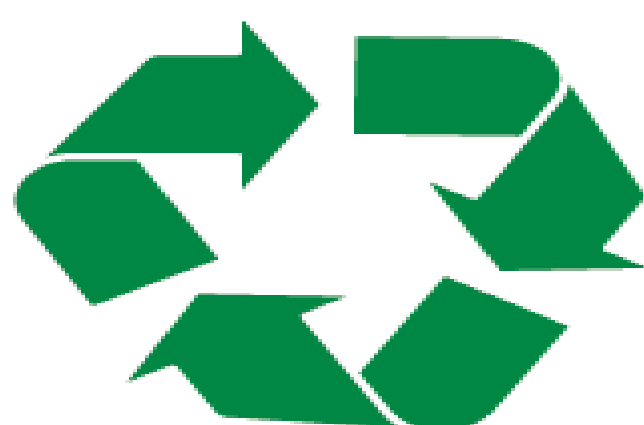
County electronics recycling event set March 25

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on March 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon. This event is for Ogle County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To

obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecounty.org by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23. Accepted items include all televisions and computer monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs),

copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCR’s, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calculators, phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVD’s and CFL bulbs. Limit seven large or bulky items per permit

and one permit per county household per month. Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events. For more information about this recycling event call the OCSWMD at the number above, visit www.oglecounty.org, or on Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.



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To advertise your business here, contact Andrew Heiserman at **815-561-2123**

LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

What does a city manager do?

I often get asked the question, “What does a city manager do?”

Usually, I will go into my normal response of managing departments, balancing budgets, speaking to civic groups and representing the city at state and national functions. This is all true and an important part of what I do.

However, the more I grow in my profession and surround myself with talented and dedicated staff and colleagues, the more I realize a city manager does not manage. He/she/they lead and build that leadership capacity within the organization and within the community they serve.

Last year I had the honor of participating in the Midwest Leadership Institute hosted by the Northern Illinois University Center for Government Studies, Morrison Associates and Limardi Consulting, LLC. Although we discussed many topics, one key comment affected me the most.

“The talents to lead an organization are exceedingly technical and broadly psychological. Sustained success comes to those leaders that can meld a disparate group of individuals into a team that can see a vision and accomplish a mission.” Such a powerful and true statement.

These words ring true for any leader, whether you are a city manager, the leader of a youth group, a volunteer coordinator or lead bank teller. This is the concept we continue to promote at the City of Rochelle, and I know is being promoted in the many organizations that

serve our community.

Speaking of community, thank you to everyone who sold and purchased From the Heart calendars this year. It was our most successful year yet, and it is all due to

the volunteers in the community that give their time and talents to a cause greater than themselves.

I have the pleasure of working with

several of the groups that benefit from the calendar sales proceeds, and I know the dollars raised do great things in our community. Rochelle is blessed to have groups like Rotary, Golden K, the Rochelle Community Foundation and so many others whose missions are dedicated to serve others before themselves.

We are so blessed to live in America. To have the freedom to make our own choices, to live our lives as we see fit, free of fear of being invaded or bombed like our fellow humans in the Ukraine. Let’s all work to make our community and country better. To lift each other up and stop tearing those down whom we disagree with or envy. Thank God for what you have, not what you don’t have.

“Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength.” -Mahatma Gandhi

“Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.” -Robert F. Kennedy

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



Jeffrey Fiegenschuh

The story of Gordon Wortman and Jack

GORDON Wortman and Jack were a team. Like many teams in World War II, they came from different backgrounds.

Gordon was from Davis Junction. Jack was from Floral Park, New York. One from the big city and one from rural America. Oh, and Jack was a dog.

Jack’s story starts with Joseph Verhaeghe. Joe had fled from Belgium with his family during WWI. As their boat sailed from Belgium, the German Shore Patrol opened fire. Joe’s infant sister was hit and died in her mother’s arms. Joe never forgot or forgave. Joe lived on Long Island with his wife and son. When his son Bobby wanted a dog, it called for a trip to the animal shelter.

Jack, a Belgium Shepherd, won their hearts and was adopted as the newest member of the family. Growing up in Floral Park, New York, Jack became well-known as an ice cream thief. Neighborhood children learned quickly to guard their cones. One moment of distraction and Jack would strike with blinding speed. No child was bitten but Jack left with many a prize.

When WWII broke out, Joe rushed to enlist. A ruptured ear drum destroyed Joe’s chances. Joe could not serve, but Jack could. Joe asked Bobby for approval to enlist Jack into the military. “Pop, if Jack can save lives I want him to go in.”

With a tear in his eye, Bobby and Joe delivered Jack to the Marines. At Camp Lejeune,

North Carolina, Jack met Gordon Wortman from Illinois and Paul Castracane of New York. The three became a working team and Gordon immediately expressed pride in his protégé.

“The captain said Jack was the only dog he was sure would make the grade. He said Jack would get medals of some kind someday. I surely hope it (the medal I mean) won’t mean the Purple Heart for that is what we get for being wounded.”

In another letter to his mother on Oct. 21, 1943, Gordon reassured his family, “I am fine and in the best of health. Jack is also fine. I surely hope you get to see him someday. If I ever get a chance to come home again I will try to bring him with me. Jack is sitting here alongside me now and he said to send you his love. Don’t worry about me. Jack will take care of me.”

Nov. 1943 found Jack, Gordon and Paul taking part in the Bougainville Invasion. The seventh day of the invasion (Nov. 8) found Gordon and Jack assigned to a marine roadblock far inside the jungle of the island. Paul was at headquarters. The Japanese had eyes on the roadblock. The Japanese surreptitiously surrounded the American position and cut communication lines between the roadblock and headquarters.

With the Marines cut off from any help, the Japanese opened fire. Gordon received a crippling wound to his leg, Jack was struck in the back by

machine gun fire. Jack crawled to Gordon and laid on his lap, even wounded Jack would stay with his partner.

The officer of the roadblock detail crawled to Gordon, “Son, we’ve got to get through to headquarters, your dog is the only one we can send. Do you think he can make it?” “I think so, sir. He’s got lots of guts.”

A note was placed in Jack’s harness and Gordon cradled his wounded dog’s head in his hands. Gordon leaned close to Jack’s ear, “Report to Paul.”

Like the ice cream thief of the past, Jack shot from the roadblock into the jungle. Chased by Japanese machine gun fire, Jack ran like not only his life depended on it, but the lives of his comrades.

Jack reached the headquarters and collapsed at Paul’s feet. The message was taken to command and Jack was taken to medical care. Troops were sent to reinforce the roadblock and the Japanese were beaten back.

Jack and Gordon were both commended and recommended to receive the Purple Heart. Jack was promoted to sergeant. On Feb. 20, 1943 in a letter to his mother, Gordon summed up his love for Jack.

“Well, I’m back with my outfit again and Jack is fine. He seemed glad to see me again and I was surely happy to see him. Golly, a fellow doesn’t realize how much he can miss a dog.”

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



Tom McDermott

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question: What are you giving up for Lent?

“Cussing. It’s not going very well so far but I’m working on it!”

Jenifer Foster
Evans

“I’ve decided to give a piece of clothing donation for each day instead of concentrating on myself. God knows my weaknesses and my faults. At least

this can help others instead of my waist-line.”

Laura Emke
Salazar

“Work.”
Eric Paul

How to contact government officials

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

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

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

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

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

* Denotes Chairman/President

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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



Chana Education Center hosts law enforcement visitors
Rochelle Police Department Officer Ryan Beery and K-9 Axel along with Ogle County Sheriff's Office Deputy Zac Hare and K-9 Haze visited Chana Education Center on Wednesday for Read Across America Day 2022.

Chana UMC's Chicken Noodle Lasagna Dinner Drive Thru is March 12

CHANA — Chana United Methodist Church is hosting its annual Chicken Noodle Lasagna Dinner Drive Thru on Saturday, March 12 from 4-6:30 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$10 and includes: a hearty portion of homemade (from scratch) noodles and chicken, a generous piece of homemade lasagna and fresh from the oven apple crisp. Chana UMC is a certified kitchen and is COVID-19 compliant. The dinner is drive thru only. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church at 815-732-7683.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March 8
Chaz Conant
Donna Sassaman
March 9
Minia Waters
March 12
Troy Komadina

March 13
Veronica Lopez
March 16
Christy Oleson
March 19
John Overstreet
March 20
Jesse Lopez

Rachelle Phillips
March 22
Wakely Peterman
March 23
Kristi Gonzales
March 24
John Wooten

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

March 10 - (Thursday) - Chicken Licken Bowls, Coleslaw, Biscuits and Honey	March 29 - (Tuesday) - Sweet and Sour Chicken, Egg Rolls, Potstickers
March 15 - (Tuesday) - Chicken Fajita Casserole, Rice and Beans	March 31- (Thursday) - Chicken and Waffles with Syrup, Coleslaw
March 17 - (Thursday) - Corned Beef and Cabbage, Collard Greens, Cornbread, Ginger Beer	April 3 - (Sunday Brunch) - Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Breakfast Casserole, Oatmeal, Sausage Patties
March 18 - (Friday) - Fish Fry!!! Deep Fried Cod, Coleslaw and Fries	**All menus are subject to change.
March 22 - (Tuesday) - Parmesan Chicken Tenders, Avocado Black Olive Pasta Salad,	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. www.KitchenTableRochelle.org
March 24 - (Thursday) - Chicken Salad Sandwich or on Lettuce Boats, Chips,	



- Feb. 11 - Stephanie Bailey, Oregon, \$25
- Feb. 12 - Melinda Vickrey, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 13 - Becky Anderson, Rochelle, \$50
- Feb. 14 - Alan Durbin, Rochelle, \$250
- Feb. 15 - Kim Crull, Byron, \$25
- Feb. 16 - Hope of Ogle County, \$25
- Feb. 17 - Blake Tollwer, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 18 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- Feb. 19 - Rochelle Rotary Club, \$25
- Feb. 20 - From the Heart, \$50
- Feb. 21 - Mario Pineada, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 22 - Brett Johnson, Rockford, \$25
- Feb. 23 - From the Heart, \$25
- Feb. 24 - Foundation for Focus House, \$25
- Feb. 25 - Debbi Ramsey, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 26 - From the Heart, \$25
- Feb. 27 - From the Heart, \$50
- Feb. 28 - Sharon Watkins, DeKalb, \$25
- March 1 - Maggie Williams, Rochelle, \$25
- March 2 - Ava - Meyers Furniture, Rochelle, \$25
- March 3 - Kimberlee Wagner, Rochelle, \$25
- March 4 - Rochelle Rotary Club, \$25
- March 5 - Marcy Bruhn, Rochelle, \$25
- March 6 - Bethany DuFoe, Rochelle, \$50
- March 7 - From the Heart, \$25
- March 8 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- March 9 - Nena Stewart, Rochelle, \$25



Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Taj Mahal city
5 Chatter
8 Pugilist's weapon
12 Regrets
13 Half of bi-
14 Bygone Peruvian
15 Diamond parts
17 Miles away
18 Thai or Korean
19 Oscar contenders
21 Leaves
24 Medit. nation
25 Buckeye State
28 Take five
30 Yoga pad
33 Mafia boss
34 Emulate Lincoln
35 Bedazzle
36 Dict. info
37 Nick and Nora's pet
38 Arm bone
39 Fireplace residue
41 Luminary
43 Charlton Heston film
46 Seraglio
50 Aware of
51 Endless time or space
54 Burning heap
55 Automobile

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
18							19	20				
			21		22	23		24				
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33				34						35		
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43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

DOWN
1 Met solo
2 Weaponry
3 Mortgage again, for short
4 Italian cheese
5 Actor Brynner
6 Moreover
7 Galileo's birth-place
8 Decrees

9 Casual planet
10 Cicatrix
11 Old salts
16 Rock's Brian
20 Refer to
22 Messes up
23 Plane assignments
25 Peculiar
26 Garden tool
27 Foot soldiers
29 Sports figure?
31 Bristle
32 Chai, e.g.
34 Diamond
38 Seventh

40 Loafers, e.g.
42 Sashimi fish
43 Conks on the head
44 "May It Be" singer
45 "Casablanca" cafe owner
47 Teeming
48 Harrow rival
49 Island in a computer game
52 Scot's refusal
53 Saute

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: **P** equals **S**

XO IKKF QGMMGVBCY HYQYMGVYP
GFXKPV QK BQVYMPV KQ PKIBGF
XYZBG. BV'P G QCYM-VMYQZBQH
PVKMO.

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

Answer

My cool narrative generates almost no interest on social media. It's a never-trending story.

answer

CryptoQuip

King Crossword
Weekly SUDOKU

LOCAL NEWS

MISSION: Seven C's lending help in the Hub City

From page 1

Along with Barnes, the Seven C's volunteer team includes Gigi Gardner, Patty O'Connor and Brooke Smith.

"I think it's what Christ called us to do," Gardner said. "So often you see somebody in need and you don't reach out and just walk past them. We don't want to do that. If there's a need and we can help, we have to."

Along with its mission work, Seven C's volunteers carry blessings bags in their vehicles that include hygiene items, water bottles, a McDonalds gift card and more to hand out if they see someone that may be in need.

Gardner estimates Seven C's helps 18-25 people and their families every month. That number will increase in April with the extra give-away day.

The mission is always available to area residents in emergency situations.

"Last summer the house down the street from here burned down and the girl came and met us here and we scrambled and gave her whatever she needed," Barnes said. "If we know there's a need, we'll just meet the person here."

Seven C's takes donations of and offers area residents hygiene items like toilet paper, shampoo and conditioner, lotion, shaving cream, razors and more. Those in need can look through clean, used clothing items that have been donated and small housewares.

There's a donation bin on



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Along with its mission work, Seven C's volunteers carry blessings bags in their vehicles that include hygiene items, water bottles, a McDonald's gift card and more to hand out if they see someone in need. Seven C's helps 18-25 people and their families every month.

the south side of the Seven C's building if residents want to help with the items it needs. The mission also takes donations of shoes, bedding, towels, children's diapers and new socks and underwear.

O'Connor estimates the Seven C's volunteer group puts in about 60 hours of work per month. Smith agreed with that number

and spoke about what goes into volunteering at the mission.

"There's a lot of work that goes into it," Smith said. "We have to sort through donations because we're very picky about what we take. We go through everything and everything is very organized. We also rotate the clothes in and out by season. There's a lot of

volunteer hours that go into it. There's so much behind the scenes work. When we transition to spring and summer, it will be a busy two weeks. We're here a lot."

While Seven C's knows the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted area residents negatively and made more of a need for its services, it has not seen more people

come in.

"Maybe that's because we haven't been put out there very much," Smith said. "We know seeing less people can't be true of what's really going on."

The mission wants to be more involved in the community and give more help to the people that need it. Seven C's wants to help on a personal level.

"Just being the hands and feet of Jesus and reaching out and loving people," Barnes said. "I know when people come in here, a lot of them are used to being treated as a number. They're used to walking through a food pantry with a number assigned to them. We really try to establish relationships so we know about them and their families."

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



FOURTH IN THE STATE
The St. Paul Crusader basketball team took fourth in the Lutheran State tourney.
See page 3 for more details

RTHS Wrestling

Frosh shine at sectional

Three Hubs advance to IWCOA Fresh-Soph State Championship meet

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

STERLING — The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team sent six athletes to the IWCOA Fresh-Soph Sterling Sectional on Sunday, with three individuals qualifying for the state meet including sophomore Tommy Tourdot as well as freshmen Kaiden Morris and Joseph Nadig.

The IWCOA Fresh-Soph State Championship will begin on Saturday, March 12 in Springfield. The state championship meet will conclude on Sunday, March 13.

Nadig (3-0) went unbeaten to win the 113-point sectional title. Nadig won by fall over Sterling’s Andrew Magnuson in the quarterfinals before scoring an 8-0 major decision against Rockford Auburn’s Joseph Young. Nadig won by fall over Stillman Valley’s Henry Hildreth for the title.

Morris (3-0) also won three straight bouts to claim the 220-pound sectional title. Morris outlasted DeKalb’s Lamar Bradley with a 3-1 sudden victory before beating Stockton’s Mi-

chael Haas with a 3-1 decision in the semifinals. Morris topped Geneseo’s Brayden Franzen with a 7-2 decision to win the title and clinch a berth in the state tournament at the Bank of Springfield Center.

Tourdot (3-1) overcame a loss against DeKalb’s Eduardo Castro in the quarterfinals of the 101-pound sectional bracket. After conceding a 3-2 decision, Tourdot rallied for a 16-0 technical fall over Richmond-Burton’s Kristian Gersch before scoring a third-period fall against Dixon’s Jacob Renkes. Tourdot won by fall over Richmond-Burton’s Kyan Gunderson for third place.

Sophomore Leo Stofel went 2-2 over four matches in the 160-pound bracket, winning by fall over Moline’s TaVon-tae Flowers and Orion’s Kaden Edmonds. Freshman Jack Pavlak finished 1-2 over three matches in the 170-pound bracket, winning by fall over LaSalle-Peru’s Gage Swiskoski. Sophomore Riley Damask ended the tournament with an 0-2 record over two matches in the 120-pound bracket.



(COURTESY PHOTO)
Freshman Joseph Nadig is declared the winner during the IWCOA Fresh-Soph Sterling Sectional on Sunday. Nadig went 3-0 to win the 113-pound bracket and clinch a berth in the state tournament later this week.

RTHS Boys Basketball

Simmons, Kemp earn Interstate 8 First Team honors

Lager, Brown receive All-Conference Honorable Mentions this season

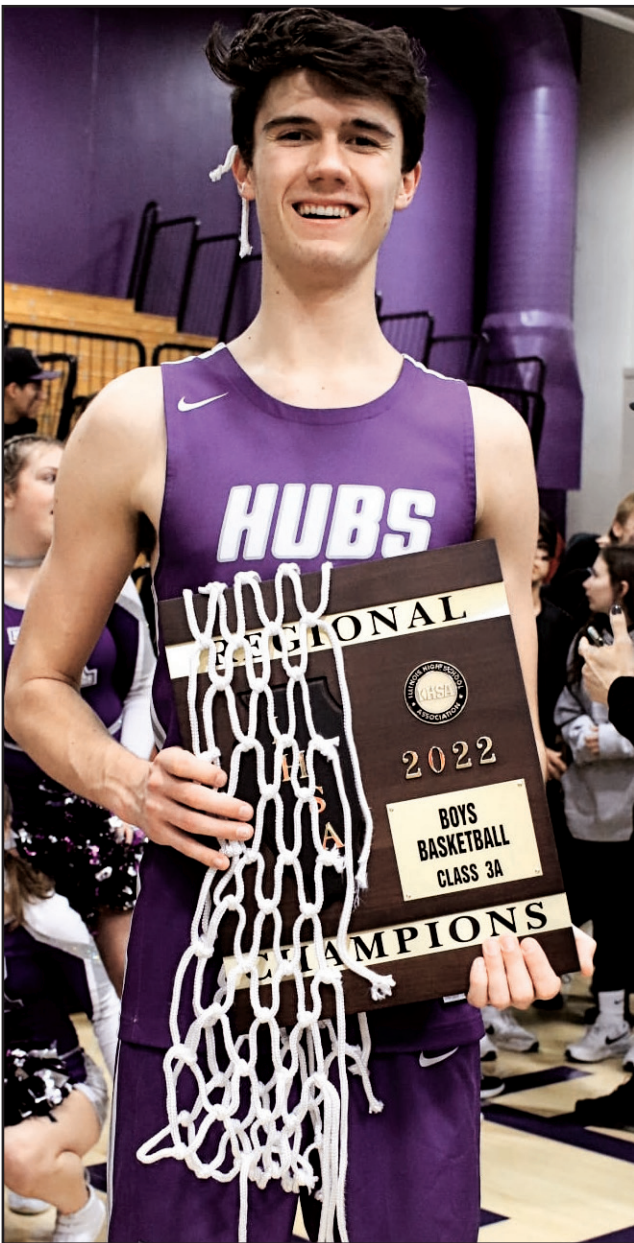
BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Four members of the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team were recognized with Interstate 8 All-Conference honors this season. Seniors Ryan Simmons and Adam Kemp were each named First-Team All-Conference players, while seniors Tanner Lager and Noah Brown each took home All-Conference Honorable Mentions. Simmons was also named Interstate 8 Player of the Year after averaging 14.2 points, 5.9 rebounds and 3.8 assists.

“It’s a dream come true honestly,” Simmons said. “I’ve put a lot of work into basketball over the last four years and being named First-Team All-Conference was one of my goals for this season. I feel that this season, I was able to get to the basket more and create more shots. I also feel that I was able to make plays and create shots for my teammates. I felt a lot more comfortable this season and I’m going to miss going to practice everyday and competing with the boys. We’re a family and many of us have played a lot of basketball together.”

Simmons finished his career as a three-year varsity starter, scoring a career-high 39 points against Wauconda during the E.C. Nichols Holiday Classic this winter. Simmons also led the Hubs with 28 points in their IHSA 3A Regional Semifinal victory over the Dixon Dukes. Kemp concluded his career as a two-year varsity starter, averaging 9.6 points, 4.7 rebounds and 3.7 assists for the Hubs this season while qualifying for the IHSA 3A Sectional 3-Point Shootout. “It feels great to have all of my hard work pay off,” Kemp said. “My confidence and ability to run our offense improved tremendously. I enjoyed the bonds that our team formed and how much fun we had in winning conference and regional titles. I’m going to miss all of the guys. We’ve made many great memories and I wouldn’t have wanted to enjoy the season with anyone else.”

Lager averaged 9.4 points, 5.3 rebounds and 1.9 assists this season. Brown led the Hubs with 90 3-pointers made and 57 steals while averaging 13.1 points and 3.0 rebounds per game. Rochelle finished 22-11 overall and 11-3 in the Interstate 8 this season.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)
Seniors Adam Kemp (left) and Ryan Simmons (right) were named unanimous All-Conference First Team players in the Interstate 8 Conference this season. Simmons was also named the Player of the Year this season.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT

Burdin commits to Lawrence University

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE senior Nate Burdin saw his relationship with Lawrence University head coach Chris Krepline grow tremendously throughout his recruitment this year. Burdin's connection with Krepline was one of several factors that fueled his decision to commit to the Vikings and continue his academics and his baseball career with Lawrence University after high school.

"I chose Lawrence to further my education because they offered me a very prestigious education with a trustworthy and helpful alumni base that will set me up for success throughout college and after college," Burdin said. "I also chose Lawrence for baseball because of the relationship I've built with coach Krepline and the high-intensity environment they offer."

Burdin will enter his second season with the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team this spring. The 5-foot-10, 155-pound left-handed pitcher and outfielder slashed .273/.396/.432 with 12 hits and seven RBIs as the team's starting center fielder during his junior season. Burdin threw 11 and two-thirds innings this past season, finishing 2-0 with a 4.94 ERA, 12 strikeouts and four walks.

"I'm looking forward to being around a team of high-level baseball players and competing against exceptional talent every night," Burdin said. "Playing baseball at RTHS has helped prepare me for the college level because it's taught me how to fight for a spot, compete every chance I have and how to be a great teammate through any situation... Lawrence will be getting a player who loves to compete and has an undeniable passion for the game of baseball."

Burdin will be one of several seniors returning to the varsity baseball team this spring. The Hubs are looking to build on a 7-12 campaign that saw Rochelle fall to Dixon in extra innings during the IHSA 3A Regional Series. Burdin said he plans to major in economics and minor in innovation/entrepreneurship in hopes of becoming a financial analyst for a top company.

"Lawrence will be getting a tenacious pitcher who has great command and can hit his spots at any given time while keep-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle senior Nate Burdin will continue his academics and his baseball career with Lawrence University.

ing hitters on their toes with high-spinning offspeed pitches," Burdin said. "I will bring a poised pitching sequence to the team next season with my fastball, changeup, curveball, slider and knuckle-change. I believe I can be utilized in any role and I will work hard and accept my role in order to help out the team in any way possible."

"I'm really happy for Nate," Rochelle head coach Jarrod Reynolds said. "Nate does so many things well on the field and I'm looking forward to watching him play this year. I'm excited to see him continue to develop at the college level as well. I appreciate all of Nate's hard work and dedication to the RTHS baseball program over these last four years."

"Playing baseball at RTHS has helped prepare me for the college level because it's taught me how to fight for a spot, compete every chance I have and how to be a great teammate through any situation... Lawrence [University] will be getting a player who loves to compete and has an undeniable passion for the game of baseball."

Nate Burdin

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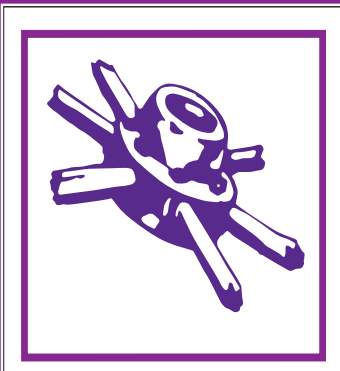
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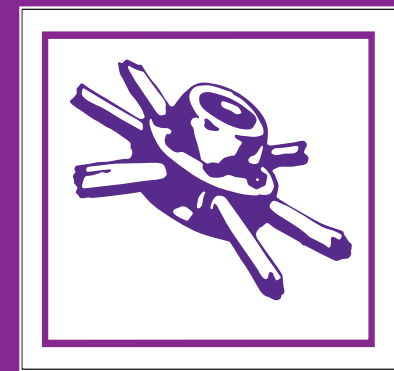
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SPORTS

RTHS Boys Basketball

Second-half turnaround leads to historic season

Rochelle finishes 22-11 overall with Interstate 8, IHSA Regional titles

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team entered the 2021-22 season with high expectations including over 20 wins as well as Interstate 8 Conference and IHSA Regional titles. But after losing three consecutive games at the E.C. Nichols Holiday Classic in Marengo and finishing 2021 with a 5-8 record, head coach Tim Thompson took those aspirations off the table.

2022 was a much different story for the Hubs, who went 17-3 over their final 20 games of the season and completed one of the greatest midseason turnarounds Thompson has seen since he began coaching at RTHS in the early 2000s. With a greater emphasis on playing team basketball, Rochelle rallied to achieve each of its three preseason goals, finishing with a 22-11 overall record while winning the Interstate 8 and defeating rival Sterling for

the regional title.

“We were doing a lot of soul searching and we were trying to figure out what needs to be done in order for us to be where we want to be,” Thompson said. “We stopped talking about conference titles and regional titles and we wanted to just start playing good basketball. We challenged our seniors to turn their season around and they came back after six days off and they went nuts. We went on a roll and it was really magical how we finished off our season.”

The 2021-22 season was a historic season for the Hubs, who not only won a conference championship for the first time since 2012 and a regional championship for the first time since 2009, but totaled the most victories in a season for any Rochelle team since 2005. Several seniors led the way for the Hubs including First-Team All-Conference honorees Adam Kemp and Ryan Simmons, who was also named Interstate 8 Con-

ference Player of the Year.

“We saw so much growth from Ryan this season,” Thompson said. “We’ve talked about his potential but he really turned the corner this season. When we moved him to the point guard, he was very unselfish and he took over when we needed him to. Ryan was fantastic for us all season and he deserved Player of the Year. All of our seniors were tremendous for us this season and they put so much work in over the last four years to become who they are today.”

Rochelle will lose seven seniors from the varsity roster this season including All-Conference Honorable Mention winners Noah Brown and Tanner Lager as well as Zach Sanford, Forrest Gerber and Cooper Hasz. The Hubs will return a small number of varsity players including juniors Raul Aguirre, David Gerber and sophomore Eli Luxton, who each earned significant varsity minutes. Juniors Landon DeLille, Aidan



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior David Gerber will be one of the leading returners for the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team next season.

Darby, Colton O’Rourke are also eligible to return.

“I thought Raul played really well at the end of the season and we felt like there were times that we didn’t give him the ball enough,” Thompson said. “I think

our offense will have to run through Raul next season and he’ll need anywhere from 15-to-20 touches each game. Eli really came into his own and he had a great regional championship game. David stepped

up earlier in the season and proved that he could play defense the way we wanted to and he made some big shots. Colton, Landon and Aidan will have the first shake at getting in the lineup next year.”

St. Paul Lutheran School

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Crusaders finish fourth in 2022 LSA State Championship tournament

The St. Paul Crusader varsity basketball team took fourth in the 2022 LSA State Championship tournament earlier this month, with Bane Workman and Brody Bruns each earning All-State Tournament Team honors. St. Paul defeated Red Bud St. John 54-30 in the first round before topping Morton Bethel 40-34 in the quarterfinals. St. Paul fell against Peoria Christ and Rockford Lutheran to finish the tournament in fourth place. Pictured above from left to right are Brooklyn Sarver, Cohen Haedt, Tyler Johnson, Owen Carmichael, Luke Chadwick (front row), Alison Dyer, Johnny Chadwick, coach Craig Reineck, Brody Bruns, Bane Workman, Andrew Eyster, coach Ryan Haedt, Braxton Bruns and Cambrey Rodeghero (back row).

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IN THE CIRCUIT
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ILLINOIS

IN THE)
MATTER)NO.
OF THE)2022
ESTATE)PR 9
OF)

JENNIE L.)
BOHANNON,)
Deceased.)
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of
the death of JENNIE
L. BOHANNON, of
Rochelle, Illinois.
Letters of Office were
issued on February 18,
2022, to VIRGINIA L.
BOHANNON, whose

address is 112 S. 10th
Street, Rochelle, IL
61068, and whose
attorneys are Fearer,
Nye & Chadwick, 420
4th Avenue, PO Box
117, Rochelle, IL 61068.
Claims against the
Estate may be filed
in the office of the
Circuit Clerk of the
Court at Ogle County

Courthouse, Oregon,
IL 61061, or with the
representative, or both,
no later than September
2, 2022, and any
claim not filed within
that period is barred.
Copies of a claim filed
with the Clerk must be
mailed or delivered to
the representative and
to the attorney within 10
days after it has been
filed.

FEARER, NYE
& CHADWICK,
Attorneys for VIRGINIA
L. BOHANNON,
Independent
Administrator of the
Estate of JENNIE
L. BOHANNON,
deceased
No. 0302 (Mar. 2, 9, 16)

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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103 AUCTIONS

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DESCRIPTION OF REAL ESTATE: This auction will feature a 5.88 Acre tract
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SPORTS

Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation

Junior Hubs grapple at IKWF Sectional tournaments

Five Rochelle-area wrestlers qualify for state championship meet

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Eight athletes from the Rochelle Wrestling Club battled in the IKWF Rochelle Sectional tournament on Saturday. Benjamin Morris (2-0) earned the 125 Intermediate Division sectional title while Novice Division wrestlers Zachary Johnson (3-1) and Brandin Kirk (2-1) each took third in their respective brackets to clinch berths in the IKWF State Championship meet. The state meet will begin on Friday, March 11 at the BMO Harris Bank Center in Rockford.

Johnson finished third in the 100 Novice Division bracket, winning by fall over Sycamore's Aiden Gemberling in the quarterfinals before conceding a 17-2 technical fall against Richmond's Wyatt Franckowiak in the semifinals. Johnson rallied with a fall over Byron's Cael O'Horo in the consolation semifinals and a 4-3 decision over Rockton's Evan Musil in the third-place match.

Kirk bounced back after a quarterfinal loss against Carpentersville's Jesus Reyes Jr. in the 154 Novice Division bracket. After consecutive consolation-round losses, Kirk scored a 3-0 decision over Belvidere's Caleb Gallano before notching a

first-period fall over Polo's Ethan Dewey.

Morris won back-to-back matches to earn the 125 Intermediate Division title. Morris won by fall over Harvard's Aydan Rojas and earned an 8-2 decision over Belvidere's Brian Wadsworth.

Teddy Millard (2-1) took second in the 64 Intermediate Division bracket. Millard received a first-round bye before scoring a 12-4 major decision over Algonquin's Max Jasso and edging Crystal Lake's Nico Esche with a 7-3 decision. Millard conceded a 3-0 decision to Crystal Lake's Anthony Zalud in the finals. Tony Milburn (0-2) finished fourth in the 103 Senior Division bracket.

Other Rochelle Wrestling Club athletes participating in the sectional include Intermediate Division wrestlers Braxton Rosenthal (0-2), Quentin Ansteth (0-2) and Garrett Miller (1-2), who earned a 10-1 major decision over Durand's Penelope Anderson for his lone win of the meet.

nWo

Three Rochelle wrestlers competing for the nWo Wrestling Club battled in the IKWF Rock Island Sectional on Saturday and earned berths in the IKWF State Championship meet.



The IKWF Sectional Series tournaments were held this past weekend, with five Rochelle-area wrestlers qualifying for the IKWF State Championship in Rockford. Zachary Johnson and Brandin Kirk (left) will compete at the state meet as well as Roman Villalobos, Aidan Lopez and Brendan Voight (right).

Senior Division athletes Roman Villalobos (2-0), Brendan Voight (3-0) and Novice Division athlete Aidan Lopez (3-1) will also compete at the state meet beginning Friday, March 11 in Rockford.

Villalobos won the 164

Senior Division sectional title with back-to-back fall victories over Peoria's Jordan Bair and Peoria's Austin Webb. Voight went unbeaten to win the 144 Senior Division sectional title, defeating Manito's Kaleb McGlothlin with a



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

22-5 technical fall in the quarterfinals before scoring a 12-0 major decision over Yorkville's Tyler Gleason in the semifinals and earning a 6-3 decision against Geneseo's Malaki Jackson in the finals.

Lopez placed second

in the 80 Novice Division bracket, cruising with a 16-1 technical fall over Morton's Ryan Schelkopf and outlasting Pekin's Lincoln Hawkins with an 8-6 sudden victory in the semifinals before falling against LaSalle's Griffin Kellett.

RTHS Track & Field

Rochelle athletes gearing up for indoor season

Several upperclassmen returning for Hub and Lady Hub varsity teams this season

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — COVID-19 presented several challenges for the Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team this past season, most notably a small roster that prevented head coach Alison Vrana from filling some events at the varsity level. With activities returning to normal and the 2021-22 season underway, Rochelle has already more than doubled its roster size from last season.

The Lady Hubs will also have the opportunity to compete indoors once again, with the Sycamore Invitational scheduled for Tuesday, March 8. Rochelle will look to build on its achievements from this past season, which included a sixth-place finish at the Interstate 8 Conference Championship meet and a seventh-place finish in the IHSA 2A Plano Sectional.

"It's really nice to have a normal year with normal numbers," Vrana said. "We have around 30 girls on the team and I think we did a really good job of recruiting athletes to come out. We have a lot of new freshmen and even though we have some returning athletes back this season, I feel like we're starting fresh. I'm looking forward to having a deeper team and filling a full lineup."

Rochelle will have a core group of seniors returning this spring including state-qualifying high jumper Teagan Meyers, who will also lead the Lady Hubs in the sprints and sprint relays. Senior Liberty Hayes and sophomore Alivia Henkel return as leading sprinters, while senior Sara Johnson and junior Yuelma Ortiz are

expected to lead Rochelle in the distance events.

"I'm looking for our team to be strong in the 200-meter, 400-meter and some 800-meter events," Vrana said. "I think we'll have some strong relay teams and some strong individual events that we weren't able to do last season because we didn't have the numbers. We've lost some good throwers over the last few years but we have some young kids who are really promising."

After not having an indoor meet this past season, Rochelle will compete in several this spring including the Byron Indoor Preview on Saturday, March 12. The Lady Hubs will also return to a full outdoor schedule that features the annual Ogle County Invitational. Vrana said the team's biggest goals for the season will be returning to the basics and maintaining the roster.

"We had only 13 girls who were active members of the track team last season," Vrana said. "I want to continue building the program I was building before COVID-19 happened and I want to continue building our culture so girls are coming back every season. I'm looking forward to seeing the girls competing again and I'm excited that we'll have an indoor season. I think the indoor season allows me to figure out what our girls are good at and we're able to experiment with different lineups so we have a much better idea of what we can do before we get outside."

Boys

The Rochelle Hub varsity track and field team saw multiple athletes finish just short of reaching the IHSA



Seniors Michael Ramsey (left) and Liberty Hayes (right) are two of the leading sprinters returning to the Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub varsity track and field teams this season.

State Championship meet this past season. With activities returning to normal after a condensed 2020-21 season, head coach Dale Bergeson and the Hubs have high hopes that at least a few returning athletes will make the trip to the state meet this season.

Rochelle will beg the indoor season at the Byron Indoor Preview on Saturday, March 12. The Hubs are seeking to build on their sixth-place performance at the Interstate 8 Conference Championship meet and their 10th-place finish in the IHSA 2A Rochelle Sectional meet.

"We have a bigger team than we had last year and we have some returning

seniors who we're expecting great things from," Bergeson said. "We've gained quite a few juniors who weren't on the team last season and I'm excited to see what they can do for us. I think we'll have a chance to compete in multiple events at the sectional meet which will be huge for our program."

The Hubs will feature top-3 sectional finishers in the field events from last season including senior thrower Zach Sanford and senior high-jumper Ryan Simmons. Junior Hayden Inman returns in the pole vault, while junior Ethan Bergeson could be a breakout performer in the pole vault and hurdles. Senior



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Michael Ramsey returns as one of the team's leading sprinters.

"We're usually very strong in the high jump and I think we'll have a lot more speed in the long jump and triple jump this season," Bergeson said. "I think we'll be able to put together a strong 400-meter and 800-meter relay team this season as well. We're a little thin in the distance events right now, but we do have some freshmen and sophomores who could break out for us."

The Hubs will close out the indoor season with the Gary Egler Invitational in Sycamore on Wednesday, March 16 and the Sterling Invitational on Saturday,

March 19. Rochelle will return to a full outdoor schedule as well which will include the annual Ogle County Invitational. Bergeson said the Hubs will be striving for a top-4 finish in the Interstate 8 this season.

"We always want to take as many guys to the state meet as we can and I think we'll have the chance to do that this season," Bergeson said. "I think we'll be competitive in our conference, which is always challenging with teams like Sycamore and Kaneland. I'm hoping we can have at least four events at the state meet and we were just short of reaching that mark last season."