PAGE 3





Hubs defeat Sterling to win regional title

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News-Leader

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Vol. 102 • No. 88

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

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KNOW IT TODAY



Critical Thinking winners named

RTHS presented the January Critical Thinking Awards recently. Page 2

WEATHER



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HIGH LOW 37

SATURDAY





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OBITUARIES

ANGELA MARIE WINTERS FRANK SMITH

REGINALD JOHN

See page 4

INSERTS

KOOISTRA

• ALDI

• LIFELINE FARM & FLEET

INSIDE

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



City hears apartment presentation Council members approve demolition of Cherry Avenue building **BY JEFF HELFRICH** commission on Monday MANAGING EDITOR and will come before the

ROCHELLE — A

At Monday's Rochelle

new apartment building is

planned to come to the south side of the City of Rochelle.

City Council meeting, city

officials heard a presenta-

tion and had their first

introduction to New Direc-

tions Housing Corporation

and its president, Rodger

Brown. NDHC wants to

put a three-story, 30-unit

workforce housing apart-

ment building at Willis

Avenue and Randall Road

in town which will have

family housing of two and

three-bedroom apartments.

Rents will be from \$500

to \$1,180. It will have a

community room, library,

exercise room and laundry

facilities. Apartments will

have full kitchens and bath-

rooms and on-site parking.

households with income

between 60-120 percent of

the area median income.

Rochelle's median income

is \$50,000. 60 percent of

that is \$30,000 and 120

building will go before the

city's planning and zoning

The proposed apartment

percent is \$60,000.

Workforce housing is for

Brown said engineering and architectural documents were submitted to the city and state this week and he hopes to start construction early in the summer and it will take about a year to complete.

has built and rehabilitated more than 500 multi-family and single-family units since its inception in 1994. According to Brown's presentation at the meeting, its sole purpose is to provide high-quality affordable housing to households who would otherwise be unable to afford safe and decent housing without undue

Demolition

city council after that. Brown said he and NDHC are not asking for any incentives from the city.

NDHC is a nonprofit and hardship.

The council unanimously approved an ordinance waiving the competitive bidding requirements and authorized City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh to accept a proposal from Bruns Construction, Inc. for the demolition of 300 Cherry Ave. for no more than



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

John Kaltenbach was sworn in as the Rochelle Police Department's new detective sergeant during the meeting. He's been with the department since 2004.

\$60,150.

The city obtained a demolition order for the building on Dec. 9, 2021 and an asbestos inspection was conducted and was found negative. Bids were sought from several demolition companies and two quotes were obtained. The Bruns Construction proposal was the lowest.

Solar

The council unanimously approved a resolution adopting a customer self-

generation net metering policy and an interconnection and net metering program for renewable energy for Rochelle Municipal Utilities customers.

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act was recently signed into law and required the city to develop a policy for small commercial and residential customers that want to self-generate with solar panels. RMU customers with solar panels will get a credit back onto their bills for power generation that they put back onto the

grid if they don't use it all. "Net metering is when someone has a solar array on their house and their array is producing more than they are using," RMU Superintendent of Electric Operations Blake Toliver said. "They're putting energy back onto the grid. We'll be giving them a credit for those kilowatt hours that are being pushed back into

the system."

See CITY page 5

Daycare facility listed for \$399,900

Kishwaukee Family YMCA Child Care Center closed in 2020

BY JEFF HELFRICH MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The former Kishwaukee Family YMCA Child Care Center building at 1010 N. 15th St. that closed in 2020 has been listed for sale for \$399,900.

The Hayden Real Estate, Inc. listing said the 12,000 square foot childcare facility sits on 2.73 acres and includes eight classrooms, a sprinkler system, commercial kitchen and outdoor space. The building was built in 1993.

The 1010 N. 15th St. property also includes approximately 50 parking stalls and a security system with cameras in place and a front door with a key card system.

Rooms of the building include a reception area, a private office, a common area, a laundry room, bathrooms in all but two rooms, two school rooms and a room each for ages infant through six.

The city has been without a daycare center since the facility closed. The City of Rochelle took on

preliminary work last year to bring a daycare back to town. It put out a survey to residents that came back with overwhelming results in favor of a daycare with 72 percent of respondents saying they're in need of a daycare and 71 percent saying their children would be likely to attend a daycare if it opened in

The city received a \$10,000 grant from the Rochelle Area Community Foundation to start the process of a separate 501c3 nonprofit daycare board that has since been established and has taken on the task of bringing a daycare to Rochelle. The city will have no more direct involvement in a daycare.

The board includes Mayor John Bearrows (chairman), Jenny Thompson, Jillian Condon, Jessica Rogers, Edgar Lopez, Rosie Arteaga, Kevin Crandall, Brittany Boardman, Kim Montgomery, Becky Huntley, Will McLachlan and Jessica Morris.

The board will be in



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The former Kishwaukee Family YMCA Child Care Center building at 1010 N. 15th St. that closed in 2020 has been listed for sale for \$399,900.

charge of raising funds and making future decisions such as a location and who will manage the potential daycare facility. It will have different committees including one for fundraising. Late last year Rochelle

City Manager Jeff Fiegen-

schuh said he was unsure what kind of funds the board would have to raise to open a daycare, but guessed the number could be over \$1 million to get a building bought and the facility off the ground and

Bearrows declined

comment Thursday when asked about the listing of the daycare property. Talks did occur last year between the city and the YMCA and city officials toured the facility and Fiegenschuh said it was in "great shape" and still set up for a daycare service.

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COME SEE YOUR FR

RTHS presents January Critical Thinking Awards

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School Biology teacher Nelson Baker nominated two students for the school's January Critical Thinking award. He said, "These two, independently, worked at home on an extension to our cladograms portion of biology class. Our assignment only required them to do two missions (approximately 1.5 hours of work).

A cladogram (from Greek clados 'branch' and gramma 'character') is a diagram used in cladistics to show relations among organisms. (Thank you Wikipedia).

Baker went on to say, "Both Trent Kreider and Kenny Overton returned the next day having completed all six missions. That extended far past what they needed to know for the course. It had to have taken them both several hours at home, outside of class for no additional gains, other than knowledge. This shows that they are taking initiative in their learning and allowing themselves to be interested in the course material, rather than just completing it to check a box. Very impressive."

Each of the boys said they completed all the missions because they enjoyed the science and the challenge. Kreider is contemplating a science-based career. Overton isn't quite ready to commit, but said he really enjoys Mr. Baker's class.

According to RTHS Athletic Director Rich Harvey, his assistant Ronda Poliska, "is unbelievable at critical thinking and multitasking."

"She has created a system that allows her to organize schedules, buses, forms, eligibility, assigning official and many more tasks. She then communicates all the information and makes sure everyone is taken

"Ronda is proud of RTHS and is always striving to make sure we are represented in a positive



Rochelle Township High School students Kenny Overton and Trent Kreider pose for a photo with biology teacher Mr. Nelson Baker, who nominated the pair for RTHS's January Critical Thinking award.

manner by making sure all details are covered. On top of that she does it with a smile or a giggle. I can't thank her enough for all that she does for our school, students, and staff."

Thanks to a generous donation from the RTHS Class of 1961, RTHS is able to recognize and reward critical thinkers every month this school year. Recipients receive a \$100 reward. They are asked to designate half

to a local non-profit or-

ganization.

Poliska designated \$50 to Miss Carly's Rescue Mission. Overton chose TAILS Humane Society. Kreider has yet to decide.

RTHS chemistry students take on Cheetos snacks

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

ROCHELLE — In James Jackson's Rochelle Township High School chemistry classes last week, he had students burn Flaming Hot Cheetos, using the fire to heat

The students explained that by measuring the change in temperature of the water, they calculated the energy or calories the water absorbed.

To measure the water temperature change, they used digital temperature

Students Lenna Drew and Sierra Ramos ex-

plained: "We put water inside of an aluminum can and then recorded the temperature," they said, adding, "You need to measure the mass of the water + can and the mass of the empty aluminum can to determine the mass of the water."

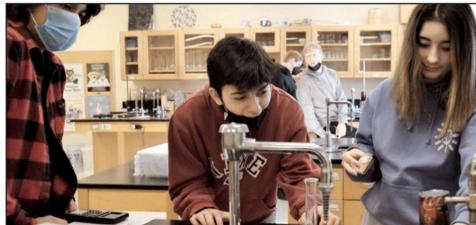
As Lenna and Max Orlikowski set to work, Sierra recorded the masses and temperatures called out by her lab partners.

The experiment uses an open flame. The students used wooden matches to ignite the Flaming Cheetos which had been skewered on an unfolded paper clip and secured underneath the elevated soda can.

Ava McGee and Ava Albers explained, "We measured the mass of the Cheeto before we burned it, too. Afterwards, you should also measure the mass of whatever ash remains when the fire goes out."

Jackson instructed the students, all engrossed in their work, to record their observations in detail and show their calculations in their laboratory notebooks.

While they hadn't quite gotten around to conclusions, Jackson told them it would be important to compare the results to the results they might



RTHS students Emil Rodriguez, Abel Huerta and Maddie Aylsworth ignite a Flaming Hot Cheeto.

expect if the heat transfer were also to write about the results. Each team the surroundings). They iment that would affect experiment.

was ideal (no heat lost to any aspects of this exper- ran two trials during the

Ogle County offering 2022 waste reduction grants

OREGON — Waste reduction/recycling Grants for 2022 are available to Ogle County businesses, schools, churches and non-profit groups wanting to establish or improve on waste reduction and recycling programs and services.

The grants are up to \$2,000, and funds are limited, so they will be awarded on a competitive basis in amounts from

\$100-2,000, in three rounds or until funds are depleted. The matching fund grant pays 80 percent of the total project cost up to \$2,000, and the applicant must provide a minimum 20 percent match of the total project cost. Example: Total project cost - \$2,500; grant amount \$2,000; applicant matching amount \$500.

The deadline for sub-

mittal of applications for the first round of grants is 4 p.m. Thursday, April 7. The application for

the grants is simple and flexible. Businesses could use grant funds to help purchase waste reduction and recycling materials and equipment such as collection bins, carts, balers and storage containers. Equipment needed to switch from disposable packaging to reusable packaging for products and supplies could also be considered. Businesses are encouraged to consider projects to reduce food waste or implement food waste recycling pro-

Waste hauling companies could use grant funds to improve the quantity and quality of materials collected in their curbside recycling collection programs. This could be done through promotional efforts, instructional stickers for carts and bins, direct mail and other educational efforts.

Schools may seek funds for special projects that will further a student's understanding of how to reduce the amount of trash sent to the landfill. The requests may be for materials and equipment, such as recycling bins/carts, videos, books, worm (vermicomposting) bins, composters or other waste reduction or recycling equipment.

Municipalities seeking to improve commercial, curbside or multifamily recycling pro-

grams are encouraged to apply. Grant applications for equipment and materials needed to improve electronics recycling options in Ogle County are also encouraged since most electronics have been banned from landfills since 2012.

These are just examples, and applicants are encouraged to find innovative ways to reduce waste and increase what is recycled. The grants may not be used to pay for ongoing expenses such as staffing, collection and hauling costs. Priority will be given to new applicants.

All applications will be reviewed by the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department and the Ogle County Board HEW/Solid Waste Com-

For more information or to request an application, please contact the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department at 815-732-4020, solidwaste@oglecounty. org or visit www.oglecounty.org to download the application.





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Tina Neale, RN Medical/Surgical Length of Service: 7 Years



High Performer March 2022

To read Tina's nomination, go to the RCH Facebook page or rochellehospital.com

Mask mandates come down in schools, most public places

Pritzker issues new executive order in light of updated CDC guidance

BY PETER HANCOCK

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD-Fa-

cial coverings are now optional in most public places in Illinois, including schools, after Gov. JB Pritzker issued new guidance Monday to comply with new U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

"Across the state, Illinoisans are taking their masks off today knowing that most eligible adults are boosted, and our hospitals have much more capacity to save lives," Pritzker said in a statement Monday. "I'm proud that Illinoisans have done the hard work that has made our state a leader in the Midwest, with more of our residents vaccinated than any other state in the region.'

Under a new executive order issued by Pritzker on Monday, masks are no longer required in most indoor public places, including K-12 schools and day cares. But schools and private businesses can continue to require masks at their own discretion.

Face masks are still required in health care settings and on public transportation such as buses, trains and airplanes, as well as transportation hubs like airports and bus

Those developments

came after the Illinois Supreme Court on Friday declined to hear the state's appeal of a temporary restraining order issued Feb. 4 by a Sangamon County judge, calling the issue "moot."

In its ruling late Friday, the court, in a 5-2 vote, echoed a 4th District Court of Appeals decision from a week earlier that said the issue of the TRO was moot because the emergency rules that the Illinois Department of Public Health had issued in September had expired and the legislative Joint Committee on Administrative Rules voted Feb. 15 not to renew them.

Because the issue of the TRO was moot, the state's high court said Friday, the order itself was vacated and the case was remanded back to Sangamon County to be heard in its entirety.

Justices Michael J. Burke and David K. Overstreet dissented in the decision. The court said a written dissenting opinion would be forthcoming.

"We are pleased the court acted quickly to vacate the TRO, as the state requested,"Attorney General Kwame Raoul's office said in a statement. "However, as the case is returned to the circuit court, we will continue to defend the governor's executive orders to protect all Illinois residents and mitigate the spread of COVID-19."

The Supreme Court's ruling, however, was one that left both sides in the dispute claiming victory.

"I'm gratified that the Supreme Court vacated the lower court's restraining order, meaning that if a school mask mandate needs to go into effect in the future, we continue to have that authority," Pritzker said in a statement released by his press secretary.

But Republican lawmakers who have questioned Pritzker's use of executive orders and criticized the Democratic majority in the General Assembly for not exercising oversight, said the ruling will serve as a check on the governor's powers.

"The Illinois Supreme Court found the governor's mask mandate moot and not enforceable thanks to a bipartisan group of legislators who decided to strike it down earlier this month," Senate GOP Leader Dan McConchie, of Hawthorn Woods, said in a statement.

"Pritzker will now have to go back to those same legislators if he wishes to issue a similar order, where he is likely to meet the same fate," he added. "The governor should accept defeat and allow us to begin to govern the



(CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS FILE PHOTO)

Gov. JB Pritzker is pictured in a file photo at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency building in Springfield.

way we ought to be through collaboration of the legislature and local stakeholders."

Pritzker had previously announced that the general statewide mask mandate would expire Monday if the state's hospitalization usage and other metrics continued on a downward trend. He had previously planned to leave school mask mandates in place, however.

Since he made the announcement at the beginning of the month, the governor's office said in a statement Friday, the number of people in the hospital with COVID-19 has been cut in half and the

number of intensive care beds available increased by 24 percent, while the state's weekly COVID-19 case rate has also decreased by 70 percent.

While previous guidelines were based on metrics such as case counts and test positivity rates, the new guidelines are based on factors such as the number of hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.

According to CDC data, most counties in Illinois are considered low or moderate transmission areas. Counties designated as high transmission areas are located mainly in southern Illinois and in pockets along the state's eastern and western

The status of individual counties throughout the United States is available on the CDC's website, cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/yourhealth/covid-by-county.

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RVCU employees spread kindness at Cypress House

BY JEFF HELFRICH MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Rock Valley Credit Union employees were on hand Feb. 18 at The Cypress House giving away one free drink to anybody that stopped in as part of Random Acts of Kindness Week.

RVCU spent last week surprising area nonprofits and organizations with donations and more. The program is in its third year. "On Monday, we start-

ed with donations at Rock House kids to benefit inner city kids in Rockford," RVCU Director of Community Outreach Ana Montova said. "On Tuesday we were at the Veterans Home. We dropped off hats, blankets and socks. On Wednesday we went to Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling Center to drop off toys for the children that they serve. Yesterday we were at the Goldie B. Floberg Center dropping off sporting goods children to do during the summer months."

spreading community cheer at The Cypress House. Owner Krista

help," Stewart said see all the other items we

Stewart said she's already seen about 30 customers and had no idea how many

thing like this after all the difficulties that have been going on in the last couple of years with all the COVID-19 restrictions and things like that," Stewart said. "I feel like our community has really

ing that didn't know we're here. Just getting people in the door that maybe weren't planning to stop today. They come in and have to offer."

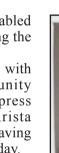
more the day would bring.

Stewart enjoyed having RCVU on hand Friday. "It's a tremendous "We've had people call from Belvidere this morn-

Early in the day Friday,

and things for disabled The week ended with

"We appreciate some-





week challenging others

in the community to do

a random act of kindness

"It could be something like holding the door open for someone, giving a smile back, a thank you, paying for the person behind you in the drive thru," Montoya said. "Just one kind gesture

really goes a long way. You never know what that person is going through. You might be that person that changes their whole day."

warming and was thankful to the nonprofits for their work and being able to be a part of it.

"Just do one kind thing today, whatever that looks like in your capacity, just



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Obituaries

Angela Marie Winters

CHANA — Angela Marie Winters, 54, Chana, joined her many family members in heaven on Feb. 18. She was born on Nov. 19, 1967, in Rockford, the daughter of James (Daveen) Winters and Margaret (Stephen) Archer.

Angie was a graduate of Rockford Auburn High School, class of 1988. She was a movie and music lover. Angie never missed the chance to listen and sing along to one of her favorite songs. Movies were a great pastime for her and always a topic for discussion. The love and memories of Angie will never be forgotten. She will be forever missed.

Survived by her daughter, Laura Hoffman; her father, James Winters; her mother, Margaret Monaco Archer; her sisters, Diane Winters and Jacqueline (Jeremy) Fallis and many nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Predeceased by Stephen Archer, Daveen Winters, grandparents, aunts, uncles and

A celebration of life will be held at 5 p.m. on Sat-



urday, March 12 at Lino's Italian Restaurant, 5611 E. State St. in the lower level. Fitzgerald Funeral Home and Crematory assisted the family. Share online condolences at www.fitzgeraldfh.com.

Reginald John Kooistra

ROCHELLE—Reginald John Kooistra passed away on Feb. 22 in Rochelle. Reg or Reggie, as he was known, was born Oct. 15, 1938 in Rochelle. He is preceded in death by his father, Donovan; mother, Amelia; brother, Tom and sister, Connie. He is survived by nephews, Shawn Kooistra and Kevin Kooistra.

Reg went to elementary and high schools in Ashton and graduated from Rochelle Township High School. He attended the University of Illinois and Bradley University and served in the United States Army.

While working for several engineering firms in the area over the years, Reg lived most of his life in Ashton. During his life he

continuously read and postulated about many things and wrote about his opinions. He was a gentle fellow, good in heart and sense of humor, who liked people and enjoyed talking with all who were interested in listening. He will be missed by many.

Memorial visitation will be held on March 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home, 601 Richardson Ave. Ashton,



IL 61006. A memorial service will be held at noon. Cremation rites were accorded. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made online at www. beveragelyonsfamilyfh.

Frank Smith

ROCHELLE—Frank Smith, 80, of Rochelle passed away peacefully on Feb. 25 while holding the hand of his wife, Betsy and embraced by the prayers of many.

He was born in Rochelle on June 7, 1941, to proud parents Victor and Ellen Smith, graduated from Stillman Valley High School and lived in the surrounding farm communities his entire life. Frank worked tirelessly

for his family at Larson's farm and Del Monte, but found his place, being his own boss, at Frank's Goodyear in Rochelle. He had the reputation of being an honest auto mechanic with storytelling, kittens and fresh produce from his garden included for free with repair services.

When he wasn't telling everyone else to, "stay out of trouble," he could be found behind the wheel of any type of vehicle, with his favorite being the lawnmower. Through extensive "tinkering," he was proud to rig several mowers together to get the job done. Gardening, with a philosophy of "the more varieties of vegetables, the better" was another enjoyable way to spend time outside.

Camping with his friends in the Kings of the Road camping club was his favorite way to spend a weekend. Sitting around a good campfire, talking the night away after a great potluck dinner, was one of his favorite pastimes. He loved the different campgrounds, and the lifelong friendships.

Rare was a time when he didn't know the weather forecast or would pass up a good dessert. He enjoyed knocking down pins in a bowling league along with playing golf and driving the golf cart. Watching westerns was his most recent hobby and he knew In his 80 years, Frank

never backed away from a cat. He loved house cats, barn cats and the cats that found a home at Frank's Goodyear. The parts-room at the shop became a warm, safe place for stray mama cats to have kittens. He facilitated many kitten adoptions with customers or even an occasional salesman that stopped by.

His good deeds, stories and friendships are the legacy of a life well lived.

He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Betsy Smith; children: Shane (Noel) Smith, Terri (Kevin) Cork, Kelli Cotrell, Matthew (Jennifer) Smith, Jennifer(Steve)Lavoie, Emily Egeland; daughter-in-law Dawn Smith, and his sister Betty (Jason) Dietrich. Frank was the very proud grandpa to Megan, Heidi,



Chris, Taylor, Christopher, Nicole, Andrew, Chandler, Kaitlyn, Hailey, Joshua, Corey, Amanda, Patrik, Jacob, Mary, Katherine, 10 great-grandchildren along with many nieces, nephews, a cuddly dog named Scotch and countless friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents: Victor and Ellen Smith; his son, Todd Smith; the mothers of his children: Carol Hermann and Susan Smith; siblings: Bob Weeks, John Weeks, Bill Weeks, Victor Smith and Anabelle Weeks.

His family will host a memorial visitation 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2 at Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home, 704 N 6th St. Rochelle, IL 61068. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Serenity Hospice and Home, 1658 Illinois Route 2, Oregon, IL 61061.

Rochelle Police Department

Officers arrest three on county warrants

ROCHELLE —On Feb. 25 at 10:50 p.m. Jonathan S. Early, 28, of Davis Junction was arrested for an outstanding warrant in both Ogle County and Rockford and transferred. He was cited by Rochelle Police for disobeying a stop sign.

On Feb. 27 at 1:47 a.m. Travis L. Adams, 38, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On Feb. 27 at 9:01 a.m. Frank B. Gatza Jr., 49, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Lee County warrant and transferred.

On Feb. 27 at 9:55 p.m. Mitchell B. Zepeda, 27, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license suspended. He was released on an I-Bond and given a March 25 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 28 at 10:40 a.m. Stacy Gebhart, 44, of Earlville was cited for failure to reduce speed. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 22 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 28 at 6:30 p.m. Barry Brown, 56, of Rochelle was arrested for aggravated domestic battery and interference with emergency communication and transferred.

On Feb. 28 at 8:34 p.m. Victoria Rodriguez, 40, of Rochelle was cited for failure to yield turning left. She was released on an I-Bond and given an April 22 Rochelle court date.





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

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Spring is just around the corner, which means live music is back in style. Come and help the Rochelle Township High School Music Department kick off this concert season this week.

RTHS hosting Spring Band Concert on Thursday

ROCHELLE

Spring is just around the corner, which means live music is back in style. Come and help the Rochelle Township High School Music Department kick off this concert season this week.

The Spring Band Concert is Thursday, March 3, and the Spring Choir Concert is Tuesday, March 8 in the RTHS auditorium. Concerts start at 7 p.m., seating starts at 6:30 p.m. and admission is \$1.

Seventeen RTHS band

students participated in the Interstate 8 Band Festival Feb. 24. Students were nominated and selected to spend a day at Ottawa Township High School practicing four pieces to perform later that evening with other

students from Interstate 8 schools. The freshmen-sophomore group was conducted by Dr. Melissa Gustafson-Hinds of O'Fallon Township High School and the junior senior group was conducted by Dr. Alicia

Neal pf Eastern Illinois University.

RTHS frosh/soph musicians include Jonathan Alanis, Anahi Alanis, Haley Bozinovich, Makenzie Liezert, Jessica Nyguen, Aiden Ramsey, Noe Valdez and Liam Wise. Junior and senior musicians include William Drobick, Jonathan Hansen, Jennifer Heinrich, Jaela Ludwick, Levi Lawhorn, Devansh Patel, Mikayla Preston, Allica Price and Carly Summers.

CITY: Hawkins retires after 23 years with water department

From page 1

"A dollar amount will be credited onto their bill for that generation. Every meter we have has bidirectional capability."

Fiegenschuh said the process will now begin with interested customers being able to connect onto RMU's system. The city's expenses for maintaining the power grid are calculated into the policy.

TIF

The council unanimously approved a resolution opposing state state Senate Bill 2298, which would change the city's ability to utilize tax increment financing to stimulate redevelopment.

The city's meeting agenda packet said the proposed bill "attempts to eliminate the effectiveness of the most important tool available to municipalities to enhance positive economic change.

"We've instituted one TIF since I've been here and before that, the downtown TIF was put in," Fiegenschuh said. "I think we use them according to what the statute intends. If you look at Hickory Grove and Kennay Farms Distilling, these projects wouldn't have happened and that's what it's there for. If you want a true definition of blight, look at what Hickory Grove was.'

Electric study

BHMG Engineers Project Manager Jason Jackson presented a review of a system planning study of the city and RMU's electric system.

The presentation included potential future improvements totaling \$25.5 million that included another new substation, new overhead high capacity power lines across town, transformer work and distribution line upgrades.

"The majority of these improvements are to keep up with an aggressive business development that you guys have been experiencing with heavy power load growth coming into town," Jackson said.

Swearing in

John Kaltenbach was sworn in as the Rochelle Police Department's new detective sergeant during the meeting. He's been with the department since

"John brings much-needed enthusiasm and wit to a difficult job," RPD Chief Eric Higby said. "He's a high performer at his job, but his best work has been setting an example for the rest of us to follow as an honest, wholesome individual."

ognized the retirement of Sharon Hawkins from its



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The city council recognized the retirement of Sharon Hawkins from its Water Department lab after 23 years at the meeting.

Retirement

The city council rec-

Water Department lab after 23 years at the meeting.

"Sharon is well-known by Rochelle schools and

ROUGH

Kishwaukee College for hosting tours of the wastewater treatment plant," RMU Utilities Superin-

23 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE 1998 - 2022

> tendent Adam Lanning said. "Sharon prided herself on keeping her lab in perfect order and

always meeting all quality control criteria set by the **Environmental Protection** Agency."

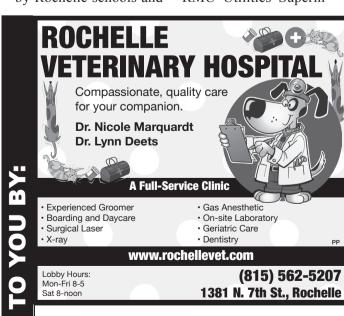
rooming

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Strawberry Shortcake is the name and I am just as sweet as I sound! I'm not going to lie, I'm not a huge fan of other animals! So ideally, a home where I can be the center of your attention would be fantastic. If you spend a little time with me you'll discover that I have a lovely, soft coat and that I like people very, very much. I definitely should go home with an experienced and confident dog owner as I am still working on my manners (no children, please). I LOVE spending time with my people and I enjoy learning new commands especially when tasty treats are involved! When I can't be with those I love, I enjoy chewing on Kongs and bones or any other sort of chew toy and I take afternoon snoozes all curled up in my soft blankets, I love my naps. Tails doesn't know anything about my past, but they've quickly discovered that I'm smart and am a dream to walk on leash! I even know how to sit and keep my kennel pretty clean! And even better, my adoption fee has been sponsored by a wonderful

volunteer! Please stop in and visit with me soon!



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LOCAL VIEWS

Livestock farmers support food security in Illinois

Richard

Guebert Jr.

F you've ever driven through the Illinois coun-Ltryside, you've likely seen a herd of cattle dotting the landscape. You might have wondered whether the animals that farmers raise benefit businesses and residents in our state.

They do. Livestock farms offer important sources of revenue for local businesses, strengthen the food supply, and continue to reduce impacts on the environ-

With livestock on 1 in 3 Illinois farms, animal agriculture is an economic engine for our state.

In 2019, livestock farms and related meat and dairy processors contributed more than \$31.8 billion in economic activity, supported more than 91,000 jobs, and accounted for \$4.7 billion in household income.

When many meat packing plants shuttered due to worker safety concerns at the height of the pandemic, the backlog of orders and limited processing capacity highlighted the critical role of food processors. Disruptions also demonstrated the need for investments in small and medium-sized meat packers, many of which stepped up to fill the supply chain gap.

Thanks to their efforts, Illinois' state licensed meat establishments processed more than 31 million pounds of meat to feed families across the state in 2020.

Illinois Farm Bureau recently partnered with Texas A&M University to offer Hazard **Analysis Critical Control Points** (HACCP) certification – a prevention-based approach to the safe production, handling and preparation of foods – to support the continued development of local meat packing companies.

As important as food processing facilities are, it's also important to remember that production starts on the farm. More than 96% of the 71,000

farms in Illinois are familyowned and operated. For these farm families, producing quality meat and dairy products means providing nutritious protein sources for the community. In 2020, Illinois farm fami-

lies donated more than 250,000 pounds of food to local food pantries. Donations of pork, beef and dairy products offered resources to those in need, while also benefiting food processors in the community.

In addition to providing a steady supply of food for American families, farmers also continue to produce more with

Pig farmers today use 75% less land and 25% less water than they did 60 years ago, cattle farmers are producing

> 60% more beef with 40% fewer carbon emissions than 50 years ago, and each gallon of milk produced by dairy farmers creates 63% fewer carbon emissions than in 1944.

Innovative barn construction, rotational grazing on cover crops

and manure management as fertilizer applications are among the practices farmers use to continuously improve soil and water quality on their farms.

By caring for animals in ways that also benefit the environment, farmers ensure a bright future for agricultural production on family farms and a steady food supply for all.

The next time you find yourself driving past a herd of cattle, or picking out food at the grocery store, I encourage you to think about the many ways livestock farms and related industries add value in our state.

Richard Guebert Jr. is the Illinois Farm Bureau president. This op-ed was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow. com.

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

Do you still carry cash or have you opted to start paying with a card more as many have?

"Mostly card but keep some cash."

Mark G Schabacker

"Amazon takes cash? Card."

Allen Huhn

"Both. Technology isn't as reliable as people think."

Cindy Foster Knight

"My preference is to 'forget' my money at home so the people I'm with have to cover the tab. A new trick I've learned from family."

Scott Carlson

"Mostly my card but I keep some cash on me."

Deborah Schuler Beck

"Cash."

"Both."

Marilynn Bulthaus Roberson

"Almost entirely card."

"I keep a few hundred tucked away Julie Reinick for garage sales and flea markets. Other than that, it's all plastic."

John Elliott

"Both."

Kay Beguin McGrath

"Both."

Dawn Estes Johnson

"Cash, card for emergency and no debit. Hate paying charges to get my own money."

Karen Bauer

"Both."

Katie Paulsen

"I carry both." **Denise Montgomery**

"Cash so the business doesn't have to pay the bank fees." Laurie Heltness Russell

"Before kids it was almost all card. Steve Frye But now if I need something from the store I send them in with cash." Valerie Stasch Kingsbury

Metaverse: The alternate reality curs, the Metaverse platform checks out the

ANY of us have been hearing the buzzword "Metaverse" and wonder what this is all about? According to the high priests of the digital world, the Metaverse is a completely alternative universe in the digital world (Internet) where users, through their digital, self-designed robots (avatars), can move around and interact

with this alternative environment. Meta Platforms Inc. (Facebook),

Microsoft, Unity, Epic Games and Roblox are some of the companies that are important entities in the Metaverse, all attempting to make their participation profitable.

In order to participate, you need a VR (virtual reality) headset and in some cases a hand controller for each hand.

The VR headset is essentially a set of goggles with a small TV set inside that allow you to view the Metaverse. The hand controls help you navigate through the Metaverse.

You get onto the Metaverse through a portal such as Sanbox or Decentraland. You will usually have to set up an account (crypto

wallet) through a vendor such as Meta Mask. Looking into your VR headset, you enter the Metaverse and control your avatar much like a video game. You, through your avatar, can navigate through the Metaverse (alternative digital universe) doing various things such as traveling, interacting with other users,

engaging in sports, playing games and making money such as buying and selling Metaverse land. Some have purchased land in the Metaverse for thousands of crypto coins hoping to sell it at a higher price in the future.

You can also trade in stock attributed to Metaverse companies such Chuck as Meta Platforms (NASDAQ:FB), **Roberts** Boeing (NYSE: BA), Roblox (NYSE: RBLX) or Microsoft (NASDAQ:

MSFT). Investment in these companies, solely based on their participation in the Metaverse, is still considered risky.

If you wish to purchase Metaverse real estate you must use Metaverse crypto money in the form of non-fungible tokens (NFT's). These are digital coins that, when a sale ocsale and transfer of ownership to make sure it is legitimate. Once you own the Metaverse land, you can build on it, rent it or sell it, hopefully at a profit.

You keep your NFT's in your digital cryptocurrency wallet. You can also use your NFT's for other things such as clothing and other appurtenances for your avatar. NFT's are divisible and can be exchanged for other forms of currency. The ownership of some cryptocurrencies allows one to vote within a Metaverse platform on decisions regarding where NFT's should be invested or on the expected release of new features.

Several companies are spending millions of dollars in the Metaverse hoping to convince society that this is a development akin to sliced bread. Will there be mass acceptance of the Metaverse like the acceptance of the Internet by society or will it be a passing fad that disappears like large fins on automobiles?

Many are betting on the alternate reality (Metaverse), but personally, I prefer regular reality.

How to contact government officials

U.S. Con. Adam Kinzinger 1218 Longworth HOB Washington, D.C. (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

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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,

Greg Hopkins

Mike Kerns

Curt Ward

Steve Katzman

Mark Hibshman

however letters rom candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the News-Leader office (211 IL Route 38 East), mailed to the News-Leader (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068) or e-mailed (news@rochellenews-leader.com.) The News-Leader reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.

COMMUNITY

RTHS Key Club visits RMS Builders Club

Bench collaboration planned

ROCHELLE—On Feb. 14, the Rochelle Township High School Key Club visited the Rochelle Middle School Builders Club. Kiwanis Golden K sponsors both clubs.

Madison Ost, Key Club president, presented a program about the Key Club and its projects and talked about the possibility of a collaboration and eighth grade Builders Club members joining the Key Club next year.

It has been decided that the two clubs will work together on a "plastic bottle caps for a bench" project going forward. Together they will collect, sort, weigh, bag and manifest the plastic caps. The Golden K will store, transport, pay the \$250 manufacturing expense and install the bench.

ty and it's good for the landfill," Kiwanis Golden K Member and Key Club Advisor Dennis Swinton said. "It's good for everything." Key Club officers include Ost, Vice President Ella

"It's good for the kids, it's good for the communi-

McKinney, Secretary Marlen Hueramo, Online Editor Jessica Nguyen and Past President Riley Flanagan. Mr. Howard is the Key Club's advisor.

Builders Club officers are Co-Presidents Addison Bingham and Elly Dalen, Secretary Jonathan Hernandez, Treasurer Alondra Rojas and Class Representatives Abigail Dougherty and Liliana Lawrence.



Rochelle Middle School Builders Club officers include Co-Presidents Addison Bingham and Elly Dalen, **Secretary Jonathan Hernandez and Treasurer Alondra** Rojas.



Feb. 4 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 5 - Noel Allison, Rochelle, \$250

Feb. 6 - Luisa Nambo, Rochelle, \$50

Feb. 7 - Foundation for Focus House, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 8 - Ashley Hoffman, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 9 - Rylen Ramos, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 10 - Rochelle Rotary Club, \$25

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries March 2 March 13 March 24 Addison Perkins Veronica Lopez John Wooten March 5 March 16 Lanie McPhearson Christy Oleson March 25 Briggs Bridgeman March 19 Chaz & Kathy Conant March 6 Nicole King John Overstreet Liz Danekas March 8 March 20 Shaun Rosenbach Chaz Conant Jesse Lopez March 26 Rachelle Phillips Donna Sassaman LeeAnn Komadina March 9 March 22 Kim Dougherty Wakely Peterman Minia Waters Bernie & Anna Sexton March 12 March 23 Kristi Gonzales Troy Komadina Call 815-561-2151 to submit names for birthdays and anniversaries

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

March 6 – (Sunday Brunch) – Waffles with Eggs, Sausage Patties, Sausage Gravy and Biscuits

12

25

30

33

38 39 40

42

48

22 23

**All menus are subject to change.

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

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Coffee Break

King Crossword

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ACROSS 1 Offend

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- 13 Antlered animal
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- 17 Earring site
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 - **NFLer**
 - 39 "It can't be!"
 - 41 Dance move 44 Eggs

 - 31 Roman 202 34 Go over again 35 Macaroni

46 45

- 37 Tampa Bay
- 38 Pirate's drink
- 40 Golf props
- noise
- 46 Mouths (Lat.) 47 Music booster

by Linda Thistle

Weekly **SUDOKU**

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

THIS WEEK: ◆ DIFFICULTY

Moderate



Challenging HOO BOY! © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error

Clue: G equals F

AFJK FJ WLC YMRJT CL VMJ MOJIBYN LGG-QJKV CLOOBKW,

"GLH SLVH GHBJM LKNS."

QITLKYNT'M ALHRJH

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Answer

Meekly SUDOKU

Answers **King** Crossword — uice McDonald's worker replied special off-menu topping, the When he got asked to use a

"For your fries only."

Sheriff's Office raises funds for cancer fight

'I didn't expect the mass amounts of generosity and time and effort'

BY JEFF HELFRICH

MANAGING EDITOR

OREGON—The Ogle County Sheriff's Office drew names Friday for a raffle benefiting the family of one of its detectives.

On Jan, 1, 2022, Amber Most, wife of Detective Kevin Most, suddenly became ill. Over the following two weeks, Amber underwent a series of tests and was ultimately diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic cancer.

Amber, Kevin and their 7-year-old daughter, Addi, have a long road ahead. The sheriff's office started a raffle to help cover medical costs. What began as a raffle for three guns at the start of the year grew to include 12 prizes after donations from various county businesses.

The raffle drawing was moved up to Friday after being originally planned for March 1 due to Amber starting another round of treatment on March 1. Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said he wanted Amber and Kevin there for the drawing.

The couple drew 12 names and spoke to the community and thanked it for its support during a Facebook live video. Amber expressed gratitude for those who bought and sold tickets and donated items for the drawing.

"We're so grateful and so thankful to everyone who has donated and helped through this," Amber said. "We also want to thank the Ogle County Sheriff's Office for being our family. Law enforcement is extremely important to us and we couldn't do this without them. I want to thank everyone here who has sold tickets and done this for us. We love them very much and we're very gracious."

In a Friday press release, the sheriff's office called the response to the raffle "overwhelming," and said that it demonstrates the kindness and generosity of the citizens of Ogle County and the surrounding communities.

The release mentioned the following businesses that helped with the raffle: Hub-Remsen Printing in Hillcrest, Mel's Custom Graphics in Mt. Morris, Rat Worx in Mt. Morris, Tim Ponder, Headon's Fine Meats in Creston, Turf RX in Stillman Valley, Calhoun Plumbing in Oregon, Patchwork Inn in Oregon, Tease Salon in Stillman Valley, Bad Ash Cigars in Oregon, Black Rifle Coffee and Goodman Painting.

Car magnets were also made by Mel's Custom Graphics with all proceeds going to the Most family. They're for sale for \$10 each at the Ogle County Sheriff's Office, 202 S. 1st St in Oregon.

Van Vickle spoke during the drawing on Facebook live and said he enjoyed seeing the support for the Most family from the community.

"We're fortunate to live in the community we live in," VanVickle said. "Because they truly do support law enforcement. This is a shining example of not only supporting law enforcement, but supporting your neighbor and families and the community."

Kevin thanked the sher-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On Jan, 1, 2022, Amber Most, wife of Detective Kevin Most, suddenly became ill. Over the following two weeks, Amber underwent a series of tests and was ultimately diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic cancer.

iff's office for organizing the raffle and selling tickets and putting manpower towards it. He said there have also been multiple other police and fire departments that have done similar things for his family. He

thanked the businesses for donating the prizes, magnets and selling tickets.

"You never expect cancer to come your way," Kevin said. "But I guess I didn't expect the mass amounts of generosity and

time and effort that everybody has put into this. I just want to thank everybody in our community and many communities in the state of Illinois. The outreach from far distances has been just amazing."

Ogle County Sheriff's Report

Deputies make arrest after theft response in Stillman Valley

OREGON — On Feb. 22 at 3:10 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at 3rd Street and Franklin Street in Byron. After a short investigation, deputies arrested James Turcato, 27, of Byron for driving under the influence of alcohol. Turcato was transported to Ogle County Jail and was also

issued citations for expired registration and no front registration.

On Feb. 24 at approximately 1:13 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 at mile marker 108. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Cristian Menjivar-Alvarenga, 28, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license.

Menjivar-Alvarenga was also issued citations for no front registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Menjivar-Alvarenga was given an I-Bond with a return court date later next month and released on scene

On Feb. 24 at approximately 2:40 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on

Interstate 39 at mile marker 113. After investigation, Deputies placed Damontre Turner, 28, of Rockfordunder arrest for driving while license suspended. Turner was released on an I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date.

On Feb. 24 at approximately 10:03 p.m. deputies

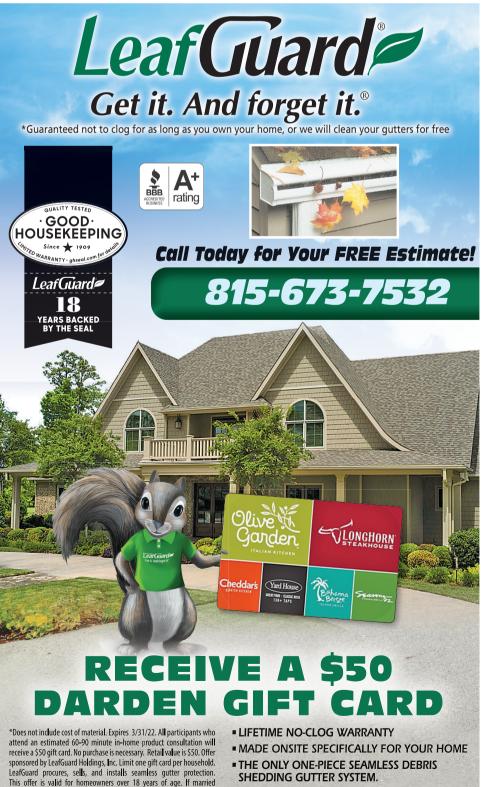
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North Highland Court in Stillman Valley. After investigation, deputies placed Dustin Gray, 34, of Stillman Valley under arrest for possession of a stolen firearm (class two felony), no FOID card (class three felony), and theft under \$500. Gray was transported to the

he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On Feb. 24, Christopher Taylor, 33, was placed under arrest for violation of the sex offender registration act (class three felony). Taylor was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending an



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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



KINGS COMETS WIN TITLE

Kings won the Meridian Conference Girls Basketball championship this past week.

See page 8 for more details

RTHS Boys Basketball

Hubs make history

No. 5 Rochelle knocks off No. 2 Sterling 84-70 to win regional title

BY JEFF HELFRICH

MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Not only did the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team win its first regional championship since 2009 on Friday night, it did so on its home floor with a full gym of

The Hubs defeated Sterling 84-70 in the IHSA 3A Regional tournament, hosting it for the first time in five seasons.

"It couldn't be more special," Rochelle head coach Tim Thompson said. "My first year as head coach we played Kaneland and lost a tough one here. We've always told our ADs we want to host games like this. We need to be here, we need to give ourselves another chance. The community came out to support these kids and it was fantastic."

Rochelle was led in scoring by senior Noah Brown (21 points), junior Raul Aguirre (17 points), senior Adam Kemp (17 points) and senior Ryan Simmons (16 points).

The Hubs overcame a slow start and trailed 18-10 after one quarter. Rochelle outscored Sterling 22-12 in the second quarter and built a lead steadily afterwards, scoring 26 points in both the third and fourth quarters.



The Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team took down Sterling 84-70 on Friday to win the IHSA 3A Rochelle Regional championship. It's the first regional title since the 2008-09 season for the Hubs, who will advance to compete in the IHSA 3A Peoria Sectional this week.

shot the ball well in the first quarter and we kind of hung tough," Thompson said. "I knew the guys weren't going to give up or give in. We've been shooting the ball way too well

"I just don't think we lately. There were just a going to shoot better in the ing from junior John Paul couple of adjustments we had to make. Finally, things started to click. We took that little lead at half. Coming out in the third quarter, we shoot in this gym all the time. We knew we were

second half."

Rochelle knocked down 10 3-pointers in the game, five of which came from Brown.

The Golden Warriors got the bulk of their scor-

"We lost to them twice in Schilling, who put up 39 a matter of three days early points. Rochelle (22-10, in the year and we always 11-3 Interstate 8) lost both want our team playing its best in February," Thompof its earlier matchups to Sterling back in November. son said. The Hubs have won 17 of

their past 19 games.

See HUBS page 8

RTHS Wrestling

Hubs battle in IWCOA Fresh-Soph Rochelle Regional

Rochelle qualifies six individuals for sectional tournament at Sterling HS

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team competed in the IWCOA Fresh-Soph Rochelle Regional on Saturday, with six individuals qualifying for the sectional including three regional champions.

Sophomore Tommy Tourdot won the 101-pound regional title with a 2-0 record. Tourdot scored back-to-back falls over Richmond-Burton's Kyan Gunderson and Harlem's Justin Lewis to win the tournament.

Freshman Joseph Nadig won the 113-pound regional title with a 3-0 record. Nadig held off Harlem's Koletyn Zanoni 8-5 before pinning North Boone's Gavin Ekberg and Stillman Valley's Henry Hildreth for the title.

Freshman Kaiden Morris won the 220-pound regional title with a 3-0 record. Morris cruised over Stillman Valley's Blake Mollett 18-2 before pinning Hononegah's Isaak Smith and Stillman Valley's Braxton Jennings.

Freshman Jack Pavlak took second in the

170-pound regional bracket. Pavlak took down Burlington Central's Brandon Mancera 8-1 and edged Stillman Valley's Brock Needs with a 5-3 sudden victory in overtime to win the semifinal bout. Pavlak fell against Byron's Kyle Jones for the championship.

Sophomore Leo Stoffel finished fourth in the 170-pound bracket, scoring an 11-8 decision over Burlington Central's Alan Perez to earn a sectional berth. Sophomore Riley Damask finished fourth in the 120-pound regional bracket, defeating Oregon's Ethan Mowry 8-5 and pinning Durand's Evie Anderson before conceding a 4-0 loss to Burlington Central's Austin Lee. Damask faced Mowry again in the consolation semifinal round, winning with an 11-4 decision to earn his berth in the sectional tournament.

Other Rochelle athletes who participated in the regional include freshman 113-pounder Weylin Nay (1-2), freshman 132-pounder Santiago Pacheco (1-2) and sophomore 138-pound-

er Alex Burke (0-2)



Sophomore Riley Damask raises his hand in victory during the IWCOA Fresh-Soph Rochelle Regional this past weekend. Six individuals advanced to the IWCOA Fresh-Soph Sterling Sectional this coming weekend.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



Jayden Johnson

Year: Freshman

Sport: Track

O: How many years have you been playing this sport? A: Four years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: The teamwork. Q: What is your favorite

school subject and why? A: P.E. because I get to move around and I enjoy

the team bonding. Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My uncle. Q: What is your dream job

and why? A: To be a coach because I

enjoy physical activity. Q: Where would your dream

vacation be and why? A: Hawaii because it's the place *I feel the most free.*

Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?

A: It's a great experience.



Year: Freshman

Sport: Track

Q: How many years have you been playing this sport? A: Two years.

Q: What do you enjoy most

about this sport? A: Meeting new friends and

working out. Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?

A: Ag because I really love the teacher and it's enjoyable.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why? A: Jonathan Toews

because he's hot.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My parents because they always push me to reach my full potential.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: To be an athletic trainer because it sounds fun to do.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?

A: Hawaii because it's warm there and I've never been there before.

Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?

A: I enjoy playing sports with friends.





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SPORTS

Fader earns NWCA Coach of the Year honors

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. - Tim Fader (RTHS 1987) is the Wrestling Coach at University of Wisconsin Eau Claire and he recently earned Coach of the Year accolades from the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

Fader wrestled for his father Pete in high school at RTHS. He wrestled collegiately at Augustana College, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Accounting and Finance-Business Administration. He earned a master's degree in Sports Administration from UW-La Crosse in 1997.

At Augustana, Fader was a two-time team MVP, two-time conference champion, three-time national qualifier, twotime NCAA Division III All-American and twice was named a First Team by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Fader was UW-Whitewater head coach for a decade, the UW-La Crosse head coach for six and a LaCrosse assistant for three seasons. Fader won conference championships all six years as head coach at LaCrosse and his last three seasons at Whitewater. He was WIAC Coach of the Year four times: 1999, 2001, 2002, and 2014 and NWCA Coach of the Year in 2001 and 2012 and the d3Wrestler.com National Coach of the Year in 2014 with a national runner-up finish at Whitewater.

Fader's teams have had eight Top 10 finishes at nationals. His 2000 LaCrosse squad won the national dual meet cham-

Academic All-American pionship. He has coached more than 40 All-Americans and 55 Scholastic All-Americans.Fader was inducted into the NWCA D3 Coaches Hall of Fame in 2017. He wrestlers for HoF Coach Kevin Puebla at Augustana. At La-Crosse, he coached with HoF Coach Greg Lonning. At Whitewater, he took over for HoF Coach Wilie Meyers.

Fader is the father of son Rye and daughters Molly and Shae. Fader's

Blugold wrestling program has been climbing the rankings. The final dual meet ranking put UW Eau Claire at No. 15 nationally. UW Eau Claire is proud to host the 2022 NCAA Upper Midwest Regionals today. The top three in each bracket qualify for the Division III National Championships.



Rochelle Township High School alum Tim Fader recently received the 2022 NWCA Coach of the Year Award. Fader currently coaches wrestling at UW-Eau Claire.

T-Byrd Lanes







Local league bowlers take home Bowler of the Month honors

T-Byrd Lanes recognized three local league bowlers with special awards recently. Jaxon Breit (left) was named Bowler of the Month for a 474 high series, 185 high game and bowling 50 pins over his average. JJ Groves (middle) was also named Bowler of the Month for a 125 high game and 341 high series. Levi Waddle (right) earned Bowler of the Month recognition as well for a 196 high game, 457 high series and bowling 75 pins over average.

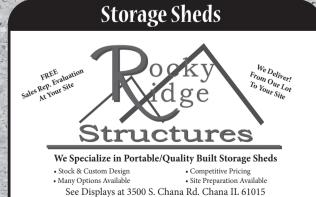
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ON THE FARM

Understanding smart farm automation

ODERNagriculture looks Llittle like the early days of farming. All aspects of farming have been modified by the access farmers now have to technologies to meet the demands of their work and the pressure a growing population places on farmers to produce quality food.

Farm automation, precision farming and smart farming are strategies utilized by today's farmers. These technologies have become important ways for farmers to optimize the production of food and improve its quality. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, agricultural production must increase by 70 percent in order to meet global food demand by 2050, by which time the population could be 9.7 billion persons.

Smart farming can make raising livestock more accurate and controlled. While farm automation is a broad term, precision smart farming zeroes in on exact measurements between variations in land conditions and livestock, according to Techie Loops, a technology information website. Examples of farming automation technology include:



- autonomous vehicles and machines
- drones
- robotics
- GPS guidance
- micro-forecasting and weather forecasting
 - soil sampling

 - · yield mapping
- use of artificial intelligence
 - geomatics

• statistical processes, and more.

Farmers can employ these technologies to save time and also manage labor shortages. Robot-assisted irrigation systems, for example, can maximize efficiency of water distribution where it is needed the most. Weeding robots can use artificial intelligence and computer vision to target field areas and reduce use of pesticides. Driverless tractors can make labor cheaper for farmers by plotting the machine's route and letting it run the course automatically. Harvest robots also exist to grab crops gently (some with vacuum technology)

workers. Some harvesters can determine ripeness of fruit via AI technology, according to Eastern Peak, a provider of custom hardware and software solutions for businesses.

Technology is changing farming in many ways. Innovations in automation can make operations more efficient and less costly.

Advancements in livestock technology

ONSUMERdemand drives changes in industry, and the agricultural sector is no exception. Consumer demands for improved animal welfare have led to changes in the livestock sector, and various technologies have been developed and are in development to help this particular segment of the agricultural industry

According to the Animal AgTech Innovation Summit, various startups have developed technologies that can make the livestock industry more sustainable and efficient. The Israeli firm Armenta has developed a non-antibiotic treatment for bovine mastitis that utilizes acoustic pulse technology. The treatment has a 70 percent cure rate.

Another firm working to treat livestock is the United States-based General Probiotics. Animal AgTech reports that General Probiotics develops cellbots and antimicrobial probiotics that eliminate harmful pathogens in livestock. That can reduce dependency on antibiotics and make food produc-

Faromatics, a firm based in Spain, has combined robotics, artificial intelligence and big data to improve animal welfare and farm productivity. One Faromatics product utilizes a robot suspended from a ceiling to monitor certain variables, including equipment function and health and welfare, that affect broiler chick-

The American firm Swinetech utilizes voice recognition and computer

vision technology in its SmartGuard product to prevent piglet deaths from crushing and starvation. The product also makes it possible to track and facilitate obstetrical assistance.

Based in Uganda, Jaguza Tech has developed a livestock management system that utilizes sensors, data science and machine learning to improve

the efficiency, productivity and sustainability of modern farm operations. Farmers can utilize Jaguza to perform a host of functions, including monitoring their animals' health and identifying their livestock.

and reduce reliance on field

The Netherlands-based H2Oalert is a water control management system that checks the quality and quantity of cattle drinking water in real time. The management system also checks for pollution and malfunctions in the water supply.

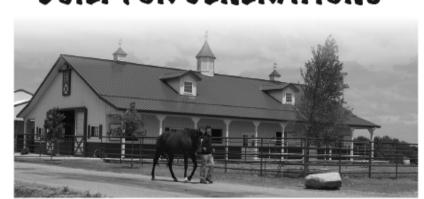
Livestock technology continues to advance, and firms across the globe are developing new products and platforms to help livestock farmers make their operations more efficient, sustainable and productive.











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PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NO. MATTER OF THE)2022)PR 9 **ESTATE** JENNIE L.

BOHANNON,) Deceased. **CLAIM NOTICE** Notice is given the death of JENNIE BOHANNON,

Rochelle, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 18, 2022, to VIRGINIA L. whose address is 112 S. 10th Street. Rochelle. whose 61068, and 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 2022. and anv 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)

307

101 LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers cautioned thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

105 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive Readers advertising. cautioned thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.'

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

119 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers cautioned thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.'

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

Furman Lawn Care and Tree Service. Mowing, Hedge Painting, Trimming, Interior and Exterior. Cleaning, Gutter Storm Damage Clean up, Spring and Fall and Much More. In Business Since 1999. Call Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please Leave Message Will Return Call ASAP. Fully Insured. (TFN)

JNJ JUMPERS Indoor/ Outdoor Bounce House Rentals Available Year Round. Please Call 815-784-4256 For Availability or Visit us on Facebook.

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in

203 **HELP WANTED**

ASHTON - Bartenders Waitresses Needed, Apply Person at Ralphie and Lulu's. 812 Main Street in Ashton or call 815-453-2103. (TFN)

301 **ANTIQUES**

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture. glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@ hotmail.com

307 **MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 8AM-NOON ONLY. SEE RECEPTIONIST COUNTER Rochelle News-Leader.

405 **HOUSES FOR SALE**

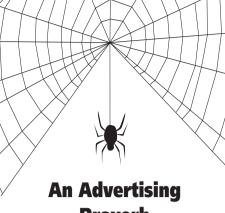
House For Sale: 4 bedroom 2 bathroom, Full Basement, Fenced in Yard, 2 Car Unattached Garage. 1120 Westview Dr. Call Russ (815) 558-5671 (2-27-22)

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

501 APARTMENTS FOR

Northside of Rochelle. FREE heat and water. NO PETS! Available Now at \$750/month. Credit Report, and Job Verification needed. Call (815) 919-9015

Recycle



Proverb

When Mark Twain was editing a newspaper in Missouri, one of his subscribers wrote in, saving that he had found a spider in his newspaper and wondered whether it was a sign of good or bad luck. Twain's response: "Finding a spider is neither good luck nor bad.

The spider was merely looking over our newspaper to see which merchant was not advertising, so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door, and lead a life of undisturbed/ peace ever afterward."

INFORMATION

Office Hours:

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

Phone: 815-562-4171

Fax:

815-562-2161

Email:

classifieds@rochellenews-

leader.com Address:

211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle Mail:

P.O. Box 46 Rochelle, IL 61068

DEADLINES:

Sunday News-Leader: Thursday, 2 p.m.

Tuesday Shopping News: Friday, 10 a.m. Wednesday

Leader: Monday, 4 p.m. (Deadlines subject to change during holiday times)

All classified marketplace

line ads will appear in

following publications and on 5 hightraffic newspaper websites: Rochelle News-Leader Shopping News • Ashton Gazette • Amboy News Mendota Reporter Mendota Money Saver

Call for pricing that starts at \$32.99 for private party ads and \$44.60 for commercial business ads and \$19.99 for garage sale ads.

DISCLAIMER:

If your advertisement appears incorrectly, notify us immediately. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and will only credit customer for one insertion.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION NEW, USED SCRATCH & DENT

• Refrigerators • Freezers Washers/DryersStoves

We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.



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103 **AUCTIONS**

REAL ESTATE AUCTION Saturday March 19th, 2022

10 AM

We will offer at Public Auction the following described Real Estate at Public Auction. This auction will be held on site at 10411 E Kyte Rd., Rochelle IL 61068. On Auction Day, watch for Bearrows Real Estate & Auction signs From Skare Rd. & Flagg Blacktop, West of Rochelle on Flagg. Contact Auctioneer John Bearrows at 815-739-9150 for a private viewing or visit our web site at www.bearrows.com for further information & pictures.

DESCRIPTION OF REAL ESTATE: This auction will feature a 5.88 Acre tract of land with a very large (3144 sq ft) 4 Plus bedroom 2-story home, complete with 3 full bathrooms. The home has 2-furnaces, 1 being newer, (Natural Gas) and 2 central air units. Home features a 26'x24' master bedroom suite with walk in closet & full bath, Gas fireplace, hardwood floors, and a family room addition that has an office or extra bedroom and so much more. Large walk-in attic, and a partially finished basement with wet bar. The outbuildings include a 54'x 42' cold storage pole barn with concrete floor, another 90' x 42' pole barn with a heated 42'x 30' garage/rec room. Other buildings include a large barn with a newer horse barn attached, and a lean-to horse pen area. There is a large machine shed and smaller garden shed as well. This truly is a spectacular offering. Contact Auctioneer John Bearrows at 815-739-9150 for full details. REAL **ESTATE TERMS:** \$10,000.00 down the day of the auction, with the balance due on or before April 29th, 2022, at which time full possession will be given. Seller to provide an appropriate executed deed as well as a merchantable Title Policy in the amount of the purchase price. This property is being conveyed in its "As-Is" condition without any contingencies with regard to financing and/or the sale of another piece of property. All announcements made the day of auction take precedence over all prior advertising.

Holcomb Bank – Owner

Auctioneer: John Bearrows - 815-739-9150 Bearrows Real Estate & Auction Co. 361 W IL Rt#38



Rochelle IL 61068

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SPORTS



The Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team gathered with the SuperFans for a group photo after securing the IHSA 3A Rochelle Regional championship on Friday. Rochelle improved to 22-10 overall with the victory. The Hubs will face No. 1 seed Metamora in the semifinal round of the IHSA 3A Peoria Sectional this week.

HUBS: Rochelle wins first regional title since 2009

From page 1

"And we were tonight. November was a long time ago.''

Thompson said winning big games comes down to senior leadership. Early in the year, he said the team wasn't playing good basketball and had some issues with injuries and wasn't shooting the ball

In the second half of the year, the team made a commitment, Thompson said. The Hubs took six days off and came back with a new attitude.

"We said, 'OK seniors, what do you want this to be?""Thompson said. "We weren't even talking about conference championships or regionals at that point. We just wanted to start putting wins together. They came out and beat

points in the first quarter and that set the tone. And we just started playing good basketball from there on out."

Thompson said the task of winning a regional has been a grind over the years. He's been in three other regional championship games and has fallen short. You can only win regional championships by getting to them, he said.

"Tonight these guys were ready to play," Thompson said. "They shot the ball fantastically. It means the world to Rochelle basketball to have all of our traveling teams and RYBA players around to make sure they saw this. It makes them want to work hard to get to the same point that these kids are at."

Leading up to Friday

LaSalle-Peru and had 30 night's game, players on the team spoke about wanting to win the regional championship for Thompson. It was his first as head coach. He took pride in that and has taken pride over the years in building relationships with players.

"You coach to help them in the game of basketball and in the game of life," Thompson said. "I want to build relationships with kids and for them to respect me at the end of the day. I wanted to build on the culture that Russ Zick started with open gyms and have guys want to come back. I saw so many of my former players here tonight. It means a lot to me that this team wanted to do it for me."

Rochelle's next game will be against No. 1 subsectional seed Metamora on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Senior Adam Kemp (left) will represent the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team in the IHSA 3A Sectional 3-Point Shootout at Bradley University on Friday.

Bradley University in the IHSA 3A Peoria Sectional Semifinals.

Senior Adam Kemp advanced to the sectional round of the 3-point

shooting contest Friday night, making nine shots. He advanced along with Dixon's Sky Goral and LaSalle-Peru's Michael Jereb and Seth Adams. Ro-

chelle's Cooper Hasz(six), Tanner Lager (seven) and Ryan Simmons (six) also competed Friday but did not advance. The sectional shootout is Friday night.

Meridian Conference



Kings Comets win 2021-22 Meridian Conference Girls Basketball Championship

(COURTESY PHOTO)