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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

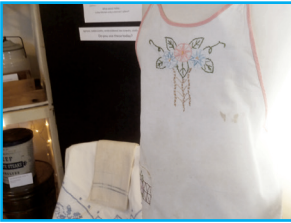
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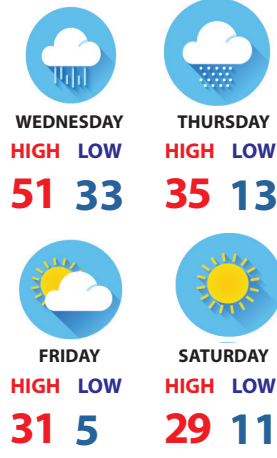


Museum exhibit reception Feb. 27

The Flagg Township Museum will host a reception for its newest exhibit on Feb. 27.

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WEATHER



Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:
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OBITUARIES

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• ETHEL M. RICHARDSON
• LINDA SZPEKOWSKI

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Hickory Grove demolition ongoing

Next steps include debris removal, restoration of work site

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — All above-grade structures of the Hickory Grove facility have been demolished, Rochelle city officials said Monday.

The \$361,900 demolition project of the facility at 1127 N. 7th St. began last month and has been undertaken by McDonagh Demolition and overseen by Willett, Hofmann & Associates. The city assumed ownership of the deteriorating building in early 2020 for \$1 with the intention of demolishing it and developing the property.

The building was previously owned by the Ogle County Civic Center Authority (OCCCA) board, which was under the Ogle County Board umbrella. The city decided to purchase the site so it could control it and likely would've had to deal with it later if it was abandoned due to OCCCA being in financial trouble.

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said the project has gone "very well" so far and it is on schedule to be completed in April.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

All above-grade structures of the Hickory Grove facility have been demolished, Rochelle city officials said Monday. The \$361,900 demolition project of the facility at 1127 N. 7th St. began last month and has been undertaken by McDonagh Demolition and overseen by Willett, Hofmann & Associates.

City Engineer Sam Tesreau said the building's connections to the Comfort Inn hotel next door have been removed as well. A large amount of debris remains to be sorted through and hauled off which should be completed by the second week of March. Restoration of the site will begin mid-March to late-March, Tesreau said.

Restoration will be done to the hotel's facade where connections were when temperatures get warmer as part of the city's agreement with the Comfort Inn.

The focus of the project will now shift to grade and below, Luke Dixon of Willett, Hofmann and Associates said. Work on the pool area, partial basement and slabs will be next, he said. The demolition has not been without its challenges. Dixon said not only was the physical connection

between Hickory Grove and the Comfort Inn difficult, but there have also been intertwined utilities including Comcast and Nicor. Rochelle Municipal Utilities cleared out its utilities prior to demolition.

See DEMO page 2

RCH seeing less COVID-19 activity

'The spread slowing has helped us, especially in our lab services'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital CEO Gregg Olson said Monday that the hospital is now seeing less COVID-19 activity after a high point last month.

Last week, RCH administered 138 COVID-19 tests after being up near 300 per week a few times last month, Olson said. Of the 138 tests last week, 35 were positive (25.4 percent), he said.

As of Monday, Ogle County was at 8.73 percent COVID-19 positivity with 317.91 cases per 100,000. The Omicron variant is now the prevalent variant in the county, Olson said. He estimates 60 percent of the cases are Omicron and the Delta variant is now in the minority. RCH has seen a steady small number of inpatients with COVID-19.

"We're still seeing some COVID-19 inpatient activity," Olson said. "We have 2-3 in the hospital a day and it's been fairly consistent. We did have an



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle Community Hospital CEO Gregg Olson said Monday that the hospital is now seeing less COVID-19 activity after a high point last month. Last week, RCH administered 138 COVID-19 tests after being up near 300 per week a few times last month, Olson said.

uptick to 5-6 at one point recently, but now it's been falling and it's around 2-3."

The spread of COVID-19 has helped RCH, especially in its lab

services department where testing is done. Last month while overwhelmed by people seeking tests, the hospital faced a lack of testing supplies and got

close to running out, which made operating difficult.

RCH did get some last minute supplies, but had to send some tests away to be evaluated rather than doing

them in-house.

"As numbers have gone down, it's become more manageable," Olson said.

See RCH page 5

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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Restoration of the site will begin mid-March to late-March. Restoration will be done to the hotel's facade where connections were when temperatures get warmer as part of the city's agreement with the Comfort Inn.

DEMO: Restoration beginning next month

From page 1

"We have coordinated with Nicor and Comcast to accommodate the demo and they've been responsive," Dixon said. "There have been a few surprises along the way which is not uncommon in a project of this nature that we are working through."

Prior to demolition and after difficulties with easements and unknowns of the older building since the city took it over, Fiegenschuh

expressed concern that the demolition would encounter larger difficulties during the project. That hasn't been the case.

"Things have gone much smoother than I anticipated," Fiegenschuh said. "If it's only finding a couple of misplaced utilities, then things are going good."

Fiegenschuh said the city still has to work out a land swap agreement with the Comfort Inn in the near future for the hotel to have a pool. The city has yet to

issue a request for proposal for developers interested in future development of the site. That will not happen until the site is cleared off and prepped.

City officials have weekly meetings with McDonagh Demolition and Willett, Hofmann & Associates about the project. Fiegenschuh said they've both been "great to work with" and praised Tesreau for his work on the demolition as well. He's glad the city council

approved having Willett, Hofmann & Associates on site every day monitoring the project.

"It's gone very well," Fiegenschuh said. "Compared to getting the project greenlighted, the demolition has been much smoother. Hopefully we'll get it cleared off and the land swap done and we'll issue a request for proposal and get something nice developed there that the community can be proud of."



Her heart's in the *Right* place

LISA CHARBONEAU, RN, CARDIAC REHABILITATION

Throughout her 16 years at Rochelle Community Hospital, Lisa Charboneau has worked in several areas. But when given an opportunity to help people recovering from cardiac conditions, the registered nurse followed her heart. "I am privileged to care for patients and help them become stronger and healthier," Lisa shared. "We support patients through the recovery process...I love helping them return to activities they enjoy."

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Museum exhibit reception Feb. 27

ROCHELLE – The Flagg Township Museum will host a reception on Sunday, Feb. 27 from 1-4 p.m. highlighting a new exhibit in the Cabinet of Curiosities at the museum. To celebrate the museum's year-long theme of "there's no place like home" the first exhibit of the season features artifacts and information about being "At Home in the Kitchen."

Special items on exhibit include kitchen utensils, cross-stitch samplers, a slaw cutter, butter churn, storage tins, spice jars and more. There is information about the history of Ball Canning Jars, Griswold Cast Iron and the Pyrex Story and even some early kitchen inventions by women. Is the kitchen only a woman's place? Share your thoughts and take the survey "Who's in the Kitchen at Your House?"

Enjoy refreshments made from recipes found in historic Rochelle cookbooks. On hand will be an appetizer from the 1928 Culinary Guide printed by the Rochelle Catholic Ladies of St. Patrick's Church and owned by Vera Herrmann. From the Epworth League Cook Book printed by



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Flagg Township Museum will host a reception on Sunday, Feb. 27 from 1-4 p.m.

the Methodist Episcopal Church of Rochelle is a recipe for snow cakes submitted by Mrs. Ed Wade in about 1890. Edith P. handwrote her recipe for brownies in her small spiral book of recipes, date unknown. It's a taste of the kitchen, history style.

The museum is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The mission of the Flagg Township Historical Society and Museum is to stimulate interest in Flagg Township history through education, research, collection and preservation of information for the benefit of the public of today and in the future.

Rochelle Police Department

Officers make arrests

ROCHELLE — On Feb. 11 at 11:19 p.m. Philip R. Lascola, 34, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license suspended. He was released on an I-Bond and given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 11 at 6:59 p.m. a 16-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was cited for failure to yield turning left. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date. In the same incident, Jesse A. Beck, 20, of Rochelle was arrested for no valid driver's license and cited for leaving the scene of an accident and no insurance. Beck was released on an I-Bond and given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 11 at 7:39 p.m. Manuel Penaran, 38, of Rochelle was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On Feb. 12 at 2:14 a.m. Joshua W. Hoole, 37, of Rochelle was arrested for criminal trespass to property and transferred.

On Feb. 12 at 12:50 p.m. Bernard Sexton, 36, of Rochelle was arrested

for driving while license suspended and cited for no valid registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. He was released on an I-Bond and given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 13 at 12:56 a.m. Goldie Johnson-Kirksy, 28, of Rochelle was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia and transferred.

On Feb. 12 at 10:22 p.m. Joshua W. Hoole, 37, of Rochelle was arrested for two counts of aggravated battery and transferred.

On Feb. 14 at 2:21 a.m. William D. Little, 42, of Davis Junction was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 14 at 3:10 p.m. Caleb M. Nadig, 18, of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

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LOCAL NEWS

Flagg Road and 20th Street improvements planned

Rochelle City Council approves engineering cost for Well 8

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its Monday meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement with Ogle County for future improvements to the Flagg Road and 20th Street intersection.

Over the past several months, Ogle County Engineer Jeremy Ciesiel and City Engineer Sam Tesreau and public works staff have discussed the need for improvements to the intersection including, but not limited to, permanent signals, mast arms, a new controller box, geometric improvements to allow for additional turning lanes and pavement widening along 20th Street south of Flagg Road.

Flagg Road belongs to Ogle County and 20th Street is under the city's jurisdiction.

The county board approved its part of the IGA at its meeting in January. It will allow the city and county to collaborate on an engineering agreement and proceed with the initial phase of engineering to determine the needs for right of way, specific road improvements, plans and specifications and estimate of costs. Engineering will also help determine financial responsibility for the ultimate cost of construction and additional phases of the multi-year project.

The initial project phase has been programmed in the city's 2022 capital improvement plan budget.

The intersection was partially improved in 2009 along with the Kings Crossing subdivision and temporary signals were installed along with partial geometric improvements and pavement widening primarily on the north side of Flagg Road. Since that time, two major developments have occurred within the subdivision: the Rochelle Elementary Lincoln School campus as well as the Liberty Village campus.

In 2010, the county improved and widened Flagg Road from Illinois Route 251 to 600 feet east of 20th Street to a four-lane section. Much of the rural ditch section was replaced with curb and gutter and storm sewer drainage systems as part of the county project. The city also participated in the installation of a pedestrian

sidewalk from Illinois Route 251 to Wendell Drive. The annual average daily traffic counts at the intersection are estimated at nearly 5,000 vehicles per day.

Liquor license

The council unanimously approved an amendment to an ordinance it approved at its last meeting deleting one class B liquor license and creating one class B liquor license.

The new license was granted to Kevin Crandall and Shane Erdman for the business at 417 Cherry Ave., which they will purchase officially this week. The Cherry Avenue business is currently Sissy's Wild Card Saloon, owned by Ken Rosenkrans. When the council approved the ordinance last month, the sale of the business was not finalized and Monday's amendment changed the license deletion and new license approval date to the date of closing on the sale of the business.

The amendment will have no impact on the city's total number of liquor licenses for class B. The class B liquor license allows for the retail sale on the premises of specified alcoholic liquor as well as other packaged retail sale of liquor.

Well Eight

The council unanimously approved the retention of Fehr Graham for \$430,000 worth of engineering services related to the city's Well Eight project.

The well on Caron Road was drilled and developed in the 1960s and has been used as a backup since the 1990s due to elevated levels of iron in the water. The city has planned an iron removal plant over many years since the high-capacity well is centrally-located in the industrialized area of town.

The project would construct an iron removal pressure filter plant and be able to remove radium if that ever becomes a problem with the well. Upon completion of the project, the well could be put online and would help the city to avoid drilling and developing another well.

The city and Rochelle Municipal Utilities are currently pursuing a grant to help fund the project and any remaining cash needs



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

City Clerk Rose Hueramo (left) swears in new Deputy Chief Terry Inman (right) during the Rochelle City Council meeting Monday. Inman previously served as detective and replaces Jeff Leininger, who retired recently.

will be funded through a loan program with the state EPA.

A rate study is currently underway and the city plans to estimate the cost impact of the project on each customer class. The most current engineer's cost estimate for the full project is \$4.6 million.

RMU Utilities Superintendent Adam Lanning said the well is the last that needs improvements after work has been done on other city wells in recent years.

"After this, we'll be putting out some pretty clean water," Lanning said. "We'll have two radium and iron removal plants on each side of the town and now one in the center. We're going to do thorough pilot testing to make sure we don't miss any potential problems in the water quality because this well hasn't run in 30 years."

Dump trucks

The council approved the purchase of two Kenworth dump trucks for the city's street department at a combined cost of \$490,550.51 by a vote of 6-0 with councilwoman Kate Shaw-Dickey abstaining.

One will be a single-axle dump truck and the other is a tandem-axle dump truck. Each truck will be equipped with stainless steel hydraulic dump bodies and snowplow packages.

Street Department Superintendent Tim Isley said he's been satisfied with two Kenworth trucks purchased in 2019 and he's seen improvements in dependability and performance.

The new trucks were purchased from CIT Trucks, LLC in Rockford through Sourcewell, a governmental unit providing competitively-solicited cooperative contracts ready for use by governmental entities.

The new trucks will replace existing 2003 and 2005 International dump trucks.

"We're just having a ton of problems with our Internationals," Isley said. "Those are always the lowest priced trucks on state bids. We might save a few thousand dollars by going that way, but it's costing us way more in the end. I have two trucks down right now. One has been out for three weeks and one has been out for two. They're sitting in line waiting to get fixed."

RMU program

The council unani-

mously approved a resolution authorizing City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh to modify the RMU assistance program.

RMU currently offers up to \$300 annual utility assistance for customers that are at or below the 150 percent of the federal poverty level. The resolution will temporarily modify the annual utility assistance by increasing the amount to \$500 for customers that are at or below the 200 percent of federal poverty level for the duration of six months.

In 2019, 109 customers received assistance from the program totaling \$32,700. In 2020, 79 customers received \$39,500 and in 2021, 84 customers received \$42,000 in assistance. The program is funded by the sale of renewable energy credits generated by the Rochelle Energy Center at the landfill.

"As the numbers show, 2021 was much higher for those who needed assistance and I'm very proud of the fact that we have our own utilities and

we're able to step up and do some things internally to help folks," Mayor John Bearrows said.

Inman

sworn in

New Rochelle Police Department Deputy Chief Terry Inman was sworn in during the meeting. Inman replaces Jeff Leininger, who retired last month.

Employees of RPD and Inman's family were in attendance to see him sworn in.

"The trust that the city has bestowed on me over the last 20 years and now as deputy chief, it humbles me and I'm also very humbled by the turnout tonight," Inman said. "I'm excited about the future and the direction the department is going in."

State of the community

Bearrows said he and Fiegenschuh plan to do their annual state of the community update in-person and live on Facebook on March 10 at noon.

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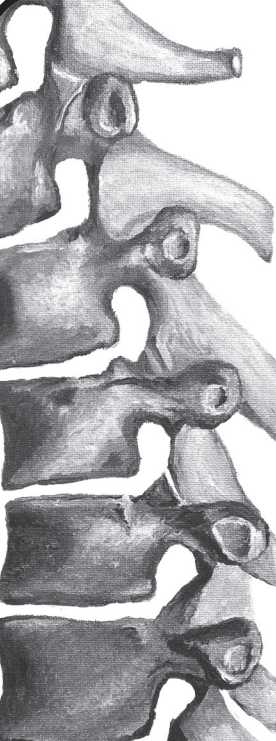
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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Edward F. Rosenwinkel

ROCHELLE — Edward F. Rosenwinkel, 91, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 8 at Javon Bea Hospital in Rockford.

Ed was born on Feb. 12, 1930 to Ernst and Martha (Edecker) Rosenwinkel in Bloomingdale. On June 30, 1962, he married Barbara A. O'Malley in Berwyn, Illinois. She preceded him in death on Sept. 5, 2003. He was also preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Harvey, Willard and Ralph Rosenwinkel and one great-grandchild.

Ed is survived by his three sons: Mark (Gayle) Rosenwinkel of Rochelle, Eric (Kathryn) Rosenwinkel of South Beloit and Curt (Maureen) Rosenwinkel of Palatine, Illinois; 11 grandchildren: Nicholas, Jared (Jade), Matthew, Aaron (Emma), Ellie, John, Ann, Michael, Jack, Brian and Katherine; sister-in-law: Ruth Rosenwinkel of Bartlett, Illinois; special niece: Therese Ann (Rich) Thomas of Mendota and several nieces and nephews.

Ed enjoyed spending time with his family and was a proud supporter of his grandchildren. He often would attend their sporting events and always appreciated lunch out with everyone at a family restaurant. As a lifelong farmer, he liked going for drives, checking the fields and commenting on the condition of the crops. We will miss him spontaneously dropping by for a chat over a cup of coffee or a half a beer!

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The memorial service will follow the visitation at noon with Pastor Gregory Hoffmann officiating. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home. Burial will be at a later date at St. Patrick Cemetery in Rochelle. Memorials can be made to KSB Hospice in Dixon. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.



day, Feb. 19 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The memorial service will follow the visitation at noon with Pastor Gregory Hoffmann officiating. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home. Burial will be at a later date at St. Patrick Cemetery in Rochelle. Memorials can be made to KSB Hospice in Dixon. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Linda Szpekowski

ROCHELLE — Linda Szpekowski, 79, of Rochelle, formerly of Genoa, passed away Saturday, Feb. 12 at Genesis Medical Center in Silvis, Illinois. Linda was born March 15, 1942, in Friendship, Tennessee, the daughter of Charles and Ethel (Woods) Bailey.

Linda is survived by her partner, Kevin Hamblen of Rochelle; four children, Tony Szpekowski, Robert (Tina) Szpekowski, Scott Szpekowski and Sara Szpekowski; five grandchildren; brother, Van Bailey; sisters Charlotte (Charles) Rapier and Kathy (Glen) Kiermeier; and the Hamblen family.

Linda is preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Ethel Bailey; and her husband, Ralph Szpekowski.

Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle.

Please visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

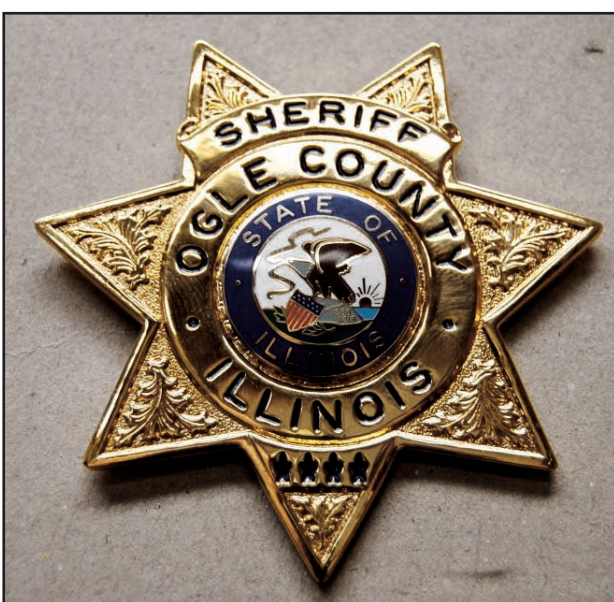
Deputies respond to crash

OREGON — On Feb. 11 at 8:17 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Jack Dame Road and Avenue B, and as a result of that stop, deputies arrested Omar Aguilar-Reyes, 37, of Covington, Georgia for driving without a valid driver's license. Aguilar-Reyes was released on scene and will appear in court at a later date.

On Feb. 12 at 11:53 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at East Illinois Route 64 and Mulford Road. After a short investigation, deputies arrested Stephanie Myers, 22, of DeKalb for unlawful possession of cannabis by driver. Myers was released on an I-Bond. Myers was also issued citation for speeding.

On Feb. 12 at approximately 9:13 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic at Illinois Route 251 and Edson Road for a speeding violation. After further investigation, Aguilar Alvarado, 25, of Rockford, was arrested for no valid driver's license. Alvarado was also cited for speeding and a child restraint violation. Alvarado was released on scene with a return court date given.

On Feb. 12 at 9:25 p.m. deputies responded to Illinois Route 38 and Chana Road for a one-vehicle crash. After a short investigation, deputies arrested John A. Stark, 74,



of Elgin for driving under the influence, aggravated DUI, driving while license revoked and improper cannabis container. Stark also received citations for failure to stop at an intersection, leaving the scene of an accident, no insurance, unlawful transportation of alcohol and failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. Stark was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 13 at approximately 2:07 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Illinois Route 251 at Big Mound Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested the driver, Daniel H. Correl, 35, of Rockford, for unlawful possession of cannabis/driver (open container). Deputies also arrested passenger Frank X. Rosado, 22, of Rockford, for an active Boone County arrest warrant for failure to appear on aggravated fleeing to elude. Correl was released on a notice to appear and additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Rosado was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 14 at approximately 1:37 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near Monroe Center. After further investigation, Beatriz Flores-Martinez, 49, of Woodale, was arrested for driving while license suspended. Flores-Martinez was also cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and an equipment violation. Flores-Martinez was released on scene with a return court date.

Ethel M. Richardson

MT. MORRIS — Ethel M. Richardson, a longtime resident of Mt. Morris, passed away on the morning of Feb. 12. She was at home surrounded by loved ones. She was born Sept. 26, 1938, in Yankeetown, Indiana. She was the oldest of 10 children.

She is survived by immediate family Jeffrey L. Richardson, Mary Beth York and Jon D. Richardson, as well as her extended family of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. This extended family goes beyond the family tree, many friends over the years have become family. Ethel and her husband Bobbie made their home a welcoming center of love and kindness for decades.

She is preceded by her husband Bobbie L. Richardson and her parents Richard C. Pease and Ada Jane (Webster) Pease.

Ethel moved to Northern Illinois in 1958, living with her close friend and cousin Wilma. They both came north for better job opportunities, and by the sounds of her and Wilma's stories, to also have fun adventures. Through the brother of Wilma's future husband Ed Ramsey, Ethel met Bobbie, the love of her life. They soon married, having a double ceremony with Wilma (Bates) and Bill Ramsey, during a tornado, just another one of the many adventures. Ethel and Wilma remained close to her final day.

Ethel worked for the telephone company and then for Watt Publishing Co. in Mt. Morris. She made many friends over the years and enjoyed bowling on the Watt Publishing Team and going to many tournaments.

Her focus was her family and friends. She and



Bobbie would enthusiastically travel around the USA and Canada visiting friends and family.

Visitation will be at Finch Funeral Home in Mt. Morris on Monday, Feb. 21 at 10 a.m. followed by her funeral at 11 a.m. The commitment ceremony will follow at Trinity Memorial Gardens Hillcrest, north of Rochelle. A luncheon afterwards at the Rochelle Moose at 311 N. Main St Rochelle, IL 61068

The family requests donations to be sent in Ethel's name to St Jude Children's Hospital in lieu of flowers.

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LOCAL NEWS

RCH: Olson discusses declining COVID-19 numbers

From page 1

Last month, RCH closed its cafeteria to the public as a COVID-19 precaution. It also limited its visitor restrictions to one designated visitor for patients in the emergency department or on the medical/surgical floor including the ICU. Only one person is allowed to accompany a patient to same day surgery, convenient care, the multi-specialty clinic or family healthcare clinic.

Olson said those measures remain in place, but conversations are ongoing about relaxing those restrictions if numbers continue to move in the right direction. All of the rest of RCH's services are fully operational.

The state's plan to remove its indoor masking mandate will not change anything at RCH, as it is exempt as a healthcare facility.

"We'll continue to mask and use all of the precautions we can until things change significantly," Olson said. "And we can't project when that might be."

On Jan. 21, Olson released a message to the public addressing the high COVID-19 activity at the time and "unacceptable behavior" from a few members of the community that were disorderly with staff in COVID-19 operations.

The release said staff endured being yelled at, sworn at and were met with physical aggression



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

While the COVID-19 situation in the community has improved, Olson said he's still nervous about the situation after the pandemic has worsened to new heights in the past following promising improvements. He stressed that the community should still proceed carefully despite less COVID-19 activity recently.

at times. Olson said RCH would not tolerate that behavior and asked the community to be respectful and kind.

On Monday and weeks later, Olson called the situation unfortunate and said it was hard to put that message out due to very few people being the ones that caused the problems.

"We had people who didn't like wearing masks

or the testing process," Olson said. "Our employees were just doing their job. We had a couple of situations. I thought before it got out of control, I should put that messaging out. It caught the public's attention and we haven't had any more situations like that that I know of. It's too bad that a few people caused something like that."

Supporting staff members played a large role in the statement at the time, Olson said.

"Our staff is our greatest asset," Olson said. "We have to support them, especially because of how they've been on the front lines for the past two years putting their own health at risk to help others."

While the COVID-19 situation in the community

has improved, Olson said he's still nervous about the situation after the pandemic has worsened to new heights in the past following promising improvements.

He stressed that the community should still proceed carefully despite less COVID-19 activity recently.

"I wish I had a crystal ball," Olson said. "But I

don't. I feel like we've turned a corner and I want to continue along this pathway. I know the community is tired of COVID-19 and so are we. But I don't want to do too much too fast. My message is we just have to be careful. Hopefully there are brighter things in our future. But we can't do things too quickly just because we're tired of COVID-19."

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Charles Allen lived a life of service

MOST are familiar with the raising of the American Flag on Mt. Suribachi. Well not so much Mt. Suribachi, but the picture of the flag being raised looks familiar.

That is one point of history, to help us remember the sacrifices that have been made in the past so that we may enjoy what we have today. Six men raised the flag on Iwo Jima that day in Feb. 1945: Sargent Michael Strank, Corporal Harlon Block and Privates Franklin Sousley, Ira Hayes, Harold Schultz and Harold Keller. It took the efforts of over 60,000 marines to make that flag raising possible.

Nineteen-year old Charles Allen of Rochelle was one of those Marines. Iwo Jima is an island which sits only about 660 miles from Japan. The invasion of Iwo Jima began in the pre-dawn hours of Feb. 19, 1945.

After three days of bombardment, and more than 18,000 rounds of heavy ammunition, it was anticipated that the Japanese had been beaten into submission. The first marines ashore were surprised by the lack of

enemy fire. Had the bombardment been successful? The marines advanced inland.

The beach was volcanic ash and sand. Even walking was difficult. The dunes were steep and the ash was like quicksand. The marines would slide down the dunes and sink to the top of their boots with each step. As the marines packed the beaches and floundered in the ash, the Japanese opened fire from hidden machine gun bunkers.

What the Allied forces had failed to consider was that the Japanese had been on this island for years. Over 16 miles of tunnels had been dug between bunkers and pillboxes. The bombardment had almost no impact on the 21,000 Japanese soldiers.

When the bombardment stopped, the Japanese manned their guns and waited for the Americans to approach. After the initial contact, the Japanese disappeared into their caves and tunnels.

Hundreds of Americans lay dead, the battle had begun. The American

troops continued to storm the beaches and move inland. With the setting sun came, there was another surprise.

The Japanese would appear out of nowhere and attack the Americans in their foxholes. In short order the American troops had figured out the mystery of Iwo Jima.

As Charles Allen was quoted by Thomas Morrow, writer for the Chicago Tribune: “They are like rats – always in holes.”

The marines hit the Japanese with machine guns, flame throwers and demolition charges. The Japanese did not surrender. It is estimated that of the 21,000 Japanese soldiers on Iwo Jima, only 216 surrendered. The rest died in combat or were captured when unconscious from injuries.

The Japanese were so determined that toward the end of the battle 300 Japanese staged a banzai attack on the American positions. The flag on Mt. Suribachi was raised on Feb. 23, the fourth day of the battle.

The fight for Iwo Jima lasted an-

other month until March 26. In a letter to home after the battle, Charles wrote his mother.

“The island has been officially declared secured but we are still mopping up pockets of Nips. These Nips hold out to the last. There is no bargaining nor surrender for them. I’ll have more to write on that score later, when I get out of this pest hole.”

As a footnote, the last two Japanese soldiers to surrender on Iwo Jima did so in 1949, four years after the end of the war.

Charles Allen may not have raised the flag, but he was one of the 60,000 that made it possible. Charles left the service in 1946 and returned to Rochelle. From 1951 through 1954, Charles served as the chief of the Rochelle Police Department. In 1955, he was elected Ogle County Sheriff. Charles Allen lived a life of service to his community and his country.

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

We love books!

JACQUELINE Kennedy said, “There are many ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.” (<https://www.blacksailbooks.com/blog/36-reading-is-important-quotes>). Books are the foundation of the library.

The information and knowledge that is found in books can change your life. You can read a great fiction novel that sweeps you away to a far land or a non-fiction selection that articulates some facts and information. Some books are very small but make a huge impact on you depending on when you read them. There are times in everyone’s life when they need different kinds of materials to help them move forward on their journey.

“The size of the American reading public varies depending on one’s definition of reading. In 2017, about 53 percent of American adults (roughly 125 million people) read at least one book not for school or for work in the previous 12 months, according to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Five years earlier, the NEA ran a more detailed survey, and found that 23 percent of American adults were “light” readers (finishing one to five titles per year), 10 percent were “moderate” (six to 11 titles), 13 percent were “frequent” (12 to 49 titles) and a dedicated 5 percent

were “avid” (50 books and up).” (<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2019/09/love-reading-books-leisure-pleasure/598315/>)

When our library was built in 1912, it was 4,200 square feet. When the new addition was built in 1989, it increased the library to 20,000 square feet. Today within those 20,000 square feet, we have 60,000 volumes and that total does not include our digital holdings. The library offers materials for all ages and all types of readers. We encourage you to come to the library and explore our resources. Check out some different authors and see what interests you. If you do not find the right book the first time, do not be discouraged. Come back and we will find another book that is the right fit for you.

Reading is a wonderful gift that you can give to anyone. It is free, and it is something that everyone can learn and grow from. If you need a library card, and live in Flagg Township, remember you need two forms of identification, one with a picture and one with something with your name and current address. Come to the library and find your love of reading. We love books!

Sarah Flanagan is the director of the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District.



Sarah Flanagan

Consider the source

SEEMS the more I visit with city folks the more misinformation they relay. Not sure where folks get their information from these days, but I do wish they would learn to consider the source.

The old days of Walter Cronkite or Huntley and Brinkley have passed. In those days they reported the news, you know facts, and let the viewers make up their own mind. Today news is a bunch of talking heads telling you what you should believe, but no facts. On our social media we have social influencers. May I ask, what the heck is a social influencer?

In my day a social influencer was your buddy trying to get you to ask the cute girl out on a date. Or the real influencer was the swift and steady hand of your dad as you took one across the seat of your pants.

I’m sick and tired of

all the crap being spewed by pundits out there about corporate farms. In my 40 years with Farm Bureau

I’ve never dealt with a corporation in representing our members. I’ve dealt with individuals and families trying to earn a living from agriculture.

Just because a farm is large in size, or the individuals in the farm have formed a corporation for tax purposes doesn’t make it a corporate farm. Last I checked those farm owners don’t get paid by someone else every week, they have to manage their business.

And just for perspective here’s the economic contribution those family farms make in Ogle County...

Total Output: \$4,872.4 million. Output from Agriculture: \$1,136.1 million (23.3%). Crops: \$377.5 million (7.8%). Livestock: \$476.0 million (9.8%). Other Agriculture: \$282.6

million (5.8%). Total Jobs: 22,931. Jobs from Agriculture: 3,284 (14.3%). Crops: 1,046 (4.6%). Livestock: 1,451 (6.3%). Other Agriculture: 787 (3.4%). Total Value-Added: \$2,396.1 million. Value Added from Agriculture: \$363.4 million (15.2%). Crops: \$137.5 million (5.7%). Livestock: \$110.8 million (4.6%). Other Agriculture: \$115.2 million (4.8%). Total Household Income: \$2,347.2 million. Household Income from Agriculture: \$212.0 million (9.0%). Crops: \$92.0 million (3.9%). Livestock: \$74.9 million (3.2%). Other Agriculture: \$45.1 million (1.9%).

They support local businesses, their tax dollars support your schools and local governments they volunteer in their community.

So next time you hear someone talk about corporate farms I hope you’ll set the record straight.

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



Ron Kern

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1218 Longworth HOB
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20515
(202) 225-3635

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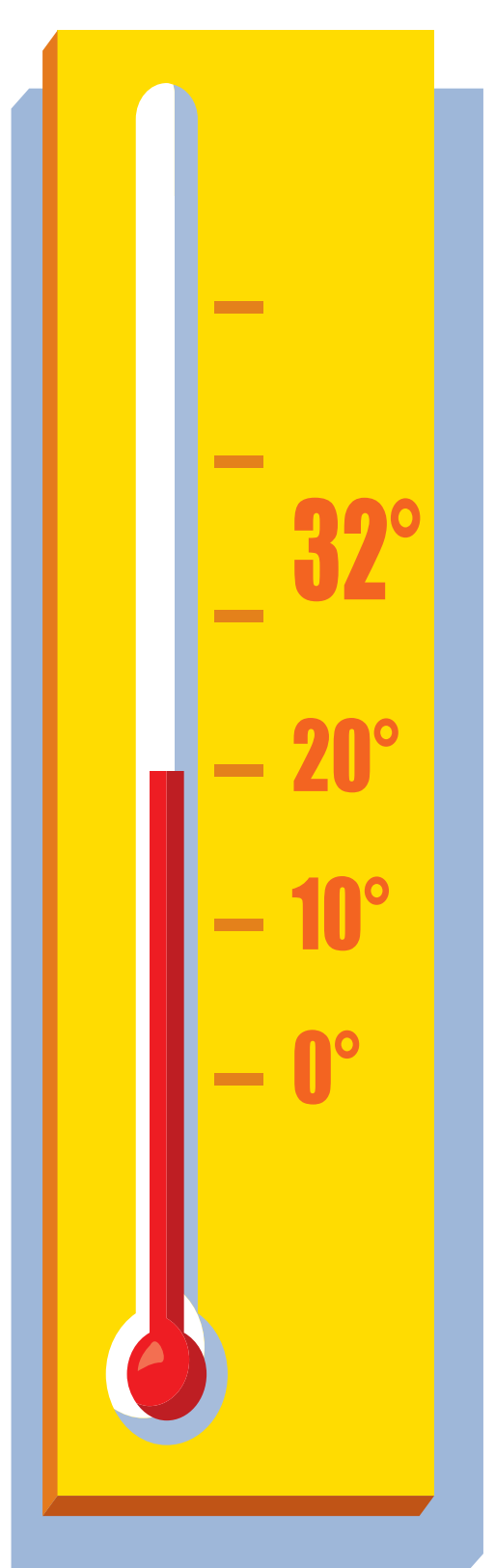
handwritten, and no anonymous letters will be published. Any letters from boards or organizations must include at least one name of an individual. Any criticism of public officials should be limited to issues related strictly to their position or actions made in office, as personal attacks will not be 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.

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SPORTS

BOYS: Hubs earn conference win at Sandwich on Friday

From page 14

Senior Noah Brown added his third triple of the night to end with 11 points.

Sandwich

The Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team moved one step closer to clinching a share of the Interstate 8 title with an 85-63 victory over the Sandwich Indians Friday night. Seniors Noah Brown and Ryan Simmons each scored 20 points to lead the Rochelle offense in the win, with Brown hitting five 3-point shots. Senior Tanner Lager added 11 points and seven rebounds for the Hubs.

Rochelle overcame a slow first quarter, erasing a 23-15 deficit and taking the lead 39-36 at half-time. The Hubs forced 20 Sandwich turnovers and 21 Indian fouls, utilizing those miscues to outscore Sandwich 21-10 from the free-throw line, 19-11 in transition points and 26-15 in points off turnovers. Seniors Adam Kemp and Zach Sanford each scored nine points, with Kemp adding eight rebounds.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity cheer and dance teams recognized their senior members during Saturday's Senior Night ceremony. Above from left to right are Kelsey O'Brien, Jasmine Sarabia, Megan Thompson, Liberty Hayes, Kayden Kannheiser and Taylor Ponto.

Rochelle Wrestling Club

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Junior Hubs battle at Princeton Tigertown Tanglers Tournament on Sunday

The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent 11 athletes to the Princeton Tigertown Tanglers Tournament on Sunday, with four individuals bringing home first-place titles including Rowen Villalobos (3-0 bantam), Quentin Ansteth (2-1 intermediate), Zachary Johnson (3-0 novice) and Brandin Kirk (4-0 novice) who're pictured above from left to right. Two individuals took home second-place finishes including Chase Marruffo (2-1 bantam) and Vaughn Manning (2-1 intermediate) while Garrett Miller and Benjamin Navejas each earned a third-place finish. Axel Alsop, Samuel Navejas and Tony Milburn all recorded fourth-place finishes in their respective brackets.

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Moose

"He's just oh-so handsome!" I bet that's exactly what you're thinking. Well you can put a name to that face, I'm Moose! I'm not sure if I was given the name due to how intelligent I am, because it's definitely not because of my size. I'm a 34# friendly and playful 1 year old pup that's on the hunt for a furrever home. I can be a little shy when I'm meeting new people, so pretty please go slow with me as I will come out of my shell once I feel comfortable. Ps, I love treats.. hint, hint. So I'm sure you're eager to learn about me, and I can go on and on about my fantastic self. I am housetrained, as I will raise my paw at the door when I need to go out! I know quite a few tricks such as: "sit, shake, down, and wait." And I'd love to learn more!! I get along with other dogs, but Tails always encourages meet-and-greets! Car rides, playing in the snow, and running in a fenced yard are a few things that I absolutely enjoy doing. Alright, alright, enough about me! Why don't you just stop in and take a peak for yourself.. beware, you might fall in love.

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SPORTS

HUBS: Rochelle sends seven to IHSA 2A Sycamore Sectional

From page 14

“But I was encouraged because I think I can beat him if I see him at the state meet. My goal for the state tournament is to win the whole thing and I know it’s going to be a tough tournament, but I think I’m ready for it.”

Freshman Grant Gensler (32-18) finished fourth in the 138-pound bracket, opening the tournament on Friday with two straight strong performances including a 4-1 win over Peoria’s Kenneth Ruth-erford and a 9-1 major decision over Rockford East regional champion Sam Young, who defeated Gensler earlier this season. After a semifinal loss against No. 2 ranked Joliet Catholic wrestler Owen O’Connor, Gensler went the distance against Morton’s Jamison Almasy with a spot in the state meet on the line, taking a 0-0 match into overtime, where Gensler scored the decisive

takedown to defeat Almasy by 2-0 sudden victory.

“It felt really good to win that match,” Gensler said. “I was focused on doing whatever I needed to make it to my next match and make it to the state meet. I really wasn’t expecting to qualify for state, but I had a great week of practice before the sectional and I feel like I’ve put in a lot of work this season. It’s a great feeling and I have nothing to lose. I’m hoping that I can go out there and win a few matches.”

Two Rochelle wrestlers recorded top-6 finishes at the sectional meet including freshman Kaiden Morris (40-8) and sophomore Tommy Tourdot (26-14). Morris earned three victories in the 220-pound bracket, defeating LaSalle-Peru’s Gunnar Wright with an 11-2 major decision Friday evening before beating Limestone’s Aydan Trueblood 9-3 and Joliet Catholic’s Hunter Powell



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team sent seven individuals to the IHSA 2A Sycamore Sectional on Friday and Saturday. Three individuals qualified for the IHSA State Championship. Above from left to right are Xavier Villalobos, Caleb Nadig, Grant Gensler, Kaiden Morris, Brock Metzger, Joseph Nadig and Tommy Tourdot.

11-1 during the wrestle-backs.

Tourdot won consecutive bouts in the 106-pound bracket on Friday, edging Joliet Catholic’s Noah Avi-na 12-10 and winning by

fall over Morton regional champion Caleb Lenning to reach the semifinals. Freshman Joseph Nadig (34-13) and sophomore Brock Metzger (27-18) each recorded two wins in

the sectional, with Nadig pinning Glenbard South’s Tyre Davis and Morris wrestler Ian Wills in the 120-pound bracket while Metzger earned falls over Peoria’s Kaleb Lawson

and Morris wrestler AJ Franzetti in the 170-pound bracket. The IHSA State Championship meet will begin Thursday at the State Farm Center in Cham-paign.

Healthy Hand Hygiene Habits



Protect yourself against COVID-19 and other diarrheal and respiratory illnesses, and help prevent the spread of germs to others, by following these simple hand hygiene guidelines:

- 1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water, lathering for at least 20 seconds.**
- 2. If soap is unavailable, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol to clean your hands.**

Wash your hands throughout the day, and particularly under these circumstances:

- Before preparing food
- Before eating
- After using the toilet
- After changing a diaper or helping a child use the toilet
- Before and after exposure to someone who is sick
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
- After touching an animal or picking up animal waste
- After handling pet food or treats
- After handling garbage or garbage cans
- Before and after attending to a cut or wound

Information resource: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

ROCHELLE
News-Leader

**Proper
handwashing helps
all of us stay healthy,
so remember to be
aware and do your part
to help protect yourself
and others!**

SPORTS

RTHS Girls Basketball

Lady Hubs coast over Plano for third time

Rochelle knocks off Reapers 53-19 in IHSA 3A Regional Quarterfinals

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Locking in on defense has enabled the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team to enjoy one of its most successful seasons in recent history this winter. The Lady Hubs were on point defensively Saturday evening when the Plano Reapers arrived for the IHSA 3A Rochelle Regional Quarterfinals.

Having beaten Plano in the Interstate 8 Conference twice this season, Rochelle was tasked with defeating the Reapers for a third time in order to reach the semifinal round. But the sixth-seeded Lady Hubs were unfazed with the rematch, dominating on defense once again to beat the ninth-seeded Reapers 53-19. Rochelle (15-16, 7-7 Interstate 8) will face the top-seeded Sycamore Spartans in the semifinal round.

“Our mindset coming in was that we shouldn’t assume we’ll win because

we had beaten them twice,” senior Adriannah Davis-Carter said. “Our coach drilled that into our heads and we were really happy with the outcome. We’ve worked a lot on our communication and playing as a team. I thought we communicated really well tonight and we were picking each other up throughout the game.”

Plano struggled to find any shooting space against Rochelle’s ball pressure, converting only two field goals in the first half and scoring just seven points. Junior Torrin Nantz sparked the Lady Hub offense with a pair of 3-pointers in the first quarter before drilling her third of the evening in the second quarter for nine points. Sophomore Alivia Henkel gave great effort off the bench, scoring a team-high 10 points and anchoring the Rochelle defense on the perimeter. The Lady Hubs led 16-5 after the first quarter and 27-7 at halftime.

“We came together

before the season and it was a tough adjustment for us with a new coach, but we’ve become a family this season and we’re so close with each other,” Davis-Carter said. “We work so well together and we have a lot of fun during practice, but we also make sure we’re constantly focused and ready for the next game. It’s crazy that we’ve won 15 games, especially because we’ve had a lot of injuries. We’ve always fought through it and toughened up and our younger players have really stepped up.”

Two underclassmen stepped up for the Lady Hubs in the third quarter including freshman Kendyl Darby, who banked home two low-post shots under the basket and split two free throws to cap off a seven-point performance in the win. Senior Josie Lundquist swished a 3-pointer in each of the last two quarters for the Lady Hubs, who led 39-14 after three quarters and outscored the Reapers 26-12



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Alivia Henkel drives around Plano’s Ryssa Woodhouse during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against the Reapers on Saturday.

in the second half. Senior Jordin Dickey canned two triples in the fourth quarter in her return from

a shoulder injury, finishing with six points while Lundquist ended the game with eight points. Rochelle’s 15

victories are the most in a single season since the 2012-13 season, where the Lady Hubs won 20 games.

RTHS Girls Bowling

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Mickley, Vincent compete at IHSA Belvidere Sectional meet

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team sent two individuals to the IHSA Belvidere Sectional at Rockford’s Don Carter Lanes on Saturday. Freshman Cassidy Vincent shined for the Lady Hubs, totaling an 1,181 series (196.83 average) over six games and finishing sixth among all individuals from non-advancing teams. Vincent placed 12th out of 102 bowlers and rolled high scores of 211, 212 and 221. Senior Alyssa Mickley recorded 675 over four games with a high score of 188 before bowling out of the meet with an illness. Pictured are Mickley (left) and Vincent (right) with head coach Eric Widick and assistant coach Shannon Forney.

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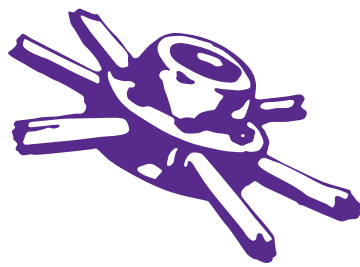
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Sport: Cheerleading

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A: Six years.

**Q: What do you enjoy most
about this sport?**

A: Being with my team.

**Q: What is your favorite
school subject and why?**

A: I like English the most
because I enjoy writing.

**Q: Who is your favorite
athlete and why?**

A: Simone Biles because she's
very inspiring considering what
she's been through.

**Q: Who is your biggest role
model and why?**

A: My mom because she

sacrifices everything for me
and gives me all of her love and support.

**Q: What is your dream job
and why?**

A: To be a psychologist because
I want to be able to help people
handle mental health issues.

**Q: Where would your dream
vacation be and why?**

A: Montana because the views
are absolutely gorgeous.

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

A: I enjoy being a part of the
team and getting support from my
peers and coaches.

Veronica

Vaughn

Year: Freshman

Sport: Cheerleading



**Q: How many years have you
been playing this sport?**

A: Five years.

**Q: What do you enjoy most
about this sport?**

A: The team bonding with the
girls and the coaches.

**Q: What is your favorite
school subject and why?**

A: Agricultural science
because I love my teacher
and the opportunities.

**Q: Who is your favorite
athlete and why?**

A: Anybody who strives to
be their best.

**Q: Who is your biggest role
model and why?**

A: My mom because of her
accomplishments and she
strives for me to be my best.

**Q: What is your dream job
and why?**

A: To be a farmer because it's
our family business and I want to
make sure it stays that way.

**Q: Where would your dream
vacation be and why?**

A: Baton Rouge, Louisiana
because of the country singers
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**Q: What is your favorite thing
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A: The opportunities we receive
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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 1 • PAGE 14

SPORTS



SECTIONAL BOWLERS

The Rochelle Lady Hub bowling team sent two girls to the sectional in Rockford.

See page 11 for more details

RTHS Wrestling

Trio advances to state

Nadig, Villalobos, Gensler earn medals at IHSA 2A Sycamore Sectional

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

SYCAMORE — Rochelle freshman Xavier Villalobos went down to the wire with Morton senior Zane Ely in a battle of state-ranked athletes with a spot in the IHSA State Championship meet on the line.

Villalobos (42-5) and Ely (29-9) faced off in the consolation semifinals of the 113-pound bracket at the IHSA 2A Sycamore Sectional on Saturday, with the winner clinching a spot in the state meet. Villalobos entered the ring ranked No. 6 in Class 2A, while Ely took the mat ranked one spot higher at No. 5 in Class 2A. When the match began, Ely was the wrestler who took control, scoring a first-period takedown to take a 2-0 lead.

But Villalobos did everything in his power to stay in the match, riding for the full second period before earning an escape of his own during the third period to make the score 2-1. Looking to push the pace with under 30 seconds left in the match, Villalobos successfully executed the fireman's carry, using the

maneuver to score the last takedown of the match in the final seconds to earn a 3-2 decision. Villalobos then defeated Rock Island's Samuel Niyonkuru with an 11-3 major decision to take third in the sectional tournament.

"I tried tossing him in the first period but he rolled through and scored two on me," Villalobos said. "I rode him out for two minutes straight in the second period and when I chose down in the third period, I knew I could get back up. When I was out, I knew I was down in the match so I had to really push myself. I felt him hanging on my shoulder, so I went for a fireman's carry and I did everything I could to get on top. I hooked my ankle, I heard my coaches screaming for me to get my two, which I did with two or three seconds left."

Villalobos is one of seven wrestlers who represented Rochelle at the sectional meet and one of three who qualified for the IHSA State Championship meet. Senior Caleb Nadig (32-4) took third in the 145-pound bracket, recovering from a 3-1 loss against No. 1 ranked Joliet



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team saw three individuals earn medals and qualify for the IHSA State Championship meet later this week. Rochelle sent seven individuals to the IHSA 2A Sycamore Sectional on Friday and Saturday. Above from left to right are medalists Xavier Villalobos, Caleb Nadig and Grant Gensler.

Catholic wrestler Mason Alessio in the semifinals with back-to-back victories in the consolation rounds. Nadig (No. 4) held off Freeport's Jaylon Hail 7-3

before edging No. 6 ranked Sterling wrestler Drew Kested 3-1 to take third in the tournament.

"I'm really excited to make it to the state meet

and I'm even more excited to make the trip down there and give everything I have," Nadig said. "I thought I wrestled a lot of good matches, but in the

semifinals against the Joliet Catholic wrestler, I was too tense mentally and I didn't get to my offense."

See HUBS page 10

RTHS Boys Basketball

Hubs score Senior Night victory over Princeton

Eight seniors recognized before nonconference matchup with Tigers

ROCHELLE — Zach Sanford's recovery from an offseason knee injury came full circle on Saturday, when the talented forward earned the first home start of his senior season as the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team faced a tough nonconference opponent in the Princeton Tigers for the team's Senior Night matchup.

Tasked with defending 6-foot-7 center Kaden Monroe, Sanford held his own while contributing eight points as the Hubs held off the Tigers 59-54 for their second victory in two days. Rochelle (18-10, 10-3 Interstate 8) will have two regular-season matchups remaining until beginning the IHSA 3A Rochelle Regional next week.

"The nerves weren't there for me tonight," Sanford said. "I was much more nervous Friday night against Sandwich, but I felt much more prepared tonight. I thought Princeton was a really good matchup in terms of their height and we haven't seen much of their height this season. [Kaden] Monroe was the biggest kid I've had to guard in my entire high school career, but it was really cool to face a kid with



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team celebrated its eight seniors before battling the Princeton Tigers in nonconference action Saturday afternoon. Rochelle defeated Princeton 59-54 and moved to 18-10 on the season. Above from left to right are team manager Amujin Purevdorj, Adam Kemp, Ryan Simmons, Zach Sanford, Cooper Hasz, Tanner Lager, Noah Brown and Forrest Gerber.

similar strength as me."

Princeton guards Teegan Davis and Grady Thompson started strong for the Tigers, combining for 10 first-quarter points on five made field goals to give their team the early advantage. Despite Monroe finding his rhythm down low with seven of his 12

points in the game during the second quarter, Rochelle knocked down three 3-pointers to stay within striking distance. With the Hubs trailing 26-22 at halftime, senior Ryan Simmons drilled two triples in the third quarter while Sanford converted a pair of low-post baskets.

"We needed to lock down defensively in the second half," Sanford said. "We were hedging and switching a lot more than we were in the first half and we eliminated a lot of their shooting. It feels really good to win this game and we're getting much closer to the 20-win mark

and a potential conference championship."

Senior Tanner Lager also showed up in the second half, sinking two floaters in the third quarter and scored on two aggressive drives to the rim in the fourth quarter to cap off an 11-point evening. After bringing the Tigers within

one point after three quarters, Rochelle took the lead over in the fourth quarter, where Simmons swished another 3-pointer and went 2-for-2 from the free-throw line down the stretch to finish with a game-high 18 points in the game.

See BOYS page 9