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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9, 2022 \$1

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## KNOW IT TODAY



**Snow sculpture  
completed**

Local sculptor Fran Volz  
completed his snow angel  
sculpture at the downtown  
gazebo. **Page 2**

**WEATHER**

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
37 24	30 20
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
42 25	27 10

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**OBITUARIES**

• ROBERT E. "SUDS"  
SUDBURY

• LILA L. FALLICK

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• ALDI

**INSIDE**

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# Schools revise mask policy

## Temporary restraining orders issued against state mandates

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — In a Sunday letter to parents of all Rochelle schools students, Superintendent Jason Harper said starting Monday, Feb. 7, both districts will temporarily move to a mask recommended policy for students and staff.

On Friday, a judge in Sangamon County issued temporary restraining orders related to the Governor's COVID-19 executive orders and emergency rules issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies for students and staff in school.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**In a Sunday letter to parents of all Rochelle schools students, Superintendent Jason Harper said starting Monday, Feb. 7, both districts will temporarily move to a mask recommended policy for students and staff.**

The judge also declared IDPH's and ISBE's emergency rules related to masking, student/staff exclusions for quarantine as "close contacts," and staff vaccination/testing requirements are null and void.

"Neither of the Rochelle School Districts were a

party to this lawsuit so the judge's order does not expressly apply to our districts," Harper's letter said. "However, Rochelle Township High School District

212 has been named in a follow up lawsuit regarding student masking and quarantines and our legal counsel has advised us to consider RTHS as a named

party to the judge's ruling on Friday. Additionally, our legal representatives interpret the judge's current ruling to invalidate the Governor's executive orders and

IDPH's and ISBE's rules, rendering these mandates unenforceable against every school district in the state."

**See MASKS page 5**

# From the Heart raises record \$68,000

## Eckhardt: 'It's just incredible to reach these heights'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — From the Heart raised just over \$68,000 during its annual gala on Saturday at Flight Deck Bar & Grill, President and Founder Dave Eckhardt said.

The event, in its 14th year, benefited the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, HOPE of Ogle County, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, Pegasus Special Riders, Hub City Senior Center, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA and FOCUS House. Each of those organizations will receive just over \$8,500 from the gala.

The gala included dinner, a live and silent auction and games and raffles. Eckhardt said about 200 people attended.

"It's just incredible to reach these new heights," Eckhardt said. "14 years ago when we started this our goal was \$30,000. Now we're close to \$70,000. That's amazing to me. The support we get from the community is great. Our calendar sales are up, too. We hope to build on it all



(NEWS-LEADER FILE PHOTO)

**From the Heart raised just over \$68,000 during its annual gala on Saturday at Flight Deck Bar & Grill, President and Founder Dave Eckhardt said.**

again next year."

Last year, the gala was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From the Heart decided to keep a virtual aspect in 2022 and hosted a virtual drawing on

its Facebook page so those who were unable to attend the gala were still able to participate in the drawing.

Eckhardt called Saturday "very successful" and said he's enjoyed watching the

event grow over the years.

"It's been totally amazing to see it grow," Eckhardt said. "I never thought it would grow this way, and I never thought it would be an official nonprofit. It

takes a lot of people to put an event like that together and it wouldn't have been possible without everyone's help. I think everyone had a good time. We try to make it fun for everybody."

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Sculptor builds snow angel in downtown gazebo

Volz: 'I just want to thank everyone who has shown appreciation'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Fran Volz had to brave the elements while constructing his most recent sculpture. The process began in late January and Volz's snow angel has been inhabiting the downtown gazebo since. During one day of sculpting, temperatures fell to -22 degrees. "It was so cold on Wednesday that my car didn't start," Volz said. "I waited until 10 a.m. when it was about -10 degrees. I had to bundle up. You're using water and working with your hands. I had boots that were made for

extreme temperatures." Volz, a Rochelle resident and professional sculptor, has erected sculptures both inside and outside the area in the past. The statue at the Veterans War Memorial at Lawnridge Cemetery is his work. He made a mermaid snow sculpture in the gazebo last winter. Volz chose the location because it keeps sunlight and rain off his snow sculptures. He got his inspiration this year from a model he has. "I had a little model of an angel and I thought I'd make it full scale," Volz said. "The cold slowed me down. Usually it only takes

two or three days. The snow was powdery and I had to mix water with it and work fast in the cold." To make a snow sculpture, Volz first uses a wheelbarrow to gather snow and packs it into a 15-by-15-by-15 plywood box to make blocks. For this sculpture, he needed 40 blocks. He stacks them and then starts to carve out the shape. Volz said he "cut his teeth" on snow sculpting. He went outside to build a snowman years ago and thought he'd build a smurf instead. People liked it and would honk as they drove by. His background prior to that was in drawing and painting. He started doing 3-4 sculptures in his yard per year. He lived in Arlington Heights then and news stations from Chicago



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Fran Volz had to brave the elements while constructing his most recent sculpture. The process began in late January and Volz's snow angel has been inhabiting the downtown gazebo since.

started coming to his house to do stories about the sculptures. He later branched out into sculpting bronze. He was actually asked to do the Veterans War Memorial

after somebody in town saw one of his snow sculptures. "What I like about sculpting snow is building big things fast," Volz said. "A bronze statue can take

six months. Snow takes days. I used to do more cartoon-like sculptures but I enjoy the more lifelike ones and human anatomy."

See ANGEL page 3

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BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

**ROCHELLE** — Di'Quan Ishmon, Rochelle Township High School 2018 graduate and Northern Illinois University 2022, dreams of working with NASA or for Elon Musk's SpaceX. The senior mechatronics major leads student organizations, excels in academics, and has applied for NASA grants to fund undergraduate research. NIU Director of Mechatronics Engineering Dr. Y.J.

Lin is convinced, "Di'Quan will be successful if given the opportunity." That's what Lin wrote in DQ's Impact Scholarship application. "He is ready for a greater voyage to advance the engineering industry." Ishmon developed an interest in engineering and additive manufacturing while at RTHS. While a senior, he took part in additive manufacturing research at NIU. He said many universities don't allow engineering students into labs until their junior year. And he was impressed by

NIU's hands-on approach. "Research Rookies helped me decide my freshman year that I would go to grad school," Ishmon said. "I learned so much about research from the grad students. My second year of Research Rookies, I became a mentor for students new to the program." Northern Illinois University's Research Rookies program allows first & second-year undergraduates and first-semester transfer students to work with faculty to conduct a research project in their major field



Di'Quan Ishmon

of study. Ishmon explored many student organizations in search of his passion.

See ISHMON page 3

## Reaching for the stars

Ishmon begins aerospace internship this summer

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# LOCAL NEWS

## City employees return from Air National Guard deployment

Rogde: 'We had a good group and did a lot of good things'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At the Jan. 24 Rochelle City Council meeting, Andy Rogde presented a flag to the city on behalf of himself and fellow city employee Jonathan Plaza after the pair returned last month from deployment in Saudi Arabia with their Madison, Wisconsin Air National Guard unit.

"We wanted to bring back something the city could have and thank it for the support when we were gone," Rogde said.

Rogde and Plaza departed for Saudi Arabia and Operation Inherent Resolve on Oct. 4 and returned Jan. 14. Rogde's rank is technical sergeant and while deployed he handled material management, which involved aircraft supplies and the replacement, ordering and issuing of parts along with supplying personnel with items like uniforms, flashlights, helmets and vests.

Plaza is a technical sergeant as well. His responsibility on the op-

eration included safeguarding tools that crews needed to maintain and repair aircraft. He's been a truck mechanic with the Air National Guard since 2014 and volunteered for the mission to experience something new and get out of his comfort zone.

"A lot of those tools are unique to aircraft and can be expensive," Plaza said. "How they maintain aircraft is different. Everyone is assigned to a portion of the aircraft. It was different for me as in the past I would be assigned to an entire truck by myself. It was quite an experience."

Plaza has been in the military for a total of 12 years. He started in the Air Force at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada in 2010. As a civilian, he works for Rochelle Municipal Utilities in its diesel plant.

Rogde has been part of the Air National Guard since 2015 and with the Wisconsin unit since 2016 or 2017. He joined the Air Force in 2010 and did four years of active duty stationed in Little Rock,

Arkansas. During active duty he was in Qatar on two deployments in 2012 and 2014. Here, he's the storekeeper in the RMU electric department where he handles inventory.

"Overall, it was a good deployment," Rogde said of Operation Inherent Resolve. "We did a lot in those 90 days. 90 is half as long as my previous deployments were during active duty. I'd never been to Saudi Arabia. It's definitely a different environment. We had a good group and did a lot of good things."

Rogde had never been deployed during the holidays before. He said that it wasn't easy, but it helped that he worked the night shift in Saudi Arabia while it was daytime in Rochelle. He was able to do a lot of video chats and bought gifts ahead of time for his family.

Plaza has a young daughter that made it hard for him to leave for deployment.

"I FaceTimed her a lot and seeing her reaction when she'd see my face



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Andy Rogde (right) and fellow city employee Jonathan Plaza (left) returned last month from deployment in Saudi Arabia with their Madison, Wisconsin Air National Guard unit.**

on the phone was tough," Plaza said. "I thought it would be easier with her being so small, but it

wasn't. They try to bring morale up while we're over there for the holidays. We had Thanksgiving and

Christmas celebrations and had turkey."

**See GUARD page 5**

## ISHMON: RTHS alum planning to earn PhD

From page 2

A natural leader, he gravitated toward board positions in several clubs. In the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Ishmon helps students with career development. In the National Society of Black Engineers, he creates projects to hone students' technical skills. In 2019 he discovered his true passion and founded the NIU NASA team.

The team applied for NASA undergraduate aerospace research grants, competing with college teams across the country to help NASA develop spacesuit material for the 2024 Artemis mission. He doubled his team's size after the first year to include students

majoring in other areas of engineering, physics, and business.

The team's NASA projects focus on creating a livable habitat for Astronauts on the moon working with LISC from Johns Hopkins University. His team is now an official NIU club called SET Space Exploration Technologies Club. Ishmon is Vice President and Kevin Lewis is president of SET. Hub Alum Tyler Byro-Bullock is secretary and Erika Villant is treasurer.

For NASA's Big Idea Challenge last year Ishmon said, "Our diverse team addressed the Space-suit Dust Tolerance and Mitigation theme with a project called Dust Mitigation Technologies

for Lunar Applications. Our team is developing a Boot Cleat prototype that incorporates Carbon Nanotube (CNT) fibers and will be an attachment to the bottom of the Extravehicular Activity (EVA) Space Suit boot sole."

Ishmon completed undergraduate research last summer at West Virginia University on human interaction of robotic swarms. It transitioned into his master's thesis. Ishmon is slated to graduate with a bachelor's degree this spring and plans to complete his master's by Spring 2023. His next goal will be a PhD, a professional doctorate he plans to attain while working. This summer, Ishmon will intern with Collins Aerospace.

## ANGEL: Snow sculpture complete

From page 2

Volz said that he wasn't even planning on doing a snow sculpture this year until recently. He's been busy working in his studio downtown in the old Moore's Hardware building.

"I have indoor sculpting I'm working on that is taking up my time," Volz said. "The last snowfall came, and it made me want to do at least one this year."

The snow angel has elicited a lot of reaction on Facebook since it was sculpted, Volz said.

In the past, Volz has competed in snow sculpting competitions at Sinnissippi Park in Rockford and has won a few times.

Sculpting outside of competitions allows Volz more freedom. He can use colors and armatures to hold up features when he sculpts on his own, both of which aren't allowed in competitions.

Volz hoped everyone would have a chance to see the snow angel before the



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**The snow angel has elicited a lot of reaction on Facebook since it was sculpted, Fran Volz said.**

weather got to it. "The weather melts them," Volz said. "But they have their own quality of

beauty as they melt away over time. I just want to thank everyone who has shown appreciation."

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Robert E. “Suds” Sudbury

**PLAINVILLE** — Robert E. “Suds” Sudbury, of Plainville, 79, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022, at Bostick Heart Center in Winter Haven, Florida. Robert was born March 6, 1942, to Elmer and Edith (Martin) Sudbury in Rochelle. On May 15, 1964, he married Susan Brown in DeKalb.

Bob graduated from Rochelle Township High School in 1960. He began his career working for Allied Gas, which eventually became Nicor Gas. He retired in 1998 after 37 years of service. Bob was a member of the Plainville Lions Club for 50 years. He held many offices and served on several committees in the club. In 1998, he became the district governor for his district.

He was also president of the Lions of Illinois Foundation. Bob also served as president of the Payson Township Fire Department for several years. Bob was a strong supporter of the Payson sports activities. He was a member of the Plainville

United Methodist Church for 55 years. He enjoyed his time with family and friends, especially his grandchildren. Bob and his wife loved to travel. They visited many countries and especially loved cruises with family and friends.

Bob is survived by his wife of 57 years, Susan Sudbury of Plainville; daughter, Dawn (Scott) Doty of Huntley; son-in-law, Tom Holtschlag of Auburn, Michigan; brother, Kevin (Betty) Sudbury of Galena; sister, Judy (Ken) Decker of Titusville, Florida; sister-in-law, Judy Sudbury of Weston, Wisconsin; five grandchildren, Zach Holtschlag, Autumn Holtschlag, Caleb Holtschlag, Madison Doty, and Jake Doty, and many nieces and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Edith (Martin) Sudbury; daughter, Joan Holtschlag; brother, William Sudbury; and sisters, Murial Roos, Melba Middleton, Mary Jane Mann, and Sharon



Messel.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St. in Rochelle. Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday at the funeral home. Interment will follow in Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Quincy, Illinois. Contributions in Bob's memory may be directed to the Chaddock Children's Foundation or Plainville Lions Club Scholarship Fund or the Lions of Illinois. Please visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Two residents were transported to the hospital after a Tuesday morning structure fire at 2965 E. Gurler Road.**

### Two residents transported to hospital after Gurler Road fire

**ROCHELLE** — Two residents were transported to the hospital after a Tuesday morning structure fire at 2965 E. Gurler Road, Rochelle Fire Department Lt. Jason Underwood said.

Underwood declined to say what the extent of the residents' injuries were. Rochelle Fire and all Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District departments were called to the fire at 6:51

a.m. for a fully-engulfed structure and the first on the scene arrived five minutes later.

Upon arrival, first responders found a fully-involved structure fire of a “trailer home with a structure around it” behind the house on the property, Underwood said. The fire was extinguished, and fire personnel were on scene until 9:17 a.m. A propane tank was on the property,

but it was a safe distance from the fire and protected and disconnected, Underwood said.

Underwood said the building was a total loss and estimated \$50,000 worth of damage from the fire. There were also a couple of vehicles in the building, but Underwood said he was unsure about their value. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

#### Rochelle Police Department

### Several arrested on outstanding warrants

**ROCHELLE** — On Feb. 1 David L. Echelbarger, 31, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license suspended and cited for expired registration. He was released on an I-Bond and given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 31 at 5:33 p.m. Destinee E. Mohica, 20, of Rochelle was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. She signed a promise to comply and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 1 at 8:49 a.m. Marisol Lopez, 38, of Rochelle was cited for cell phone use. She signed a promise to comply and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 1 at 11:29 a.m.

Bryan R. Garcia-Belmonte, 23, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 51 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

Liza Anguiano Mascorro, 19, of Rochelle was cited for a past Jan. 23 incident for failure to give information after striking an unattended vehicle, leaving the scene of a vehicle damage accident and driving too fast for conditions. She was released on an I-Bond and given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 2 at 9:15 p.m. Regina Cooper-Harris, 53, of Rochelle was arrested for no valid driver's license and cited for dis-

obeying a traffic control device. She was released on an I-Bond and given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 2 at 6:35 p.m. Richard M. Yanuzzi, 35, of Rochelle was arrested for failure to register as a sex offender and transferred.

On Feb. 3 at 1:52 a.m. Christopher T. Scott, 28, of Rockford was cited for speeding 65 m.p.h. in a 45-m.p.h. zone and operating a vehicle with suspended registration. He was released on an I-Bond and given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 3 at 12:25 p.m. Christina M. Smith-Espitia, 49, of Rockford was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. She paid \$500 and was given a March 2 Ogle County court date.

On Feb. 3 at 3:13 p.m. John D. Anthenat, 47, of Rochelle was arrested for an outstanding Rockford warrant and an outstanding Ogle County warrant. He paid \$6,312 and was given a Feb. 28 Winnebago County court date and a Feb. 24 Ogle County court date.

David A. Lopez, 39, of Holcomb was arrested for battery stemming from a past Jan. 1 incident at the Rack Bar & Grill. He paid \$100 and was given an Ogle County court date of March 4.

On Feb. 4 at 10:47 a.m. Ricky Lee Bowens, 49, of Fayetteville, Ohio was arrested on an Adams County (Ohio) warrant and transferred.

On Feb. 5 at 9:05 a.m. Lily A. Bear, 26, of Rochelle was cited for no insurance. She signed a promise to comply and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 5 at 10:37 a.m. William W. Clark II, 42, of Rochelle was arrested on a U.S. Probation warrant and transferred.

On Feb. 4 at 12:33 p.m. William W. Clark II, 42, of Rochelle was arrested for deceptive practice and transferred.

On Feb. 6 at 9:47 a.m. Jason L. Guzman, 28, of Rochelle was arrested on two outstanding Racine County (Wisconsin) war-

rants and transferred.

On Feb. 6 at 11:55 a.m. Samuel I. Oleson, 38, of Rochelle was arrested on three outstanding Ogle County warrants and transferred.

On Feb. 6 at 8:39 a.m. Harry A. Gibson, 26, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 52 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 6 at 9:23 a.m. Erin L. McGowan, 39, of Rockford was cited for expired registration. She signed a promise to comply and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 6 at 8:17 a.m. Carlos Rojas, 57, of Rochelle was cited for no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 4 at 10:19 p.m. Alejandro Florentino-Hernandez, 21, of Rochelle arrested for no valid driver's license and cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and failure to yield turning left. He was released on an I-Bond and given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 7 at 8:47 a.m. Larry E. Gee IV, 25, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. He paid \$231.

On Feb. 7 at 12:34 p.m. Jamie A. Ross, 52, of Kalamazoo, Michigan was cited for speeding 67 m.p.h. in a 45-m.p.h. zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 7 at 4:59 p.m. Thomas J. Price, 38, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Whiteside County warrant and for no valid driver's license and cited for speeding 33 m.p.h. in a 20-m.p.h. zone. He paid \$200, was released on an I-Bond and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 7 at 11 p.m. David R. Hermann, 62, of Steward was arrested for driving under the influence and cited for improper lane usage. He paid \$100 and was given a March 18 Rochelle court date.

### Lila L. Fallick

**ROCHELLE** — Lila L. Fallick, 80, passed away on Feb. 7. Lila was born on Jan. 24, 1942 in Kirkland to Elmer and Pauline (Cravens) Littlejohn. Lila worked at Quality Metals in Oregon. She loved riding motorcycle, camping in her and Irwin's RV and traveling to New York and Florida. She was a simple woman who loved her family very much.

Lila is survived by her husband, Irwin; two children, James (Sandy) Wiley of Rochelle and Howie Fallick of New York state; grandchildren, Angela (Joe) Simms of Rochelle and Travis (Megie) Wiley of Dixon; great grandchil-

dren, Corinne, Austin, Kaleb, Tristin, Carmen, Bentley, Jason and Samantha; three sisters, Donna, Sharon and Paul as well as one brother, Jack Littlejohn of Florida.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

Memorial visitation will be held on Saturday, Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home, 704 N. 6th St. Rochelle, IL 61068. A memorial service will follow at noon. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at [www.beverage-lyonsfamilyfh.com](http://www.beverage-lyonsfamilyfh.com).

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# LOCAL NEWS

## GUARD: Rogde, Plaza reflect on Saudi Arabia deployment

From page 3

Rogde said the deployment was the last for the F-16 aircraft that the unit has been flying for 28 years. He found that interesting, along with experiencing the middle east during the winter for the first time. He's been there during summers when the temperature reached 120 degrees. This time around, the weather got "pretty cold." He stayed in a tent for the first time on this deployment, which took some getting used to.

Plaza said he got a chance to visit and experience the culture of Al-Kharj, which was the local town the unit was stationed near. He called it "totally different" from the states. He also found the logistics of the flight schedule intriguing.

"I found the way the aircraft was maintained and the flying schedule to be interesting," Plaza said. "They flew 24 hours a day."

Both Rogde and Plaza



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**City employees Andy Rogde and Jonathan Plaza departed for Saudi Arabia and Operation Inherent Resolve on Oct. 4 and returned Jan. 14. Both Rogde and Plaza hold the rank of technical sergeant.**

said they enjoyed the experience and expressed desire to go again. When asked what they learned from Operation Inherent Resolve, both men said their leadership skills were improved by the

deployment.

"Overall it was a good experience," Plaza said. "Anybody who would consider joining the military or the Air National Guard, I would tell them we consider ourselves a

huge family. We take care of each other and it's full of really good experiences."

One reason Rogde decided to give the flag to the city council was because of the uniqueness of he and Plaza having the same em-

ployer and being deployed together in the same unit.

"I thought it was cool that the city had two employees in the same unit deployed," Rogde said. "I was with Jonathan almost every night with the ex-

ception of off nights. I bet the last time the city had two employees deployed in the same unit was during war time. We're a pretty small town. Something like that can't have been common in the past."

## MASKS: Harper issues letter to local families Sunday

From page 1

As of Monday, COVID-19-related changes at the school district also include: temporarily ceasing quarantining staff/students who are asymptomatic close contacts, temporarily suspending the staff testing requirement for non-vaccinated staff; and students and staff who are COVID-19 symptomatic will remain excluded from school for the time periods set forth in the IDPH's Exclusion Protocol.

The temporary restraining order did not extend to the IHSA and IESA requirements that have already been issued. The district will continue to follow the IHSA and IESA requirements, the letter said.

Masks are still required on all district transportation due to the continued CDC mandate requiring face coverings on public transportation.

Harper advised parents that litigation is still ongoing as the Governor's office stated intent to appeal the decision.

"It is entirely possible the judge's Feb. 4 decision voiding these COVID-19 mitigation mandates will be stayed on Monday or Tuesday or reversed on appeal by the appellate court," Harper wrote. "In that event, these mandates regarding masks, exclusion for 'close contacts' and vaccine/testing for staff will be quickly reinstated. We have been advised to expect a finalized legal decision within the next two weeks."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**On Friday, a Sangamon County judge issued temporary restraining orders related to the Governor's COVID-19 executive orders and emergency rules issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies for students and staff in school.**

## Rochelle DAR enjoys program on the Madonna of the Trail

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, recently enjoyed a presentation about the Madonna of the Trail by member Luan Wine, shown seated third from the left with guests and members of the chapter.

The two posters show the 12 identical "Madonna of the Trail" statues dedicated in 1928 & 1929 to the spirit of pi-

oneer women. They mark the "Old Trails Road" as it passes through 12 states from Bethesda, Maryland to Upland, California.

The Rochelle DAR Chapter's next meeting will be on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. at the Creston Opera House. Dr. DA Brian Wells will be presenting the program "Personalities." Guests are welcome to attend.



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# LOCAL VIEWS

## Guest column

## Growth and prosperity in the City of Rochelle

As we begin another year, we look forward to abundant growth and prosperity in Rochelle in 2022.

We ended last year with the culmination of our first-ever Rochelle Municipal Utilities Shop Local Program, which processed nearly 6,000 applications. Approximately \$500,000 was written off residential electric bills for those who participated. Because of the city's commitment to helping small businesses remain open and viable during the COVID-19 pandemic, some \$3 million was disbursed to stores and restaurants forced to close because of state mandates. We are thankful to the city staff who processed and disbursed the funds to keep losses at a minimum.

Progress is being made at the demolition of Hickory Grove to allow for a shovel-ready site and the redevelopment of the Northern Gateway leading to the center of town. Our commitment to securing daycare services to our residents is becoming a reality with the formation of a new board made up of both city and community leaders who recently formed a 501(c)3 non-profit. This board will be responsible for fundraising, finding a facility location and securing a licensed operator. Obstacles have been overcome and I believe we are moving in the right direction with a strategic and methodical plan to relieve the stress of adequate childcare on our working families. There is much work to be done to get to an opening date.

To keep the community updated on important issues, developments and happenings across the city, I plan to reinstate a bimonthly address to be live streamed on Facebook each second and fourth Thursday, following our city council meeting schedule.

On behalf of the citizens of Rochelle, I extend sincere gratitude for the service of Deputy Chief Jeff Leininger who recently retired after 20 years with the City of Rochelle. Congratulations to new Deputy Chief Terry Inman, who will fill the position. With the city since 2001, Inman also serves on the emergency management team, playing an important public safety role during the pandemic. City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh and I will host a Facebook Live community update on Thursday, March 9 at 2 p.m. A link to the message will also be posted on the city website.

At the time of writing this article, many are looking forward to the From the Heart Rotary Event scheduled for Feb. 5 at the Flight Deck Bar & Grill. This charitable event has historically raised significant funds shared by eight local nonprofit groups that serve Rochelle individuals and families. This financial support is critical, especially with the challenges caused by COVID-19. Thank you for your continued support.

Together, we will navigate the remaining challenges of the pandemic. Thank you for the support you continue to show each other.

*John Bearrows is the mayor of the City of Rochelle.*



John Bearrows

## Looking at college admission preferences

COLLEGES should admit the most qualified applicant.

That's the way many of us were taught life is supposed to work. But we know it often doesn't.

The U.S. Supreme Court is taking up the issue of university admissions in its upcoming term. It will look at the admission formulas used by Harvard University and the University of North Carolina that give extra help to Black and Hispanic applicants who apply.

Some Asian and white applicants were turned away from these universities while Black and Hispanic candidates with lower test scores were admitted. And they say it isn't fair. But it also is unfair that many African American and Hispanic kids reside in neighborhoods with underperforming schools that fail to adequately prepare them.

There are strong arguments on both sides but something that is rarely discussed is a different set of preferences that are inherently wrong – but legal. I'm talking about "development admits," the children of wealthy donors.

Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Golden won a Pulitzer Prize looking at this phenomenon and went on to write the 2006 book, "The Price of Admission." It's one of my favorite works of investigative journalism.

I first became aware of the issue when I read a Wall Street Journal story in 2003 about a prominent family with roots deep in Illinois: the Bunns.

Here is the first few paragraphs of the story:

"DURHAM, N.C. — Despite her boarding-school education and a personal tutor, Maude Bunn's SAT scores weren't high enough for a typical student to earn admission to Duke University.

But Ms. Bunn had something else going for her — coffeemakers. Her Bunn forebears built a fortune on them and, with Duke hoping to woo her wealthy parents as donors, she was admitted.

Afterward, her parents promptly became co-chairmen of a Duke

fund-raising effort aimed at other Duke parents. 'My child was given a gift, she got in, and now I'm giving back,' says Maude's mother, Cissy Bunn, who declines to say how much the (Lake Forrest) family has contributed to the university."

Later in the story, Cissy Bunn acknowledges her daughter didn't fit the academic profile of a Duke student saying, "She's bright, she had good grades, but she doesn't meet the superstar status."

She then added, "Did my normal child take the place of somebody who could really make a difference in the world? Sure, yes, to an extent. But there are so many things you can lose sleep over. I'm happy for me and my child."

When I first read that quote, I was outraged. It had never occurred to me that rich people received preferential treatment when applying to colleges.

The story made me think of Danny my roommate my junior year at Iowa State University. Danny was a bright, motivated student who dreamed of being an aerospace engineer. But he graduated from a failing high school in a poorer Chicago neighborhood.

My roommate, who happened to be African American, had many of the precursors associated with academic success: a loving, stable two-parent family that valued hard-work.

Perhaps the biggest drawback was the high school he attended. The institution didn't adequately prepare him for college. For example, it didn't offer the advanced math classes necessary for a budding engineering student to succeed.

While his college peers were taking calculus, he was enrolled in remedial math.

In many ways, the future academic performance of college students isn't determined just by effort or intellect but by their home zip code. Danny lasted a year on campus and never returned.

That's why I have long favored giving parents vouchers that they can use at either public, charter

or private schools. It would give academic choices to families otherwise trapped.

The fact that youngsters in predominantly Black or Hispanic neighborhoods often are forced to attend schools that perform far below the national average is a form of systemic racism.

Another form of racism is interpersonal. For example, in her book "Becoming," Michelle Obama writes about the mother of one of her white roommates being so appalled that her daughter was assigned a Black roommate that she hectored university administrators until her daughter was moved to a different room.

Along those lines, I remember that my college roommate Danny and I were proud uncles. We both had pictures of our young nieces framed above our desks. My niece was about three and his was one.

I can't count the number of times, a white person came into our room and saw the picture above his desk and said, "Oh my God, he's got a kid." Never once did anyone look at my desk and say, "Is that your daughter, Scott?"

A recent New Yorker article noted that Harvard has more students from families in the top one percent of wealth than in the bottom 60 percent. And yet this is the university fighting all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court for greater "diversity."

How about economic diversity? Why not admit more kids from the middle and working classes

and fewer from ultra-wealthy families? Strange, I haven't heard any groundswell among college administrators to do that.

To be honest, I don't have a ready opinion on how the Supreme Court should finesse the issue of racial preferences this year. It's a terribly divisive issue.

But something most Americans can agree upon is that a group not needing extra help getting into college is the children of the wealthiest one percent. It makes little sense to cut a break to someone because of the size of their parents' pocketbooks.

*Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at: sreeder@illinoistimes.com.*



Scott Reeder

### VOICE ON THE STREET

## Question:

What is your favorite food to eat on Big Game Sunday?

"Italian beef sandwiches!"

Connie M. Hay-McAnly

"Chili or wings."

Eva Ip

"Chili."

Jimmy Rot

### How to contact government officials

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(202) 225-3635

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M104A State House  
Springfield, IL 62706  
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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.



# COMMUNITY

## Lidren is regional champion for RTHS Speech team

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Township High School hosted the IHSA Speech Regional Saturday and Karma Lidren emerged as regional champion for her humorous interpretation performance. As a team, the Hubs were third behind DeKalb and Yorkville.

Besides Lidren, others who will move on to sectional competition are: Paul Swartz/

Mikayla Preston who took second in dramatic duet acting; Swartz and Bella Nauman, second in humorous duet acting; Jae-la Ludwick second in oratorical declamation as well as informative speaking.

Earning third place finishes were Jenn Heinrich in

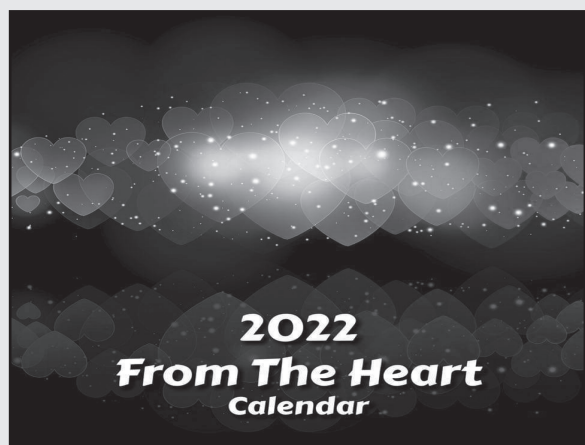
special occasion speaking, Layla Pelan for oratory and Mikayla Preston in dramatic interpretation. Earning fourth places were Julia Livingston in extemporaneous speaking, Aiden Ramsey in impromptu speaking and in radio speaking and Lidren for her original comedy.

Finalists not advancing included: Ranboo Hull, fifth place poetry reading and Layla Pelan, sixth place for prose reading.

The Performance in the Round cast also advanced to the sectional competition having finished second at regionals. Cast members are: Ashes Glover, Jessica Nguyen, Sierra Ramos, Dani Ward and Khalil Winston.



Karma Lidren



- Jan. 13 - Diane Wegener, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 14 - Foundation for Focus House, \$25
- Jan. 15 - From the Heart, \$25
- Jan. 16 - Kathy Windland, Rochelle, \$50
- Jan. 17 - Karen Cech, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 18 - Foundation for Focus House, \$25
- Jan. 19 - Kim Dewey, Davis Junction, \$25
- Jan. 20 - Evan Tracy, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 21 - From the Heart, \$25
- Jan. 22 - Shaun D. Schaefer, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 23 - Sherri Drew, Mt. Morris, \$50
- Jan. 24 - Denny Arjes, Village of Progress, \$25
- Jan. 25 - Natalie Campbell, Sandwich, \$25
- Jan. 26 - Diane Sanders, Dixon, \$25
- Jan. 27 - Tyler Post, Somonauk, \$25
- Jan. 28 - Pam Payne, Amboy, \$25
- Jan. 29 - Rochelle Rescue Mission, \$25
- Jan. 30 - Amy Hayden, Rochelle, \$50
- Jan. 31 - Michael Martinez, Cortland, \$25
- Feb. 1 - James Jakymiw, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 2 - Susan Stover, Rochelle, \$25
- Feb. 3 - Jeannette Mingus, Rochelle, \$25
- 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

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Feb. 10**  
Gene & Judy Messer  
**Feb. 11**  
Darrell Bolhaus  
**Feb. 12**  
Jennifer Curtis  
**Feb. 13**  
Gabby Villalobos

**Feb. 16**  
Larry Baker  
**Feb. 18**  
Sam & Jessica South  
**Feb. 20**  
Christian Losoya  
**Feb. 21**  
Kris Oleson

Anna Sexton  
**Feb. 22**  
Jessica South  
Lucy Hazlip  
**Feb. 26**  
Natalie Powell  
**Feb. 27**  
Beth Bolhaus

### THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

February 10 – (Thursday) – Lemon Basil Baked Chicken (Breasts and Leg/Thigh), Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn, Gravy  
February 15 – (Tuesday) – Chili w/cheese, onions and sour cream, Cornbread or crackers  
February 17 – (Thursday) – Pork Roast w/Potatoes, Carrots, Onions  
February 18 – (Friday) – BBQ Ribs, Macaroni and Cheese, Peas, Dinner Rolls  
February 22 – (Tuesday) – Smoked Sausage In Tomato

Sauce over Rice with Sautéed Veggies, Salad, Bread  
February 24 – (Thursday) – Parmesan Pork Chops, Macaroni and Cheese, Peas, Dinner Rolls  
March 6 – (Sunday Brunch) – Waffles with Eggs, Sausage Patties, Sausage Gravy and Biscuits  
\*\*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](http://www.KitchenTableRochelle.org)

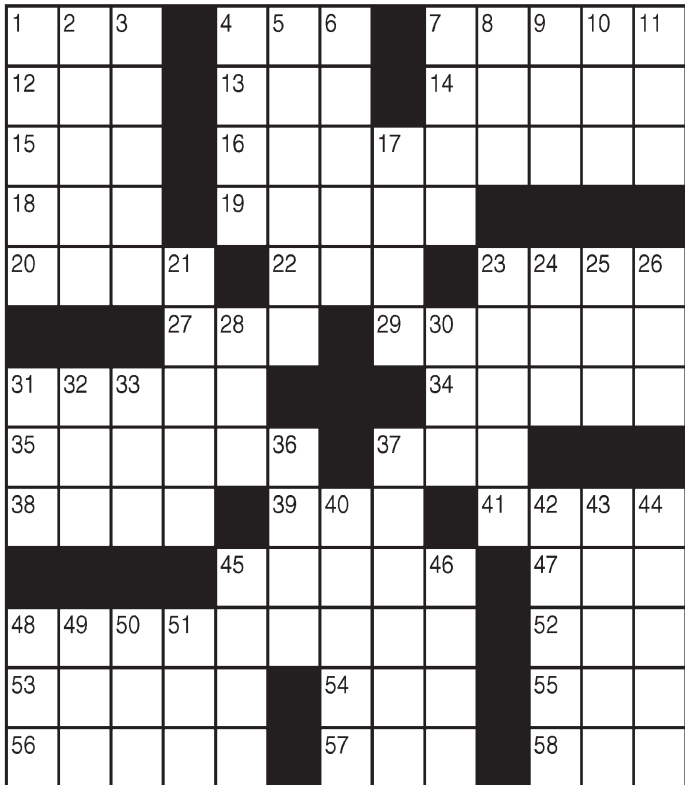


## Coffee Break

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 "Keep it down!"  
4 Tax pro  
7 Whizzes (by)  
12 Horse chow  
13 Owned  
14 Emanations  
15 Shred  
16 Pennsylvania city  
18 Guitar's kin  
19 Symbol of freshness  
20 Lancaster or Reynolds  
22 "Blue Bloods" aier  
23 Fly high  
27 Flamenco cheer  
29 Oliver Twist, for one  
31 French composer Gabriel  
34 Hilo hello  
35 Snowman's nose  
37 Links org.  
38 Prop for Dr. House  
39 Devilish laugh  
41 Body powder  
45 "I'm with you!"  
47 Meadow  
48 Pennsylvania city  
52 Conditions  
53 Boredom



- 54 Kimono sash  
55 Packed away  
56 "The Dapper Don"  
57 Fixed  
58 Snake's sound  
8 "Shoo!" org.  
9 Acapulco gold  
10 Gullet  
11 Capitol Hill VIP  
17 Old U.S. gas brand  
21 Baseball manager Joe  
23 Pie-in-the-face sound  
24 Discoverer's call  
25 Satisfied sigh  
26 Genetic letters  
28 Summer sign  
30 Cleaning cloth  
31 TV watchdog  
32 Small battery  
33 Coffee vessel  
36 Biblical pronoun  
37 "Friends" role  
40 Community spirit  
42 Fake name  
43 Some jabs  
44 Attorney's load  
45 Roman 1052  
46 Skip  
48 Plead  
49 Rock's Brian  
50 Potent stick  
51 Shack

#### DOWN

- 1 Bush  
2 Japanese verse  
3 High-strung  
4 Sudan neighbor  
5 Royal home  
6 Extemporize  
7 Madcap

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: D equals F

MUYUJJUE EK IGQR MU PQIMTJK  
Q WTRPS UD GQJAK, DGQM DHBS.  
ZKB, EK'GG WK PQMPSHRA BUYK  
JQZB.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
G	O	T	I	S	E	T	I	S
E	N	N	E	I	O	B	I	A
B	E	T	H	E	M	E	L	F
M	E	T	O	L	E	A	L	C
C	A	R	R	E	T	P	A	G
F	A	L	O	R	E	A	L	O
N	A	L	E	O	L	E	A	L
B	U	R	T	C	B	S	Y	
K	E	D	A	I	S	E	T	
N	O	N	E	A	L	E	O	
H	A	D	A	V	A	R	E	
S	H	H	C	P	A	Z	O	

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

Tomorrow we plan to capture a bunch of large, flat fish. Yes, we'll be catching some rays.

CryptoQuip



# VALENTINE'S DAY



## Valentine's Day gifts couples enjoy together

**V**ALENTINE'S Day is a time to bring smiles to the faces of loved ones — particularly the special someone in a person's life. Gifts that appeal directly to spouses or significant others may be the standard, but gifts couples can use together can bring them closer together. The following are some great Valentine's Day gifts couples can enjoy together.

**Quirky mugs:** Mug sets come in all shapes and sizes and express various sentiments. Some even feature interlocking designs designed to symbolize that couples are two pieces of one puzzle. Kissing mugs, which look like lips touching when they are brought together, are perfect for couples who enjoy their morning coffee together. Look for them at [www.uncommongoods.com](http://www.uncommongoods.com).

**Matching robes:** Plush terry cloth robes need not be reserved for luxurious stays at premiere hotels. Coordinating robes can be monogrammed and worn

on lazy days when gathering in front of a cozy fire.

**Charcuterie set:** A romantic meal is the start of any Valentine's Day celebration. Invest in a compact charcuterie board with two matching wine glasses and enjoy the set on date nights at home.

**MasterClass lesson:** Purchase a MasterClass instructional ([www.masterclass.com](http://www.masterclass.com)) and learn photography tricks or insider tips from established professionals together.

**Travel excursion:** Jet set to an exotic locale with a planned adventure. Parents can arrange for a sitter, friend or relative to look after the children so the trip provides some one-on-one time. This trip can serve as the second honeymoon couples dream about.

**Custom cornhole set:** Couples who love tailgating or opening up their homes (and yards) to guests can purchase monogrammed or custom-carved bean bag toss boards.

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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

# SPORTS



## SECOND IN THE I-8

The RTHS fresh-soph girls basketball team took second in the Interstate 8 tourney.

See page 4 for more details

### RTHS Wrestling

# Matmen reach sectionals

RTHS takes fourth in IHSA 2A East Moline Regional with seven qualifiers

**EAST MOLINE** — Scoring a first-period take-down against Sterling's Drew Kested, ranked No. 4 in the state's Class 2A division according to the IWCOA, gave Rochelle senior Caleb Nadig the confidence boost he needed to secure the 145-pound bracket title during the IHSA 2A East Moline Regional on Saturday.

Ranked No. 6 in Class 2A at the 145-pound weight class, Nadig overcame a late-season shoulder injury to win three consecutive bouts and earn Rochelle's first and only individual regional title in the tournament. Nadig (29-3) led Rochelle (19-7, 6-1 Interstate 8) to a fourth-place finish out of seven competing schools.

"It felt great for my confidence, especially coming back from an injury," Nadig said. "I needed to have a smart game plan and not stress my shoulder out too much while also finding a way to win my matches. Even though I was out for a while, I didn't stop working. I worked on my conditioning and I watched a lot of wrestling so I could make sure my technique was as sharp as possible.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team competed in the IHSA 2A East Moline Regional on Saturday, with seven individuals qualifying for the sectional series this coming weekend. Above from left to right are sectional qualifiers Caleb Nadig, Xavier Villalobos, Tommy Tourdot, Grant Gensler, Kaiden Morris, Jaden Cook and Joseph Nadig. Rochelle finished fourth out of seven teams in the regional tournament.

I made sure I had good practices."

Nadig opened his regional championship run in the quarterfinal round, building an early lead against Rock Island's Tristan Willoughby before winning by fall during the second period. Nadig faced a much tougher

opponent in the semifinal round, but the talented senior overcame two reversals to edge Freeport's Jaylon Hail with a 6-5 decision. In a battle of ranked opponents, Nadig took down Kested early in the first period of the finals before escaping Kested's grasp in the third

period to outlast the Sterling standout by 3-2 decision.

"It was an awesome win and my mentality going out there was to just fight for the full six minutes and not worry about the result," Nadig said. "I wasn't worried about winning or losing. I wanted to score as many

points as I could and leave everything I had out on the mat. It was a great win for my confidence."

Nadig will be one of seven Rochelle wrestlers advancing to the IHSA 2A Sycamore Sectional, which begins Friday, Feb. 11 before concluding on

Saturday, Feb. 12. Junior Jaden Cook (17-9) earned the No. 2 seed and a first-round bye in the 285-pound bracket, using a second-period reversal to pin Sterling's Alejandro Arellano in the semifinals.

See HUBS page 5

### RTHS Girls Bowling

# Lady Hubs finish seventh at IHSA DeKalb Regional

Interstate 8 All-Conference honorees Mickley, Vincent advance to sectionals

**DEKALB** — Rochelle senior Alyssa Mickley needed to tune out the noise during the IHSA DeKalb Regional competition at Mardi Gras Lanes on Saturday. After throwing some ear plugs in after a tough third game, Mickley rallied with a strong second-half series to lead the Lady Hub varsity bowling team to a seventh-place finish out of 11 schools. Mickley also qualified for the sectional tournament this coming weekend.

"I was really hopeful that I would qualify because this is my last season," Mickley said. "I enjoyed going to the sectional meet during my freshman year and even though I didn't bowl very well, the experience was what mattered most to me. I'm definitely going to feel more prepared this time around. It was really loud during the regional and I was feeling a little anxious, but I know it's going to be louder at the sectional so I'll be sure to bring my ear plugs again. I thought that I was pretty consistent throughout the regional."

Mickley led all Rochelle bowlers with a 1,064 series over six



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team battled in the IHSA DeKalb Regional on Saturday, with two individuals advancing to the sectional series this coming weekend. Above from left to right are Faith Adams, Zoe Rourke, Carly Summers (front row), coach Shannon Forney, Anna Samo, Cassidy Vincent, Anahi Alanis, Alyssa Mickley and head coach Eric Widick (back row).

games, which included high scores of 201 during the first half of the regional competition and 210 during the second half. Freshman Cassidy Vincent followed with a

1,039 series score, shooting 520 in the morning and 519 in the afternoon to clinch her first sectional tournament appearance. Vincent rolled high scores of 193 and 199 to help seal

a sectional berth.

"It means a lot to me and it's really exciting," Vincent said. "When I'm bowling well, I feel mentally strong and it makes me feel really ac-

complished. I thought I definitely could've had a better day and I let a few of my bad scores get in my head, but I thought I bounced back when I had to. It's going to be tougher

at the sectional and I need to focus on hitting my marks, staying out of my head and focusing on the positives."

See GIRLS page 7





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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Katie  
Burdin**

*Year: Sophomore  
Sport: Cheerleading*

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

*A: Two years.*

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

*A: Stunting and being with the team.*

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

*A: Ag mechanics because it's so fun to do all of the hands-on projects.*

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

*A: My older brothers because they're so determined and they both work so hard.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role**

**model and why?**

*A: My mom because she's the hardest working person I know.*

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

*A: To teach kindergarten because I love little kids and helping people.*

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

*A: Hawaii because I've never been there and I love the warm weather.*

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

*A: Being with my friends and doing my favorite sport with them.*

**Elise  
Horner**

*Year: Sophomore  
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: I enjoy cheering for the basketball players and all of the stunts we do.*

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

*A: Math because it's fun and it comes easy to me.*

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

*A: Patrick Mahomes because he works hard and is a kind person to everyone.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role**

**model and why?**

*A: My dad because he's a hard worker and he always wants me to be happy.*

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

*A: To be an ultrasound technician because I like to learn about the human body.*

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

*A: Paris because it's very beautiful at night.*

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

*A: My coaches and teachers always help us improve.*

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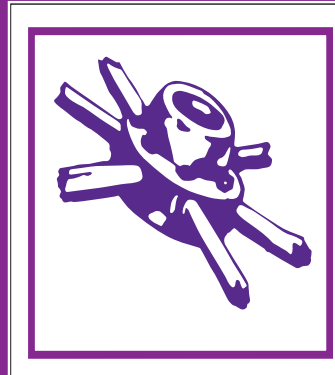
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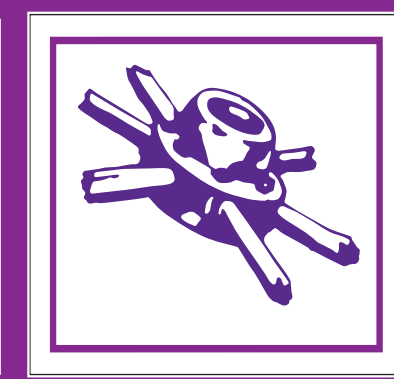
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# SPORTS

## RTHS Boys Basketball

# Ottawa outlasts Rochelle in overtime thriller

Interstate 8 Conference title hopes still alive despite 66-60 loss to Pirates

OTTAWA — Crunch-time turnovers reared their ugly head once again for the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team during Friday evening's Interstate 8 Conference battle against the Ottawa Pirates.

With a chance to potentially clinch the outright conference championship, Rochelle held a slight lead over Ottawa with only a few minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. But a series of turnovers allowed the Pirates to extend the game into overtime, where Ottawa finished strong to hand the Hubs a 66-60 loss.

"I thought Ottawa shot the ball really well, but we still had our opportunities," head coach Tim Thompson said. "We committed about five straight turnovers down the stretch and when we looked back at our previous games, we had four games where we thought we had opportunities to win, but we committed too many second and fourth-quarter turnovers. That's where we're having difficulties right now."

Senior standouts Braiden Miller and Luke Cushing led the charge for the Pirates, who drew 23 fouls from the Hubs (16-10, 9-3 Interstate 8) during the game and converted 24 free throws to only eight on the Rochelle side. The Hubs held a 13-10 lead after the first quarter, but the Pirates took control in the second quarter, leaning on Miller and Cushing, who combined for 42 points with Miller totaling 20

points and 12 rebounds.

"It was a difficult game for us because they took away a lot of things we like to do and one of those things is getting in transition," Thompson said. "They made a lot of shots and they drew a lot of fouls to get to the free-throw line. They also shaded somebody on Ryan [Simmons] when he brought the ball up the floor so we weren't able to get him going downhill. The game went slower than it normally would."

Trailing 30-23 at the half, Rochelle picked up the pace and played tough man-to-man defense in the third quarter, outscoring Ottawa 17-8 and regaining the lead entering the fourth quarter. Senior Adam Kemp tied the game in the final seconds for the Hubs, stealing an inbounds pass and scoring to make it 53-53 before Cushing airtailed a 3-pointer after an Ottawa timeout with only a few seconds left on the clock.

"I thought there were some positives from our kids," Thompson said. "We were able to compete in a game that normally isn't our type of game. We able to get shots up and we battled despite having players in foul trouble. These next couple of weeks are going to be dedicated to working on half-court offense when our transition game isn't there. I didn't think our spacing was very good against Ottawa and I didn't think we shot the ball very



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Senior Zach Sanford goes up for a shot against Ottawa's Braiden Miller. Rochelle and Ottawa went into overtime, with the Pirates holding off the Hubs 66-60.

well. We also need to work on our post entries and avoiding ball pressure."

The Pirates closed out

the win with a 13-7 run during the overtime period. Senior Ryan Simmons led the Hubs with 14

points, six assists and four rebounds, while Kemp totaled 13 points, two steals and five rebounds. Senior

Noah Brown added 12 points on four 3-pointers made along with two steals in the game.

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The Rochelle News-Leader



# SPORTS

RTHS Girls Basketball

(COURTESY PHOTO)



## Lady Hub fresh-soph team finishes second at Interstate 8 Conference tournament

The Rochelle Lady Hub fresh-soph basketball team competed at the Interstate 8 Conference tournament on Saturday, finishing 2-1 over three games and placing second overall. The Lady Hubs tipped off the tournament with victories over Morris and LaSalle-Peru before suffering a one-point loss against Ottawa in the championship game. The fresh-soph team includes Leenah Saadeh, Charlotte Simmons, Emma Kennay, Tatiana Lorenzo, Payton Cesarone, Kitty Williams, Jayden Johnson (front row), coach McKayla Snedeker, Molly Boehm, Adamaris Garcia-Camacho, Riley Doyle, Makayla Ludwig, Bailey Vondergathen, Anna Toczylowski, Erin Murphy, Makayla Lara, Haley Bozinovich, Lizze Reyes, Sydney Thorne, Hayvin Neale, Kylie Smith and coach Sidney Lippens. Not pictured is Isa Izador.

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- 1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water, lathering for at least 20 seconds.**
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ROCHELLE  
News-Leader

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# SPORTS



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team finished fourth in the IHSA 2A East Moline Regional on Saturday. The team scored 129 points in the meet, with several wrestlers earning top-3 finishes while three others placed fourth in their respective brackets. The IHSA 2A Sycamore Sectional will begin on Friday, Feb. 11.

## HUBS: Seven wrestlers qualify for IHSA 2A Sycamore Sectional

**From page 1**

Cook fell against Rock Island's Eli Gustafson in the final round.

"It feels good to reach the sectional," Cook said. "I was sick earlier in the season and I missed about half of the season, but it's good to be back and I'm excited for the sectional. It's going to be a challenge but it'll be exciting. I need to focus on finding my shots, staying off of my back and wrestling for the full six minutes."

Cook was one of three Hubs to earn second-place finishes in the regional. Freshman Kaiden Morris (37-6) was the No. 2 seed

in the 220-pound bracket, recording a third-period pin against Geneseo's Brayden Franzen after a first-round bye. Morris came just short in a 5-2 loss against Galesburg's Jeramiah Morris.

"We wanted to finish at least third as a team, but now it's time for us to focus on sectionals," Morris said. "I want to become a state qualifier. I feel really good right now. I've been working hard in the mat room and listening to my coaches has helped me a lot. I have to wrestle my match like I've been doing all year."

Freshman Xavier Villalobos (37-4) placed sec-

ond in the 113-pound bracket, clinching his sectional berth with a quarterfinal fall over Freeport's Anton Young and a 10-2 major decision against Rock Island's Samuel Niyonkuru in the semifinals. In another battle of ranked opponents, Villalobos, No. 6 in Class 2A at the 113-pound weight class, conceded a 9-3 decision to Geneseo's Zachary Montez, No. 2 in Class 2A, in the finals.

"It's a great feeling to have seven wrestlers on our team qualify for sectionals," Villalobos said. "I've worked on a lot of different setups throughout the season and my coaches

have taught me a lot about riding on top and getting more tilts. Sweeps have been a big part of my success as well. I need to keep working on different shots and I need to be quick on my feet since Montez rode me out pretty hard."

Three Rochelle wrestlers placed third in the regional tournament and will move on to the sectional. Sophomore Tommy Tourdot (24-12) finished third in the 106-pound bracket, overcoming an 8-6 sudden defeat against Geneseo's Tim Sebastian with back-to-back, sub-minute fall victories over East Moline's Logan Stone and Galesburg's Christian De

La Cruz to seal his spot in the sectional tournament.

Freshman Joseph Nadig (32-11) also earned his way into the sectional through the wrestlebacks in the 120-pound bracket. After a dominant 16-1 technical fall over Sterling's Landon Kenney, Nadig battled Rock Island's Daniel McGhee in the semifinals, losing by 14-8 decision. Needing two straight wins, Nadig pinned Freeport's Adam McDanel before outlasting Geneseo's Bennett Kreiner by 6-1 decision for third place.

Freshman Grant Gensler (29-16) took a similar road to the sectional, opening his run through the

138-pound bracket with a 13-0 major decision over Galesburg's Caleb Johnson before conceding a hard-fought 4-1 decision to Freeport's Tyler Calam. Gensler scored a second-period pin against Sterling's Austin Clemens before shining against Geneseo's Jack Snyder in the third-place bout, winning by 14-3 major decision.

Three Hubs took fourth in their respective brackets including junior 126-pounder Weldon Nay (13-19), freshman 160-pounder Brandyn Metzger (14-23) and sophomore 170-pounder Brock Metzger (25-16).

## Rochelle Wrestling Club Junior Hubs battle at St. Charles East tourney

Andronic, Gonzales, Huff, Marruffo earn first-place shield trophies

**ST. CHARLES** — The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent 19 individuals to the 2022 St. Charles East Battle for the Shield on Sunday. Four local wrestlers brought home first-place trophies from the tournament.

Nehemiah Andronic won the 57-58 Tots Division title with a 2-0 record. Andronic scored a pin against DeKalb's Kennedy Erickson before beating Yorkville's Grayson Goudzwaard by 12-0 major decision.

Xander Gonzales won the 73-82 Tots Division title with a 2-0 record. Gonzales earned the championship with consecutive fall victories against Rockford's Alexander Beard and McHenry's Maverick Baker.

Elliot Huff won the 53-54 Tots Division title with a 4-0 record. Huff defeated Maple Park's Noah Caputo by 11-5 decision and Wheaton's Clayton Jordan by 9-2 decision. Huff sealed the championship with a pin against Barrington's Brady Sergeant and an 11-3 major decision over Harvard's Kane Linneman.

Chase Marruffo won the 60-61 Bantam Division title with a 2-0 record. Marruffo scored an 8-1 decision against Plano's

Aiden Hernandez before downing St. Charles' Paxton Lahman with a 9-0 major decision.

Elias Andronic took second in the 44 Tots Division bracket with a 1-1 record. Andronic outlasted Lake Zurich's Brody Czarnecki by 6-3 decision before conceding a 4-2 decision against St. Charles' Nikko Rigler.

Dominic Escatel took second in the 64-69 Bantam Division bracket with a 1-1 record. Escatel took down Crystal Lake's Jack Mueller by 15-2 major decision before falling in the finals to St. Charles' Cameron Gillie.

Gavin Smith took second in the 64-66 Bantam Division bracket with a 1-1 record. Smith defeated Crystal Lake's Dallas Mullin with a 9-3 decision before falling against Yorkville's Liam Sondelski in the finals.

Braxton Rosenthal took second in the 51-56 Intermediate Division bracket with a 2-1 record. Rosenthal edged Rockton's Trenton Hulsebus by 6-3 decision and Harvard's Cody Kitson with a 3-2 decision over the first two rounds. Rosenthal faced Oregon's Cannon Ziller in the finals, conceding a first-period fall.

Wells Millard placed

third in the 44-45 Tots Division bracket with a 1-1 record. Millard came just short in an 8-6 sudden defeat against Glen Ellyn's Wilson Ittersagen before pinning St. Charles' Oliver Jones.

Quade Dickey placed third in the 83-87 Bantam Division bracket with a 1-1 record. Dickey fell against Lombard's Asher Ericson in the first round before bouncing back with a pin against Addison's Nico Molfese.

Teddy Millard placed third in the 61-64 Intermediate Division bracket with a 2-1 record. Millard won by fall over Lake Zurich's Thomas McMahon before falling against Yorkville's Maddox Lawrence in the semifinals. Millard faced Sycamore's Tyler Sullivan in the third-place bout, beating Sullivan with a 10-2 major decision.

Quentin Ansteth finished fourth in the 87-93 Intermediate Division bracket. Ansteth scored a 9-0 major decision over DeKalb's Liam Wallin before falling to Rockford's Tyler Bell and West Chicago's Ricky Alfaro.

Garrett Miller finished sixth in the 113-121 Intermediate Division bracket. After a 9-2 defeat to Fox Lake's Abby Quirk, Miller edged St. Charles' Patrick

Brennan by 8-4 decision and fell to Woodstock's Cage Rexford.

Sam Navejas finished sixth in the 99-107 Novice Division bracket. Navejas fell to Lake Zurich's Brock

Rubicz before pinning St. Charles' Sydney Stieb and conceding a 7-3 decision to Carpentersville's Austin Slocum.

Tony Milburn finished sixth in the 94-101 Senior

Division bracket. Milburn lost 3-2 against Wheaton's Caden Cahill before beating Carol Stream's Danny Risa 4-2 and conceding an 8-1 decision to St. Charles' Liam Aye.



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
Xander Gonzales (left) and Elliot Huff (right) show off their first-place shield trophies from the St. Charles East Battle for the Shield on Sunday.



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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
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COURT OF THE  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT  
OGLE COUNTY  
(IN THE )  
MATTER )No.  
OF THE )2021  
ESTATE )P 79  
OF )  
(ALICE M. )  
(LEANDER, )  
(Deceased. )  
**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given of  
the death of ALICE  
M. LEANDER, of  
Rochelle, Illinois.  
Letters of Office were  
issued on October 29,  
2021, to LAWRENCE  
D. KOEHLER, whose  
address is 207 E.  
Monroe Street,  
Jackson, MO 63755,  
and whose attorneys  
are Fearer, Nye &  
Chadwick, 420 4th  
Avenue, PO Box 117,  
Rochelle, IL 61068.  
Claims against the  
Estate may be filed  
in the office of the  
Circuit Clerk of the  
Court at Ogle County  
Courthouse, Oregon,  
IL 61061, or with the  
representative, or  
both, no later than  
July 23, 2022, and any  
claim not filed within  
that period is barred.  
Copies of a claim filed  
with the Clerk must be  
mailed or delivered to  
the representative and  
to the attorney within  
10 days after it has  
been filed.  
FEARER, NYE &  
CHADWICK, Attorneys  
for LAWRENCE D.  
KOEHLER, Executor of  
the Estate of ALICE M.  
LEANDER, deceased  
No. 0124 (Jan. 26, Feb.  
2, 9)

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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  
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No. 0206 (Feb. 9)

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# SPORTS

## GIRLS: Mickley, Vincent advance to IHSA Belvidere Sectional

From page 1

Rochelle finished seventh with a 4,666 total score on Saturday. Sophomore Faith Adams rolled a 919 series with high scores of 188 and 170, while seniors Anna Samo and Carly Summers rounded out the Rochelle lineup with series scores of 834 and 810. Mickley and Vincent will advance to compete in the IHSA Belvidere Sectional, which will be held this Saturday, Feb. 12 at Don Carter Lanes in Rockford.

### All-Conference

After conclusion of the Interstate 8 Conference meet, Rochelle senior Alyssa Mickley and freshman Cassidy Vincent were each named All-Conference honorees for the 2021-22 season. Vincent received First-Team All-Conference recognition, while Mickley earned an Honorable Mention for the second time in her career.

"I didn't know what it meant to earn All-Conference, but I was really excited when I heard it," Vincent said. "It's a huge honor to me and it's really exciting to earn that honor



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle Lady Hub bowlers Cassidy Vincent and Alyssa Mickley will represent their team in the IHSA Belvidere Sectional at Don Carter Lanes in Rockford this coming weekend. Vincent (left) and Mickley (right) are above with coaches Shannon Forney and Eric Widick.

as a freshman in my first year."

"It's really nice to be

recognized," Mickley said. "I was hoping to make the All-Conference

First Team, but I was sick halfway through the season and I was out for

about two weeks. Even though I was out for that long, knowing I still made

an All-Conference Honorable Mention was really impressive to me."

### NIU Football

## Huskies name 24 players to Academic All-MAC Team

Football program sees three third-time honorees, four second-time honorees

**DEKALB** — A school record 24 Northern Illinois University football student-athletes have been named to the 2021 Academic All-Mid-American Conference Team announced by the MAC Office Monday.

The MAC Champion Huskies ranked second among all MAC schools with 24 honorees and broke the previous NIU record for most Academic All-MAC players in a season, set last year when 17 NIU players

earned the recognition.

Huskies Erik Abrell, Matt Ference and Liam Soraghan all garnered Academic All-MAC honors for the third time, while a quartet of NIU offensive linemen — Leif Engstrand, J.J.

Lippe, Brayden Patton and Logan Zschernitz — joined tight end Tristen Tewes and linebacker Nick Rattin as two-time selections.

Nine of the 24 players honored qualified for Academic All-MAC status as

graduate students. There were nine undergraduate and five graduate majors represented among the honorees.

To qualify for the Academic All-MAC Team, a student-athlete must have

at least a 3.20 cumulative GPA and have participated in at least 50 percent of the season's contests. First-year students and junior college transfers in their first year of residence are not eligible for the award.

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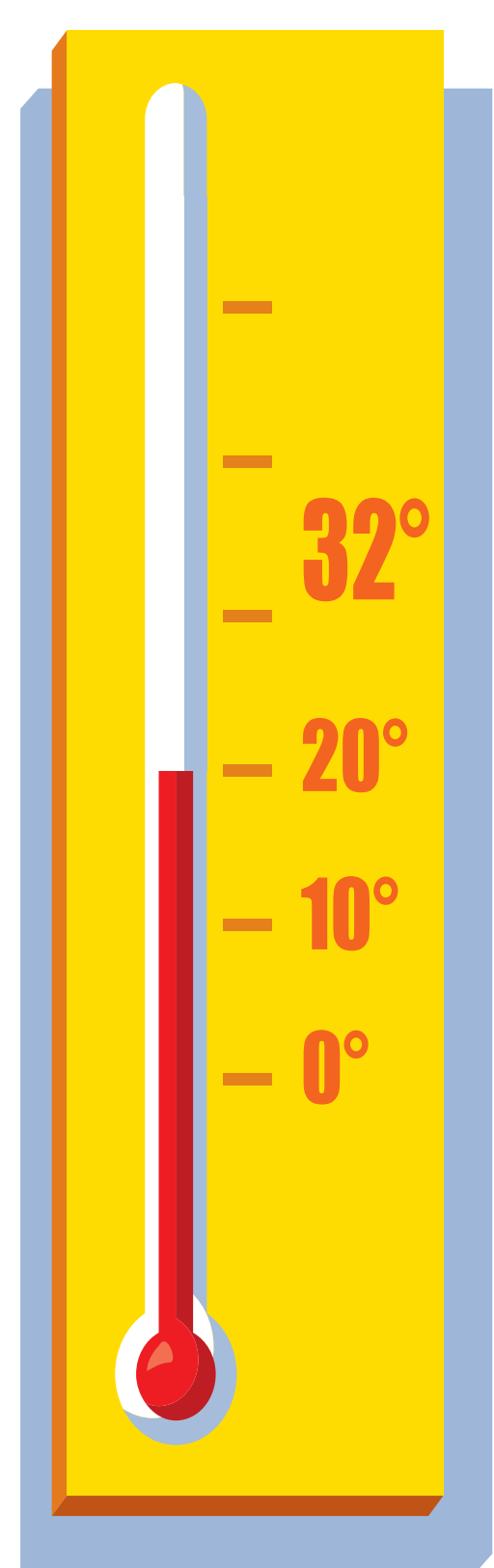
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