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Vol. 102 • No. 78

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26, 2022

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recently announced a
promotion for Brandon
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WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
15 -14	30 11
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
15 1	20 5

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OBITUARIES

- GEORGE W. HOWE
- JOYCE ANN BEARROWS
- DONALD HENRY JULIFS
- MARK WESLEY POWERS
- ROGER K. "JAY" KEMPSON
- GRETCHEN VICTORIA MILLER
- MARTHA JANE PUMFREY

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City planning for RV park

Fiegenschuh: 'We'd like to do it in the next couple of years'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle has preliminary plans to put its own RV park at the Rochelle Municipal Airport in the future, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said last week.

The idea came about when trying to coordinate with Chicagoland Skydiving Center, which operates at the airport and has an RV park of its own. The city wants more people to go to CSC events and visit the airport. Fiegenschuh said he wants to make sure the area is viable long-term, which the RV park would help to do.

"I really do think the airport is a valuable asset to the community and you have the Flight Deck Bar & Grill and CSC and I think there's a lot of things we can do to continue to move the airport forward," Fiegenschuh said. "Part of that was the RV park and if somebody wants to come out and watch the skydivers for a couple of days and CSC's RV park is full, is there a place we could put them at the airport where



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The City of Rochelle has preliminary plans to put its own RV park at the Rochelle Municipal Airport in the future, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said last week.

they could stay and enjoy the festivities and earn some rental income for the airport?"

The city council unanimously approved an update to its airport zoning at a recent meeting that allows for special use permits for banquet halls, brew pubs, restaurants, assembly/meeting halls and public recreational facilities.

That issue came about after city staff conversations about and budgeted money for an RV park at the airport to generate more revenue. Fiegen-

schuh said a permanent RV park is in the city's five-year plan. He said the city would like to start work on the project "in the next couple of years."

The only property tax that is assessed at the airport goes to paying debt on the community hangar that will be paid off in 2025 or 2026. Otherwise, the airport is funded primarily by lease rentals of facilities like hangars and the sale of airport fuel.

Capital projects at the airport are funded 95 percent by state and federal dollars and five percent

local match, Fiegenschuh said.

"Obviously if we do something like [an RV park,] we want to make sure we can include that in those capital projects so we have funding coming in and it's not all on the local," Fiegenschuh said. "We have to be on their five-year funding plan. What drives that project is making sure we can get federal and state funding and if we can, where do we fall on their timeline for funding? Because they might have ideas of other projects that are more im-

portant to fund first. So we have to get on their schedule for funding."

About a year and a half ago, the city had discussions about the cost of putting in an RV park being in the neighborhood of \$80,000, Fiegenschuh said. But the city manager said that number likely would not be accurate in the future.

Another aspect of the project could be upsizing the airport's sewage line if it was going to see more usage.

See RV PARK page 5

Liquor license moratorium approved

City Council unanimously passes ordinance Monday evening

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its Monday meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an ordinance limiting the number of class B (bar) liquor licenses in town.

The ordinance places a moratorium on class B licenses until May 1, 2023. A 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. The city will have no more than 10 class B licenses during that time unless the council decides otherwise. For the past few years, several council members have approached city staff about the idea of limiting the number of gaming machines in Rochelle.

Gaming licenses are granted by the state to businesses with the necessary liquor licenses and the city has no other way to limit gaming other than by limiting liquor licenses. The ordinance exempts all

current holders of class B liquor licenses and does not affect any other type of liquor license.

"Just to be clear, if we have someone come in that wants to start a new business, we could always change the ordinance at that time if it's something we want to do," Mayor John Bearrows said. "We have no control over gaming other than liquor licenses. We saw in the past two years as licenses came on board, the gaming revenue didn't increase, it was just spread out more. We all kind of felt like we reached a saturation point."

During an earlier and separate portion of the meeting, the council unanimously approved an ordinance to delete one class B liquor license for Sissy's Wild Card Saloon at 417 Cherry Ave. to create a liquor license for Kevin Crandall and Shane Erdman, who recently bought that business. Liquor licenses can't be transferred from former to new business owners.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

City employee Andy Rogde (right) presented the council with a flag he and another city employee brought back from deployment in Saudi Arabia and Operation Inherent Resolve.

Training facility

The council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing an agreement with Fehr Graham for no more than \$36,000 for the design and construction oversight of a fire training facility for the city and the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection

District. The facility will be at 920 S. Main St. and is also slated to serve as a utility training facility for Rochelle Municipal Utilities and could also be used by other city departments and area organizations.

Fehr Graham has helped develop concept plans for

the multiple sites considered for the project and is "very knowledgeable" about the needs of the city and the OLFDP, the meeting's agenda packet said. Costs will be split between the city, RMU, and the OLFDP.

See CITY page 3

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LOCAL NEWS

NW Illinois districts struggle with teacher vacancies

86 percent of region's schools reported teacher shortages in IARSS survey

BY GRACE KINNICUTT
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Schools were struggling filling teaching positions before the COVID-19 pandemic reached Illinois nearly two years ago.

The challenges of educating students during a prolonged health crisis has been an "added stress" for teachers in northwest Illinois schools, said Chris Dvorak, superintendent of the LaSalle, Marshall and Putnam County Regional Office of Education.

"I believe things have continued to get worse from the standpoint of COVID," Dvorak said. "... I think it created more of a problem than we were before."

The 2021 Illinois Educator Shortage survey released Tuesday by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools shows that 86 percent of school districts in the northwest region reported that shortages of teachers and substitute educators continue to worsen. The region spans from Jo Daviess County to Rock Island County to LaSalle County to Winnebago County.

The study noted that the top reason reported for educator vacancies has been retirement.

Chris Tennyson, superintendent of Lee, Ogle and Whiteside County Regional Office of Education, noted that one of the big things with teachers retiring early seemed to be the added stress of dealing

with COVID.

"It just made them think about maybe [retiring] quicker only because when they signed up for teaching, none of us ever imagined that we'd have two years like this," Tennyson said. "It's really nothing that you can prepare for."

The most common strategy for covering vacancies is combining classes followed by outsourcing to third-party vendors and utilizing long-term substitutes. But, 96 percent of school districts statewide reported minor to serious problems with substitute shortages.

Regional superintendents reported that COVID-19 has made finding substitutes more difficult since those who have regularly filled those positions tend to be retired teachers who now do not want to come to a school and risk getting the virus.

"We had a good workforce of retirees, people that had worked in the classroom that were willing to come back and work within the district that they retired from," Dvorak said. "A lot of those people pulled back and said, 'Not knowing if it's safe or not, I don't want to put my health and myself at risk.'"

Not having substitute teachers to depend on, districts reported pulling instructors from class preparation time to cover for absences elsewhere. They also have been using administrators to teach, and have combined classes.

Joshua Nichols, superintendent of Amboy Community Unit School District 272, said the district there had to move Spanish classes online, combine classes and move teachers around to address staffing shortages.

"It's very difficult because you're trying to fill one hole and you're trying to find the highest need," Nichols said.

Being in a rural area, Nichols noted that staffing can be difficult, but the district has managed to do so by hustling to find people — especially those who just graduated with a teaching degree.

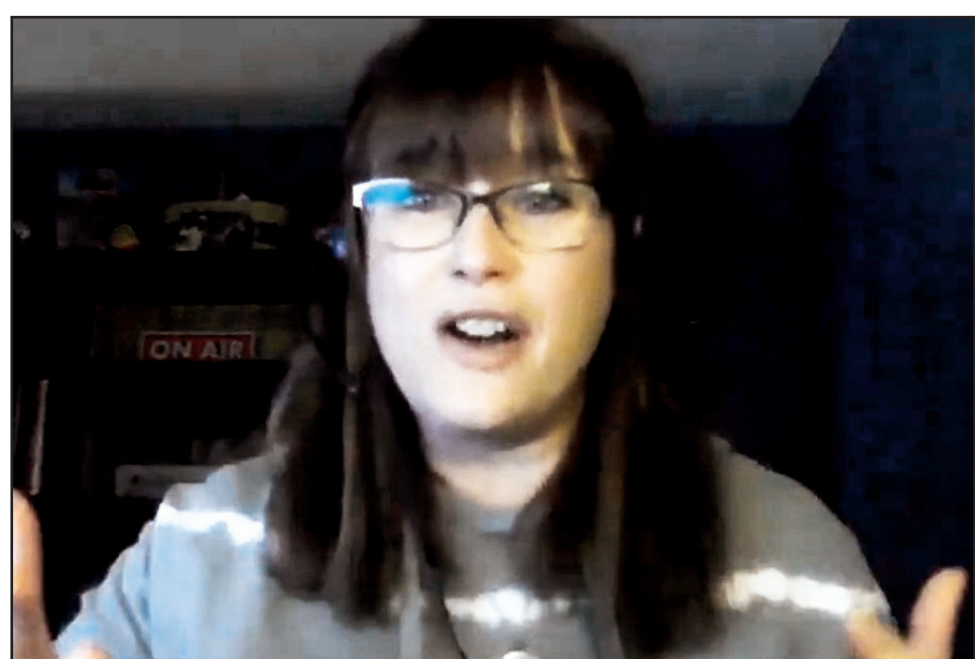
Fifty-two percent of districts statewide said the location of their schools negatively impacts the ability to recruit new teachers, the number one reason noted in the survey.

Over the past five years, superintendents continue to report fewer qualified applicants for teaching positions.

Dvorak noted that when he was a school principal, numerous applications would file in, but when he talks to schools around the district, they are happy if they get one or two qualified candidates.

"The question is going to be when we get out of (COVID) is how can we think and work to create some allowances where districts have the ability to put qualified people that are good with students in these positions when emergencies occur," Dvorak said.

In the study, the IARSS recommends an effective



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Anji Garza, director of professional learning and education services for Regional Office of Education 47, has focused on expanding the college and career education pathway program that provides a student teaching experience for students and local colleges and universities. ROE 47 serves Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties.

strategy to address shortages is through local solutions such as connecting middle and high schools to early education pathway networks, partnering with community colleges and offering educator preparation programs that would provide them with a student teacher experience.

Anji Garza, director of professional learning and education services for Lee, Ogle and Whiteside County Regional Office of Education, has focused on expanding the college and career education pathway program with the help of grants received from the state board of education.

School districts can work with local businesses and colleges to provide

students with a hands-on learning experience, along with offering incentives and tuition scholarships for students with a college and career pathway endorsement.

"We started having conversations about how we could address some of the pipeline issues and really grow our communities," Garza said.

Through the CCPE program, Garza said that high school juniors and seniors have been able to receive a student teaching experience. The district has partnered with Northern Illinois University and Western Illinois University, along with Sauk Valley Community College, in offering dual credit classes.

Partnering with Illinois State University and local community colleges in his region, Dvorak said,

provides some remote classes so students don't have to drive. Dvorak noted districts also do a lot of advertising and are constantly looking at potential candidates and trying to hire them if they are interested.

"So many educators that I talked to can give me one or two teachers in their life that got them thinking about education or made a difference in their life or ignited that passion," Tennyson said. "And that's what we need to remember — that we're the best sales people for our profession."

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



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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Three RTHS speech students earn gold

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Township High School Speech Team split up on Saturday competing in both the Sandwich Invitational (fourth place) and those at St. Charles East (fifth place). Jessica Nguyen, Mikayla Preston and Paul Swartz came away with gold medals. Results are as follows:

Finalists at the Sandwich Invitational: Nguyen first oratory and second informative speaking, Julia Livingston third extemporaneous speaking, Livingston & Pigeon Burgholzer won third in humorous duet acting, Sienna Seebach fourth original comedy, Ranboo Hull fourth poetry reading, Dani Ward fifth informational speaking,

Ashes Glover/Ranboo Hull fifth humorous duet acting, Faith Lohse fifth radio, Ella Seebach sixth prose reading and Sierra Ramos sixth informative speaking.

Finalists at the St. Charles East tournament: Swartz & Preston first dramatic duet acting, Preston first dramatic interpretation, Jaela Ludwig second oratorical declamation, Swartz & Bella Nauman third humorous duet acting, Jenn Heinrich third special occasion speaking, Karma Lidren third place original comedy and humorous interpretation and Nauman sixth oratorical declamation.

The speaker of the week was Nguyen.

Rochelle students graduate from NIU

DEKALB — Almost 1,300 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in the fall. Included among the graduates were the following students from Rochelle: Celeste Almaraz (bachelor of science, nurs-

ing), Katelyn Gabbard, bachelor of science in education, elementary education: reading teacher), Jacob Roushia, bachelor of science, journalism) and Ryne Vrana (master of science in education, literacy education).

Senior Center closed for remainder of week

ROCHELLE — The Hub City Senior Center has made the decision to close for the remainder of the week due to rising COVID-19 cases in the

area, a Sunday Facebook post said.

Transportation will be running as usual, but all inside activities are canceled until Jan. 31.

LOCAL NEWS

CITY: Council recognizes retiring deputy chief Leininger

From page 1

UTVs

The council approved an ordinance amending its code relating to non-highway vehicles by a 4-3 vote that will now allow golf carts and UTVs to drive on Caron Road, 20th Street, Veteran's Parkway and Steward Road.

In the original non-highway vehicles ordinance, UTVs and golf carts were prohibited from driving on higher-traffic roads utilized by semi trucks including the above roads and Illinois Route 251, Illinois Route 38, Interstate 88, Interstate 39, Flagg Road and Dement Road.

Recently, residents approached council members to request that non-highway vehicles be allowed on currently-prohibited streets, particularly Caron Road from 7th Avenue to the Wal-Mart entrance.

Councilwoman Kate Shaw Dickey voted against the change to the ordinance.

"When we did this, it was to be a neighborhood community thing, but safety was also at the forefront of what we were doing," Shaw-Dickey said. "To me, I don't believe that these vehicles belong on truck routes."

Bearrows said there have not been many issues with non-highway vehicles since the original ordinance and voted for

the change.

"I think people have shown that they're pretty responsible thus far and the police have said there haven't been a lot of problems with golf carts or UTVs," Bearrows said.

Shop local

A presentation was made at the meeting on the city and RMU's recently-completed Shop Local program.

The program encouraged residents and businesses to patronize local small businesses deemed nonessential who were forced to close during the COVID-19 pandemic. A \$60 reimbursement in the form of a credit on a future RMU bill was given to those that submitted receipts totaling \$300 from local businesses.

The program yielded over 5,755 participants, \$538,500 in RMU credits and \$2,981,109 in benefits to businesses.

Retirement

During the meeting, the city recognized Rochelle Police Deputy Chief Jeff Leininger, who retired Friday. Leininger was presented with a plaque by City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh and had many RPD employees in attendance.

Leininger spent 23 years with RPD in numerous roles.

"He showed respect, tact and humanity to all,



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The city recognized Rochelle Police Deputy Chief Jeff Leininger, who retired Friday. Leininger was presented with a plaque by City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh and had many RPD employees in attendance.

even during the most difficult circumstances," Fiegenschuh said. "He's a consummate professional and somebody that I look up to, not only as a human being but as a law enforcement professional."

Flag

presented

During Monday's meeting, city employee

Andy Rogde presented the city council with a flag that he and another city employee brought back from deployment in Saudi Arabia and Operation Inherent Resolve.

"We're both members of the Air National Guard out of Wisconsin," Rogde said. "We wanted to bring back something the city could have and thank it for the support when we

were gone."

Proclamation

A proclamation was read by Bearrows making March 4 John W. Tilton Day in the city. Tilton was involved in the community in many ways, namely with the Vagabond Inn, which later became Hickory Grove. Bearrows said the idea for the honor came when the demolition

of Hickory Grove was nearing a start.

"Mr. Tilton did many amazing things in our community to help promote growth and make our community what it is today," Bearrows said. "I just felt it very important to recognize him for that. It all came to light when we started taking that old building down and hearing the stories."

RTHS Interact, RMS Early Act students visit Rotary Club

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School's Interact Club led by Alison Vrana presented Tuesday at Rotary on their fundraisers and service work.

The interact club is selling bracelets to help human trafficking victims. Rotary members heard from the seniors about their plans after graduation, and were introduced to some of Rochelle Middle School's Early Act Club members. The Early Act Club is supplying a 'Free Library'



(COURTESY PHOTO)

RTHS Interact Club and RMS Early Act Club members visited the Rotary Club on Jan. 25.

they built that will house food items, personal and household necessities in Rochelle.

The Rotary speaker Tuesday was Laura Kann from the club's Rotary district.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Dorothy's Diamonds, Creston, have some very beautiful trips starting with warmer weather.

Three upcoming trips for Dorothy's Diamonds

ROCHELLE — Dorothy's Diamonds, Creston have some very beautiful trips starting with warmer weather.

Trip one: Myrtle Beach. It will include five shows, Myrtle Beach boardwalk, Barefoot Landing, shopping en route at the Kentucky Artisan Center and other exciting sites. The trip runs April 23 to May 1. Contact Dorothy by Feb. 16 for more details.

Trip two is an exciting trip to Atlantic City, historic Cape May, New Jersey with Victorian Homes and Cape May Pointe Lighthouse, etc. Philadelphia will include a guided tour, visit the historic district, Independence Center, Freedom Bell and so much more. Landcaster, Pennsylvania will be a guided tour of the Amish Country, a visit to the Kitchen Kettle Village and will attend the beautiful

Sight and Sound theater to see the real life play "David" with unbelievable settings. This will be another fun packed historic and beautiful trip. Trip date is June 19 to June 25. It is a new trip just added for Dorothy's Diamonds.

Trip three is going to beautiful Vermont in Sept. 25 to Oct. 1, expecting the fall colors and beautiful countryside. We will tour the Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks, Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory, cruise on beautiful Lake Champlain, Shelburne Museum, Cold Hollow Cider Mill, Rock of Ages granite quarry, Stowe Village and much more.

Come and enjoy yourself, sit back and let someone else do the driving and make decisions as to where you go. It's a good way to make new friends. We've had groups of families travel together, class mates and other groups friends join in.

Various nonprofit organizations benefit from these trips. For more info on these trips, contact Dorothy at 815-384-5325.

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Happy Birthday, Dad!



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Oswaldo (Ozzie) Amaro moved to Rochelle from Havana, Cuba in 1966 and worked at Del Monte until his retirement in the 1990s.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Joyce Ann Bearrows

ROCHELLE—Joyce Ann Bearrows, 73, passed away at her daughter's home on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022. She was born on April 15, 1948 in Dixon, the daughter of Roy and Edris (Ludwig) Myers.

Joyce married W. Dale Bearrows on Jan. 31, 1970, he preceded her in death on June 5, 2017. She worked for over 30 years at AG Manufacturing/Eatons in Rochelle. Joyce enjoyed sewing and reading, but above all, she loved spending time with her family.

She is survived by her children: Bill (Dawn) Bearrows of Highland Village, Texas, and Connie A. Bearrows of Rockford;

granddaughter, Ashley Bearrows and two great grandchildren: Liam Bearrows and Lincoln Bhamdeo of Highland Village, Texas; brother, Ron (Rev. Joy) Myers of Glen Carbon, Illinois; brothers-in-law: Rick (Marla) Bearrows, Don Bearrows, Paul (Barb) Bearrows and Brian (Patricia) Bearrows; sister-in-law, Karen Bearrows; and many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by her parents, husband, and daughter, Debra Bearrows on Nov. 20, 1999.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022 at the First Presbyterian Church,



1100 Calvin Road, Rochelle. The funeral service will follow at 11 a.m., Wednesday with Rev. Dr. Doug Forsberg officiating. Burial at Trinity Memory Gardens. Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church or Pro Medica Heartland Hospice. Visit www.UngerHorner.com to sign the online guest book.

George W. Howe

ROCHELLE — George W. Howe, 60, a longtime resident of Rochelle, passed away Friday, Jan. 21. The son of George Washington Howe Jr. and Julie Ann (Horton) Howe married Darcy Lynn La Tour on Aug. 22, 1986.

His world revolved around his family. He worked as the security supervisor at Woods on Oregon and was with the company for 10 years. His greatest joys in life included vacationing with his wife, fishing, cooking out

and spending time with his kids and grandchildren.

George was preceded in death by his brothers, Dan and Clyde Howe.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Darcy La Tour Howe, his parents, George and Julie Howe, Pete (Cathy) Howe of Poplar Grove, Joseph (Tonia) Howe and Kevin (Lori) Miller both of Rochelle, his children Christopher (Morgan) Hardesty-Howe, Amanda (Sean) Goodpaster and Harmony (Philip)



Hillker all of Rochelle and his grandchildren: Sophia Shaver, George Hardesty-Howe, Wyatt Battershell and Nathan Hardesty.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Mark Wesley Powers

ASHTON — Mark Wesley Powers, 58, of Ashton passed away on Jan. 19, 2022. Mark was born on Feb. 6, 1963 in Rockford to Robert and Captola (Sanders) Powers. Mark worked in the concrete trade as a concrete finisher for Williams Concrete. He was a jack of all trades. He was a wonderful father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, God father, father-in-law and friend. He was an amazing man who worked hard his whole life, and who loved his family very dearly.

Mark is survived by his

mother, Dee Powers; his children; Valarie (James) Pittman, Brandon Powers and Jamie Powers; three sisters, Karen Cole, Tam (Randy) Powers-Klaven-ga and Christy (Rob) Haenitsch; two brothers, Steve (Corinne) Powers and Kevin (Laura) Powers; as well as three precious grandchildren, Markus, Mason and Jayden.

He is preceded in death by his father, Bob, and his brother, Sean.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Jan. 29 from 2-5 p.m. at Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home,



704 N. 6th St. Rochelle, IL 61068. Funeral service to follow at 5 p.m. Cremation rites will be accorded. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com.

Donald Henry Julifs

ROCHELLE — Donald Henry Julifs, 76, of Rochelle, passed away suddenly on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, in Rochelle. He was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa on Feb. 16, 1945, to Claus and Hannah Julifs.

Don was raised on a dairy farm in Adams, Minnesota. After finishing his education, he proudly served in the Marine Corps and did a tour in Vietnam.

Following his military service, Don worked for Del Monte in Rochelle for several years and then worked at the Byron Nuclear Plant until his retirement in 1999.

In his spare time, Don loved woodworking, working on anything mechanical, and watching and participating in all kinds of sports. He was a man of few words, yet people listened when he had something to say.

Don is survived by Debra, his wife of 36 years; sister, Jean McClure of Arvada, Colorado; brother, Harold (Sandra) of Sterling; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Andrew and Diane Strole of Downers Grove. He is also survived by nephews, David Julifs (Roxann Marumoto) of Torrance, California, Steven Julifs (Kim Hoshell) of Shorewood, Illinois, Brian Strole of Chicago; nieces, Robin McClure (Gregg Gilky) of Aurora, Colorado, Lisa Strole (Ethan Nosek) of Tuscon, Arizona and several great and great-great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Dean; and brother-in-law, Cliff McClure.

At Don's request, there will be no visitation or service. Cremation care has



been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. A private burial in Minnesota will take place at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516 (<https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/>) or to K9s for Warriors, 114 Camp K9 Road, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081 (www.k9sforwarriors.org).

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

Roger K. "Jay" Kempson

DEKALB — Roger K. "Jay" Kempson, 68, of DeKalb, died Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, at Kishwaukee Hospital.

Born Aug. 2, 1953, at DeKalb Hospital, the son of Kenneth W. and Jeanette P. (Heath) Kempson, Jay married Kelli Rockstead on

June 1, 1990, in Oregon. A 1971 graduate of Sycamore High School, Jay served in the US Marines from 1971 to 1973. He worked at Hormel/Rochelle Foods for nearly a decade.

Jay loved Harley Davidson motorcycles and baseball, especially the Chicago Cubs, and spending time with his grandkids and his two great-nephews of whom he was very fond. His family knew him as a "movie guy," loving to watch action flicks with his son, for being "country," for being "goofy," loving to clown around and tell jokes and for being able to carry on a conversation with anyone. He always had his eye out for knives to add to his ever-growing collection.

Jay is survived by his wife, Kelli; son, Landon Kempson of DeKalb; grandchildren, Otto James Kempson and Aliyah

Grace Holtzclaw; and his special great-nephews, Wesson Rockstead and Grant Rockstead of Shabbona.

He was predeceased by his mother, Jeanette (Edward) Kozuch in 1977; his father, Ken, in 1959; and sister, JoAnn (James Sr.) Lowry in 1997.

The family extends special thanks to Scott Rockstead, and Jill and Chase Rockstead, who stood by him during his cancer diagnosis and treatments.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the family for a fund to be established.

Per Jay's wishes, no services will be held.

Arrangements by Olson Funeral & Cremation Services-Quiram Sycamore Chapel, 1245 Somonauk St., Sycamore, IL 60178; 815-895-6589. Visit www.olsonfh.com to leave a condolence.

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Gretchen Victoria Miller

ROCHELLE — Gretchen Victoria Miller, 47, passed away Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022 at the Rochelle Community Hospital in Rochelle.

Services are pending with the Unger-Horner Funeral Home.

See the full obituary for Gretchen at www.ungershorner.com.

Martha Jane Pumfrey

HARLINGEN, Texas — Martha Jane Pumfrey, 83, formerly of Ashton, passed away Jan. 24, 2022, at Harlingen Med-

ical Center in Harlingen, Texas. Arrangements are pending with the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, Rochelle.

Report policy

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

Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

ROCHELLE News-Leader
211 IL Route 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068
(815) 562-4171

USPS (467-820) ISSN (1075-2811)
Published every Wednesday and Sunday by Rochelle News-Leader Inc. at 211 E. State Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068.
Periodical postage paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Rochelle News-Leader, P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068. Subscription rates are \$112 per year by mail in Ogle County. Outside county rate is \$134 per year. No mail delivery in newspaper-carrier serviced areas. The circulation department is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are a carrier subscriber and your paper does not arrive, contact Wanda Brimhall at 561-2112.

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LOCAL NEWS

RV PARK: City developing preliminary plans for airport

From page 1

"If we want to see more usage on that, we're going to have to do that and it could potentially be expensive," Fiegenschuh said. "But that hasn't been discussed in a while. The number one priority is getting on

that five-year funding plan through the FAA and we'll go from there."

Fiegenschuh touted the airport's value to the community, including the nationally-known CSC, which hosted the skydiving national championships in recent years.

"The airport is a huge asset for us," Fiegenschuh said. "When you think of small towns, you typically don't think of airports. I think our mayor and council and those volunteers on that airport advisory board that give us ideas, a lot of them are pilots, their priority is to

keep the airport up and going and functional and they want to see it as one of our crown jewels. And I agree with that. We're blessed to have it and we need to continue to find ways to keep it sustainable and solvent. Part of that is getting more people here to visit."

An RV park would provide another recreational amenity for the community. Fiegenschuh called recreational amenities an important part of any community and said the future project could add to the list of things in town like The REC Center, the golf course,

tennis courts and parks.

"It's a quality of life issue and what people value and it's important to have those types of amenities," Fiegenschuh said. "The airport is one key to a successful community. We want to make sure that key is working at all times."

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Deputies respond to two-vehicle accident with injuries

OREGON — On Jan. 21 at 4:22 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 7,000 block of North Illinois Route 251 for a speeding violation. After an investigation, Nicholas Dildine, 27, of Davis Junction was arrested for driving on a suspended license. Dildine was also issued citations for speeding 26-34 m.p.h. over the limit and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Dildine was released on a signature I-Bond with a return court date.

On Jan. 21 at approximately 10:57 a.m. deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the area of Illinois Route 64 and Moore Road. Upon arrival, deputies learned that a Chevrolet Cruze driven by George Hall III, 81, of Rochelle, was traveling westbound on Illinois Route 64. The Chevrolet Cruze then crossed the over the center line of the roadway into the east-bound lane before striking a Chevrolet 2500 pickup truck, which was traveling eastbound and was driven by Jacob Hackbarth, 19, of Lindenwood. The Chevrolet Cruze sustained heavy damage and Hall was pronounced deceased at the scene. The 2500 pickup truck overturned during

the accident and sustained heavy damage. Hackbarth was transported to St. Anthony's Hospital by Lynn-Scott Rock EMS for minor injuries. Rochelle EMS and the Illinois State Police also assisted. The accident remains under investigation.

On Jan. 21 at approximately 11:20 a.m. deputies, along with Forreton Police Department and Forreton EMS responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 13,000 block of West Illinois Route 72. Upon investigation, it was learned that the driver, Jacqueline Hollaway, 59, of Oregon, entered the north ditch when her vehicle overturned. Hollaway was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Hollaway was issued a citation for improper lane usage.

On Jan. 22 at approximately 4:11 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 18,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After investigation, deputies issued a 15-year-old female juvenile of Rockford an I-Bond for no valid driver's license. The female juvenile was additionally issued citations for speeding and operating an uninsured vehicle. The female was released to a relative at the



scene.

On Jan. 23 at approximately 2:36 a.m. deputies responded to the 100 block of Roy Avenue in reference to a disturbance. After investigation, deputies arrested Cody Huff, 29, of Rochelle, for domestic battery. Huff was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 24 at approximately 12:13 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of East Illinois Route 64 and Illinois Route 251. After investigation, deputies arrested Tanya Aluriston, 35, of Cedar Rapids Iowa for no valid driver's license.

Aluriston was also issued citations for failure to obey a stop sign and an equipment violation. Aluriston was given an I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date.

On Jan. 24 at approximately 8:01 p.m. deputies responded to Rochelle Community Hospital in reference to a domestic battery that had occurred earlier in the 100 block of Windmill Court. After investigation, deputies placed Fatmir Fejzowski, 26, of Rochelle under arrest for aggravated domestic battery at Liquor and Wine in Rochelle. Fejzowski was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance.



Officers make arrests

ROCHELLE — On Jan. 21 at 7:07 a.m. Jason M. Haas, 33, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On Jan. 22 at 9:01 a.m. Rachel C. Graham, 21, of Franklin Grove was cited for no insurance, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, failure to report an accident, improper lane usage and failure to transfer title after ownership change. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 25 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 23 at 2:20 p.m. Dustin M. J. Hutcherson, 34, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. He paid \$500 and was given a Feb. 18 Ogle County court date.

On Jan. 21 at 2:46 p.m. Kostadin Cuca, 64, of Loves Park was cited for speeding 61 m.p.h. in a 40 m.p.h. zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 25 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 23 at 8:24 p.m. Victorio Guillermo Calderon, 32, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On Jan. 24 at 6:06 p.m. Jasmine M. O'Donnell, 27, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On Jan. 24 at 8:27 p.m. Tanya L. Raleigh, 35, of Rochelle was arrested for battery. She was released on an I-Bond and given a Feb. 25 Ogle County court date.

RTHS grads named to Marquette dean's list

MILWAUKEE — Emma Mehrings (bachelor of science, accounting) and Abby Tilton (bachelor of science, human resources) both of Rochelle, have been named to the dean's List for the fall 2021 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

To make the Dean's List, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the fall 2021 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The GPA threshold varies by college - for the

College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean's List.

The undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

How Stanley Larson came home

STANLEY “Mike” Larson was the pride of Rochelle in many ways.

Stan lettered in football three years, basketball three years, tennis four years and track one year.

Conference championships, regional championships and three trips to the state tennis championships. Stanley was the 1943 Hackett Trophy winner. With 11 varsity letters, Stan was obviously a great athlete and is a member of the Rochelle Athletic Hall of Fame. Stan was also a member of the National Honor Society, Drama Club, president of the Student Council and a member of the band. In June 1943, Stan graduated from Rochelle High School.

In July 1943, Stanley enlisted in the Army and became a member of 394th Infantry Division. On Dec. 16, 1943, 19-year-old Stanley Larson found himself in the Ardennes Forest between the borders of Belgium and Germany. The Battle of the Bulge had begun.

At 5:30 a.m. the Germans began an artillery barrage followed by an attack led by the German 6th Panzer Army. The Allies fell back and the Germans held the area for the next month. When the Allies returned, they found that their dead had been buried and any taken prisoner were gone.

Stanley Larson was one of those missing. It was Feb. 1945 before Stanley’s status was changed to killed-in-action. His body was still not found. Stanley became just one of the more than 78,000 Allied WWII troops that were missing in action.

Flash forward to 1978 when teenagers Jean-Philippe-Speder and Jean-Luois-Seel were souvenir hunting in the Ardennes Forest. The two lived nearby and the Ardennes always had treasures to give up to those willing to search closely.

Six years later, the boys found their first body, a German soldier with a hole in its skull. In 1988, they found their first American soldier. This second find led the boys to form a club of like-minded

searchers. The “Diggers” would meet as often as they could, armed with metal detectors, shovels and maps, the group searched areas of the Ardennes for lost soldiers.

Searching near Hunningen, Belgium near the border with Germany, in March 2001, the Diggers discovered remains. Once they had ascertained that the find was actually human remains, the Diggers notified the German government.

Exhumation is a delicate process, protection of the evidence is essential for the identification of the remains. Every soldier found, German, American or other is treated with dignity and respect. Today Germany and the United States work cooperatively.

The German Army exhumed the bodies and found the remains of three American soldiers. The remains and artifacts from the site were packaged and shipped to the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory at Hickman Airforce Base, Hawaii. The experts at the laboratory did what they do best and using artifacts, dental records and DNA, they identified the remains of the three soldiers. Sgt. Frederick Zimmerman, PFC Erwin Fiddler and PFC Stanley Larson had been found.

The families of the deceased now had a choice. The remains could be buried in Belgium, they could be interred at Arlington National Cemetery or they could be returned to the family. For the Larson family, the choice was already made.

In 1947, Elmer and Ella Larson, Stanley’s parents, had purchased a plot and placed a marker honoring Stanley at Lawnridge Cemetery, Rochelle. On July 22, 2002, Rochelle’s Stanley Larson was laid to rest. More than 50 years after he had gone to war, his battle was over. His family finally knew the fate of their son, he was home.

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



Tom McDermott

Let’s celebrate love!

FEBRUARY is quickly approaching, which means Valentine’s Day will be here before we know it. February has long been known as the month to celebrate love in all its forms.

Whether or not you celebrate Valentine’s Day, it is important to remember that love is not reserved for a significant other – love can be put into every action and interaction in daily life.

The Rochelle Area Community Foundation (RACF) celebrates love in a number of ways and we are fortunate to be the recipient of many acts of love throughout the year. Every donation, volunteer opportunity, and connection is an act of love.

Donations to RACF,

especially those in memory or in honor of a loved one, are a visible and impactful way to convey your compassion. Donations like these are particularly special, as they hold a tremendous amount of value to RACF and the donor.

Volunteering is another form of showing love. As Elizabeth Andrew once said, “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” When our nonprofit partners are in need of assistance, volunteers make the world of difference in the success of their service they provide or even at an event. Spending your precious time with RACF and our nonprofit partners is a truly selfless act of love.

Both volunteering and making a donation start with a

connection, and connection is the foundation of love. RACF is always working to build more connections to those with a philanthropic heart.

This February how will you celebrate love? RACF is celebrating by spreading the love throughout our community, as our 2022 Community Needs Grants opens up to accept applications on Feb 1. Last year, we were fortunate to support 28 nonprofits through these grants.

If you would like to celebrate love through making a donation or establishing an endowment fund through the RACF, please call me at 815-561-3600 or send an email to director@rochellefoundation.org.

Emily Anaya is the executive director of the Rochelle Area Community Foundation.



Emily Anaya

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

What is your go-to snow removal method? Are you a shoveler or do you opt for a snowblower or plow?

“Shovel, I like the exercise.”

Katie Paulsen

“Leaf blower. Just kidding. Snowblower and shovel.”

Suzanne Marie

“I prefer to ignore it until it melts.”

Ciara Michelle Elliott-Stahly

“Snowblower and shovel.”

Mark G. Schabacker

“I wish we had a snowblower but the metal shovel is great and necessary in Flagg Center.”

Cayce Bridges Groves

“I shovel.”

Rosaelia Arteaga

“Snowblower.”

Bobby Jo Leon

“Kix Johanning always does a great job doing it for us!”

William A. Paulin

“I hire it done.”

Phyllis Jones

“I shovel mostly.”

Kay Beguin McGrath

“Shovel until the plow comes down the street and dumps it at the end of the driveway and I quit and go inside for a while.”

Alexander Sandoval

“Snow blower and shovel unless it’s over three inches then Daryl McGough.”

Becky Dickinson Moore

“Sunshine works.”

Dennis Swinton

“I moved to Florida.”

Jay M. Jones

“My husband.”

Deborah Schuler Beck

How to contact government officials

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

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

IL Rep. Tom Demmer
314 Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706
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Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to news@rochelle-news-leader.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Rochelle News-Leader encourages responsible letters to the editor on subjects of interest to our readers. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include address and phone number or e-mail address for verification purposes. Neither the street address nor phone number will be printed. Letters should be typed or legibly

handwritten, and no anonymous letters will be published. Any letters from boards or organizations must include at least one name of an individual. Any criticism of public officials should be limited to issues related strictly to their position or actions made in office, as personal attacks will not be published. Letters involving private disputes between the writer and a business will not be published. Political endorsements will be published,

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

COMMUNITY

Central Bank Illinois promotes Svela

ROCHELLE — Central Bank Illinois announced an officer promotion for Brandon Svela to vice president of commercial lending, serving its Rochelle market. "This promotion is well deserved," Jeff Glen, community bank president of Central Bank Rochelle, said. "Brandon is a very bright rising star in Central Bank. Brandon

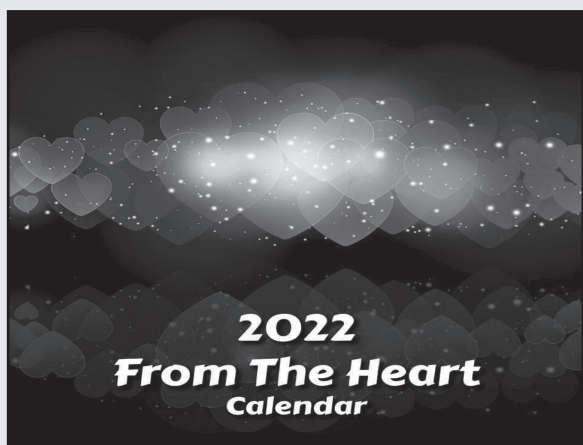
does a great job meeting the needs of his customers and works very hard to help them achieve their goals." While attending Illinois State University, Brandon was a summer intern in the internal audit department for the First National Bank of Rochelle. Brandon earned his bachelor's degree in finance, with a minor in

accounting from ISU in 2014 and returned to FNB as a management trainee. In 2017 he continued his career path with Central Bank and was named an assistant vice president loan officer. Brandon is actively involved in the Rochelle community and currently serves on the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce board of directors. He is



Brandon Svela

also a graduate of the Illinois Bankers Future Leaders Alliance program.



- Dec. 30 - Nick Vilmin, Byron, \$25
- Dec. 31 - Jurle Pfeiffer, Dixon, \$25
- Jan. 1 - From the Heart, \$1,000
- Jan. 2 - Michele Norkus, Sunsit Hills, Mo., \$50
- Jan. 3 - Evi O'Rorke, Steward, \$25
- Jan. 4 - From the Heart, \$25
- Jan. 5 - Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, \$25
- Jan. 6 - Dwayne Rangel, Rochelle, \$25
- Jan. 7 - Paul J. O'Rorke Jr., Steward, \$25
- Jan. 8 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- Jan. 9 - Rochelle Rotary Club, \$50
- Jan. 10 - Martha A. Reed, Steward, \$25
- Jan. 11 - Foundation for Focus House, \$25
- Jan. 12 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
- 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

Local students named to NIU dean's list

DEKALB — Northern Illinois University announced its fall 2021 dean's list students. To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Students from the area who achieved this honor include:

Rochelle: Morgan Baker, College of Ed-

ucation Dean's List, Kinesiology, Vanessa Belmonte, College of Education Dean's List, Middle Level Teaching & Learning, Ethan Burgholzer, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Pre-Computer Science, Anahi Calderon, College of Health & Human Sciences Dean's List, Child Development, Jacob Eul, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Enterprise Software, Judith Fulgencio, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Psychology - B.A., Marisol Garcia, College of Education Dean's List, ELED-Bi-

lingual/ESL, Komla Gati, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Sociology - B.A., Myranda Gillette, College of Health & Human Sciences Dean's List, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Melanie Gonzalez, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Political Sci-Public Law-B.A., Di'Quan Ishmon, College of Engineering Dean's List, Mechatronics Engineering, Tyler Johnson, College of Business Dean's List, Operations and Info Management, Najwa Morrar, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Psychology

- B.S., Gwendolyn Papke, College of Health & Human Sciences Dean's List, Nutrition, Dietetics, & Wellness, Jese-nia Solano, College of Engineering Dean's List, Electrical Engineering, Emily Ward, College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean's List, Art Studio, Teigan Young, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, English - B.A. Chana: Mallory Ponto, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Psychology - B.A. Kings: Anthony Muratore Jr., College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Psychology - B.A.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jan. 28
Peggy Futrell

Jan. 29
Nayeli Ramirez

Call 815-561-2151 to submit names for birthdays and anniversaries

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

Jan. 27 -(Thursday) -Stir Fry (Chicken or Shrimp) over Rice with Egg Rolls

Feb. 6 -(Sunday Brunch) -Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Meat and Cheese Omelet, Oatmeal

****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

Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Shade

4 Frontiersman Crockett

8 Pocket bread

12 100 percent

13 Dutch cheese

14 Pedestal occupant

15 Cowboy's sweetie

16 Do math

18 Slowpoke

20 Hydrocarbon suffix

21 Cushions

24 Persian Gulf emirate

28 Nutritional label info

32 Flamingo's color

33 Copper head?

34 Lauder of cosmetics

36 Summer on the Seine

37 Guns the engine

39 Toe of Italy's boot

41 Fashion

43 Hit with a stun gun

44 Ms. Thurman

46 Gossip

50 Baseball's "Iron Man"

55 Deluge refuge

56 Now, in a memo

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DOWN

1 Crones

2 — Bator

3 First lady of scat

4 Proclaim

5 Nabokov novel

6 Batman por-trayer Kilmer

7 Village People hit

8 Accumulate

9 Hollywood's Lupino

10 Nanny's charge

11 Hearty quaff

17 German con-junction

19 Wall St. debut

22 Platter

23 Attack

25 Coffin stand

26 Con

27 Furniture brand

28 2006 Pixar film

29 Help a hood

30 Tax

31 Actress Ward

35 "Calm down!"

38 Drinks noisily

40 Spell-off

42 Brit. record label

45 LAPD alerts

47 Wine valley

48 Helen's home

49 Related

50 Scoundrel

51 " — was say-ing ..."

52 Napkin's place

53 " — -Tiki"

54 "Evil Woman" band

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: **K** equals **G**

KXW TCVOFWTJ IF GFDI FXI IQT
SFBYXGHBK HBYF KPIQTD TJ FB
DTSFB CHGGHF BG:
PB HBITO VDFSTGGFD.

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King Crossword

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

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

Answers

SPORTS



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub wrestling team saw eight JV wrestlers earned ribbons during the Interstate 8 Conference Championship meet on Saturday. Pictured above from left to right are Riley Damask, Weylin Nay, Alexander McBride, Troy Papke, Jack Pavlak, Damon Cagle, Alex Burke and Jimmy Chavez.

HUBS: JV wrestlers shine at Interstate 8 Conference meet

From page 12

Junior Weldon Nay placed third in the 126-pound bracket, conceding a 10-2 major decision against Sandwich's Miles Corder but rebounding with a second-period pin against LaSalle-Peru's Kaleb Vela. Junior Wesley Brown took third in the 132-pound varsity bracket, dropping one bout against Sandwich's Sy Smith.

Freshman Brandyn Metzger finished third in the 160-pound varsity bracket, losing against

Sandwich's Bryce Decker in the semifinals but rallying with wins over Morris wrestler CJ Shafeer and Ottawa's Wyatt Reding.

Sophomore Brock Metzger placed third in the 170-pound bracket, falling against Sandwich's Sammy Dale before recovering with back-to-back pins over LaSalle-Peru's Jace Wallgren and Morris' Ethan Morrissey.

Junior Jorge Driggs took third in the 195-pound bracket, pinning Ottawa's Matt Finley before falling against LaSalle-Peru's Connor Lorden and out-

lasting Kaneland's Max Pietak in a 6-5 decision during his final bout. Freshman Grant Gensler finished fourth in the 138-pound bracket, defeating LaSalle-Peru's Gunnar Skoog with a 10-1 major decision in between losses to Sycamore's Trent DuMont and Morris' Tyler Semlar. Sophomore Leo Stoffel placed fifth in the 182-pound bracket with a pin over Morris' Andrew Pall.

JV

Freshman Weylin Nay won the 113-pound JV

championship, pinning Kaneland's Joey Leonard and LaSalle-Peru's Zach Pocivasek. Sophomore Riley Damask won the 120-pound JV championship, winning by fall over LaSalle-Peru's Zach Znaniecki. Sophomore Alex Burke won the 138-pound JV championship, winning by fall over LaSalle-Peru's Josh Bickford before earning a 9-7 decision over Sycamore's Greg Degand.

Junior Troy Papke finished second in the 182-pound JV bracket, winning by fall over Kane-

land's Caden Vanik before falling to Ottawa's Tate Spicer. Sophomore Alexander McBride placed second in the 195-pound JV bracket, defeating Kaneland's Hudson Giannini by 11-2 major decision and losing by 4-0 decision to LaSalle-Peru's Gage Starkey. Freshman Damon Cagle took second in the 220-pound JV bracket, beating Kaneland's JR Warfel by 5-2 decision before falling against Kaneland's Jacob Nonnemacher in the final round.

Sophomore Jimmy

Chavez placed second in the 106-pound JV bracket, losing his lone bout against Kaneland's Alex Gochis. Freshman Jack Pavlak took third in the 170-pound JV bracket, falling against Sycamore's Luis Garcia before pinning Ottawa's Andrew Ristau. Freshman Dempsey Atkinson finished fourth in the 138-pound JV bracket, falling to Sycamore's Greg Degand and Kaneland's Kyle Rogers.

Rochelle will host Princeton for a dual meet on Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

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SPORTS

RTHS Girls Bowling

Lady Hubs score road victory over Lisle

Rochelle falls to Oregon, DeKalb

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team battled DeKalb in a nonconference home match on Wednesday, falling 2,444-2,317. Freshman Cassidy Vincent rolled a team-high 505 series for the Lady Hubs (4-7, 3-4 Interstate 8) and sophomore Faith Adams followed with a 430 series against the Barbs.

DeKalb claimed the first game 826-768 behind Kayden Royalty's 208. Vincent fired 190 to lead Rochelle in the opening game, while Adams scored 148 and senior Zoe Rourke chipped in 121 for the Lady Hubs. The Barbs took the second game 860-756, with Royalty shooting 188 and Mackenzie Condon adding 162.

The Lady Hubs avoided the sweep on Wednesday, winning the third game 793-758 but losing the series by 126 pins. Vincent recorded 170 and senior Carly Summers rolled 160 to lead Rochelle in the series finale. Royalty led the Barbs with 188 to finish with a match-best 564 series, while Condon totaled 159 for DeKalb.

Lisle

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team picked up a nonconference road win against Lisle on Thursday, winning 2,304-1,801. Freshman Cassidy Vincent shot a team-high 469 series for the Lady Hubs (5-7, 3-4 Interstate 8).

Rochelle opened the series with a 747-596 victory during the first game. Vincent led the Lady Hubs with 153 and sophomore Faith Adams followed with 140. Rochelle claimed the second game 709-580 behind 129 from senior Anna Samo.

The Lady Hubs completed the three-game



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Anahi Alanis looks for her mark down lane for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team.

sweep with an 848-625 win during the third game. Vincent fired a series-high 203 for Rochelle, while Samo scored 151 to finish with a 387 series and senior Zoe Rourke totaled 149 for a 402 series.

Oregon

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team took one game from the Oregon Hawks on Monday, falling just short in a 2,485-2,416 series loss. Freshman Cassidy Vincent fired a team-high 544 series and 212 high varsity game for Rochelle (5-8, 3-4 Interstate 8).

Oregon surged ahead in the first game, winning 834-739 behind Ava Wight's 181 and Mackenzie Alford's 167. Senior Anna

Samo led the Lady Hubs with 169 in the first game and Vincent followed with 165.

Rochelle cruised over the Hawks 902-796 in the second game to take the series lead. Vincent's 212 and Samo's 166 were highlights for the Lady Hubs, while sophomore Faith Adams rolled 163 as well. Alford and Wight scored 157 and 154 for Oregon.

The Hawks stole the series in the end, winning the third game 855-775. Wight recorded 174 for a 509 series and Alford added 150 for a 474 series. Vincent totaled 167 and Adams chipped in 147 for the Lady Hubs in the final game. Samo scored 136 to finish with a 471 series.

RTHS Girls Basketball



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Zoey Tabor drives around Morris defender Brooklyn Lind during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against the Redskins on Friday.

Rochelle outlasts Morris

Darby leads Lady Hubs to 43-37 win

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Kendyl Darby looked like a freshman during the first half of the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team's home matchup against Morris on Friday. The second half was another story, however, as Darby showed confidence down the stretch and led the Lady Hubs to a 43-37 victory over the Redskins.

With multiple players out due to injuries, Rochelle needed someone to step up in the fourth quarter after struggling to hold off the Redskins throughout the game. That someone was Darby, who scored eight of her team-high 14 points in the fourth quarter to help Rochelle close out the Interstate 8 win.

"It felt really good to win that game," Darby said. "We came out really flat at the start of the game but I thought we came out after halftime with a much different mindset. My teammates were feeding me the ball and it felt amazing because I know I'm a freshman and even my coach said I played like a freshman in the first half. But I was ready to take over at the end and it's a really big confidence booster for me. We haven't had a double-digit winning season in a while so it was great that we earned our 10th

win tonight."

Rochelle (10-13, 3-5 Interstate 8) entered Friday's matchup without two starters including senior forward Abby Luxton and sophomore guard Alivia Henkel. Moriah Mayberry and Maddy Shannon spearheaded the charge for the Redskins, who came into the matchup seeking their first conference win of the season. Mayberry and Shannon each scored 11 points for the Redskins, who held a 13-12 lead after one quarter. Senior Adriannah Davis-Carter helped spark the Lady Hubs off the bench, knocking down a trio of mid-range jumpers to finish the first half with six points. Rochelle collectively struggled to convert key shots, however, allowing Morris to remain within two points of the Lady Hubs throughout the second and third quarters.

"We didn't play our best tonight, but coming out with a victory when we were losing at halftime and finishing the way we did was a big confidence booster for us," head coach Ryan McQuade said. "Adriannah has grown so much this season and it's been huge for us because not only has she been locking down on defense, but she's been producing on offense. Getting that level of production from her is huge for us."

Darby began asserting

herself in the fourth quarter, attacking Morris defenders off the dribble and finding space inside to post up for shots around the basket. After scoring all six of her points on free throws in the first half, Darby converted layups on three consecutive possessions midway through the fourth quarter, giving the Lady Hubs a nine-point advantage and their largest lead of the evening on Friday. Senior Zoey Tabor scored eight points in the win.

"I got on our girls at halftime and I didn't speak directly to Kendyl, but I thought she played like a freshman in the first half," McQuade said. "But the way she responded in the second half... She grew up tonight and she looked like a varsity basketball player. Having the ability to get into a freshman like that and then see her respond the way she did... I really like that as a coach and it's a big moment for our team."

Sycamore

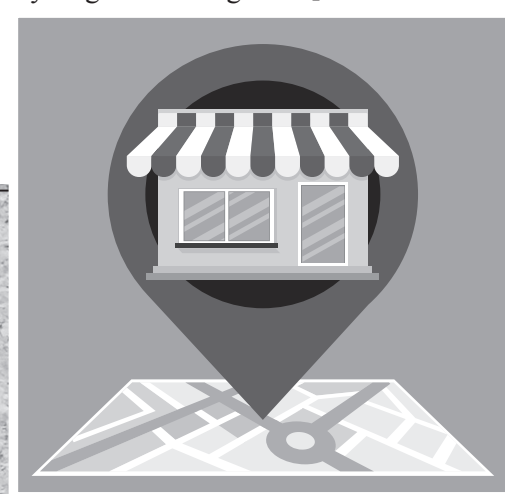
The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team faced Sycamore on the road this past Tuesday, falling 50-31. Senior Abby Luxton led Rochelle with eight points, while seniors Zoey Tabor and Josie Lundquist each scored seven points. Junior Torrin Nantz finished with six points.

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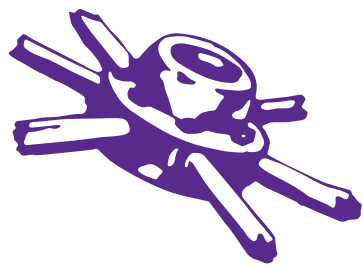
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HUB SPOTLIGHT



Damaris

Macias

Year: Freshman

Sport: Dance

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

A: Between four and five years.

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

*A: I enjoy how it really lets me
connect to music and express myself
in ways I can't in person.*

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

*A: Conditioning because I like
to be active and I enjoy getting
stronger everyday.*

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

*A: My sister because she's one of
the best dancers I know and dancing
was more than a sport to her. It was
her passion and I feel the same way.*

Q: What is your dream job

and why?

*A: Something in marketing or
advertising, especially in the Asian
region of the world because I'm very
fond of their cultures and values.*

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

*A: South Korea because of their
new hip-hop dance style and I could
learn about their techniques.*

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

*A: I enjoy the amount of
opportunities a student-athlete can
have at RTHS. I enjoy getting better,
learning and growing and it's in-
credible to see what I can accomplish
as a student-athlete when I set my
mind to it.*



Addison

Stewart

Year: Sophomore

Sport: Dance

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

A: 12 years.

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

*A: The family aspect when we
practice and the competitiveness that
every single one of us has.*

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

*A: P.E. or math. I like to work out
and control my own progress and
math comes easy to me.*

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

*A: Simone Biles because she has
so much power and resilience and
she pushes through every challenge.*

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

*A: My parents and coach Kass
because they push me and make me
better in sports and in life.*

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

*A: Something in law since I've
always wanted to help other without
having to contact them like a doctor.*

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

*A: An around-the-world trip so I
can experience everything the world
has and learn about various cultures.*

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

*A: The teachers are involved with
sports and they're understanding
when we have to miss time. They care
about our health and wellness.*



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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26, 2022

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 1 • PAGE 12

SPORTS



LADY HUBS TOP MORRIS

The Rochelle Lady Hub basketball team took down Morris at home on Friday.

See page 9 for more details

RTHS Dance

Twirling to Bloomington

Chellettes advance to fourth straight IHSA State Championship meet

SYCAMORE—Qualifying for the IHSA State Championship has become second nature for the Rochelle Chellette dance team. Having reached the IHSA State Championship meet in each of the last three seasons, Rochelle sought out its fourth bid in a row on Saturday, with the girls putting together perhaps their best routine of the season in the IHSA 1A Sycamore Sectional.

Performing to Stephanie Rainey’s “Simply the Best” and motivated for a return to the state meet, Rochelle scored 80.17 points to take third place out of 13 schools in the 1A class and seal a fourth consecutive state-qualifying berth. The Chellettes have formed a dance dynasty at RTHS, where they’ve advanced to the IHSA State Championship meet eight times in 10 years.

“We changed our routine halfway through the season and it felt really good to make it to the state meet with the changes we made so quickly,” senior Jasmine Sarabia said. “We’ve advanced to the state meet in all of my years here at the high school and this opportunity is really exciting for

all of us. It’s been amazing to see my teammates grow into the dancers they are now and the bonds we’ve made are a huge part of our success over the last few years.”

It’s been another successful season for the Chellettes, who won the Class 1A title at the Wau-bonsie Valley Invitational and finished fourth at the Interstate 8 Conference meet. Unlike past years where Rochelle’s routine has expressed more sad emotions, senior Taylor Ponto said the team shifted its focus to a different routine that emphasized happiness and love.

“I thought the sectional was our best performance of the season,” Ponto said. “We were a lot more confident with all of our turns and we didn’t have many missteps. It’s a much happier routine than we’ve had over the last few years. Our routine earlier this season was much more sad and angry, but we decided to switch things up and show more happiness and the sweetness of love. We really focus on portraying the emotions from the music throughout our routine.”

The team will leave



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Township High School dance team took third in the IHSA 1A Sycamore Sectional on Saturday and earned a spot in the IHSA State Championship meet. Pictured above from left to right are Abby Dall, Olivia Mitchell, Addison Stewart, Macy Ramos, Alexis Huerta, Ava McGee, Kayla Ortega (back row), Miranda Dubek, Taylor Ponto, Kayden Kannheiser and Jasmine Sarabia. The team is coached by Kass Smith.

RTHS for the IHSA State Championship meet on Thursday before performing in the preliminary round on Friday at 12:25 p.m. at the Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington. After missing out on the experience of performing live during the 2020-21 season due to COVID-19, senior Kayden Kannheiser and the Chel-

lettes are eager to return to the stage for their first live state performance in two years. Rochelle took 10th in Class 1A last season.

“The lights are on and it’s a lot different than being on a gym floor where we can see everybody,” Kannheiser said. “It’s a different atmosphere at the state meet and I like it a lot. It’s new and it’s

an adrenaline rush for all of us. We’re definitely excited and it means a lot, especially for me since it’s my last year and I was injured last year. I didn’t know if I would be able to come back and perform again after my injury, but it really means a lot to me.”

Thirty teams in each class (1A, 2A and 3A) will participate in the pre-

liminary round, with the top 10 teams in each class advancing to the finals on Saturday. Rochelle last reached the finals during the 2019-20 season, when the Chellettes finished sixth in Class 1A. It’s the first time in school history that Rochelle has reached the IHSA State Championship meet in four straight seasons.

RTHS Wrestling



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub wrestling team saw several varsity athletes earn medals at the Interstate 8 Conference meet on Saturday. Above from left to right are Xavier Villalobos, Weldon Nay, Joseph Nadig, Wesley Brown, Kaiden Morris, Jaden Cook, Jorge Driggs, Brock Metzger, Grant Gensler, Brandyn Metzger and Tommy Tourdot.

Hubs finish second at Interstate 8 Conference meet

Rochelle matmen bring home individual medal, ribbon honors

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MAPLE PARK—The Rochelle Hub wrestling team shined at the Interstate 8 Conference Championship meet on Saturday, with several varsity and JV athletes bringing home individual awards during the tournament. Rochelle (19-6. 6-1 Interstate 8) finished second

in the varsity competition with 184 total points.

“Wrestling is about pride and honor and the kids need to continue wrestling hard for six minutes,” head coach Alphonso Bruno said. “We talked throughout the day and I thought the kids really started to wrestle well and listen to what we’ve been working on during practice.

The kids really turned the tournament around and we took second in a pretty competitive tournament without one of our better wrestlers. The kids need to stay motivated for the regional and we want our whole team to be a part of that experience.”

Freshman Xavier Villalobos won the 113-pound varsity championship, earning a 12-4 major de-

cision over Sycamore’s Jonathan Buckheister before defeating Kaneland’s Kamron Scholl by 7-4 decision in the finals. Freshman Joseph Nadig won the 120-pound varsity championship, scoring a first-period pin against Ottawa’s Landon Marx and a second-period pin over LaSalle-Peru’s Reegan Kellett in the finals.

Freshman Kaiden Mor-

ris won the 220-pound varsity championship, recording back-to-back pins against Sandwich’s Kaiden Gustafson in the semifinal round and Sycamore’s Jackson Funderburg in the finals. Sophomore Tommy Tourdot took second in the 106-pound varsity bracket, edging Morris wrestler Brandon Anderson by 4-2 decision before falling against Kaneland’s

Cameron Phillips in the final round.

Junior Jaden Cook finished second in the 285-pound varsity bracket, winning by fall over Sandwich’s Jaime Serrano and Morris wrestler Justin Hemmersbach but falling against Sycamore’s Lincoln Cooley in the final round.

See HUBS page 8