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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 12, 2022

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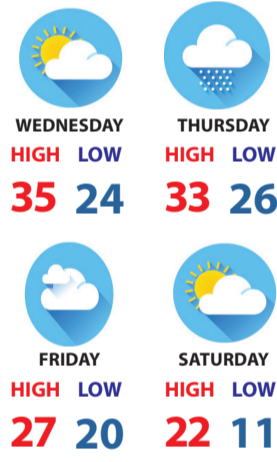
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Oregon Elementary School students raised \$700 for the American Red Cross.
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WEATHER



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OBITUARIES

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• FARM & FLEET

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Ribbon cutting held for Steder Tattoo

New downtown business now open at 507 W. 4th Ave.

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Friday, a ribbon cutting event was held for Steder Tattoo, a tattoo parlor at 507 W. 4th Ave. downtown that is now open.

Officials from the city, members of the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, members of the community and friends and family of the owner, Mat Steder, were in attendance. Steder comes from Raven Tattoo in Dixon and services a lot of Rochelle residents already. The business is Rochelle's first tattoo shop.

"It was breathtaking," Steder said. "I wasn't expecting the turnout to be this big tonight. It was a wonderful feeling seeing everyone come out to support me. I just appreciate everybody coming out. It just blows my mind. I'm speechless."

In the past few months since having a special use permit approved by the city council, Steder has been working to get the space ready for business. He said that at times, the work felt like a "never-ending story," but he got



On Friday, a ribbon cutting event was held for Steder Tattoo, a tattoo parlor at 507 W. 4th Ave. downtown that is now open. Officials from the city and members of the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce were in attendance.

the shop finished, complete with merchandise.

"I've told my wife multiple times that I'm tired of building and I just want to get back to tattooing," Steder said. "I'm very excited to get back and do what I love doing."

Steder is a Rochelle resident. He and his wife are expecting a newborn in February and that played

into his decision to open up a shop closer to where he lives.

Last week, he started taking appointments to fill up the rest of January and the first week of February. The shop will be appointment only. Once those dates are filled, Steder's books will be closed until after his child is born. Once he returns to work, he'll be

booking appointments on the first of every month.

"I've already seen the crazy flow of people wanting to get tattoos, even though I haven't even been open yet," Steder said. "It's just a really good feeling that I have so much support. It's wild to see that."

Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows attended the ribbon cutting event on

behalf of the city to welcome Steder and said he's excited to have another new business in town.

Bearrows said he's proud of the work the city has done to fill its downtown buildings. A business like a tattoo shop can keep dollars local in more ways than one, he said.

See STEDER page 5

Council approves oversight agreement

Hickory Grove demolition scheduled to begin Jan. 24

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its Monday meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an ordinance authorizing City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh to execute an agreement with Willet Hoffman for construction oversight of the demolition of the Hickory Grove facility at 1127 N. 7th St.

Last month, the council approved a \$361,900 demolition bid for the project. Fiegenschuh said Monday that the demolition is planned to start Jan. 24 and has said in the past it will take about 60 days to complete.

The oversight agreement with Willet Hoffman will cost the city no more than \$35,000. It will include maintaining a daily log of activities, providing witness that work is being completed in accordance with the intent of the expressed contract and serving as a central contact for the city, contractor, and adjacent property owners.



At its Monday meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an ordinance authorizing City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh to execute an agreement with Willet Hoffman for construction oversight of the demolition of the Hickory Grove facility at 1127 N. 7th St.

"Willet Hoffman has been with us every step of the way on this project," Fiegenschuh said. "Our meeting with the contractor last week went very well. It's been a long time coming because of all the different parties who have interest in this. They have

good contacts with the condo association and the hotel owners, so I think it will provide good continuity. If there are issues, they know enough about the project that they can bring them to our attention."

Fiegenschuh and City Engineer Sam Tesreau said

at the meeting that asbestos abatement is part of the demolition agreement and that materials from the demolition will be treated and taken to the Rochelle Landfill.

The demolition of Hickory Grove will be funded by a Illinois Department of

Commerce and Economic Opportunity Rebuild Illinois grant reimbursement up to \$365,750. The oversight contract will not be covered by that, due to the city not going out to bid for it.

See CITY page 3

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LOCAL NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Hub City Cruisers donate to Veterans War Memorial Association

Representatives of the Hub City Cruisers car club donated \$400 to the Rochelle Veterans War Memorial Association for normal maintenance to the memorial such as replacing flags (twice a year), purchase of flowers, repair of flag pole hardware and other expenses. From left to right are Lydia Roberts (treasurer of the Rochelle Veterans War Memorial Association), Chuck Roberts (president of the Rochelle Veterans War Memorial Association), Paula Combs (treasurer, Hub City Cruisers) and Tom Van Hise (vice president, Hub City Cruisers).

Girl Scouts launch initial cookie orders

ROCHELLE — Local Girl Scouts have set-up their cookie websites and been busy marketing their products and selling Girl Scout Cookies online since Dec. 13, 2021, for the early bird online only part of the annual Girl Scout cookie program. Now that 2022 is here, Girl Scouts may choose to take cookie orders safely in-person from Jan. 5–29, as they create new ways to connect with customers and offer contactless ordering and delivery door-to-door.

This year's cookie lineup features refreshing Thin Mints (vegan), caramel-y Samoas, peanut butter-stuffed Tagalongs, crunchy Do-si-dos, buttery Trefoils, sweet S'mores, and toffee-chipped Toffee-tastics (gluten free, too!). New this year are Adventurefuls™—an indulgent, brownie-inspired cookie with caramel flavored crème and a hint of sea salt!

Cookies are on sale for only \$5 per package. Girl Scouts can accept orders safely in-person or through Digital Cookie 8.0. This digital platform allows Girl Scouts to

take electronic orders for cookies. Customers can now order and pay for cookies online and have the option to have the cookies shipped directly to them (shipping charges apply), have a Girl Scout offer contactless delivery of cookies to their door, or donate cookies (with no additional handling fees).

Don't know a Girl Scout? Visit www.girlscoutsni.org/buycookies to be connected to a local entrepreneur who would love to add you to her customer list.

During Girl Scout Cookie season, each local Girl Scout sets out to sell delectable cookies while also building entrepreneurial and business skills, imperative for leadership and future success. All the net revenue raised—100 percent of it—stays within the northern Illinois area.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois uses cookie earnings to power experiences through their programming, while Girl Scouts and their troops decide how to invest in impactful community projects, personal enrichment opportunities and more.

Kishwaukee College holds pinning ceremony for nursing students

MALTA — Kishwaukee College nursing students were honored by faculty, administration and staff during a pinning ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 15. 34 students were recognized for their successful completion of Kish's registered nursing program and were presented with a special pin during the ceremony before family and friends.

The registered nursing graduating class of fall 2021 are: Anton Barton, Rebecca Brucks, Leticia Castaneda, Caroline Clasen, Samantha Collin, Angel Davis, Ashley Del Real, Allison Dillingham, Jessica Espinoza, Nohely Espinosa, Mary Fiedler, Jennifer Guymon, Susan

Kinsey, Kassandra Klotz, Lekeia Knight, Katelyn Kovacs, Kelso Kuipers, Laura Lopez, Meijiao Lyons, Shanice Mallett, Tamara Mason, Meaghan McFtridge, Kyesha Means, Avery Mertz, Mya Millard, Karina Mora, Lilian Ndicu, Diana Penaran, Haley Puffenbarger, Lindsey Robertson, Jessica Snow, Janette Solis, Mallory Thies and Rachel Wesbrock.

Brucks, Clasen, Kovacs, Mertz, Millard, Penaran, Puffenbarger, Thies and Wesbrock were recognized as members of the Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honors Society. Lilian Ndicu was the fall 2021 class's nomination for the nursing program's outstanding student.

"I am forever grateful to my kind instructors for sharing their knowledge with me. I experienced kindness and love at Kishwaukee College. I enjoyed my journey of hard work, and I hope other students will experience the same," Ndicu said. "The most important thing I have learned is to be patient-centered — to see, feel and listen to my patients as I give them evidence-based quality care."

The ceremony included an address from Jud Curry, dean of office of instruction, and Angela Delmont, director of nursing. Delmont emphasized the importance of graduates entering the nursing field during the ongoing

pandemic.

"Right now, it is more important than ever that we are graduating nurses who are able to be on those front lines, caring for the patients and their families who have been affected by COVID-19," she said.

During the ceremony, each graduate was pinned individually by a friend or family member who had supported the student or acted as a mentor while completing the program.

The registered nursing program at Kishwaukee College prepares students to become fully licensed registered nurses in the state of Illinois. For more information on nursing at Kishwaukee College, visit www.kish.edu/nursing.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

A Letter to the Community



After 41 and a half years, I have decided it is time to retire. I take with me many good memories and would like to thank my patients and the people of Rochelle for their friendship and the trust you placed in me as your healthcare provider. It has been a privilege to have served you all these years.

Some of my fondest memories come from my early years when I still delivered babies and the bonds that were created with mother and child. Rochelle has been the place where we raised our own children and those times we will always cherish.

Although I won't be practicing medicine any longer, I leave you in the capable hands of the providers of the Family Healthcare Clinic. I will always be a friend to the hospital and the community.

Most sincerely,

Nancy S. Williams, M.D.

At the request of Dr. Williams and the pandemic still with us, there will be no public retirement celebration. Cards and good wishes are welcomed and can be sent to Rochelle Community Hospital, Attention: Michelle LaPage, 900 N. 2nd Street, Rochelle, IL 61068 by Monday, January 24th. You can also email messages to mlapage@rcha.net.

 **Family Healthcare Clinic**
a department of
Rochelle Community Hospital
815-562-3784
www.rochellehospital.com

RTHS speech team places sixth at Grant Invitational

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Township High School Speech team competed in the Grant High School Invitational this past weekend. As a team Rochelle placed sixth out of the 20 teams in the competition.

Individuals who earned finalist status included Paul Swartz and Mikayla Preston (second place, dramatic

duet acting), Preston (third place, dramatic interpretation), Aiden Ramsey (fourth place, radio speaking), Karma Lidren (fourth place, original comedy) and Swartz and Bella Numan (fifth place, humorous duet acting).

The speaker of the week was Ramsey. Rochelle hosts the Interstate 8 Conference meet next.

St. Paul honor roll students named

ROCHELLE — St. Paul Lutheran School recently named its second quarter high honor roll and honor roll students.

High honor roll: Bella Biggs, Hailey Bunger, Cambrey Rodegheero, Magdalene Good, Johnny Chadwick, Jillian Bruns, Mia Heitkamp, Tyler Johnson, Braxton Bruns, Joey Chadwick, Elijah Good and Makenzie Johnson.

Honor roll: Paloma Albaugh, Meredith Bruns, Alison Dyer, Caden Goodwin, Corrie Hill, Bane Workman, Taylor Rogers, Owen Carmichael, Brody Bruns, Mackenzie Bybee, Cohen Haedt, Brooklyn Sarver, Maggie Suneson, DeLaney Heal, Axel Alsop, Chase Atkinson, Hailey Chapman, Annaliese Cox, Esam Farraj, Owen Heitkamp, Om Shah and Vinny Tornabene.

LOCAL NEWS

CITY: Council approves airport zoning ordinance update

From page 1

The city assumed ownership of the deteriorating building in early 2020 for \$1 with the intention of demolishing it and developing the property. The building was previously owned by the Ogle County Civic Center Authority (OCCCA) board, which was under the Ogle County Board umbrella. The city decided to purchase the site so it could control it and likely would've had to deal with it later if it was abandoned due to the OCCCA board being in financial trouble.

Liquor licenses

The council held discussion and took no action on the issue of placing limits or a moratorium on issuance of new liquor licenses to limit the number of gaming machines in town.

For the past few years, several council members have approached city staff about the idea of limiting the number of gaming machines in the city, the meeting's agenda packet said. Gaming machines are allowed with the appropriate local liquor license and gaming licenses are given by the state, not the city.

Fiegenschuh said "it looks like" the best way to limit the number of licenses would be by putting a moratorium on B (bar) licenses, if that were the way the council wanted to proceed in the future. He also brought up the idea of R (restaurant) licenses possibly requiring business owners to have a certain percentage of their sales

be from food. Some other municipalities require that for restaurants, but Rochelle currently does not.

"I would like us to consider doing something like that to ensure that if we had a gaming parlor come in and we limited B licenses and put a moratorium on them, they couldn't say they want to be a restaurant and put in a pizza oven or nacho machine just to get gaming in there," Fiegenschuh said. "We could exempt the current license holders from something like that."

Fiegenschuh said the city currently has 130 gaming machines in town, resulting in about \$25,000 per month. He believes more business proposals that include gaming will be coming to town in the future and wants the council to be prepared if it wants to limit that.

"I personally think we don't need any more gaming," Mayor John Bearrows said. "I think we're saturated and our numbers show there's no more money coming in because it gets divided up by more people. If that's the only control we have over gaming is to limit liquor licenses, that's really the only option we have."

Fiegenschuh said he and City Attorney Dominick Lanzito will prepare a proposal for the council to review at the next meeting or the first meeting in January.

The council unanimously approved the deletion of three liquor licenses at the meeting. Holiday Inn Express at 1240 De-

ment Rd. did not renew its liquor license but may in 2023. El Tapatio at 1310 N. 7th St. notified the city that it permanently closed the restaurant on Dec. 19. A previously-approved liquor license for Rusty's Slots at 901 S. 7th St. was deleted as the city has had no contact with the owner since August and the city does not allow open inactive liquor licenses.

Water tower

The council unanimously approved an engineering agreement with Fehr Graham for \$44,750 for the painting of Water Tower B located on 2nd Avenue near the Illinois Route 251 overpass. A full inspection was recently completed on the tower and some cleaning of the inside was done and some mechanical work was attempted.

Fehr Graham will assist Rochelle Municipal Utilities in completing the remainder of the necessary work including painting the exterior of the tower and possibly coating the inside to prevent corrosion.

The city has applied for grant funding on the project and is still waiting on the results. If it isn't awarded those funds, the city will use already-awarded state funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to complete the project. Fiegenschuh said the majority of next year's ARPA funds (\$612,000) would be allocated towards the project that could amount to \$750,000-800,000.

Zoning

The council unani-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

City Attorney Dominick Lanzito speaks during the Rochelle City Council meeting. The council took no action on the issue of placing limits or a moratorium on issuance of new liquor licenses to limit the number of gaming machines in town.

mously approved an update to its airport zoning ordinance to now allow it to permit by special use a banquet hall, brew pub (restaurant), restaurants, assembly/meeting halls and public recreational facilities.

The issue came about after conversations about and budgeted money for a public recreation facility at the airport to generate more revenue.

"In talking about that at a staff level, we realized that's not an allowable use at the airport," Fiegenschuh said. "Then we real-

ized if that's not allowable, how are we having events out at the Flight Deck? We wanted to make sure the city and any vendors we have out at a city facility are following the rules. It's a housekeeping issue that should've been taken care of in 2011 when Flight Deck moved in."

Special use permit

The council unanimously approved a special use permit for tattooing for Ricco's Salon at 306 Eagle Drive.

The special use will allow the salon to perform microblading as an added service. Microblading is a tattooing technique in which a small handheld tool made of several tiny needles is used to add semi-permanent pigment to the skin.

Under the special use permit, if it desired to do so and met necessary health and safety codes, the salon could do actual tattoos in the future. It will be under the same special use as Steder Tattoo, a recently-opened tattoo parlor downtown.

City offering Façade Improvement Program

ROCHELLE – The City of Rochelle, in its continuing effort to support the revival and development of local business, has expanded its Façade Improvement Program to all business owners and operators within the community.

The city will provide a 50 percent matching grant, with a maximum amount of \$5,000 to business or building owners who complete eligible improvements to the façades of their buildings. Improvements must be constructed within six months of application approval. The city will match dollar-for-dollar an owner's investment in eligible improvements to the appearance of their building's storefront

façade. The building or business owner who has funded most of the improvements must apply for and be approved in order to receive the 50 percent matching grant.

All commercially operated buildings within the community are eligible for the Façade Improvement Program. Only one grant will be awarded per building within a five-year period. Only improvements to façades that directly front a public right-of-way are eligible for funding. Any building with a zoning or building code violation is not eligible for the program. Any commercial building owner, or business owner with building owner authorization, may apply for the grant. Façade

improvements beginning construction before March 1, 2022 will not be eligible. Examples of eligible projects include: brick cleaning, exterior doors, streetscape elements, tuckpointing, windows and window frames, landscaping, painting, shutters & awnings, stairs, porches, railings, wall façade repair & treatment, exterior lighting, roofs visible from the street, original architectural feature repair or replacement, signage repair or replacement or improvements for ADA compliance.

A complete list of eligible expenses, boundary map and applications procedures are available for pick up at the Community Development



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The City of Rochelle, in its continuing effort to support the revival and development of local business, has expanded its Façade Improvement Program to all business owners and operators within the community.

Department located at 333 Lincoln Hwy. and on the City's website at www.cityofrochelle.net. For questions or information, please contact Michelle

Pease, City of Rochelle Community Development Director.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

James C. Spring

ROCHELLE—James C. Spring, 87, passed away Saturday, Jan. 8 at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport. James was born on Aug. 2, 1934 in Ava, Missouri to Fred and Nellie (Nicholson) Spring. On Aug. 2, 1955, he married Francine Brown at the Foursquare Church in Rochelle.

James was a loving father, grandfather and great grandfather. He worked for Sundstrand in Rockford for 42 years. He was a lifetime member of the Rochelle Foursquare Church. In his spare time, James enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He loved to discuss politics with his grandsons, watch NASCAR and Wheel of Fortune.

James is survived by

his wife of 66 years, Francine; two daughters: Veda (the late Tony) Simms of Milan, Indiana and Vickie (Barry) Taylor of DeKalb; eight grandchildren: Barry “BLT” Taylor, II of DeKalb, Susie (Jeff) Thompson, Abigail (Colton Moore) Harris both of Scottsville, Kentucky, James (Cindy) Harris, Meredith Harris, Joseph (Angie) Simms, Chad (Ashley) Simms all of Rochelle and Joshua Simms of Milan, Indiana; two sisters: Velma Spring of Ava, Missouri and Mildred Provost of Springfield, Missouri; son-in-law, Noel Harris of Arkansas; 15 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, James was preceded in death by his daughter, Velda Harris; son-in-law, Tony Simms; three broth-



ers: Fred, Alvin and Ernest and sister, Annie.

The visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 15 at the funeral home with Pastor Duane Boehm officiating. Private family burial at Trinity Memory Gardens in Rochelle. A memorial has been established.

Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Illinois State Police car struck during crash investigation

PECATONICA—On Jan. 9 at approximately 9:37 a.m. Illinois State Police (ISP) officials investigated a two-vehicle traffic crash on Interstate 39 northbound near mile post 117, Winnebago County, involving a District 16 ISP Trooper.

On the above date at approximately 9 a.m., a District 16 Trooper responded to the scene of crash at the above location. The trooper pulled onto the right shoulder behind the crash located in the right ditch with the emergency lights activated. At approximately 9:37 a.m. a blue 2019 Hyundai approaching the scene lost control and spun into the

rear of the trooper’s squad car. The vehicle from the original crash was not impacted in the crash.

The trooper luckily did not sustain any injuries from this crash. The driver of the Hyundai, David A. Walker, 18, of Malta, complained of minor injuries. Walker was charged with a violation of Scott’s Law, too fast for conditions and improper lane usage. A person who violates Scott’s Law commits a business offense and faces a fine of no less than \$250 or more than \$10,000 for a first offense.

The ISP would like to remind the public of the requirements of Scott’s Law,

otherwise known as the “Move Over” law. When approaching an emergency vehicle, or any vehicle with their hazard lights activated, drivers are required to slow down and change lanes when it is safe to do so.

“Troopers risk their lives daily to protect the public. We ask that you do your part by paying attention as you drive, and obey Scott’s Law,” ISP District 16 Commander, Captain Joseph Blanchette, said. “These crashes are completely preventable, always drive sober and move over when you approach a stationary vehicle on the side of the road.”

Paw Paw resident arrested on outstanding warrant

ROCHELLE—On Jan. 7 at 1:19 p.m. Robert A. Edlebeck, 31, of Paw Paw was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On Jan. 7 at 3:49 p.m. Leo King, 58, of Rockford

was arrested for driving while license suspended and cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Rochelle court date of Feb. 25.

On Jan. 8 at 9:52 p.m. Omar Nonato Nonato, 23, of Rochelle was arrested for no valid driver’s license. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Rochelle court date of Feb. 25.

Ogle County Sheriff’s Department

Deputies dispatched to driving complaint

OREGON—On Jan. 7 at 9:12 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 in the area of mile marker 103 for failing to pull over for emergency vehicles (Scott’s Law Violation). After an investigation, Taylor Black, 23, of St. Louis, Missouri was arrested for driving on a suspended license.

Black was also cited for failing to pull over for emergency vehicles. Black was released on a signature I-Bond with a return court date.

On Jan. 7 at 7:04 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of East Illinois Route 72. During the investigation, deputies arrested John W.

Sherman, 44, of Rockford for driving on a revoked license. Sherman was also issued citations for speeding 15-20 m.p.h. above the speed limit and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Sherman was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 8 at approximately 1:54 a.m. deputies responded to a single vehicle accident near the intersection of Columbine Road and Townline Road. Upon investigation, it appeared a southbound vehicle being driven by Kevin Beard, 23, of Mt. Morris, failed to yield as he approached the intersection. The vehicle traveled through the intersection before striking a tree. After further investigation, deputies placed Beard under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Beard was also cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Beard was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond. Deputies were assisted at the scene by Forreston Fire/EMS. The accident remains under investigation.

On Jan. 10 at 8:51 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of South Illinois Route 2. After a short investigation, deputies arrested Luna V. Barrett, 20, of Princeton for driving without a valid driver’s license. Barrett was transported to Ogle County Jail.

On Jan. 10 at approximately 4:46 p.m. deputies were dispatched

to a driving complaint of a white U-Haul truck traveling westbound on Illinois Route 64 from Woodlawn Road. A short time later, it was reported the U-Haul struck a white Jeep causing injuries. After investigation, it was determined the Jeep, operated by Erik Desch, 30, of Sycamore, was traveling eastbound on Illinois Route 64 just east of Interstate 39. The U-Haul, operated by Chase Schott, 21, of Monroe Center, was traveling westbound on Illinois Route 64, crossed over the center yellow line, and entered the eastbound lane. The U-Haul then struck the Jeep on the driver’s side causing totaling damage and multiple airbag deployment for both vehicles. The Jeep continued eastbound and exited the roadway entering the south ditch and came to rest facing west. The U-Haul continued into the south ditch and came to rest facing southwest approximately 40 yards from the roadway. Both Desch and Schott were transported to a nearby hospital for minor injuries. Schott was taken into custody and cited for driving under the influence -combination of alcohol and drugs. Schott was also cited for transporting open container of alcohol, improper traffic lane usage, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Schott was released on a \$3,000/10% individual bond with a return court date.

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Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff’s Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

LOCAL NEWS

STEDER: New tattoo business opens in Rochelle

From page 1

"This is one of those quality of life things," Bearrows said. "There's people who want to go to a tattoo shop and they're leaving town to go somewhere else. When they go somewhere else, they may eat there or get gas there. Here, they'll stay in town and keep that spending local."

Rochelle Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tricia Herrera attended the event and said she's happy Rochelle will be able to provide a new type of business with Steder Tattoo.

"We're really excited to have this here," Herrera said. "And it also shows the city is moving forward a little. The codes had to be changed to allow this business. We're really excited about that, that we're not limiting the type of businesses that can come here. If a new business wants to come here, come and talk to the

chamber and the city. It's always a possibility, nothing's out of the question."

Herrera said she was impressed with Steder's space, which was previously empty.

"He has taken it and given the time and effort with his wife to make this a great, welcoming environment," Herrera said. "I think that even if you're not a tattoo person, you would be welcomed here and you would think this is such a high standard of quality and workmanship that is in this building. The pride in his business shows and those are the types of businesses we feel are a great fit here in Rochelle. We're very happy and excited for him."

Following the ceremony and the work done to get his shop ready, Steder said he felt accomplished. In the past, he's talked about wanting to get more involved in the community to follow in the footsteps of his late



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELRICHI)

Steder Tattoo held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, with members of the City of Rochelle and the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce in attendance. Above is some of the merchandise available at the business.

father, Ron, who owned and ran Steder Diesel and Steder Trucking in town during the 1990s. That

day has come.

"I just wanted to get my foot in the door," Steder said. "Now I feel

like my whole body's in the door and I can finally do the work. I can finally make a difference. I

can help out and put my time and effort into the community and make it better."

Rochelle DAR seeking scholarship entries

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is seeking entries for scholarship contests. Entries can be submitted from regional public, private, parochial or home-schooled students. No DAR affiliation is required.

A very important part of the DAR is promoting education. Each year, Illinois Daughters award college scholarships. These are limited to students who are U.S. citizens, graduating seniors from high school, and those who will attend colleges or universities in Illinois (two-year junior colleges and four-year insti-

tutions). To qualify for the Illinois State Scholarships, a student's financial need and academic consideration are both factors.

Rochelle Chapter will sponsor one high school senior for a \$1000 general scholarship competition, as well as one high school senior for the General

Henry Dearborn American History Scholarship at the state level. The General Henry Dearborn History Scholarship has no financial need component but is for a student interested in pursuing a career in some phase of history.

Details about the Illinois scholarships and applica-

tion requirements, as well as scholarships available through the National Society, can be found at <https://ildar.org/assets/pages/education.html>

The deadline to submit entries to Rochelle Chapter is Jan. 31, 2022; and no entries postmarked after that date will be consid-

ered. All entries should be submitted in one mailing and incomplete entries will not be considered. Entries should be mailed to: Rochelle Chapter, NSDAR, PO Box 104, Rochelle, IL 61068; Attn: Scholarships. Questions can be emailed to regent.dar.rochelle@gmail.com.

RTHS students Hansen, Ludwick will perform at state

ROCHELLE — More than 10,000 auditioned from which more than 7,000 were selected for ILMEA district festivals. Just over 1,500 advanced to and will perform at the Illinois Music Educator Association State Conference. Two of those musicians are Rochelle Hubs.

Rochelle Township High School Band Director Shaun Schaefer said the ILMEA celebrates student musicians in bands, orchestras, choirs and jazz ensembles. He is proud to report that this year,

RTHS will be represented by Jonathan Hansen (choir, tenor II) and Jaela Ludwick (band, clarinet).

The all-state conference is in Peoria, Jan. 26-29. Students like Hansen and Ludwick represent the best student musicians in Illinois.

Jon and Jaela have taken virtually every course in the RTHS music catalog and they have played clarinet in the marching band where Jaela was a drum major, as members of the After Hours vocal ensemble, in various instrumental groups and as

madrigal singers.

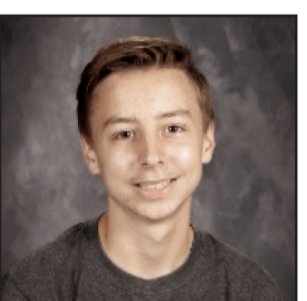
Schaefer said, "Jonathan and Jaela will rehearse in various ensembles throughout the conference, culminating in a series of concerts on

Saturday, Jan. 29. Distinguished conductors/educators from across the country will direct each ensemble."

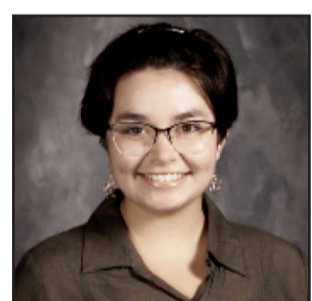
The conference runs concurrently with the

Illinois Music Education Conference, the premier professional development opportunity for Illinois music educators. More than 12,000 music educators, university music

education students, parents, and music education industry vendors meet at the Peoria Civic Center to celebrate and promote music education in Illinois.



Jonathan Hansen



Jaela Ludwick

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Recognizing the importance of Kishwaukee College

TUESDAY, Jan. 11, marked my sixth anniversary as president of Kishwaukee College. It has been a journey that I could not have imagined when I first visited the college in 2015. Our world, higher education, and Kish have experienced incredible change. While approximately 17 percent of classes had an online component at the college in 2016, this number is almost 70 percent today. We recognize that providing quality online instruction is key to a student's learning experience. The use of technology in our daily operations has increased significantly, not only in instruction but also in how we deliver support services. It is critical for us to continue to make personal connections with our students without physically seeing and interacting with them as we have in the past.

With more than 10 years of declining unemployment in our economy, a declining birth rate, and the pandemic, the population of students enrolling in college continues to decline. Having fewer students means needing to continuously look at our current practices and determine how we provide improved and enhanced services with fewer resources. I am so proud of how the staff has embraced the necessary changes, with an ever-sharp focus on what is best for our students.

The challenges we faced at Kish have not deterred us from working relentlessly to achieve our mission of providing a quality, affordable education in our local communities. We continue

to serve more than 4,000 students and 200 business partners each year. With a diverse student population, we continue to examine our practices on inclusiveness. Community colleges open their doors and education to all — no matter what their background or history — and help people gain the knowledge needed for the life they aspire to live. We will continue our focus on partnerships with our area K-12 school districts to help students be college and career ready, NIU and other university partners to make sure students easily transfer to the next step and the local business community to ensure we are meeting the local workforce needs.

We are fortunate to have an incredibly dedicated Board of Trustees — Bob Johnson, Bob Hammon, Kathy Spears, Linda Mason, Kathy Watkins, Kathy Countryman and Geri-Dee Hayden. They are truly servant leaders, giving of their time and talent, helping to make the college the great place it is today. The students and local communities are front and center of all their discussions and decisions.

Leading Kishwaukee College these past six years has allowed me to work with an outstanding group of professionals, creating a path forward. I am fortunate to serve in this role and look forward to continuing this important work.

Together we will embrace the future and what comes next.
#Kishproud

Dr. Laurie S. Borowicz is the president of Kishwaukee College.



Dr. Laurie Borowicz

The long slog towards spring

I hope you had a happy holiday. Now we are in for the long slog toward spring.

The south and south-east seem to be getting the snow we usually have to deal with. I can't imagine being stranded on an interstate for over 20 hours as some folks in Virginia were following a heavy snowstorm.

And a friend who recently moved to Tennessee seemed surprised that local hardware stores did not stock snow shovels or snow brushes for your car.

I have most of my Christmas decorations packed up and stored, but my outside lights are still on. I am debating leaving them on for a while. Winter can be dreary and I think the

lights add a festive glow to the night. At least when the temperatures are hovering near zero, that will be my excuse.

I thought more people had lights on outside this year than in previous years. Maybe that was my imagination, but there seemed to be more houses with lights or inflatables. Thanks to all who did decorate because it does add to the Christmas spirit.

people are going to yelp about that, but people do have a choice: get the shot or don't go out to eat.

Housing

I see the city is hoping to develop some "worker housing."

That is a slippery slope.

Sometimes I ride the train from Elburn into Chicago and as I pass through West Chicago, I see row upon

row of "affordable" housing. Each four-unit buildings are a few feet from the next one. Kids have no place to play, there is no yard space, the density is high. It looks like a terrible place in which to raise a



Terry Dickow

COVID-19

If you plan to go to a restaurant or bar in Chicago, you better bring a vaccination record. Bars, restaurants and museums will be asking for proof of vaccination in order to enter. Some

Happy New Year!

HAPPY New Year! This year, our original 1912 building will celebrate 110 years in the Rochelle Community. The original building has stood the test of time.

It is a strong brick building with a beautiful terra cotta tile roof. The shelving in the inside, bay windows and fireplace are timeless. We have been fortunate to keep many of the 1912 pieces of furniture.

When the library turned 100 in 2012, I started to investigate all of the current events that would have been taking place during that year. When we did tours, we talked about

what adults would have been reading about in the news throughout that time. We discovered that the Rochelle community might have been reading about the Titanic disaster, learning about DeKalb Ag, a new agriculture company and eating Life Savers and Oreo cookies.

Oreo Cookies - "Oreos, a sandwich cookie consisting of two chocolate wafers with a sweet crème filling in between, bring joy all around the world for over 100 years. Here is a fun fact: Oreo has become the best-

selling cookie of the 20th century since its introduction in 1912 (as Oreo Biscuit) with more than 491 billion Oreo

cookies sold to date worldwide. The United States, China, Venezuela, Canada, and Indonesia are the top five countries in terms of sales." (https://www.biscuitpeople.com/magazine/post/the-short-history-of-oreo-cookies)

Life Savers - "In 1912, chocolate manufacturer Clarence Crane of Cleveland, Ohio, invented Life Savers. They were conceived as a "summer candy" that could withstand heat



Sarah Flanagan

better than chocolate. Since the mints looked like miniature life preservers, Crane called them Life Savers." (https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-life-savers-candy-4076664).

DeKalb Ag - "According to the historical marker, DeKalb's roots date back to 1912, when a group of farmers and bankers formed the DeKalb County Soil Improvement Association. In 1917, the DeKalb County Agricultural Association was formed. DeKalb's original headquarters was located on Fifth Street in DeKalb." (https://www.shawlo-cal.com/2018/09/11/dekalb-ag-historical-marker-unveiled/)

You use parenting instincts every day. Trust the one that says he's not learning the way he should.

When it comes to your child, you're the expert. So if you have even the slightest inkling that your son or daughter is struggling in school, remember: he or she doesn't have to. The fact is, children who experience learning difficulties are as smart as their classmates. They just learn differently. But the key is acting now. So call 1-888-478-MIND, or visit www.focusonlearning.org to find out more.



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M104A State House
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(217) 782-0180

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

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

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

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

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

Oregon Elementary students raise \$700 for American Red Cross

OREGON – Oregon Elementary School raised \$700 within two days for the American Red Cross to contribute to tornado relief efforts in southern Illinois and Kentucky.

To raise the funds, an Oregon Elementary staff member and several students hosted a coin drive. Student leaders collected the money before school, as kids arrived.

“The \$700 exceeded our expectations as we only anticipated \$100-200,” Assistant Principal Ryan Huels said.

The \$700 was a part of a total \$40,000 nationwide raised for the tornado victims.

Huels added the Oregon School District was delighted to see its young ones partake in such a



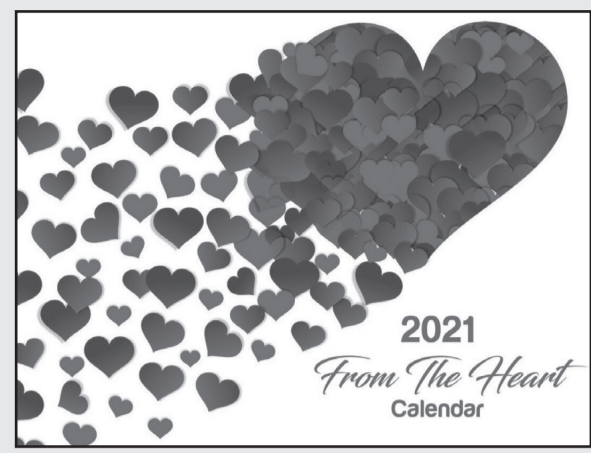
From left to right are Oregon students Christine Ramirez, Cynthia Montes-Vera, Sophia Schoenholz and Mya Hansen.

worthwhile project.

Donations are still being accepted through the American Red Cross. If

you would like to share your support through a donation, you can do so by emailing, calling, or

using Alexa. More details can be found at <https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/>.



- Dec. 4 - Henry Hall, Sycamore, \$25
- Dec. 5 - Jodi Ziegler, Oregon, \$50
- Dec. 6 - Lois Hultgren, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 7 - Matt Thimjon - Rochelle Foods, \$25
- Dec. 8 - Amy Kerns, Creston, \$25
- Dec. 9 - Brandy Scarbrough, Creston, \$25
- Dec. 10 - Jeremy Cover, Dixon, \$25
- Dec. 11 - Jackleen Potts, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 12 - Steve Berg, Orlando, Fla., \$50
- Dec. 13 - Nancy Vogl, Oregon, \$25
- Dec. 14 - Janet Boyle, Byron, \$25
- Dec. 15 - Matt Boehle, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 16 - Mary Anne Louis, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 17 - Beth Thacker, Poplar Grove, \$25
- Dec. 18 - Chrissy Smardo, Steward, \$25
- Dec. 19 - Cindy Knight, Ashton, \$50
- Dec. 20 - Cyndi Cunningham, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 21 - Jake Mason, Dixon, \$25
- Dec. 22 - Shawn Enoch, Cedar Siding, \$25
- Dec. 23 - Jessica Aldridge, Aurora, Colo., \$25
- Dec. 24 - Mary M. Bernardin, Compton, \$25
- Dec. 25 - Nancy Larsen, Rochelle, \$1,000
- Dec. 26 - Kathleen Dippner, Davis Junction, \$50
- Dec. 27 - Mitzi Adams, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 28 - Shane M. @ Clark-Dietrich, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 29 - Erin and Michael Weiss, Naperville, \$25
- Dec. 30 - Nick Vilmin, Byron, \$25
- Dec. 31 - Jurle Pfeiffer, Dixon, \$25

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Jan. 13**
Judy Messer

Jan. 14
Jeannie Boeck
Haley Thompson

Jan. 15
Kami South
Trenton South

Jan. 19
Kevin South
- Jan. 20**
Noelia Lopez
Harold & Kathy Sanders
Hailey Losoya

Jan. 23
Michele Perez
Victoria Lopez
Odessa Waters

Jan. 24
Terry Dodillet
- Kelly Arnold

Jan. 25
Nikki Greenfield
Ashton Arwood

Jan. 28
Peggy Futrell

Jan. 29
Nayeli Ramirez

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

- Jan. 13 -(Thursday) -Smoked Sausage with Peppers and Onions, Rice

Jan. 14 -(Friday) -BBQ Chicken (Breasts or Thigh/Leg, Baked Potatoes, Roasted Broccoli & Cauliflower

Jan. 18 -(Tuesday) - Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread

Jan. 20 -(Thursday) -Chicken Enchiladas, Rice and Beans

Jan. 25 -(Tuesday) -Chicken over Pasta with Basil and Garlic Sauce, Salad, Bread
- 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 Even

5 Apply cream

8 "The Good Earth" heroine

12 "Please go ahead"

14 Fork prong

15 The National Pastime

16 Circus structure

17 Cacophony

18 Scalawags

20 Basilica areas

23 Diving duck

24 Soccer legend

25 Brewing gizmo

28 Greek letter

29 Not — out of place

30 Scull need

32 Kook

34 Ordered

35 Skin breakout

36 Notorious

37 Port city of Poland

40 Former Mideast org.

41 Pealed

42 Pitcher's tactic

47 "American —"

48 Consume too little

49 Lion's pride?

50 Meadow

51 Sciences'

10 Green Gables girl

11 Tennis barriers

13 Baseball stats

19 Cornhusker's st.

20 iPhone download

21 Mexican money

22 Lost traction

23 Black Panthers leader Bobby

25 Appreciative

26 Rich soil

27 Stow cargo

29 Grade-school

basics

31 Flushed

33 Hang loose?

34 Diva

36 Kismet

37 Bleak

38 Baby's father

39 Unsigned (Abbr.)

40 Fed. food inspector

43 Chemical suffix

44 — Lingus

45 Back muscle, briefly

46 USN officers

DOWN

1 Bar bill

2 "— tree falls ..."

3 UFO crew

4 One of the Ramones

5 Cannon of film

6 MSN rival

7 Reduced-rate postal delivery

8 Canada's capital

9 Actor Schreiber

partner

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: L equals R

DZQLQ YOHD AQ N FNBUC LQNHSK
U NY XNUDUKT NLSOKC EOLDUFQBP,
AOD U LQNB BP CSK'D MKSX XZND
U'Y BOLMUKT ESL.

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Answers

King Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

King Crossword

Weekly SUDOKU

SPORTS

Rochelle Wrestling Club

Junior Hubs scrap at Oregon Hawk Invitational

Five Rochelle wrestlers take home first-place finishes in tournament

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

OREGON — The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent 23 competitors to the Oregon Hawk Wrestling Invitational on Saturday, with five competitors bringing home first-place finishes in the meet.

Xander Gonzales placed first in the 204 Tots Division with a 2-0 record. Gonzales won by fall over Rock Falls' Weston Hollaway and scoring a 16-0 technical fall over Benjamin Navejas.

Dominic Escatel took first in the 403 Bantam Division with a 3-0 record. Escatel earned an 8-0 major decision against Dixon's Zoey Barber before recording a 14-2 major decision over Rock Falls' Easton Kendrick. Escatel pinned Woodstock's Drake Zimmerman to win the title.

Quade Dickey finished first in the 408 Bantam Division with a 3-0 record. Dickey won by fall over Sterling's Denver Hana-barger before defeating Rock Falls' Raleigh Hollaway with a 15-2 major decision. Dickey edged North Boone's Francesca Yurs with a 10-6 decision for the title.

Teddy Millard placed first in the 506 Intermediate Division with a 3-0 record. Millard scored back-to-back falls over River Bend's Maxwell Breuning and Stillman Valley's Nikolai Hetland before outlasting Rock Falls' Caden Wiebenga with a 6-4 decision to win the title.

Deegan Schabacker finished first in the 807 Senior Division with a 3-0 record. Schabacker pinned Oregon's Jakobi Donegan before earning a 16-3 major decision against Polo's Zhyler Hansen. Schabacker then



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent 23 competitors to the Oregon Hawk Wrestling Invitational on Saturday, with five wrestlers bringing home first-place finishes in the tournament.

pinned Metamora's Parker McDonald to win the title.

Wells Millard took second in the 102 Tots Division with a 2-1 record. Millard scored a 10-8 decision over Rock Falls' Camdyn Stage before pinning Sterling's Daxton Richmond. Millard faced Belvidere's James Ambelang in the third round, falling just short in a 11-10 decision.

Elias Andronic placed second in the 106 Tots Division with a 2-1 record. Andronic won by fall over Stockton's Brigson Decker before conceding an 8-5 decision to Sterling's Brixx Folkers. Andronic concluded the tournament with a fall over Stillman Valley's Owen Provancher.

Nehemiah Andronic

finished second in the 202 Tots Division with a 2-1 record. Andronic scored two consecutive pins against Rock Falls' Deakon Zemke and Belvidere's Quinten Bradford. Andronic faced Dixon's Patrick Shaw in the third round, falling to finish second in the division.

Elliot Huff took second in the 211 Bantam Division with a 2-1 record. Huff earned a 12-9 decision over North Boone's Henry Cleland before coming just short in a 13-8 decision to DuPec's Gabriel Ford. Huff won by fall over Hononegah's Emmett Riportella in the third round.

Silas Alsop placed second in the 307 Bantam Division with a 2-1 record. Alsop brought home a

7-5 decision against Belvidere's Abraham Delgadillo before dropping a 9-3 decision to Dixon's Briggs VanOosten. Alsop pinned Stockton's Holden Powell to close out the tournament.

Chase Marruffo finished second in the 308 Bantam Division with a 2-1 record. Marruffo recorded consecutive pins to start the tournament, defeating Machesney Park's Liam Slye and Stillman Valley's Hunter Jarrett. Marruffo conceded a 6-4 decision to Stockton's Neklous Jones.

Gavin Smith took second in the 401 Bantam Division with a 2-1 record. After falling by 14-3 major decision against DuPec's Kollin Jacobson, Smith

bounced back with two straight victories, beating Dixon's Kenadie Lahey by 11-4 decision and pinning Stillman Valley's Gabe Keller.

Garrett Miller finished second in the 610 Intermediate Division with a 2-1 record. Miller scored a 10-0 major decision over DuPec's Penelope Anderson before falling to Stockton's Piper Sandell. Miller closed out the tournament with a 7-0 decision over Amboy's Owen Eisenberg.

Benjamin Morris placed second in the 611 Intermediate Division with a 2-1 record. After falling against Freeport's Levi Pretzsch in the first round, Morris scored a second-round pin against Belvidere's Brian Wadsworth

as well as a third-round pin against Amboy's Eyan O'Malley.

Zachary Johnson took second in the 705 Novice Division with a 2-1 record. Johnson edged Sterling's Ethan Schommer with a 4-2 decision before pinning Dakota's Zakkary Vincent. Johnson fell against Oregon's Levi Benton in the third round to close out the tournament.

Six Rochelle wrestlers recorded third-place finishes in the tournament including Luke Hofmann, Benjamin Navejas, Braxton Ellison, Rowen Vilalobos, Samuel Navejas and Tony Milburn. Two wrestlers finished fourth in their respective divisions including Axel Alsop and Felix Belmonte.

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The Rochelle News-Leader

SPORTS

RTHS Wrestling

Four Hubs medal at Sycamore Invitational

113-pounder Villalobos leads Rochelle with third-place performance

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

SYCAMORE — The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team finished 15th out of 26 schools with 271.5 points at the XLVI Sycamore Invitational on Saturday. Eleven Rochelle wrestlers competed in the tournament for the Hubs, with four wrestlers bringing home medalist honors.

Freshman Xavier Villalobos (18-2) medaled in third place in the 113-pound bracket. Villalobos won by fall over St. Charles North's Jackson Karsten in the preliminary round before opening the quarterfinals with an 18-2 technical fall against McHenry's Jimmy Norris. Villalobos faced Mundelein's Bryce Durlacher in the semifinals, conceding a 6-3 decision but bouncing back with a 12-1 major decision over Rock Island's Samuel Niyonkuru in the third-place consolation bout.

Freshman Kaiden Morris (17-5) medaled in seventh place in the 220-pound bracket. Morris scored two victories in the preliminary round, defeating Kaneland's Jacob Nonnemacher with a 12-2 major decision before pinning McHenry's Luke Zunkell. Morris lost back-to-back matches by fall before closing out with a pin against Kaneland's



The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team sent 11 competitors to the XLVI Sycamore Invitational on Saturday, with four earning medals including freshman Xavier Villalobos (above at right), who finished third in the 113-pound bracket.

Nate Diaz in the seventh-place bout.

Sophomore Tommy Tourdot (14-6) medaled in seventh place in the 106-pound bracket. Tourdot won by fall over Portage's Cole Beckett in the preliminary round before conceding a 18-2 technical fall against Mahomet-Seymour's Caden Hatton and a fall against Belvidere's Brayden Tenuissen. Tourdot pinned Marengo's Gavin Prudlick in the seventh-place consolation bout.

Freshman Joseph Nadig (14-7) medaled in eighth place in the 120-pound bout. Nadig edged Hampshire's Christian Dupris with a 4-0 decision in the preliminary round before losing against Bloomington's Carson Nishida in an 18-2 technical fall. Nadig fell against Glenbrook South's Arnold Park before coming just short in a 2-0 decision against Hononegah's Connor Diemel.

Freshman Grant Gensler (13-8) finished ninth in the 138-pound

bracket, winning four consecutive bouts to close out the tournament. After falling against York's Jack Connell, Gensler scored a 10-3 decision over Portage's Landon Heitmeier before topping McHenry's Justin Karcz with an 8-0 major decision. Gensler then pinned Willowbrook's Noah Brockie and capped off the consolation-bracket run with a 6-4 decision over Yorkville's Sebastian Westphal.

Junior Weldon Nay

took 12th in the 126-pound bracket, winning by fall over Kaneland's Ethan Nitsche for his lone win of the day. Sophomore Leo Stoffel and freshman Brandyn Metzger placed 14th in the 182-pound and 160-pound brackets, respectively, with Stoffel scoring two wins including a 10-1 major decision over Marengo's Devin Storti and a 10-4 decision over Portage's James Peters. Metzger earned a 6-1 decision over Hononegah's Rose Cassioppi.

Junior Jorge Driggs and sophomore Brock Metzger finished 15th in the 195-pound and 170-pound brackets, respectively, while junior Wesley Brown took 16th in the 132-pound bracket. Driggs won two matches, edging Oak Forest's John Marusarz with a 6-5 decision and earning a medical forfeit over Hampshire's Tyler Boyd. Metzger concluded the tournament with a win by injury default over Hononegah's Morgan Bartlett.

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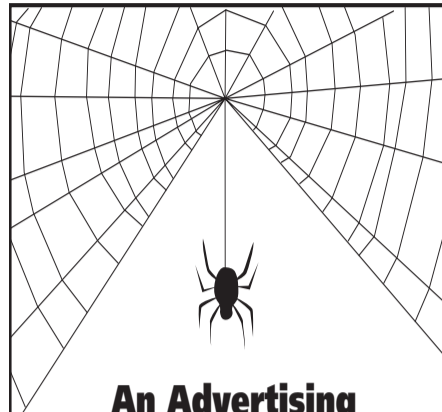
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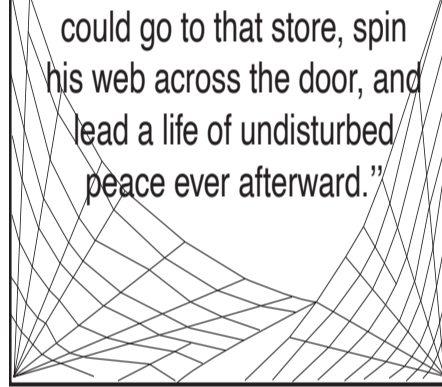
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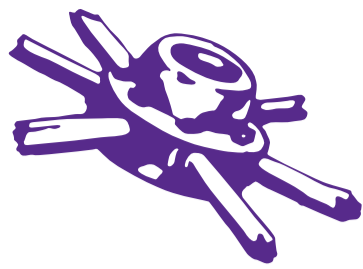
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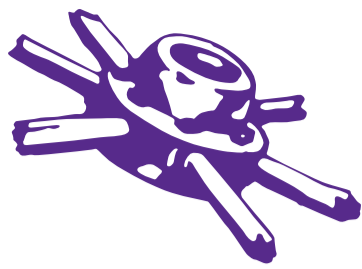
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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle senior Braden Alfano has committed to continuing his academics and his baseball career at North Central College next year.

Alfano commits to North Central College

L EFT-hander Braden Alfano emerged as an ace for the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team during his junior season, earning All-Conference First Team honors in the Interstate 8 with a 2.65 ERA while throwing over 31 innings.

Now a senior, Alfano will be a leading returner in the starting rotation this coming season. Alfano will also continue his career at the next level after announcing his decision to attend North Central College and play baseball for the Cardinals.

"I chose North Central College for a multitude of reasons," Alfano said. "The first reason was the winning culture, not only within the baseball program, but throughout all of their athletic programs. I also really enjoyed my visits and having the opportunity to be around the baseball team. I'm really looking forward to competing collegiately for four more years. Playing baseball at Rochelle has taught me

that you will be rewarded if you're willing to put in the hard work."

Alfano struck out 41 batters for the Hubs during his junior season, adding one home run and seven RBIs on offense. The 6-foot-1 left-hander has spent over three years with both the RTHS baseball and football programs, earning All-Conference First Team honors in the Interstate 8 during his senior football season this fall.

Alfano, who has pitched and played first base for the Hubs, said he's interested in potentially pursuing an education in exercise science and business.

"I appreciate Braden for his hard work and contributions to the RTHS baseball program," head coach Jarrod Reynolds said. "I'm excited for Braden to continue his baseball career at North Central. Braden's a great competitor and a bulldog on the mound. The sky is the limit for him."

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SPORTS



ALFANO COMMITS

Braden Alfano will continue his baseball career at North Central College.

See page 11 for more details

RTHS Girls Basketball

Dominant defensive effort

Lady Hubs hold Plano to scoreless first quarter in 50-26 victory

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Senior Lucy Bunger and members of the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team were challenged to step up on defense when new head coach Ryan McQuade took over the program this past year. Bunger and the Lady Hubs continued to showcase their defensive improvements during an Interstate 8 Conference matchup against Plano on Saturday.

Rochelle shut down the Plano offense in the first quarter, holding the Reapers without a point and building a double-digit lead before coasting to a 50-26 victory. Ten different players scored points for the Lady Hubs (8-11, 2-3 Interstate 8), who led Plano 15-0 after the first quarter.

“I think when we bring good energy to the court, that energy becomes contagious,” Bunger said. “When we find our rhythm, it feels like a domino effect and we all become involved. I really like our defense right now and I think we’ve had a lot of success with our extended 1-2-2 zone defense as well as our pressing. After halftime, I talked with

our coach about running a funnel down defense and we were able to generate a bunch of turnovers with our traps.”

Senior forward Abby Luxton was Rochelle’s go-to scorer in the first quarter, using her 6-foot-1 length to sink three post-up shots around the rim for six of her eight points in the win. Senior Josie Lundquist picked up the momentum in the second quarter, knocking down a 3-pointer from the elbow before dominating the third quarter with a series of successful drives to the basket. Lundquist led the Lady Hubs with 13 points in her return from an ankle injury.

“We’re very generous with the basketball and nobody’s greedy with it,” Bungersaid. “I thought we passed the ball really well and we finished with a lot of assists. We’ve had a lot of success with our Gonzaga offense, where we look for the slip pass after the screen-and-roll. It was a great team win. We have great leaders on this team and I think our confidence will be important for us down the stretch. We have to come out with a winning mentality.”

Rochelle led 29-15 at halftime before Plano’s



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Sydney Tabor races Plano’s Sanai Young down the court during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against the Reapers on Saturday.

Ryssa Woodhouse began to heat up, converting three triples and scoring all 13 of her points in the second

half. But the Lady Hubs, who remained ahead 44-20 after three quarters, built a large enough lead early in

the game to cruise to the win. Junior Torrin Nantz finished with five points, while three players scored

four points including junior Bailey Jackson, sophomore Sydney Tabor and freshman Kendyl Darby.

RTHS Boys Basketball

Hubs net nonconference road win over DeKalb

Brown leads Rochelle with 23 points in 62-55 victory against Barbs

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

DEKALB — Third quarters have presented problems in the past for the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team. That wasn’t the case Friday night, when the Hubs came out after halftime and took control during the third quarter of their nonconference matchup against DeKalb.

With Rochelle upping its help-side defense, DeKalb struggled to find shots around the basket, scoring only eight third-quarter points as the Hubs took the late lead and held on for a 62-55 victory over the Barbs. Rochelle (8-8, 4-1 Interstate 8) held DeKalb to only 35-percent shooting from the field and 27 percent from 3-point range while outrebounding the Barbs 41-25.

“I thought it was a big win for us because it was game that many people didn’t think we could win,” senior Adam Kemp said. “DeKalb has a lot of talent, but I thought we played together and we got the win. I thought we played really solid help-side defense and

we limited their shooters from getting open shots. We didn’t want to let their shooters get going at all.”

Senior Noah Brown delivered a solid scoring performance for the Hubs, leading the way with 23 points while converting four 3-pointers and grabbing five rebounds. Kemp and senior Ryan Simmons facilitate the Rochelle offense, with each player notching four assists while combining for 17 rebounds and 13 points in the win. The Hubs held a slim 25-24 lead at the half before outpacing the Barbs 17-8 in the third quarter to take control of the game.

“We need to keep playing together and stay on this roll,” Kemp said. “We’re off to a strong start in the conference and I think we have a chance to win the conference. It should be a fun rest of the season for us. Noah had a great shooting night for us and I think everybody on this team can get hot at any time. When someone’s hot, we have to keep feeding that person.”

The Hubs managed to push the pace Friday evening, outscoring DeKalb



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Junior Raul Aguirre works inside against DeKalb’s Demarrea Davis during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game with the Barbs on Friday. Aguirre scored eight points for the Hubs in the victory.

16-4 in transition points while punishing the Barbs with a 13-0 advantage

in second-chance points. Senior Tanner Lager finished with 11 points, three

rebounds, two assists and two steals, while junior forward Raul Aguirre to-

taled eight points and six rebounds. Darrell Island led DeKalb with 15 points.