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Tilton School collects donations

Tilton School students and staff collected donations for the Rochelle Rescue Mission. **Page 7**

WEATHER

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OBITUARIES

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- SHIRLEY RAE WEBB

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Looking back on 2021 in the Hub City

Utility work, Citizens Academy program among highlights

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle's 2021 included working to green light the demolition of Hickory Grove, utility projects including a new substation and water/water reclamation upgrades, working to update its strategic plan and Citizens Academy, a new program to inform residents about the city's inner workings.

Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh spoke with the News-Leader on Dec. 15 and reflected on the city's 2021.

"Those are just a few of the things," Fiegenschuh said. "But it's been a great year and I'm super happy with my staff. I have a great staff. Our mayor and council have provided great leadership and I couldn't be prouder to be part of the organization."

Before a demolition contract for Hickory Grove was approved by the city council at its final meeting in December, the city worked during 2021 on an easement agreement with the owner of the Comfort



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The City of Rochelle's 2021 included working to green light the demolition of Hickory Grove, utility projects including a new substation and water/water reclamation upgrades, working to update its strategic plan and Citizens Academy, a new program to inform residents about the city's inner workings.

Inn next to the building to properly separate the properties. The city also successfully worked on getting a Rebuild Illinois Grant to cover the project.

"It's basically been a two-

year process, so we're super excited that we're able to finalize it at our last meeting of the year," Fiegenschuh said. "And then the time-frame is going to be pretty condensed. They're talking

about starting in January and we could have that site completely cleared off and prepped for some kind of development in April or May."

Fiegenschuh said over-

all, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic did "put a damper" on the year that was, but the city is still in "very good shape" financially.

See CITY page 5

Hickory Grove demolition to go 'very quickly'

Conversations with potential site developers have started

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — City officials expect the demolition of the Hickory Grove facility at 1127 N. 7th St. that's slated to start in late January to go "very quickly," City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said on Dec. 15.

McDonagh Demolition is contracted to do the work for \$361,900. The project will be funded by a Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Rebuild Illinois grant reimbursement up to \$365,750. The seven other bids the city rejected ranged from \$542,000 to \$978,000. The accepted bid was approximately 35 percent lower than the city's engineering firm's estimated cost of \$575,000.

"I was very nervous when the bids came in, but [City Engineer Sam Tesreau] and our engineers met with them and they feel confident that they're going to meet those dollar amounts and that's why I think the project is going to go very quickly because



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

City officials expect the demolition of the Hickory Grove facility at 1127 N. 7th St. that's slated to start in late January to go "very quickly," City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said on Dec. 15.

they're going to need to get in here and get that stuff done," Fiegenschuh said. "It felt very good to see that bid. Especially with the opportunity where the grant could potentially cover all of it."

Fiegenschuh acknowledged that there could be issues that arise that could result in change orders and higher costs for the demolition. He was pleasantly surprised by the bid amount.

"All of our other proj-

ects, with the way things are in the economy right now, it's no longer, 'Wow, we can go to council and say it came in under engineer's estimates,'" Fiegenschuh said. "Now it's asking how much it's going to be over

the estimate. When this came in, I was taken aback. In a good way."

City officials expect the demolition to be completed in April.

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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Members of the Girl & Boy Scouts, American Legion, VFW, Knights of Columbus, National Guard and the community assisted the Rochelle Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution in honoring veterans through ceremonies at four local cemeteries including Daysville Cemetery (top left), Lawnridge Cemetery (top right), St. Patrick's Cemetery (bottom right) and Trinity Memorial Cemetery (bottom left).

Wreaths Across America ceremonies held at local cemeteries

ROCHELLE—Members of the Girl & Boy Scouts, American Legion, VFW, Knights of Columbus, National Guard and the community assisted the Rochelle Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution in honoring veterans through ceremonies at four local cemeteries, followed by placing wreaths at veterans' graves.

The ceremony at St. Patrick's Cemetery included a welcome by Regent Laurie Perry, an invocation by chapter Chaplain Mary Lou Kator, the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Scouts, remarks by Mayor John Bearrows, the dedication of ceremonial wreaths for all branches of the Armed Forces (including the new Space Force) by active duty

soldiers, veterans, scouts and veterans' families, and was concluded with a closing prayer by Reverend Jesus Dominguez and the playing of Taps.

Similar ceremonies were performed at the other three cemeteries. Through the tremendous generosity of the wider Rochelle and Oregon communities, all known veterans at Days-

ville Cemetery in Oregon and St. Patrick's Cemetery in Rochelle were honored with wreaths, in addition to portions of Trinity Memory Gardens and Lawnridge Cemetery, achieving more than 450 local wreath sponsorships.

The Rochelle Chapter DAR intends to continue expanding its Wreaths Across America program

with plans underway to honor more veterans and include additional cemeteries in the area. As a means of jump-starting the sponsorship of wreaths for the 2022 program, Wreaths Across America is offering to match any wreath sponsored between Dec 18, 2021 and Jan. 14, 2022 either online at <https://wreathsaacrossamerica.org/IL0136P> or

mailed in and postmarked by Jan. 14, 2021.

Mail in forms may be picked up at the Rochelle & Oregon VFW posts or St. Patrick's Church in Rochelle. Photos from all four of this year's ceremonies and of selected veterans graves may soon be posted on the above website and the Rochelle DAR Facebook Page.



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LOCAL NEWS

Ogle Womxn in Business donate to PADS

OREGON—Members of Ogle County's Womxn in Business group recently donated items to be raffled in support of PADS Homeless Shelter in Dixon. w@sh salon in Oregon is passionate about community support and chose to host this year's holiday raffle.

Womxn in Business were able to raise and donate \$300 to PADS. A special thank you was sent to WxB donors Liz Hiemstra, Libra Farms; Linda Bennett, Arbonne; Kelsey Osborne, Kinzee-Doo Custom Creations; Mandolen Mull Pack, Scout & Cellar wine; Mary Elliot, handmade jams + caramels and Meggan Dickson-Grennan, w@sh.

PADS Homeless shelter in Dixon runs 24/7, 365 days per year providing shelter, services, clothing, food and daily needs for its residents. Womxn in Business is a network of female business owners holding space to connect, find support, & build relationships with peers who recognize the hard work it takes to be entrepreneurs. Contact Dickson-Grennan at wash.salon815@gmail.com for more information. Find out more about w@sh by visiting wash815.com.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Meggan Dickson-Grennan, founder of Womxn in Business & owner of w@sh salon (right), Joanna Kibble: director of PADS (center) and daughter Paityn with PADS residents Martin, Journey Rose, Josh, Julie and Mike.

DEMO: Hickory Grove project scheduled to start next month

From page 1

The nearly two-year process since the city acquired the building has seen delays and easement agreements with the hotel next door for proper separation of the buildings. It also had to wait due to grant finalization.

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

"Approving the demolition felt euphoric," Fiegenschuh said. "People tend to look from the outside in and ask why things aren't getting done. They don't know all the work people are doing on the back side to get a project to where it's ready for our mayor and city council to approve. It felt good because I have a very capable and great team."

The "pieced together" building has yielded surprises in the past such as easement and utility complications, which could make for possible issues once it starts to be demolished.

"When you find those things and fix them, you start thinking, 'What else are we going to find in there that's behind the walls or wherever?'" Fiegenschuh said. "If something happens, we'll deal with it. We've been dealing with it for the last two years and we'll deal with it again."

Fiegenschuh anticipates that if all goes to plan, the city could have the site completely cleared off and

prepped for some kind of development in April or May. The city plans on issuing a request for information in order to seek developers interested in the site. Proposals would then be taken to the mayor and city council for approval.

With demolition given the green light earlier this month, Fiegenschuh said developers have reached out to him recently and interest has kicked back up.

"I've been approached," Fiegenschuh said. "For some mixed-use projects. Some retail and higher-density residential. It's ultimately up to the mayor and council. It's their property. The city owns it and

they're in charge of the city. We had some retail interest as well. That's why we want to do the RFI. We want to see all of the proposals and ultimately let the mayor and council determine what they think is the best fit on that highly-visible spot for the next 20-40 years."

The prospect of the property being purchased

and developed in the future would not only benefit the city by it coming onto the tax rolls. The city also set up a tax increment financing (TIF) district for the site with future development in mind.

Once a developer comes in and develops the site, 100 percent of their tax bill goes into that TIF and back

to the city.

"It could be used to help incentivize a project to close that funding gap if there is one," Fiegenschuh said. "It could and will be used in part to help reimburse us for any costs associated with the acquisition, demolition and site preparation and restoration. I think there's a lot of possibilities there."



Doris Hardy's 90th Birthday is January 1st

With celebrations being subject to the weather and health risk limitations at this time, we know she would so enjoy receiving lots of birthday cards in January.

Her mailing address is PO Box 444, Rochelle, IL 61068 Thanks in advance for making her special day EXTRA SPECIAL!

The 2022 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients: Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Bette Jean Kyler

ROCHELLE — Bette Jean Kyler, 95, passed away Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021 at Franklin Grove Nursing Center & Rehab in Franklin Grove.

Bette was born on July 7, 1926 to Walter and Nellie (Bemis) Vierke in Rochelle. On July 7, 1948, her birthday, she married Byford Ray Kyler; they had been married for 70 years prior to this passing on Dec. 1, 2018.

Bette received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Ohio Wesleyan University, where she was a member of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority. She then taught for one year at Somonauk Elementary School before devoting her time and passion into raising her two sons. She then substitute taught in the Rochelle-area schools for over 19 years. Above all, Bette loved to spend time



and celebrate the holidays with her family and friends, especially Christmas.

Bette is survived by two sons: John Kyler of Rochelle, and Dr. James (Julie) Kyler of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; five grandchildren: Erik (Melissa) Kyler, Brenda (Brian) Simons, Katherine Kyler, Bradley Hartman and Haley (Kris) Taibl; four great grandchildren: Emmaline and Kendon Kyler, and Blake and Braedy Simons.

In addition to her parents and husband, Bette is preceded in death by her



brother, Jack Vierke.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, Dec. 30 from 10-11 a.m. at the Rochelle United Methodist Church. Memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. on Thursday with Pastor Glen Stewart officiating. Grave side service will follow at the Lawnridge Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Rochelle United Methodist Church. Cremation care has been provided by Unger Horner Funeral Home. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Shirley Rae Webb

ASHTON — Shirley Rae Webb, 79, passed away Dec. 27, 2021 at her home in Ashton with her daughter and son-in-law at her side. She was born on May 19, 1942 in Flagg Center to the late Clyde and Rose (Hintzsche) Schaneberge.

Shirley worked for Eaton, Del Monte and Crest Foods, she co-owned the Huddle Restaurant with Chuck and Jerry Williams and also co-owned Mel's Tap with Mel Lawson. Shirley was a Green Bay Packers fan, was very patriotic and enjoyed collection Eagles.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law April and Ben Fichter of Ashton and Darla Webb of Rantoul, Illinois and one brother, William (Bill) Schaneberge of Franklin Grove.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Charles, four sisters: Louise Hooberry, Roa Warning, Edna (Bunny) White and Dola Boesecker, four brothers: Robert, Leroy, Tim and Dennis and one grandchild, Jamie Burhenn.

Funeral visitation will be held Wednesday, Dec. 29 from 10 a.m. until the



time of service at noon at the Beverage Lyons Family Funeral Home at 601 Richardson Ave. Ashton with Rev. Randy Sizemore officiating. Interment to follow to Ashton Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made at www.beverage-lyonsfamilyfh.com

Rochelle Police Department

Officers make three arrests

ROCHELLE — On Dec. 24 at 1:49 p.m. Travis L. Adams, 37, of Rochelle was arrested for two counts of driving under the influence and cited for no insurance, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, driver's license expired less than one year and operating an uninsured vehicle. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Rochelle court

date of Jan. 21.

On Dec. 26 at 3:46 p.m. Dawn F. Ramirez, 54, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 48 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Feb. 4.

On Dec. 26 at 11:09 p.m. Hipolito Xelhua Montes, 36, of Rochelle was arrested for two counts of driving

under the influence of alcohol and cited for leaving the scene of an accident and driving on the sidewalk. He posted \$100 and his driver's license and was given a Jan. 21 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 26 at 7:46 p.m. Donte Martin, 34, of Rockford was arrested for aggravated fleeing to elude, driving under the influence, driving while license suspended and cited for disobeying a stop sign and transferred.

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Deputies respond to two accidents

OREGON — On Dec. 23 deputies investigated a one-vehicle accident in the 1,500 block of West Mudcreek Road. A silver 2013 Nissan driven by Eric Ortega, 38, of Mt. Morris was traveling westbound on Mudcreek Road when a deer ran on to the road in front of the vehicle. The vehicle struck the deer causing disabling damage to the Nissan. Ortega and two female juvenile passengers were transported by Mt. Morris Ambulance to KSB Hospital to be medically checked out. No citations were issued.

On Dec. 24 deputies arrested Russell Himebauch, 40, of Machesney Park for driving while license revoked. Himebauch

was arrested by deputies on Interstate 39 after being stopped for speeding. Himebauch was released on a I-bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

On Dec. 24 at 8:26 p.m. deputies performed a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of West Illinois Route 72. During the course of the investigation, Brian P. Printz, 57, of Stillman Valley was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Printz was also issued a citation for speeding 78 m.p.h. in a 55-m.p.h. speed zone. Printz was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Dec. 24 at approximately 11:20 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 106 southbound. After further investigation Jadin Mershon, 22, of Rochelle was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Mershon was also cited for speeding and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Mershon was released on an I-Bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

On Dec. 25 at approximately 8:41 p.m. deputies responded to the 6,000 block of East Hales Corner Road in reference to a domestic problem. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Mason J. Wolter, 21, of Stillman Valley for disorderly con-

duct. Wolter was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

On Dec. 25 at approximately 1:54 a.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 100 northbound. After further investigation, Lee Dallas III, 20, of Machesney Park, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Dallas was also cited for illegal window tint. Dallas was released on an individual bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

On Dec. 26 at approximately 7:23 p.m. deputies investigated the report of a domestic disturbance at an address in rural Rochelle. Pursuant to the investigation, Donte Martin, 34, of Rockford was later arrested for domestic battery. Martin was lodged at the Ogle County Jail in lieu of bond.

On Dec. 27 at 12:22 a.m. deputies arrived at a single-vehicle accident in the 8,200 block of North Illinois Route 251. During the course of the investigation, Michael T. Peterson, 53, of Byron was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Peterson also received a citation for failure to report a vehicle accident and improper lane usage. Peterson was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released on bond.



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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.

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USPS (467-820) ISSN (1075-2811)
 Published every Wednesday and Sunday by Rochelle Newspapers 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

CITY: Fiegenschuh reflects on work done in 2021

From page 1

Its cash fund balance has increased each of the past four years. The shape of the city's finances are allowing it to reinvest back into its utility infrastructure. In May, the city broke ground on a new \$13.8 million electrical substation project at 1600 Ritchie Court, which will be Rochelle Municipal Utilities' third. The substation will increase reliability for nearby industry and reduce reliance on Rochelle's Caron Road substation. "And when that's done in April or May 2022, we'll be moving over to the next substation on Centerpoint Drive up by MightyVine," Fiegenschuh said. "[RMU Superintendent of Electric Operations Blake Toliver] has brought a lot of issues

to my attention that have not been addressed for years on the electric distribution side. I'm very happy with the work he's done to bring all those things to my attention so we can get them before the mayor and city council and funded. We have a lot of distribution projects that we've started this year that I'm happy about."

Infrastructure upgrades have also been made in RMU's water and water reclamation departments. In June, the city held a ribbon cutting ceremony after completing a \$7 million wastewater plant improvement project that included upgrading headworks equipment, converting aeration to biological phosphorus removal, upgrading the anaerobic lagoon, adding an office administration

building and the conversion of the plant's lab.

Another project Fiegenschuh mentioned as a positive for the city in 2021 was Citizens Academy, a 10-week program that offered the opportunity for residents to learn about the city and its various departments. Participants went behind the scenes to learn how the city works through hands-on activities, facility tours and more during the fall.

"I thought it went very well," Fiegenschuh said. "I know a lot of people were happy with it. We hope to do it every year. Big kudos to them for organizing it and my staff for being there every week to give tours and answer questions and do all those things."

The city manager said the city's work in 2021 all

"... it's been a great year and I'm super happy with my staff. I have a great staff. Our mayor and council have provided great leadership and I couldn't be prouder to be part of the organization."

Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh

relates back to the strategic plan the mayor and city council approved in 2018, with priorities being reinvesting in infrastructure and improving the quality of life for Rochelle residents.

Due to having a new mayor and two new council members since 2018, the city is working to update that strategic plan and hopes to finalize it in January.

Fiegenschuh said he doesn't believe there were many things that didn't go to plan for the city in 2021.

One thing he said was sort of a surprise was the issue of the Prairie State Energy Campus, which the city has \$150 million in debt with until 2042.

Work on a state energy bill threatened to close the coal plant over the summer and a bill eventually was signed in September that requires it to be carbon-free by 2045, either by going offline or installing sequestration technology. By 2035, the plant must cut emissions by 45 percent. If it doesn't

meet that goal by the end of 2035, the power plant will have until June 30, 2038, to either retire a portion of carbon-emitting units or meet the decarbonization goal some other way.

"I think we got the best deal we could get," Fiegenschuh said. "We have an obligation under the law to start to meet those timelines and as a utility and we're going to start working on how we're going to do that where it's not cost prohibitive for our ratepayers."



"Key" Strategies For A Safe New Year's Celebration:

- Plan an alcohol-free celebration – Host a fondue or "make your own" ice cream sundae party as a fresh alternative. Add some fun party games to keep guests entertained without drinking!
- Check your keys with the host – This is an effective strategy for giving the host some control over inebriated guests.
- Keep the number of a taxi company handy – A good tip for both party guests and hosts alike.
- Offer to drive a guest home – Start the New Year off right by performing a good deed and help keep drunk drivers off the road.
- Appoint a designated driver – Use the buddy system and you can return the favor next time.
- Provide lots of snacks to party guests – Drinking on an empty-stomach rapidly increases alcohol's debilitating effects.
- Post transportation info on party invites – Include information for public transportation, car pools and taxi company phone numbers.
- Don't let a friend drive drunk – Take the car keys away or use one of the strategies above to see your friends safely home.

It probably comes as no surprise that more traffic fatalities due to drunk driving occur at the New Year than any other time, but of course, you should never drink and drive. With your safety in mind, these community sponsors urge you to review these important tips for hosting or attending a safe celebration!

A New Year is coming bringing much celebration, With good friends & good times & free-flowing libation. So party on hearty, but leave driving alone, Because we want to see you get safely home!

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Wishing everyone a Safe and Blessed New Year!

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12202021

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Reminds everyone to:

Celebrate Safely... DO NOT Drink & Drive!

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Non-Emergency 815-562-2131
Emergency 911

12272018

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ROCHSIG

LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

How Rochelle’s school system grew and changed

It was in 1840 that Ms. Miranda Weeks called the first elementary school class to order. The school was located in a log cabin just north of Kyte Creek and east of today’s Main Street. A small group of children met when they could and when household chores did not require their attention. A few years passed and the arrival of the railroad brought more families to the area. A new school was needed and construction began on a larger log school house south of Kyte Creek and on the west side of the Indian trail (Main Street). The log school house was one block south of Kyte Creek and served until 1854. At this time a new school house was opened on North Sixth Street. The new school sat on the west side and about mid-block of the 400 block of Sixth Street. After a mere four years, a larger building was needed. The Sixth Street school became a grist mill and again a new school was constructed. Rochelle’s fourth school was a two-story wooden frame building near the corner of Fifth Avenue and Eighth Street, today’s Central School location.

Erected in 1858, the fourth school served the community of Lane. The name change to Rochelle was still seven years away. On April 7, 1869 a catastrophe struck and fire consumed the school. The newspaper article was short and none too complimentary of the fire department. “School on 400 block of Eighth Street destroyed by fire, our heretofore unconquerable fire department, consisting of one worthless engine, and two worthless squirt guns, was tirely inadequate to the occasion.” The cost of construction in 1858 was \$10,000. Bonds were sold and a new school was planned. While the new school was being constructed, first and second grades were held at the Methodist Church, high school was in the Shockley building at the corner of Cherry Avenue and Lincoln Highway and the rest of the classes met in the Peter Unger Building on Cherry Avenue. By 1871, the fifth school building was ready for students. Located on the ashes of the burned down wood frame, the new three-story brick

building rose like a phoenix. It was a monument to Rochelle’s commitment to education. 1872 saw an enrollment of 314 students. 1874 witnessed a graduating class of three. By 1878, the school saw 21 students graduating from high school. Education saw many changes. In the 1880s a teacher only needed an eighth-grade education to teach through the elementary grades. With a budget that did not exceed \$11,000 in any year before 1900, teachers were poorly paid and individually made \$300-600 a year. The school system took a major leap ahead in the period from 1893 to 1903. Superintendent C.F. Philbrook implemented a curriculum that established Rochelle as an accredited learning establishment. The opening of the Northern Illinois Normal School in DeKalb raised the quality of the instructors to match the new improved requirements for graduation. Conflicts between the school board and Mr. Philbrook caused a parting of ways. Philbrook left in 1903 and several teachers followed him to Arizona. Rochelle High School moved to its

own building on North Seventh Street in 1921. The Seventh Street high school saw major additions in 1942, 1954, and 1970. A new high school was constructed on Flagg Road and the old school was demolished in 2005. As the community grew, schools were added. The south side school was erected in 1909. The name was changed to Lincoln School in 1915. The old Lincoln School was closed and a new Lincoln School was opened at 1450 20th St. in 2013. In 1937, the three-story brick Central School was demolished. In 1938, a new Central School was built at 444 N. Eighth St. Tilton School came online in 1950 at 1059 N. Ninth St. May School was constructed in 1959 at 1038 N. Second St. Rochelle Middle School began taking students in 1964 at 111 School Ave. Over the years there have been many additions and improvements to the schools of Rochelle. One thing has never changed, the commitment of the community to provide the opportunity for a first-class education.

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



Tom McDermott

Lessons learned from Todd

REMEMBER when you were a teenager and could sleep for 12 hours? Man, I sure do. I delivered pizza until 1 a.m. or so in high school, and by the time we got everything cleaned up and the shop closed, I would get home on the weekends at nearly 2 a.m. That meant I would get up the next day at 2 p.m. – or as late as 4 p.m. I’ll bet I could sleep around the clock. These days? Not so much. Maybe it is a getting older thing, but I rarely have a night where I sleep all the way through. Seriously, we are talking a few times a year. So, I was staring at the ceiling last week in the wee hours of the morning, and I started thinking about my friend Todd from elementary school. I wish I could tell you his last name and the exact year, but I can’t. It was probably 1971 or 1972. It was a long time ago. I think about Todd from time to time. He was a nice kid. And by that, I mean a kid that everyone liked. He was happy and friendly and never, ever said a bad word about anyone. My memories of him include a lot of smiling. He was always smiling. Is that just the way I remember him and it’s not true? Honestly, I’m not sure. But when I think about Todd, I think about a blond kid with freckles splashed across his nose who was always happy. One day at school I had a particularly bad day, which was not unusual for me. I am glad I didn’t have to raise me, I’ll tell you that. I was not mean or aggressive, but I was not a fan of school. In fact, I ran away from school a few times when I was in elementary school. Just booked it home in the middle of the day. That, obviously, did not make my parents happy. My dad, in fact, was the principal at another school in the same district. I’ll bet his work friends gave him an earful about me. Sorry dad. Anyway, I was on the bus after school and not in a good mood. Todd plopped down next to me, with that smile on his face. Of course, I don’t remember our exact conversation, but it was basically Todd trying to cheer me up, and me not giving an inch.



Brad Jennings

I can seriously still see us sitting there, him to my left, as the bus rumbled around the neighborhood dropping kids off. I was not mean to Todd – it was impossible to be short with such a nice guy. But my dark mood stayed in place. The next morning, when I got to school, I learned that nice, sweet, friendly Todd had been hit by a car and killed after he got home from school. We talked about him in class that day, our teacher guiding us as we went through what happened and we spoke of our thoughts about the event and about Todd. As you can imagine, this was a very traumatic event in our young lives. I said very little. I was crushed. I was worried that his last memory was a sour kid named Brad he sat next to on the bus. I cried a lot that day, for Todd and because I felt I had let him down. Now, that event didn’t necessarily change me. I was a kid and kids can be emotional and moody. But over the years I have kept my memories of Todd close, and the lessons I learned from him are with me always. * Try to be kind to people, even if you don’t want to be. It can be hard sometimes, but kindness is worth it. Always. * A smile is a much better look on your face than a frown or a scowl. The world is full of grumpy people these days who complain about everything. Don’t be one of those people. * Look for things we have in common and focus on those, not our differences. We seem to be so dug in right now, that our country is an “us vs. them.” It is not. We are all in this together and we need to be thoughtful of that. * Thank people for the nice things they do. Hug those you love. And always, always, let those you love know that you love them. I stared at the ceiling and wondered what kind of life Todd would have had. What kind of person he would have been. Where he would be right now. It made me sad. But it also reminded me of something very simple: Life is short. Don’t waste it being divisive and negative. As much as you can, make it good for you and for those around you.

Brad Jennings is the editor of the Ogle County Life.

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

What was your favorite Christmas gift that you received or gave during the holiday?

“Gift certificate to Basil Tree.”

Allen Huhn

“Socks. New socks are the best.”

Justin Huels

“The greatest gift of all, disappointment.”

Cody Dale

“I was so excited to give my sister-in-law a “leave a note” puppy-themed mailbox that was my gran’s (who my sister-in-law loved so much and vice-versa). I found it stuck under a drawer in the garage while cleaning at my parents. I spent time cleaning it up so it looked as new as possible and then I had it for months. I couldn’t wait to give it to her. Priceless.”

Lois Gittleson

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
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IL Rep. Tom Demmer
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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



Tilton School collects donations for Rochelle Rescue Mission

During the month of December, the students and staff of Tilton School collected money and toiletry donations for the Rochelle Rescue Mission. They collected \$500 in addition to the numerous items. Pictured with a few of the Tilton School students are Becky Cox, principal, Dan Sergeant, Rochelle Rescue Mission board member and Will McKinney, fourth grade teacher.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Dec. 29

Kelsey Rogers

Dec. 31

Jamey & Nicole King

Ruth Allen

Hayleigh Jones

Jan. 1

Dave Jones

Jan. 3

Justin Sandoval

Jan. 5

Grace Yates

Alaina Eubankz

Jan. 6

Debbie Bonacquisti

Jan. 7

Elaina Phillips

Gary Phillips

Summer Coffman
- Jan. 8

Graciela Perez

Xavier Villalobos

Jan. 9

Cheyenne Pourchot

Jan. 11

Troy Martinez

Kathy Sanders

Christina Jones

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

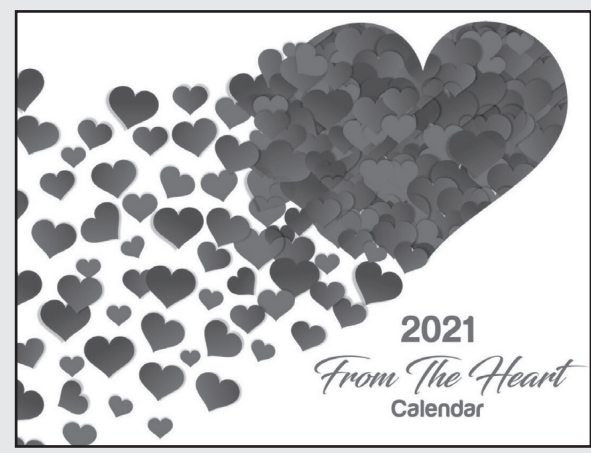
Ashton Arwood

Jan. 28

Peggy Futrell

Jan. 29

Nayeli Ramirez



- Dec. 2 - Martha Landa, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 3 - Deb Julifs, Rochelle, \$25
- 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



Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Steal from

4 Highlander

8 Streamlet

12 Historic period

13 String

14 Tom Joad, for one

15 Bridgetown's island

17 "It's — real!"

18 Intends

19 Tropical fruit

20 Jazz genre

22 Piece of work

24 Priests' garments

25 "Excellent work!"

29 Espionage org.

30 Spectrum creator

31 Ms. Thurman

32 Wavering

34 Twain hero

35 Sharp tooth

36 Clearheaded

37 Cream-filled pastries

40 Arrive

41 Jai —

42 Chocolatey frozen treat

46 Give up

47 Carry on

48 Citrus drink

49 Crystal gazer

50 Eye part

DOWN

1 Civil War soldier

2 Man-mouse link

3 Whom Pilate pardoned

4 Rascal

5 Atlantic catches

6 Granada gold

7 QB stats

8 Hearty

9 Furniture brand

10 Actor

11 Sultry Horne

16 Life stories

19 Site of Apra Harbor

20 "Coffee Cantata" composer

21 Writer Wiesel

22 Rubber gas-ket

23 Nuisance

25 Mom's mom

26 Place to get a fruit smoothie

27 Hotel chain

28 Combo

30 School orgs.

33 Not as certain

34 Seethe

36 Theater boxes

37 Campaign-funding gps.

38 Fonda's bee-keeper role

39 Lose color

40 406, in Roman numerals

42 Calendar abbr.

43 Eg. and Syr., once

44 Oklahoma city

45 Ump

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 R

QAA LFW KWQJT-LV-JKPME

XKVJYHLD PM LFPD DYXWKRQKEWL

HVRW PM NVLLAWD VMAT.

PL'D DV YM-HQMMT.

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King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

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

Answers

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

It's so un-canny, come in bottles only. products in this supermarket All the ready-to-drink answer

CryptoQuip




ROCHELLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Dates to Remember

Jan 3-4	No School	Jan 11	National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness
Jan 5	Teacher Institute; final exam makeup day	Jan 17	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday no classes @ RTHS/KEC
Jan 6	Second Semester begins 8:05 am to 3:05 pm Follow the FLEX schedule. Classes dismiss 2:15 & buses run 3:05	Jan 18	5:30 pm Board of Education in Gallery Kishwaukee College Spring classes begin
Jan 8	Interstate 8 Conference Speech meet	Jan 22	Downers Grove Speech Meet
Jan 10	Last day to change your schedule via your counselor	Jan 29	Rockford Jefferson Speech Meet

Time to apply to NHS

JUNIORS and seniors with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher will be invited to apply for membership in the National Honor Society. If you are interested in being part of this elite group, continue working towards a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5. That's the first step in this process.

The pillars of NHS are Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. And it is on the application you will showcase your strengths in these areas.

If you meet the 3.5 GPA criteria and receive the invitation, complete the NHS application form. One section asks about your community service. You have many opportunities for community service at RTHS. Check the Silver Service bulletin board outside E122. A few examples: write Christmas notes in cards for nursing home residents, ring a bell for Salvation Army, volunteer at a food bank, or shovel snow for a neighborhood veteran. Please document your community service on Silver Service forms available in the main office or on the NHS bulletin board outside Mrs. Prose's math classroom. Please complete the simple Silver Service forms and turn them in. Your hours are recorded on your transcripts. Claim forms are in the main office and on the NHS bulletin board outside of Mrs. Prose's room A207.

Follow the link to the NHS application from the school's website: <http://www.rthsd212.org/national-honors-society>. Direct questions to NHS Advisor Mrs. Prose.



January tasks for HUBS families

1. Review your 1st semester progress. Was it a positive semester? Identify achievements & challenges. Outline a second semester success plan.
2. Course selections for the upcoming (2022-23) school year begin in January, so please review graduation requirements. Choose electives that can enhance post high school plans.

It is never too early to begin thinking about what your life will look like after high school graduation. Contact our guidance counseling department if you have questions about your child's Four Year Plan.

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29, 2021

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS

HART STEPPING UP

RTHS alum James Hart has earned a greater role with the NCC football team.

See page 3 for more details

RTHS Girls Basketball

Dixon tourney tips off

Luxton leads Rochelle with 15 points in 49-35 loss against Rockford Christian

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

DIXON — A fast start allowed the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team to gain the early lead over Rockford Christian during the opening round of the KSB Dixon Holiday Classic.

Rochelle's pick-and-roll offense proved successful during the first quarter, with four different players knocking down shots to give the Lady Hubs a 13-10 lead. But the Royal Lions wore Rochelle down as the game progressed, utilizing their three-quarter-court press defense and transition attack to dominate the second half and take down the Lady Hubs 49-35.

"I thought we came out strong and we were hot to begin the game," head coach Ryan McQuade said. "I thought we took our foot off the pedal and we allowed Rockford Christian to get back into the game. We allowed them to be the aggressors on both ends of the floor and when that happens, it's tough to stop the momentum from continuing to spiral downward."

Senior Adriannah Davis-Carter converted a pair of mid-range jumpers to give Rochelle an offensive boost

in the first quarter, while junior Torrin Nantz made two 3-pointers in the first half to stretch the floor for the Lady Hubs. Nantz's second triple was Rochelle's only basket of the second quarter, however, with the Royal Lions sneaking ahead 17-16 at halftime.

"We looked like we had been off for a while because of the holiday," McQuade said. "I thought our defense looked sharp toward the beginning of the game, but I thought we grew tired as the game went on and we started to get heavy legs. That's when we started to allow those cuts into the lane and when that happens, the other team's able to get some easy looks at the rim."

With senior guard Tess Combs leading the attack, Rockford Christian upped the pace during the third quarter, scoring on several transition layups and forcing multiple Rochelle turnovers in the three-quarter-court press defense. The Royal Lions led 32-22 entering the fourth quarter, where senior forward Abby Luxton shined for the Lady Hubs, hitting three shots including an old-fashioned 3-point play for seven of her team-leading 15 points.

See GIRLS page 6

(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Torrin Nantz looks to make a move around Rockford Christian's Nina Salamone during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against the Royal Lions on Monday.

RTHS Boys Basketball

Hubs surrender lead against Woodstock North

Thunder erase early deficit to edge Rochelle 58-56 in E.C. Nichols finale

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MARENGO — Senior Ryan Simmons converted a trio of 3-pointers to spark the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team during its final game of the E.C. Nichols Holiday Classic on Thursday.

Simmons scored nine of his team-high 17 points in the first quarter, allowing the Hubs to take a 22-11 lead over Woodstock North. Rochelle struggled to make shots as the game progressed, however, with the Thunder's 2-3 zone defense proving highly effective in a 58-56 victory over the Hubs. Rochelle (5-8, 2-1 Interstate 8) finished with a 1-3 record at the tournament.

"Ryan got off to a fast start, but they tried slowing us down by extending a 2-3 zone defense and that absolutely worked," head coach Tim Thompson said. "We started turning the ball over too much and we finished with over 20 turnovers for the third straight game. We're not putting ourselves in positions to win games by

turning the ball over as much as we are right now."

Woodstock North slowly worked its way back into the game, bringing Rochelle within four points by halftime with the Hubs leading 31-27. Despite cold shooting from the perimeter, Rochelle couldn't cut through the Thunder's zone defense, which utilized its length and quick rotations to force several turnovers. Behind senior guard Rex White, who led Woodstock North with 17 points, the Thunder took their first lead near the end of the third quarter.

"It's on our kids to keep players from penetrating," Thompson said. "We've gotten into trouble when we allow the first player to get into the lane. [White] hit a couple of tough shots near the end of that game, but the big issue we had in the game was how badly we were outrebounded on the offensive end. They destroyed us there and they were able to get multiple shots during each possession."

See BOYS page 3

(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Noah Brown dribbles toward Woodstock North's Rex White during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against the Thunder on Thursday. Brown scored 13 points in the game.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT

Hart's leadership shines at North Central College

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

FORMER Rochelle student-athlete James Hart was a scout-team freshman for the North Central College football team when the Cardinals defeated Wisconsin-Whitewater to win the 2019 NCAA Division III National Championship at Woodforest Bank Stadium in Shenoah, Texas.

Two years later, Hart and the North Central College team returned to the Division III national championship, also known as the Stagg Bowl, for a showdown against Mary Hardin-Baylor at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio. Long removed from the scout team, Hart suited up and competed alongside his Cardinal teammates under the bright lights for a nationally televised game, something Hart had dreamt about ever since he was a kid.

“We had an awesome season and it felt great to play football again after a one-year hiatus,” Hart said. “We had the chance to practice inside the stadium during the week which was an awesome experience and we were able to see the Pro Football Hall of Fame. It was an awesome game. There were ESPN cameras all around us and the entire bottom half of the stadium was filled with fans. It was always my dream as a kid to play football on TV.”

While the Cardinals fell just short of victory, North Central finished the season with a 13-1 record that included a victory over rival Wheaton College in the Battle for the Little Brass Bell as well as a road win over perennial Division III powerhouse Mount Union. Despite not having a 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hart didn't stop working over the offseason, dropping roughly 40 pounds while earning practice reps on both offense and defense.

Hart eventually settled into a second-string role as a center and right guard during the 2021 season, often entering the game due to several blowout victories by the Cardinals. The former Rochelle football standout also started on special teams as a lineman on field-goal and extra-point attempts. After appearing in all 14 games this fall, Hart said his goals for next season are to crack the starting lineup on the offensive line and return to the national championship.

“I earned a lot of game reps with the second unit during the season so I was able to gain a lot of experience for next season,” Hart said. “It was awesome to be elevated from the scout team and go through the process of learning the scouting report, watching film and preparing for the opponent. I've changed my body in a lot of ways from when I was a freshman and I'm always wanting to get stronger and faster and further develop my body to play college football.”

In addition to his physical growth, Hart's



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Former Rochelle student-athlete James Hart has earned a greater role with the North Central College football team.

leadership growth has earned him a role on the team's leadership council, also known as the Eagle Council, where he and about 20 other players serve as liaisons between the players and the coaching staff. Hart was also one of only 40 student-athletes across the nation to be both nominated and selected to attend the 2022 NCAA Division III Student Immersion Program in Indianapolis, Indiana as a student ambassador.

“It was awesome to be a part of the leadership council and learn how the upperclassmen approach leadership given how much experience they have,” Hart said. “The North Central program has done an excellent job of preparing me for my future and I think the program has helped prepare for entering the workforce and working alongside people with different beliefs and backgrounds. Football is a great game that brings people together for a common goal.”

Hart will receive an all-expense paid trip next month to the NCAA Convention, where the Division III Student Immersion Program will be held. While there, Hart will have the opportunity to network with administrators and other officials working in intercollegiate athletics. Hart, who's currently majoring in sport management with a minor in marketing, said his goals are to earn a master's degree and pursue a career in professional or intercollegiate athletics. His dream job is to be an NFL GM.

“It's going to be an awesome experience to network with other students and administrators so I can learn about Division III athletics even more,” Hart said. “I was really excited to be recommended for this opportunity. I love that aspect of the game. Football has always been my life and I've always wanted to work in football. I think that's what I can be good at and I've always aspired to work with athletes, whether that be professionally or at the college level.”

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SPORTS



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Cooper Hasz passes out of the post during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against Woodstock North on Thursday.

BOYS: Hubs lose last game of holiday tournament

From page 1

"We shot about 50 percent on 2-pointers, but they had twice as many shots."

The Hubs nearly fell behind by double digits before fighting back near the end of the fourth quarter, with senior forward Cooper Hasz battling for offensive rebounds to give Rochelle extra possessions. As the clock

wound down, Hasz forced a turnover on a Woodstock North inbound pass, but a last-second shot from Simmons to win the game rimmed out as time expired. Senior Noah Brown finished with 13 points for Rochelle, while Hasz totaled eight points.

"I've been pleased with the way Cooper has played and he gave us a chance to win at the end by getting

his hands on the ball," Thompson said. "He's been a beast on the boards for us. When it comes down to rebounding, it's all about heart and when I went back and watched the film, I saw that we're not doing a good job of putting a body on guys. We have a lot of kids with length, but we're not really physical and our kids are going to have to get over that."

RTHS Wrestling

Hubs secure conference wins over Morris, Sandwich

Rochelle improves to 11-4 on season

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MORRIS — The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team remained unbeaten in Interstate 8 Conference dual matches on Thursday, defeating both Morris and Sandwich on the road Thursday morning. Rochelle (11-4, 4-0 Interstate 8) took down the Redskins 57-24 in the first dual of the meet before upending the Indians 44-21 to finish the afternoon with a sweep.

Morris

Ella McDonnell won by fall in the first period to take the 106-pound bout for the Redskins. Rochelle scored its first four points of the dual when freshman Xavier Villalobos recorded four takedowns, one reversal and one near-fall in a 12-1 major decision over Brandon Anderson in the 113-pound bout. Freshman Joseph Nadig gave the Hubs the lead in the 120-pound bout, earning three near-falls and three takedowns in a 16-1 technical fall over Ian Wills.

Rochelle received four consecutive forfeits for sophomore Riley Damask, junior Wesley Brown, sophomore Alex Burke and freshman Grant Gensler for the 126-pound, 132-pound, 138-pound and 145-pound bouts. Senior Caleb Nadig dominated the 152-pound bout against Tyler Semlar, recording five takedowns and two near-falls before winning with a second-period pin.

Freshman Brandyn Metzger and sophomore Brock Metzger scored



consecutive pins during the 160-pound and 170-pound bouts, with Brandyn defeating Ethan Morrissey and Brock taking down C.J. Shaheer. The Redskins then recorded two consecutive pins of their own, with Josh Loza and Jorge Loza winning the 182-pound and 195-pound bouts. Freshman Kaiden Morris needed only 22 seconds to pin Daniel Riley and win the 220-pound bout for the Hubs.

Morris won the 285-pound bout, with Justin Hemmersbach pinning in the first period.

Sandwich

Freshman Jimmy Chavez received a forfeit for the Hubs in the 106-pound bout before freshman Xavier Villalobos compiled five takedowns, one reversal and one near-fall to defeat Ashlyn Strenz by 14-3 major decision in the 113-pound bout. Freshman Joseph Nadig took the 120-pound bout, scoring five takedowns and one escape in a 11-5 decision against Kadin Kern.

Sandwich's Miles Corder and Sy Smith each pinned to win the 126-pound and

132-pound bouts for the Indians. Sophomore Alex Burke took a forfeit for the Hubs in the 138-pound bout before freshman Grant Gensler outlasted Gabe Galvan for a 5-1 decision in the 145-pound bout. In a competitive 152-pound bout between top-ranked state wrestlers, Sandwich's Aidan Linden (No. 3 Class 1A) overcame a 3-0 deficit to edge senior Caleb Nadig (No. 5 Class 2A) by 6-5 decision.

Freshman Brandyn Metzger scored a second-period pin against Nolan Bobe to win the 160-pound bout before sophomore Brock Metzger followed with a second-period pin against Bryce Decker to win the 170-pound bout. Freshman Jack Pavlak received a forfeit to win the 182-pound bout, with Sandwich's Alex Alfaro pinning to win the 195-pound bout for the Indians.

Freshman Kaiden Morris totaled four takedowns and a near-fall to defeat Connor Holly by 10-0 major decision in the 220-pound bout. Junior Jaden Cook took a forfeit in the 285-pound bout.

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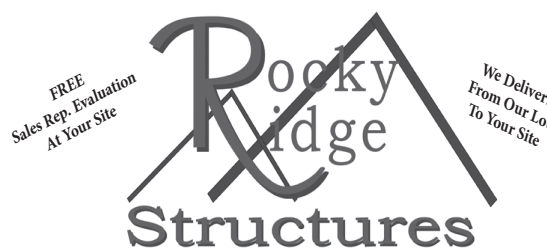


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PRIME TIME

How to create structure after retirement

PROFESSIONALS typically look forward to retirement and the freedom that comes with it. The notion that commuting and deadlines will one day be a distant memory is enough to make anyone excited for retirement. But when the day to leave the daily grind behind arrives, many retirees admit to feeling a little anxiety about how they're going to find structure.

Retirement is a big transition, and Robert Delamontagne, PhD, author of the 2011 book "The Retiring Mind: How to Make the Psychological Transition to Retirement," notes that some retirees experience anxiety, depression and even a sense of loss upon calling it a career. Some of those feelings can undoubtedly be traced to the perceived lack of purpose some individuals feel after retiring. Without a job to do each day, people can begin to feel useless. Overcoming such feelings can be difficult, but finding ways to build daily structure can make the transition to retirement go smoothly.

Find something to truly engage in. Professionals who truly enjoy their work tend to be fully engaged, so it's no surprise if such individuals have a hard time adjusting to retirement. Some



may suggest volunteering can help fill the void created by retirement, but researchers with the Sloan Center on Aging and Work at Boston College have found that only those individuals who are truly engaged in their post-retirement volunteering enjoy the psychological benefits of such pursuits. So before retirees dive right in to volunteering as a means to creating structure, they should first exercise due diligence and find an opportunity they'll find genuinely engaging.

Embrace the idea of "bridge employment." "Bridge employment" is the name given to the trend that has seen retired individuals take on part-time or temporary employment after they have retired from full-time working. COVID-19 has no doubt skewed post-retirement working statistics since the World Health Organization first declared a pandemic

in March 2020, but a 2019 survey from the LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute found that 27 percent of pre-retirees with at least \$100,000 in assets planned to work part-time in retirement. Even part-time work can provide enough daily structure to help retirees feel as though each day is not just a free-for-all.

Make a concerted effort to be more social. Volunteering and working are not the only ways to create structure

in retirement. A concerted effort to be more social can help retirees fill their days with interactions with like-minded individuals who may be experiencing the same feelings. Join a book club, a local nature group that goes on daily or semi-daily morning hikes or another local community organization. These are great ways to build structure and meet new people. Retirees can create social media accounts to find local com-

munity groups that cater to their interests. Even if it seems hard to believe, plenty of retirees are seeking to create structure in retirement life, and social media can make it easier to find such individuals in your community.

Structure and retirement may seem like strange bedfellows. But many retirees seek structure after calling it a career, and there are many fun ways to create more organization in their lives.

Travel perks and discounts for seniors

HAVING made it to their golden years, seniors enjoy not only the privilege of earned wisdom, but also a few perks that come with aging. Many adults who have reached a certain age are entitled to an array of discounts, which take into consideration seniors' fixed retirement incomes.

Discounts are available on various services, including many travel options.

Seniors have a lot of time to devote to recreational pursuits. This list of available travel discounts can help seniors get the most bang for their vacation bucks.

Airline tickets

Before booking a flight, it is worth investigating if a particular airline carrier offers senior discounts. The global pandemic has changed how some airlines do business, and many have faced significant adversity since early 2020. Airlines may offer more affordable flights to drum up business. In the past, American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, British Airlines, and United Airlines have offered various discounts for people ages 65 and older.

Ground travel

Flying isn't the only mode of travel available. AARP partners with various car rental companies to offer senior discounts. Seniors also may be entitled to discounts of 5 percent or more on tickets from Greyhound, Amtrak, and Trailways. Seniors who live in metropolitan areas also may get reduced fares on public buses and trains through providers like New York City's Met-



ropolitan Transportation Authority.

Lodging

Getting there is one thing, but seniors also can receive discounts on hotel stays or cruise cabins. AARP reports that many major hotel and motel chains offer senior discounts between 5 and 15 percent. Royal Caribbean has offered senior discounts on select sailings

and stateroom categories. Smarter Travel notes that most chains require travelers to book directly rather than through an online booking agency/deal site to be eligible for discounts.

Dining out

Many restaurants, and national chains in particular, offer senior discounts with or without AARP membership. Applebee's offers 10 to 15 percent off

to those age 60 or older. Brick House Tap & Tavern, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Denny's, IHOP, Outback Steakhouse, and many others provide discounts or special senior pricing.

Tours and more

Seniors also can speak with travel agents or booking services about discounts on sightseeing tours and other vacation excursions.



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SPORTS



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)
Senior Abby Luxton shoots over two Rockford Christian defenders during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against the Royal Lions on Monday.

GIRLS: Lady Hubs fall in holiday tourney opener

From page 1

"I'm hoping this game continues to catapult Abby's confidence," McQuade said. "She's becoming more and more

confident offensively and that's what we need from her. We didn't score as many points as we'd like, but I didn't think our offense was the issue today." Nantz and Davis-Carter

each finished with six points for Rochelle (6-10, 1-3 Interstate 8), while freshman Kendyl Darby chipped in four points on a layup and two free throws during the fourth quarter.

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*Offer does not include cost of material. Discount applied by representative at time of contract execution. Offer ends 12/31/2021. †All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 gift card. No purchase necessary. Retail value is \$50. Offer Sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings, Inc. Limit one gift card per household. LeafGuard procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or have a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a valid photo ID, understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of LeafGuard or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a LeafGuard in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former LeafGuard customers. Promotion may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that LeafGuard may substitute a gift card of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card and terms and conditions (https://www.darden.com/gift-cards/terms-and-conditions) of such gift cards will be mailed to the participant via first class US Mail within 21 days of receipt of promotion form provided at consultation. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Darden Restaurants and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Offer ends 12/31/2021.

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