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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15, 2021

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Auman discusses COVID cases

OCHD Public Health
Administrator Kyle Auman
said the rise in COVID-19
cases is concerning. **Page 3**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
66 47	66 28
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
43 26	34 19



316 N. 6th St.
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OBITUARIES

• COLLEEN "SEEDY" R. FREDERICK
• CAROL A. MAMMEN

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• ALDI
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Hickory Grove demolition bid approved

Project slated for late January 2022 through April 2022

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a \$361,900 bid for the demolition of the Hickory Grove facility at 1127 N. 7th St. at its Monday meeting.

City Engineer Sam Tesreau said McDonagh Demolition will take 60 days to complete the project and his guess is that it would start in late January. The demolition would end in April. It will consist of the complete removal of all above grade structures and below grade foundations where applicable, a portion of the existing pavement, outside pool area and final restoration and seeding of the disturbed area.

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.

The city has worked on the demolition project for a year to develop an agreement with the Comfort Inn next door to establish cross access easements, property acquisition, plating, façade improvements on the south side of the hotel after disconnection of the Hickory Grove facility and other general project specifications.

The bid approved by the council was approximately 35 percent lower than the estimated cost of \$575,000. The project will be funded by a Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Rebuild Illinois grant reimbursement up to \$365,750.

"Any time you can get a grant to cover 100 percent, that's a good day," Councilman Tom McDermott said.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Rochelle City Council unanimously approved a \$361,900 bid for the demolition of the Hickory Grove facility at 1127 N. 7th St. at its Monday meeting.

"That's a lot better than being in a hurry and costing the taxpayer \$365,000."

Mayor John Bearrows commended staff for their work and persistence on the "nightmare" of a project that has involved a lot of "moving parts" relative to easements and utilities in the building.

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said he's looking forward to the future of the site after demolition.

"This has been a long time coming, but it's going to be a huge opportunity

to redevelop that site after that facility comes down," Fiegenschuh said.

Budget approved

The council unanimously approved a budget for fiscal year 2022 at the meeting.

The final proposed 2022 general fund revenues are budgeted at \$12,117,647, an increase of approximately three percent compared to the original approved 2021 budget.

Budgeted expenses total \$13,072,825, approximately 20 percent higher than the 2021 budget and resulting in a budget deficit of \$955,177.

The combination of the general fund, special revenue funds, enterprise funds, internal service funds, trust and agency funds and capital project funds results in budgeted revenues of \$87,323,018 and budgeted expenses of \$89,785,184.

See CITY page 8

Rochelle author publishes third book

Samo's 'Reah - A Modern Day Story of Rhoda' out now

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Tina Samo made the decision to try to get her first book published after a conversation with her students.

The Rochelle resident and language arts teacher at Creston School was talking about major projects with the kids at the time. They asked her if she'd ever written anything longer than 10 pages. She said she had, but it was unfinished.

"They pushed me to finish it," Samo said. "And then they told me to publish it. I laughed at that. But I did it. I was accepted by a publisher on my third submission."

On Dec. 4, Samo published her third book, "Reah - A Modern Day Story of Rhoda." It's a modern-day take on the bible character, Rhoda.

There are only four sentences in the bible that reference Rhoda. In the book, Samo imagined what her life and comical situation would be like today.

"For me, a lot of times characters and events in the bible seem like long ago and so far away," Samo said. "It's hard to apply it to today. If you



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On Dec. 4, Rochelle resident and Creston School language arts teacher Tina Samo published her third book, "Reah - A Modern Day Story of Rhoda." It's a modern-day take on the bible character, Rhoda.

can picture it happening now, maybe it helps you understand it and apply it to your life in a better way."

Samo's first book, "The Game Changer," was a different format from her latest and addressed the issue of bullying and try-

ing to understand bullies and even the kids that watch and do nothing to help. Her second book, "Estella - A Modern-Day Story of Esther," is in the same format as her latest, taking a bible character and bringing them into modern

times. She believes she's found her writing niche.

Esther's story is covered much more in the bible than Rhoda's. That made it easier for Samo to write, taking nine months. Rhoda's story took Samo a year and a half to write and

six months to edit.

"I had to imagine Rhoda's entire life," Samo said. "I only had one event and the rest was fiction. But it was fun. I really enjoyed it."

See SAMO page 3

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LOCAL NEWS



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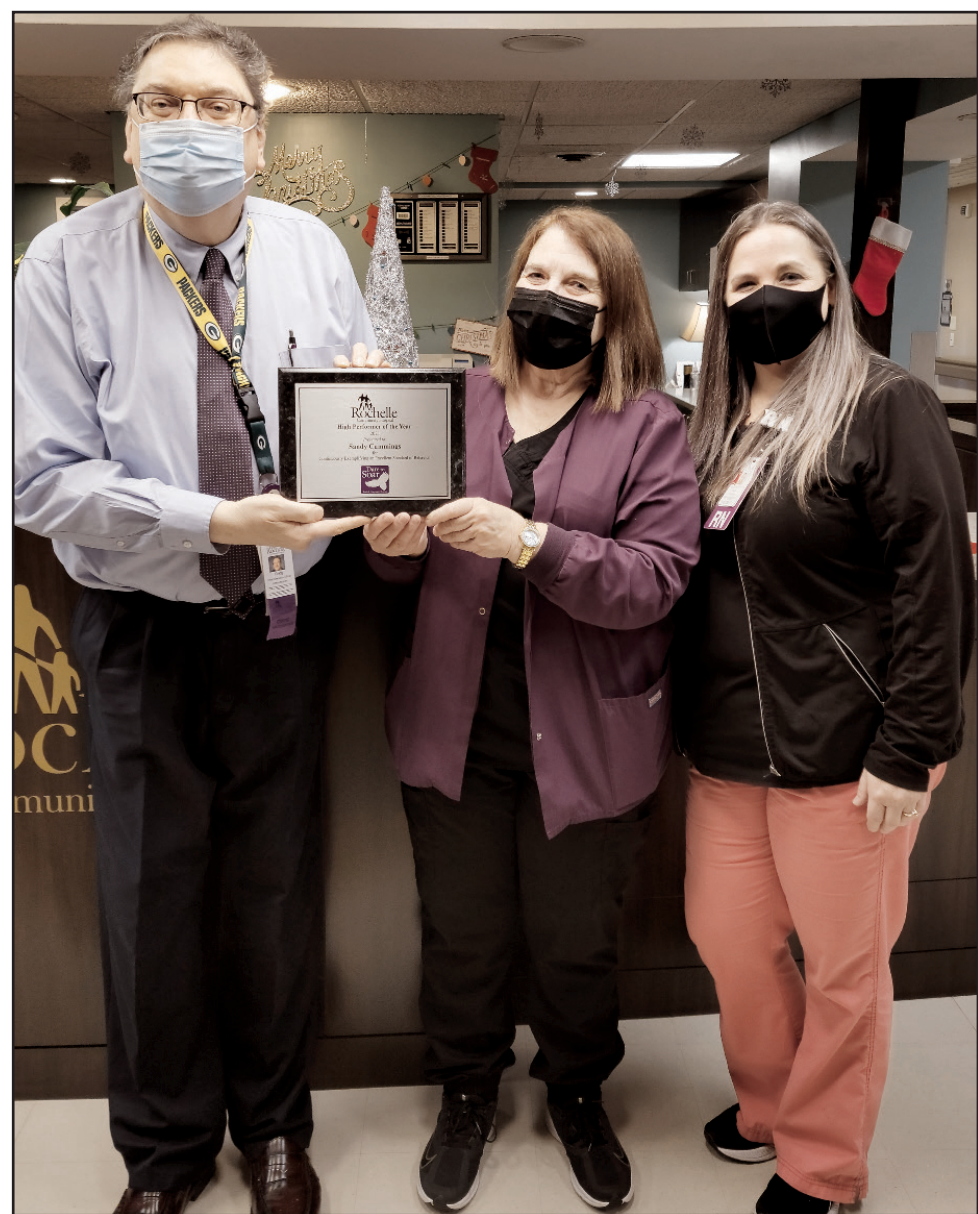
ASHLEY SWANSON, DPT

When Ashley Swanson builds patient relationships, she creates a solid foundation to customize care plans. The physical therapist knows the value of understanding lifestyle, job requirements and expectations for recreational activities to help individuals reach goals unique to them. "The most fulfilling part of my job is working with people and assisting them in regaining their function and independence," she shared. "But even more rewarding is when they are able to return to activities they love."

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(COURTESY PHOTO)

Sandy Cummings, RN, (center) is congratulated by Gregg Olson, chief executive officer and Crystal Vondergathen, RN, manager of inpatient services.

Rochelle Community Hospital names 2021 High Performer

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital has named Sandy Cummings, RN as its 2021 High Performer of the Year. Sandy was selected among the 12 High Performers of the Month in 2021. She has been employed at the hospital for six years as a House

Supervisor.

Sandy was nominated in Sept. 2021: "Sandy is currently a nursing house supervisor on night shift, but you have probably seen her a lot on day shift recently too. Sandy has been going above and beyond in her house supervision role from day one. She is the easiest person to work with as far as the schedule goes. She is always thinking and figuring out ways to cover all of the open shifts, trying desperately to not have the managers come in extra and often rearranging her own personal schedule to cover shifts."

Sandy recently called me after learning that I was covering an unexpected HS shift and planned to come in early for her night shift without being asked. Sandy is a 0.3 FTE but for the last several months has been working 6-8 12-hour shifts on both day shift and night shift to cover openings in house supervision as well as emergency.

She is the most laid back, easy going person to work with and this is what makes her a great house supervisor. No matter the number of patients we have or the number of staff we don't have, Sandy can deal with it. She jumps right in and helps wherever and whenever she is needed and always keeps a smile on her face.

She truly takes ownership in her role as well as the hospital. I can't tell you the number of times

that Sandy has called me with a concern but already has the solution and has followed through with that solution and has everything under control. Sandy always keeps me informed of situations, good or bad, so that I can be prepared if needed.

She is an advocate for patients as well as employees. She truly cares for our employees and is always willing to share her many years of experience and knowledge with staff, helping them to give the very best patient care.

Sandy is always looking ahead to other days to ensure that her fellow house supervisors have the staff they need and are aware of any potential issues that may come up. Recently, Sandy was training a new house supervisor. When Sandy found out that this new HS was going to be scheduled on a day that we would have several surgery cases, Sandy called her to let her know what the process was for this so that she could be prepared for that day. Sandy was a great preceptor for her and made sure that she was able to spend time with everyone that she needed to in order to learn the many roles of the house supervisor position.

It has been a challenging year for us all and I know that I and this hospital could not have gotten through it without Sandy's knowledge, leadership and dedication. We are truly lucky to have her on our team!"

Two county offices closing for remodels

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department and Planning & Zoning Department will be closed for remodeling from Dec. 22 through Jan. 5, 2022. The dates may be adjusted based on the contractor's schedules and completion of the work.

Staff will be working from home during this period, but will be off on Dec. 24

and 31 for the holidays. The best way to reach them is by email or by leaving a phone message at the following:

Planning & Zoning: planning&zoning@ogle-county.org or 815-732-1190. Solid Waste Mgmt.: solidwaste@oglecounty.org or 815-732-4020.

The staff will respond as soon as possible and apologizes for the inconveniences this may cause.

LOCAL NEWS

OCHD: 'Concerning' rise in COVID-19 cases

Public Health Administrator Auman: 'We need to get it under control'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

OGLE COUNTY — Ogle County Health Department Public Administrator Kyle Auman said Monday that he's concerned about the county's current level of COVID-19 cases.

As of Monday, Ogle County was at 10.67 percent COVID-19 positivity with 702.96 cases per 100,000 people. Every county in the state is experiencing high transmission, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. Auman said "a lot" of COVID-19 activity is being seen in area hospitals with ICU beds at 11 percent availability Monday. All three Rockford hospitals are operating on peak census. Rochelle Community Hospital and KSB Hospital currently are not.

"Right now, Illinois is one of several surging states," Auman said. "Region 1, where we are, is one of the hotter spots in the state. I didn't expect to see levels this high. We expected some cases, since they make sense in the winter months. But not to this level and the issues with hospitalizations. It has to do with people interacting with one another and making good choices. We need to get it under control."

Despite the rise in cases, Auman said he hasn't heard talk of more mitigations and

does not expect the state to take action. Earlier in the pandemic when more mitigations were in place, eight percent positivity locally was one of the trigger points for adding or removing restrictions on public places.

"Things like indoor masking are already in place and there are vaccination opportunities," Auman said. "We need people to do those things. People have said they want mitigations managed locally and individually. That's kind of what's happening. And it doesn't seem like it's going very well."

Auman believes there are additional undetected COVID-19 cases that are currently active in the community. He said as people come together for holiday gatherings, there's a good chance that if more than 10 people are in attendance, at least one person will be exposed. The OCHD is trying to warn people of that and anticipates high numbers to continue into the new year, he said.

Last year at this time, the OCHD made a recommendation that all county school districts stop in-person learning around the holidays to prevent spread. That's been talked about with school districts this year, Auman said, but the OCHD is leaving that decision up to school superintendents. Forreston High School is currently on



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Ogle County Health Department Public Administrator Kyle Auman said Monday that he's concerned about the county's current level of COVID-19 cases. As of Monday, Ogle County was at 10.67 percent COVID-19 positivity.

an adaptive pause due to an outbreak of positive cases.

Auman said anyone who is far enough out from their original vaccination and is age 16 and older should be eligible for a COVID-19 booster. The OCHD has administered 9,273 boosters as of Monday and Auman said for the most part, everyone that was originally vaccinated is trying to get one, especially older age groups.

"That's a tool that can help us with things like hospitalizations," Auman said. "It can slow the spread

and keep people out of the hospital. Now would be a crucial time to get it if you can. We've done a good job with boosters. But we're still at just over 51 percent vaccinated in the county. Those numbers are just too low to address this spread and the issues we're seeing."

Auman said the vaccination rate has been "growing slowly" over the past few months. Vaccines are readily available in the county and all of the OCHD's partners that give vaccinations are "on board," but haven't seen a full day of vaccinations scheduled recently, he said.

To increase vaccination rates, the state has tried things like lotteries and giveaways. Auman doesn't think there's one magic

solution to getting more people in the door.

"There's skepticism and politicization," Auman said. "I think some people as time goes on may be convinced. We've seen quite a bit of that. People who have had family members get really sick or pass away due to COVID-19 have been convinced to get it. We hope more people decide to get it before things get to that point."

The Omicron COVID-19 variant was recently identified in the state of Illinois for the first time. Auman said there's still more research that needs to be done on that variant, but he is concerned by it.

"I'm more concerned about what it means for future mutations of COVID-19," Auman said.

"The Omicron variant has 54 different mutations. It might not be as deadly or severe for some, but it's more transmissible than the Delta variant. Each time it's transmitted, there's a possibility for a new, worse mutation. It's the fear of the unknown that scares me."

The OCHD is looking to put the pandemic in the past and meet a common goal, which is getting life back to normal and people to stop getting sick with COVID-19.

"My department has been at this for 635 days," Auman said. "It's tiring, arguing with the community. And the opposition has been overwhelming and tiring and we're ready to get back to the other good work that we do and did more of before COVID-19."

SAMO: Teacher publishes third book

From page 1

Samo said her writing has helped to become a better teacher, and vice versa.

"It's wonderful for me with the kids," Samo said.

"My least favorite part about the process is editing and the kids feel the same. We all like to be creative, but picking it apart afterwards isn't fun. I can relate to them. It's neat for them to know that it takes a lot

of work."

"Reah - A Modern Day Story of Rhoda," is available on Amazon at https://www.amazon.com/dp/1643733346/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_META-93F5GR9XH8X17S8B.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Long time Rochelle resident, Betty Dearth, is celebrating 100 years on Earth on December 21st, 2021. She was born in Southern Indiana and worked with her two older sisters and parents to work the farms through the depression and after. Betty married Joseph Dearth, from DeKalb, IL, during the war. Betty had her daughter, Patty and made barbed wire in DeKalb during World War 2. Her sons Eddie and Dave came next followed a few years later by "baby" Don. In 1963 the family moved from Oak Park, IL, to Rochelle, IL, with the purchase of the A&W Drive-in on Highway 38 on the North side of town. She and the family sold Christmas trees during December and tried to get some fishing in and some travel when the A&W was closed during the winter. A long time member of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Rochelle, she has only deepened her life long relationship with Jesus Christ. She enjoys reminiscing about the many people who worked at the A&W for their first jobs. Teaching the lost art of making change and the responsibilities that go with a job in scheduling and working with others. It was fun work. After Joe and Betty sold the drive-in, she went to work at Walmart as a stocker for several years, retiring at 86 years old. She has had a large garden for years, until Covid-19 shut things down. Betty has been blessed as the Matriarch of 5 generations of family with kids, Grandkids, Great Grandkids and even 2 Great-Great Grandsons. She has lost many family members and friends in recent years which is what happens

when you have a long healthy life to 100. Daughter Patty and her husband Bob are hosting a private family event on Dec 18th at Salt 251 in Rochelle. Any cards or notes would bring a smile or laugh to us if you would share a thought or memory with Her. Betty is pretty sharp and funny and in great health and we want to announce this event to the community she has been a part of for so many years. Please send any thoughts, prayers or memories to Ms. Betty Dearth, 107 7th Ave, #8, Rochelle, IL, 61068. We are so proud of the influence she has had on so many friends and family. We are all so Blessed. Happy 100th Birthday!!

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Collette “Seedy” R. Frederick

DIXON — Collette “Seedy” R. Frederick, 78, of Dixon, died Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021 at Rock River Hospice and Home in Sterling following an extended illness after pancreatic surgery.

Collette was born November 1, 1943 in Aurora the daughter of Oliver and Frances (Anderson) Miller. She graduated from Batavia High School in 1961 and from Continental Beauty School in Elgin. Collette married William Frederick on March 9, 1963 in Batavia and was a homemaker who raised three children. She was also a customer service representative at Agco Corp in Batavia for 13 years. She enjoyed cross

stitch, sewing and spending time with her family and friends. A devote Christian, Collette was most recently a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Rochelle.

She is survived by her husband of Dixon; three sons, Perry S. (Chantal) Frederick of Versailles, France, Patrick L. (Shara) Frederick of St. Charles and Peter J. (Amanda) Frederick of Chicago; one sister, Sherry (Edward) Dionisio of North Aurora and four grandchildren, Connor Frederick, Chloe Frederick, Molly Frederick and Oona Frederick.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Dan Miller.

A Remembrance



Gathering will be held Sunday, Dec. 19 from 1-3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Rochelle.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, the family encourages you to donate in Collette’s memory to Compassion Child Sponsorship at www.compassion.com.

Online condolences may be sent to www.mcdonaldfuneralhomes.com.

Carol A. Mammen

DAVENPORT, Iowa — Carol A. Mammen, 71, of Davenport, Iowa, formerly of Rochelle, passed away Friday, Dec. 10, 2021, at her home. She was born March 26, 1950, in Granite City, Illinois, the daughter of Lloyd and Lela (Cox) Spencer.

Carol proudly served her country as a member of the United States Marine Corps. She worked at Caron International until their closing and later worked as a CNA at the former Rochelle Rehab East. She loved to fish, crochet and spend time with her dogs, Ace and Coty. She also enjoyed visiting and eating meals at the The Kitchen Table in Rochelle.

Carol is survived by three daughters, Tracie (Anthony Hughes) Stenli of Davenport, Iowa,

Betty (Danny) Schrader of Shannon and Kymm (Chad) Folowell of Rochelle; 16 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; five siblings, William (Rose) Foster, Dianne (Hartlen) Coats, Sue Cutrer, Deb Worley and Judy (Phil) Schaneberg; a brother-in-law, Ty Duncan; and many nieces and nephews.

Carol is preceded in death by her parents, Lloyd and Lela Cox; a sister, Deana Duncan; brother-in-law, Robert Cutrer; a great-niece, Darian Bridgeman and her beloved dog, Ace.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until noon, Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St. in Rochelle.

Funeral services will immediately follow the



visitation on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at noon at the funeral home with Chaplain Judy Williams officiating. Interment will follow in Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle with military honors provided by the Eastern Lee-Ogle Honor Guard and United States Marine Corps. Contributions in Carol’s memory may be directed to The Kitchen Table, 7034 S. Klondike Road, Rochelle, IL 61068. Please visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Rochelle Police Department

Officers make four arrests

ROCHELLE — On Dec. 10 at 12:35 p.m. Christina M. Smith-Es-

pitia, 49, of West Bend, Indiana was arrested on an outstanding Ogle

County warrant. She paid \$300 and was given a Jan. 5 Ogle County court date.

On Dec. 10 at 11:43 p.m. Kate Litton, 39, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On Dec. 11 at 5:28 p.m. Tracy J. Lemay, 51, of Rochelle was arrested for battery. She was released on an I-Bond and given a Jan. 7 Ogle County court date.

On Dec. 12 at 8:01 p.m. William Maplesden, 40, of Stillman Valley was arrested for no valid driver’s license. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Jan. 7 Rochelle court date.

Ogle County Sheriff’s Department

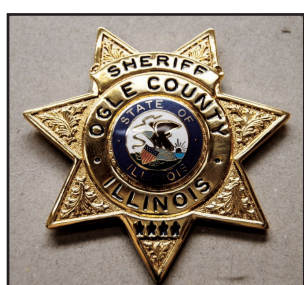
Deputies respond to two-vehicle accident

OREGON — On Dec. 10 at approximately 2:45 p.m. deputies and Byron Fire and EMS responded to a two-vehicle accident at East Illinois Route 72 and North Merrill Road. After an investigation, it was determined that a silver Honda Accord was westbound on Illinois Route 72 and was driven by a 17-year-old female Juvenile of Davis Junction when she failed to reduce speed and struck the rear of a green Nissan Maxima, traveling

the same direction by a 16-year-old female juvenile of Byron. The driver of the Nissan was transported to Swedish American Hospital by Byron EMS for minor injuries. The driver of the Honda was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

On Dec. 11 at approximately 8:37 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Mill Road and Illinois Route 72. After further investigation, John Green, 41, of Forreston was arrested for driving while license suspended. Green was also cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Green was released on an I-Bond and will appear in court at a later date.

On Dec. 11 at approx-



imately 11:31 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 17,000 block of East Illinois Route 64. After brief investigation, Deputies arrested Logan Marshall, 23, of Janesville for driving while license suspended. Marshall was also issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and an equipment violation. Marshall received an I-Bond with a return court date later next month and was released on scene.

Lee County Sheriff will not seek third term

DIXON — On Friday, Lee County Sheriff John Simonton announced he will not be seeking a third term. His resignation will be effective Nov. 30, 2022.

Simonton will be completing his 40th year in law enforcement in Aug. 2022. His career started with the Boone County Sheriff’s Office before transferring to the Illinois State Police in 1984 and retiring in 2010. He then worked three years with the Dixon Police Department and ran for and was elected sheriff in 2014.

“This has been a great run,” Simonton said the release. “I have been fortunate to experience things in this career that I had never dreamed of, when starting in 1982. Although I had some control over the way in which my career unfolded, if I had the opportunity to see

into the future, I could not have planned it better.”

In the release, Simonton said he is in “full support” of the next candidate for sheriff, Lt. Clay Whelan of the Dixon Police Department.

“I have had the opportunity to work with Clay prior to, during and after my tenure with the Dixon Police Department,” Simonton said. “He is the consummate professional and will continue to work with the command team of the Lee County Sheriff’s Office, providing a seamless transition.”

Simonton thanked his family, friends and the community for their support during his first two terms as sheriff.

“It has been a wonderful experience and I hope I have lived up to your expectations,” Simonton said.

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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LOCAL NEWS

Girl Scouts launch 2021-22 Cookie Program

NORTHERN ILLINOIS—Local Girl Scouts will kick-off the 2021-2022 Girl Scout Cookie Program with online sales beginning Monday, Dec. 13.

Digital Cookie 8.0 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). New this year, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois will offer free shipping on all direct ship orders of 10

or more cookie packages placed on Dec. 17-18.

If customers would like to have Girl Scout Cookies for holiday gift-giving (or for themselves), they should tell the Girl Scout in their lives to send them an email from their personalized website as soon as possible! Don't know a Girl Scout? Email cookies4you@girlscoutsnl.org to connect with local entrepreneurs who would love to add you to their customer lists!

Digital Cookie 8.0 is an innovative and educational web-based addition to the cookie program that helps Girl Scouts run and manage their cookie businesses online. Now in its eighth year, Digital Cookie brings

Girl Scout programming into the future by providing invaluable business and science experience, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills that prepare them for next century leadership.

Local Girl Scouts will also take cookie orders safely in-person (and online) from Jan. 5-29, 2022. A new Girl Scout Cookie premieres this season in Adventurefuls™—an indulgent, brownie-inspired cookie with caramel flavored crème and a hint of sea salt.

The full cookie lineup features all your favorites, including refreshing Thin Mints (vegan), caramel-y Samoas, peanut butter-stuffed Tagalongs,

girl scouts of northern illinois

crunchy Do-si-dos, buttery Trefoils, sweet S'mores, toffee-chipped Toffee-tastics (gluten free, too) and more. Cookies are on sale for \$5 per package.

During Girl Scout Cookie season, each young entrepreneur sets out to sell delicious cookies while also building entrepreneurial and business skills imperative for leadership

and future success. All net revenues raised—100 percent of it—stays within the northern Illinois area.

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

opportunities and more. Skills learned through the cookie program also influence later success as data shows more than half (57 percent) of Girl Scout alums in business say the cookie program was beneficial to skills they possess today, such as money management, goal-setting and public speaking.

Polo's Duncan re-elected as Illinois Farm Bureau VP

CHICAGO — On Dec. 7, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) delegates re-elected Polo and Ogle County resident Brian Duncan as vice president at the organization's annual meeting in Chicago.

Duncan was elected to a two-year term as IFB vice president. Duncan has served as IFB vice presi-

dent for the past four years and previously served as the Ogle County Farm Bureau president. He also previously served on the American Farm Bureau Federation's Swine Advisory Committee, National Pork Producers Council Price Discovery Task Force and Ogle County Pork Producers board of

directors.

"From the bottom of my heart, it is my privilege to serve as vice president of Illinois Farm Bureau," Duncan said. "I do not take lightly your trust in me to help shepherd this organization forward and to uphold our policy. I never forget that it is my job to serve you, the mem-

ber, and I look forward to going above and beyond as much as possible in the next two years. Illinois farmers have a great story to tell, and together we are backed by a strong organization that is dedicated to doing just that."

Duncan is a graduate of Sauk Valley Community College and is an

active member of Forreston Grove Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Kelly, raise corn, soybeans, wheat, pigs and cattle on their farm near Polo; they have four children.

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national

organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization directed by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB has a total membership of more than 372,326 and a voting membership of 77,462. IFB represents three out of four Illinois farmers.

Rock Valley Credit Union recognized for workplace culture

LOVES PARK — Rock Valley Credit Union (RVCU), a local and independent financial institution that offers personal solutions for individual and family banking needs, is proud to announce it has received a 2021 Kudos® Best Culture Award in recognition of its inclusive, collaborative and supportive workplace culture.

The 2021 Best Culture Awards recognize organizations dedicated to creating great workplace cultures through efforts to improve employee recognition, employee engagement and the overall employee experience.

"Congratulations to all the Best Culture Award winners," Muni Boga, CEO and co-founder at Kudos®, said. "This year's award-winners are truly at the top of their game, putting people and culture first with tools like Kudos® to support their organizational goals; the results they are seeing are remarkable."

As part of the award,

RVCU was recognized as a "Culture Innovator" for fostering a strong and supportive culture through creative efforts and thinking outside the box to boost engagement, morale and regular recognition.

"RVCU believes in celebration and recognition, which helps employees feel excited to come to work each day. They know their contributions to the overall mission, and we believe their buy-in makes for happier workers and happier members," Darlyne Keller, president and CEO at RVCU, said. "I'm proud of the culture at RVCU and it's an honor to be recognized."

RVCU received the award based on its employee recognition program. At RVCU, employees are encouraged to acknowledge fellow coworkers for major accomplishments, like setting a professional goal, to smaller acts of kindness, like holding a door open for someone. The recognition system allows employees

to award their co-workers for going above and beyond on a daily basis. Based on the number of points they collect, they can cash them in for gifts, gift cards and even extra vacation days.

"Our employees don't just work at a credit union. They are your neighbors, friends and family. And we

believe the culture at work should reflect a place that is safe, welcoming, and encouraging," Ana Montoya, director of community outreach at RVCU, said. "We want to encourage good deeds in hopes that our employees — and our members — might pay it forward."

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Beck

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Byford Kyler and the Navy Flyer’s Creed

“I am a United States Navy Flier. My countrymen built the best airplane in the world and entrusted it to me. They trained me to fly it. I will use it to the absolute limit of my power. With my fellow pilots, air crews, and deck crews, my plane and I will do anything necessary to carry out our tremendous responsibilities.

I will always remember we are part of an unbeatable combat team – the United States Navy. When going in fast and rough, I will not falter. I will be uncompromising in every blow I strike. I will be humble in victory.

I am a United States Navy flyer. I have dedicated myself to my country, with its many millions of all races, colors and creeds. They and their way of life are worthy of my greatest protective effort. I ask the help of God in making that effort great enough.”

If you sat in a Physics class at Rochelle High School during the 1950s, 60s, 70s or the beginning of the 1980s, The Navy Flyer’s Creed probably was not something you even knew about. For one person in the room it had been more than flowery prose, the creed was a way of life.

Byford Kyler graduated from DeKalb High School in 1940 and started work at the Wurlitzer Company. With

no real plan, he started classes at the Northern Illinois Teachers College.

In 1942, two separate events occurred which would change Byford’s life forever. Byford met a young beauty named Bette and a friend came up with a great idea, “Lets join the Navy Air Force.”

As fate would have it, the friend failed the physical and Byford passed. The friend went back to school, and Byford went to war. In 1943, Byford boarded a train to Chicago to complete his induction process. Byford’s cousin, Barbara Hale (of Perry Mason fame), was in Chicago on a modeling job and met him and showed him the town.

Byford crossed the country to complete his pilot training. From Piper Cubs to Stearman bi-wings then onto the SNV-Valiant and SNG’s, Byford flew them all. In 1944, Kyler received his wings.

After completing training in carrier take offs and landings, Byford became a Hellcat pilot. With six 50-caliber machine guns and a payload of six missiles or one 500-pound bomb, the Hellcat could either defend the fleet or attack the enemy. 1945 saw Byford reach his 22nd birthday. The year also saw the first time he shot down an enemy plane.

On March 18, 1945 the Japanese sent a Kamikaze

attack. The Fighting Squadron 30 was ready. Falling in behind a Japanese plane, Byford let loose with a hail of bullets and watched as the plane crashed into the water. Byford had been bloodied.

During his time in the Pacific Theater, Byford would shoot down four enemy planes in open air combat. While near Okinawa a major Kamikaze attack filled the air over the Allied fleet with enemy planes. 14 United States Navy planes went airborne.

In a battle that lasted only 30 minutes, the Fighting Squadron 30 shot down 47 enemy aircraft. Byford recalled three times when he had to pack-up the belongings of pilots whom he had flown with. Their belongings were going home, the pilots were not.

Byford Kyler flew over 60 combat sorties. He was awarded five Air Medals and three Distinguished Flying Crosses. At the end of the war Byford came home. Byford went back to school and graduated in 1948. He married the beauty he had met in 1942. She had kept the romance alive through an unending string of letters. Byford and Bette moved to Rochelle where he taught at Rochelle High School for 35 years. Byford never bragged of his war years but always lived to the high standards of The Navy Flyer’s Creed.

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



Tom McDermott

How religion should guide those in public office

AS the U.S. Supreme Court ponders whether to overturn Roe vs. Wade, all eyes are on Justice Amy Coney Barrett — and her religious beliefs.

Vanderbilt University Law Professor Suzanna Sherry said recently in The Hill newspaper that Barrett shouldn’t ponder abortion cases because her Catholic faith prevents her from rendering an impartial judgement.

It’s one of the dumbest arguments I’ve heard from a law professor in a long time.

Judges aren’t interchangeable cogs in a machine called justice. Each views the law through the lens of their own life experiences, knowledge and philosophy.

Personally, I always admired the late U.S. Sen. Paul Simon’s approach.

The Lutheran minister’s son rarely talked publicly about his personal faith, but he lived it.

I remember talking to him years ago when he mentioned having visited former Chicago Alderman Thomas Keane in a federal prison in Kentucky. Keane was there after being convicted of 17 counts of mail fraud

and one count of conspiracy in secret land deals.

Newspapers criticized Simon for associating with a convicted felon. But Simon did it because he believed Jesus commanded his followers to visit those in prison.

The senator told me he met so many other former Illinois politicians during that penitentiary visit that it “felt like old home week.”

His approach to faith was void of any sanctimony. But it certainly affected how he conducted himself as a senator. You could also see it in his own personal integrity and how he chose to treat others.

I pressed him once about whether those in public office must ever set religious positions aside to govern others. He said they do. He noted that if they didn’t, a Catholic judge could never preside over a divorce case. (Catholic dogma does not allow for divorce.)

In the case of Barrett, law professors have pointed to a law journal article she wrote as a young lawyer about Catholic judges and the death penalty.

In the article Barrett noted that judges are “obliged by oath, professional commitment, and

the demands of citizenship to enforce the death penalty,” but they are also “obliged to adhere to their church’s teaching on moral matters.” They are therefore “morally precluded from enforcing the death penalty.”

What’s a Catholic judge to do, then? According to Barrett’s article, the judge must recuse herself. She can neither enforce the death penalty and violate her religious conscience, nor fail to enforce it and violate her oath of office.

What does all this have to do with abortion? Barrett tells us in the same article that in the context of abortion the case for a Catholic judge’s recusal is even stronger. Unlike the death penalty, the Catholic church’s “prohibitions against abortion and euthanasia are absolute.”

On the current abortion case before the court, Professor Sherry says Barrett should recuse herself “if she has any integrity at all.”

The scribes and pharisees would be hard-pressed to produce the level of sanctimony of an outraged American law professor.

It’s not particularly

surprising that Barrett’s views on recusal as a 49-year-old Supreme Court justice are different than when she was a young law clerk. It’s also worth noting that

when an appellate judge chooses not to vote she is still impacting the case by denying her vote to one side or the other. So, in effect, it’s not really a neutral stand.

In our democracy, there is a constant balancing between the clauses of the Constitution that prohibit the establishment of religion and those that guarantee the free exercise of it.

Some religious conservatives have bought into the false notion that our founding fathers intended for the United States to be a Christian state. That’s a myth. Some of our founders like Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Paine did not identify as Christians. In fact, Paine called Christianity a “fable.” Thomas Jefferson used his razor to slice passages out of his Bible that he didn’t agree with. That’s hardly a conventional approach to scripture.

On the other hand, some secular liberals contend it was the intent

of the drafters of the Constitution that matters of faith should in no way inform those governing the nation. This ignores the deep religious beliefs of men like Patrick Henry and Samuel Adams.

So, the tension between the religious and the secular dates back to the beginning of the republic and the Supreme Court itself.

John Jay, our nation’s

first chief justice, was president of the American Bible Society.

What did he say of the role of religion and the judiciary: “Real Christians will abstain from violating the rights of others.”

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



Scott Reeder

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

What is your favorite small business in town to shop at?

“All Things New & Used Furniture.”

Sean Lawrence

“The Cypress House!”

Ann Andersen

“I like going to Quinn’s Jewelry. They have so many great things and their store has been here for many years.”

Deborah Schuler Beck

“TheCypressHouse.”

Dani McGee Garcia

“Hope Chest.”

Angie Rubeck Ward

“Ilikethesmall downtown stores. I wish the city would spend more resources on making it like it used to be.”

Val Schabacker

“The Butterfly and Vince’s Pizza.”

Lindsey Cooper

“I love the Beauty Bar!”

Blaine Bolin

“Midwestern Clothing Company.”

JL Hansen

“Quinn’s.”

Kay Beguin McGrath

How to contact government officials

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

IL Sen. Brian Stewart
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Springfield, IL 62706
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KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

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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

Exelon plant employees donate more than \$4.3 million to local communities

BYRON — The communities where Exelon Generation employees live and work in Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland will receive more than \$4.3 million to support critical needs, thanks to annual giving campaign contributions from employees and the Exelon Foundation, a press release said.

Workers at the fleet's 12 nuclear power plants and fellow corporate employees pledged nearly \$2.9 million to more than 2,200 different charities in their surrounding communities this year. And for every dollar employees pledged, the Exelon Foundation donated 50 cents to their local United Way, bringing the total donation to more than \$4.3 million.

Locally at Byron Generating Station, nuclear power plant employees pledged more than \$143,000 to 138 charities during this year's employee giving campaign. Organizations supported include veterans' groups like Darkhorse Lodge, Carpenter's Place and Veterans Drop-in Center, youth groups like Scout organizations and school groups,

"Their contributions provide long-term solutions to community issues, changing lives and providing hope in Ogle County."

Alan Jones

multiple United Way agencies, and "many, many more," the press release said.

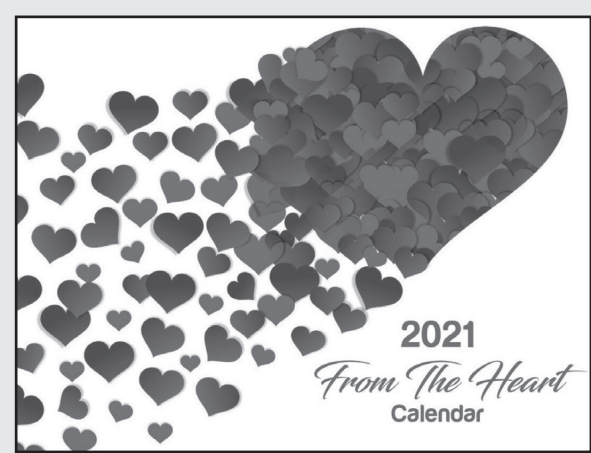
"One in every two people in Ogle County depends on United Way funded services. Those services wouldn't be available without the generous support of Exelon and its employees," Alan Jones, Ogle County director of the United Way of Rock River Valley, said. "Their contributions provide long-term solutions to community issues, changing lives and providing hope in Ogle County."

The donations will be distributed throughout 2022.

"Our employees believe

strongly in giving back to the communities in which they live and work. Their generous donations help provide resources for area charities that serve families in need and continue to make a difference for many who have been affected by the pandemic and other economic stresses," Dave Rhoades, Exelon Generation chief nuclear officer, said.

Exelon Generation employees have a long-standing tradition of supporting their communities, not just with their dollars, but also with their time, the release said. While the pandemic has limited several in-person opportunities, many nuclear power plant employees participated in virtual events. At Byron Station, employees have volunteered over 560 hours so far this year with local organizations, the release said. Through Nov. 30, Exelon employees had volunteered more than 24,000 hours with charitable organizations in their communities. That's equal to more than two-and-a-half years' time. Projects included virtual walks, food drives, and virtual fundraising events, among many others.



- Nov. 19 - Dr. Nancy Williams, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 20 - Tim Kromm, Johnson Tractor, Rochelle, \$25
- Nov. 21 - Kris Hagemann, Stillman Valley, \$50
- Nov. 22 - Robert Johnson, Steward, \$25
- Nov. 23 - Tamra Call, New Berlin, Wis., \$25
- Nov. 24 - Lisa M. Goy, Amboy, \$25
- Nov. 25 - Jon Long, Tomahawk, Wis., \$500
- Nov. 26 - Glen Hughes, Dixon, \$25
- Nov. 27 - Deanna Rosenbaum-Hall, Chicago, \$25
- Nov. 28 - Laurie B orowicz, Sycamore, \$50
- Nov. 29 - Sue Worley, Maplehurst Farms, \$25
- Nov. 30 - Mia Ramsey, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 1 - Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, \$25
- 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

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

Dec. 16 - (Thursday) -Christmas Dinner -Prime Rib, Sausage Stuffing, Stuffed Potatoes, Corn, Pea Salad, Dinner Rolls, 7 Layer Salad

Dec. 17 - (Friday) -NO FRIDAY DINNER THIS MONTH DUE TO CHRISTMAS !!! **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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

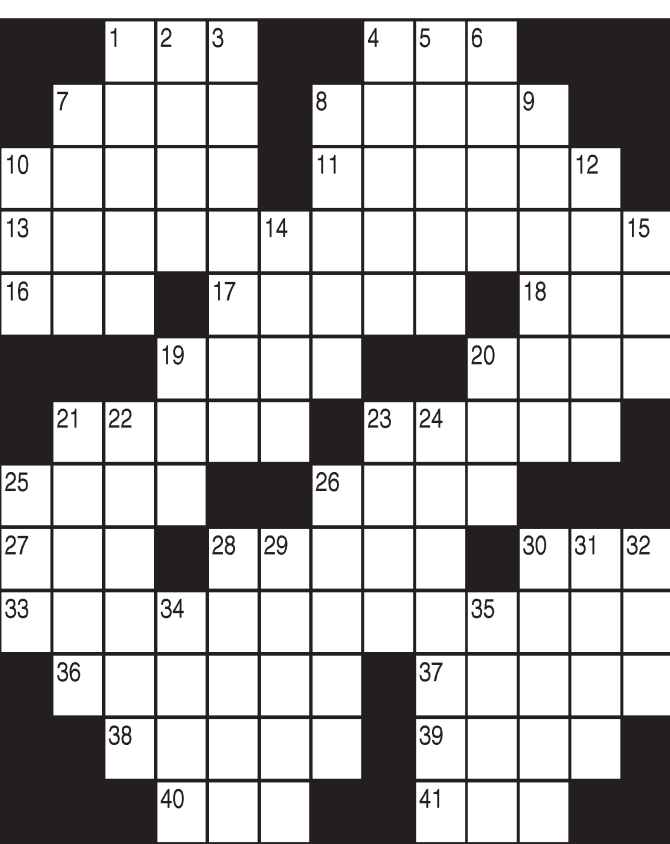
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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dec. 20
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Tristen McGuire | Dec. 28
Chris Prosser |
| Dec. 21
Jacob King | Dec. 24
Luke Gilliam | Dec. 29
Kelsey Rogers |
| Dec. 22
Bill Patrick | Dec. 25
Maribel Ortiz | Dec. 31
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| Dec. 22
Deb Wooten | Dec. 26
Annette Sulser | Ruth Allen |
| | | Hayleigh Jones |



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- 7 — cheese dressing
- 8 Some tides
- 10 Coffee-break hr.
- 11 Mistakes in print
- 13 Mitch Hedberg and Margaret Cho, for two
- 16 Standard
- 17 Cyber-commerce
- 18 To and —
- 19 Greet
- 20 "Roots" author Haley
- 21 Racing shell
- 23 Red-tag events
- 25 Poker variety
- 26 \$ dispensers
- 27 1040 org.
- 28 Mideast peninsula
- 30 Mimic
- 33 "Don't slouch!"
- 36 Spud
- 37 Thin nails
- 38 Brick worker
- 39 Used car sites
- 40 Med. plan option



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| DOWN | 41 Away from WSW | land | 25 Venus, to Serena |
| | 1 Of an arm bone | 9 Repress | 26 Playwright Chekhov |
| | 2 Writer O'Casey | 10 Recipe abbr. | 28 Tic |
| | 3 Unfair treatment | 12 Farm units | 29 "Life — short ..." |
| | 4 "Thank you, Henri" | 14 Gas co., for one | 30 Marble type |
| | 5 Yule tune | 15 Boston team, for short | 31 Profs' degrees |
| | 6 Pesky email | 19 Paul Newman film | 32 UFO crew |
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| | | 22 Convention | |
| | | 23 Luminary | |
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

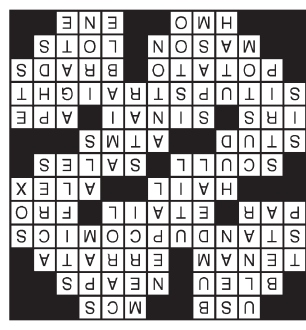
Clue: C equals T

TJRB CJR WRMWAR XHBMGRF
JXO CTM IMNDBFO, CJR AXLXF
NMBDGIJ HDLR CJRN CJR CJXGF
FRIGRR.

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Answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6	8	9	5	4	1	7	2	3	2
3	5	7	2	9	6	1	4	8	8
9	6	4	1	4	3	7	8	2	5
8	3	5	9	6	2	4	7	1	1
4	7	2	7	8	5	1	3	6	9
5	3	1	3	7	2	9	6	8	4
2	4	6	1	8	3	9	6	7	5
6	8	6	9	4	5	2	1	3	3



Solution time: 24 mins.

When the people ignored his two commands, the third monarch gave them the third decree.

LOCAL NEWS

CITY: Hueramo sworn in as new city clerk on Monday

From page 1

Downtown grant

The council unanimously approved a resolution in support of pursuing a Rebuild Downtowns and Main Streets Capital grant.

The grants have a minimum amount of \$250,000 and a maximum of \$3 million with a deadline of Jan. 10, 2022. The objective of the grant program is to support economic recovery in commercial corridors and downtowns that have experienced disinvestment, particularly in communities hardest-hit by COVID-19.

City Community Development Director Michelle Pease said if the city is a recipient of a grant, potential projects could include reconstruction of city parking lots near the downtown, additional new parking, removal of blight, a public restroom facility and improvements to electric and broadband infrastructure.

Energy audits

The council unanimously approved an audit services agreement with Panoptic Solutions, LLC to provide energy efficiency auditing services to Rochelle Municipal Utilities customers.

Audits will include a site visit, a data collection report and an interview findings report for the customers that wish to identify and improve energy inefficiencies. They will be available to residential



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At the end of the Rochelle City Council meeting, RoseMary Hueramo was sworn in as city clerk. Current City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Sue Messer will be retiring at the end of the year.

and small commercial business customers.

RMU will subsidize 50 percent of the audit cost to customers (\$150 for a home, \$400 for a small commercial business) until \$15,000 worth of deliverables and expenses have exhausted and have been billed to RMU.

Project Jackpot

The council unanimously approved a \$457,123 change order for electrical feed to Project Jackpot. The still-anonymous business has purchased the former Nippon Sharyo buildings at 1600 Ritchie Ct. and has been working with the city and

RMU on electrical infrastructure near the site to meet its power needs.

The change order will include a 15kV temporary power feed installed to insure reliability of the distribution system. Any future service upgrades will be the responsibility of the property owner, the

meeting's agenda packet said.

Hueramo

At the end of the meeting, RoseMary Hueramo was sworn in as city clerk. Current City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Sue Messer will be retiring at the end of the year.

"Rose has done a great job as she's come into this position under the guidance of Sue and this is a little bittersweet," Bearrows said. "I'm very happy Rose is doing a great job. But I'm also sad to see Sue retire. Congratulations and enjoy your retirement."

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In Dixon at: Shining Star
In Amboy at: Amboy News Office

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(Please Print)

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HEALTHY HOLIDAYS



How to reduce home fires this holiday season

SAFETY might not be the first thing people think of as the holiday season approaches. Faith, celebrations, decorations, and holiday dinners all come to mind when considering the holiday season. But that doesn't mean safety should be left out of holiday planning.

Fire safety bears special consideration during the holiday season, when the prevalence of fire hazards like Christmas trees, holiday lighting displays and other decorative items increase the risk for home fires. Such tragedies can be averted with a few simple safety measures.

Tend to your tree. Live Christmas trees are awe-inspiring, but they also pose a significant fire risk. The National Fire Protection Association urges celebrants to purchase only healthy trees with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Such trees are less likely to dry out, especially when

well-watered throughout the season. Dry trees can catch fire more easily than healthy trees if embers from nearby fireplaces or candles drift in their direction.

Recognize that location matters when decorating. The NFPA notes that Christmas trees should always be placed at least three feet away from any heat source, including fireplaces, space heaters, heat vents, candles, and even overhead lights. If decorating with candles, never place them on the tree or on tables where other flammable decorations have already been placed. Chanukah menorahs should never be placed near curtains or other decorations.

Turn off all lights and extinguish all lit decorative items when leaving the home or going to bed. Lit candles and menorahs should never be left unattended. The NFPA recommends turning tree lights and exterior decorative

lights off when leaving the home or going to bed.

Utilize a fire screen on fireplaces. Embers can catch on trees, decorations or anything else that's flammable if they escape the fireplace. Fire screens prevent that from happening by ensuring embers from burning logs stay in the fireplace. Like candles and menorahs, fires burning in a fireplace should never be left unattended. Make sure all embers have been extinguished before leaving the home or going to bed.

Keep discarded trees away from your home. A 2014 analysis from the NFPA found that none of the ten days with the largest share of Christmas tree fires were before Christmas. Dried out trees still pose a fire risk even after they've been removed from a home. When discarding a tree at the end of the holiday season, place it at the curb or keep it a safe distance away from your home and garage until you can.

Fire safety measures are an important component of the holiday season that can prevent this joyous time of year from turning tragic.



Have a healthy shopping experience

PEOPLE are more conscious than ever about their personal health. In late 2019 and early 2020, the world was introduced to the deadly virus COVID-19, which spread across the globe like wildfire, requiring various changes to personal routines and daily life to help corral its spread.

COVID-19 is just one factor shoppers should consider if they plan to make healthful changes to the way they prepare for the holiday season. These health-minded tips can ensure the holidays are full of joy and personal wellness.

Shop online. Avoiding crowds and busy places may be wise until a vaccine is developed. By early summer, many retailers were allowed to reopen if they implemented strict policies about workers and customers wearing masks and cutting store capacities by a certain percentage. Shopping online enables you to stay closer to home and have gifts either delivered or made available for curbside pickup. Many retailers, including small mom-and-pop stores, have implemented new e-commerce options to increase their online shopping capabilities.

Stay well fed and hydrated. Marathon shopping sessions at the mall may get your gift list checked off, but you may feel ill if you don't eat and drink. Stop for a healthy snack, and drink plenty of water so that dry, indoor air doesn't contribute to dehydration.

Alleviate back pain. Heavy bags, lifting and inspecting items at arms length from racks or shelves and wearing a heavy purse can contribute to back pain. Minimize such movements to ensure a shopping trip doesn't end with some aches and pains.

Touch only what you plan to buy. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other health organizations have said it is unlikely that people can contract COVID-19 from handling packaging, do not pick up products and put them in your cart unless you plan to buy them. Compare items with your eyes, not your hands.

Wash hands frequently. Remember to frequently wash hands during shopping ventures or when returning from the store. In the absence of a sink, use hand sanitizer that's at least 60 percent alcohol to prevent the spread of germs.

Staying healthy this holiday shopping season means taking a proactive approach to avoid germs and illness.

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HEALTHY HOLIDAYS



Ensuring recipe sampling won't lead to illness

THE holidays simply wouldn't be complete without homemade dishes and desserts. Treats also are commonly offered as tokens of appreciation when popping in on friends and relatives.

Good chefs understand that tasting foods while they are being prepared helps to ensure the finished product will be just right. Children often want to help in the kitchen, especially if given the opportunity to sample some sweets.

As much as sampling can help ensure things come out right, it's important to know when licking that spoon or mixing beaters is a good idea, and when it may lead to gastrointestinal upset.

Raw flour

It's oh so tempting to break off a chunk of uncooked cookie dough or pie crust and sample your handiwork. If the recipe doesn't contain eggs, it's safe to dig in, right? Actually, many people are unaware that sampling uncooked doughs and batters is risky due to the flour. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warn that flour actually is

a raw food. It hasn't been treated to kill germs such as E. coli and other bacteria. Even processes like grinding and bleaching flours will not eradicate bacteria. The CDC says in 2016 and 2019 two outbreaks of E. coli infections linked to raw flour made more than 80 people sick. Adults and children should skip those nibbles when raw dough is involved. Wait for the baked cookies or look into safe "raw cookie dough" recipes.

Raw eggs

Who can forget the image of Rocky Balboa downing a glass of raw eggs in the first "Rocky" movie? In fact, it once was a trend for bodybuilders to drink raw egg mixtures as early protein shakes before whey and plant protein powders were made available. Anyone who consumes raw eggs runs the risk of salmonella poisoning. The American Egg Board says the chances of getting an infected egg is about 0.005 percent. Roughly one out of every 20,000 eggs produced will contain salmonella bacteria. Even if infected, if the egg is properly handled and refrigerated, bacteria

should not multiply enough to cause illness in a healthy person. Still, children, pregnant women, the elderly, and anyone with a compromised immune system should avoid raw eggs. The USDA says to use pasteurized eggs in recipes that call for raw eggs, like those for mayonnaise, Caesar dressing or hollandaise sauces. In-shell pasteurized eggs (which are placed in a hot water bath to kill bacteria) may be consumed safely without cooking.

Meats and poultry

Do not take a slice of that roast or sample a wing from the baked chicken unless you can confirm with a cooking thermometer that the food is done. It is unsafe to judge food's doneness by texture, color, color of the juices, and other sensory measures. Eating a piece before it is thoroughly cooked increases the risk of illness.

It's very tempting to sample recipes while preparing meals for guests or even regular family meals. But anyone who samples could be increasing their risk for food poisoning.

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SPORTS



MERIDIAN CHAMPS

The St. Paul boys basketball team won the Meridian Conference Championship.

See page 3 for more details

RTHS Wrestling

Hubs roll over Plano, G-K

Rochelle matmen sweep three-team home meet to reach 6-2 on season

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team remained unbeaten in Interstate 8 Conference action Tuesday, taking down Plano 56-22 before defeating Genoa-Kingston 57-21 in a nonconference matchup. The Hubs improved to 6-2 overall and 2-0 in the conference.

Plano

The Reapers took the first match of the dual, winning the 195-pound bout with an 11-2 major decision. Rochelle scored its first points in the 220-pound bout, where Hub freshman Kaiden Morris recorded the lone takedown in a 2-0 decision over Carnell Walls. Plano's Alex Diaz pinned to win the 285-pound bout, but the Reapers conceded the 106-pound and 113-pound bouts to Rochelle sophomore Tommy Tourdot and freshman Xavier Villalobos.

With the Hubs leading 16-10, freshman Joseph Nadig faced Marcos Garcia in the 120-pound bout, totaling one takedown and one near-fall before pinning to win the match. Plano's Cain Hernandez

and Norbert Gajda pinned to take the 126-pound and 138-pound bouts, but the Reapers forfeited the 132-pound bout to Hub junior Wesley Brown. Rochelle surged ahead when freshman Grant Gensler reversed and pinned Antoine Gilford to win the 145-pound bout.

Senior Caleb Nadig dominated the 152-pound bout against Gio Diaz, compiling four takedowns and three near-falls for a 17-1 technical fall. Freshman Brandyn Metzger made quick work of Will Collins in the 160-pound bout, recording a 15-second pin to extend the Hub lead.

In a chaotic 170-pound bout, Rochelle sophomore Brock Metzger overcame an early deficit against Vincent Herbig, totaling two takedowns, two reversals and one near-fall before pinning in the third period to win. Junior Troy Papke received a forfeit in the 182-pound bout.

G-K

Rochelle received five forfeits to open the dual against the Cogs. Among the recipients of the free victories were sopho-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Freshman Brandyn Metzger puts the finishing move on Plano's Will Collins during the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling match against the Reapers and Genoa-Kingston Cogs on Tuesday.

more Tommy Tourdot (106 pounds), freshman Xavier Villalobos (113 pounds), freshman Joseph Nadig (120 pounds), junior Weldon Nay (126 pounds) and junior Wesley Brown (132 pounds). in the first live match of the dual, Rochelle sophomore Alex Burke erased a 2-0 defi-

cit, reversing and pinned Andy Swider to win the 138-pound bout.

Freshman Grant Gensler kept the Hub run alive in the 145-pound bout, recording two takedowns and two near-falls before pinning Tristan Swenson in the third period. Genoa-Kingston snapped

Rochelle's streak of 42 consecutive points soon after, with Clayton Mitchell and Brady Brewick each pinning to win the 152-pound and 160-pound bouts.

Rochelle sophomore Brock Metzger calmed the Cog momentum in the 170-pound bout, notching

two takedowns and a near-fall before pinning Aiden Vasak. Genoa-Kingston's Julian Torres scored a 10-4 decision in the 182-pound bout before Michael Sauer pinned to win the 195-pound bout for the Cogs.

See HUBS page 3

RTHS Girls Basketball

Second-half defense shines for Lady Hubs

Luxton leads Rochelle with 13 points in 44-27 loss against Ottawa

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team struggled to defend against Ottawa's ball movement during the first half on Tuesday. Despite the Pirates building a double-digit lead, however, Ottawa's offense went away quietly over the final two quarters.

The Lady Hubs successfully adjusted their defense on Tuesday, limiting Ottawa to only eight points on three made field goals in the second half of a 44-27 loss against the Pirates. Rochelle head coach Ryan McQuade said that switching from a zone defense to more man-to-man allowed the Lady Hubs to pressure Ottawa's ball handlers and limit the team's ball movement.

"They were killing us with their ball screens during the first half," McQuade said. "We made the adjustment to start hedging and trapping those screens during the second half and we got a lot of easy looks in transition as a result. . . Ottawa put on a clinic in the first half in terms of ball movement and they were getting a lot of easy looks all over the floor against our zone."

Ottawa's Zoe Harris and Marlie Orlandi carried the scoring load for the Pirates, with both players finishing the game at 17 points. Ottawa led 36-14 at halftime, but the Lady Hubs slowly worked their way back in the second half, holding the Pirates to only two third-quarter points.

With seniors Lucy Bunger and Jordin Dickey exerting themselves with their perimeter defense, Rochelle looked for senior Abby Luxton on offense. The 6-foot-1 senior took advantage of her size and length at the basket, converting multiple put-backs on offensive rebounds to finish the game with a team-high 13 points. The Lady Hubs fell to 5-8 and 0-3 in the Interstate 8.

"We don't quit and we're going to build on that second half," McQuade said. "We have to get healthy since we have a few girls down right now and we have to build on the little things like Abby getting going and holding them to eight points in the second half. I'm not a huge moral victory person, but we have to build on those types of things when we struggle offensively."



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Lucy Bunger battles with Ottawa's Grace Carroll during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against the Pirates on Tuesday.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



Alexis

Huerta

Year: Sophomore

Sport: Dance

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

A: 14 years.

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

*A: Showing the audience how
hard my teammates and I work.*

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

*A: English, I enjoy writing
about what I'm passionate for.*

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

*A: Taylor Ponto because
she works so hard and I want to
become as talented as her.*

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

*A: My mom because she works
hard every day but she still has
time to love and be there for me.*

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

*A: To be a professional dancer,
I've danced all my life and I want
to dance as long as I can.*

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

*A: Hawaii because the
environment is so different from
where I live and I want to see it.*

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

*A: Being able to share our
success with friends and fans.*



Kayla

Ortega

Year: Sophomore

Sport: Dance

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

A: Nine years.

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

*A: Being able to bond with
people in a different way.*

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

*A: Geometry, I enjoy solving
problems and learning different
ways to solve problems.*

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

*A: Taylor Ponto because she's
an incredible dancer and she's
always kind to others.*

Q: Who is your biggest role

model and why?

*A: My parents because they
push me every day to be the
best I can possibly be.*

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

*A: To be a trauma nurse, I love
to help people and I've always
wanted to enter the medical field.*

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

*A: Somewhere in Hawaii, I love
the warm weather and nature.*

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

*A: I love being involved and
enjoying how great our team is.*

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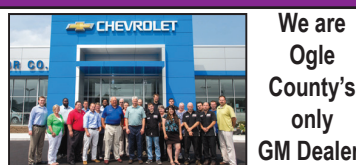
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SPORTS

Meridian Conference

(COURTESY PHOTO)



St. Paul wins Meridian Conference Boys Basketball Championship

Cornerstone Christian Academy hosted the 2021 Meridian Conference Boys Basketball Championship this past week. The St. Paul Crusaders went unbeaten in the regular season before defeating the Kings Comets to win this year's conference championship. The team includes Johnny Chadwick, Cohen Haedt, Bane Workman, Tyler Johnson, Brody Bruns, Luke Chadwick, Andrew Eyster and Owen Carmichael. The team is coached by Craig Reineck and Ryan Haedt. The team is pictured above with St. Paul cheerleaders Brooklyn Sarver, Alison Dyer, Meredith Bruns, Cambrey Rodeghero, Jillian Bruns and Paisley Albaugh.

HUBS: Wrestling team sweeps Tuesday meet

From page 1

Freshman Kaiden Morris cruised over Ben Younker in the 220-pound bout, winning by 17-1 technical fall behind three takedowns and three near-falls. Junior Jaden Cook pinned David Way to win the 285-pound bout and seal the dual win.

JV

The Rochelle Hub wrestling team placed 14th out of 26 schools with 54 points in the Mike West JV Invitational at Rockford East on Saturday. Ten Rochelle wrestlers competed in the tournament, with three Hubs recording top-6 finishes in their respective brackets.

Freshman Weylin Nay took third and scored 15 points in the 113-pound bracket. Nay received a first-round bye before out-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Freshman Joseph Nadig goes for the pin during the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling match against Plano and Genoa-Kingston on Tuesday.

lasting St. Charles North's Jackson Karsten with an 8-7 decision. After falling in the semifinals, Nay pinned Yorkville's Adrian Escobar in the third-place bout.

Sophomore Alex McBride placed sixth in

the 195-pound bracket. McBride opened the tournament with a fall over Lincoln-Way Central's J.T. Cordell before falling against DeKalb's Aiden Sesson. McBride then scored back-to-back falls over Oregon's Seth Rote

and Crystal Lake Central's Mick Kozlowski before falling to Yorkville's Connor Peach in the fifth-place bout.

Junior Jaden Cook finished sixth in the 285-pound bracket. Cook faced Downers Grove

RTHS Girls Bowling

Lady Hubs win over Kaneland

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team ended its four-match losing streak on Tuesday, rolling over the Kaneland Knights 2,465-2,041 behind a 487 series from freshman Cassidy Vincent and a 467 series from senior Alyssa Mickley. Rochelle improved to 2-4 on the season and 2-3 in the Interstate 8 Conference with the victory over the Knights.

The Lady Hubs opened the match with an 828-652 victory in the first game. Sophomore Faith Adams fired 167 to lead the Rochelle team, while Vincent followed with 158 and Mickley scored 146. Preslee Sutherland totaled 141 in the first game for the Knights.

Rochelle edged Kaneland 723-679 in the second game, with Mickley rolling 142 and Sutherland shooting 166 for the

Knights. The Lady Hubs won the third game 914-710 to complete the sweep. Sophomore Anahi Alanis opened the third game with five straight strikes and finished with a season-best score of 168, while Vincent shot a match-best 208 and Mickley scored 179.

Cavalier Classic

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling team took fifth out of 10 schools in the Cavalier Classic at the Illinois Valley Super Bowl on Saturday. Freshman Cassidy Vincent finished sixth overall with an 1,125 series, while senior Alyssa Schwanert placed 12th overall with a 1,030 series.

"I could not be prouder of the effort put forth by the girls today," head coach Eric Widick said. "If someone faltered, another one stepped up. Our girls are learning the meaning of teamwork. They are now supporting each other. I could not be prouder of the effort of our girls today."



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Zoe Rourke readies a shot during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity bowling match against Kaneland.

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No. 1201 (Dec. 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29)

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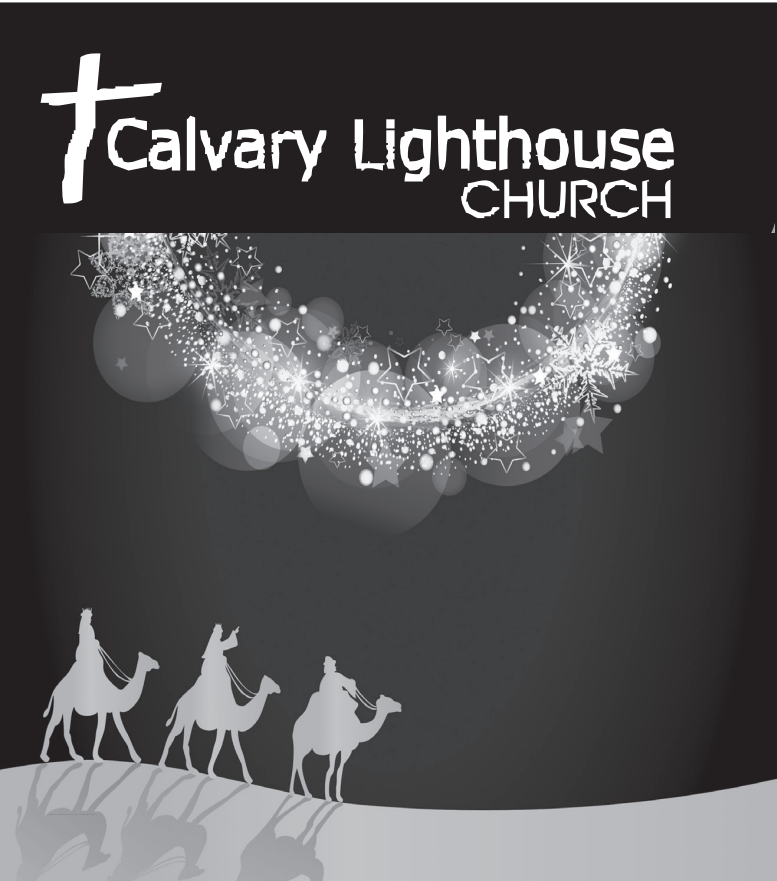
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SPORTS

RTHS Boys Bowling

Hubs fall to LaSalle-Peru, Sycamore

RTHS takes ninth at Cavalier Classic

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team topped the 3,000-pin mark for the first time this season Monday, but the score wasn't enough to take down LaSalle-Peru in a 3,582-3,026 loss at T-Byrd Lanes. Senior Devansh Patel fired a team-high 636 series for the Hubs, who dropped to 2-9 overall and 1-5 in the Interstate 8 Conference with the loss.

LaSalle-Peru opened the match with a 1,177-1,069 victory in the first game. Ethan Picco led the Cavaliers with 247 and Chance Hank followed with 215. Patel fired 223 for the Hubs in the first game, while junior Evin Odle rolled a 210 and sophomore Christian Thorne recorded 179.

The Cavaliers surged ahead in the second game, winning 1,249-940 behind 222 from Jake Quick and 216 from Colin Wren. Hank added 218 and Picco scored 210 for LaSalle-Peru, with Odle shooting 201 and Patel totaling 192 to lead the Hubs in the second game.

LaSalle-Peru completed the sweep with a 1,156-1,017 win in the third game. Picco scored 217 to end the match with a 674 series, while Hank rolled 203 to finish with a 636 series. Patel shot 221 for Rochelle and Odle totaled 176 to end the meet with a 587 series.

Cavalier Classic

The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team finished ninth out of 12 schools with



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Christian Thorne readies a shot for the Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team.

4,780 pins scored during the Cavalier Classic at the Illinois Valley Super Bowl on Saturday. Junior Evin Odle led the Hubs with a 1,025 series and 245 high score over six games to place 34th overall.

Rochelle scored 883 in the first game, with senior Luke Orlikowski shooting 210 and freshman Logan Frye firing 203. After totaling 783 and 695 over the second and third games, Rochelle recorded 855 in the fourth game behind Orlikowski's 216 and Frye's 191. Odle's 245 propelled the Hubs to an 865 score in the fifth game before Rochelle finished with 699 in the sixth game.

Sycamore

The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team faced the Sycamore Spartans for

an Interstate 8 Conference rematch this past Tuesday. Sycamore dominated all three games, defeating Rochelle 3,337-2,586 and dropping the Hubs to 2-8 overall and 1-4 in the conference. Sycamore won the first game 1,122-871 behind 212 from Tommy Reboletti and 212 from Graham Hilligoss. Sophomore Christian Thorne shot 181 for the Hubs in the first game.

The Spartans took the second game 1,085-834, with Hilligoss firing 211 and Jaxon Lang recording 201. Odle rolled a 193 and senior Devansh Patel recorded 163 for the Hubs.

Sycamore completed the sweep with a 1,130-881 victory in the third game. Hilligoss fired 227 for a match-best 650 series, while Odle and Thorne scored 173 and 169 for Rochelle.

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