



# ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

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## KNOW IT TODAY



**Police combating cyber crimes**

Learn how Rochelle Detective Terry Inman is helping the state fight cyber crimes. **Page 2**

**WEATHER**

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>70 50</b>	<b>66 48</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>61 45</b>	<b>59 41</b>

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:

**Rochelle** Chiropractic Clinic Dr. Chad M. Pillier

222 E. Illinois Route 38  
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**OBITUARIES**

- ERIC R. NELSON
- WILMA NANCE

See page 4

**INSERTS**

- ALDI
- ACE HARDWARE
- FARM & FLEET

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## School resource officer program extended

### Solar agreement with Kennay Farms Distillery approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its Tuesday meeting, the Rochelle city council unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement with the elementary school board to extend the Rochelle Police school resource officer position at Rochelle Middle School.

The extension will keep the officer at RMS until Sept. 1, 2024. An additional term beyond that date can be mutually agreed upon.

RMS School Resource Officer Jim Jakymiw made a presentation to the council during the meeting and said that the SRO program has gone well since it started three years ago.

"I believe the program has been a huge success," Jakymiw said. "Thank you for this opportunity and this relationship and cooperation between the district and the city."

The school district has agreed to pay 33 percent of the SRO's total compensation including salary, overtime, benefits, and pension payments.

The budgeted amount



RMS School Resource Officer Jim Jakymiw made a presentation to the council during the meeting and said that the SRO program has gone well since it started three years ago.

for the city's portion was listed as \$73,161 in the meeting packet.

**Solar agreement**

The council unanimously approved an agreement with Kennay Farms Distillery for the installation

of solar panels on the roof of its Rick House. The city will commit \$90,000 over a three-year period for the project that has a total cost of \$260,000.

The first installment of \$30,000 will be paid by the city in Dec. 2022 with

successful installation and two more \$30,000 installments will follow in Dec. 2023 and 2024. The project is not net metered. Any additional power produced will go back onto RMU's grid at no cost. The city's agenda packet said Rochelle

Municipal Utilities, which it owns, will recover its investment amount within "approximately 10 years" with an annual average savings of \$9,000 produced by the solar panels.

See CITY page 5

## RCH enacts employee vaccine mandate

### 'I would be less than truthful if I said everybody is happy about it'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — After a late August COVID-19 vaccine mandate made by Gov. JB Pritzker for health-care employees, Rochelle Community Hospital fully implemented the requirement last month.

Those that are not fully-vaccinated are required to get tested for COVID-19 at least once a week. RCH CEO Gregg Olson said "70-something" percent of hospital staff are fully-vaccinated. About 60 employees are not fully-vaccinated and need to be tested once a week.

"The mandate isn't you have to be vaccinated, it's you have to be tested," Olson said. "Our staff understands that. I would be less than truthful if I said everybody is happy about it. Because not everybody is. But most are. I would say most people understand the position we're in. We are following the governor's order. That's our role. We have to and we will until it changes."

Olson said the hospital



After a late August COVID-19 vaccine mandate made by Gov. J.B Pritzker for healthcare employees, Rochelle Community Hospital fully implemented the requirement last month. Those that are not fully-vaccinated are required to get tested for COVID-19 at least once a week.

is paying for the cost of the weekly tests of unvaccinated employees and they take part in the same testing program that a member of the community would if

they wanted to come to the hospital for a COVID-19 test.

Covering the cost of tests for employees was "always part of the plan"

Olson said. He doesn't want to add another burden onto employees and praised them for their work during the pandemic. He doesn't want to lose employees and wants

to keep RCH's staff intact. "We didn't think it was fair that our employees had to take on that cost," he said.

See RCH page 8

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Rochelle Police Department combating cyber crime

Cases have involved child pornography, scams preying on the elderly

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Last week, State Attorney General Kwame Raoul joined local and federal prosecutors to announce new efforts to combat a rise in online child exploitation in Illinois. The efforts will include greater outreach and education for parents and teachers and a new mobile computer forensics unit that will be deployed throughout the state.

The efforts are being coordinated through the state's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, a federally-funded project within the attorney general's office that includes state, federal and local law enforcement agencies. Rochelle Police Det. Terry Inman is on that task force.

Inman said he's been doing child pornography investigations for about 14 years. The process involves electronic service providers such as Facebook or Google reporting images where a child is being exploited to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

That organization does some preliminary investigation and finds out what jurisdiction would have it, and then they send it off to that jurisdiction, such as Rochelle, and the department starts an investigation. "That's our role here, to investigate any of the tips that would pertain to Rochelle," Inman said.

"We also partner with other task force personnel from

around the area, whether it's Ogle County, Lee County or the state police. When they're working cases on their end, they'll get tips that they'll start working and sometimes when a search warrant needs to be done or something they'll call for extra resources. In a nutshell, that's what it is."

Inman said investigating cases of child pornography is not easy. He had a case earlier this year where he had to sift through 70,000 files on an individual's device. Inman has access to a software package that will separate photos pertinent to the investigation.

"It will even parse out, fairly accurately, age groups," Inman said. "You can say you want just still images that are real photographs of people under the age of 16. That is extremely helpful. To go through 70,000 images takes a little bit of time."

Inman said that some of the cases can be "very heinous" and can take a toll on investigators. The task force makes different resources available such as counseling for those who work cases.

While child pornography cases may not be like other types of crimes, he said the police work process is the same at the end of the day.

"It just depends on the facts and nature of the case," Inman said. "Essentially, they get worked sort of the same way. You get the information, you get the leads and you follow the leads. Really, it's like any other case in that regard."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The efforts are being coordinated through the State of Illinois' Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, a federally-funded project within the attorney general's office that includes state, federal and local law enforcement agencies. Rochelle Police Det. Terry Inman is on that task force.

Inman said that there was some concern that cases of online child exploitation could rise due to people being home more during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the task force's numbers for cyber tips have gone up, but he's not sure if it's due to people staying home or if it's an increase in capabilities to detect trafficking of the material or if the overall acts themselves are increasing in frequency.

"I suspect it's probably a combination of all of it," Inman said. "There's any number of variables that I think would contribute to an increase in our workload

and caseload."

Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby said the internet has "changed everything" as far as policing. His department and Inman also work on other types of cyber crimes such as electronic thefts of money.

He believes the department will have to put another detective through the amount of cyber crime training Inman has had in the future if things keep trending in the way they have.

"You have entire charges, cyber bullying, the electronic thefts," Higby said. "All of this stuff,

we never used to have. The child porn, all those crimes you never used to have. It's impacted us tremendously in terms of our resources. How you can clear these cases and how difficult they are. When I started here, Rochelle was one of the first agencies that had in-car computers. And now, look at where we're at. It's crazy to think that in 25 years it's changed that much."

Inman has had training in recent years in white collar crimes and crimes against the elderly. He's currently working on a case involving an email system being hacked for access to

financial data. This week, he's taking a class on cryptocurrency. He's worked on a couple of "Nigerian scam" cases where he was able to arrest people.

"It happens here," Inman said. "It's not just the FBI that deals with those. A lot of times we'll get them and talk to the FBI and they'll tell us to run it down and see what happens. They're interesting because it's not the typical case and it requires diving into a world that we don't spend a whole lot of time in. It's pretty interesting."

Inman said he believes there's "definitely a learning curve" when it comes to investigating cyber crime. His hope is to try to get ahead of the curve and said there's a lot of training out there between international, national and federal resources.

He believes the easiest way to get better at solving cyber crimes is networking with other agencies and detectives. Unfortunately, the nature of cyber crimes may always have law enforcement at a time disadvantage.

"While the bad guy is sitting here looking at computers all day long and thinking how to access things like financial accounts and exploit them and steal, he's got all the time in the world to figure that out," Inman said. "His clock doesn't start running until he starts taking steps to do that. When we have to respond, we have to do it fairly quickly."

We'd like to wish a very Happy 80th Birthday to our father, Dr. Juanito "Del" Delfinado!

Dr. Del came to this country as a young medical doctor from the Philippines in 1965. He faithfully served the people of Rochelle for over 30 years. Whether tending to his patients, running a hunting camp or coaching softball, our Dad has always shown us how to serve and lead.

If you've ever been lucky enough to taste our Dad's cooking, you'll know that his secret ingredient is love (followed closely by garlic and soy sauce!) No matter the event, from helping with the St. Pat's Lenten fish fry or roasting a whole pig for a celebration to sweeping the 30 Men who Cook competition and teaching his grandchildren how to make egg rolls, you'd better make room for a delicious second helping!

Our Dad takes care of his community, his friends and his family. He makes house calls, he babysits the grandkids, he makes our friends feel welcome with his generous hospitality. He does it all with the love of his life, our Mom Elaine, by his side.

We couldn't be prouder to call him Dad. If you know Dr. Del, please help us in wishing him a Happy Birthday this Thursday, October 14th!

We love you Dad!

Gemma and Leah



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# LOCAL NEWS

## RTHS Key Club dedicates bench to former advisor

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

**ROCHELLE** — A bench was dedicated to former Advisor Danae White from the Rochelle Township High School Key Club Tuesday morning.

Advisor Joe Howard as well as Golden K Advisors Dennis Swinton and John Gruben plus RTHS Key Club members trekked out north of the water tower where the bench was installed on the bike path. These benches are made from the recycled bottle caps that the RTHS Key Club and the Kings Comets collect. Senior Madison Ost is the RTHS Key Club President.

"Honestly, so many other people or classes



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**A bench was dedicated to former Advisor Danae White from the RTHS Key Club Tuesday morning. Advisor Joe Howard, Golden K Advisors Dennis Swinton and John Gruben and more trekked out north of the water tower where the bench was installed on the bike path.**

should have received this dedication," White said. "I remember when

we started this project and I am truly blessed to have been a part of such

an amazing group for so long. I'm humbled by this kind gesture. I will

walk on the bike path and take a break on this bench each time to reflect

on the beautiful people I have met along the way in Key Club and Kiwanis."

## CFNIL opens application for In Youth We Trust grants

**ROCKFORD** — The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is now accepting applications for In Youth We Trust (IYWT) grants.

For the 2021-2022 school year, IYWT will have two grant cycles: one for proposals written by nonprofit organizations (adults) for the purpose of serving youth, and one for proposals written by youth for youth-led, youth-benefiting projects.

proposals written by nonprofit organizations (adults), opens today and closes at 5 p.m. on Nov. 19.

Applications in this cycle must be submitted by organizations providing services or programming to youth in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson or Winnebago Counties. Applications must be submitted via CFNIL's online grants application portal which may be accessed, along with full program details, at <https://cfnil.org/grants/>

iywtadult.

Applications will be reviewed by the In Youth We Trust Council, a group of local high school students who convene monthly with staff and advisors of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois to learn about grantmaking, volunteerism and community leadership.

Applicants can request a maximum of \$5,000. For this cycle the IYWT Council will look for proposals that provide

solutions to community issues facing youth, help youth recognize the important role they play within their communities, have a clear, practical plan for implementation, have a realistic budget and have measurable and meaningful results.

The IYWT Council is an opportunity for high school students from Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties to learn about and practice philanthropy. The students help

establish grant criteria, evaluate proposals and recommend grant awards for youth led projects. IYWT empowers youth to expand their moral imagination and "see the good." In Youth We Trust was established in 1994 and has surpassed \$500,000 in grantmaking for youth-benefiting projects in our region.

The CFNIL has been a regional leader in philanthropy since 1953 and serves as a catalyst for giving in order to attract,

preserve and grow an endowment for the needs of the people of Northern Illinois.

CFNIL established In Youth We Trust in 1994 with a grant from the Ford Foundation. In Youth We Trust teaches grantmaking and volunteerism to today's youth, preparing them to be the positive change of tomorrow. Learn more about CFNIL: <https://cfnil.org>. Learn more about In Youth We Trust: <https://cfnil.org/iywt>.

## Council quorum may be present at Citizens' Academy graduation

**ROCHELLE** — The City of Rochelle issued a press release on Tuesday

giving notice that a quorum of the Rochelle City Council members may be

present for the Citizens' Academy Graduation Dinner on Thursday, Oct.

28 at 6 p.m. at Kennay Farms Distilling, at 416 Lincoln Highway in

Rochelle.

The dinner is being held to acknowledge the

participants and celebrate their completion of the 10-week program.

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## 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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• **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2022 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:

In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest, Dimond Bros. Insurance and Hub City Senior Center  
In Oregon at: Merlin's  
In Dixon at: Shining Star  
In Amboy at: Amboy News Office

• **BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2022 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

**YES! Send me my 2022 From The Heart Cash Calendar!**

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(\$20 per calendar plus \$2 per calendar postage) to:  
Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068



# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Eric R. Nelson

**ROCHELLE** — Eric R. Nelson, 77, of Rochelle, passed away Monday, Oct. 11 at his home. He was born July 2, 1944, in Oak Park, the son of Eric L. and Lorraine (McCleary) Nelson. Eric married Elizabeth Rose Finnigan on April 7, 1973, in Lombard.

Eric was a self-employed carpenter and member of the Masons, Shiners and Scottish Rite in Rochelle.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; two sons, Eric T. (Rebecca) Nelson and Jerod C. Nelson; two grandchildren, Rune and Elise; siblings, Marcelle (Philip) Wells

and Jacqueline Brown and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Laurri, in infancy.

A Masonic Service will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16 at Anderson Funeral Home in DeKalb followed by a service with the Chaplain Chuck Olson of Northern Illinois Hospice officiating. Cremation has taken place at Anderson Funeral Home.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16 at Anderson Funeral Home in DeKalb.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made



to the Eric R. Nelson Memorial Fund, addressed to the Nelson Family in care of Anderson Funeral Home, Ltd., P.O. Box 605, 2011 S. Fourth St., DeKalb, IL 60115.

For information, visit [www.AndersonFuneralHomeLtd.com](http://www.AndersonFuneralHomeLtd.com) or call 815-756-1022.

## Rochelle Police Department

### Resident arrested on Ogle County warrant

**ROCHELLE** — On Oct. 8 at 1:19 a.m. Michael S. Jaeger, 40, of Sandwich was arrested for resisting arrest and obstruction of identification and transferred.

On Oct. 9 at 1:50 p.m. Christena M. Poole, 34, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. She paid \$1,000 and was given an Ogle County court date of Nov. 3.

On Oct. 9 at 4:36 p.m. Helen C. Thompson, 25, of Rochelle was cited for failure to reduce speed

to avoid an accident. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Nov. 19.

On Oct. 10 at 12:48 a.m. a 15-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery. He was released on an I-Bond.

On Oct. 10 at 1:02 p.m. Cynthia Brown, 66, of Lindenwood was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Nov. 19.

On Oct. 10 at 6:49 p.m.

Dwyer White, 25, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 60 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone, illegal transportation of alcohol and possession of cannabis in a vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Nov. 19.

On Oct. 10 at 8:47 p.m. Sergio Magallon-Vargas, 27, of Rochelle was arrested for driving under the influence and cited for failure to signal. He posted \$100 and his driver's license and was given a Rochelle court date of Nov. 19.

## Ogle County Sheriff's Department

### Rochelle man arrested for DUI

**OREGON** — On Oct. 10 at approximately 11:05 p.m. deputies performed a traffic stop at the intersection of Mulford Road and Lind Road after the vehicle was called in as a driving complaint. After investigation, deputies placed Derek Jarvis, 35, of Rochelle under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Jarvis was additionally issued a citation for improper lane usage. Jarvis was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Oct. 10 at approximately 7:53 p.m. deputies came upon a single vehicle accident with no injuries at

the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Illinois Route 72. After a short investigation, deputies placed Paul Chareun, 64, of Crest Hill, Illinois under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Chareun was additionally issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Chareun was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Oct. 10 deputies arrested Wayne Master, 47, of New Lenox, Illinois for driving while license suspended. Master was arrested by deputies on Interstate 39 near Illinois Route

64 after being stopped for speeding. Master was released on a I-Bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

On Oct. 10 at approximately 8:59 p.m. deputies responded to a vehicle stuck in the ditch in the 4,000 block of East Countryview Drive. After investigation, deputies placed Pauly Rico, 21, of Byron under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Rico was additionally issued citations for too fast for conditions and operating an uninsured vehicle. Rico was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

### Wilma Nicole Dillon Nance

**ROCHELLE** — Wilma Nicole Dillon Nance, 71, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 10 at the Rochelle Community Hospital. Wilma was born on June 4, 1950, to William and Mary (Lawson) Dillon in Rochelle.

Wilma was a NASCAR, college football and NFL sports fan. She loved life

and people, finding good in all. She believed in God and knew no matter what life brought her way, he was always there to save us.

She loved her significant other, Dan. She loved watching auto racing and football with him. She said she liked to argue with him and, a little while later, make up. Their arguments

were always in good fun. She loved her twin sisters. She was more proud of them and loved them more than they will ever know. Family was very important to her.

Wilma is survived by her significant other, Dan Davis of Rochelle; her sisters, Virginia Gouker of Chana and Verne Williams of Macomb and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Wilma is preceded in death by her father, William Dillon; mother, Mary Lawson Dalberg; step-father, Clyde Dalberg; brothers William E. Dillon and Ole Dalberg and nephew, Jay Dillon.

Cremation care has been provided by Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 16 at Flag Center Cemetery. Please visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

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bus trip to "Illumination: Tree Lights at The Morton Arboretum" on Dec. 1. An exciting exhibit of hundreds of trees lit up for the holidays will be the feature of the trip.

An art-oriented excursion seeing the Naperville murals and eating dinner prior to the Illumination visit will begin the trip. In its ninth year, "Illumination" will surround us by color as we walk a one-mile paved path amid interactive lighting effects that highlight the beauty of trees in winter.

We'll enjoy seasonal music, marvel at ever-changing, interactive lighting designs and warm up by a crackling fire with a cozy drink or seasonal snacks from concession stands on the grounds. The cost is \$55 (\$49 for accompanied children 2-17) plus dinner.

The approximate sched-

ule is noon to 10:30 p.m. The bus capacity will be limited to 30 participants in a 56-seat bus so that participants can spread out. Vaccination of all participants is encouraged so that all will be comfortable.

Registration can be completed online at Encore's web site ([encoremtnorris.com](http://encoremtnorris.com)) or stop by Village Hall. Registration deadline is Oct. 23 because tickets for the Illumination event must be purchased in advance.

Those with questions can contact [mollyb@encoremtnorris.com](mailto:mollyb@encoremtnorris.com) More details will be provided upon registration. Encore! Mt. Morris is composed of volunteers committed to developing Mt. Morris into a unique, thriving rural and cultural arts destination in north-west Illinois. Learn more at [EncoreMtMorris.com](http://EncoreMtMorris.com).

**The Latest NEWS**

is available at  
[www.rochellenews-leader.com](http://www.rochellenews-leader.com)

**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



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle City Council members approved a series of resolutions during Monday's meeting. Those included a rezoning ordinance, the purchase of a bucket truck for Rochelle Municipal Utilities and a feeder replacement at 1133 N. 7th St.

## CITY: Council members approve bucket truck purchase

From page 1

That figure is based on current rates, usage and production of solar power.

The solar panels have a life expectancy of 25 years and the city expects to receive those savings for the entirety of that time frame. Kennay Farms is responsible for the maintenance and snow removal of the solar panels.

### Rezoning

The council unanimously approved an ordinance to rezone 300 Steward Road from B-2 commercial highway to I-1 light industry, which could result in a potential ware-

house business. Mayor John Bearrows abstained from the vote.

Jim Planey of Hub City Development, LLC made the zoning change request. The property was annexed into Rochelle in 2010 with a light industry classification but was rezoned in 2018 to commercial highway because the developer felt it created a better market for a project compatible to the Love's Travel Stop, which is adjacent to the west. Warehouses are not allowed with a special use permit in a commercial highway district, but are in light industry.

The property is surrounded by commercial

highway zoning on the west, agricultural zoning on the south, Illinois Tollway Interstate 88 on the north and residential single family zoning on the east.

At the Oct. 4 planning and zoning commission meeting, the proposed rezoning was approved 6-0.

### Bucket truck

The council unanimously approved an or-

dinance waiving competitive bidding requirements and awarding Altec Industries Inc. the purchase order of a bucket truck for the RMU electric department for \$194,805.

The truck will replace a 2011 unit and the meeting packet said bucket trucks have a life expectancy of about 10 years. The truck has a 660-day delivery time due to supply shortages and is expected to be

delivered in spring 2023. Payment will be due upon delivery.

### Feeder replacement

The council unanimously accepted and approved the proposal of Engle Electric for the 120/208V secondary feeder replacement at 1133 N. 7th St. for \$71,983. Engle Electric was the

sole bidder.

The Comfort Inn & Suites hotel at the location is the last property to be converted in phase two of the 5kv conversion.

"This will significantly improve the reliability of the electric service since the current transformer was manufactured 1964," the meeting packet said. "The new service will be connected to the Twombly substation."

## High dose flu vaccine available

OREGON—The Ogle County Health Department has received a limited number of high dose flu vaccines for those ages 65 and older. Please call to schedule your appointment at the Oregon or Rochelle office 815-562-6976.



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# LOCAL VIEWS

## Guest column

### Otto Wettstein: Rochelle’s phone man

OTTO Wettstein Jr. was 18 years old in 1893. His mother, Ida went to close a window when her hand slipped and went through the glass. Ida sat on the floor bleeding and called to Otto to get help. Otto ran six blocks to Dr. Carlton’s home and fetched medical assistance. On the way back to the house Otto said, “I don’t see why they don’t have telephones in this town.” Dr. Carlton replied: “Yes, it would save many a life, But I guess the town isn’t big enough for telephones.”

For Wettstein Jr. this was the beginning of a dream to bring telephone service to Rochelle and then to towns across the country. Born in Rochelle in 1875, Otto was educated into his second year of high school when he decided to drop out and attend business college in Chicago.

Upon completion of his schooling, Otto Jr. went to work as a bookkeeper for his father, Otto Wettstein Sr., at the family jewelry store.

He still had a dream of starting a phone service that was affordable to the citizens of Rochelle. In 1893 Central Union (Bell) installed the first local phone in Hartong’s Drug Store. With a walk to Hartong’s, you could call as far as New York to the East and Clinton, Iowa to the West.

In 1894, Andrew Binz installed a Bell phone at his butcher shop and his slaughter house. For the rest, phone service was something only to be dreamed of. Otto Jr. was making \$1 a week as a bookkeeper. At that income there would be no money to start a telephone company.

But Otto believed, “If we needed telephone service so badly, many other people in Rochelle would have the same need for it.”

Otto rented Gardner’s Hall and sponsored dances and roller skating. He rented the Bain Opera House and held plays, magic shows and other entertainment. By 1895, Otto had saved only \$500 and he needed a new plan.

Otto called his brother, a banker, and convinced him that he had a viable business plan. With his brother’s backing, Otto was ready to get started. Unfortunately, Bell Telephone

had patents that were still in force. There was no way to own telephones or switchboards without renting them from Bell Telephone.

Things looked grim until Otto found a company in Kokomo, Indiana that offered equipment with a guarantee that it would not infringe on any patents. Local electric linemen installed the outside infrastructure and the Kokomo Company installed the switchboard.

Rena Dusher was hired as the day operator for \$15 a month. Claude Davis was night operator at \$10 per month. Phone service cost \$2 per month for businesses and \$1 for residential. This was local only, no long distance.

In 1896, Rochelle became only the second private phone service in Illinois. 50 subscribers out of a population of 1,800. Within two years, the Rochelle phone system had grown to 100, and Otto’s phone was ringing.

La Porte, Iowa wanted a phone system. Otto sold the Rochelle exchange to local investors and moved to La Porte. During the next 14 years, “Wettstein Construction Company” built 29 exchanges in Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri.

In 1912, Otto sold out his midwest holdings. Competing with Bell Telephone was proving to be too big of a fight. Without Bell, there was no access to long distance. But Otto wasn’t done. He moved his company to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

With a population of about 1,000, a 40-phone exchange was started. Otto expanded and formed the North Florida Telephone Company.

Rochelle’s phone man, Otto Wettstein, stayed in the phone business for 53 years. He was chairman of the board of directors while his son, Otto Wettstein III, was president and his other son, Max, was vice president.

The North Florida Telephone Company, in 1951, included more than 20,000 exchanges. In 1977, Rochelle’s Otto Wettstein was inducted into the Independent Telephone Historical Museum Hall of Fame.

Tom McDermott is a Flag Township Museum Historian and Rochelle City Councilman.



Tom McDermott

## Parole for inmates serving life sentences

“MA’AM I’ve got some good news for you. Your grandson is being released from prison.”

I made that phone call about 20 years ago after covering a session of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board and seeing the board members vote to parole a long-serving inmate.

The elated grandmother dropped the phone receiver and screamed, “Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Jesus!” I could hear her feet thumping and relatives hollering with joy. Cheers roared across the phone line.

And then there was silence. The grandmother came back on the phone and whispered, “Which one of my grandsons is getting out?”

Illinois abolished its parole system in 1978. In the decades since, most of the people sentenced under the old parole system have been released. Fewer than 50 of the 38,000 inmates in the state’s prison system are eligible for parole.

But there is a movement afoot in the legislature to bring parole back so inmates serving life sentences can have some hope of release.

During the last 33 years, I’ve learned a lot about parole and the pain that remains decades after a loved one is killed.

When I was a young reporter in Galveston, Texas, in 1988, I covered a shooting at a daycare center. A gunman entered, shot and killed one teacher, and wounded another in front of 30 screaming kids.

For years, my wife pestered me to return to Galveston County and follow-up on the story. She wanted to know how the trauma affected the kids

and what the ramifications of the crime were for everyone involved. So, four years ago, I returned and wrote that story.

The killer, Clyde “Buddy” Spence, became eligible for parole after serving seven years of his 30-year sentence. For more than 20 years, brothers and sisters of the woman who was murdered wrote the Texas Parole Board asking that Spence not be released.

“It’s horrible,” said one of the sisters, Kim Barksdale. “I can’t think of a better word. It’s just horrible. It’s very emotional. Every year we’ve done it. ... We wrote the letters and got petitions and got the newspaper to do an article on him. It was very emotional, stressful.

“You almost want to just give up and say, ‘Fine just let him out.’ That way you don’t have to relive everything. You can’t just walk in and say, ‘Hey will you sign the petition?’ Everybody wants to know why. ‘What is it?’ And then they say, ‘Oh, I’m so sorry I didn’t realize it was your sister.’ Everybody remembers.”

And there is the rub. Proponents of bringing back parole in Illinois see it as a compassionate move to give hope to inmates who have changed for the better. But the families of those killed often see it as dooming them to relive the crime at hearing after hearing for years to come.

When I visited Spence, the killer, in prison, he shared that it was difficult to be denied parole year after year. Even though he participated in multiple programs to improve himself he was resigned to being denied parole a final time before his 30-

year sentence was complete. For him, the parole system fostered nothing but false hope.

But there are people in our prison system who don’t belong there. Some are wrongly convicted. Others were wrongly sentenced. And some folks have turned their lives around and become much better people than when they entered prison.

A perplexing phenomenon I’ve observed is that murder victim’s families often equate the value of their loved one’s life to the severity of the punishment their killer receives. All life is precious. And sadly, no matter how much punishment is meted out, the grief remains.

I’ve heard victim’s families talk about a need for “closure” and express hope that seeing a criminal punished would give them just that.

Perhaps closure is like a period at the end of a sentence or the “amen” at the end of a prayer.

It’s a signal to move on to something new.

But here is the thing. I’ve never met a person who found closure from watching someone else suffer. But I did encounter a woman who found peace decades after her husband was murdered.

After getting off the phone with the grandma celebrating her grandson’s release, I called a nursing home to talk to the widow of the man who he killed.

The widow came to the phone, and I explained that her husband’s killer was going free.

There was a long pause and she said, “It’s time to forgive and move on.”

Scott Reeder is a staff writer for Illinois Times and can be reached at [sreeder@illinois-times.com](mailto:sreeder@illinois-times.com).



Scott Reeder

## VOICE ON THE STREET

### Question:

What is your favorite scary movie?

“Cape Fear.”  
Eric Paul

“Currently 2020-2021.”  
Mandi Beth

“Pet Sematary (1989).”  
Cathy Haas

“The Shining.”  
Nancy Henna

“The original Halloween, but you cannot top Suspiria for pure fright!”  
Jeff Fiegenschuh

## How to contact government officials

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

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

IL Rep. Tom Demmer  
314 Capitol  
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Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to [news@rochelle-news-leader.com](mailto:news@rochelle-news-leader.com)

## 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](mailto: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

## Williams graduates from USMC boot camp

**SAN DIEGO, Calif.** — Private First Class Dominic Williams, 18, of Rochelle graduated from the United States Marine Corp boot camp at Marine Corp Recruit Depot San Diego on Sept. 17.

PFC Williams successfully completed 12 weeks of intensive basic training at MCRD San Diego as one of the 19 recruits in Training Platoon 2174.

While in recruit training, PFC Williams achieved platoon leader and rifle expert. Following graduation, PFC Williams went to Camp Pendleton where he awaits training in the Infantry Marine Course (IMC).

PFC Williams is the son of David and Kalah Williams and the grandson of Noel and Margaret Allison, the late David Williams and the late Eugene and Helen Kessen.



**Private First Class  
Dominic Williams**

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Oct. 14**  
Samantha Zellers  
**Oct. 15**  
Rivers Estock  
**Oct. 17**  
Kati Johnson  
Preston King  
**Oct. 20**  
Veda Lopez

Bo Bridgeman  
**Oct. 22**  
Kayleigh White  
**Oct. 24**  
Brittany Brown  
**Oct. 25**  
Bianca Herrera  
**Oct. 28**  
Stephanie Wiginton

Bryce Weems  
**Oct. 30**  
Jack Powell  
**Oct. 31**  
Angel Weyhrauch

### THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

Oct. 14 (Thursday) - Shepherd's Pie, Southwest Chicken

Oct. 15 (Friday) - Ham Steaks, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans

Oct. 19 (Tuesday) - Kielbasa over Rice, Grilled Veggies

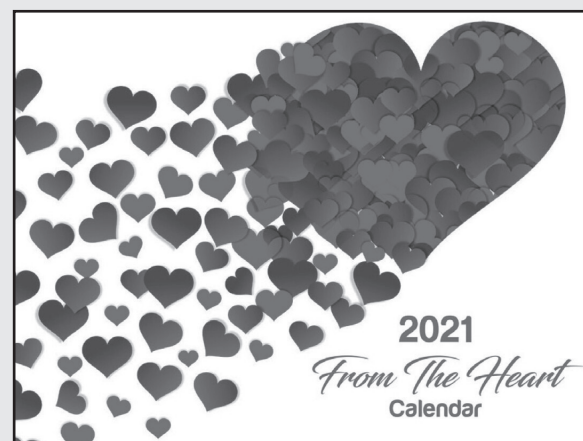
Oct. 21 (Thursday) - Lemony Chicken over Rice, Steamed Veggies, Baked Potato

Oct. 26 (Tuesday) - Chicken Enchiladas, Rice and Beans

Oct. 28 (Thursday) - Chili, Hot dogs, Broccoli Slaw

KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries

\*\*All menus are subject to change. If you would like to check before coming out, please call us at 815-561-9074 as we will put the menu on the answering machine. [www.KitchenTableRochelle.org](http://www.KitchenTableRochelle.org)



Sept. 16 - Stacy Noble, Amboy, \$25

Sept. 17 - Gay Hueber, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 18 - Jeb Harper (Cedar Siding), Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 19 - Ed Koeling, Davis, \$50

Sept. 20 - Alice McCaslin, Vernon Hills, \$25

Sept. 21 - Tim Tyszka, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 22 - RMU Electric Dept., \$25

Sept. 23 - David Meyers, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 24 - Kortney Powell, Steward, \$25

Sept. 25 - Karen Bulfer, Mendota, \$25

Sept. 26 - Karen Hayden, Rochelle, \$50

Sept. 27 - Glen Hughes, Dixon, \$25

Sept. 28 - Steve & Debby Katzman, Creston, \$25

Sept. 29 - RACF, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 30 - Morgan Yordy, Rochelle Library, \$25

Oct. 1 - Carter Cash, Oregon, \$25

Oct. 2 - Lee Ossmann, Oregon, \$25

Oct. 3 - Leah Vanstone, Rochelle, \$50

Oct. 4 - Melissa Folkers, Sterling, \$25

Oct. 5 - Mason Hill, Lake Forest, \$25

Oct. 6 - Michelle Knight, Stillman Valley, \$25

Oct. 7 - Kim Dewey, Davis Junction, \$25

Oct. 8 - Marcy Kline, Amboy, \$25

Oct. 9 - Kim Esgar, Rochelle, \$25

Oct. 10 - Adam Lanning, West Brooklyn, \$50

Oct. 11 - Barbara Zies, Rochelle, \$250

Oct. 12 - Evelyn Hintzsche, Rochelle, \$25

Oct. 13 - Lisa Charboneau, Lindenwood, \$25

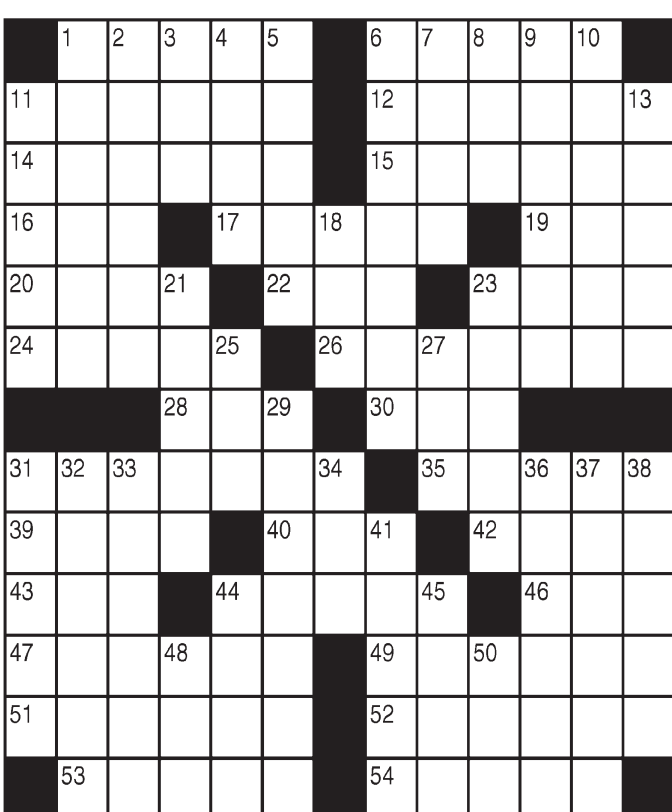


## Coffee Break

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 Russian range
- 6 First lady before Michelle
- 11 Salem's state
- 12 Cancels
- 14 Mexican revolutionary
- 15 "Are you happy I'm back?"
- 16 Low digit
- 17 Omits
- 19 Soak (up)
- 20 1492 vessel
- 22 Rock's Brian
- 23 Spanish ayes
- 24 Devour
- 26 Religious doctrines
- 28 — Moines
- 30 Actress Long
- 31 Fairly shared
- 35 Snares
- 39 " — Smile Be Your Umbrella"
- 40 Director Howard
- 42 Half a sextet
- 43 Egg (Pref.)
- 44 Pale purple
- 46 Club —
- 47 "New World Symphony" composer
- 49 Recital piece
- 51 Bagel choice



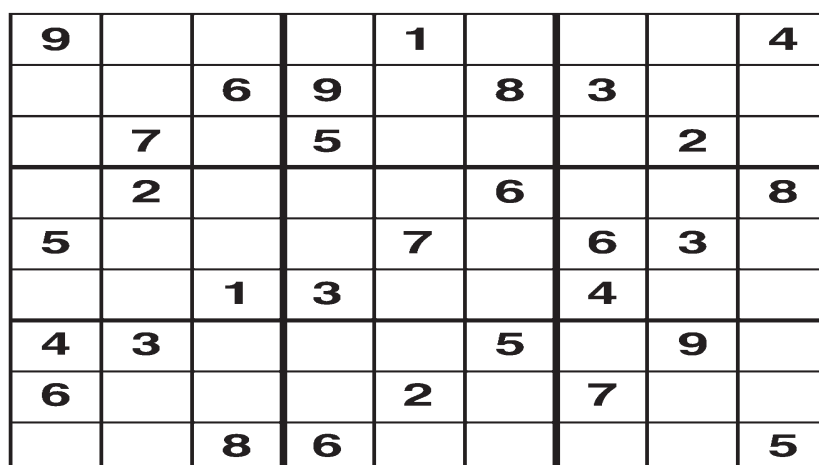
#### DOWN

- 1 Muse of astronomy
- 2 Show contrition
- 3 Khan title
- 4 Used-car sites
- 5 Plumber's tool
- 6 Spooft
- 7 Black birds
- 8 Young — (tots)
- 9 Putin's land
- 10 Nearly
- 11 Ultraviolet filter
- 13 Old photo tint
- 18 Ky. neighbor
- 21 Actress McDonald of "Private Practice"
- 23 Brainy
- 25 Pod dweller
- 27 "Shoo!"
- 29 Picket-line
- 31 Trudges
- 32 Gunned, as an engine
- 33 Idle
- 34 "You've got mail" co.
- 36 Designer Giorgio
- 37 Bakery pan
- 38 Fizzy drinks
- 41 Twangy
- 44 Hobbling
- 45 Musical finale
- 48 Squealer
- 50 "Kidding!"

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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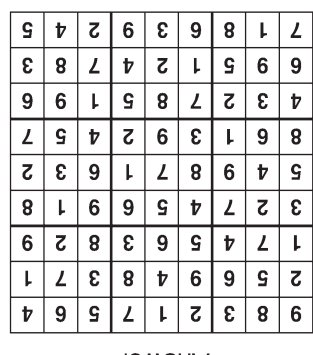
## CryptoQuip

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.

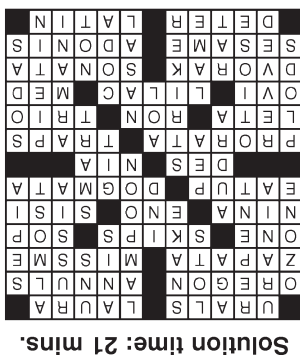
Clue: A equals S

HCIM BNO KOG P CIJN APMTHUKC  
UMGN AIWIJPD FUIKIA, U HNODT  
FJNRPRDB KPDD GCPG AOR  
TUWUAUNM.

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Weekly SUDOKU



King Crossword

Cryptoquip  
answer  
When you cut a hero sandwich  
into several pieces, I would  
probably call that sub  
division.



# LOCAL NEWS

## RCH: Hospital implements employee vaccine mandate

From page 1

"There are some organizations that are doing that. They're mandating that their employees pay for it. We're not there yet. I can't say we'd never look at that in the future, but today we're not interested in doing that."

If an employee refuses to get tested, they are not terminated, Olson said. Refusing to get tested results in the employee not being able to work until they get tested.

Olson said there "probably a few cases" where thinks the vaccine mandate might be behind an employee leaving RCH.

"If that's the case, it's few," Olson said. "Few and far between. I'm sure there's got to be a couple instances where we've probably had people that are just not aligned with the mandate and they have to make their own decisions. I have to follow the mandate. That puts us in sometimes an awkward position."

Olson said RCH has seen "some turnover" among employees after the pandemic started to lighten up and people got to the point where they were more likely to be attracted to new opportunities.

When the idea of an employee vaccine requirement was brought up to Olson before the state mandate, he said he had concerns about one due to concerns of losing or not being able to attract employees to the small town hospital.

The hospital is currently feeling the effects of the nationwide shortage of registered nurses and has five open RN positions.

"We're all in this together," Olson said. "If you're in the healthcare field, it's pretty hard to get away from the testing mandate. Wherever you work in healthcare, you're going to run into some kind of form of this. Having said that, people have become I think a little more willing to look at other positions."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

RCH CEO Gregg Olson said "70-something" percent of hospital staff are fully vaccinated. About 60 employees are not fully vaccinated and need to be tested once a week.

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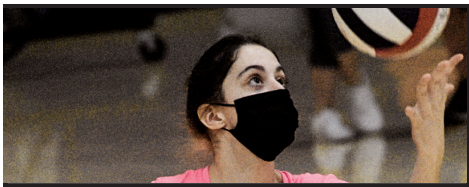
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# SPORTS



## SPIKERS FACE KANELAND

The RTHS volleyball team took on the Kaneland Knights at home Tuesday.

See page 3 for more details

### Rochelle Junior Tackle

# Conference champions

Eighth-grade, fifth-grade teams take home Big 14 Conference titles

**PRINCETON** — The Rochelle Junior Tackle teams closed out the 2021 season this past weekend, with the eighth-graders and the fifth-graders each winning their respective Big 14 Conference Championship matchups. The sixth-graders took second in the Big 14 Conference with a loss on Saturday, while the seventh-graders placed third with a victory on Sunday.

### 8th Grade (7-1)

Brode Metzger broke off a 60-yard touchdown run to give Rochelle the early lead against Princeton on Saturday, with Gavin Neale rushing for the 2-point conversion. The Junior Hubs then conceded an 84-yard passing touchdown and a 42-yard rushing touchdown, falling behind 16-8 before Princeton added a 23-yard touchdown pass during the second quarter.

Roman Villalobos helped bring Rochelle back, scoring on a 6-yard touchdown rush and running in the 2-point conversion to make it a 24-16 game. Van Gerber followed with a 7-yard rushing touchdown on the next Junior Hub possession, cutting Princeton's

lead to 24-22 at halftime. Rochelle took the lead once again early in the third quarter, surging ahead on a 29-yard touchdown run from Villalobos before Metzger rushed for the 2-point conversion.

The back-and-forth offensive battle continued throughout the second half, with Princeton rushing for a 20-yard touchdown and evening the game at 30-30. Metzger answered for the Junior Hubs, scoring on a 20-yard touchdown run before Princeton responded with a 32-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Metzger scored the final touchdown of the game, rushing for a 29-yard score and adding the 2-point conversion. Rochelle defeated Princeton 44-36.

Metzger rushed for a team-high 137 yards, while Villalobos ran for 107 yards and Neale totaled 53 yards on the ground. Neale led the defense with seven tackles in the win over Princeton.

### 7th Grade (7-1)

After a scoreless first quarter, Rochelle blew its matchup against Dixon wide open with three second-quarter touchdowns



(PHOTO BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

**The Rochelle Junior Tackle fifth-graders completed an unbeaten season with a 30-0 victory over Winnebago in the Big 14 Conference Championship on Saturday. The team includes Mikey Chadwick, Nolan Zick, Braxton Bruns, Riley Smith, Kayl True, Joey Chadwick, Ivan Xelhua, Isaiah Martinez, Mason Lopez, Maddox Provow, Elijah Good, Joshua Hernandez, Axel Alsop, Montana Contreras, Benjamin Morris, Wyatt Battershell, Daniel Garcia, Derik Maertz, Charlie Kettleson, Carson Smith, Vinny Tornabene and Gavyn Foster. The fifth-graders, who went 8-0 this season, are coached by Chris Smith, James Jackson, Riley Hall and Christopher Lopez.**

from Dylan Manning, who made it a 6-0 game with a 1-yard touchdown run before catching two touchdown passes from Brody Bruns, who connected with Manning on a 51-yard score before the two linked up on a 55-yard score before

halftime.

Leading 20-0 entering the third quarter, Rochelle moved ahead on a 4-yard rushing touchdown from Tyler Gensler, with Manning adding the 2-point conversion rush. Bruns finished with 131 passing yards for the Junior Hubs,

who took down Dixon 28-0. Manning rushed for 43 yards, while Angel Hernandez and Gensler each ran for 26 yards. Adam Cobos totaled three tackles.

### 6th Grade (6-2)

Rochelle faced Byron

on Saturday, with both teams finishing the first half tied at 0-0. Byron took the first lead of the game on a 14-yard touchdown run and 2-point conversion during the third quarter.

See RJT page 6

### RTHS Girls Tennis

# Lady Hubs battle Rockford Boylan in home finale

Rochelle scores road win at Princeton, takes sixth at I-8 varsity meet

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team played its final regular season match on Tuesday, falling 4-1 against Rockford Boylan and ending the season with a 7-8 overall record. The Lady Hubs will host the IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional on Friday and Saturday.

Senior Emma Hicks fell 0-6, 1-6 against Zofia Prashar at No. 1 singles, while senior Madison Ost took seven games against Emily Kielly in a 3-6, 4-6 loss at No. 2 singles. Senior Ashley Knight and junior Abby Tarvestad scored Rochelle's lone point in the match, outlasting Cynthia Monteleone and Aldyn Olson over three sets for a 7-6, 3-6, 10-8 victory at No. 3 doubles.

Seniors Jordin Dickey and MeLisa Young also battled to the third set at No. 1 doubles, coming just short in a 6-4, 6-7, 7-10 loss against Isabel Furst and Elise Pecora. Seniors Josie Lundquist and Megan Thompson fell 3-6, 2-6 against Katherine and Elizabeth Fitzgerald at

No. 2 doubles.

### Interstate 8

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team finished sixth with two points in the Interstate 8 Conference Championship on Saturday. Senior Emma Hicks took sixth at No. 1 singles, falling 0-6, 0-6 against LaSalle-Peru's Carlie Miller before falling 0-6, 2-6 against Morris' Grace Lines.

Senior Madison Ost finished fifth at No. 2 singles, falling 7-6, 4-6, 9-11 in a competitive three-set match against Morris' Libby Wright before defeating Kaneland's Raleigh Williams 6-0, 6-2 in the fifth-place consolation match. Seniors Jordin Dickey and MeLisa Young placed sixth at No. 1 doubles for the Lady Hubs, falling 2-6, 3-6 against Ottawa's Kyleigh Olszewski and Jenna Smithmeyer before falling 0-6, 6-7 against Kaneland's Ashlyn Hain and Maddy Rizzuto.

Seniors Josie Lundquist and Megan Thompson finished fourth at No. 2 doubles, topping Morris' Kayla Walker and Olivia



**Seniors Madison Ost (left) and Emma Hicks (right) battle on the singles courts during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis match with Rockford Boylan on Tuesday.**

Moore 6-4, 6-4 before falling 2-6, 1-6 against Ottawa's Rylee O'Fallon and Emma Cushing. Lundquist and Thompson faced LaSalle-Peru's Jenisis Greening and Izzy Pohar for third place, battling over three sets but coming just short in a 4-6, 6-4, 0-6 loss.

Senior Ashley Knight and junior Abby Tarvestad took sixth at No. 3 doubles for the Lady Hubs, falling

2-6, 1-6 against Ottawa's Madison Lineback and Emma Stumpf before taking Morris netters Keira Kjellesvik and Faith Bogard to two tiebreakers in a tough 6-7, 7-6 loss.

### Princeton

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team faced Princeton on the road this past Thursday, winning 4-1 and improving to 7-7



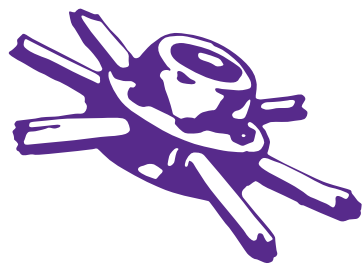
(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

on the season. The Lady Hubs and Tigers split the two singles points, with senior Madison Ost topping Emilee Mershel 6-4, 6-2 at No. 2 singles while senior Emma Hicks fell 1-6, 2-6 against Kailee Winner in the No. 1 singles matchup.

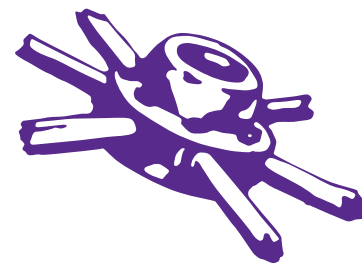
Rochelle swept all three doubles matches, with seniors Jordin Dickey and MeLisa Young besting Olivia Alter and Maggie

Davies 6-4, 6-2 at No. 1 doubles while seniors Josie Lundquist and Megan Thompson defeated Audrey Nelson and Nora Schneider 6-3, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles. Senior Ashley Knight and junior Abby Tarvestad won 6-4, 6-3 against Allie Ward and Sadie Thornton at No. 3 doubles to seal the three-team doubles sweep for the Lady Hubs.





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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Sienna  
Seebach**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Tennis*

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

*A: One year.*

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

*A: I like how supportive my teammates are of each other.*

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

*A: Art because I really like to draw and learn new ways to draw.*

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

*A: My mom because she stays on me about my grades.*

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

*A: To groom small animals because I like pets and working with animals.*

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

*A: Florida because it's a peaceful place.*

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

*A: I enjoy everyone supporting others and getting to see who's interested in the sport.*

**Natalie  
Wagner**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Tennis*



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

*A: One year.*

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

*A: Playing with my friends and making memories with them.*

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

*A: Agriculture because I like the material we learn about.*

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

*A: Riley Doyle because she's good at any sport she tries.*

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

*A: Naleia Fonfara because she*

*pushes herself and always tries her hardest.*

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

*A: To be a horse trainer because I like working with horses and being around them.*

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

*A: Alaska because it's somewhere I've never been and it looks pretty.*

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

*A: Getting to be with a lot of my friends all of the time.*

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# SPORTS

RTHS Volleyball

## Lady Hub blockers shine against Kaneland

Hale totals team-leading three blocks in 13-25, 14-25 loss

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team had to be tough on the blocks when Kaneland’s talented offensive attack came to town for an Interstate 8 matchup Tuesday.

Junior middle hitter Payton Hale led the Lady Hubs on the front line, recording three blocks in Rochelle’s 13-25, 14-25 loss to the Knights on Tuesday. Junior Addie Friestad racked up a team-leading eight service points for the Lady Hubs, who dropped to 12-15 overall with the loss.

“We did a great job of staying on their shoulders,” head coach Molly Sly said. “Our middles moved really well tonight to seal the block and both Payton and Kennedy [Adamski] both did a great job of not letting them get the ball back over the net.”

Kaneland opened both sets with 6-0 runs on Tues-

“Our middles moved really well tonight to seal the block and both Payton and Kennedy [Adamski] both did a great job of not letting them get the ball back over the net.”

Molly Sly

day, taking early leads and opening the first set with an 11-2 advantage. The Lady Hubs mustered a brief run late in the first set, with junior Macy Ramos scoring three of her four service points in the match for a 3-0 Rochelle rally despite Kaneland leading 22-10. Looking for some positive energy, Rochelle bounced back early in the second set, bringing Kaneland within two points at 9-7 with Friestad on the serve.

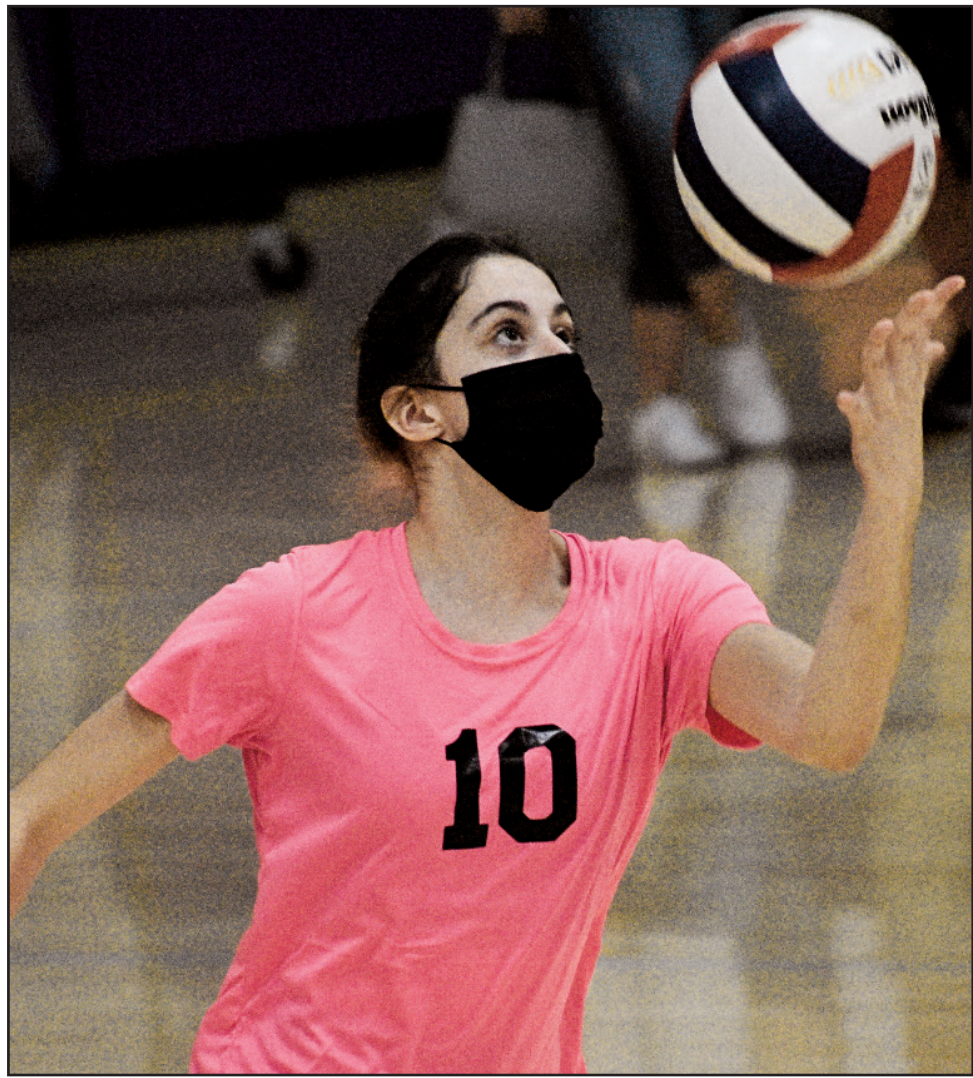
“If we can block the way we did tonight during regionals, I think that will light a fire under our girls,” Sly said. “We need to feed off of that energy. I thought Macy serve-received really well tonight and I was

excited to see her play well against a really good team tonight.”

Kaneland quickly answered with a 5-0 run of its own to take control of the second set and ultimately seal the win. Junior Cassandra Garcia finished with five digs and five service points for Rochelle, while junior Isela Vasquez totaled three digs, two assists and three service points.

### Sycamore

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team faced Sycamore on the road this past Thursday, falling 8-25, 13-25 in an Interstate 8 matchup. Rochelle dropped to 12-14 with the loss.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Macy Ramos serves during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball match against Kaneland on Tuesday.

RTHS Cross Country

## Rochelle runners race at Sterling Invitational

Ortiz, Johnson medal for Lady Hubs in Freeport Invitational

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

STERLING — The Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub varsity cross country teams competed in the Sterling Invitational

on Saturday. The Hubs finished 14th out of 15 schools, with junior David Wanner placing 80th in 18:40.2 and senior Josue Huerta taking 85th in 19:13.7.

The Lady Hubs saw two

runners finish in the top 50 during the varsity girls race. Junior Yuelma Ortiz placed 43rd with a time of 21:00.8 and senior Sara Johnson took 44th with a time of 21:09.3. Rochelle will race at the Interstate 8

Conference Championship meet this coming Saturday at Kaneland.

### Freeport

The Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub varsity cross country teams ran at the

Freeport Pretzel Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 2. Junior Yuelma Ortiz and senior Sara Johnson each medaled in the meet, with Ortiz finishing 13th in 20:45.2 and Johnson taking 16th in 21:00.8.

The Hubs took 12th out of 14 schools in the meet. Junior David Wanner led Rochelle in the varsity boys race, placing 45th with a time of 18:26.3 while senior Josue Huerta finished 67th in 19:13.5.

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No. 0925 (Sept. 29)

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Respondent, )2021  
vs. )D 40  
LAURA VALDEZ, )  
Respondent/ )  
Counter- )  
Petitioner. )

PUBLICATION  
NOTICE

The requisite Affidavit for Public action having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, SAUL VALDEZ, Petitioner/Counter-Respondent, in the above-entitled action, that this action has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Ogle County by the Respondent/Counter-Petitioner against you praying for a Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage and for other relief.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, SAUL VALDEZ, the Petitioner/Counter-Respondent, file your answer to the Counter-Petition for Dissolution of Marriage in this action or otherwise make your appearance, in the Circuit Court of Ogle County, held in the courthouse in the City of Oregon, Illinois, on or before November 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgment for Dissolution of Marriage entered in accordance with the prayer of the Counter-Petition.

DATED this 28th day of September, 2021.

TESS, CRULL & ARNQUIST, LLC  
Attorneys for  
Respondent/Counter-Petitioner  
P.O. Box 68  
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No. 1014 (Oct. 6, 13, 20)

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- Register as a bidder for this project.
- Furnish in duplicate the following executed documents:
  - Non-Collusion Affidavit
  - Bid Form
  - Bid Bond, Certified Check or Money Order
  - And any other documents as required by the specifications.

No bid shall be withdrawn after the opening of bids without the consent of the Utility for a period of sixty (60) days after the scheduled time of closing bids.

The said Rochelle Municipal Utilities reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in bidding, and to determine and accept the bid most advantageous to the Utility.

Rochelle Municipal Utilities  
Adam Lanning, Utility Manager  
Date: October 6, 2021  
No. 1018 (Oct. 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

State of the ownership, management, circulation, etc.; required by the act of Congress of October 23, 1962, Section 4369, Title, 39 United States Code of Rochelle News-Leader published bi-weekly at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle, IL, for Sept. 22, 2021. State of Illinois, County of Ogle.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Mike Feltes who, having been duly sworn to law, deposes and says he is the publisher of the Rochelle News-Leader and that the following is to the best of his knowledge and belief and a true statement of the ownership, management, circulation, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of Congress of October 23, 1962, Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code. The names and addresses of the publisher and editor are:

PUBLISHER: Mike Feltes, 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle, IL 61068.EDITOR: Jeff Helfrich, 211 Hwy. 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068.

That the owner is:  
News Media Corporation, 211 Hwy. 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068, John C. Tompkins, 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle, IL 61068.

That the known bondholders, mortgages and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: Holcomb State Bank, 223 E. IL Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068, Central Bank, 340 May Mart Dr., Rochelle, IL 61068, Byline Bank, 180 N. LaSalle St., #400, Chicago, IL 60601.

That the six paragraphs next about, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company

as Trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for who such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing Affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees hold stock and security in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner, and the Affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation, has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds or other securities that so stated by him.

A. Total number of Copies Printed (net press run). Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 3,396, single issue nearest filing date 3,650.

B. 1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 84, single issue nearest filing date 83.

B. 2. Paid In-County Mail Subscriptions. Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months 268, single issue nearest filing date 261.

B. 3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales and other non-USPS paid distribution. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 1,054, single issue nearest filing date 1,047.

B. 4. Other classes mailed through USPS. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 0, single issue nearest filing date 0.

C. Total Paid distribution (sum of 15B (1), (2), (3), and (4). Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 1406, single issue nearest filing date 1,391.

D. 1. Free Distribution by mail Outside-County. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 20, single issue nearest filing date 20.

D. 2. Free Distribution by mail In-County. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 18, single issue nearest filing date 18.

D. 3. Free distribution by other classes mailed through the USPS. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 0, single issue nearest filing date 0.

D. 4. Free Distribution outside the mail (carriers and others). Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 32, single issue nearest filing date 30.

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F. Total distribution (sum of 15c and 15e). Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 1,476, single issue nearest filing date 1,459.

G. Copies not Distributed. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 1,920, single issue nearest filing date 2,191.

H. Total (sum 15f and 15g). Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 3,396, single issue nearest filing date 3,650.

I. Percent Paid and or Requested Circulation. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months

95.25%, single issue nearest filing date 95.33%.

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Mike Feltes, publisher  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 2021

Kelly White,  
Notary Public  
My commission expires 10-10-22  
No. 1008 (Oct. 13)

### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

### 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

### 127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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# SPORTS



(PHOTO BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

The Rochelle Junior Tackle eighth-graders defeated Princeton 44-36 on Saturday to win the Big 14 Conference Championship and finish the season with a 7-1 record. The team includes Brode Metzger, Leon Combs, Reece Harris, Antonio Hueramo, Bane Workman, Colten Manning, Tony Milburn, Andrew Johnson, Caden Goodwin, Van Gerber, Freddie Hernandez, Julian Acevedo, Mark Green, Lucas Bruce, Roman Villalobos, Brandon Cortes, Frank Nasca, Gavin Neale, Keagan Albers, Wyatt Worthington, Brenden Voight, Tyler Johnson, Mark Guzman, Francisco Martinez, Gabriel Montes, Cody Harris, Kegan Kirk, Brayden Carter, Martiese Pogue, Ryder Stombaugh, Markell Pogue and Parker Slattengren. The eighth-graders are coached by Ben Manning, Brad Metzger, Jason Pavlak and Jim Gensler.

## RJT: Sixth-graders, seventh-graders record top-3 conference finishes

From page 1

The Junior Hubs bounced back when Luke Chadwick cut through the defense for a 65-yard rushing touchdown. Rochelle trailed Byron 8-6 entering the fourth quarter.

The Junior Hubs fell behind 14-6 after Byron ran in a 2-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter to extend its lead. Tyson Pavlak brought Rochelle back with a 2-yard touchdown run of his own, but the Junior Hubs were unable to convert the 2-point play. Rochelle fell to Byron 14-12. Cohen Haedt threw for 73 yards in the game, while Chadwick rushed for 109 yards on eight carries.

Bo Lundquist recorded 60 receiving yards and Elijah Schweitzer totaled a team-leading six tackles.

### 5th Grade (8-0)

Rochelle faced Winnebago for the fifth-grade conference championship, with the Junior Hubs striking first on a 37-yard rushing touchdown from Nolan Zick during the first quarter. Rochelle extended its lead in the

second quarter when Braxton Bruns found the end zone on a 15-yard rushing touchdown. Bruns then scored on the 2-point conversion to make it a 14-0 game.

The Junior Hubs scored through the air during the third quarter, with Riley Smith connecting on a 20-yard touchdown pass to Vinny Tornabene before hooking up on the 2-point conversion to put Rochelle up 22-0. Smith sealed the Junior Hub victory in the fourth quarter, rushing for a 53-yard touchdown. Mikey Chadwick ran in the 2-point conversion to ice the Rochelle win.

Rochelle defeated Winnebago 30-0 to finish the 2021 season unbeaten. Bruns rushed for 58 yards to lead the Junior Hub offense, while Smith added 54 rushing yards, Chadwick totaled 49 rushing yards and Zick recorded 47 rushing yards. Bruns led the defense with six tackles.

The Big 14 Conference games concluded a successful 2021 season for the Junior Hub football teams, which combined for a 28-4 record over 32 games this fall.



(PHOTO BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

The Rochelle Junior Tackle seventh-graders took down Dixon 28-0 on Sunday to take third the Big 14 Conference and finish with a 7-1 record. The team includes Connor Lewis, Dylan Manning, Jonathan Andrist, Luke Dickey, German Albertson, Angel Hernandez, Kasin Avila, Brody Bruns, Tyler Gensler, Bobby Tournard, Bryson Wells, Joshua Peper, Andrew Huerta, Joshua Lassiter, Owen Miller, Justin DeClerck, Keegan Cathina, Julian Rodriguez, Angel Argueta, Gavin Altepeter, Kaleb Gomez, Camrin Burgins, Aiden Carmichael, Luke Norris, Trent Cunningham, Aiden Aspengren, Adam Cobos, Jaharri Clair, Brandin Kirk, Tyler Etes, Caiden Harris, Aaron Hernandez, Grant Daugherty, Chase Beatty, Warren Schweitzer, Aaron DeClerck, Levi Luxton, Mason Ludwig, Connor Hunley and Daniel Jensen. The team is coached by Chris Lewis, Cristian Perez, Michael Belmonte, Jeff Dickey and Dan Lundquist.



(PHOTO BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

The Rochelle Junior Tackle sixth-graders fell 14-12 against Byron on Saturday to place second the Big 14 Conference and finish the season with a 6-2 record. The team includes Aidan Lopez, Braylon Wells, Cohen Haedt, Tyler Johnson, Maddox Hueramo, Zachary Johnson, Bo Lundquist, Tyson Pavlak, John Williams, Jace Spears, Luke Chadwick, AJ Milan, Tyson Carmichael, Levi McGee, Dayton Mellor, Dominick Joyce, Luke Svec, Owen Wyssbrod, Trentin Neale, Marco Powell, D'Amontae Busick, Jax Sullivan, Levi Moore, Andrew Eyster, Logan Brandt, Ryley Ginn, Sebastian Albertson, Brayden Harley, Damion Anders, Dylan Melvin, Elijah Schweitzer, Charlie Carmichael and Holden Liebhaber. The team is coached by Ryan Pelan, Ryan Haedt, Chris Harley and Mike Schweitzer.

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