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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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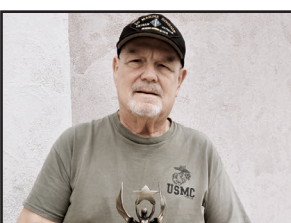
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Legionnaire of the Year

Paul Bearrows was named
the Moose Legionnaire of
the year for Illinois.

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WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
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Simpson named Steward superintendent

School district has new staff members, new board member

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

STEWARD — The Steward School District hired a new superintendent over the summer.

Steven Simpson joined the district after working in the Indian Creek School District for 32 years, most recently as principal of Indian Creek Middle School. A Steward school board member made him aware of the opening.

“I knew of Steward and the very good reputation they had here and found everyone here to be extremely welcoming and accommodating,” Simpson said. “They struck me as a good group of people to work with. I had very deep roots in my other district and was not in a hurry to leave. But I just found the opportunity here so inviting that I became immediately excited about the idea of coming here.”

The K-8 school district has an enrollment of 67 students this year. In the smaller district, Simpson plays the role of superintendent and principal. He has to stay in touch with students and curriculum along with the district’s finances and various state



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Steven Simpson joined the Steward School District as its new superintendent after working in the Indian Creek School District for 32 years, most recently as principal of Indian Creek Middle School.

mandates.

The district’s short chain of communication makes it “relatively fluid” for things to be able to happen in the office, Simpson said.

“We may be a small school, but there’s always a lot to do because the

smaller the school, the more hats everybody tends to wear,” Simpson said. “That’s why the spirit of teamwork and the culture of working together here, I’ve been very impressed by that and that’s why it’s so important. It makes my

job a lot easier because of the support and the working together of the faculty.”

Simpson described the undertaking of becoming a school superintendent amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He said taking care of and looking after

students is his top priority. He said people involved with the district have been accommodating, positive and willing to do whatever it takes to see kids safe in school.

See SCHOOL page 5

Celebrating 29 years with Starbucks

‘I just worked my way up... I’ve enjoyed every minute of it’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — When Elise Rexroat started working at Starbucks Store 319 in Edmonds, Washington as a barista in 1992, the company had about 100 stores.

On Thursday, she celebrated her 29th anniversary as a Starbucks employee. Her job title is now total pay operations analyst lead. Today Starbucks operates over 33,000 stores globally and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Rexroat, whose maiden name is Brass, was born and raised in Rochelle and graduated from Rochelle Township High School in 1986.

“I’m so blessed and grateful,” Rexroat said, “It’s humbling. I’ve seen a lot of change and growth in the company and I’m so happy to have been a part of it all. It’s

such a great company to work for.”

Rexroat is one of the top 100 tenured partners still with the company. Her current position involves supporting stock and payroll for employees, who are referred to as partners because they share in the financial success of the company through shares of Starbucks stock.

After living in Washington until 2015, she moved with her husband, Jeff, and son, Trevor, to Sycamore to be closer to family and has been working from home ever since.

The “great” relationships built with partners she’s worked with over the years are among Rexroat’s fondest experiences with Starbucks.

“The passion we all share to support our partners is special,” Rexroat said. “It was a different world working at the support center based in



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Former Rochelle resident Elise Rexroat recently celebrated 29 years as a Starbucks employee after first working as a barista at a Starbucks in Washington.

Seattle from working at a retail location, but we all wear the green apron no matter where you are, you’re still family.

Leadership demonstrates such passion and drive in all that they do, which makes you want to have that same drive and pas-

sion for the company, our partners and the customer.”

See REXROAT page 2

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LOCAL NEWS

REXROAT: Former Rochelle resident reflects on 29 years with Starbucks

From page 1

Rexroat said she loved being a barista. Back then, beans were scooped from the bins and weighed to the pound packaged as a gift from Starbucks to the customer. She misses that aspect and the smell of coffee along with the hustle and bustle of serving coffee to customers. “The times have definitely changed,” Rexroat said. “Back then in 1992, we only had three syrups, vanilla, almond and hazelnut. That was it. There were no Frappuccino drinks, no refresher drinks, no food items. It was great working in the store, and I wore the green apron with pride. And now, I’m behind the scenes making sure partners are taken care of as part of their total pay package.”

The recent news of a Starbucks location coming to Rochelle made Rexroat “very happy.” She doesn’t believe she had anything to do with it, but said she reached out to partners in the company a few years ago and said it was missing out on a great opportunity in the area.

“It’s great to see the growth of the company opening doors in a small town,” Rexroat said. “There’s just as many people who want their drinks in Rochelle. They’ll drive from Rochelle to DeKalb or to the nearest location to get their coffee or beverage of choice because they’re so dedicated.”

Rexroat had experience working from home long before the pandemic that forced people in all types of business industries to adapt. Working

at Starbucks has taught her patience and the importance of reading the fine print.

“I attribute it to my father and his great work ethic,” Rexroat said. “How both my parents raised me to be understanding and respectful. Pay attention, listen, learn as much as you can.”

Career progression, management and training are priorities at Starbucks that have helped others like Rexroat to grow and advance through the company.

“I moved to Washington when I was 23,” Rexroat said. “I didn’t have a job or anything. Not even a car. I just decided to go into Starbucks and work as a barista and take that chance. After that, I worked in technology and then back to the business side. I built many great relationships that



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Former Rochelle resident Elise Rexroat said she’s excited that Starbucks, where she’s worked for 29 years, will be establishing a location in her hometown.

have supported me along the way and I enjoyed every minute of it. It’s been a lot of fun.

“It’s working with good people and know-

ing that I have their back and they have mine. That makes a difference. I’m so excited for the Rochelle Starbucks opening and the job op-

portunities for the community. I look forward to seeing customers enjoy their favorite coffee beverage, food and tea in my ‘hometown’ finally.”

My small part in the Sept. 11 recovery

BY TOM MCDERMOTT

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

ON Sept. 11, 2001 I went to work at 7:45 a.m. The fire fighters were finishing off their last cup of coffee before starting on vehicle inspections. I grabbed a cup and went to my office. I had just started reviewing calls from the night before when the phone rang.

My wife said simply, “Turn on the news.” That was the start of my involvement in the attacks of 9-11. For the rest of the day we watched as four airplanes took the lives of almost 3,000 citizens. The second plane hit seventeen minutes later. Time after time the news replayed scenes of planes crashing into the World Trade Center towers.

We watched bodies drop from the upper floors, and then the first building collapsed. One hour and 42 minutes after the first plane struck, the second tower fell. The Pentagon had been struck and another plane had crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Fear was great that the Sears Tower in Chicago might be a target. Fire departments across Illinois were put on

alert and requests were made to prepare to move staff and equipment towards Chicago if an attack did indeed occur. Security was increased and emergency responders were on high alert. As time passed, the concerns for an immediate attack in Illinois abated.

Within a few days, I received a request from The National Organization of Victims Assistance to prepare for a response to New York as part of a victim’s assistance team. I packed my “go bag” and sat it in the corner.



Tom McDermott

Being put on response alert is a dicey situation, you are expected to be able to respond to site within 24 hours, knowing you may not be dispatched at all. The City of Rochelle gave permission for my response, the fire department staff prepared for my absence, and my wife gave her blessing.

The call came on Sept. 19, be at O’Hare Airport at 5:30 a.m. the next morning. The flight was on American Airlines, one of the airlines that lost planes on 9-11. We started debriefings on the flight, working with the aircraft staff.

I arrived at the Newark Airport at 7:15 a.m. with five other Illinois responders. Our mission was to assist fami-

lies, first responders and others impacted by the attack on New York. Little did I realize that this would be the total populations of New York City and New Jersey.

The first evening we responded to the Administration of Children Services (ACS) on Stanton Island. The morning of Sept. 21 the team was assigned to the Family Assistance Center (FAC) at Liberty Station New Jersey. The site is located on the shores of the Hudson River in full view of Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and the smoking remains on Manhattan.

We arrived at 6 a.m. and at 7 a.m. eight buses arrived with families of persons still missing at the Trade Centers.

For the next 11 hours I assisted families as they contended with the uncertainty of the future. Was their spouse, child or parent dead or alive? What would life be like starting tomorrow? On Sept. 22 I was assigned to the triage station at Home Port Stanton Island.

Here, the people working at the Fresh Kills Landfill would come to rest and recover from searching for human remains in the debris taken from the scene on Manhattan to the disposal site.

See 9/11 page 3

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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Pictured above from left to right are Judy Hodge (program coordinator), Phil Bratta, Marcia Heuer, Sue Messer, Kathy Michel, Mary Korth, Leona Totosz, Sara Pohl and Marilyn May.

Ogle County Master Gardeners celebrate volunteer hours

OREGON—On Tuesday, Aug. 24, the Ogle County Master Gardeners gathered to celebrate their volunteer achievements for 2020.

With stay-at-home orders in place and volunteering face to face at a minimum, the Ogle Master Gardeners continued to serve the community in a

variety of ways. Twelve volunteers recorded a total of 426 hours for the year.

The University of Illinois Extension office in Ogle County is grateful

for the master gardeners and their commitment to continue to serve the community. The master gardeners offer a variety of programming for both

youth and adults.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an Ogle County Master Gardener or providing programming for

your organization, please contact Judy Hodge at hodge@illinois.edu. Congratulations to the Ogle County Master Gardeners on a job well done in 2020.

9/11: McDermott reflects on responses during Sept. 11

From page 2

Obviously, these people were traumatized and re-traumatized with each truckload of debris. They would unload the truck, rake out the debris and hand search for identifying articles and human remains. Brutal work that would take its toll on the police and fire folks that had accepted this position.

And so, it went most days spent at the Family Assistance Center with

families that had lost loved ones, or with emergency responders who felt that they had failed their comrades by surviving.

My second response to New York was on June 1, 2002. This was about eight months after the attack. The 10-story pile of debris was now almost completely removed. The “pile” had become the “hole.” Upon arrival, we toured the site and established our mission parameters.

This response, we were working primarily with construction workers, first responders and, to a lesser degree, families of the victims. One of our primary objectives was to work with local mental health workers to establish “September Space”, a facility that would provide aid to those impacted by the 9-11 attack after the site was closed and the world moved on.

Over the next eight days I had the honor of

working with people who had spent the past eight months searching for human remains so that families could have closure, clergy that prayed over every remain found and families who simply visited the site and needed someone to talk too.

Many of these people will forever carry the scars of the attack on the World Trade Center. I, like them, will never forget the small part I was allowed to play when America was



(COURTESY PHOTO)

attacked.
Former Rochelle Fire Chief Tom McDermott is a

Flagg Township Museum historian and Rochelle city councilman.

County recycling event scheduled for Sept. 24

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting its monthly residential electronics recycling event on Friday, Sept. 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road

in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecounty.org.

Accepted items include all televisions and computer monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gam-

ing equipment, DVD/VCR's, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calculators, phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink car-

tridges, CD/DVD's and CFL bulbs.

Limit seven large or bulky items per permit and one permit per county household per month. Business or institutional electronic materials are not accepted at these

events.

For more information about this recycling event call the OCSWMD at the number above, visit www.oglecounty.org, or on Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Stephanie Ann Gillis

ROCHELLE — Stephanie Ann Gillis, 48, passed away peacefully into the arms of Jesus on Sept. 3, after battling Sarcoidosis for over 28 years.

Stephanie was born on Dec. 30, 1972 in DeKalb to Stephen and Rebecca (Olson) Gillis. She graduated from Rochelle Township High School in 1991, where she had a huge passion for music and enjoyed being part of RTHS' Choir, local vocals, madrigals (queen 1991) and placed first (solo) in state vocal competition. She also enjoyed performing in flag corps with the RTHS Marching band as well as cheerleading where she competed in nationals.

She also attended Kishwaukee College, where she enjoyed cheerleading for the Cougars basketball team. During college, Stephanie worked as an aerobics instructor at Hickory Grove and after college she worked at Eaton, as well as a sales associate at Brooks and



Yonkers.

She finished her career at Walgreens, where she was a senior pharmacy tech for over 16 years. She loved the Lord and reading her Bible and would study it often. She was very holistic and enjoyed attending Christian concerts with family and friends. She loved her niece and nephews dearly and was very proud of her Norwegian and family heritage.

Stephanie was survived by her mother, Rebecca Anderson of

Rockford; step-mother, Pamela Johnson Gillis of Crossville, Tennessee; one sister, Jennifer (Matt) Van Ostrand of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin and nephews, Aiden and Asher; one brother, David (Dawn) Gillis of Rockford and nephew, Matthew, and niece, Annette; aunts and uncles, Mark Gillis, Mary Jo (Marvin) Metzger and Mark (Linda) Olson as well as her wonderful former neighbor and close friends Heather and Jayson Newlin and family.

She is preceded in death by her father, Stephen Gillis.

Memorial visitation will be held on Friday, Sept. 10 from 1-2 p.m. at Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home, 704 N. 6th Street Rochelle, IL 61068. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Homes. Online condolences may be made at www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com

Sheriff's office releases Labor Day enforcement numbers

OREGON — The Ogle County Sheriff's Office issued 198 citations including four impaired driving arrests during its Labor Day traffic safety enforcement effort.

The citations included 140 citations for speeding, four arrests for driving under the influence, 10 arrests for no valid driver's license, 11 citations for uninsured

drivers, two citations to distracted drivers (cell phone usage), two arrests for drug violations and 29 citations for other traffic offenses.

The sheriff's office joined forces with more than 200 other local law enforcement agencies from Aug. 20 through Sept. 7 to get drunk and drugged drivers off our roads and encourage seat belt use. The effort

featured high-visibility enforcement combined with a variety of outreach activities, including a media campaign.

The Labor Day "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Ogle County Sheriff

Deputies arrest Rockford

OREGON — On Sept. 6 deputies arrested Chemere Thomas 20, of Rockford for driving with no valid license. Thomas was arrested by

deputies on Interstate 39 near Illinois Route 64 after being stopped for speeding. Thomas was held in lieu of bond at the Jail.

Rochelle Police

Drivers cited for no insurance, improper lane usage

ROCHELLE — On Sept. 3 at 11:23 p.m.

Alejandro Lopez, 20, of Rochelle was cited for no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Oct. 1.

On Sept. 4 at 8:45 a.m.

Zachary D. Corson, 25, of Rochelle was cited for improper lane usage. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Oct. 1.

Ogle County 4-H members excel at Illinois State Fair

SPRINGFIELD — Nearly 26,000 4-H exhibits from across Illinois were judged and displayed during the Illinois State Fair, including 44 Ogle County 4-H members. They earned the right to exhibit by being selected in the top of their division at the Ogle County 4-H General Projects Show held on July 23, 24, and 27 at the Ogle County Fairgrounds.

Cora Mickley of Rochelle was reserve champion for her vegetable display. Ruth Nadig of Rochelle received a participation ribbon for creative writing and Elijah Nadig received a participant ribbon for chalk/carbon/pigment division A.

All members receive a participation ribbon for being selected to participate. Each class had a champion and reserve champion given to the best projects for the day.

Enrollment for the new 4-H year begins Sept. 1. To learn more about enrolling in 4-H, one may call University of Illinois Extension's local office at 815-732-2191.

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COVID-19 Report
September 7, 2021

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New Cases Per 100k 294.22	% Fully Vaccinated 46.23%

All data is provisional and subject to change.

Level of Community Transmission in Ogle County, Illinois

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Report policy

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

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

Read and Recycle

LOCAL NEWS

SCHOOL: Simpson takes over as Steward superintendent

From page 1

At a July meeting, the Steward School Board agreed to follow whatever health guidance was in place at the time of school starting, Simpson said.

"We have not heard any complaints about masking or anything of that nature," Simpson said. "Just in general, it seems that while people may not be excited about wearing masks, they know that if that's what we need to do in order to take care of the kids, then that's what they're willing to do."

As for the state's recent mandate requiring vaccination for school teachers and employees, Simpson said the "vast majority" of Steward staff is already vaccinated and that the mandate was "accommodating" for those that are unvaccinated, giving them time to get vaccinated or be tested weekly if they decide not to get it.

Along with a new superintendent, the district has eight new staff members this year including six teachers, a new head custodian and a head cook. Joe Powell also recently joined the school district as a board member.

Also new at the district are portable air conditioning units. The older part of the building was built in 1962 and the newer addition was built in 1999. Previously, the only air-conditioned areas were the library and first-floor areas such as the office. The classrooms were not.

The school board decided to look into portable units to make classrooms



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Along with a new superintendent, Steward School District has eight new staff members this year including six teachers, a new head custodian and a head cook. Joe Powell also recently joined the school district as a board member. Also new at the district are portable air conditioning units.

more comfortable and safer for students. Air circulation helps prevent spread of COVID-19. Simpson said the district was made aware of community members that wanted to make donations to support the air conditioning purchase.

The district found it

had enough donations to pay for the entire cost of the air conditioning units.

"I think it's heartwarming and in a way, it's overwhelming," Simpson said. "To see the response of parents and community, I knew Steward had a reputation for that, but now I've seen it firsthand.

It just makes me feel very fortunate to be here in a place where parents and the community are so supportive of their small school."

For his approach as Steward's new superintendent, Simpson said it's his intention to give students from a rural area

a good quality education to compete in the workforce and contribute to the country.

The district has several employees that not only live in Steward, but have long lasting ties to the community, Simpson said.

"When you get that

kind of commitment from people, it really helps build a culture of commitment and dedication," Simpson said. "Truthfully, I get up every morning and say a prayer of thanks that I am coming to a place where I know children and education are highly valued."

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Fall into a good book at the library

“FALL into a Good Book” at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District. The library has many new fall titles that might interest you. If you come to the library, remember to bring your library card and wear your mask. Masks are required.

When you are visiting the library, you may want to stop in the front room and view the constitution week display then check out some books on the founding fathers (Dewey # 973.4).

Constitution week is something that I have taken part in for many years. As part of the Rochelle Chapter NSDAR, we annually celebrate this important week in our nation’s history.

“Constitution week is the commemoration of America’s most important document. It is celebrated annually during the week of September 17-23. The United States Constitution stands as a testament to the tenacity of Americans throughout history to maintain their liberties, freedoms and inalienable rights.

This celebration of the constitution was started by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1955, DAR petitioned congress to set aside Sept. 17-23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of constitution week. The resolution was later adopted by the U.S. Congress

and signed into public law on Aug. 2, 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The DAR has also erected a structure that is built in tribute to the constitution of the United States. DAR Constitution Hall, which is a performing arts center, opened in 1929.

The aims of the constitution week celebration are to:

Emphasize citizens’ responsibilities for protecting and defending the constitution, inform people that the constitution is the basis for America’s great heritage and the foundation for our way of life.

Encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the constitution in Sept. 1787.

Constitution week is a great time to learn more about this important document and celebrate the freedoms it gave us.” (<https://www.dar.org/national-society/education/constitution-week>).

Our mayor and the City of Rochelle will sign and commemorate a constitution proclamation at the city council meeting this month. It is an important document to remember and continue to live by. This year marks the 233rd birthday of our nation’s most important document.

Sarah Flanagan is the director of the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District.



Sarah Flanagan

A look at the workforce shortage in Illinois

LEANN Fox would seem to have most everything a small business owner would want: loyal customers, an established location and a recognized brand.

But one thing the owner of Leann’s Parkway Café doesn’t have enough of is employees.

“We’ve had to temporarily close because we just haven’t been able to hire enough people. I’m eager to open up soon. But I just can’t find enough workers,” she told me Monday.

Now, before you write off Fox as an upstart naïve in the ways of business or someone unwilling to pay enough to attract good employees, it’s worth noting she has owned and operated her popular café on Springfield’s north side for 28 years and she offers competitive pay and benefits.

Unfortunately, her story is not a unique one. Throughout Illinois, “Help Wanted” signs adorn stores, restaurants and other enterprises.

Some businesses have curtailed services and hours. For example, Panera Bread on Springfield’s west side has shut down its drive thru because it lacked sufficient employees to staff it along with its dining room. Retailers such as the Dollar General in Riverton have cut back hours because they don’t have enough employees to fill their schedule.

Fox said she chose to temporarily close her business over the summer because she believes it would have hurt it more in the long-run to have kept the doors open.

“When people have a bad experience at a restaurant, they remember it. If I don’t have enough waitresses, cooks and dishwashers to do a good

job, I wouldn’t want my customers to have to deal with it. Because they would remember it – and not come back.”

Despite not having any revenue coming in, Fox has continued to pay her employees during the past three months.

“I pay them \$20 an hour for the average number of hours they worked each week before the pandemic,” she said. “I don’t want them to suffer while we’re shut down – and I also don’t want to lose them. They’re good workers and I want them to come back when we reopen.”

She had hoped to reopen on Aug. 28. Fox had scheduled 17 people to come in for interviews but only six showed up.

“And of those six, there really weren’t any I wanted to hire,” she said. “You look at a work history and see that someone had quit their last six jobs. I’d ask, Why? And the person would say something like, ‘They were all mean to me.’”

By any measure Fox is a progressive employer. Not only does she offer pay and benefits well above what state and federal law require but she hires people other employers avoid.

“I’m the queen of second chances. Just because someone has made a mistake in the past doesn’t mean I’m not going to give you a chance,” she said.

In fact, two of the employees she has kept on the payroll through the summer have done prison time.

She opened the business on the northside of Springfield in 1993, when she was in her mid-20s. And for decades her business has been packed every day at noon. The Parkway is famous for its ham

and beans. I’ll admit it. The soup is almost as good as what my mother used to make.

Just why there is a worker shortage is a bit of an open question. When daycares were closed and schools were distance learning, many parents, particularly single ones, found it difficult to work outside the home. And before COVID-19 vaccines were readily available, fear of virus exposure was pervasive.

But with public schools again teaching in-person, daycare centers open and vaccines widely available, some now blame enhanced pandemic unemployment benefits as acting as an incentive for people not to work.

We’ll soon find out if that is the underlying cause. Because this past week enhanced benefits ended for Illinoisans.

In the Land of Lincoln, the 263,000 people who received unemployment payments through the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program and the 189,000 people through Pandemic Unemployment Assistance saw their benefits end Sept. 4.

But Fox is skeptical whether competition with generous government benefits are the only reason there is a worker shortage.

“During the pandemic people stayed home and spent more time with their kids and family. They liked that. And now they are reluctant to come back and work weekends and holidays. That’s when customers expect to eat and some people may be saying ‘That’s not what I want to do.’”

Scott Reeder is a veteran journalist. He works as a reporter in the Springfield area. Scottreed1965@gmail.com.



Scott Reeder

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

With the 20th anniversary approaching in the coming days, do you remember where you were when you heard the news of the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001?

“I was at my old real estate office. After hearing some chatter on the radio, I talked down to the fire station, where the TV was on. Everyone was watching it live, talking about how the firefighters would be able to put that out. Then the second plane hit. Chief Tom McDermott turned and said, ‘This is no accident. This is war.’”

John Bearrows

“Teaching preschool and then after getting a call from the bus driver calling administrators for permission to put children on the bus to go home.”

Marilyn Overby

“Yes, vacationing in Branson with friends and family. It took a minute to decide it wasn’t an accident.”

Norma Huntley

“Heading to Rockford for a doctor appointment. Listening to music when news came through about the towers. Very vivid memory!”

Debbie Ramsey

“I was five or six years old in Kindergarten. The teachers were acting funny and we weren’t allowed out of the classroom. My mom came to get me from school that day.”

Sydney Nicole

“Teaching first grade at May School.”

Sheryl Holden

“Just walking into NorComm 911 dispatch center. Told our manager about the first plane, then all hell broke loose.”

Kathy Pignato

How to contact government officials

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

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

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

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Skip Kenney	skenney@oglecounty.org
Kim Whalen	kwhalen@oglecounty.org

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Mike Kerns	ac.kerns@comcast.net
Mark Hibshman	
Curt Ward	caward92@comcast.net

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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

Bearrows named Moose Legionnaire of the year

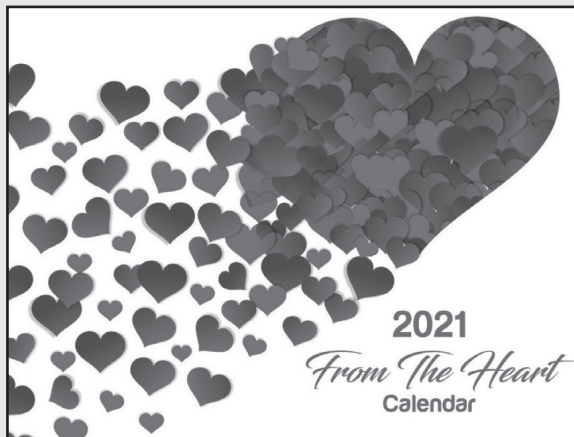
ROCHELLE—Paul Bearrows of Rochelle was announced as the Moose Legionnaire of the Year for the entire state of Illinois on Aug. 19.

The Moose Legion was founded in 1913 for Moose members who wanted to do more for the loyal order of the Moose and their communities. Paul was there on Nov. 2, 1996 for the first Adopt-a-Highway pickup for Rochelle Moose Lodge 903 and has missed few of the four-times-a-year highway cleanups since.

He has volunteered for countless steak fries at the lodge for many years and has helped serve Tom and Jerry's since 1988 at the lodge. Paul is a lay pastor for the Presbyterian Church, a member of the American Legion and VFW and serves on the Ogle and Eastern Lee County Honor Guard.

He has sponsored over 60 members into the loyal order of Moose and 25 members into the Moose Legion. Since 2014, Paul and his wife, Barb, have been members of the League of Guardians by donating \$1,000 a year to Moose charities.

Paul was duly honored for his work for the Moose and his community.



- Aug. 14 - Rochelle Foods, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 15 - Rotary, Rochelle, \$50
- Aug. 16 - Tom Ackert, Dixon, \$25
- Aug. 17 - Justin and Renee Miller, Lindenwood, \$25
- Aug. 18 - Quinn Rice, Northbrook, \$25
- Aug. 19 - Crystal Schafer (Jeff Perry), \$25
- Aug. 20 - Melody Noon, Oregon, \$25
- Aug. 21 - Nick Gilbert, Aurora, \$25
- Aug. 22 - Laura Evangelista, Rochelle, \$50
- Aug. 23 - Sophie Meyers, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 24 - Lauri Hays, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 25 - George Meusel, Amboy, \$25
- Aug. 26 - David C. Tess, Barrington, \$25
- Aug. 27 - Cally Gustafson, Topeka, KS, \$25
- Aug. 28 - Nancy Bingham, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 29 - Blake Wetzel, Lindenwood, \$50
- Aug. 30 - Sandy Sullivan, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 31 - Tom McDermott, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 1 - Eric Cech, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 2 - Riley Zimmerman, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 3 - Kathy Pfeiffer, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 4 - Joe Meadows, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 5 - Neysa McCammond, Stillman Valley, \$50
- Sept. 6 - Peggy Holt, Rockford, \$1,000
- Sept. 7 - Zachary Meyers, Rochelle, \$25
- Sept. 8 - Diane (Cedar Siding), Rochelle, \$25

Checks to winners will be mailed out at the end of each month

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sept. 9
Georgia Rogers
Sept. 11
Melinda Pourchot
Sam Oymaian
Sept. 12
Ianna Smith
Sept. 14
Alivia Law

Sept. 15
Robert Lee
Sept. 17
David Jones
Jenny Rosenbach
Sept. 18
Amie Eggenburg
Terry & Teresa Dodillet
Sept. 19
Leland & Lucy Hazlip

Madison Wooten
Sept. 22
Krew Sullivan
Sept. 23
Chris Doering
John Worley
Sept. 28
Ashley Bunker
Sept. 29
Josh Walker

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

Sept. 9 – (Thursday) – Salisbury Steak, Mushroom Gravy or Brown Gravy, Green Beans, Roasted Potatoes
Sept. 14 – (Tuesday) – BLT Sandwiches, Chips, Potato Salad
Sept. 16 – (Thursday) – Pulled Pork over Corn Cakes with either BBQ Sauce or Syrup, Coleslaw
Sept. 17 – (Friday) – No dinner tonight due to the Cooks and Carpenters Fundraiser next Friday.
Sept. 21 – (Tuesday) – Taco Salad, Cheese Quesadillas
Sept. 23 – (Thursday) – Italian Meatloaf, Green Beans,

Salad, Dinner Rolls
Sept. 28 – (Tuesday) – Sloppy Joes or Black Bean Burgers, Salad, Tater Tots, Baked Beans
Sept. 30 – (Thursday) – Beef Stroganoff, Peas, Dinner Rolls
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

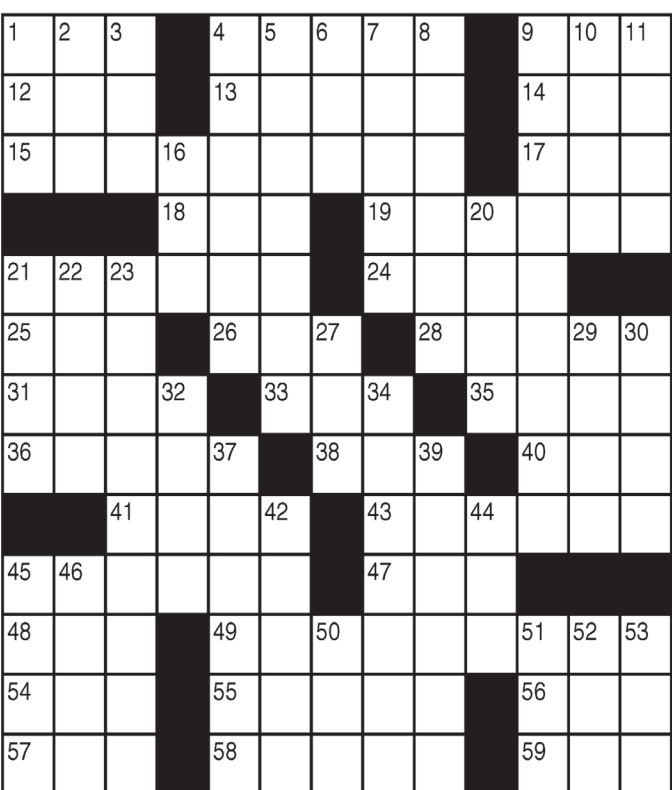


Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pool stick
4 Gasoline dispensers
9 Attorney's field
12 "Right you —!"
13 Not moving
14 Blond shade
15 Online reference source
17 Carefree
18 By way of
19 Pancake toppings
21 Museum tour guide
24 — Hari
25 Swelled head
26 Solidify
28 Semesters
31 Stately trees
33 Homer's neighbor
35 Mt. Rushmore's state
36 Seized vehicles
38 Dict. info
40 Sundial numeral
41 Hgt.
43 Ancient pyramid builders
45 Bale
47 Mineral suffix
48 Days of yore
49 Sibelius work or vodka



- brand
54 Blackbird
55 Totally
56 Inventor
57 Goat's plaint
58 Lauder of cosmetics
59 Marry
- DOWN**
1 Crow's cry
2 Mentalist
3 "A spider!"
4 Slipcover trim
5 Like leftovers
6 Club —
- 7 Spectrum creator
8 Patronize, as a hotel
9 New York airport
10 Now, in a memo
11 Reasons
16 "— been had!"
20 Numbered rds.
21 Woodland grazer
22 Leer at
23 Summaries
27 Went first
- 29 Primary
30 Tackles moguls
32 Auctioneer's cry
34 Cecil B. —
37 Arm's-length portrait
39 Femme —
42 Ore layers
44 Longing
45 Smile broadly
46 Forearm bone
50 Rebel Turner
51 Morning moisture
52 — -de-France
53 Succor

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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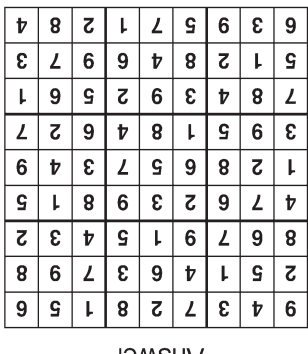
CryptoQuip

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: N equals P

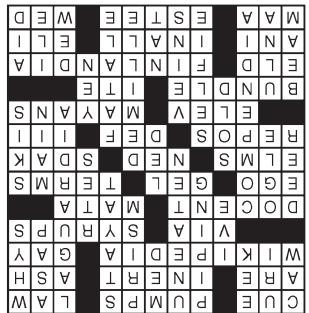
WZNNUWAMP J SJHHTG DZWHTGD
KDUIG AMHU J DJMSV, FVJH
FUZTL VG NDUKJKTR KG LUAMP?
HJIAMP WHUSI.

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



Answer

King Crossword

CryptoQuip

Supposing a cattle rustler broke into a ranch, what would he probably be doing? Taking stock.

LOCAL NEWS

NIU Lifelong Learning Institute builds community with informal online learning

DEKALB—The Northern Illinois University Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) invites community members of all ages to learn in an informal, non-competitive setting. The member-directed group of learners is now meeting online, and registration to attend any and all of the fall courses is just \$47.50 per person. The eight-week term runs from Sept. 14 through Nov. 4 and offers six weekly classes on topics ranging from women artists to Japanese history to volcanoes. Register and get more information at go.niu.edu/lli.

The featured learning topics for the fall term include “Musical Duos,” an exploration of classic musical duets from pop to opera; “In the Beginning: 1853 to 1941,” an exploration of Japanese foreign relations leading up to WWII; “She



Northern Illinois University

Painted That?”, an investigation of women artists through the centuries who have produced magnificent art; and “Magma Cum Loudly,” a virtual voyage around the world to visit some of the most amazing volcanoes.

The group is also looking forward to “Looking

Back – Moving Forward,” a series of talks by a variety of DeKalb County leaders about how the county has responded to the COVID-19 crisis in order to keep growing and expanding.

And, as they do each term, the LLI organizers will also welcome experts,

primarily NIU faculty members, to give lectures about their areas of expertise, with topics ranging from swarming robots to the history of the Irish in Illinois.

The LLI is ready to welcome new members to the group and wants potential members to know

that everyone is welcome, regardless of level of education or background. The only requirements are curiosity and a willingness to continue learning at any age.

Registration is open for the fall term. Register and learn more at go.niu.edu/lli. The Lifelong Learning

Institute (LLI), established in 2000, is a member-directed group of individuals primarily age 50 plus who enjoy learning in informal, flexible, non-competitive groups and connecting with peers who share their interests. No grades, no tests – just learning for the fun of it.

Extension fall garden cleanup set for Sept. 14

ROCHELLE — The end of the growing season is fast approaching and the cleanup can be a daunting task, especially with large gardens and yards.

Fall cleanup does not have to be that hard if you have a checklist of what should be done. Bruce Black, horticulture educator for University of Illinois Extension will be offering a presentation on fall garden cleanup on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 5 p.m.

This presentation will help you organize your fall tasks and turn them into

an easy month-by-month to-do list. Join Bruce out at The Kitchen Table Community Gardens located at 7034 S. Klondike Road in Rochelle.

Registration is not required to attend this program. The meeting will take place in the community gardens. Please bring a lawn chair to sit on. In case of inclement weather, the program will be cancelled.

Face masks are recommended for everyone regardless of vaccination status. Social distancing will be practiced during

the program.

If you have questions about this program or need a reasonable accommodation to participate, contact Judy Hodge at hodg@illinois.edu or 815-732-2191.

Ogle-Carroll

Meals made easy and for a great cause! Have you been searching for a way to make dinner preparation simple? We have a great opportunity for you to take a night off from cooking. This is also a great gift idea as well.

Order 10 delicious

meals that have been prepared & frozen for your convenience. Each meal serves 3-5 people, meals include: hickory smoked pulled pork, Philly meatballs, breakfast burritos, pulled pork mac & cheese, chicken bacon ranch pasta, cheesy ham and potatoes, beef wellington with gravy, chicken parmesan, smoked pork loin, and BBQ pulled chicken! Is your mouth watering?

Cost for the 10 meals is \$165! Proceeds will benefit the Ogle-Carroll Ag in the Classroom program. To

register, please mail your name, phone number, number of meal sets (they come in a set of 10 meals), and payment to: 811 S Clay Street, Mt. Carroll, IL 61053.

Make checks payable to: Ogle-Carroll Ag Partnership (OCAP). You can also order online at: <https://go.illinois.edu/meals>. Place your order by Thursday, Sept. 16! Meal pick-up is Sept. 30 from 3-5 pm at the University of Illinois Extension office, 421 W Pines Road, Oregon.

Agriculture in the Class-

room (AITC) is a statewide educational program with lessons offered to Kindergarten through eighth grade. Its goal is to help students, teachers, and the general public gain greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society.

Ag in the Classroom is offered through the University of Illinois Extension Ogle County in partnership with Ogle County Farm Bureau, Carroll County Farm Bureau, Ogle County Soil & Water, and Carroll County Soil & Water.

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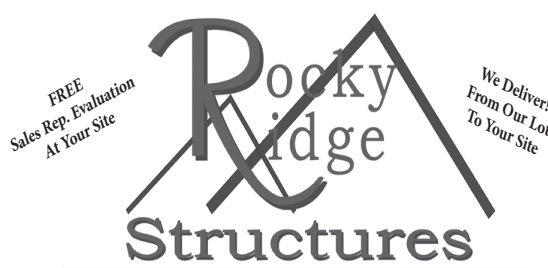
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PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Illinois School Code, the tentative budget for Steward School Dist 220 for FY 22 will be on display for public review from August 16-Sept. 16, 2021, in the main office from 8 AM -3:30 PM on school days. No. 0836 (Aug. 22, 25, 29, Sept. 1, 5, 8, 12)

Public Notice is hereby given that on August 16, 2021, a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: Sheraden's Powder Coating, 11699 E. Flagg Rd., Rochelle, IL 61068. Dated: August 16, 2021
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS SEALED BIDS will be received by the City of Rochelle, Illinois until 10:00 a.m., September 20, 2021, for the City of Rochelle 4th Avenue Storm Sewer Drainage Improvements – Phase I, which will consist the of the removal of existing storm sewer and storm sewer structures and the installation of 4325 linear feet of reinforced concrete storm sewer, 15 storm sewer inlets, and 24 storm sewer manholes, along with removal and replacement of 1450 linear feet of combination concrete curb and gutter, 8200 square feet of pcc sidewalk, 550 square feet of accessibility ramps, 4575 square yards of pavement removal, aggregate base

course, hot-mix asphalt paving, landscape restoration, traffic control and protection, as well as other associated work located in the City of Rochelle. Specifications and/or plans may be obtained at the Office of the City Engineer, Engineering Department, located at 333 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, Illinois. The office is open Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 3:30 pm or other times by appointment by emailing cward@rochelleil.us. Bidders will be required to sign for the specifications and/or plans before they are released. A fee of \$100.00 will be required for any specifications and/or plans that are mailed to prospective Bidders. All bids are to be returned to the Office of the City Clerk, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068.

THE CITY OF ROCHELLE PREFERS THE SEALED BID BE HAND DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, CITY HALL, 420 NORTH SIXTH STREET, ROCHELLE, ILLINOIS BEFORE 10:00 A.M., SEPTEMBER 20, 2021; HOWEVER, BIDS MAY ALSO BE MAILED.

ANY BID RECEIVED AFTER 10:00 A.M., SEPTEMBER 20, 2021, WILL BE RETURNED, UNOPENED.

ALL completed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at a bid opening at 10:00 a.m., September 20, 2021, in the Council Chambers at City Hall in Rochelle, Illinois.

ANY OBJECTIONS, QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS on the City's specifications shall be submitted in writing on or before

1 p.m. September 15, 2021. If deemed necessary by the City, an addendum will be distributed to all prospective bidders by facsimile transmission at least two (2) business days prior to the bid opening date. The decisions of the City shall be final.

THE CITY OF ROCHELLE is an equal opportunity employer. All Contracts for Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12). A CONTRACT may be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder whose bid is found to be in the best interest of the City of Rochelle. The City of Rochelle reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The City further reserves the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within forty-five (45) days after the bids have been opened.

A Hold Harmless Agreement and a Non-Collusion Affidavit of Compliance must be submitted with the bid. The City of Rochelle does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Each BID must be accompanied by a BID BOND payable to the CITY OF ROCHELLE. The City of Rochelle will decide within 45 days if it intends to proceed with the project and award the contract. Written Notice of Award and instructions for the execution of the Agreement will be issued to the Selected Bidder. The BID BOND of all BIDDERS will be retained until the agreement has been executed and approved, after which all BID BONDS will be returned. A certified cashier's check may be used in lieu of a BID BOND.

A Performance Surety will be required as specified in the contract documents and specifications. No. 0905 (Sept. 5, 8)

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**105
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OPPORTUNITIES**

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**Bryan
Garcia**

Year: Freshman

Sport: Soccer

Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?
A: 10 years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?
A: I enjoy scoring and winning.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?
A: Math because I'm pretty good at it.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?
A: Neymar Jr. because he's a very skilled player.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My dad because he corrects a lot of my mistakes in games.

Q: What is your dream job and why?
A: To be a pro soccer player because I want to be the first to do something big in my family.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?
A: Paris because I want to see the Eiffel Tower.

Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?
A: I enjoy having fun and playing with my friends.



**Luis
Milan**

Year: Freshman

Sport: Soccer

Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?
A: 10 years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?
A: The feeling of scoring a goal.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?
A: Spanish because my teacher is so energetic.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?
A: Neymar Jr. because he has so many skills in the sport.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My brother because he was a great soccer player at RTHS.

Q: What is your dream job and why?
A: To be a professional athlete because I love playing sports.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?
A: Tokyo because of the culture and the food.

Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?
A: Learning from my coaches and becoming a better soccer player.



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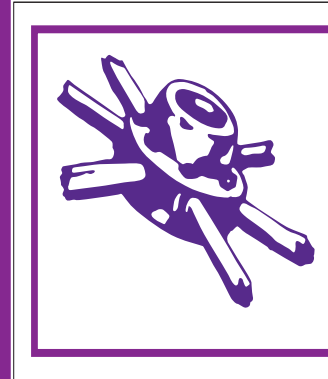
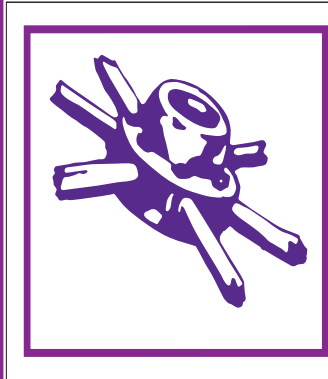
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SPORTS

RTHS Freshman Football



(PHOTO BY DOUG OLESON)

Rochelle freshman Ethan Goodwin attempts to run against Byron. The Rochelle freshmen defeated Byron 22-6.

Rochelle defeats Byron 22-6

Three rushing touchdowns bolster Hubs

BY DOUG OLESON
CORRESPONDENT

ROCHELLE — It was special — in a lot of ways.

Monday night, which was Labor Day, the Rochelle Township High School football team pounded out a 22-6 win over Byron in a special freshman B game in Rochelle.

Unlike regular football games, the game was played without special teams, meaning there were no kickoffs, punts or extra points. Both halves started on a team's 35-yard line, a punt automatically went for 30 yards and any touchdown was followed by a two-point conversion attempt.

According to Rochelle Head Coach John Gonzalez, the purpose was to give the teams a chance to work on other parts of their game. That was mainly blocking and running since the Hubs only attempted one pass, one less than their visitors.

Rochelle opened the scoring when Xavier Villalobos took a handoff from

quarterback Carson Lewis, broke through the Byron line and outsprinted the rest of the field for a 65-yard touchdown.

Byron tied the game on their next possession on a three-yard run by Alex Salazar, following a 45-yard run by Dylan Shank. Shank would have scored, except he was pulled down from behind right before the goal line.

Like the Hubs, their two-point conversion went for naught.

Rochelle scored what turned out to be the winning touchdown when Grant Bensler broke off a 60-yard run midway through the third quarter. Brandon Metzger then converted the two-point conversion.

Rochelle completed the scoring late in the final quarter when Logan Johnson scored from six yards out.

For Gonzalez, that wasn't what made the game special.

"Everyone got to play," he said, adding that they have more games like this scheduled. "We're looking forward to doing this again."

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WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8, 2021

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 1 • PAGE 12

SPORTS



FRESHMEN DEFEAT BYRON

The RTHS Freshmen Hubs defeated the Byron Tigers Monday night.

See page 11 for more details

RTHS Volleyball

Lady Hubs take 4th in home tourney

Rochelle wins first two matches before dropping three

BY DOUG OLESON
CORRESPONDENT

ROCHELLE—It was a tough ending to a long day of whistles, volleys and high fives.

After winning their first two matches, the Rochelle Township High School girls' varsity volleyball team lost three straight matches to take fourth place in the 26th Annual Lady Hub Invitational Saturday. Eight teams throughout northern Illinois competed.

"After starting out so well, it's too bad we couldn't have finished the same way," RTHS head coach Molly Sly said.

The final match was a heart breaking 19-25, 25-25-22, 29-35 loss to Ottawa.

Sly said she was really hoping to beat Ottawa since the Lady Pirates are in the same division as Rochelle. A win would have given the Lady Hubs an idea of where they may fit into the conference.

As they had in all of their losses, the Lady Hubs started out slow against Ottawa in the third-place match. The effect of playing in their third straight

match in less than two hours – and their fifth in seven hours seemed to show as some volleys began to hit the net and others that had been landing just inside the line where now just wide.

After losing its final game of the initial round robin to open the tournament, Rochelle then lost to McHenry to set up the match with Ottawa.

Halfway through the second game with the Lady Pirates that all changed as the Lady Hubs slowly crept up on Ottawa, caught them, then surged past them, outscoring their visitors 6-3 to tie the match up.

Behind three quick kills by Sylvia Hasz, the Lady Hubs took a brief 4-1 lead, only to watch Ottawa slowly come back.

Playing another outstanding match, the Rochelle senior had 10 kills and 13 digs. Freshman teammate Dempsey Atkinson added 14 digs.

The lead changed hands four times before Ottawa got control of the match. Despite several spirited exchanges, and the small gym echoing with the cheers of Rochelle fans, the



(PHOTO BY DOUG OLESON)

Rochelle junior Baylie Sutton (center) speaks with senior Sylvia Hasz (right) during a match. The Lady Hubs varsity girls' volleyball team finished fourth at the 26th Annual Lady Hub Invitational Saturday.

older and more experienced Ottawa team finally pulled away.

Sly said she thought that playing Ottawa may have been the incentive for Rochelle to mount its comeback.

"Most definitely," Hasz agreed.

Rochelle opened the tournament by beating Lisle, 25-9, 25-14. Hasz led the Lady Hubs with 12 kills. Baylie Sutton and Kennedy Adamski added six kills each.

Rochelle then beat Free-

port, 25-19, 25-19. Hasz had 18 kills, eight digs and five assists. Addie Friestad had 10 kills, Taelynn Rodeghero had six, one more than Sutton.

In between matches, Rochelle senior Zoe Rourke said the girls spent their time in the locker room, just hanging out and watching the other matches.

"I love to watch the other teams play," she said.

Over all, it was a very long day of volleyball, which was fine with Hasz. "I love it," she said.

Lady Hubs navigating return after pandemic-shortened season

Hasz: 'I didn't know quite exactly what to expect'

BY DOUG OLESON
CORRESPONDENT

ROCHELLE — Sylvia Hasz wasn't sure what to expect.

"I didn't really know," she said.

Hasz is a senior who plays volleyball for the Rochelle Township High School varsity girls volleyball team.

Technically, this is the first time in two years that the Lady Hubs are playing a normal volleyball season. Last year, because of the pandemic, high school volleyball was played in the spring rather than the fall.

According to Hasz, the girls played a shorter season than normal, only about six weeks, which meant they played fewer matches than they normally would have.

When the season ended, RTHS head coach Molly Sly said there was no state playoff system like there usually is and will be this season.

Sly and Hasz both said it hurt players in a lot of different ways, including scholarship possibilities and player development.

Senior Zoe Rourke said that is what happened to her. Rourke, who decided to sit out last season, said she is behind where she probably should be right now because of it. Rourke, who does not start, said she is actively cheering on her teammates this season.

What has helped Hasz is that she also plays with the club ball with the V.C. United in Rockford.

For right now, the Lady Hubs are in the middle of a regular Illinois High School Association season, which is just fine with everyone involved.

"I didn't know quite exactly what to expect," Hasz said of the current season, "But it feels normal."

RTHS Boys Soccer

Hubs dispatch Morris 9-2 Tuesday

Luxton, Casillas score four goals each during match

BY DOUG OLESON
CORRESPONDENT

ROCHELLE — Due to an early afternoon thunderstorm, Eli Luxton wasn't sure if there was going to be a game or not Tuesday afternoon.

"Someone told me the game was cancelled," the sophomore midfielder for the Rochelle Township High School boys' varsity soccer team said. "I didn't find out (we were playing) until 2:30 p.m."

With dark clouds looming, even then it wasn't clear what was going to happen on the field.

"I thought we were going to play in the rain," fellow sophomore Diego Salazar said.

According to RTHS head coach Brad Male, the Hubs could have played in the rain, but by Illinois High School Association rules – they couldn't if it was lightning.

"Our field was pretty dry," he said.

As it turned out, the only storm that hit



(PHOTO BY DOUG OLESON)

Rochelle freshman defender Brayan Garcia fights for the ball Tuesday. The Hubs defeated Morris 9-2

the RTHS soccer field was the Hubs. Behind Luxton and freshman Alberto Casillas, who had four goals each, the Hubs walloped Morris 9-2. The win improves Rochelle's record to 4-3 while Morris drops to 1-6-6.

Despite injuries and other problems, which left Morris severely

"We did a really good job moving the ball."

Brad Male

shorthanded, the visitors managed to score first – and quickly – within the first four minutes.

After that, it was pretty much all Rochelle



(PHOTO BY DOUG OLESON)

Rochelle freshman forward Alberto Casillas makes a play on the ball Tuesday. Casillas scored four goals and the Hubs defeated Morris 9-2.

as the Hubs tallied four straight goals, including two by Luxton, one by Casillas and one by Josue Orozco, a senior.

Morris managed to get on the board again

before Rochelle countered with Luxton's third goal of the first half, which ended with the Hubs on top 5-2.

"We were just pressing them really well," Salazar said.

"We did a really good job moving the ball," Male said.

The Hubs scored four more times in the second

half to seal the win.

Although they didn't score, Male singled out several other players, including defenders Christian Harding and Nathan Sergeant, who he said did a good job of clearing the ball.

"If we keep moving the ball and looking for each other, we should progress well," he said.