



# ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM



1240 N. Dement Road  
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Vol. 102 • No. 44

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29, 2021

\$1

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## KNOW IT TODAY



### Homecoming Court selected

Rochelle Township High School selected its 2021 Homecoming Court candidates. **Page 2**

### WEATHER

 WEDNESDAY HIGH LOW <b>86 52</b>	 THURSDAY HIGH LOW <b>84 55</b>
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### OBITUARIES

• ROBERT "BOB" E. GOTT  
• LYLE DEAN KURZ

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• ALDI  
• FALL BOOSTER BOOK  
• FARM & FLEET  
• SCHOOL TIMES  
• WEICHAFT

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## Council approves storm sewer project bid

Roughly \$1 million allocated for drainage improvements

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle City Council unanimously accepted a \$956,462 bid from Northern Illinois Service Company for its 4th Avenue storm sewer drainage improvements phase one project at its Monday meeting.

The project will be completed in two phases from the Kyte River to 6th Street and will consist of complete removal of existing mainline storm sewer and limited laterals that are nearly 80 years old within the street right of way. The new system will consist of larger improved storm sewer and manhole structures to provide more efficient drainage and some inline stormwater detention.

The project will help alleviate "most of" the localized flooding along the 4th Avenue corridor that has been occurring over the past five years. The entire project will be completed in 2022. City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh was given the authority to negotiate further change

order work on the project not to exceed \$219,000.

### Property sale

The council unanimously approved the market and sale of real estate properties located at 860 S. 7th St. and the adjacent lot, 890 S. 7th St.

The building at 860 S. 7th. St. is currently used by the Rochelle Municipal Utilities water and water reclamation departments as a maintenance shop. The city recently acquired the former Johnson Tractor building and plans to move those RMU operations to that site at 1030 S. 7th St.

An appraisal was completed for the building of \$195,000 and \$315,000 for the adjacent lot. The proceeds from sale will be put towards improvements of the Johnson Tractor building or paying down debt.

### Peaker building

The council unanimously approved a new steel roof for its RMU peaker building at 1015 S. Caron Road for \$44,430.

Bruns Construction, Inc. was the sole bidder



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**RMU's Blake Toliver (right) was recognized with a Good News Award for generator work that was done for 15 straight days to keep lights on downtown. Toliver is above with Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh.**

for the project and was awarded it. Repairs of peaker engine one are underway and the current roof must be removed to put it back in place.

"It was \$22,000 just to remove and replace the roof for the peaker to be brought back," RMU Superintendent of Electric Operations Blake Toliver

said. "We're experiencing some leaking issues from the first time they removed it and put it back on. We thought it best to just replace it. The old one was put on in 1966."

### Iron removal plant

Rochelle City Council

members unanimously approved the authorization of a grant application for its Well Eight Iron Treatment Plant Project that would construct an iron removal treatment plant for the well located at Wiscold Drive and Caron Road in Rochelle.

See CITY page 3

## RCH provides COVID-19 updates

**ROCHELLE** — As it continues to progress through the pandemic, Rochelle Community Hospital would like to share these updates regarding COVID-19.

### Visitor

#### Restrictions

RCH visitor restrictions have changed. Children under the age of 18 will not be allowed to visit inpatients. One visitor at a time in the hospital per patient will be allowed on the medical/surgical floor for inpatients not being treated for COVID-19. Visitors must meet screening/masking requirements and remain masked for the duration of their visit anywhere in the facility. Visitors with COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, sneezing, cough, sore throat, etc. should not visit patients.

### Masking

RCH will continue to follow CDC/IDPH guidance for masking in a healthcare facility, which means everyone — employees, patients



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**As it continues to progress through the pandemic, Rochelle Community Hospital shared several updates regarding COVID-19 visitor restrictions, testing, vaccinations and more.**

and visitors — still need to wear a mask when you enter the hospital or any RCH clinic for the duration of your visit. All visitors, patients and employees will continue to be screened upon entry to the hospital until the CDC/IDPH changes their guidance.

### Triage Line

The triage line offers an opportunity to be tested

for COVID-19 if you meet testing criteria. Call 815-561-8829 Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Calls will be answered during this time only.

### Testing

If you call the triage line, you do not need a provider's order to be tested. RCH will not be testing: patients who do not have symptoms and need a

back to work/school test, patients who need travel testing or patients who need tests for participation in sports and clubs. Please refer to our website for additional local COVID-19 testing resources at: www.rochellehospital.com/community-health/coronavirus-covid-19/

### Vaccinations

The Ogle County Health Department (OCHD) will

be providing COVID-19 vaccinations at their Oregon and Rochelle offices on Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday every week. You will need to call 815-562-6976 to make an appointment for either location. COVID-19 vaccinations are also available at all pharmacies in Rochelle and others in the county.

See RCH page 2

  
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# LOCAL NEWS



## RTHS announces 2021 Homecoming Court candidates

Pep Rally scheduled for Thursday evening at RTHS football stadium

**ROCHELLE** — With homecoming week in full swing at Rochelle Township High School, candidates for each class's homecoming court were decided earlier this week.

Senior homecoming court candidates (pictured top left) from left to right: front: Jasmine Sarabia, Jordin Dickey, Sylvia Hasz, Zoey Tabor and Valeria Garcia. Back: Braden Alfano, Zachary Sanford, Adam Kemp, Devansh Patel and Joshua Lloyd.

Junior homecoming court candidates (pictured top right) from left to right: front: Isela Vasquez, Lauren Akey, Ellie Carmichael and Rylee Jackson. Back: Trey Taft, Garrett Gensler, David Gerber and Bradley

Cooney.

Sophomore homecoming court candidates (pictured bottom left) from left to right: front: Ella Alfano, Adaleiah Villalobos and Laney Hicks. Back: Brandt Waters, Elijah Luxton and not pictured Frank Decena.

Freshman homecoming court candidates (pictured bottom right) from left to right: front: Abigail Jarvis, Payton Cesarone and Emma Kenney. Back: Grant Gensler, Kaiden Morris and Xavier Villalobos.

The Homecoming Court candidates will be honored during Thursday's Pep Rally at the RTHS football stadium, where the King, Queen, Prince and Princess will be chosen.



## RCH: Hospital gives COVID-19 updates

From page 1

OCHD is also scheduling appointments for Pfizer booster shots for those meeting these CDC requirements:

People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.

People aged 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.

People aged 18–49 years with underlying medical conditions may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

People aged 18–64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a

booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

The CDC has not yet provided guidance regarding Moderna and Johnson & Johnson boosters as they are not yet available. If you are seeking a booster shot, it does need to be the same brand as your previous COVID-19 vaccinations. You should take your CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card with you if you choose to receive a booster.

### Test Results

Anyone testing at RCH will be contacted with COVID-19 test results, either negative or positive with further instructions. A printed copy of test results is available from the RCH Health Information Management Department (medical records) at 815-562-2181, ext. 2740 or stop by their office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We appreciate your patience and understanding. Stay positive and test negative.



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# LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows (above) read proclamations in honor of National Public Power Week and National Fire Prevention Week that were accepted by RMU's Blake Toliver (right) and Rochelle Fire Chief Dave Sawlsville (left). Below, Bearrows and City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh present Peggy Friday with a Good News Award.

## CITY: Council moves forward on iron treatment plant project

From page 1

The well is centrally located in the industrial area and is a high-capacity well that can supply over 12 industries that employ over 2,000 people. Due to the elevated levels of iron, the well is only used as a backup during emergencies.

The rough estimated cost for the project is about \$5 million, of which the grant could cover \$4 million. The city would pay \$1 million. RMU Utilities Superintendent Adam Lanning said if the city's application is perfect, all \$5 million would be covered by the grant. Fiegenschuh said another grant through State Sen. Brian Stewart could cover the \$1 million if the city needs to pay it.

"We could end up with a \$5 million well house with no particular cost to the city," Lanning said. "This project's been on every capital improvement plan since I've been here and probably 10 years before me. This well went off in the 90s because of iron. This would be a really good project to get behind us."

### No parking

The council unanimously approved eliminating parking on the south side of 10th Avenue between Lincoln Highway and Illinois Route 251.

Residents and motorists have expressed safety concerns with narrow travel ways due to vehicles parking on both sides of the street. The south side of 10th Avenue was chosen because it will disturb the least number of residents that may need parking.

"It is a really heavily-traveled road and I think this is best for everybody," Street Department Superintendent Tim Isley said.

### Good News

Fiegenschuh presented a Good News Award to Industrial Development Manager Peggy Friday for her work on the city's recent Hiring Expo.

"It was a huge success for the community and a lot of partners came together," Fiegenschuh said. "People found jobs. It was all done because of our city staff and some ideas that came from a



meeting with the mayor and myself and some other folks."

A Good News Award was also presented to Toliver for generation work that was done for 15 days straight to keep the lights on in the downtown area to prevent an outage after a transformer went down at the plant that powers that part of town.

"This is another reason we're blessed to have our own locally-owned electric utility," Fiegenschuh said. "Because we can do

things like this."

### Proclamations

Mayor John Bearrows read proclamations in

honor of National Public Power Week and National Fire Prevention Week that were accepted by Toliver and Dave Sawlsville.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Lyle Dean Kurz

**ROCHELLE** — Lyle Dean Kurz, 66, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 26 at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon.

Lyle was born on July 8, 1955, the son of Harold W. and E. Louise (Balch) Kurz in Rochelle. While attending Rochelle Township High School, he played football and graduated in 1974. He went on to attend the University of Illinois where he was the manager of the men's basketball team, graduating with a degree in agronomy.

Over the years, he farmed with his father and

brother, retiring in 2020. He was a member of the Pine Tree Pistol Club and a NRA instructor. He was an avid reader and a train fan.

Lyle is survived by his mother, Louise Kurz of Byron; brother, Barry Kurz of Lindenwood and Cathy Kurz of Jefferson, Louisiana. He is preceded in death by his father, Harold in 2002.

The visitation will be from 9:30-11 a.m., Friday, Oct. 1 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The funeral will follow at 11 a.m. Friday with Pastor Joy Alsop



officiating. Burial is at Lindenwood Cemetery in Lindenwood. Memorials may be made in Lyle's memory to Alzheimer's Association. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Robert "Bob" E. Gott

**PORT WASHINGTON, Wis.** — Robert "Bob" E. Gott of Port Washington, Wisconsin formerly of Rochelle, passed away surrounded by family in the comfort of his home on Friday, Sept. 24 at the age of 85.

He was born in Knoxville, Tennessee to Carl and Marie Gott on Dec. 18, 1935. He married Grace Robinson Brown on July 5, 1979 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Bob attended Marquette University in Milwaukee. He worked at Continental Can for a number of years and retired from Del Monte Can Company. After retirement, he and his wife enjoyed running Aunt Mary's Yarns and Crafts in Rochelle before moving closer to their children in Wisconsin.

His passion of cooking large meals for family and friends and welcoming everybody with open arms is a memory most

cherished by his family. He is well known for his pride and devotion to maintain his beautiful yard.

Bob would often sit on his back porch for hours at a time listening to the trains pass every few minutes. He also found comfort in reading and watching westerns, often sharing personal memories of the "good ol' days." His love for his wife, Grace, was larger than life itself.

Bob is survived by his devoted wife Grace, his children Becky (Edward) Manthei, Kelly (Kevin) Laumann and Scott (Gladys) Brown; grandchildren Sam (Adam Chmielewski) Manthei, Stephanie (Brett Cahill) McGrath, Becci (Rachael) McGrath, Alexandra Brown, Joshua (Amanda) Hedrick, Roxanne (Troy) Defond and many great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law Lucinda Brown,



sister-in-law Patricia Gott, Norma Drescher and brother-in-law Ron Gauthier. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Pamela McGrath, son Randy Brown and brother William Gott.

Bob's family will have a private family celebration of his life.

The Eernisse Funeral Home of Port Washington is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left at [www.eernissefuneralhome.com](http://www.eernissefuneralhome.com).

## Three arrested on outstanding warrants

**ROCHELLE** — On Sept. 21 at 9:46 p.m. Joshua W. Hoole, 36, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On Sept. 21 at 6:50 p.m. Gerald M. Kunkes, 32, of Rochelle was cited for speeding. He was given an

I-Bond and a Rochelle court date of Oct. 22.

On Sept. 21 at 8:02 a.m. Karyl I. Gonzalez, 64, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Whiteside County warrant and transferred.

On Sept. 22 at 3:41 p.m. Krysta N. List, 18, of Ro-

chelle was cited for failure to yield turning left. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Oct. 22.

On Sept. 23 at 9:55 a.m. Elina A. Avila, 18, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. She paid \$300 and was given an Ogle County court date of Oct. 20.

On Sept. 24 at 7:48 p.m. Kate A. Litton, 39, of Rochelle was cited for no insurance. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Oct. 22.

On Sept. 26 at 5:06 p.m. Lisa A. Kopplin, 52, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On Sept. 26 at 11:22 p.m. Isaac I. Pacheco, 24, of DeKalb was arrested for possession of cannabis, reckless driving and speeding. He paid \$250 and was given a court date of Nov. 5.

## Ogle County Sheriff's Department

## Deputies respond to two-vehicle accidents

**OREGON** — On Sept. 22 at 6:56 p.m. deputies were dispatched to West Illinois Route 64 and North Illinois Route 26 in reference to a single-vehicle accident with injuries. After an investigation, deputies learned Margaret L. Kovaka, 74, of Savannah was driving west bound on West Illinois Route 64. Kovaka drove through the intersection, exited

the roadway, and drove through a dry retention pond, before coming to a stop in her 2016 Dodge. Kovaka was transported to KSB Hospital in Dixon for non-life threatening injuries she suffered due to the crash. Deputies were assisted on scene by Polo Fire Department and the Polo Police Department.

On Sept. 23 at approximately 11:57 p.m. deputies performed a traffic stop at the intersection of Main Street and Chestnut Avenue in Forreston after the a vehicle had been called in as a driving complaint traveling all over the roadway and in the oncoming lane of traffic. After investigation deputies placed Bradley Burke, 36, of Dixon under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Burke was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured Vehicle. Burke was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu bond.

On Sept. 25 at 7:44 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 11,000 block of East Illinois Route 38 for an equipment violation. After a short investigation, deputies arrested Shannon Mancillas, 46, of Ashton for driving while license suspended. Mancillas was released on an I-Bond and will appear in court at a later date.

On Sept. 25 at 8:59 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of Lincoln Highway for a moving violation. After a short investigation, deputies arrested Samantha Metzger, 27, of Rochelle for possession of cannabis improper container and a citation for improper stopping at a stop sign. Metzger was released on scene and will appear in court at a later date. Deputies also arrested Candace Collins, 29, of Rochelle for possession of cannabis improper container and unlawful possession of a controlled substance (Xanax). Collins was transported to the Ogle

County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Sept. 26 at approximately noon, deputies were dispatched to a two-vehicle accident in the 1,000 block of Illinois Route 64. After conducting an investigation, it was learned Paul Branning, 53, of Oregon was traveling eastbound in the 1,000 block of Illinois Route 64 on a Harley Davidson motorcycle when a black Ford F250 driven by Jeffrey Boyden, 48, of Oregon pulled out of a private drive striking Branning. Branning was transported to the hospital for non-life threatening injuries sustained as a result of the crash. Boyden was issued citations for failure to yield at a private drive, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and expired eegistration.

On Sept. 27 at 1:11 p.m. deputies and Byron Fire/EMS were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash in the 6,900 block of North Illinois Route 2. After an investigation, it was determined a Chevrolet Sonic, driven by Donald L. Cleven 90, of Madison, Wisconsin was driving southbound on Illinois Route 2, attempting to merge from two lanes down to one lane. As Cleven was merging, he struck the front driver's side bumper of a Peterbilt tractor, driven by Jose Rodriguez Arreguin, 59, of Rockford, that was in the lane Cleven was attempting to merge into. Cleven struck the front bumper of the Peterbilt with the rear passenger side of his vehicle. After striking the Peterbilt, the Chevrolet lost control and entered into the west ditch. Cleven and his passenger were checked by Byron EMS.

Cleven was transported to Swedish American Hospital for precaution but did not appear to have any injuries. Cleven's passenger was checked by EMS and released. The driver of the Peterbilt tractor was not injured. The crash remains under investigation.

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**ROCHELLE News-Leader**

211 IL Route 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068  
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USPS (467-820) ISSN (1075-2811)  
Published every Wednesday and Sunday by Rochelle Newspapers Inc. at 211 E. State Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068. Periodical postage paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Rochelle News-Leader, P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068. Subscription rates are \$112 per year by mail in Ogle County. Outside county rate is \$134 per year. No mail delivery in newspaper-carrier serviced areas. The circulation department is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are a carrier subscriber and your paper does not arrive, contact Wanda Brimhall at 561-2112.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Auman provides county's COVID-19 progress

Ogle County positivity rate currently 6.94 percent

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Ogle County Health Department Public Administrator Kyle Auman provided an update to the Ogle County Board at its Sept. 21 meeting on the county's COVID-19 progress. "Hopefully this will be one of the last times I come bearing bad news," Auman said. "It's not as bad as it's been in the past, but we're still averaging about 20 cases per day. We're seeing a plateau in cases in the rest of the state. In Region 1, we're still seeing that high risk transmission."

Ogle County's current positivity rate is 6.94 percent with a case rate per 100,000 of 302.11.

The current regional ICU bed utilization is 16 percent, which Auman said is down 17 percent from about two weeks ago.

The OCHD is currently monitoring outbreaks and has issued two outbreaks this week. In September, the county has seen two additional COVID-19 deaths, one person in their 70s and one in their 80s.

Auman said the OCHD continues to administer vaccinations at both of its offices and is still partnering with Rochelle Community Hospital and KSB Hospital in Dixon along with county pharmacies.

Ogle County residents are currently 47.39 percent vaccinated. The OCHD is still getting all

three presentations of the vaccine and is partnering with hospitals, pharmacies and others that offer them to make sure they have access to doses.

In the past week, the OCHD has been able to order additional Johnson & Johnson vaccines and expects to receive that shipment this week, Auman said.

Auman also talked about flu season and said the OCHD has received its first shipment of the flu vaccine and plans to target those in schools and the senior citizen population.

The flu vaccine and COVID-19 can now be administered together to avoid a second trip, Auman said.

The OCHD Public



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Ogle County Health Department Public Administrator Kyle Auman provided an update to the Ogle County Board at its Sept. 21 meeting on the county's COVID-19 progress.**

Administrator said his department is still seeing spread in county schools.

"We're still seeing high rates of COVID-19 in schools and working

with our local school partners to address those situations," Auman said.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF JACKI NAUMAN)

### RTHS drum majors, flags take third at Geneseo

Rochelle Township High School Drum Major Jaella Ludwick, Flag Corps Captains Daniel Senne & Makenzie Liezert and Drum Major Bella Nauman placed third in AAA at the Maple Leaf Marching Band Classic in Geneseo on Saturday, Sept. 25.

## Higby speaks at Kiwanis Golden K meeting

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Kiwanis Golden K held a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 23. The guest speaker was Rochelle Police Chief

Eric Higby, who have an update on police activity in town.

Kiwanis Golden K President Don Horner also spoke. The Golden

K is growing in membership. If interested, visit them at The REC Center on Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. for donuts and coffee.

## State police stop man in Rochelle, arrest for DUI

**ROCHELLE** — Sergio Revuleta-Diaz, 39, of Chicago, was stopped by Illinois State Police for improper lane usage on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 1:59

a.m. on Illinois Route 251 at Standard Oil Road in Rochelle. Revuelta-Diaz was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, improper

lane usage, failure to signal when required, no insurance and operating a motor vehicle while using an electronic device. Revuleta-Diaz was released on an I-Bond.



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# LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

## The story of an American boy

“BOB: The Story of an American Boy” appeared in McClure’s Magazine in Sept. 1922. Written by Stella Burke May, the bride of Earl Chapin May, Rochelle’s most prominent author, it is the story of a Rochelle boy, Walter (Bob) Tigan.

Stella relied primarily on letters written between Walter and his mother, Katherine. An Irish boy raised with a strong Catholic background, Walter was certain of many things, but love of family and country came first and foremost.

Walter’s father, Thomas, died when Walter was five years old, Katherine never remarried. She raised her sons, Walter and Eugene, alone. Born in Rochelle, Walter followed his brother’s lead and lettered in football in 1908. The next year he attended school in DeKalb. Upon graduation Walter had one desire. He longed to join the military and serve his country.

At the age of 19, Walter became a midshipman and began schooling at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. It would seem that Walter’s dream was well on the way to being fulfilled, but such was not the case.

He was court martialed for hazing. Hazing was and is prohibited at the naval academy. Walter was charged with hazing a “plebe” or freshman. As a second-year student, Walter had rank over the plebe and therefore abused his position.

In Walter’s words, the plebe had insulted him using profane language. For Walter, this demanded satisfaction. He told the plebe to come to his room after supper. When he arrived, Walter commanded the plebe to “stand on his head.” An officer passed by Walter’s room and witnessed the offense.

When confronted with the charge, Walter confessed to the transgression. As the offense seemed trivial Walter anticipated a reprimand. Instead he was dishonorably dismissed from the United States Naval Service.

“Dear Mother: My dismissal from the service is to be read out at roll call tonight. I have been over this afternoon and had a long talk with the superintendent. He does not blame me, personally, but following the strict letter of the law, I must be the example. I am satisfied with

my own conduct in the whole affair and not ashamed to go out and get a job telling that I have been dismissed. I know you have confidence in me and will believe I acted manly throughout. The whole brigade realizes that I’m the goat and sympathizes with me. Several have promised to help get me a position. I will send you a draft for \$200 and keep the rest for a while as I may need it until I get settled. Lovingly, your son, Bob.”

After several failures to have his dismissal overturned, Walter settled for a new future. For the next few years Walter and his brother engaged in the mercantile business helping to support their mother.

Things were going well until April 6, 1917. The United States entered the war against Germany. Walter knew the Navy was not going to be a possibility so he went into Chicago and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

After much paperwork, to offset his naval discharge, Walter became a Marine on April 15, 1917. He was one of the first three to enlist from Ogle County, all from Rochelle.

Walter received many citations and awards. Twice cited for bravery in the French Orders of the Army and authorized to wear the French Croix de Guerre; the Victory Medal; two Bronze Bars, one Defensive Sector and the other Aisne; a Gold Bar for Aisne-Marne, three major engagements.

A portion of the final letter Kathrine received was from the American Red Cross.

“My Dear Mrs. Tigan: I write to tell you of the deep sympathy of the American Red Cross in France in the death of Second Lt. W.J. Tigan, Company 81, Sixth Machine Gun Battery. He came to this hospital July 21, 1918. He died of gunshot wounds July 28, 1918 at 2:55 a.m.”

When many would have let bitterness turn them against their country, Walter chose another path. He died in combat, but not before erasing the stain of his dishonorable discharge. Today he rests at peace in St. Patrick Cemetery, Rochelle.

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



Tom McDermott

## How giving to the RACF endowment fund supports our community

ENDOWMENTS are a donation of money or property to a nonprofit organization, which uses the resulting income for a specific purpose.

Donations made to the Rochelle Area Community Foundation (RACF) Endowment Fund are wisely invested and permanently grow. Each year a percentage of the endowed fund can be distributed in the form of grants.

Local nonprofit organizations apply for RACF grants to fund projects that will help those throughout the community. In 2021, grant requests totaled nearly \$100,000 and the RACF was able to fully fund every request, thus pouring an immense amount of money into the Rochelle area.

Being a donor to the foundation’s endowment

fund not only allows RACF the opportunity to make a direct impact on the lives of those in need, but allows the foundation to be flexible in meeting the current needs of our community.

Our purpose is to offer those with a philanthropic heart a simple way to make a positive difference, to empower community nonprofits through donor stewardship. Remember, a helping hand is always within reach.

If you would like to learn more about making a donation or establishing an endowment fund through the RACF, please call me at 815-561-3600 or email [director@rochellefoundation.org](mailto:director@rochellefoundation.org).

Emily Anaya is the executive director of the Rochelle Area Community Foundation.



Emily Anaya

## Should politicians be honored with statues?

POLITICIANS are peculiar creatures.

They name parks, highways, airports and just about anything else that’s paid for by us after themselves.

And if a politician rises high enough, a statue will be erected in the person’s honor.

Statues are designed to be permanent. But politicians’ reputations are much more fluid.

Six years ago, then-Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan was pushing to erect a statue on the Illinois Capitol grounds of former U.S. Speaker of the House Denny Hastert.

Hastert said, “Thanks, but no thanks.”

Unforeseen modesty on the part of a retired pol? Nope. At the point Hastert declined the honor, he knew he was under investigation by the feds for sexually abusing students when he was a high school coach and funneling hush money to one of them to keep the allegations quiet.

He eventually pleaded guilty to a financial crime and was sentenced to 15 months in prison.

In fairness to Madigan, he had no idea of any problems when he recommended the honor. But if you think that political pratfall will discourage other Illinois lawmakers from recommending politicians for statues, think again.

Today, there is a proposal pending to place a Ronald Reagan statue on the grounds of the Illinois Capitol. Is he worthy? Well, more worthy

than some, but less so than others.

Back in 1984, I voted for Reagan. But I don’t want one cent of taxpayer dollars to go toward honoring him or any other politician. Isn’t having been elected to public office distinction enough? Statues have little to do with history and much to do with glorification.

Yesterday’s heroes may be tomorrow’s scoundrels. For example, 103 years ago a statue of Stephen Douglas was erected on the Illinois Capitol lawn. He was a U.S. Senator and the archrival of Abraham Lincoln. More recently critics pointed out he was a slaveowner and a political impediment to emancipation. So, last year, his statue was removed.

We have had so much trouble with statehouse statues, one can’t help but wonder if the Land of Lincoln has an edifice complex?

The political class exists for its own benefit, and they like to venerate one another.

Interestingly enough, personal dishonesty or political graft has never been sufficient cause for a politician’s image to be removed from the Illinois Capitol.

On the statehouse’s second floor, you’ll find portraits of Otto Kerner, Dan Walker and George Ryan. All served as governor and all ended up in prison.

After impeaching Gov. Rod Blagojevich, lawmakers passed legislation forbidding public funding of portraits of governors removed from office. They really hated that Blago. It’s the only time I can think of

such action being taken.

In fact, when the lawmakers passed that resolution, there was so much vitriol during the debate that I couldn’t help but think of a scene from Cecil B. DeMille’s “The Ten Commandments” when pharaoh said, “Let the name of Moses be stricken from every book and tablet. Stricken from every pylon and obelisk of Egypt. Let the name of Moses be unheard and unspoken, erased from the memory of man, for all time.”

But obviously they didn’t learn their lesson because there are plenty of other paintings and statues honoring political scoundrels in that building.

One of my favorites was a painting of former Illinois Secretary of State and Speaker of the House Paul Powell. Powell’s motto supposedly was, “There’s only one thing worse than a defeated politician, and that’s a broke one.”

When Powell died in 1970, more than \$800,000 was found stuffed in shoeboxes in the closet of his Springfield hotel room. That would be about \$5.6 million in today’s money.

And Paul Powell never drew a salary greater than \$30,000.

Powell’s portrait used to hang in the visitor’s gallery of the Illinois House. Whenever I’d walk by it, I liked to give the picture frame a nudge. Like so many Illinois politicians, he deserves to be remembered the way he was — crooked.

Scott Reeder is a veteran journalist in the Springfield area and can be reached at: [scottreeder1965@gmail.com](mailto:scottreeder1965@gmail.com).



Scott Reeder

### How to contact government officials

U.S. Con. Adam Kinzinger  
1218 Longworth HOB  
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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

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

\* Denotes Chairman/President

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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

## Ogle County Pfizer booster update

**OREGON** — The Ogle County Health Department is offering the Pfizer booster shot by appointment only in the Rochelle or Oregon office to anyone who meets the recommendations below.

You must have received Pfizer originally and you must be at or past the six-month mark from receiving your second dose. You may call 815-562-6976 to schedule an appointment.

The Center for Disease Control recommends the following populations get the booster shot.

People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.

People aged 50-64 years with underlying medical conditions should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.

People aged 18-49 years with underlying medical conditions may

receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

## St. John's Lutheran Church to celebrate 125th anniversary

**CRESTON** — St. John's Lutheran Church, 126 E. South St., Creston will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 2.

The one-day event for former

pastors, members, past members and confirmants will include a program, dinner and church service.

Three older cookbooks have been reproduced and will be for sale.



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

Sept. 9 - Becky Myroth, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 10 - Donna Williams, Rockford, \$25

Sept. 11 - Kevin Hummel, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 12 - Peggy Holt, Rockford, \$50

Sept. 13 - Bobbie Colbert, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 14 - Shelley Haws, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 15 - Dana Schmidt, Byron, \$25

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 Tysza, 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

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Sept. 29**

Josh Walker

**Oct. 2**

Noah Owens

Sammy Lopez

Mason Bolhous

**Oct. 3**

Valerie Aleman

**Oct. 5**

Gabe Zellers

Logan Buckwalter

**Oct. 8**

Jose Avila

**Oct. 9**

John Oleson

**Oct. 14**

Samantha Zellers

**Oct. 15**

Rivers Estock

**Oct. 17**

Kati Johnson

Preston King

**Oct. 20**

Veda Lopez

**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

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 "Arrivederci

—"

5 Jazzy style

8 Wild guess

12 Slender

13 Piercing tool

14 Brownish purple

15 In — veritas

16 Corp. boss

17 Desertlike

18 Nowheresville

20 Saint Patrick's

Day event

22 Hide-hair

insert

23 Nine-digit ID

24 Engrossed

27 Promptly

32 Wedding

words

33 Expert

34 Granada gold

35 "Wonder

Woman"

actress

38 Remain

39 Beer barrel

40 Stolen

42 Alpine home

45 Casts out

49 Opera set in

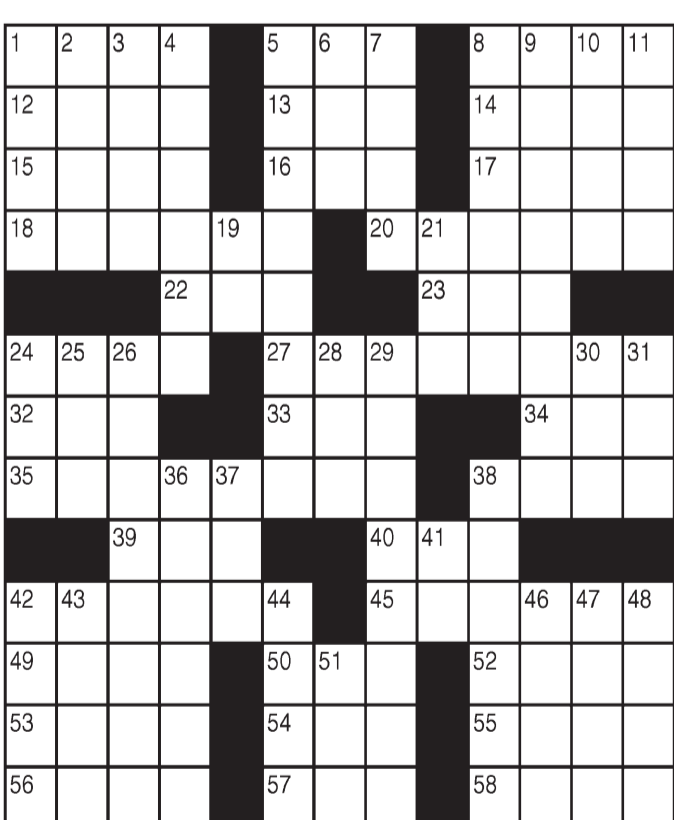
Egypt

50 Guffaw syllable

52 Lavish party

53 Espy

54 Reuben bread

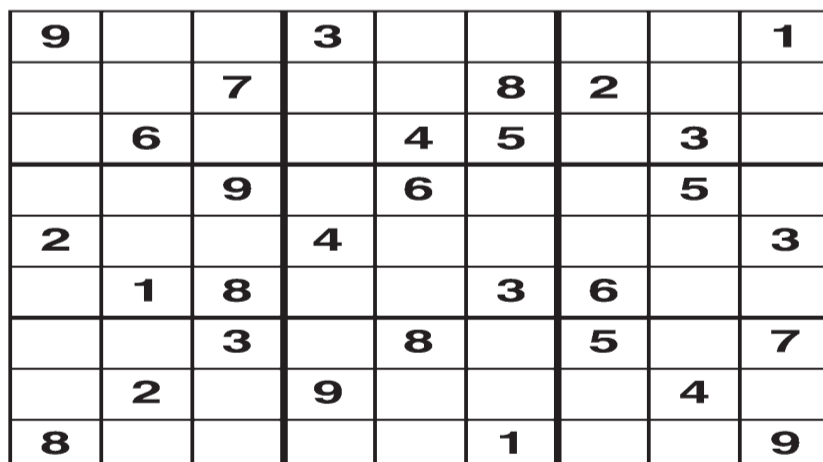


55 Kismet chair 37 Candle count  
56 Sparkling 8 Meager 38 Refuses to  
Italian wine 9 Puccini opera pay  
57 German conjunction 10 Battery fluid 41 Symbol of  
58 Lean-to 11 Eliot's "Adam strength  
—"

**DOWN**  
1 Answer an invite  
2 Hodgepodge  
3 Behave  
4 Quantity  
5 Scenic route, often  
6 Have bills  
7 Fall into a  
19 Rejection  
21 Bat wood  
24 Predetermine  
25 Oklahoma city  
26 Bikini pattern  
28 Sgt., for one  
29 Tied down  
30 Mouths (Lat.)  
31 Playpen item  
36 Trattoria deserts

## 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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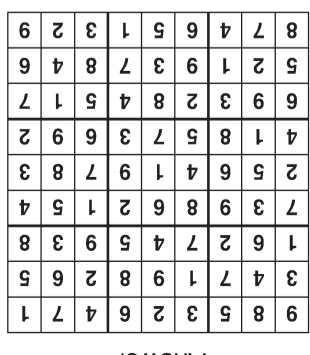
## CryptoQuip

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: **N** equals **H**

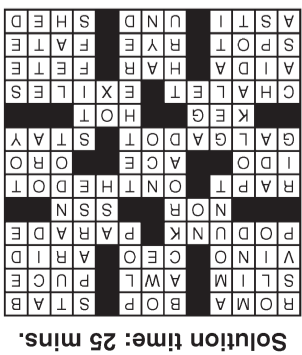
C SKTA B YMO ANT PNBKYJW  
NCW DRBPJ TZ EJWCXJKPJ JLJEO  
PTMDRJ TZ AJJSW.  
NJ'W LJEO MKWJIIRCKY.

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



Answers

King Crossword

He's very unsettling.  
couple of weeks.  
his place of residence every  
I know a guy who changes  
answer  
CryptoQuip

# PRIMETIME

## Great holiday gifts for retirees who can't wait to travel

**R**ETIREMENT provides a chance for adults who have worked throughout their lives to take a step back, relax and enjoy the fruits of their labors. Though the most indelible image associated with retirement might once have been a rocking chair, modern retirees like to get up and go, and holiday shoppers can take that joie de vivre into consideration as they look for the perfect gift for retirees who can't wait to fly the friendly skies or hit the open road.

**Maps:** It might seem simple, but roadmaps can be an ideal gift for retirees. A recent poll from RBC Wealth Management found that 63 percent of Americans age 50 and older say travel is an important retirement goal. Roadmaps of their own country or a foreign country can help seniors plan their dream vacations. Seniors can study maps and create their own routes as they visit popular tourist attractions and find lesser known locales along the way.

**Vouchers/gift cards:** Airline vouchers can inspire retirees to take to

the skies and visit locales that have long taken up real estate on their bucket lists. If seniors prefer to take to the open road, hotel vouchers or Visa gift cards that can be spent anywhere that accepts credit cards can help pay for gas, meals or entry to popular parks and tourist attractions.

**Projector and portable screen:** Retirees may want to get away from it all, but that doesn't mean they have to leave everything behind. A projector and portable screen can let on-the-go seniors enjoy movie night under the stars or watch their favorite teams even when they're far from home. This can be an especially good gift for retirees who are anxious to gas up their RV and leave home behind for a few weeks.

**Lifetime pass to world-renowned parks:** All United States citizens or permanent residents are eligible for the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass, which provides access to more than 2,000 recreation sites across the country. Those sites are managed by federal agencies like the National



Park Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation, among others. A similar system is in place in Canada, where adults age 65 and up can gain unlimited

admission for a full year to more than 80 Parks Canada locations across the country.

**Tablet:** Of course, retirees may still want to enjoy some of the comforts of home while they're off in parts unknown. A new

tablet can help traveling retirees read the latest bestsellers and stay in touch with family and friends via video conferencing apps like Zoom. Many campgrounds and hotels now provide free WiFi to guests, so a tablet

can be just what on-the-go retirees need to stay connected to life back home.

Holiday shoppers can make the season bright for their favorite retirees who can't wait to spend their newfound free time traveling the world.

## Early warning signs of Alzheimer's disease

**A**LZHEIMER'S disease is an insidious illness that slowly robs individuals of their memories, personalities and relationships. The Mayo Clinic says Alzheimer's is a progressive neurological disorder that causes brain atrophy and cell death, which contributes to continuous decline in thinking, behavioral and social skills. This eventually

affects a person's ability to live independently.

The most common form of dementia is Alzheimer's disease, which is believed to affect approximately 5.8 million Americans age 65 and older. While there currently is no cure for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, there are strategies that can help mitigate symptoms. An ability to recognize dementia

symptoms early can help millions take proactive steps to improve quality of life.

Below are some early warning signs of Alzheimer's disease, courtesy of notable health organizations, including MJHS® Health System, the Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's New Zealand, and the Mayo Clinic.

**Recent memory loss that affects daily life.** While it is normal to forget where you left keys, names or even telephone numbers from time to time, a person with dementia may have difficulty remembering recent events or where they live.

**Personality changes.** Individuals may begin to show subtle differences in their personalities, including mood swings. For example, a person who is easygoing may become reluctant to interact with others.

**Difficulty with familiar routes.** A person with dementia may have regular difficulty driving familiar routes or finding the way home.



**Trouble finding the right words.** Finding words to converse freely can be difficult for people with Alzheimer's. Such individuals may experience particular difficulty finding the right words to express their thoughts or identify objects.

**Disorientation with time.** Someone with Alzheimer's disease may be

confused about the time of day and what is appropriate for that time.

**Decreased or poor judgement.** Individuals with dementia may make consistently poor decisions and may start paying less attention to their physical appearance.

**Difficulty following a plan.** A person with Alzheimer's disease may

have challenges solving problems, such as working with numbers, following a recipe or keeping track of finances.

Early signs of dementia may be confused as normal age-related changes. However, when such signs present themselves, it is critical to speak with medical professionals to get a clear diagnosis.



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- For all other assistance such a grocery, medicine pickup, etc. for call: 1-815-757-3199



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Gift from Class of 1961 expands RTHS Renaissance Program

\$10,000 donation made on 30th anniversary of program's foundation

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

**ROCHELLE** — A \$10,000 gift from the Rochelle Township High School Class of 1961 has enabled the RTHS Renaissance Academic & Attendance Rewards program to expand this year, the 30th anniversary of the program in which about 70 percent of students participate.

Renaissance is powered by three themes: the principles of performance, promotion and partnerships. Each principal contributes critical life and energy to the whole.

Renaissance cardholders are awarded membership cards on four levels.

Gold Plus Renaissance is for those having attained straight A's, no more than two school absences and

no suspensions in or from school in the previous semester. The Gold Plus cardholders claim the greatest rewards from local business partners.

Gold Renaissance cardholders must have achieved a GPA of 3.6 or better, no more than three school absences and no suspensions.

Purple Renaissance cardholders must have earned a 3.0 or better GPA, no more than four absences and no suspensions the previous semester.

White Renaissance cardholders have had zero out of school suspension infractions and attained at least one of the following: .25 GPA improvement, 50+ percent improvement in in-school suspensions and perfect attendance the previous semester.

Renaissance Rewards

include: Renaissance t-shirts (coming in Jan. 2022), quarterly early lunch releases, a chance at nominations for fall & spring Renaissance recognition breakfasts, a shot at end of year Renaissance assembly prizes for each quarter of perfect attendance and use of coupons & discounts provided by local businesses.

Through the generosity of the RTHS Class of 1961 and an additional \$1,000 gift from the Rochelle Rotary Club, RTHS has expanded Renaissance Rewards to focus on students and staff members who demonstrate exemplary critical thinking skills.

Each month students will be nominated by staff members who have seen proof of (or growth in) the student's critical thinking



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Pictured above are RTHS counselors Javier Zepeda, Laurie Pillen and Tasha Hacaga with Renaissance cardholders Gracie Kelchner and Taylor Ponto.

skills. A monthly \$100 cash prize will be awarded to a student, 25 percent of which will be donated to the local non-profit of the student's choice. Also monthly, a staff member will be chosen to receive a \$100 cash gift, 25 percent of which will be donated to a local non-profit of the staff member's choice.

Monthly winner names will go into a drawing for

an additional Renaissance Reward at the end of the year assembly when all sorts of prizes are awarded.

The Renaissance Rewards Assembly is made possible by the generous and perennial support of many, many local businesses and individuals.

"RTHS certainly appreciates the relationships alumni maintain with us

as well as their gifting," Rochelle Superintendent of Schools Jason Harper said. "This particular gift is very well-timed. The pandemic has had us all on our toes continually adapting and thinking critically as we tackle all of the challenges that shut downs, virtual learning and hybrid learning forced us to work through."



(COURTESY PHOTO)

A \$10,000 gift from the Rochelle Township High School Class of 1961, which recently celebrated its 60-year reunion, has enabled the RTHS Renaissance Academic & Attendance Rewards program to expand this year, the 30th anniversary of the program in which about 70 percent of students participate.

## City recycling event set for Oct. 16

**ROCHELLE** — The City of Rochelle will be hosting an electronics recycling drop-off event on Saturday, Oct. 16 from

8 a.m. to noon.

The event will take place at the City of Rochelle Street Department, which is located at 251

E. 1st Ave in Rochelle. It is open to all Rochelle Municipal Utilities customers. Please bring proof of address.

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# ROCHELLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

## HUB NEWS

# OCTOBER IN HUBLAND

Oct 1	Alma Pizano, Augusta College, will be in the Commons @ 11 am Renaissance study hall release Drumline HC March Per 10 Homecoming football vs Marengo 5:30 & 7 pm
Oct 2	Homecoming dance 7-10 pm
Oct 4	Parent/teacher communication week
Oct 6	Deadline PSAT registration (Juniors) in CC \$15
Oct 7	FLEX Thursday SSgt Greg Burdick USMC will be here THURSDAYS at noon in the Commons. Fall Choral Concert
Oct 8	RTHS/KEC Teacher Institute - no school 7-10 pm Class of 2001 reunion at the Scalehouse, 407 Lincoln Hwy
Oct 9	Class of 2001 noon-3 pm at Kidsground, family event w/ games for all ages. Plus 6-10pm reunion taco dinner at FatCats <i>Did you graduate from RTHS in 2001? RSVP for the 20th Class Reunion To: <a href="https://forms.gle/cVwyPkpzx64jgVIN8">https://forms.gle/cVwyPkpzx64jgVIN8</a></i>
Oct 11	Columbus Day no school RTHS/KEC
Oct 14	FLEX SSgt Greg Burdick USMC will be here THURSDAYS at noon in the Commons

### Hispanic Heritage Month ends Oct. 15

Play the trivia game to win a fabulous prize!  
You are invited to test your knowledge of Hispanic Heritage trivia. Answer the questions on Google Form Trivia by Oct. 15! The person with the most correct answers will receive a fabulous prize.

Here's the link: <https://forms.gle/5F96ufA2xVCT8vV97>

Oct 15	End of the 1st 9 week grading quarter
Oct 17	Marching band @ Sandwich MusicFest
Oct 18	5:30 pm Board of Education in the Gallery
Oct 19	UW Oshkosh recruiter visits 1:45 pm in the counseling center William Schuneman (Freshman Admission Counselor) from Aurora University is going to be in the Commons at noon
Oct 21	FLEX SSgt Greg Burdick USMC will be here THURSDAYS at noon in the Commons.
Oct 22	Fall Sports Senior Night; kickoffs at 5:30 & 7pm
Oct 23	Illinois Marching Band Championships at University of Illinois Rochelle Moose Family Center seeks volunteers to help "Adopt a Highway" Clean-up Sat October 23. Meet at the Hickory Grove Parking lot at 7am. Volunteers will clean up the area of IL 251 from Hickory Grove north to Hillcrest. Call or text Pat Maronde at 815-562-7851 if you want more information.

Oct 25	School picture RETAKE day
Oct 26	Fall Band Concert
Oct 28	FLEX Thursday SSgt Greg Burdick USMC will be here THURSDAYS at noon in the Commons.

*As the first quarter ends, please check on your student's progress. Are they passing or beginning to struggle? Have they been in school or have frequent absences? Are they supported by a positive friend network? If you have any concerns, please contact our guidance counselors regarding your student's development and progress. RTHS wants to partner with you to make high school a positive experience.*

Rochelle Township High School

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- Contact Focus House in Rochelle
- Email [jhardin@oglecounty.org](mailto:jhardin@oglecounty.org)
- The Rack Bar and Grill-Rochelle
- Fit Hub-Rochelle
- [www.FocusHouseFoundation.com](http://www.FocusHouseFoundation.com)
- Scan our QR code



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## Be Ready Oct. 1

If you are looking for ways to pay for college, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) should be your first step. The 2022-2023 FAFSA application period opens Oct 1. FAFSA helps determine financial aid for students during the Fall 2022, Spring 2023 and Summer 2023 semesters.

If you plan on attending college, the FAFSA is a building block for your financial aid package at colleges across the United States. Financial aid can come in the form of grants, scholarships, work-study jobs and more. All Illinois high school students need to complete the FAFSA as a prerequisite to receiving their high school diploma.

The Kishwaukee College Financial Aid Office can assist you with the FAFSA process. Kish Financial Aid team members will host a Virtual FAFSA Night from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 14, where they will present how to complete the FAFSA. Following the presentation, students and parents can make virtual one-on-one appointments to review and complete their individual applications. To register for the Virtual FAFSA Night or schedule a virtual one-on-one appointment, please contact Kish's Financial Aid Office at [finaid@kish.edu](mailto:finaid@kish.edu).

For more information on FAFSA, visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) or [www.kish.edu/financialaid](http://www.kish.edu/financialaid).

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# SPORTS



## TAKING THE COURT

The Lady Hub varsity tennis team hosted its home tournament on Saturday.

See page 6 for more details

### RTHS Boys Soccer

# I-8 tourney kicks off

Casillas, Orozco combine for six goals as Rochelle beats LaSalle-Peru 7-2

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — A scoreless first half evolved into an offensive battle between the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team and LaSalle-Peru to kick off the Interstate 8 tournament Monday evening.

Senior Josue Orozco and freshman Alberto Casillas provided the firepower for the third-seeded Hubs, combining for six goals and two assists as Rochelle pulled away from the sixth-seeded Cavaliers, winning 7-2 and improving to 8-7 on the season. Casillas scored a team-high four goals, while Orozco finished with two goals for the Hubs, who face Kaneland on the road Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in the semifinal round. Sophomore Eli Luxton added one goal.

“I thought both teams were very aggressive during the first half,” head coach Brad Male said. “We were pretty evenly matched in that half, but I thought we moved the ball better and we were able to put more pressure on them with our through balls during the second half.”

LaSalle-Peru struck first in the second half, capitalizing on a defensive breakdown from Rochelle to score in the 45th minute.

The Hubs bounced right back with two unanswered goals, with junior midfielder Jace Whitehead finding Casillas for a goal in the 47th minute before Luxton rolled a through ball to Casillas for the go-ahead goal during the 52nd minute.

The back-and-forth scoring frenzy continued shortly after, with the Cavaliers taking advantage of more defensive miscommunication from the Hubs and finding the net in the 54th minute to even the match at 2-2. LaSalle-Peru would be unable to score for the remainder of the match, however, with Rochelle converting five unanswered goals in a row to seal the first-round win. Luxton and Orozco connected for a goal in the 55th minute to put the Hubs in the lead again.

“Josue has really stepped up over our last few matches,” Male said. “He’s learning how to give the ball up more as opposed to taking on every defender on his own. Having Josue and Alberto up top has worked really well for our offense. We just need to work with them on giving the ball up a bit quicker on the dribble and continuing to work the ball toward the goal.”

Leading 3-2, Rochelle extended its lead in the 64th minute, when sophomore Diego Salazar sent a left-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Senior Josue Orozco works between two Cavalier defenders during the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer match against LaSalle-Peru on Monday. Orozco scored two goals and had one assist in the win.**

footed cross into the box for Casillas to finish. Casillas and Orozco worked in tandem for the next two Hub goals, with the freshman assisting the senior during the

71st minute before Orozco returned the favor, feeding Casillas for his fourth goal in the 72nd minute. Freshman Luis Milan assisted Luxton during the 73rd minute to

cap off the home victory.

“I think Alberto and Josue have continued to improve their chemistry as they’ve spent more time on the field together,” Male

said. “They’re learning to read each other and they’re executing better passes between each other. That’s allowed them to get quality shots on goal.”

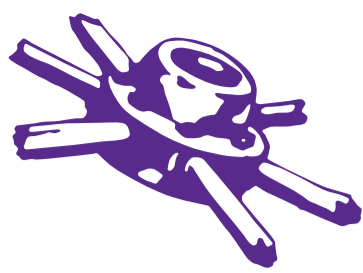
### RTHS Volleyball



(COURTESY PHOTO)

## Lady Hub freshmen finish second at Byron Power Classic

The Rochelle Lady Hub freshman volleyball team battled at the Byron Power Classic on Saturday, winning three matches and ultimately finishing second out of 16 schools in the tournament. The Lady Hubs went 2-1 in round-robin action with victories over Stillman Valley (25-19, 25-20) and Belvidere North (25-10, 25-18) before taking down Hononegah (26-24, 25-15) to reach the finals. Rochelle faced Rockford Boylan for the title, falling just short to take second in the tournament. The team includes Giselle Garcia, Lauren Dyer, Emma Kennay, Sydney Carmichael, Ali Ohlinger, Kendyl Darby, Adelita Alvarez, Flor Magana, Abby Metzger, Adamary Lopez, Erin Murphy and Payton Cesarone. The team is coached by Katie Roush.



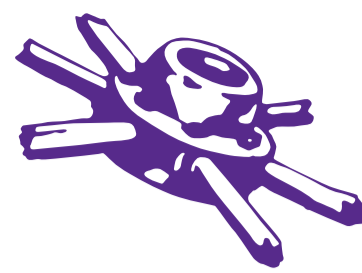
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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY JOHN SHANK)

Local league bowler Josh Grove rolled his 37th career 300 game during league action at Rochelle's T-Byrd Lanes on Monday, Sept. 20.

## One for the ages

ROCHELLE — Local league bowler Josh Grove rolled his 37th career 300 game on Monday, Sept. 20 at T-Byrd Lanes in Rochelle, marking the first of the new season at the "Hub City" alleys.

The feat was especially notable for the

accomplished southpaw as it brought his total number of sanctioned perfect games back up equal to his age.

"I had fallen behind having one 300 for every year, but now I'm back even," joked Grove.

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# SPORTS

RTHS Golf

## Ohlinger finishes fifth at Sterling Invitational

Hub junior shoots 79 at Emerald Hill

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**STERLING** — Griffin Ohlinger has been the Rochelle Hub varsity golf team's leading scorer in tournament play this season. The talented junior continued posting low scores over the weekend, leaning on his wedge play and putting to take fifth in the Sterling Invitational on Saturday. Ohlinger fired 79 and carded only two double-bogeys to lead the Hubs to 10th place.

"The course was in beautiful shape," Ohlinger said. "We had some wind to deal with, but I thought I played pretty well. There were a few holes where I needed to just keep the ball in play and avoid those double-bogeys... I wasn't the best off the tee box, but my wedges and my putting were what kept me in the round. I've been working on my swing with my wedges and that's helped me get the ball closer to the hole so I can cut down on two and three-putts."

Rochelle totaled a team score of 414 in the 18-hole tournament at Emerald Hill. The Hubs will gear up for the IHSA 2A Sandwich Regional at Edgebrook, which tees off Wednesday morning. Ohlinger will attempt to qualify for the first sectional tournament of his high school career.

"I need to keep those three-putts away and stick to one-putts and two-putts," Ohlinger said. "I went and checked out the regional course over the weekend and it's similar to the course in Rochelle in terms of the trees that line each hole. I think the conditions may be a little rough, but if I can shoot



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Junior Griffin Ohlinger took fifth place in the Sterling Invitational at Emerald Hill on Saturday.**

an 85 or below, I think I'll have a chance to qualify for the sectional meet."

### LaSalle-Peru

The Rochelle Hub varsity golf team played its final head-to-head meet of the season against LaSalle-Peru on Thursday, falling 170-210 to end the season with an 0-13 match record. Junior Griffin Ohlinger led the Hubs with 49, while junior Damen Harrington

added 50. Junior Wade Smith and senior Rowan Williams rounded out the lineup with 53 and 58, respectively.

### ACC Invite

The Rochelle Hub varsity golf team competed in the ACC Charger Invitational last weekend, finishing 12th out of 15 schools with 419. Junior Griffin Ohlinger led Rochelle with 89.

RTHS Cross Country



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Senior Sara Johnson (left) and junior Yuelma Ortiz (right) earned medals for their respective performances at the Rock River Run in Sterling on Saturday.**

## Lady Hub harriers lead RTHS at Rock River Run

Johnson, Ortiz earn medalist honors

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**STERLING** — Junior Yuelma Ortiz and senior Sara Johnson were the standout runners for the Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub varsity cross country teams on Saturday, with both girls earning medals for their strong performances at the Rock River Run hosted by Sterling High School.

Ortiz finished 16th out of 181 runners in the 3-mile varsity race, clocking in at 20:37.1 while Johnson took

28th with a time of 21:02.0. Senior Emily Garcia ran a time of 28:34.4 to round out the Lady Hub varsity lineup on Saturday. The Hub varsity team finished 18th, while the Lady Hub varsity team and the Hub fresh-soph team did not qualify for a team score in the meet.

"I am happy with the progress that our team is making," head coach Mark Zilis said. "Every athlete on our team has improved throughout the season and every athlete will continue

to do so until the end of the season. That is all that I can ask of these hard-working athletes."

Junior David Wanner led the Hubs in the varsity race, finishing 90th with a time of 18:22.0 while seniors Peter Forsberg and Luke Orlikowski clocked in at 19:38.0 and 19:50.4, respectively. Sophomore Parker Lenkaitis led the fresh-soph Hubs with a time of 18:50.2, with freshman Christopher Hickey running in 20:00.2 and sophomore Luis Pizano running in 21:06.6.

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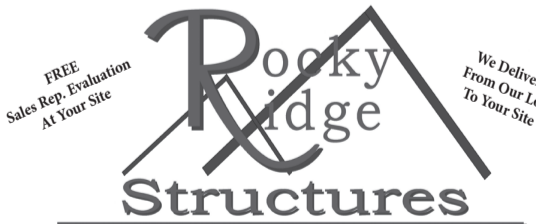


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Case Number  
2021-MR-52

There will be a court date on my request to change my name from Samantha Marie Bowers to Samantha Marie Koper. Court date: November 4, 2021 at 9 a.m., 106 S. 5th St., Oregon, Ogle County, Courtroom 202. Samantha Bowers. No. 0911 (Sept. 15, 22, 29, 2021)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on September 9, 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: Black Hollow Chandlery, 803 N. 12th St., Rochelle, IL 61068. Dated: September 9, 2021  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 0912 (Sept. 15, 22, 29, 2021)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on September 22, 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: OKM Partners, 721 S. Church, Rochelle, IL 61068. Dated: September 22, 2021  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 0925 (Sept. 29)

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Notice to Bidders  
Notice is hereby given that the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District 802 Jones Road, Rochelle IL 61068 will receive bids at the office of the Executive Director until October 15, 2021 at 8:00 AM for a Truck Purchase. All requirements and details are described and listed in the bid packet. Prospective bidders may obtain bid packets from the office of the Executive Director or the Park District website (www.rochelleparkdistrict.org). The Flagg Rochelle Community Park District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities and to accept the proposal that the Flagg-Rochelle Park District Board of Commissioners believes to be in the best interest of the District. All bidders must abide by the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act where applicable. By order of:  
Jackee Ohlinger  
Executive Director  
Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District  
No. 0926 ((Sept. 29, Oct. 3)

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## 103 AUCTIONS

## 203 HELP WANTED

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# SPORTS

## Rochelle Junior Tackle



The Rochelle Junior Tackle program won all three of its games with Rockton on Saturday. At left, eighth-graders Brenden Voight, Brandon Cortes and Brayden Carter combine to tackle the Rockton ball carrier. At right, sixth-grader Tyson Pavlak shoots in to make the tackle. Below, fifth-grader Riley Smith runs with the football.



(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

## Junior Hubs take three games against Rockton

Seventh-graders receive forfeit, fifth-graders stay undefeated

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Junior Tackle program hosted Rockton on Saturday, winning all three games with the seventh-graders receiving a forfeit to complete the sweep. The Junior Hub football teams will close out the regular season at Oregon on Saturday, Oct. 2.

### 8th Grade (5-1)

Caden Goodwin jump-started the Rochelle defense, intercepting a Rockton pass with the Junior Hub trailing 6-0 during the first quarter. Gavin Neale recovered a fumble later in the first quarter to keep the Rockton offense off the field. Still trailing during the second quarter, Roman Villalobos broke loose for a 30-yard rush, but Rochelle

was unable to score.

The Junior Hubs pieced together another big offensive play later in the second quarter, with Van Gerber finding Brode Metzger for a 32-yard pass. Down 6-0 at halftime, Rochelle scored its first points of the game on a 6-yard touchdown rush from Villalobos during the third quarter. The Junior Hubs forced a third Rockton turnover in the fourth quarter, with Gerber intercepting a pass down the sideline. Both teams were even at 6-6 entering overtime.

Rochelle ultimately won the game in overtime by a score of 14-6, with Villalobos running in his second touchdown of the afternoon and the Junior Hubs making one final stop on defense. Villalobos rushed for 110 yards in the win, while Gerber threw for 72 yards

and Metzger caught four passes for 59 yards. Neale led the Rochelle defense with five tackles in the win.

### 7th Grade (5-1)

The seventh-graders took a forfeit over Rockton and improved to 5-1 overall.

### 6th Grade (5-1)

The Junior Hubs saw Bo Lundquist, Luke Chadwick and Cohen Haedt each make lengthy runs during the first quarter, with Chadwick scoring on a 3-yard touchdown rush to cap off Rochelle's opening drive. Leading 6-0, Rochelle extended its lead in the third quarter, when Chadwick's 31-yard run and a 12-yard pass from Haedt to Lundquist set up a 1-yard touchdown rush from Chadwick. Elijah Schweitzer recovered a fumble

later in the third quarter.

Rochelle sealed the victory in the fourth quarter, scoring on Chadwick's 10-yard rushing touchdown after a 12-yard run from Lundquist. The Junior Hubs won by a final score of 22-0, with Chadwick rushing for 90 yards. Schweitzer and Tyson Pavlak each totaled five tackles.

### 5th Grade (6-0)

Braxton Bruns was unstoppable for the Junior Hubs on Saturday, putting Rochelle ahead with an 83-yard rushing touchdown before busting loose for a 90-yard touchdown run to extend the team's lead. Riley Smith sealed the Junior Hubs victory with a 1-yard rushing touchdown. Rochelle won by a final score of 18-0 and the team will try for 7-0 against Oregon on Saturday.



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# SPORTS

## RTHS Girls Tennis

# Rochelle takes second in Lady Hub Invitational

Dickey, Young team up for first-place finish at No. 1 doubles

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle varsity girls tennis team hosted the Lady Hub Invitational on Saturday, with several players earning awards for their performances in the tournament. Rochelle placed second as a team.

Seniors Jordin Dickey and MeLisa Young led Rochelle with a first-place finish in the No. 1 doubles competition. Senior Madison Ost took second in the No. 2 singles bracket, while senior Emma Hicks placed third in the No. 1 singles competition.

Seniors Josie Lundquist and Megan Thompson teamed up for second place in the No. 2 doubles bracket, with senior Ashley Knight and junior Abby Tarvestad uniting for



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team took second in its home tournament on Saturday, with seniors Jordin Dickey and MeLisa Young (right) finishing first at No. 1 doubles. Above from left to right are Madison Ost, Young, Dickey, Megan Thompson, Josie Lundquist, Ashley Knight, Abby Tarvestad and Emma Hicks.

second place in the No. 3 doubles bracket.

### Mendota

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team faced Mendota on the road Monday, winning 4-1 and improving to 4-7 on the season. Seniors Jordin Dickey

and MeLisa Young topped Kaylee Balkman and Jackie Cortez 6-2, 6-3 at No. 1 doubles, while seniors Josie Lundquist and Megan Thompson defeated Zoe Finley and Lizzie Bresley 6-2, 5-7, 10-6 in three sets.

Senior Ashley Knight and junior Abby Tarvestad

bested Isabelle Escatel and Markie Myers 6-2, 6-1 at No. 3 doubles to complete a doubles sweep. Senior Madison Ost won 6-1, 6-3 over Tayla Schwaegerman at No. 2 singles, while senior Emma Hicks fell 2-6, 2-6 against Alex Stremlau at No. 1 singles.



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