



ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

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Americold donates supplies

Americold Rochelle donated school supplies to both of the city's local districts. **Page 3**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
82 57	81 52
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
81 55	81 63

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OBITUARIES

- BRADLEY C. LYNN
- ANDREW SMITH
- MARCIA LYNN TORBETT

See page 4

INSERTS

- ALDI
- FOOTBALL PULLOUT

INSIDE

Local News.....	2, 3, 5, 8
Obituaries.....	4
Opinion.....	6
Community.....	7



Negotiations underway for coal plant

City has \$150 million in debt with Prairie State Energy Campus

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Negotiations are back underway at the state level regarding the Prairie State Energy Campus, which the city of Rochelle has \$150 million in debt with until the coal plant is paid off in 2042.

Earlier this summer, the city held a press conference to urge the public to reach out to state legislators as it seemed an energy bill could close the plant earlier than expected in 2035. The city buys a large portion of its power from Prairie State and bought into the plant in 2007. City officials said at that press conference that the plant closing early would be “financially devastating.”

“We’ve been having meetings again,” Fiegenschuh said. “We think they’re going to try to get a bill out. It’s pretty convoluted. The governor is really pushing for Prairie State to close in 2035. We’re hoping we can keep that facility open beyond 2042. I can’t really give you a good answer be-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Negotiations are ongoing to keep the Prairie State Energy Campus open until the City of Rochelle’s \$150 million in debt with the coal plant is paid off in 2042.

cause you hear different things all the time. I can tell you there are still negotiations going on and we’re hopeful.”

Fiegenschuh also has concerns about what Prairie State’s power output would be replaced with. The plant’s 1,600 megawatts of power being taken offline will increase costs, he said. The city would

also have to pay for its part of the plant’s decommissioning.

“We have to pay to decommission and close the plant, you’re going to look at rate increases,” Fiegenschuh said. “I’ve seen numbers that if it closes in 2035, you could see up to 30 percent rate increases on not just the City of Rochelle, but on

municipalities that are part of that co-op.”

Fiegenschuh said the city has hired a lobbyist through the Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency and also retained a lobbyist for the city to work to keep Prairie State open. People are working directly with state senators on the city’s behalf.

If Prairie State were

to close early, the city wouldn’t have to make decisions for years due to a potential closure still being 14 years away. It would have to plan on replacing 30 megawatts of base load power.

A shift towards green energy is part of the state’s potential plan.

See PLANT page 2

RCH CEO reacts to vaccine mandate

Olson: Hospital didn’t want mandate, but wasn’t surprised

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital CEO Gregg Olson said Thursday that while the hospital didn’t want Gov. JB Pritzker to mandate the COVID-19 for healthcare workers, it was not surprising.

At a news conference Thursday Pritzker required that all healthcare workers in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, nursing homes, urgent care facilities and physician’s offices, must be vaccinated against COVID-19. Effective Sept. 5, those who are unable or unwilling to receive their first dose of vaccine will be required to get tested for COVID-19 at least once a week, and the Illinois Department of Public Health may require more frequent testing in certain situations, like in an outbreak.

“We are taking a close look at the governor’s mandate in order to make sure we fully understand



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle Community Hospital CEO Gregg Olson said Thursday that while the hospital didn’t want Gov. J.B. Pritzker to mandate the COVID-19 for healthcare workers, it was not surprising.

to whom this applies,” Olson said in an email. “In the Governor’s press conference he suggested weekly testing or more for unvaccinated employees. We are considering all of our options at this time.”

As of Thursday, Olson said he had not seen a reaction to the mandate from employees as of yet.

Earlier this summer, Olson told The News-Leader that his staff is 83-85 percent vaccinated. He said Thursday the hospital is currently investigating through its employee health leader to ensure it has the most accurate date to see if that’s changed after having employees leave to pursue other opportunities

and new hires that may not be vaccinated yet.

Olson previously has said that the hospital was considering a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for staff but had concerns about staffing levels and its ability to hire prospective employees if it were to mandate the vaccine. That decision has been taken out of its hands.

When asked Friday about how the vaccine mandate could impact potential hiring numbers and employment, Olson believes RCH can persevere.

“As with any healthcare entity, we anticipate that we can work through this process with little or no impact on our staffing,” Olson said.

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LOCAL NEWS

Harper: Unknowns with staff vaccine mandate

Rochelle superintendent not surprised by Gov. Pritzker's decision

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Jason Harper, superintendent of both Rochelle school districts, reacted Friday to Gov. JB Pritzker's Thursday announcement that all preschool through 12th grade teachers and staff will be required to get vaccinated starting Sept. 5. "After seeing similar mandates in other states and private businesses, we have been waiting to hear the governor's final position on staff vaccinations," Harper said in an email. "I do not think many in the educational field in Illinois are surprised to hear this announcement."

School staff members who are unable or unwilling to receive their first dose of vaccine by Sept. 5 will be required to get tested for COVID-19 at

least once a week, and the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education may require more frequent testing in certain situations like in an outbreak.

"At this point, the Rochelle Schools have implemented a free, onsite testing program that only takes 15 minutes to test," Harper said. "If we continue to have the resources to implement this program, our testing needs could be taken care of at each building."

Harper declined to say what percentage of employees in both districts are vaccinated against COVID-19 and said he wants to be sure he has an accurate number before sharing it.

The superintendent did say that the districts continue to work with their teacher unions as



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle Superintendent Jason Harper reacted Friday to Gov. J.B. Pritzker's Thursday announcement that all preschool through 12th grade teachers and staff will be required to get vaccinated starting Sept. 5.

new COVID-19 mandates come from the state.

"At this point, there are some key unknowns with how this mandate will be

implemented," Harper said. "When we know these details, we can work with our staff to help them better understand their options."

Harper also did not respond to emailed questions pertaining to what sort of urging, if any, districts have done with employees to

get vaccinated along with his thoughts on how the vaccine mandate will impact employment/potential hiring numbers.

PLANT: Prairie State facility facing early closure by state

From page 1

Fiengenschuh said the city is supportive of solar, wind and other clean energy sources and is looking at doing more solar in town in the future.

One location the city is looking at adding solar panels to is the Rochelle Landfill. It also buys power from a methane burning power plant at that location. Right now it generates about 2.5 megawatts of power that comes directly onto Rochelle's system.

"I think we're going to see that thing get to its max of four megawatts of

power," Fiengenschuh said. "I bring that up because we have renewables already and we're going to have to look at bringing in more. Are there ways we can expand that plant out there to get more power out of it? More solar. When we build a new substation should we look at putting some wind turbines up? I think there are a lot of options."

Another issue in a potential energy bill related to the city and area is the potential for Exelon's Byron Nuclear Plant to close. Plant officials plan to close in September if state intervention is not made in an

energy bill and final steps have been taken to close.

Fiengenschuh said the Byron plant closing won't directly affect Rochelle Municipal Utilities' rates as it does not buy power from the plant. Rochelle actually does get most of its energy from Byron, but that's not the company it pays to get it. The electrons from Prairie State in southern Marissa, Illinois don't make it this far north.

While it's not a taxing body that receives property tax money from the Byron plant and not under contract to buy its power, Rochelle still will be

impacted by its potential closure.

"First of all, you have the obvious loss economically," Fiengenschuh said. "Where around here are you going to get jobs of \$100,000 a year or more like out there? How are you going to replace that? I think the economic impact for the county is going to be devastating. Heavily devastating. More importantly, my concern is where are they going to make up that 2,000 megawatts of power they produce?"

As far as the Byron plant, the governor has most recently offered about

\$694 million in subsidies over five years to three nuclear plants in an effort to keep them profitable.

Language filed downstate Monday would require Prairie State to reduce carbon emissions by 50 percent by 2040 and municipal coal plants would be required to attain 105 percent carbon emission reduction by 2045 through use of carbon sequestration and/or direct air capture.

The bill states the plant must capture 95 percent of its own carbon emissions through sequestration or plant retirement, while the remaining carbon re-

duction would be accomplished through direct air carbon capture or any other available technology proven to directly remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It's unclear when a vote on a new energy bill will take place that will decide the fates of Byron and Prairie State.

"It's a pretty complex process," Fiengenschuh said. "We continue to press our cause and again whenever they close it, we'll have to start planning how we replace that power. How do we pay for it, and we'll start talking about that in the next couple years."



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LOCAL NEWS

Tyson Foods donates to relief efforts in Haiti

ROCHELLE — Tyson Foods announced Thursday a donation of 52,000 pounds or 208,000 meals for the victims of the recent 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Haiti. Thousands of people have died, and countless homes were destroyed as a result of the Aug. 14 earthquake.

The donated product is originating from Tyson facilities in Rochelle and Macon, Georgia.

"Haiti is facing another unimaginable crisis and is in need of global support," Debra Vernon, senior director, corporate social responsibility, Tyson Foods, said. "With the efforts of our team members and disaster relief partners, we hope this donation will help ease the tremendous burden so many Haitians are currently experiencing."

In addition to the pro-

tein donation, members of Tyson's African Ancestry Alliance Business Resource Group (BRG) are leading a fundraising effort to double any employee's donation to relief efforts in Haiti, up to \$30,000. All employee donations will be directed to Convoy of Hope and Partners in Health.

Convoy of Hope, a Tyson disaster relief partner, is providing shipping sup-

port to ensure the donated product arrives in Haiti and is properly distributed to those in need.

"On behalf of the African Ancestry Alliance Business Resource Group, our thoughts and prayers are with all of those affected by the tragedy in Haiti," Raymond House, African Ancestry Alliance BRG Chairperson, said. "Within our company culture we govern ourselves with the



5Cs of team behaviors; one of which is caring, and we want to show that we care deeply for all of those who have been impacted. Although our hearts are

heavy from afar, we will do what we can to support the humanitarian efforts under way as the people heal and Haiti begins its road to recovery."

Northern Rehab offers aquatic physical therapy at The REC

ROCHELLE — Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists is pleased to announce they now offer aquatic physical therapy in partnership with the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District at The REC Center.

Aquatic physical therapy is an individual, one-on-one therapy program performed in the pool at The REC to achieve therapeutic results. Using the resistance of water, aquatic physical therapy offers a comfortable unweighted environment to achieve full function regardless of the injury.

Using the reduction of gravity in the warm salt water pool, it offers training and strengthening exercises that will increase joint range of motion and muscle strength, promote healing and improve balance.

This type of therapy is ideal and beneficial for peo-



ple with conditions such as neck, shoulder, back, or knee pain, neurological impairments, balance and gait disorders, post-surgical rehabilitation, fibromyalgia and arthritic conditions, post-COVID-19 and long-COVID-19 recovery and general strengthening & conditioning.

Aquatic physical therapy is provided by Northern Rehab's Physical Therapist Janet Truckenbrod Sarver, PT, DPT, in Rochelle. Aquatic therapy hours at The REC are available Friday afternoons by scheduling an appointment

through Northern Rehab; other times are available by special arrangements.

Aquatic physical therapy is in partnership with the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District held at The REC in Rochelle in their salt water pool which uses lower levels of chlorine, reducing eye and skin irritation.

No membership is required. Steps inside the pool allow for easy entry and exit, and a lift chair is available.

Swimming is not required to participate in aquatic physical therapy.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

From left to right: Nancy Tracy, nurse and marketing for Serenity; Linda Alderks, nurse at Serenity; Marla Van Vickie, director of nursing for Serenity; Lynn Knodle, CEO for Serenity; Debby Katzman, 100 Women Who Care and Arlene Sangmeister, 100 Women Who Care.

100 Women Who Care donates to Serenity Hospice and Home

OREGON — Recently 100 Women Who Care of Ogle County made a donation to Serenity Hospice and Home. 100 Women Who Care is a local organization dedicated to supporting Ogle County nonprofits.

Serenity Hospice serves nine counties in Northern Illinois including patients in their home, nursing

facilities or their hospice home located in Oregon. Serenity offers not only hospice care but palliative services and bereavement resources and groups.

From left to right: Nancy Tracy, nurse and marketing for Serenity; Linda Alderks, nurse at Serenity; Marla Van Vickie, director of nursing for Serenity; Lynn Knodle,

CEO for Serenity; Debby Katzman, 100 Women Who Care and Arlene Sangmeister, 100 Women Who Care.

For information about 100 Women Who Care, visit their Facebook page. For more information about Serenity Hospice, visit their website at www.serenityhospiceandhome.org



The Celebration Chorale will be starting practice for the 2021 Christmas Cantata "There Will be Peace in the World Tonight." The only thing required of you is a love of singing! There are no auditions. Practices will be held on Wednesdays at 8pm in Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church 317 N. 4th Street in DeKalb. There will be a "Meet and Greet" held at 8pm on Wednesday, September 8th in Fellowship Hall. You can enter Fellowship Hall from the Alley between the Church and the Library. The door will be open. Please come join us! Any questions, please email Julie at Grandma4230@aol.com or call the Church office at 815-756-6301 and leave a message for the Chorale.

Performances will be December 3rd and 4th at 7pm and Sunday, December 5th at 2pm. They will be held in the Sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church. The church is handicapped accessible.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle Americold facilities donated various school supplies to Rochelle Township High School District 212 and Rochelle Elementary District 231. The donation was the result of the Adopt-A-School Campaign.

Americold donates supplies to Rochelle school districts

ROCHELLE — Americold Proud. The Rochelle Americold facilities were able to make a donation of various school supplies to Rochelle Township High School District 212 and Rochelle Elementary District 231.

The donation was the

result of the Adopt-A-School Campaign and Americold Associate Engagement activities. Associate engagement activities are conducted quarterly, and demonstrate the importance of connecting with other Americold associates, Americold management

and leadership and the communities in which Americold operates.

Great job to all Rochelle Americold associates and good luck to all students, teachers and staff of Rochelle Township High School District 212 and Rochelle Elementary District 231.

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

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

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In Oregon at: Merlin's
In Dixon at: Shining Star
In Amboy at: Amboy News Office

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

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Bradley C. Lynn

ROCHELLE – Bradley C. Lynn, 72, of Rochelle passed away Aug. 23.

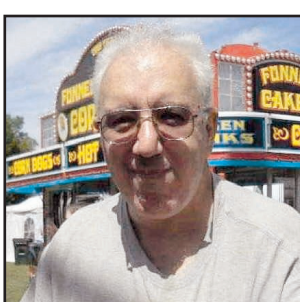
He was born on Sept. 10, 1948. Brad was a deeply-devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was a die-hard fan of the Chicago Bears and had a deep love for fishing. He worked for the Local 219 Sheet Metal Workers Union and spent many years there.

On May 30, 1969 he married the love of his life, Marilyn, and together they shared three children and 52 years in marriage. Bradley was a devoted Christian and a member of the Faith Lutheran Church

of Rochelle. He will be missed by many.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife; Marilyn Lynn, children; Jeffrey Lynn, Russell Lynn, Kimberly (José) Zepe-da, grandchildren; Alexis (Alexandria) Zepeda, Isella Zepeda, Ava Lynn, Matthew Lynn and Kail-ee Lynn, siblings; James (Joyce) Lynn and Christine (Scott) Zimmerman, as well as numerous nieces and nephews and extended family members whom he loved dearly.

He is welcomed into heaven by his mother; Phyllis Emerson-Lynn, as



well as his brother; Mark Lynn.

A funeral service for Bradley is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 3 at 2 p.m. at Sunset Funeral Home located at 8800 N. Alpine Road, Machesney Park, IL 61115. A visitation will be held at 1 p.m. until time of service.

Andrew Jackson Smith

ROCHELLE – Andrew “Andy” Jackson Smith, 32, passed away Saturday, Aug. 28 in a motorcycle accident outside of Rochelle. Andy was born on Aug. 15, 1989, to Kenneth G. Smith and Claudia T. Sanchez in Rochelle. He worked as a plumber and HVAC technician for Pemberton Heating and Cooling.

Andy was very active and athletic. He enjoyed working out, mixed martial arts and arm wrestling. He was a big fan of the Miami Dolphins and the Lakers. Riding motorcycles, being in the outdoors and grilling out, especially steaks, were other favorites of his. But

more than anything, Andy loved spending time with his family and friends.

Andy is survived by his fiancé, Christina Evans of Creston; two daughters: Karlee and Sadie Smith; his parents: Ken (Patricia Anders) Smith of Rochelle and Claudia Sanchez of Rockford; grandmothers: Charlene Smith of Rochelle and Maria Martinez of Augusta, Georgia; brother, David Hahn of Davis Junction; sister, Anita Smith of Rochelle and nieces and nephews: Davina Hahn, Adrian, Allie and Abel Chavez.

The visitation will be from 10-11:45 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 2 at the



Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St. Rochelle. The funeral will be at noon Thursday with Pastor Kevin Spears officiating.

The burial will follow the service at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon. A memorial will be established at a later date. Visit www.unger-horner.com to sign the online guest book.

Rochelle Police Department

Woman arrested for battery

ROCHELLE – On Aug. 27 at 8:25 a.m. Aaron J. Hying, 39, of Milton, Wisconsin was arrested for violation of an order of protection and transferred.

On Aug. 28 at 8:52 p.m. Austin T. Cupp, 24, of Rochelle was arrested

for driving under the influence, no insurance and failure to reduce speed. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Rochelle court date of Oct. 1.

On Aug. 28 at 8:39 p.m. Jose A. Nambo-Belmonte, 36, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while

license suspended. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Rochelle court date of Oct. 1.

On Aug. 29 at 11:24 p.m. Joseph A. Gridley, 58, of Rochelle was arrested for violation of hours of sale. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Rochelle court date of Oct. 1.

On Aug. 29 at 4:39 p.m. Sandra Behm, 49, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On Aug. 29 at 4:55 p.m. Anita Chavez, 30, of Rochelle was arrested for battery. She was released on an I-Bond and given an Ogle County court date of Oct. 8. Chavez was also arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. She paid \$300 and was given a Sept. 22 court date.

Marcia Lynn Torbett

WEATHERFORD, Texas – Marcia Lynn (Mully) Torbett, of Weatherford, Texas, succumbed to the ravages of COVID-19 on Aug. 23. On Dec. 7, 1957, Marcia was born in Rochelle to Del and Vida Mully, local educators. She was preceded in death by her parents and her in-laws.

Graduating from Rochelle Township High School in 1976, she will be remembered as an honor student, a musician, and the drum majorette for the marching band. Her sweet, gentle nature drew people towards her and she never seemed to forget a friend.

After high school, Marcia graduated from Illinois State University.

She became a lab technologist and spent 30 years employed by Texas Health Resources. She worked relentlessly to remind friends and patients to get their COVID-19 vaccinations.

An important part of Marcia’s life for the past 50 years has been her dogs. She owned and loved many over the years and also volunteered at the Azle Animal Shelter.

Marcia is survived by her husband Larry Torbett, a stepson and four step grandchildren. Also mourning Marcia’s loss are sisters Barb (Mike) Daily of Azle, Texas and Reba (Bob) Eich of Crown Point, Indiana. Always very special to



Marcia were her four nieces and nephews, Jeff Eich, Amy Sonnenberg, Mindy Owens and Nick Daily.

A gaping hole was left in Marcia Torbett’s family circle; her sudden death devastated the family, but she’ll live in their hearts forever.

Because of COVID-19, private services were held at Coutts Methodist Church in Weatherford on Saturday, Aug. 28.

Ogle County Sheriff’s Department

Deputies respond to rollover accident

OREGON — On Aug. 27 at approximately 10:36 p.m. deputies along with Byron and Stillman Valley Fire Departments responded to a one vehicle rollover accident in the area of 7600 E. Hales Corner. Investigation by deputies revealed that a Toyota 4Runner driven by a 17-year-old male was traveling east on Hales Corner. The driver left the roadway and overcorrected before overturning in the south ditch. The driver was examined and released on scene for suspected minor injuries. The driver was cited for improper lane usage and the vehicle was removed by Nielsen’s Towing.

On Aug. 28 at approximately 2:18 a.m. deputies responded to the report of a one-vehicle motorcycle accident with injuries located in the 3,000 block of North Mulford Road. A passerby driving through the area observed a motorcycle on its side in the east ditch and then called 911 to report the accident. Monroe Center Fire Department/Ambulance, Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Department/Ambulance, Stillman Valley Ambulance, and Life Flight helicopter were all dispatched to the scene.

After an on-scene investigation it was learned that a gray 2017 Victory motorcycle, driven by Andrew J. Smith, 32, of Creston, was southbound in the 3,000 block of North Mulford Road. While southbound on Mulford Road the motorcycle drove in to the northbound lane and then left the roadway in the east ditch while approaching a

curve. Smith was ejected from the motorcycle in the east ditch. Smith was pronounced deceased at the scene. The Ogle County Coroner was called to the scene and took possession of the body. Maggio’s towing was contacted and removed the motorcycle from the scene. This accident remains under investigation.

On Aug. 29 at approximately 3:11 a.m. deputies were dispatched to the 400 block of North Adams Street in Polo for the report of a domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested John W. Simmons, 43, of Polo, for domestic battery, criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct. Simmons also had an active Ogle County warrant for failure to appear and an active LaSalle County warrant for failure to appear. Simmons was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held with no bond.

On Aug. 30 at approximately 1:04 a.m. deputies along with Byron EMS responded to the 8,900 block of North Illinois Route 2 for a single vehicle rollover accident with injuries. An investigation revealed that Chase Clarke, 28, of Byron was traveling north on Illinois Route 2 when he attempted to evade a group of deer in the roadway. Clarke lost control of the vehicle and overturned in the west ditch. Clarke was treated for suspected minor injuries and transported to a local hospital. The vehicle was removed by Maggio’s and no citations were issued.

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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 News-papers 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



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District held its Grand Celebration at the REC on Saturday. Above, Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger (left) recognizes current and former members of the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Board of Commissioners including Joe Lenkaitis, Mic Brooks, BT Carmichael and Jodie Hart.

Park district holds Grand Celebration at The REC

‘The Hub City was in need of a hub for the city’s growth and improvement’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Aug. 28, 2019, the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District held a groundbreaking for The REC Center at 802 Jones Road in Rochelle.

On Aug. 28, 2021, the park district held a grand celebration at the facility after it opened Dec. 1, 2020.

The celebration was put off due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$14 million facility includes a four-court gymnasium, indoor turf, a fitness center, multi-purpose rooms, an indoor walking track and an aquatic center with two pools.

“I wanted to say welcome to everyone who has come to this incredible investment in Rochelle’s future,” park district Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger said. “The REC Center is something that wasn’t accomplished over the past two or three years. It’s something we’ve been working on with past boards, staff, community members and I want to say thank you to everyone who was involved in that.”

The grand celebration included raffles, contests, giveaways, activities and a one-day membership sale. Ohlinger and Park Board President Tim Hayden

spoke at a kickoff ceremony.

Hayden said The REC is something he thinks a lot of people had hoped for and wanted to see happen. Rochelle needed a place for residents to go and shoot a basketball or throw a baseball without having to know somebody who had a key to get into a facility, he said.

“And I’m happy to say I’ve shot a basketball, walked a few laps around the track, hit a lot of ground balls to my son and I’ve been able to do a lot of those things for all different types of recreation,” Hayden said. “Not to mention the many other things we’ve seen go on here. We’re just very fortunate that rarely does a facility like this get to be built half a block off the corner of Main and Main in a community. Now, not only can we do all of those things, but it’s very accessible to a very large bit of our population.”

Hayden talked about the design that came to be at The REC and said it was important to get a multitude of amenities under one roof.

“What really drove the facility concept was having some turf and then having courts, but also being able to drop shades and having the ability to walk around while you use those other

things,” Hayden said. “Or on a day like today being able to have it open as the whole thing. We wanted to be able to have as many things going on at the same time as possible.”

Hayden praised Ohlinger and park district staff for the work they did to bring the project to fruition. She and her staff were able to come up with details of how The REC was going to work.

The park board wanted the building to be about Rochelle’s community, and not just a facility for regional tournaments that would see residents locked out.

“We have to have some of that for revenue, but wanted to balance that as much as possible,” Hayden said. “Jackee and her staff from the start, their organization and determination led the way to this being what it is today. We have a great membership, and it’s all because of what they’ve done.”

At the end of the day Saturday, The REC had 2,004 total members nine months after opening its doors. That exceeds its previous one-year goal, which was actually surpassed before opening. The REC averages 9,000 users per month, equaling Rochelle’s approximate population.

Ohlinger called the construction and opening of



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Board President Tim Hayden speaks during the Grand Celebration at The REC on Saturday.

The REC “a great adventure.” She thanked current and former board members for their vision and dedication to the project.

“These elected officials don’t receive a paycheck,” Ohlinger said. “But they do put in the hours. And over the past three years they’ve been led by Board President Tim Hayden. It was Tim’s persistence and

genuine passion for the community of Rochelle that pushed his team. I can honestly say without Tim, this phenomenal community center wouldn’t be what you see today.”

Ohlinger called The REC more than just a gym. It was built for open, flexible space to fit the needs of now and the future for all ages and interests and is a

foundation for good things to happen, Ohlinger said.

“There were needs identified for the park district and the Rochelle community,” Ohlinger said. “There needed to be improvements in the quality of life for Rochelle through recreation. The ‘Hub City’ was in need of a hub for the city’s growth and improvement.”

Second property tax installment due Sept. 10

OREGON — Ogle County Collector Linda Beck wants to remind property owners that the second installment of their property tax bill is due Sept. 10.

Payment methods include cash or check (payable to Ogle County Collector). In-person

payments can be made at the treasurer’s office located in the “old” courthouse at 105 S. 5th Street, Suite 114, Oregon or at any bank in Ogle County.

Current restrictions will be wearing a mask in any county building and to keep six-foot distance

from others. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday excluding holidays.

They strongly encourage the public to use their secure drop box located at the Fifth Street address for taxpayers to deposit check payments at any time. Their mailing

address is Ogle County Collector, P.O. Box 40, Oregon, IL 61061.

Mailed payments must be postmarked by the due date to be considered timely. Late payments will incur a fee of 1.5 percent per month or part of a month after the due date and must be remitted

by mail or at the Collector’s office.

Treasurer Beck’s office is also offering the option of online credit card payments. You may get to this site by going directly to www.ogle-county.org/departments/treasurer. Choose the Online Tax Payments

link and click the Pay Now button.

Fill in the information as prompted. Be sure to receive a payment confirmation for your records. Please note that this service carries a fee; review the convenience fees prior to making payment.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Remembering Kenneth Wendt

“FIRE, fire!” yelled Margaret McCarthy. It was 5:39 a.m. on a Wednesday morning when Margaret awoke to the faint smell of smoke in her apartment.

She woke her mother and began searching for the fire she knew must be present. She found nothing, but the smoke became more and more dense. Margaret went to the doors of the other four apartments and alerted the tenants. “Fire, fire!” She yelled.

Fourteen people dashed from the second-floor apartments with only the clothes on their back. There was no time to gather personal treasures or family heirlooms. This day, survival was the goal, and survival was enough.

The date was Dec. 27, 1950, two days after Christmas, four days before the new year. The temperature was minus 22 degrees Fahrenheit and the people fleeing the building had to wonder if the conditions were worse inside or outside the building.

The fire department arrived on scene with a driver and one engine. The department in 1950 was all volunteer except for a day driver and a night driver. Volunteers began arriving on scene in ones and twos. Some walked and some, if lucky, drove. Several had to call a taxi because their cars would not start.

W.A. Hornsby, the owner of the building, was one of those saved by Margaret’s warning. The Hornsby Store was ablaze. There were some flames visible but not enough to explain the density of the smoke. The fire fighters could tell by the pressure behind the smoke that there was a major fire, the problem was they could not be sure where the main body of fire was hiding.

At around 6 a.m. volunteer firefighter Kenneth Wendt put on a Chemox chemical breathing mask, grabbed an axe, and walked into the burning building in search of the seat of the fire.

Within minutes, the building groaned and portions of the first floor collapsed. The opening in the floor allowed more oxygen to reach the fire and for the next three hours the fire held reign.

The fire fighters knew they had a man inside and they knew he had less than one hour of breathable air. They also knew there was nothing they could do to get inside the building.

Fire fighters (100 in all) from Sycamore, Creston, Ashton, Steward, DeKalb, Oregon, Mt. Morris, and Rockford fought their way to Rochelle to help fight the fire and find the lost fire fighter.

The water that ran off of the fire building froze. The roads, ladders, fire engines, and fire fighters became covered with ice. The water that did not run off of the building froze on the structure.

At hundreds of gallons a minute and slightly over eight pounds a gallon, the weight of the ice caused collapse of the first floor, second floor and finally the roof. Through the night, the firefighters fought the blaze. Frost bite, falls, and exhaustion could not keep the volunteers from the battle.

It was Thursday at 10:20 a.m. when Kenneth was found. He had made it to a small room on the west side of the building on Lincoln Highway. He was in the basement only a foot from the front of the building and his fellow firefighters, who were working that side of the building.

For Clara Wendt and her children, Janice and Rodney, it made little difference. Their father would not be coming home. Kenneth was one of only two Rochelle firefighters to die in the line of duty. He is the only volunteer to give his life protecting his community. He will not be forgotten.

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



Tom McDermott

Letter to the Editor

Update on the RTHS Key Club Park bench

Dear Editor,
Yahoo, the bench made of bottle caps has been produced and delivered to the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District. It will be placed by the bike path near Rochelle Township High School.

Many thanks to all who saved, collected, sorted, bagged, weighed and manifested the 250 caps delivered to Evansville, Indiana where they were transformed into a six-foot park bench.

Plans are in place for the RTHS Key Club to do a dedication in the near future. Thank you.

Dennis Swinton
Advisor, RTHS Key Club and Rochelle Kiwanis Golden K

Should government be merciful as well as just?

SHOULD our government temper its justice with mercy?

I’ve been pondering that question for at least three decades, ever since I was a young reporter and heard a Texas prosecutor stand before a jury and say, “These aren’t halls of mercy; these are halls of justice!” Justice is rendered when people receive their due, according to the law.

Mercy is a disposition to be kind and forgiving – even if the person has done nothing to deserve it.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed legislation allowing terminally ill or incapacitated inmates to be released early from prison, after their case is assessed by the Illinois Prisoner Review Board.

It’s a measure that can be best described as merciful. Illinois is the 49th state to enact such legislation, leaving only Iowa without such a provision in its statutes.

“Unfortunately, so many of these people lose their lives, locked away behind bars without being able to spend their last moments with their family,” state Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, told me Monday. “And so many of those folks, especially the people who have been very sick, or are permanently disabled are people who don’t pose any kind of public safety risk to their community.”

Guzzardi was the House sponsor of the legislation. I confided in him that I was stunned that it passed. After all, for most of the time I’ve covered politics a majority of legislators have had a lock ‘em up and throw away the key mindset.

“I do think that the pendulum is swinging back toward a more com-

passionate and fair justice system,” Guzzardi replied. “We have increased penalties, longer sentences, higher incarceration rates, but the data says that it doesn’t make our communities any safer. It’s extremely disruptive to over-policed and over-incarcerated communities. And it’s enormously costly to all levels of government.”

One thing is for certain: we have too many people in prison. The United States locks up the highest percentage of its citizens of any nation in the world.

Shortly after Pritzker signed the legislation, another act of mercy caught my attention. The California Parole Board voted to recommend the release of Sirhan Sirhan, who murdered U.S. Sen. Robert Kennedy 53 years ago. Kennedy had won the Democratic presidential primary in California the day he was shot.

Ultimately, it will be up to Gavin Newsom to decide whether Sirhan becomes a free man. Six of Kennedy’s children lobbied the parole board for the assassin’s continued incarceration. And two called for his release.

And there is the rub. Family members often equate the worth of the loved one they lost to the severity of punishment given to their killer.

It’s a strange phenomenon. Guzzardi calls it uniquely American. Perhaps it is.

Twenty years ago, when Gov. George Ryan contemplated commuting the sentences of everyone on Illinois’ death row, families of those murdered made pilgrimages to Springfield and Chicago to speak against it.

I stood outside the Illinois Gov-

ernor’s Mansion as family members after member told me they needed an execution in order for their family to have “closure.”

I hear similar things today when families demand life without possibility of parole.

But to be honest, I don’t understand how the severity of the punishment someone else receives equates to one’s own sense of peace or resolution.

Craig Findley, chairman of the Prisoner Review Board, said the suffering murder victim’s families endure is unfathomable.

“I don’t know what they go through because I never experienced a loss like that. A murder is like dropping a stone into a pond. The ripples keep going outward. It can affect future generations as well.”

Findley, who has served on the board for 20 years, said victim families rarely lose interest in the punishment of the offender, even decades after the crime.

The measure signed by Pritzker will for the first time allow the board to use mercy as a criterion for releasing someone from prison, Findley said.

Is that good public policy? Well, it’s certainly not a new concept.

I was raised in a home where forgiveness was considered a sign of strength. Unfortunately, many of our elected officials have taken a different view, believing retribution is the key to justice.

But for me, the words of the Hebrew prophet Micah ring loud: “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Scott Reeder is a veteran journalist. He works as a reporter in the Springfield area. Scottreeder1965@gmail.com



Scott Reeder

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

When do you usually start decorating and preparing for the Halloween holiday?

“It’s Halloween 365 days in my home. It’s our favorite holiday. As far as decorating outside, Labor Day weekend!”

Brandi Smith

“Spooky season never stops in my house.”

Justin Huels

“September 1!”

Andrew Heiserman

“Labor Day weekend. If Christmas décor hits stores in October, my Halloween décor goes up in September.”

Cody Dale

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
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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

Rochelle Area Community Foundation announces fall grant cycle

ROCHELLE – The Rochelle Area Community Foundation (RACF) will open a fall grant cycle for all non-profit partners on Wednesday, Sept. 1 through Thursday, Sept. 30.

To apply, please visit www.rochellefoundation.org and hover over the “Grants” tab. Simply click “Apply”, log-in, fill out the application and submit.

RACF is looking for one non-profit partner who has an innovative program or project that will have a significant impact on the community. The grant request should be between \$12,000 and \$15,000. RACF will announce the grant recipient in Oct. 2021.

“We were fortunate to fully fund every grant request during the 2021 spring grant cycle. We had some money leftover and our board felt strongly that we reinvest that money back into our community,” Kathy Hollonbeck, chair of the grants committee, said.

“Opening a fall grant cycle is unique to the foundation and we are excited to learn about new ideas our non-profit partners have that will have a profound impact on the population they serve” Emily Anaya, executive director, said.

If you have questions, please call RACF at 815-561-3600 or email director@rochellefoundation.org.



2021
From The Heart
Calendar

Aug. 7 - Ann O'Donnell, Rockford, \$25

Aug. 8 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50

Aug. 9 - Noah Ackland, Pembroke, Mass., \$25

Aug. 10 - Bob Vanstone, Philadelphia, Penn., \$25

Aug. 11 - Brittney Zick, Rochelle, \$25

Aug. 12 - Tom Misciasci, Rochelle, \$25

Aug. 13 - Rochelle Foods, Rochelle, \$25

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 Wetzell, Lindenwood, \$50

Aug. 30 - Sandy Sullivan, Rochelle, \$25

Aug. 31 - Tom McDermott, Rochelle, \$25

Sept. 1 - Eric Cech, Rochelle, \$25

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

RCHA to host annual meeting

ROCHELLE – The annual meeting of the Rochelle Community Hospital Association (RCHA) will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church.

The RCHA was adopted in 1965 to engage the community to support the hospital in meeting the healthcare needs of the greater Rochelle area. Members of the association are required to pay a membership fee of \$25 per year or \$1,000 for a lifetime membership. You must be a member of the association to attend the annual meeting.

As a member of the association you will have the right to participate, discuss and vote on matters of importance to the hospital and its stakeholders.

If you are interested in attending the annual meeting or would like more information, please contact Kim Louis at 815-561-3107 or email klouis@rcha.net.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, there will be a limited number of attendees and everyone will be screened prior to entering. Masking will be required at this event as per Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. Also, for your safety, no food or drink will be provided during the meeting.

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

Sept. 2 – (Thursday) – Lettuce Wraps, Chicken Salad or Ham Salad, Chips, and Soup

Sept. 5 – (Sunday Brunch) – Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Pancakes, Ham and Cheese Breakfast Casserole

Sept. 7 – (Tuesday) – Supreme Pizza and Salad, or Italian Beef Sandwich

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.**

Call 815-561-2151 to submit names for the birthday and anniversary list

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Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Wee dollop

4 "I smell —!"

8 Lose it

12 Single

13 Only

14 Chantilly, e.g.

15 Vitamin stat

16 Frost

17 "— Misbehavin'"

18 Improbable, unexpected wonders

21 Existed

22 Squid squirt

23 Song of praise

26 Frequently

27 "Lion" actor Patel

30 Intends

31 Dinner for Dobbin

32 Seethe

33 Sample

34 "Shoo!"

35 Crazy Horse, for one

36 Mountain pass

37 Hot tub

38 Insignificant sum

45 Car

46 "Who —?"

47 Ultimate

48 Leisurely

49 Fashion magazine

50 Multipurpose truck

51 Bottom lines?

52 Lushes

53 Melancholy

DOWN

1 Campus digs

2 "The King —"

3 Noggin

4 Hindu retreat

5 Hotel units

6 Jai —

7 Fill with intense fear

8 Not taut

9 Hammer target

10 Teen's woe

11 Favorites

19 They give a hoot

20 Busy insect

23 Bit of butter

24 Knightly address

25 Actress Adams

26 Feedbag morsel

27 Pair with an air

28 Outback bird

29 Irritate

31 Many Woodstock

32 attendees

32 Edict

34 Guy's date

35 Sudden bursts

36 Radiates

37 Long-legged shorebird

38 Obi

39 Stubborn beast

40 Molecule part

41 Norway's capital

42 Burden

43 Jazz singer James

44 Molt

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: **D** equals **L**

HDO RXEVXR HK YHYBDZE

UGVDOEXJ'R AHHNR FGZF ZEX JHS

NJHSJ FH AX KZNX UHYVXR:

RYBEVHBR QXHEQX.

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King Crossword

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

Old series of popular children's books that are now known to be fake copies: Spurious George.

LOCAL NEWS

School board: No changes to mask mandate

Administration given authority to make changes if necessary

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Elementary District Board of Education held a special meeting Monday to revisit issues related to the decision it made at its regular August meeting to pass a school reopening plan that followed Gov. JB Pritzker's mask mandate.

The board previously asked Superintendent Jason Harper to check into lawsuits filed against the governor related to the mask mandate. A parent in the Breese Elementary District in southern Illinois filed a lawsuit against Pritzker, but Harper said there has been no new information based on court action since the board last met.

Another different lawsuit was brought up in McHenry County with two parents who filed a lawsuit for a temporary restraining order against the governor and that first phase of the legal process has been denied, Harper said. He had no new information based on the appeals process in that case.

Harper was also asked to look into the insurance impact if the district were to decide to go against the mask mandate. He said Monday that he was told by the district's insurance they would not immediately be dropped if they went against the mandate, but the insurance company's ultimate recommendation was to follow it.



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Rochelle Elementary District Board of Education (above) held a special meeting Monday to revisit issues related to the decision it made at its regular August meeting to pass a school reopening plan that followed Gov. J.B. Pritzker's mask mandate. Below, Rochelle Middle School teacher Ben Baar speaks during Monday's special meeting.

Lastly, Harper was directed to talk with the Durand School District's superintendent about that district's decision to defy the mask mandate. He said the district had a special board meeting where it reinstated the school's use of the mandate.

Harper asked the board for and was granted the ability for administration to make changes on the fly between board meetings if there are changes in guidance in things related to COVID-19 prevention. The board made that decision unanimously.

Parents spoke out

against the mask mandate at the meeting as they have for the past few months.

"On Aug. 18 there was a state superintendent board meeting," Tricia Goodwin said. "There was an hour and a half of parents and administrators who went down there to state their case. One thing that made me sad is that nobody from our district was there to represent our kids and their voices."

Katie Queller-Zilis, a teacher at Rochelle Middle School, talked about how school has been

going in the early weeks of the year.

"I just want to say from my perspective, school is going great," Queller-Zilis said. "Kids are wearing masks and complying. Of course they fall off, you ask them to lift them up and they do it. I have tried to take my classes out for mask breaks every day. Sometimes I have to remind them they can take it off now since we're outside. They're used to the masks. I think we're off to a great start with a positive attitude from the administration to the teachers to the kids."



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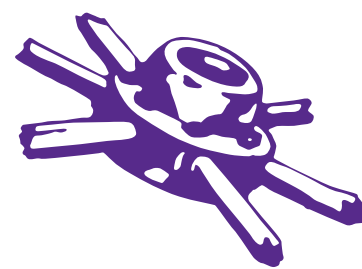
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**Dempsey
Atkinson**

Year: Freshman

Sport: Volleyball

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

A: Four years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: I enjoy being a part of an amazing team.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?

A: English because I love to read poetry.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?

A: Dennis Rodman because of how great he was on defense.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My parents because they encourage and push me to do my best.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: To be a politician because I love politics and I think it would be cool to run for office.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?

A: Paris because I've always wanted to try the food there.

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

A: I enjoy playing sports and seeing my friends.

**Lauren
Dyer**

Year: Freshman

Sport: Volleyball



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

A: Three years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: Playing as a team.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?

A: Science because I love learning new things.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My mom because she's hard working.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: To be a nurse because I want to be able to help people.

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

A: Having the opportunity to play with my friends and work with my coaches.

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SPORTS

RTHS Volleyball

Lady Hub spikers win three matches at J-Hawk Invite

Rochelle drops road match against Dixon

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCKFORD — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team bounced back from a first-match loss in the Rockford Jefferson J-Hawk Invitational on Saturday, rallying for three consecutive victories to close the tournament out with a 3-1 record. Rochelle improved to 4-2 on the year.

The Lady Hubs opened the tournament against Woodstock, battling but falling short in a 19-25, 22-25 loss. Junior Addie Friestad led Rochelle with six kills, while sophomore Kennedy Adamski added three kills. Senior Sylvia Hasz recorded three kills, three aces and four digs in the match.

Recovering from the loss, Rochelle defeated Rockford Jefferson 26-24, 25-11 in its second match of the tournament. Hasz compiled five kills, five digs and two aces, while junior Payton Hale finished with five kills, three blocks and two aces. Freshman Dempsey Atkinson had five digs for the Lady Hubs, with Friestad chipping in three kills in the Rochelle victory.

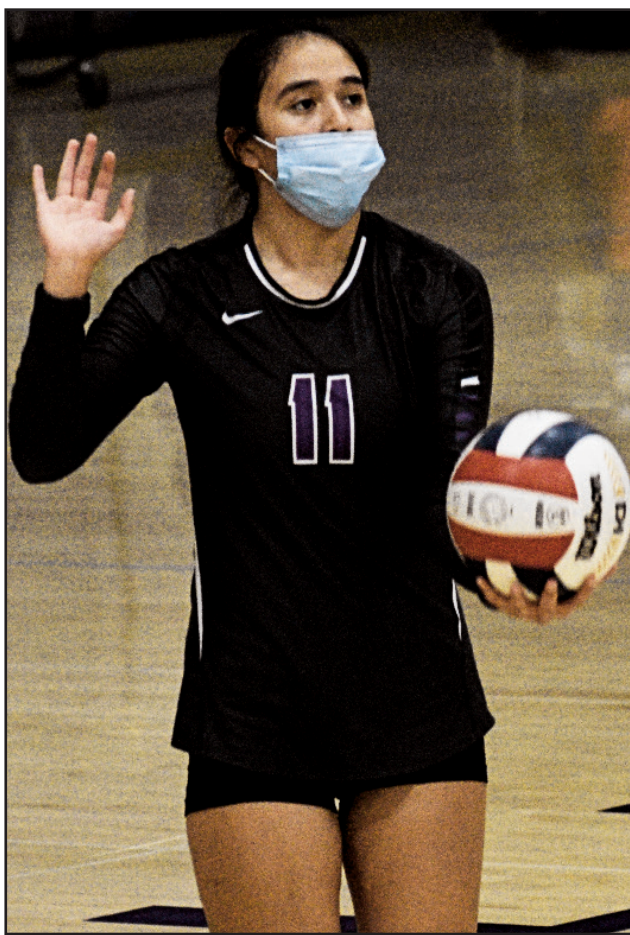
"I thought we were a bit slow during the first match," Friestad said. "We didn't play to our potential, but we woke up and started playing much better once

we started playing more matches. Our back row has definitely improved and our blocking has definitely gotten better. We need to keep passing the ball well because we'll be facing tougher teams in the future."

The Lady Hubs followed with another win in their third match of the tournament, beating Rockford East 25-15, 25-15 behind six aces from freshman Taelynn Rodeghero as well as six kills and two aces from Hasz. Friestad recorded four kills and Hale added two blocks in the win.

"Our young players have a very high ceiling and I think this season will show what they're capable of doing for us over the next two or three years," head coach Molly Sly said. "I hope we can get Taelynn going at the net because she has a great swing and a great vertical. We start our matches very well, but I want to see us finish strong and close out matches better."

Rochelle closed the tournament out with a come-from-behind victory over Rockford Christian, winning 25-22, 25-18. Hale led the Lady Hubs with five kills, two aces and two blocks, while Adamski totaled four kills and Friestad pitched in three kills. Rodeghero had four aces.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Isela Vasquez and the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team won three matches at the J-Hawk Invitational on Saturday.

"We played really well together," Hale said. "We definitely need to work on our serve-receives, but our hitting was much better and we kept a lot more balls inbounds. I think we work together well and we communicate well. We definitely want to win a regional this year and I'm hoping we can go pretty far. I think I'll have a bigger role with the team

this year."

Dixon

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team faced Dixon on the road this past Thursday, falling 21-25, 25-20, 21-25. Senior Sylvia Hasz totaled 10 kills and five aces, while freshman Dempsey Atkinson finished with five digs in place of starting libero Cassandra Garcia.

RTHS Golf



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Griffin Ohlinger hits a tee shot for the Rochelle Hub varsity golf team during Tuesday's match.

Hubs take loss from Kaneland

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity golf team faced a tough Kaneland squad on Tuesday, falling 145-202 and dropping to 0-6 on the season. Rochelle will travel for a three-team matchup against Oregon and North Boone on Wednesday.

Juniors Griffin Ohlinger and Damen Harrington fired the low score for the Hubs, with Ohlinger shooting 46 while

Harrington added 48. Junior Wade Smith finished with 52 and senior Rowan Williams rounded out the Rochelle varsity lineup with 56.

Geneseo

The Rochelle Hub varsity golf team finished 12th place with 468 in the Geneseo Invitational on Saturday. Junior Griffin Ohlinger carded the team's low score of 93.

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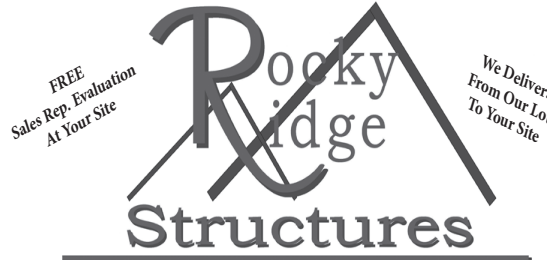
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ON THE FARM

Several tips on how to reduce food waste

PERHAPS nothing can spoil an appetite more than a crisper drawer full of fresh vegetables that have taken a turn for the worse. Spoiled food is not just unsafe to eat, but it is also very costly.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimate that the average family of four throws out nearly \$1,500 worth of food and beverages each year. That means that, within seven years, the average family has spent more than \$10,000 on food they did not eat.

In recognition of the problems posed by food waste, the National Grange, the oldest farm and food advocacy organization in the United States, aims to create a cultural shift that reduces food waste. Individual consumers can do their part in supporting that shift by taking various steps to reduce food waste in their homes.

Take inventory before

going to the grocery store. An inventory of the refrigerator and pantry can help shoppers avoid buying items they already have. This is especially valuable at reducing food waste in regard to perishable items that can spoil before shoppers have a chance to eat them.

Make a meal plan and grocery list. The Environmental Protection Agency notes that meal plans and accompanying grocery lists help consumers reduce food waste and save money by decreasing the likelihood that they will buy items they won't need for the meals they plan to eat in the week ahead.

Purchase frozen foods. Organic, fresh vegetables eaten when they are most ripe may be the healthiest way to eat vegetables. However, frozen vegetables still have ample nutritional value, and may even boast a higher nutritional value than off-season, fresh vegetables sold at the grocery store. That's because frozen fruits and vegetables are picked



when they're ripe and then immersed in boiling water to kill bacteria and prevent enzyme activity that can spoil food. They're then immediately flash frozen, a process that typically preserves nutrients. The long shelf life of frozen

fruits and vegetables reduces the likelihood that shoppers will throw them out before eating them. That's not the case with fresh vegetables, which the ANDF and the USDA note account for more than 30 percent of food waste

each year.

Wash berries only as you eat them. When eating fresh berries, wait to wash them until you eat them. The risk of mold forming increases when washing an entire container all at once, whereas only washing the

berries as they're eaten increases the likelihood that they won't spoil before they're all eaten.

Food waste is a global problem that can be fixed. And that solution can start in the kitchens of consumers willing to do their part.

Advice for safer farming practices

TRACTOR accidents, grain entrapment and injuries from ornery livestock are just some of the dangers agricultural workers face every day. In fact, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health says agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in the United States.

In 2016, the agricultural industry had a rate of 21.4 deaths per 100,000 workers, and each day agricultural workers experienced 100 non-fatal, lost-work-time injuries.

Agricultural dangers are not limited to North America. In Ireland, farm accidents have increased by 13 percent in the last five years and by 31 percent in the last decade, according to a national survey of farm accidents conducted by the Teagasc National Farm Survey. Furthermore, 97 percent of all farm accident victims required medical treatment.

Farms are dangerous places, and while carelessness can and does contribute to many incidents, accidents also

take place during routine, seemingly safe activities. These farm safety guidelines can help lower the risk of injuries.

Know farm equipment. Read and follow all instructions in the equipment operation manuals. In addition, attend local farm safety workshops to learn more about specific equipment and products.

Conduct routine safety checks. Look around buildings and grounds for obvious hazards, such as fire hazards and hazardous materials, including farm chemicals that are not stored correctly.

Practice cleanliness. Maintain clean and neat work areas with tools stored properly and out of the way after use.

Be mindful of your clothing and hair. Many accidents involve a power take-off system, or PTO, which is a common component of large rotary mowers, tractors and forage choppers. Clothing can easily get caught in an engaged but unguarded PTO stub. It's easy for laces or coveralls to become wrapped around a spinning stub shaft. The PTO driveline and other protrusion points also can be dangerous if people do not pay attention.

Use rollover protec-



tion structures. ROPS can be used on tractors and other equipment to prevent injuries. In addition, wear seat belts and employ other safety equipment as advised.

Avoid extra passengers. It can be tempting to take the kids for a spin, but do not allow additional passengers to ride on agricultural equipment.

Exercise caution when handling chemicals. Take extra precautions when

handling any chemicals, including pesticides.

Wear protective gear. Wear appropriate gear and equipment as outlined by NIOSH or the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Make sure the skin, feet, ears, eyes, and hands are protected at all times.

Employ lock out/tag out control. This is a process where one can work on equipment only after every energy source

has been controlled, such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, and electrical, according to Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Turning off equipment and using certain controls or locks on devices can prevent equipment from restarting before it is safe to do so.

Farm safety should be a priority for owners, their families and employees so that agricultural injuries can be reduced.

Avoid Down Times



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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

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 No. 0838 (Aug. 25, Sept. 1, 8)

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Rochelle 420 North 6th Street Rochelle, Illinois 61068 Request for Proposal for Steel Roof Replacement (August 25, 2021) Request for Proposal Deadline (September 13, 2021 4:00 P.M.) Request for Proposal Title: Metal Roof Replacement for Peaker Building Located at 1015 S Caron Rd

The City of Rochelle, Illinois (the City) is soliciting Requests for Proposals (RFP) for a steel roof replacement for the Peaker building and so desires to choose the best proposal based on the RFPs submitted in accordance with the requirements contained herein. In order for your

Request for Proposal (RFP) to be considered, it must be submitted to the City no later than the date and time as stated above, at which time respondents to this request will be recorded. Any RFPs received after the deadline specified above will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. The Request for Proposal must be signed by an authorized official of the firm, and it must be submitted in a sealed envelope or container and labeled with the above RFP title. This solicitation does not commit the City to award, or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the RFP, or to contract for services. The City reserves the right to accept and/or reject any or all RFPs received as a result of this request, or to cancel in part or in its entirety the Request, if it becomes in the best interest of the City to do so. City of Rochelle, Illinois Request for Qualifications Engineering and Architectural Services The intent of this RFP is to have firms under consideration specifically address the services required and to provide a well-considered response to this request. Deadline for submissions is (September 13, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.). SCOPE OF WORK Steel Roof Replacement Installer must be a certified roofer contractor according to the roofing system to be installed.

1. Remove the existing roofing material down to the original decking on

entire roofing substrate. All material removed from property must be properly and legally disposed of. 2. Install new insulation/under lay system to meet required R30 code. The new insulation materials shall be fully adhered to the existing deck as per manufacturer and industry specifications. 3. Install new decking material if needed to support roofing system. 4. Provide proposal for 26-gauge metal roofing, and 40-year Comp. roofing system. 5. All new roofing products shall be installed per manufacturer's recommendations and their published installation manuals. 6. Provide and install all new sheet metal components including and specifically limited to all, flashings where needed. All materials not seen from the ground will be manufactured from 24 gauge galvanized. 7. Rehang existing gutters and connect to existing downspouts. It is understood that except as otherwise specifically stated in the contract, the contractor shall provide and pay for all materials, labor, tools, equipment, and transportation of every nature and all other services and facilities of every nature, whatsoever, necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specific time. Permits and licenses (including the City of Rochelle) necessary for the execution of work shall be secured by the vendor but no fees will be charged to the contractor. All

supplies and material shall be new. Any work necessary to be performed after regular working hours, such as work performed on Sundays or legal holidays shall be performed without additional expense to the City. INSURANCE Prior to the commencement of work, the vendor shall furnish the City with a Certificate of Insurance naming the City as an additional insured. The firm shall carry no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and or aggregate combined single commercial general liability insurance limit. TAXES The City is a tax-exempt organization. A copy of the City's tax-exempt form will be furnished if needed. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Any inquiries that prospective firms may have regarding this RFP should be directed to (Blake Toliver 815-561-2066) by no later than (September 10, 2021).

RFP DELIVERABLES All interested firms should provide two (2) bound copies of the requested RFP information. Facsimile or email submittals will not be accepted. The RFP packet should be clearly labeled: City of Rochelle, Illinois - Metal Roof Replacement shall be delivered to, and in possession of the City Clerk of the City of Rochelle, Illinois by no later than (September 13, 2021, at 4:00 PM) at the following location: Rochelle City Hall 420 North 6th Street Rochelle, Illinois 61068 EVALUATION The City will review and evaluate the RFP documents received based on the content of their submittals. Factors that will be considered include, but are not limited to the following:

- Availability and completion time.
- Experience with similar project types.
- Lowest bid.

Once the submittals have been reviewed the City may request firms to visit the premises for a site inspection if not already done so. All firms submitting will be notified in writing upon the completion of the selection process. No. 0901 (Sept. 1)

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

C H U C K ' S ALL AROUND MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR. General Automotive and Residential 815-995-0716. (09-08-21)

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ASHTON - Bartenders and Waitresses Needed, Apply in Person at Ralphie and Lulu's. 812 Main Street in Ashton or call 815-453-2103. (TFN)

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WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

301 ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

TWO Husqvarna Push Mowers. Koehler Motor 5HP, \$80 Each, 815-275-6551. (09-12-21)

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or call 630-401-2647

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

To settle the Estate of Donna Gittleson, We will offer at Public Auction the following described Residential Real Estate at Public Auction. This auction will be held on site at **1677 IL Rt. #251, Steward IL 60553**. On Auction Day, watch for Bearrows Real Estate & Auction signs on Rt 251 South of Rochelle approx. 5 Miles. **Contact Auctioneer John Bearrows at 815-739-9150 for a private viewing or visit our web site at www.bearrows.com for further information & pictures.**

Saturday October 2nd, 2021

10AM (Auction Held On Site)

DESCRIPTION OF REAL ESTATE: This is a large single family 2-story home situated on a 5 acre tract, with quality throughout including hardwood floors, fireplace, updated furnace and so much more. It has 5 bedrooms, with a master bedroom on the first floor that has a walk in closet and master bath with a walk in soaking tub. There is a 3 season porch on the back, plus an open deck made of composite material. The heat is LP gas forced air, central air, as well as supplemental electric Heat. Additional Through wall A/C-Heat units in Master Bedroom & rear porch. It has a 2 car attached garage with openers as well as an additional 2 car detached garage with opener. For additional storage, there is a large pole barn that is approx. 60 x 100 ft with approx. 1/3 is concreted and has 2 large 14ft high doors. The building has 16ft eaves. Great for all your storage needs. **REAL ESTATE TERMS:** \$10,000.00 down the day of the auction, with the balance due on or before **November 19th, 2021** at which time full possession will be given. Seller to provide an appropriate executed deed as well as a merchantable Title Policy in the amount of the purchase price. This property is being conveyed in its "As-Is" condition without any contingencies with regard to financing and/or the sale of another piece of property. All announcements made the day of auction take precedence over all prior advertising.

Donna Gittleson Estate – Owner

Auctioneer: John Bearrows – 815-739-9150

Bearrows Real Estate & Auction Co. – Rochelle IL

Attorney for the Estate – Charles P Cole – 815-562-5150

Rochelle IL 61068

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AUCTIONEERS:
JOHN BEARROWS, Rochelle, IL
(815) 739-9150
IL Lic. #440000243
JOSH HICKEY, Steward, IL
(815) 739-1030
IL Lic. #441001092

Farm Equipment Auction

Having decided to retire from farming, Steve and Kaytie Suddeth will offer the following farm machinery, related items and tools at public auction. The auction will be conducted live onsite at the farm located at **8555 Gurler Rd. DeKalb, IL 60115**. Directions: RT 23 South of DeKalb 1 mile, then West on Gurler Rd. approx. 2 miles to sale site. **We will also offer live internet bidding on many items simulcast on EquipmentFacts.com** To view color pictures of the items, visit www.bearrows.com and click on calendar. There will be lunch and a comfort station available. The auction will take place on,

Saturday September 18th 2021

10:00 a.m.

Auctioneers note: This is a nice clean line of older equipment from a small farm. Steve took great pride in his tools and equipment. Plan now to attend. Auction starts with hayrack items at 10:00 a.m., Machinery and Tractors will begin at 11:00a.m. central time when the internet bidding begins.

Tractors: (2) John Deere 4440's; Gas John Deere 3020; Diesel John Deere 3020 **Implements:** NOTE: Steve sold his larger tractor that was used with these larger tillage implements.

John Deere 7200 Planter; DMI Big Little D470 Gravity Wagon; DMI Tigermate II Field Cultivator; DMI 25ft Crumbler; John Deere 512 Disk 5 shank Ripper; Krause 4600 Row Crop 6x30" Cultivator; Koyker Sprayer 500 gal pull type, 45ft booms; Oliver 385 Field Cultivator, 14', 3pt mount; Brillion 13' Cultimulcher; Woods Cadet 72 6'; Grain King 33' x 8" truck auger; Brandt 60"x8" auger; assorted tractor weights 20,30, and 40 series Deere; 18.4-38 clamp on duals, 15.5-38 clamp on duals; set of 15.5-38 rims and tires; implement tires; Speeco CAT II quick hitch. **Grain Bins:** 21' diameter grain bin, full aeration floor; **Tools, Shop, Lawn & Garden:**

TERMS: Cash or Check w/ driver's license I.D., VISA, Master Card, Discover or American Express w/ 3% service fee. Electronic clerking system used. Letter of guarantee for purchase over \$10,000 - Announcements made the day of auction take precedence over all prior advertising. Not responsible for accidents or items after sold. On-Line bidding available as well at Equipmentfacts.com - Terms for online bidding will be posted.

Steve and Kaytie Suddeth – Owners

Bearrows Real Estate & Auction Co., Rochelle IL 61068

815-562-5113

Auctioneers:

Josh Hickey – 815-739-1030

John Bearrows, 815-739-9150

Matt Hart, Steve Hilleeson

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The Rochelle News-Leader has an opening for:

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For more information contact Wanda at

ROCHELLE News-Leader

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Contact Wanda at the Rochelle News-Leader office
211 E. Hwy. 38,
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ROUTE 35-36-37
ROLLING GREEN TRAILER PARK, HIGHLAND ESTATES, BRIARWOOD SUBDIVISION
ROUTE 13-14
6TH AND 7TH STREET AND AVENUES IN BETWEEN

HW

SPORTS

HUBS: Rochelle finishes fourth at War on 34 tourney

From page 1

Orozco beat the Plano defense one more time to close out the first half, using his dominant left foot to send his second goal of the match into the net during the 37th minute.

"We had a lot of support today and it was nice to hear the fans supporting us," Whitehead said. "Josue's playing really well right now and we like to play through him. We're trying to get the ball outside more often, but Josue's really effective when we get him the ball through the middle. We have a good attack this season and we have a lot of young kids who are coming along well."

Luxton earned his hat trick in the 48th minute, winning a one-on-one matchup with the Plano keeper and giving the Hubs a 7-1 advantage. The Reapers continued to battle, earning one goal back in the 63rd minute before Rochelle sealed its win with two goals from Orozco in the 71st and 72nd minutes. The Hubs will continue conference play against Sandwich on Wednesday.

War on 34

The Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team finished fourth in the Earlville War on 34 Championship tournament over the weekend.

Rochelle faced Geneseo in the semifinals, falling 2-0 before suffering a 4-3 loss against LaSalle-Peru in the consolation finals to move to 1-2 on the season.



Sophomore Diego Salazar dribbles past the Plano defender and looks for a shot on goal during the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer match against the Reapers on Monday. The Hubs won the match 9-2 to open the Interstate 8 Conference schedule with a victory.

(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Jarret Milan totaled 15 saves in the match against Geneseo.

The Maple Leafs scored in the 22nd and 24th minutes while limiting the Rochelle

offense to only two shots on Saturday. Senior Josue Orozco scored two goals

in the loss against LaSalle-Peru, while junior Diego Cincire added one goal.

Milan finished with three saves for the Hubs in the match.

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