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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021

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Arrest made from search warrant

Additional drug arrest made by Ogle County deputies from Aug. 5 search warrant. **Page 8**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
88 70

THURSDAY
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88 68

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
82 61

SATURDAY
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OBITUARIES

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• O. DONALD HILL

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• FARM & FLEET

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Elementary school board approves reopening plan with mask mandate

Special meeting to revisit issue scheduled for Aug. 30

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its Tuesday meeting, the Rochelle Elementary District approved a school reopening plan unanimously that included a mask mandate, adhering to Gov. JB Pritzker's executive order last week.

The board made the approval with considerations including a special meeting on Monday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. or potentially sooner to revisit the issue if new information comes to light. The board also directed Superintendent Jason Harper to make contact with the Durand School District superintendent, whose district voted to defy the governor's executive order and make masks optional.

Harper was also directed to follow the ongoing case at Breese Elementary District downstate, where a parent is suing the governor over his mask mandate. He was also asked by the board to verify procedures over the loss of insurance including a timeline, what the district's risk would be if it went against

the government's mandate.

"We will investigate the Breese lawsuit and Durand and potentially future districts who decide to do a mask optional policy to see what the response is from the Illinois State Board of Education and the governor's office," Harper said. "And then we'll discuss our options and possibilities at a special meeting."

Harper recommended last week and at the meeting that the board follow the mask mandate due to risk of increased liability, loss of insurance coverage, loss of recognition as a public school and loss of school funding.

Both the elementary and Rochelle Township High School districts previously approved a plan with masks optional in recent weeks before Pritzker's executive order.

Parents and members of the community spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting against the mask mandate for about an hour and 20 minutes. Cole Thomas, a district parent, asked board members to stand against

the mask mandate.

"Schools should be against bullying," Thomas said. "You didn't take the recommendations before, Why are you doing it now? Stop putting your own fears in front of our children."

Trisha Goodwin also spoke from a parent's point of view at the meeting.

"The governor has no right to co-parent with us," Goodwin said. "These are our children."

After the public comment portion, Harper spoke about the reopening plan and answered some questions brought up by parents during the meeting. Along with mandatory masking, the current reopening plan includes a return to full day in-person schooling, on-site COVID-19 rapid testing with parent consent, extra-curricular activities being offered and mask breaks.

Out-of-date guidance regarding lunch segregation with regard to vaccination status was struck from the reopening plan before it was approved.

The school does have a mask exemption process that families can go through



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Superintendent Jason Harper addresses parents in attendance during the Rochelle School District 231 Board of Education meeting Tuesday evening.

with the district to see if their child is eligible.

The elementary district begins school next week. RTHS begins school Friday. Harper said his current recommendations for reopening will apply for how that district starts its year as well. The RTHS school board meets Monday and will vote on a reopening plan at that meeting.

"The fluidity of all the guidance, we had a semi-local school announce mask optional today, we found out about the Breese lawsuit

today," Harper said. "By Monday there could be different changes."

Harper called masking an "incredibly emotional issue for everybody involved" after hearing from parents and community members Tuesday evening.

"We understand the frustrations of the community because we share many of the same frustrations," Harper said. "It increases the difficulty of our reopening plan when we receive contradictory guidance and guidance that's delayed."

(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)



Edson wins News-Leader Summer Subscription Getaway Drive

Steve Edson of Rochelle was drawn as the winner of the 2021 Rochelle News-Leader Summer Subscription Getaway Drive. Along with taking advantage of a special subscription rate to the Rochelle News-Leader, Edson entered for a chance to win a \$1,000 Eagle Ridge getaway. Edson (right) is pictured with Rochelle News-Leader and Ogle County Life General Manager Mike Feltes (left).

Property rezoning approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle City Council unanimously approved the rezoning of property located north of 1951 Steward Road at its Monday meeting with the purpose of expanding its transloading facility.

The property is owned by the city and will now be zoned for heavy industry. At its June meeting, the city council approved additional money for the scope of its transload center due to changes in its future use.

An opportunity was presented to the Rochelle City Council to re-establish an intermodal service through the Rochelle Transload Center that the city lost in 2019 in Union Pacific's (UP) Global III Intermodal Terminal.

See CITY page 5

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LOCAL NEWS



Brad Hertzner

Hertzner joins Stillman Bank as compliance and Bank Secrecy Act officer

OREGON – Stillman Bank is pleased to welcome Brad Hertzner as compliance & bank secrecy act officer. In his position, Hertzner will guide the overall development and successful implementation of all regulatory compliance programs at the bank. He will be located at the bank's Oregon office, located at 1445 Illinois Route 2 North.

A lifelong DeKalb resident, Brad attended Northern Illinois Uni-

versity and is a graduate of the graduate school of banking in Colorado. He has 12 years of experience in compliance as well as 16 years of BSA experience with a total of 23 years within the financial industry.

"We are fortunate and excited to have Brad join our team," Thomas R. Hughes, president and COO, said. "His experience, background, and knowledge of compliance and BSA will be very valuable to our organization."

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Two injured in one-vehicle accident

OREGON – On Aug. 7 at 8:39 p.m. deputies responded to the 3,000 block of South Illinois Route 2 for a single-vehicle crash with no injuries. After an investigation, it was determined Randall L. Clark, 51, of Dixon was traveling southbound when he left the roadway, striking a rock wall on the west side of the road. The vehicle then traveled eastbound across the center line and the northbound lane. The vehicle came to rest on the east side of the roadway. Clark was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Clark was also cited for improper lane usage, failure to reduce speed to prevent an accident and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Clark was transported to the Ogle County jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Aug. 8 at 11:10 a.m. deputies responded to a two motorcycle crash in the 5,000 block of Illinois Route 64. After a short investigation it was determined that a 2007 Harley Davidson operated by Michael Avolio, 53, of North Riverside, Illinois was traveling west on Illinois Route 64 behind a 2014 Harley Davidson operated by Dale Detman, 67 of Plainfield, Illinois, when Dale slowed for a vehicle in traffic. Avolio struck Detman and lost control causing the Harley Davidson to slide on the left side. Avolio and his passenger, Cheryl Serpico, 62 of North Riverside were transported to KSB Hospital for minor injuries by Oregon Fire.

On Aug. 6 at approximately 4:05 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 800 block of East Spring Creek Road. After further investigation, Ernest Elswick, 54, of Byron was placed under arrest for aggravated driving while license revoked (class 3 felony). Elswick was additionally cited for expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Elswick was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he is being held pending an appearance before a judge.

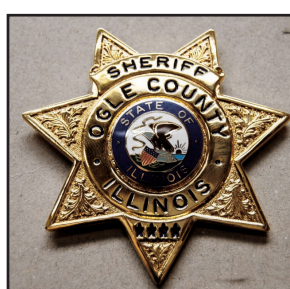
On Aug. 6 at approximately 7:18 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of West Pines Road. After further investigation Jerime Kuhlemier, 40, of Oregon, was placed under arrest for aggravated driving while license revoked (class 4 felony). Kuhlemier was additionally cited for unlawful use of registration, illegal transportation of alcohol, obstructed registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Kuhlemier was transported to the Ogle County Jail where was held pending an appearance before a judge.

On Aug. 7 at approximately 2:16 a.m. deputies responded to the Lake Ladonna Campground in reference to a disturbance. After further investigation, Tammy Marozik, 49, and Joseph Marlett, 37, both of Elgin, were placed under arrest for disorderly conduct. Marozik and Marlett were transported to the Ogle County Jail where they

were held in lieu of bond.

On Aug. 6 at approximately 10:14 p.m. deputies along with Lynn Scott Rock EMS personnel responded to the 14,000 block of East Illinois Route 72 for a one vehicle accident with suspected minor injuries. After investigation, it was determined that Adam Moschel, 55, of Monroe Center, was traveling westbound on East Illinois Route 72. Moschel then entered the north ditch, at which time he struck a telephone pole. Moschel fled the scene but was located shortly by the Ogle County K9 Unit and transported to Rochelle Community Hospital for minor injuries from the accident. Moschel was issued citations for driving under the influence of alcohol, open container/alcohol, failure to give notice of an accident, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and improper lane usage. Moschel received an I-Bond and was left in the care of RCH personnel.

On Aug. 7 at approximately 1:26 a.m. deputies along with Lynn Scott Rock and Rochelle EMS responded to the 2,000 block of South Lynnville Road for a one vehicle accident with injuries. After investigation, it was determined that Michael Drendel, 22, of Lindenwood, was traveling northbound on South Lynnville Road. Drendel lost control of the vehicle, at which time he entered the east ditch, striking an embankment. Drendel's vehicle continued into a bean field at which time



the vehicle was believed to roll over two times before coming to rest upright on all four tires. Drendel was transported to the Rochelle Community Hospital for minor injuries by Lynn Scott Rock Ambulance. Front seat passenger, Nolan Turner, 22, of Rochelle, was transported to OSF Saint Anthony's by Rochelle Ambulance for suspected major injuries. Drendel was issued citations for driving under the influence of alcohol, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, improper lane usage and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Drendel was given an I-Bond and left in the care of Rochelle Community Hospital personnel.

On Aug. 6 at approximately 1:34 p.m. deputies responded to the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies learned that Gregory Garrett, 60, of Mt. Morris was traveling southbound in a white Buick passenger car while in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. Garrett then drove off of the east side of the roadway and struck a small tree before the vehicle came to rest. Garrett was transported to Swedish American Hospital by Byron EMS for minor injuries.

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LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Lori Jasper recently retired as telecommunicator for the Ogle County Sheriff's Office. Jasper is pictured above with Sheriff Brian VanVickle.

Jasper retires from Ogle County Sheriff's Office

OREGON – The Ogle County Sheriff's Office congratulated Telecommunicator Lori Jasper on her retirement last week.

Jasper had been with the Sheriff's Office since 2004, holding positions as civilian corrections clerk and the 911 communication

center. Sheriff Brian VanVickle and the office congratulated her and wished her the best in the future.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Standing left to right: Zach Oltmanns, 2020 Republican of the year, Chairman Stacy Flanagan and Michael Koolidge, 2021 Republican of the year.

Ogle County Republican Central Committee holds Lowden dinner

OREGON – The Ogle County Republican Central Committee held

their annual Governor Lowden dinner Aug. 5. Chairman Stacy Flanagan

announced the 2020 and the 2021 Republicans of the year.

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OHIO: Harry's Pub

Ticket sales will end on Saturday, Aug. 28 at noon, at the Dixon, Ohio and Sublette locations.

Amboy locations will sell until noon on Sunday, Aug. 29.

Depot Days Drum is located at Amboy Food and Liquor.

For more information, check out the Amboy Depot Days 50/50 Facebook page.

Drawing Sunday, August 29 after the Car Show

Proceeds to benefit Community Projects

Plans for city's hiring expo formally announced

ROCHELLE – The City of Rochelle and the office of Mayor John Bearrows formally announced Monday plans for the Rochelle Community of Opportunity Hiring Expo to be held on Sept. 16 in the blue gym at the Rochelle Township High School, 1401 East Flagg Road.

The in-person, city-wide expo will feature over 40 commercial, retail and industrial companies offering full-time, part-time and seasonal work. Some will be offering signing bonuses, employee referral rewards and other incentives to separate themselves from other employers. The expo is open to the public from 2:30-5:30 p.m.

From the rise of working remotely to higher wage demands, COVID-19, additional domestic responsibilities and the leverage of workers considering changing jobs, there are countless factors driving nationwide labor shortages. Rochelle officials take business retention seriously and are committed to proactively working to attract and retain a strong and qualified workforce.

"Workers are seeing the world differently," Bearrows said. "With expanded unemployment benefits soon to expire, we want job seekers to consider the benefits of making a future in a community full of opportunities for a great work-life balance."

The city is also working on a workforce and wage analysis and solutions to childcare and transportation concerns that may likely keep a segment of the

population unemployed.

Prior to the start of the Expo, employers will have the opportunity to network with other business leaders and human resource professionals. A Hubs for Hire hour will expose several hundred Rochelle Township High School juniors and seniors to opportunities for part-time, seasonal, job shadowing, mentoring and internships. Interested students can also learn what might be required academically to fill future career positions.

RTHS District 212 & Community Consolidated School District 231 Superintendent Jason Harper is involved in the planning of the expo because the districts understand how crucial it is to expose young adults to career opportunities beyond high school.

"This type of exposure is crucial to helping our students best understand their goals and how to position themselves to achieve career success," Harper said.

The Rochelle Community of Opportunity Hiring Expo is open to Rochelle's employers only and there is no cost to attend. Companies must register through College Central at <https://bit.ly/3fCkv3r>. Registration

will close with the first 40 companies to complete the brief online registration.

Job seekers are asked to register at Eventbrite to be eligible for an entry into two cash drawings of \$300 and \$200. <https://hubsgethired.eventbrite.com> Workers do not have to register online, but it is strongly encouraged.

The expo is also sponsored by Kishwaukee College, RTHS and Rochelle Foods Hormel. A strong social media, radio and print campaign will be used to reach the largest segment of the unemployed including millennials, women and retirees.

"I want to thank our community partners Kishwaukee College and RTHS and their respective boards for helping city staff plan one of the largest hiring fairs in the Greater Rochelle Area," City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said. "I appreciate the honest input we've received from employers and what they are doing to adapt to the needs of workers to be an employer of choice."

COVID-19 protocols in effect at the time will be strictly enforced at the expo.

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LOCAL NEWS

Rochelle Police Department

Three arrested on warrants

ROCHELLE — On July 27 at 12:02 p.m. Vanessa Avolio, 18, of Rochelle was cited for reckless driving. Avolio signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Sept. 10.

On Aug. 6 at 4:19 p.m. Michelle G. Samand, 19, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 60 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone. Samand signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Sept. 10.

On Aug. 7 at 2:24 p.m. Christina Pelayo, 43, of

Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On Aug. 7 at 5:37 p.m. James D. Hill, 64, of Rochelle was arrested for retail theft. Hill was released on an I-Bond and given an Ogle County court date of Sept. 10.

On Aug. 7 at 9:52 p.m. Joshua Hoole, 36, of Rochelle was arrested for criminal trespass to property. Hoole was released on an I-Bond.

On Aug. 9 at 10:13 a.m. Lyle D. Bushland, 49, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding



Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On Aug. 9 at 3:33 p.m. Kristie L. Littlejohn, 26, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On Aug. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Nicholas W. Henson, 20, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Henson paid \$300 and was given an Ogle County court date of Sept. 1.

Report policy

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

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

Obituaries

Daniel M. Mitchell

RIPON, Wis. — Daniel M. Mitchell, 60, of Ripon, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on Monday, Aug. 9 at home with his loving family by his side.

Daniel was born on May 29, 1961 in Berwyn, Illinois, the son of Harold and Ardis (Pierstorff) Mitchell. He graduated from Rochelle Township High School in Rochelle and went on to attend Kishwaukee Community College.

In 2001, Daniel married Barbara Meisenheimer in Green Lake, Wisconsin, and has been a U.S. Postal Mail Carrier for 31 years. He was a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers and a faithful member of the First Congregational Church in Ripon.

Daniel is survived by his mother, Ardis Mitchell

of Ripon; his wife, Barbara Mitchell of Ripon; three children, Joshua (Tirza) Mitchell of Rolling Meadows, Lindsay (Brad McMurtry) Mitchell of Sycamore and Garrett Mitchell of Ripon; grandchildren, Brock, Mia, Avelina, Aria and Emery; two sisters, Susan (Dave) Conant of Ripon and Bette Cooper of Denmark; sister-in-law, Teri Mitchell; a niece, Sara Mitchell; nephew, Matt (Josie) Mitchell and several canine friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Harold Mitchell; a sister, Linda Mitchell and a brother, Scott Mitchell.

A private graveside service for Daniel will be held at the Farley Center Natural Path Sanctuary in Verona, Wisconsin. Memorials in Daniel's name may be directed



to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, via the National Wilderness Preservation System (<https://wildernesswatch.salsalabs.org/givetowilderness/index.html>), P.O. Box 9175, Missoula, MT 59807, or to the Farley Center for Peace, Justice and Sustainability, 2299 Spring Rose Road, Verona, WI 53953.

A memorial service for Daniel will be held at a later date at the First Congregational Church in Ripon.

O. Donald Hill

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — Oscar Donald "O. Donald or O.D." Hill passed away peacefully at the age of 97 on July 1, 2021, at his winter home in Brownsville, Texas. Born on May 5, 1924, O. Donald was the youngest of six children born into the family of Oscar C. and Olive (Ravnaas) Hill, a second-generation Norwegian-American farm family.

Although his father passed away while O.D. was still a boy, he was fortunate to have a strong, capable mother and five older, hard-working brothers and sisters to help raise him. O.D. graduated from Rochelle High School as the salutatorian of the class of 1942.

After World War II cut short his freshman year at the University of Illinois, O.D. returned home to help manage the family farm. In 1946, O.D. met Mary Wagner of Ashton and on Sept. 4, 1948, they were married at the Ashton Methodist Church. For their honeymoon, Mary and O.D. drove a snappy 1946 Ford two-door sedan to Madison, Wis. On the way home, they toured southwest Wisconsin visiting House on the Rock, Cave of the Mounds and Little Norway. These places held a special spot in their hearts, and they revisited them many times during their 68 years of marriage.

Mary and O.D.'s newlywed house was on Wood-

lawn Road, one mile south of Creston, where they lived directly across from his mother, Olive Hill, and the farm where O.D. had grown up.

In the early 1950s, O.D. and Mary bought 100 acres on Reynolds Road, south of Ashton, just across from Mary's parents farm where she had grown up. It was on this farm that O.D. and Mary settled down and raised their family of four children.

During the next 50 years, O. Donald would expand his farming operation to become one of the premier tomato growers in Illinois for Campbell's Soup Company in the 1960s and one of the largest seed corn growers in Illinois for Funk's Seed Co in the 1970s.

This was a time-gone-by era where small family farms dotted the rural landscape and everything you needed to buy, from tractors to automobiles, could be found locally in Ashton or Rochelle.

Many middle school and high school kids earned spending money every summer from O.D. by picking, washing and packing tomatoes; hoeing weeds out of the bean fields and detasseling seed corn.

Each fall, a regular group of local ladies would join Mary to work the seed corn sorters set up by the farm buildings as O.D. and the men operated the corn pickers. Throughout his farming career, O.D. held a lifelong commitment to J.I. Case tractors, Ford pickup trucks, Lincoln Continentals, the Democratic Party and the Chicago Cubs and Bears.

O. Donald was an active community member serving on the Ashton School Board when the new high school was planned and built. In addition, he was very involved for decades with St. John's Lutheran Church where he served as President of the Congregation and taught the adult Sunday School class.

A long-time member of Shady Oaks Country Club, O.D. was passionate about playing golf, which he did well into his 90s having shot an 18-hole score under his age.

Over the cold winter months during his farming years, O.D. was a dedicated card player at the grain elevator and local taps in



Ashton playing bridge, pinochle, and euchre. Once retired in Winter Haven, O.D. continued to play cards competitively up until the very end of his life.

O.D. and Mary were avid travelers who provided educational experiences for the whole family since most trips involved visiting at least 2-3 museums. In their later years, Mary and O.D. spent several winters in Dauphin Island, Alabama and, for the last 20 years, in the Winter Haven resort retirement community in Brownsville, Texas.

These were fun spots for the grandkids to visit which always meant several trips to the beach with Grandma and a chance to play golf with Grandpa. It was at his home in Winter Haven where O.D. passed his final moments before rejoining Mary, who he missed every day.

O.D. is survived by his daughter Suzanne (Hill) Royer of Sycamore, his sons John Hill (Florenda) of Rockford, James Hill (Susan) of Hastings, Minnesota and Joel Hill (Donna) of Dallas, Texas; 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

O.D. was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Mary, his parents, his in-laws, his brothers and sisters-in-law Orson and Ellen Hill, Arvane and Muriel Hill and Carl and Marie Hill, and his sisters and brothers-in-laws Anna and Clifford Ohlinger and Ruth and Edward Cornils.

The passing of O.D. brings an end to a family generation which spanned 108 years over which time they remained close throughout. They lived lengthy and fulfilling lives which enriched and inspired those around them. O. Donald's legacy continues within his children and grandchildren.

Friends and family are invited to join O. Donald's family for a celebration of life ceremony between 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23 at Kennay Farms Distilling in downtown Rochelle.

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LOCAL NEWS

CITY: Council approves Hickory Grove sign disposal

From page 1

“This and other parts of it became more important when Global III closed up,” Mayor John Bearrows said.

Changes and construction include paving the entrance of the RTC and a concrete loading pad to allow intermodal containers to be loaded & unloaded from the RTC track.

City Economic Development Director Jason Anderson said at that June meeting that revenue potential for the project is more than four times than what the original project would have generated.

Hickory Grove sign

The council unanimously approved the sale of surplus personal property owned by the city related to Hickory Grove, which is planned to be demolished this fall.

Last year, the council authorized the disposal of property at Hickory Grove to help cover the costs of the future demolition. There are still items that can be disposed of including the sign located on Illinois Route 251.

The city has seen increased inquiries about the sign and other items at the facility and City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh has been authorized to dispose of the sign and items.

If the sign is disposed of, the city will plat an easement for a future community sign to be located in that area. The proceeds will be used to offset the costs of the acquisition and demolition of the Hickory Grove facility.

“Things are going to start moving more quickly

on this project,” Fiegenschuh said. “It’s been a while since the council approved the agreement with Comfort Inn, but we finally have that signed and executed and we should be finalizing the documents for the demolition and the bid. Once we get word from the state on our grant and notice to proceed, we’re going to go out to bid on the demolition.”

VCCT parking lot

The city council held a lengthy discussion regarding the possibility of assisting the Vince Carney Community Theater with the paving of their north parking lot on the corner of South Main Street and 1st Avenue.

Bearrows brought the idea to the council and said the VCCT did not ask for it. The cost of the parking lot would be around \$40,000. Staff and council have had previous discussions about doing a similar project with a 5-10-year pay back by the VCCT. However, based on conversations this may be difficult for it to afford, city officials said.

“I feel personally as a city that this is a community development expense,” Bearrows said. “Supporting the arts is a key part of the community to round it out. They probably aren’t going to be able to pay back in five years because they’re just getting started. I think it’s a great asset for our community. I know it’s an expense. I think it’s worthwhile to jump in and try to help them.”

The VCCT lot will be required to be hard surface when improvements



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh addresses the Rochelle City Council during the council meeting at Rochelle City Hall on Monday. Council members approved property rezoning and disposal of the Hickory Grove sign.

eventually begin to it, but the lot is currently grandfathered into the city ordinance. Fiegenschuh said potential work wouldn’t begin until next year.

Council members expressed reservations of doing and paying for the entire projects and discussed other ideas like a longer payback, matching funds if the VCCT were to do a fundraiser and discussing it further with the theater.

“It’s whether or not the best use of city taxpayer money is to randomly pick our favorites of community organizations,” Councilman Tom McDermott said. “If we start giving to one, others are going to come. I don’t necessarily agree it’s the city’s job to help finance these things or parts of them. I’d rather avoid it right now. I think VCCT is a great group. It’s just not the city’s job. At least not the tune of \$40,000.”

Utility expenditures

The city council unanimously approved a change order for switchgear for its Prologis substation to contract with Powercon for an additional amount not to exceed \$91,101 and a total amount contract of \$2,588,282.

Blake Toliver, Rochelle Municipal Utilities superintendent of electric operations, said the changes include different relays, cameras and a security system.

The council also approved the retention of BHMGE Engineers, Inc. for engineering services for its phase 2 electric systems upgrades. The engineering contract is \$1.07 million for all four of the projects the city plans to use \$18 million in issued bonds for. The projects include a new substation and transformer.

Fiegenschuh said the

engineering contract is about six percent of the total project and that’s typical for engineering costs. The city will know in two weeks if it can use the bonds to pay for the project.

“We had our public hearing two weeks ago for the bonds, there’s a little over two weeks left before we’ll know for sure if we’ll be able to issue them,” Fiegenschuh said. We’ll know two weeks from today and we’ll move forward if you guys approve this. This is pending the approval of the bonds.”

The council also approved \$124,000 for BHMGE to design a new underground feeder line from its new electrical substation to the east building at 1600 Ritchie Court, which is expected to house “Project Jackpot,” a business that has purchased that property.

BHMGE has overseen all engineering aspects

of the construction of the Ritchie Road substation that was announced earlier this year.

Charging station ordinance

The city council unanimously approved an ordinance pertaining to electric vehicle charging stations that were recently installed downtown.

The ordinance outlines who can park in those stalls and for how long and defines terms of electric vehicles and charging stations. It protects the city against damage to vehicles and fire liability.

If a vehicle isn’t plugged in and charging, it should not be in one of the stalls, city officials said.

Toliver said the charging stations have been used and the parking lot is set up for more to be added.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Get a look at Ethel Spears' mural

HAVE you ever visited the front room of the original 1912 public library? There is a hidden gem above the fireplace, a beautiful mural.

At one time, this room housed the entire library collection. At the time the mural was added to the area above the fireplace in 1939, it would have been the focal point of the entire library.

"Ethel Spears was born on Oct. 5, 1902 and raised in Chicago. She attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and studied in the textile design department. She was active in the 1930s as a WPA artist. She was registered in the Illinois Federal Art project. In 1937, Spears became an instructor at the School of the Art Institute, Chicago. She remained there for 24 years. She was formally diagnosed with lead poisoning in 1955. Ethel Spears died on Aug. 2, 1974 in Navasota, Texas." (www.wpamurals.com/spearset.htm)

The mural is 80 inches wide by 42 1/2 inches high. The painting is entitled, "Merry Go Round." The artist is Ethel Spears. Spears was out of work and came from Chicago to work in Rochelle.

She painted this in the main room above the fireplace so that it would be at a focal point in the room. The painting is oil on canvas mural. The painting depicts a beautiful spring day and it looks like adults and children are having a good time riding the carousel and being at the park together. Everyone appears to be happy and carefree.

There are birds in the painting and large mature trees surrounding the carousel. The carousel is right in the

center of the painting and it is the main object in the picture. It is large compared to the people in the painting.

The sky has blue and white clouds and it appears to be a warm sunny day. The people in the picture are outside without jackets on and there are children and adults everywhere. An older lady sits on a park bench on the right side of the painting.

The colors are very vibrant and beautiful. The carousel is blue, gold, and red with many white horses throughout. There is blacktop around the outside of the carousel and people are standing along the outside watching as the carousel spins around.

It looks like a busy day at the park. If you look in the lower right corner, her name is printed in tiny handwriting.

Come in and visit us! Make sure to bring your masks, they are required. We invite you to come in and see this one of a kind, library gem.

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



Sarah Flanagan

Rochelle's old fair ground at now Memorial Park

FROM 1873 through 1902 if it was happening in Rochelle, it was happening at the Fair Ground.

Each year in September a four-day extravaganza took place. Horse racing, produce judging, baking, vendors and rides.

It was the closest thing to a county fair that was available to the folks of Rochelle. In the off times, smaller races were held as was bicycle racing and high school sporting events.

The Fair Ground was two blocks wide and three blocks long. Located south of the Kyte River and east of Main Street, the grounds ran from Avenue E on the north side to Avenue H on the south. The west boundary was Third Street and the east limit was First Street.

Contained within the boundaries were a half-mile race track, stables for more than 80 horses, a large floral hall, vendor area, exhibition buildings, dining hall, band stand and bleachers for over 400 specta-

tors.

The fair drew visitors from around the area to compare produce, artistic skills and baking prowess. The Floral Hall, located at the north end of the Fair Ground, was large enough to accommodate dozens of exhibitors.

Everything from crops to cooking went under the eye of the judges with one year of bragging rights on the line. Vendor booths populated the mid-way with everything from treats and games to dancing girls.

Being family friendly, the dancing girls were inside their tent and away from the delicate sensibilities of our local ladies. The dining hall was made available to local churches or social organizations for fund raising.

Horse racing was the king of the fair. The half-mile track was considered one of the best in the region. Horse breeders would come from all over the state in the hopes of claiming a victory at the Rochelle

Fair Grounds.

Races were held for runners and trotters. Runners would be comparable to what you see at the Kentucky Derby. Trotters pull a small two-wheel cart (sulky) with driver. Challenge races were welcome, to give one a chance to avenge last year's losses, or extend the (local) legend of a winning mount.

One local legend was January, a horse owned by James Asey. January was a 19-year-old gelding who had not lost a race in 16 years. January had never been beaten at the Fair Ground. On Sept. 15, 1886, January was in a three-horse race and after two miles finished in second place.

Upon crossing the finish line, January took a few steps and fell to the track dead. The crowd was so distraught that they buried January on the Fair Ground.

Another memorable race in 1886 was a three-horse trotter. Mr. Weber, Mr. Wilcox, and a Mr. Wilson raced for local fame, and probably a few dollars on the side. As the horses rounded the turn, two

Sulkies collided.

Mr. Wilson and his horse, Zulu, both perished in the accident. Zulu was buried on the Fair Ground, I am assuming Mr. Wilson was not. After the September fair the Fair Ground still served the community.

In the 1890s, the Cycle Club of Rochelle took on all challengers at the Fair Ground. In 1898, Rochelle High School held the county track championships at the Fair Ground and in 1899 Rochelle Football Team played at there.

In 1902, a portion of the Fair Ground was sold to Vassar Swiss Underwear. Yes, the Fair Ground fell victim to the need for underwear. Vassar grew and prospered for 13 years after which time they sold out to a new company.

In 1915, Caron Spinning bought Vassar and expanded the company to the major employer it was to become through the 2000s.

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



Tom McDermott

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

With the city recently installing two electric vehicle charging stations downtown, how likely do you consider yourself to buy an electric vehicle in the future?

"Never."

Cindy Volker

"I appreciate it!"

Kimberly Rains

and my husband. If they are as big as the smart car no thanks."

Connie M. Hay-McAnly

"Nope!"

Valerie Stasch Kingsbury

"Would love to someday."

Cayce Bridges Groves

"If it was free of charge or rapid charge it might be worth using, we have owned an all-electric vehicle for a year but only charge at home."

Sarah R. Fox

"Someday, I have a hybrid now and love it."

Kimberly Diane Ekes

"I imagine we'll all have to sooner or later."

Kathleen Hall Williams

"Nope don't even want one."

Sandy Skelt

"Who wouldn't? Teslas are like space ships."

Cody Dale

"I don't think I will because I would have to install an outlet at my current house to house it! Not sure how much that will me

"Don't forget the golf carts! I'm sure the owners appreciate it, and hopefully we'll see more of them in the near future."

Laura Emke Salazar

"Not a viable option if you live rural and travel for work."

Cee Barnes

"I have wanted a Tesla since day one. Maybe someday. They're a little pricey."

Chad R. Slack

How to contact government officials

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

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

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

Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to (news@rochelle-news-leader.com)

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*John Bearrows jbearrows@rochelleil.us
Kathryn Shaw-Dickey kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us
Bil Hayes bhayes@rochelleil.us
Rosaelia Arteaga rarteaga@rochelleil.us
Dan McDermott dmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Tom McDermott tmcdermott@rochelleil.us
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Rochelle Elementary School Board

*Dave Casey dcillini94@gmail.com
Steve Builta [sbuilt@gmail.com](mailto:sbuilta@gmail.com)
Ashley Jackson
Stephanie White
Eric Van Hise eric.vanhise@gmail.com
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Carol Hayenga carol.hayenga@rthsd212.org
Bill Ravnaas bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org
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Flagg-Rochelle Park Board

Brent Carmichael bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org
John Dobbs jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Dale Wells dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org
*Tim Hayden thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Jodie Hart jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Joe Lenkaitis jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 3

Lloyd Droege ldroege@oglecounty.org
Jamey Sulser jsulser@oglecounty.org
Greg Sparrow gsparrow@oglecounty.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 4

Bruce McKinney bmckinney@oglecounty.org
Skip Kenney skenney@oglecounty.org
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Creston Village Board

Wayne Williams jwdw13@yahoo.com
Jennifer Payton
*Tom Byro tommyb_47@yahoo.com
Greg Hopkins ghopkins522@comcast.net
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Hillcrest Village Board

Randy Salisbury rsalisbury@hillcrestil.us
Pam Pittman ppittman@hillcrestil.us
Dan Potter dpotter@hillcrestil.us
Richard Rhoads rrhoads@hillcrestil.us
*Jason Fore jfore@hillcrestil.us
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Flagg Township

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Flagg-Rochelle Library

*Jaqueline Dickow dickow@comcast.net
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Michael Scanlan scanlan@comcast.net
Lanning Nicoloff nicoloff118@comcast.net
Sheri Klindera alwayslefty2@gmail.com
Susan Sevedge nit1prl22@yahoo.com
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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

Benjamin, Shanda Schwartz marry in Waterloo, Wisconsin

WATERLOO, Wis. — Benjamin and Shanda Schwartz, of Delavan, Wisconsin, married on July 10 at Wildwood Barn & Cottage in Waterloo, Wisconsin.

The parents of the bride are Katherine and Carl Kraft of Crystal Lake and Daryl Kendrick of McHenry. The parents of the groom are Joe and Jill Schwartz of Rochelle. The wedding was officiated by Minister Harry Hernandez.

The bride wore a beautiful ivory dress with lace bodice with a tulie hemline. There was a white flower bouquet with roses, hydrangea, blush spray roses, eucalyptus and a standalone sunflower. There was a rustic wedding theme with a vintage mauve color for the bridal

party. The bride's attendants were Maid of Honor and friend Mackenzie Connell of Boise, Idaho, friend Jessica Whitty of Loves Park, groom's sister Katie Travis of Katy, Texas, bride's sister Karly Kendrick of Greenville, Tennessee and friend Karly Duncan of Plainfield.

The groom's attendants were friend Shaine McCluskey of Indianapolis, friend Nate Eyster of Chicago, friend Joe Bolek of Deerfield, friend Brett Ludlum of Scottsdale, Arizona and friend Matt McGarigle of Chicago.

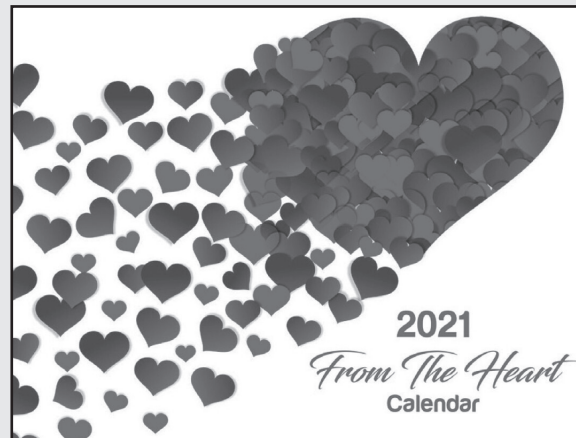
The wedding reception was held at the same venue as the ceremony with a rustic theme as well. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica.

The bride is a teacher



with a bachelor's degree of science in education. The groom is an assistant principal with a bachelor's

degree of science in education and master's degree of arts in educational leadership.



July 17 - Hourselt - ClarkDietrich, Rochelle, \$25

July 18 - David Swanson, Fitchburg, Wis., \$50

July 19 - Vicki Langholf, Yellville, Ark., \$25

July 20 - Lisa Dyer, Rochelle, \$25

July 21 - Carrie Mairs, Ashton, \$25

July 22 - Kevin Johnson, Rochelle, \$25

July 23 - Jake Meyers, Rochelle, \$25

July 24 - Jeff Perry Cadillac, Rochelle, \$25

July 25 - Rochelle Rotary Club, \$50

July 26 - Judy Witasik, Steward, \$25

July 27 - Steve Dinges, Rochelle, \$25

July 28 - Frewin - ClarkDietrich, \$25

July 29 - Patrick O'Brien, Leaf River, \$25

July 30 - Marbella Alvarez, Rochelle, \$25

July 31 - Mary Sensenig, Amboy, \$25

Aug. 1 - Kayla Harris, Rochelle, \$50

Aug. 2 - Calvin Jacobs, Rochelle, \$25

Aug. 3 - Lee Dusing, Las Vegas, Nev., \$25

Aug. 4 - Gisela Clayton, Compton, \$25

Aug. 5 - Frank and Jessica Mitchell, Rockford, \$25

Aug. 6 - Karen Tracy, Rochelle, \$25

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

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Aug. 12

Kevin Sherburne
Hayden Smith
Adam Baker

Aug. 14

Windy Turner
Carter Johnson

Aug. 15

Alana Rodriguez
Haley Simmons
Corey Gilliam

Aug. 16

Kenzi Perkins
Brian Smith

Aug. 17

Josh Perkins Jr.
Jensen South

Aug. 19

Eddie & Melissa Villalobos

Aug. 20

Jose & Amanda Avila
Kim Patrick

Oaklyn South

Benjamin Navejas

Aug. 22

Larry & Teresa Baker

Aug. 23

Lyle Allen

Aug. 24

Alex Avila

TJ & Kelsey Rogers

Aug. 25

Megan South

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

Aug. 12 - (Thursday) - BBQ Ribs, Potato Salad

Aug. 17 - (Tuesday) - Baked Chicken over Brown Rice, Corn, Salad

Aug. 19 - (Thursday) - Beef Tips over Noodles, Peas, Garlic Bread

Aug. 20 - (Friday) - Friday Fish Fry! Cod Fillets, French Fries, Coleslaw

Aug. 24 - (Tuesday) - Teriyaki Chicken, Rice, Potstickers, Egg Rolls

Aug. 26 - (Thursday) - Chicken over Waffles with Coleslaw

Aug. 31 - (Tuesday) - Lasagna - Beef, Salad and Garlic Bread

Sept. 5 - (Sunday Brunch) - Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Pancakes, Ham and

Cheese Breakfast Casserole

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

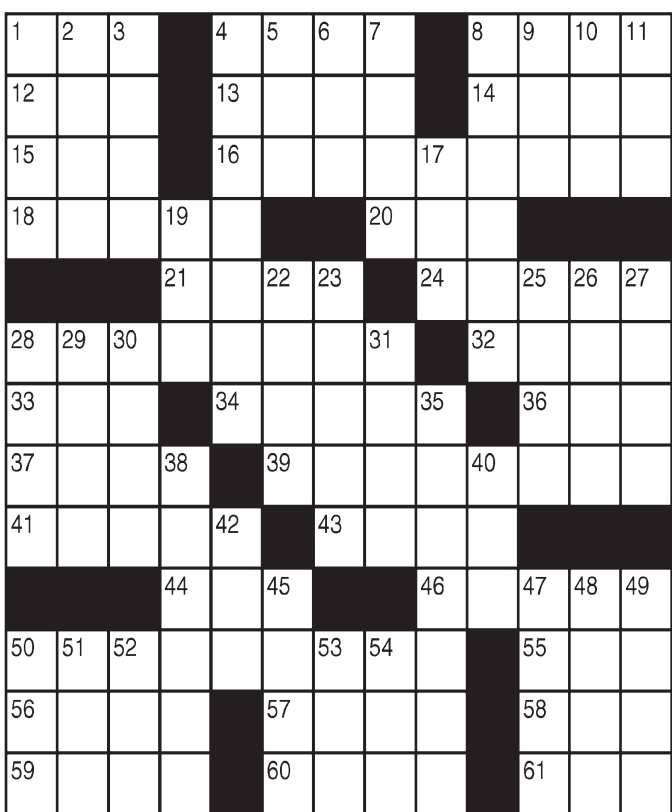


Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Scepter
- 4 Israeli airline
- 8 Staffer
- 12 Brit. record label
- 13 The Big Easy acronym
- 14 Not worth debating
- 15 Picnic crasher
- 16 Bird with yellow plumage
- 18 Popular take-out entree
- 20 Use a shovel
- 21 Golden Fleece ship
- 24 Atkinson of "Mr. Bean"
- 28 Wood pigeon
- 32 Long tale
- 33 Mil. morale booster
- 34 Gladden
- 36 Decay
- 37 Lost traction
- 39 Pink wading bird
- 41 King of Judea
- 43 Faux pas
- 44 Belly
- 46 Tribal emblem
- 50 Coastal diving bird
- 55 Chopper
- 56 — mater
- 57 Bassoon's kin
- 58 Director



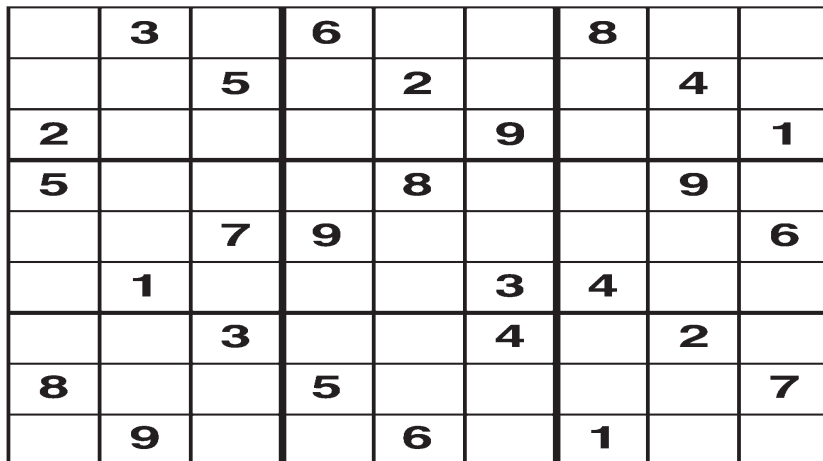
DOWN

- 1 Harvest
- 2 Hotel chain
- 3 Bubblehead
- 4 Fencer's cry
- 5 Brit's restroom
- 6 100 percent
- 7 "Shane" star
- 8 Juan's pals
- 9 Charged bit
- 10 Medico
- 11 Ordinal suffix
- 17 Fragrant tree
- 19 Abrupt turn
- 22 Michelle Wie's game
- 23 Cameo shapes
- 25 Tip off
- 26 Awestruck
- 27 Peacekeeping org.
- 28 Hurry
- 29 Capri, for one
- 30 Pinot —
- 31 And others (Lat.)
- 35 Sent forth
- 38 Doctrines
- 40 Wall St. debut
- 42 Pair
- 45 Jog
- 47 "Toodle-oo!"
- 48 Way out
- 49 Viral web phenomenon
- 50 Low isle
- 51 Flamenco cheer
- 52 LBJ's successor
- 53 Copper head?
- 54 "Smoking or —?"

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ ♦

♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging
♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: **N** equals **W**

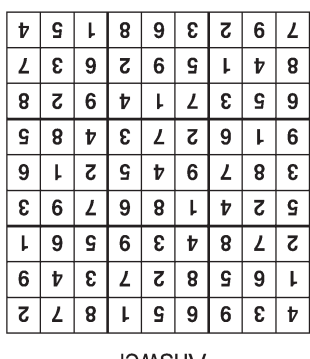
NECLE OXHFCJBJU RNHXKRFBJ

REHVWK KNBWW CJ HFZJ'R

LZOCUZW?

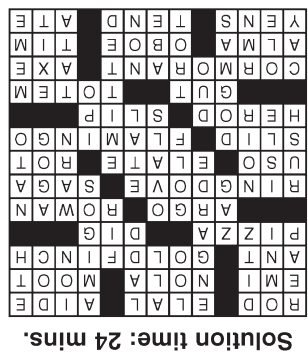
UEB UEXBB FVRLZU-BBXR!

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



Answer

King Crossword

The Three Muscat-eers? capital? should dwell in Oman's Which prominent swordsmen answer
CryptoQuip

LOCAL NEWS

Additional drug arrest made from Aug. 5 search warrant

ROCHELLE — On Aug. 6 at approximately 2:20 p.m. Ogle County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Paul A. Conti, 40, of Rochelle. The arrest was in continuation of the search warrant that was executed on Aug. 5 by the Ogle County Narcotics Task Force that resulted in the arrest of two other

residents. Conti was charged with unlawful possession with intent to deliver crack cocaine (class 1 felony), unlawful possession with intent to deliver fentanyl (class 1 felony), unlawful possession of crack cocaine (class 4 felony), unlawful possession of heroin (class 4 felony), un-

lawful use of weapons as a felon (class 3), unlawful use of weapons - possession of metal knuckles (class A misdemeanor) and resisting or obstructing a peace officer (class A misdemeanor). Conti was confined at the Ogle County Jail awaiting bond to be set by a Judge.



Paul A. Conti

The Bel-Airs make debut at Mt. Morris Jamboree on Aug. 13

MT. MORRIS — Missouri-based rockin' rhythm and blues band The Bel-Airs will make their debut at the Mt. Morris Jamboree on Aug. 13, presenting a free two hour concert starting at 7 p.m.

Fronted by brothers Dick and Dave Pruitt on bass and electric guitars with Michael Cherry on drums, the Bel-Airs play a danceable mix with an authentic but eclectic bluesy-country-soul-and-rock-n-roll sound influenced by the likes of Wilson Pickett, Slim Harpo, Howlin' Wolf and Johnny Cash.

Living on the road and playing clubs from "Austin to Boston", the Bel-Airs are carrying on

the tradition of American rhythm and blues. Growing up on country soul and rock-n-roll, the Pruitt brothers have developed a harmony vocal style all their own.

They have been performing together for more than 30 years, wowing audiences nightly with their unique brand of music- leading one reviewer to refer to them as the "Everly Brothers of blues."

With four acclaimed albums and performances at festivals and night clubs across the USA as well as England, France, Belgium and Spain, the band continues to travel extensively. The Bel-Airs' musical approach and

superbly-crafted showmanship make for a more than memorable concert whenever they appear.

The Mt. Morris Moose Lodge will be serving hamburgers, cheeseburgers, pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, chips, brownies, soda and water for the evening. Come enjoy the meal, music and fellowship starting at 6 pm.

The Radical Botanicals show continues at the Encore Art Gallery next door on the first floor of Old Sandstone, open from 6:30-9 p.m. Local small business vendors will often be joining us on the campus with fresh produce and crafts as well

as Grandpa's Ice Cream truck.

Please bring a blanket or chair, or enjoy the new benches and join the fun on our beautiful, historic campus in the center of Mt. Morris, two blocks south of Illinois Route 64 on Wesley Avenue and enjoy the free rockin' rhythm and blues show!

Please help us pray for a beautiful summer evening so that we can be on the campus, but in the event of inclement weather, our rain location will be Pinecrest Grove Community Center, 500 Evergreen Lane, seven blocks south of Illinois Route 64 off McKendrie Street.

Rochelle Masonic Lodge Gun Raffle scheduled for Aug. 21

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Masonic Lodge 2021 Gun Raffle will be drawn Saturday, Aug. 21. Tickets will be on sale at Lincoln Highway

Heritage Festival.

The first winner will have the choice of a Smith & Wesson Shield M&P9 — 9mm, Clock 42 - .380 ACP, SCCY CPx2

9mm, ILCC Class (Down Range LLC) or custom Kydex holster (CTAK Holsters).

The cost is \$5 per ticket or \$20 for five tickets.

Only 2,000 tickets will be sold. Raffle entrants do not need to be present to win.

The firearms are supplied by C.O.P.S. Inc.

Entry deadlines for VFW Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen are Oct. 31

ROCHELLE — Student entry deadlines for the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests are Oct. 31.

The Patriot's Pen is conducted nationwide and is a VFW-sponsored youth essay competition that gives students a chance to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. More than 138,000 students participated last year.

The national winners will receive at least \$500 and the first place national award is currently \$5,000.

All entries begin at the post level. Individual students may submit their entry directly to their local post. Patriot's Pen is open to sixth, seventh and eighth graders enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools. Homeschooled students are also eligible.

The 2021-2022 theme

of Patriot's Pen is "How can I be a good American?"



Essays should be 300-400 words typed. Participants can't identify themselves within their essay. Essays will be judged on clarity of idea, theme development and knowledge of the theme.

Rochelle VFW Post 3878 can be reached at (815) 562-3878. Forms can be found there. If additional assistance is needed, email youthscholarships@vfw.org.

vfw.org.

The 2021-2022 theme for Voice of Democracy is "America: Where do we go from here?"

Submissions should be an audio/essay entry and will be judged on originality, content and delivery. Rochelle VFW Post 3878 can be reached at (815) 562-3878. Forms can be found there. For more information, email youthscholarships@vfw.org.

Ogle County COVID-19 Weekly Update

As of Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Ogle County COVID-19 Statistics

Positivity Rate as of August 6 is **4.5%**
 Total Vaccinations Administered: **44,995**
 Total FULLY Vaccinated: **22,414**
 Pct. FULLY Vaccinated: **44.02%**

Masking

The CDC/OCHD strongly recommends masking for all individuals when out in public or while indoors in areas of substantial and high transmission.

Consider Vaccination

We encourage you to consider vaccination to protect yourself and your loved ones against COVID-19 and the variants of the virus.

Vaccination Locations

Ogle County Health Department
 Oregon or Rochelle offices
 Every Tue-Wed-Thu from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Call **815-562-6976** to make an appointment for either location. Follow OCHD on Facebook or check their website health.oglecounty.org.

Rochelle Community Hospital
 Vaccination offered to Family Healthcare Clinic patients at the time of your scheduled appointment.

Pharmacies Offering Vaccination

- All pharmacies in Rochelle; some also have testing available
- Snyder's: Oregon and Byron locations
- Or call your healthcare provider

COVID-19 Symptoms and Testing

RCH COVID-19 Triage Line at 815-561-8829
 Mon-Fri from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Assisting with questions regarding symptoms, testing or vaccination. Callers have the ability to leave a message and your call will be returned.

All COVID-19 testing at RCH now requires an order from your provider. Please see your provider for an order for COVID-19 testing. If you do not have a provider you may be seen in the Convenient Care Clinic to be evaluated. If you are calling for testing for return to work after an illness, travel or participation in clubs or camps please know that Rochelle Community Hospital does not test for these reasons.

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SPORTS



PUSHING THROUGH PAIN

RTHS alum Britney Baez overcomes hip injury at St. Francis University.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Football

Hubs kick off season

Rochelle opens 2021 campaign at Woodstock on Friday, Aug. 27

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity football team may only be roughly four months removed from its last contest, but head coach Kyle Kissack and his staff are excited to be back on a normal routine after the team kicked off its first practice of the 2021 season Monday morning.

Rochelle’s nine-game schedule will begin with a road matchup against Woodstock on Friday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. The Hubs will field both a varsity and a fresh-soph team this season. With the Interstate 8 Conference and Kishwaukee River Conference combining to make two divisions for the 2021 season, Rochelle will see some familiar foes in Plano and Sandwich on its conference schedule while squaring off against unfamiliar teams such as Richmond-Burton, Johnsburg, Harvard and Marengo. Rochelle’s schedule includes a cross-over matchup with Kane-land and a nonconference contest against Herscher on Sept. 3, which will be Rochelle’s home opener.

“We’re back into a rhythm,” Kissack said. “We had a great summer and it finally feels like we’re back into that rhythm. Things could change at a minute’s notice, but what we can control is our energy, our attitude and our effort... We want to get better every day and we need to stay healthy. That’s a major point of emphasis for us since our numbers are pretty thin.”

The Hubs will return three-year varsity starters on the offensive side in senior center Brodie Nantz and senior tight end Ethan Wells. Juniors Jaden Cook and Garrett Gensler are also back in the fold on offense after taking home All-Conference Honorable Mentions during the six-game spring season. Senior Josh Lloyd will be under center for his second varsity season as the starting quarterback. The Hubs are looking to build on their 2-4 record from the spring.

“Our senior class has done a great job of accepting their leadership role,” Kissack said. “They’ve done a nice job and even though our numbers are a little light, our seniors have done well to bring



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Josh Lloyd will return under center as the Rochelle Hub varsity football team’s starting quarterback this fall. Rochelle will kick off the 2021 season against Woodstock on the road Friday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m.

our younger kids up and through our program... Josh has progressed a lot this summer and we’re really happy with where he’s at. Garrett started on both sides for us and played every special teams rep as a sophomore. He played almost every snap of that spring season.”

Senior lineman Braden Alfano will headline Rochelle’s returning starters on defense after bringing home an All-Conference Honorable Mention earlier this year. Senior linebacker Tanner Lager and senior cornerback Nate Burdin are also back to anchor the Hub defense, while Lloyd

has taken reps at the free safety position. Rochelle is eyeing its first postseason bid since 2018.

“We’ve relied on Braden heavily over the last two years and he’ll be a big part of what we’re trying to do,” Kissack said. “We have kids with experience and that’s something we’ll

lean on over the early part of the season. I thought we really did a nice job defensively during the spring, especially playing a lot of young kids. Our pre-snap routines were good and we adjusted well on the fly... We have some good pieces to build around on the defensive side.”

RTHS Cross Country

Rochelle harriers return to the trails

Several upperclassmen returning for Hub and Lady Hub varsity teams

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — After an unprecedented season filled with dual and triangular meets, head coach Mark Zilis and the Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub cross country teams are eager for a more normal schedule and the opportunity to compete against a greater number of teams this fall.

The Rochelle cross country team held its first practice of the 2021 season Monday morning, with its first meet against Plano and Sycamore scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 24 at Plano. The Hubs will look to build on their five victories from the 2020 season, while the Lady Hubs are seeking to add more wins after securing only two victories in competition this past fall.

“We’re excited for a regular schedule of meets and we have a decent number of kids,” Zilis said. “Some of our kids are already in tremendous shape. We’re still not completely over COVID-19 and we’re still not sure

what’s going to happen each day, but we’re looking really good right now. We can always use more athletes, but we have full teams on the boys and girls sides.”

The Hub varsity team will need to replace only one senior from last season, meaning Rochelle will return several upperclassmen with varsity experience. Junior David Wanner and sophomore Parker Lenkaitis headline Rochelle’s returning varsity starters, while seniors Peter Forsberg, Luke Orlikowski, Max Orlikowski and Josue Huerta are expected to round out the lineup. Senior Sara Johnson and junior Yuelma Ortiz highlight the returning varsity starters for the Lady Hubs.

“Sara made the sectional competition last season and I thought both Sara and Yuelma did a fantastic job during the track and field season earlier this year,” Zilis said. “I’d like to see our girls make it to the sectional meet as a team and I think that’s entirely possible.”

Both teams will at-



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Seniors Sara Johnson (left) and Peter Forsberg (right) are two leading returners for the Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub cross country teams this season. Rochelle opens its season against Plano and Sycamore on Aug. 24.

tempt to improve their standings in the Interstate 8 Conference after the Hubs finished seventh and the Lady Hubs took eighth in the conference

meet last season. The Lady Hubs placed eighth in the IHSA 2A Regional at Belvidere, while the Hubs finished 10th.

“We have some guys

who have been training hard over the summer,” Zilis said. “Peter’s in great shape and David looks really good. Parker, Luke, Max and Josue are

coming back as well and I think we have a really good lineup. We have a lot of juniors and seniors who look ready to run this year.”



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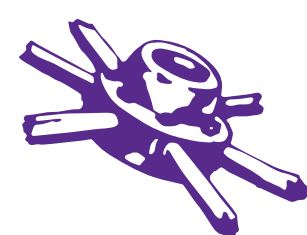
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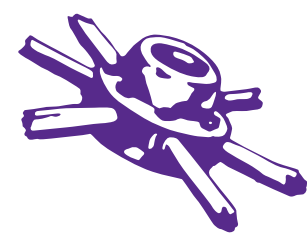
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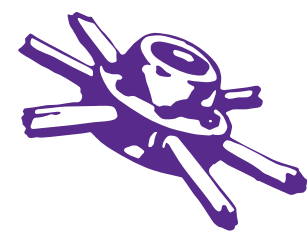


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HUB SPOTLIGHT

Baez pushes through pain at St. Francis

ALTHOUGH a hip injury may have hindered her progress, former Rochelle Township High School distance running standout Britney Baez pushed through the pain during her freshman cross country and track seasons with the NAIA's St. Francis University Fighting Saints in Joliet.

Baez competed in two cross country meets this past year, setting a personal-best collegiate time with a 22:41.0 in the 5K at the Tiger Cross Country Invitational in September 2020. The former Lady Hub student-athlete saw more action during the track and field season, racing in six meets including the St. Francis Fighting Chance Invitational, where she clocked in at 5:57.36 to set a new personal record in the 1500-meter run, which served as her primary running event.

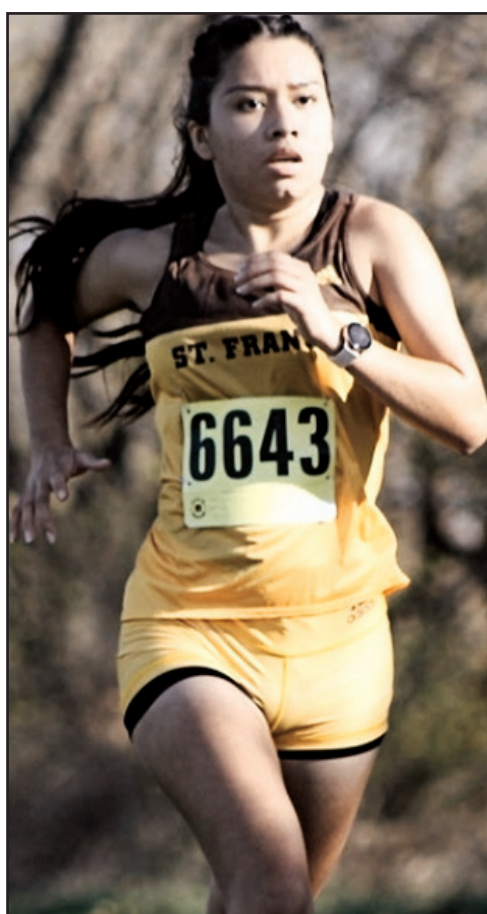
"My freshman year didn't go as planned because I developed a hip injury," Baez said. "However, there was no denying that the training was making me a stronger and faster runner overall. Even with my injury, I was seeing results. The team atmosphere definitely made me want to keep pushing because everybody wants to succeed. I was very disciplined with my runs. I want to improve my overall health for next season because I missed a few meets due to my injury."

Baez clocked in under six minutes in the 1500-meter run twice during her freshman track season, with her personal-best 5:57.36 landing her in 14th place, her highest overall finish of the season. Baez completed one 800-meter run event at the ONU Spring Opener, finishing 15th with a time of 3:01.25. Baez took 48th with a time of 23:25.9 in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships to close out her freshman cross country season.

Baez is one of two former RTHS student-athletes (Katherine Bakken) who ran for the St. Francis University women's cross country team, which brought home the NAIA National Championship this season.

"Even with my injury, I was seeing results. The team atmosphere definitely made me want to keep pushing because everybody wants to succeed. I was very disciplined with my runs. I want to improve my overall health for next season because I missed a few meets due to my injury. My expectations are to improve my time in the 5K and in workouts. My goals for track are to improve my 1500 time and I also want to be able to do the 5K on the track."

Britney Baez



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. FRANCIS UNIVERSITY)

Former Rochelle distance runner Britney Baez competed for both the cross country and track teams at St. Francis University this past year.

Baez, who's currently studying nursing in hopes of pursuing a career of working in a children's hospital, said her goals for her sophomore year are to work her way toward the front of the running crew. Specifically, Baez said she wants to improve both her 5K times during the cross country season as well as her 1500-meter times during track season.

"My expectations are to improve my time in the 5K and in workouts," Baez said. "My goals for track are to improve my 1500 time and I also want to be able to do the 5K on the track."



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SPORTS

RTHS Golf

Hub linksmen shooting for winning record

Junior players Ohlinger, Harrington headline returning varsity starters

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Head coach Glen Mehrings will be looking to his returning upperclassmen for leadership and maturity on the course when the Rochelle Hub varsity golf team tees off the 2021 season with a nonconference triangular meet at Dixon and Freeport on Tuesday, Aug. 17. Rochelle opened the season with its first practice at Fairways Golf Course on Tuesday.

The Hubs will be without four-time state qualifier Megan Thiravong, whose illustrious career at Rochelle Township High School concluded this past fall. Rochelle still boasts plenty of talent, however, with juniors Griffin Ohlinger and Damen Harrington each returning as the top two players in the varsity lineup. Senior Rowan Williams and junior Wade Smith are two more upperclassmen who could step up when the Hubs take to the course this fall.

"We have five returning players, but our numbers are pretty low," Mehrings said. "I've seen Griffin and Damen a lot this summer and they've probably played the most. I'm looking forward to seeing those two guys leading our varsity team. They've gotten

much stronger physically and they've grown a lot mentally. Rowan's been practicing a lot and he's made improvements since his freshman year. Wade's hitting the ball longer off the tee box."

Rochelle finished 6-6 during the 2020 season with Interstate 8 Conference victories over Plano and Sandwich. The Hubs will shoot for a higher standing in the conference and the regionals after taking seventh in the conference and eighth in the IHSA 2A Sterling Regional last year. Sophomore Cale Workman and freshman Jacob Ost are two underclassmen Mehrings said have been practicing hard this summer and could become key players for the Hubs in the future.

"It's tough being a freshman or sophomore on varsity, but I think that experience will help Griffin and Damen as they prepare for their junior seasons," Mehrings said. "We've talked about minimizing mistakes and having more control over their shots... Our kids are seeing that they sometimes have to manufacture scores and that sometimes, it's not how, it's how many. We want to take those eights down to sixes and we want to shave as many strokes as we can."



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Juniors Damen Harrington (left) and Griffin Ohlinger (right) will return to lead the Rochelle Hub varsity golf team this season. Rochelle tees off its season against Dixon and Freeport on Aug. 17.

Illinois High School Association

Masks temporarily required for indoor sports

BLOOMINGTON — On Aug. 4, 2021, Governor Pritzker announced an update to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) All-Sports Policy that will require masks to be worn for all indoor IHSA athletic events regardless of an

individual's vaccination status.

This mask directive for indoor athletic events applies to student-athletes, coaches, officials, game personnel, and fans. This masking mandate applies to all IHSA fall sport practices and contests that

are conducted indoors. Swimmers and divers do not have to wear masks while competing, but must adhere to all other times.

The masking directive also applies to any winter or spring IHSA sports that may be conducting open gyms, general con-

ditioning, or weightlifting indoors. There are no restrictions to scheduling or spectator limitations as a result of today's announcement, nor are there any changes to the IHSA calendar for any sports.

"Today's announcement will not deter us

from our mission of safely offering high school student-athletes in Illinois the opportunity to participate in sports and activities," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "Illinois high school student-athletes and coaches have been

resilient in dealing with myriad mitigations and unexpected changes over the past year. We hope all Illinoisans do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 so we can quickly move beyond this and remove masks from indoor athletic events."

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AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A COMBINED ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATING SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY TO DEFRAY ALL NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE LYNNVILLE-SCOTT-WHITE ROCK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2021, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2022, AND SPECIFYING THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH APPROPRIATIONS ARE MADE, AND THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR EACH OBJECT OR PURPOSE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the Lynnville-Scott-White Rock Fire Protection District.

SECTION 1. That the following sums of money in the total amount of EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-TWO AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$817,952.00) or as much thereof as may be authorized by law, be and the same are hereby appropriated for the corporate purposes of the Lynnville-Scott-White Rock Fire Protection District as hereinafter specified for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2021, and ending April 30, 2022.

GENERAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSE

District fees and other wages		\$	
20,000.00			
Purchase of equipment:			
Communications	\$ 20,000.00		
Apparatus	-0-		
Personal protective equipment	25,000.00		
Small equipment	<u>75,000.00</u>	120,000.00	
Legal expenses			4,500.00
Insurance:			
General coverages	15,000.00		
Bonds	<u>-0-</u>	15,000.00	
Publications and advertising			5,000.00
Utilities:			
Telephone/communications	4,000.00		
Electricity	8,000.00		
Natural gas	6,000.00		
Water and sewer	<u>1,000.00</u>	19,000.00	
Maintenance:			
Buildings	15,000.00		
Apparatus	25,000.00		
Equipment	6,000.00		
Communications	<u>4,000.00</u>	50,000.00	
Apparatus fuel			6,000.00
Education and training			10,000.00
Miscellaneous supplies:			
Stations	3,000.00		
Office	<u>3,500.00</u>	6,500.00	
Public education and prevention			1,000.00
Rents			150.00
Personnel compensation			17,500.00
Medical payments (physicals, immunizations, etc.)			4,000.00
Dues and subscriptions	750.00		
Debt retirement	33,000.00		
Capital improvements (Buildings)	-0-		
Reserve for capital acquisitions	<u>30,000.00</u>		
TOTAL GENERAL CORPORATE EXPENDITURE		\$342,400.00	

The foregoing appropriations are hereby appropriated from the general property tax for corporation purposes.

AMBULANCE SERVICE, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSE

District fees and other wages		\$	20,000.00
Purchase of equipment:			
Communications	\$ 15,000.00		
Apparatus	180,000.00		
Personal protective equipment	7,500.00		
Small equipment	<u>20,000.00</u>	222,500.00	
Legal expenses			4,500.00
Insurance:			
General coverages	15,000.00		
Bonds	<u>-0-</u>	15,000.00	
Publications and advertising			5,000.00
Utilities:			
Telephone/communications	4,000.00		
Electricity	8,000.00		
Natural gas	6,000.00		
Water and sewer	<u>1,000.00</u>	19,000.00	
Maintenance:			
Buildings	15,000.00		
Apparatus	5,000.00		
Equipment	4,000.00		
Communications	<u>2,000.00</u>	26,000.00	
Apparatus fuel	~ 2 ~		6,000.00
Education and training			10,000.00
Miscellaneous supplies:			
Stations	3,000.00		
Office	<u>3,500.00</u>	6,500.00	
Public education and prevention			1,000.00
Rents			150.00
Personnel compensation	40,000.00		
Medical payments (physicals, immunizations, etc.)	750.00		
Dues and subscriptions	33,000.00		
Debt retirement	-0-		
Capital improvements (Buildings)			
Reserve for capital acquisitions			30,000.00
Contract professional services			<u>6,000.00</u>
TOTAL AMBULANCE EXPENDITURE	\$		449,400.00

The foregoing appropriation is hereby appropriated from the proceeds of a special ambulance service tax, in addition to all other fire protection district taxes as provided by law.

TORT IMMUNITY INSURANCE FUND

Tort immunity - Liability	7%	6,152.00
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The foregoing appropriation is hereby appropriated from the proceeds of special liability insurance tax, in addition to all other fire protection district taxes as provided by law.

ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDIT FUND

Annual report and audit	-0-
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The foregoing appropriation is hereby appropriated from the proceeds of a special annual report and audit tax, in addition to all other fire protection district taxes as provided by law.

ANNUAL WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND

Workers compensation expense	\$	20,000.00
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The foregoing appropriation is hereby appropriated from the proceeds of a special annual workers compensation tax, in addition to all other fire protection district taxes as provided by law.

SUMMARY

General Corporate Expenditure	\$	342,400.00
Ambulance Service Expenditure		449,400.00
Tort Immunity Insurance Fund	6,152.00	
Annual Report and Audit Fund	-0-	
Workers Compensation Fund	<u>20,000.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	817,952.00

That the foregoing shall constitute the annual budget for the Lynnville-Scott-White Rock Fire Protection District for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2021, and ending April 30, 2022. As a part of the annual budget, it is stated:

A. Statement of cash on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year:	\$ 256,576.00
B. Estimate of the cash expected to be received during the fiscal year from all sources:	\$ 817,952.00
C. Estimate of the expenditures contemplated for the fiscal year:	\$ 817,952.00
D. Statement of the estimated cash expected to be on hand at the end of the fiscal year:	\$ 256,576.00
E. Estimate of the amount of taxes to be received by the Fire District:	\$ 474,431.00

SECTION 2. That all unexpended balances of any item or items or any general appropriation made in this ordinance be expended in making up any insufficiency in any item or items in the same general appropriation and for the same general purpose of any like appropriation made for this ordinance.

SECTION 3. That all unexpended balances from annual appropriations of previous years are hereby re-appropriated.

SECTION 4. That the validity of any item or section of this ordinance shall not effect the validity of the whole or any other part thereof.

SECTION 5. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with any of the provisions of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED: August 4, 2021 APPROVED: August 4, 2021

/s/ Rodney E. Hayenga
Rodney E. Hayenga
President of the Board of Trustees of the
Lynnville-Scott-White Rock Fire Protection
District, Ogle County, Illinois.

/s/ Curt Fruit
Curt Fruit
Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the
Lynnville-Scott-White Rock Fire Protection
District, Ogle County, Illinois.

(SEAL)

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
OGLE COUNTY

IN THE)

MATTER)No.

OF THE)2021

ESTATE)P-57

OF)
GEORGE)
H. VRANA,)
Deceased.)

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of GEORGE H. VRANA, of Rochelle, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on July 23, 2021, to

MICHAEL S. VRANA, whose address is 759 Anita Lane, Princeton, IL 61356, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than January 23, 2022, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for MICHAEL S. VRANA, Executor of the Estate of GEORGE H. VRANA, deceased No. 0740 (July 28, Aug. 4, 11)

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF OGLE
IN THE)
MATTER)
OF THE)Case

101
LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to

ESTATE)No.
OF)2021
ROLAND)P-29
TERRY,)
Deceased.)
Case No. 2021-P-29
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of ROLAND TERRY, of the Village of Creston, County of Ogle, State of Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on May 5, 2021, to JANIE RYNKO, whose address is P.O. BOX254, City of Malta, Dekalb County, Illinois, and to JUDY CIDLDERS whose address is P.O. BOX 240, City of Creston, Ogle County, Illinois and whose attorney is DAVID D. TESS of TESS, CRULL & ARNQUIST, LLC, P.O. Box 68, Rochelle, Ogle County, Illinois 61068. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, Illinois 61068, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this claim notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. No. 0814 (Aug. 4, 11, 18)

101
LEGAL NOTICE

thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

105
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

113
FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

119
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

127
SERVICES AND REPAIRS

FURMAN'S Lawn Care & Tree Trimming. Lawn Mowing, Hedge Trimming, Gutter Cleaning, Storm Damage Cleanup, Spring & Fall Cleanup,

127
SERVICES AND REPAIRS

Housecleaning, Painting and Much More. In Business Since 1999 Call Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please Leave Message Will Return Call ASAP. (TFN)

JNJ JUMPERS Indoor/ Outdoor Bounce House Rentals Available Year Round. Please Call 815-784-4256 For Availability or Visit us on Facebook.

203
HELP WANTED

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

301
ANTIQUES

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

ANTIQUES WANTED: 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

305
GARAGE/RUMMAGE SALES

ROCHELLE: 10963 E South Woodlawn Drive. 3-Miles West of Rochelle off Route 38. Saturday August 14th 9am-3pm & Sunday August 15th 9am-2pm. Baby Girls Clothes, Some Women's Clothes, Coffee Table and End Tables, Kiddie Pool, Dresses, Coats, Shoes and Miscellaneous Household Items. (08-11-21)

307
MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

THIRTY ft. Bale Elevator Without Transit Gear \$100 Please Call 815-439-0071. Please Leave a Message & Phone Number. (08-15-21)

TWO Husqvarna Push Mowers. Kohler Motor 5HP, \$80 Each, 815-275-6551. (08-11-21)

501
APARTMENTS FOR RENT

TWO-BEDROOM For Rent. No Pets. \$600/ Rent, \$400/Security Deposit. 630-962-1962. (08-22-21)



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Latinx Outreach Counselor - Rochelle

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Required: Bilingual in English and Spanish and Bachelors in social service related field.
Send Resume, Cover Letter & References through Indeed.com or to Ruth Carter at apply@hopedv.org by 8-20-21

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The Rochelle News-Leader has two openings for newspaper carriers.

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- Adult carriers are welcome, too!

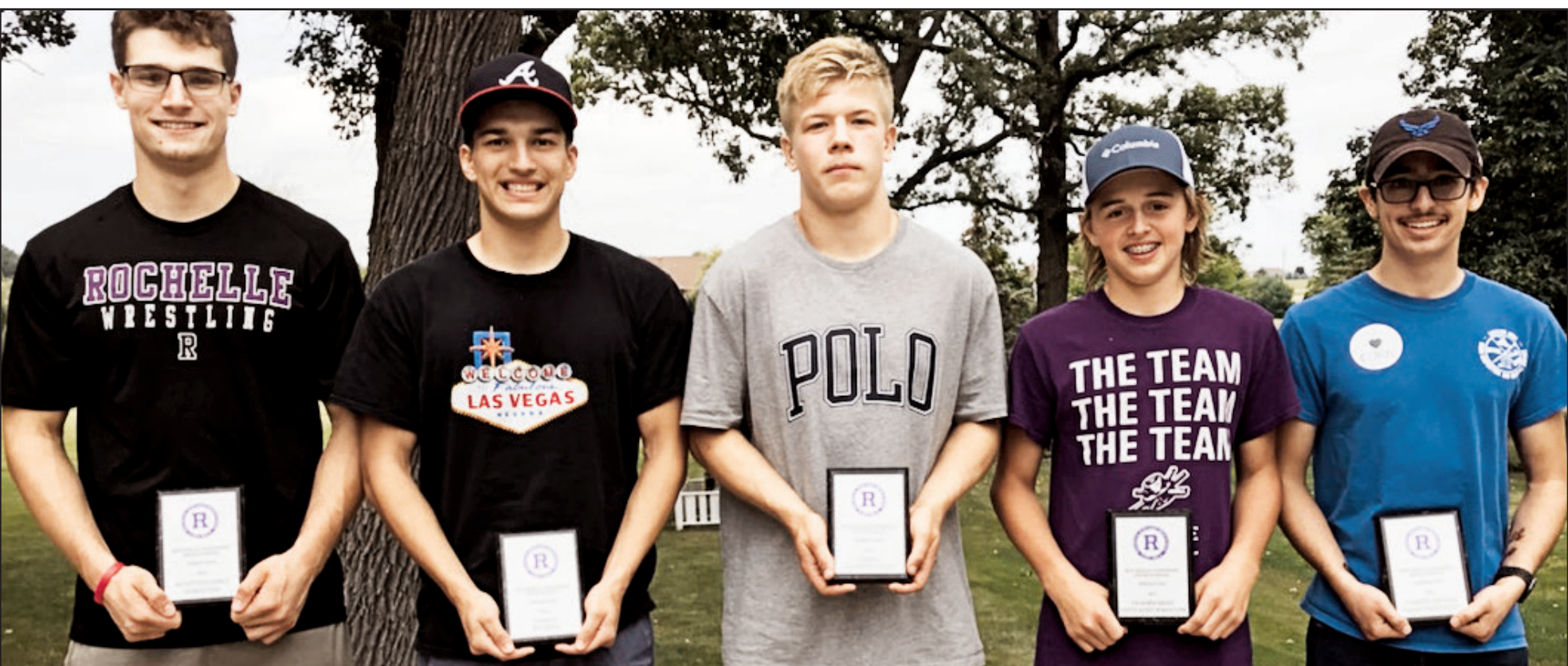
Contact Wanda at the Rochelle News-Leader office
211 E. Hwy. 38,
561-2112



HW

SPORTS

RTHS Wrestling



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Rochelle wrestling team holds season-ending awards celebration

The Rochelle Township High School wrestling team celebrated its 21-8 season with a team awards banquet this past week. Several wrestlers took home awards including Ben Harvey (Most Valuable Wrestler), Grant Thompson (Pin King), Caleb Nadig (Takedown King), Tommy Tourdout (Fresh-Soph Most Dedicated Award) and Ivan Pineda (Carney Sportsmanship Award), who are pictured above from left to right. Not pictured is Noah Messer (Kevin Olivier Most Improved Award).

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How to help students improve their focus on their studies

TEACHERS strive to create supportive and challenging classroom environments for their students. Such settings can bring out the best in students and help them overcome obstacles, including an inability to focus.

The struggles students can have with focusing on their studies was apparent during the pandemic. A 2020 survey of more than 400 college students found that 64 percent were concerned about their ability to maintain their focus and discipline in remote instructional environments. Though educators, students and parents are hopeful that remote learning will soon be a thing of the past, no one is certain about what lies ahead in regard to the 2021-22 school year. Ideally, students will be back in school time full-time five days per week by the start of the new academic year. However, there's no guarantee that will be the case, and students may need help focusing on their studies.

- Emphasize one activity at a time. Various studies have shown that multitasking adverse-



ly affects performance and makes it hard to concentrate. A recent study from researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that performing two or three activities simultaneously puts significantly more demand on the brain than simply doing those tasks one after another. All students, and especially those who are struggling with focus, should be encouraged to take on one task at a time.

- Take breaks. The Cleveland Clinic notes that

various studies have found that periodic breaks improve mood, boost performance and increase a person's ability to concentrate and pay attention. Many students are well acquainted with lengthy cramming sessions on the eve of a big exam, which can feel like a rite of passage for high schoolers and college students. Parents and educators can emphasize the importance of taking breaks during such sessions and how periodic rest can help improve performance.

- Take a piecemeal approach to big tasks. The Child Mind Institute notes that breaking big tasks down into smaller, more manageable pieces can help kids effectively tackle more challenging tasks. The piecemeal approach can make big tasks seem less daunting, and the success kids have at each smaller task can provide some needed momentum as they draw closer to solving the problem.

Many students struggle to focus on their studies. Some simple strategies can help students overcome such challenges and fulfill their academic potential.

**Ensure the safety of our children...
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not text or use cell phones!**

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