PAGE 2





Hub football team preparing for 2021 season

SEE SPORTS

News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM





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Vol. 102 • No. 20

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021

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ByronFest begins this weekend

The annual ByronFest celebration will take place from July 9-11 in downtown Byron. Page 3

WEATHER



HIGH LOW HIGH LOW **72** 57





Today's RNL issue sponsored by

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OBITUARIES

 PEGGY JOHNSON RUTHANNA RODATZ

See page 4

INSERTS

ALDI FARM & FLEET

INSIDE

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



40 years at Spring Lake

'The lifeguards and my pool family are the highlight of what I do'

BY JEFF HELFRICH MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Marianne Swanson has already retired twice and returned to Spring Lake and the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District.

She currently serves as Interim Aquatic Director. This year marks her 40th at Spring Lake. She's worked at the facility since it opened in 1981. Then, it was just a swimming pool. She's seen the addition of the slide, rock climbing wall and most recently, a splash pad.

"It's become more than a swimming pool, now it's an aquatic center," Swanson said. "That's good for everybody. Good for the community and the kids. Consumers have been more sophisticated. There's way more regulation in place now than there was when I started. I came in as a swim lesson instructor and substitute lifeguard. I took over as manager in my third year. I've been here pretty much every year."

Swanson has always had a passion for swimming. She grew up a half a block from her town's swimming pool and went every single



Marianne Swanson currently serves as interim aquatic director with the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District. This year marks Swanson's 40th at Spring Lake Pool, where she's worked since 1981.

day. When she was 15, the swim team coach asked why she wasn't a part of the team. Nobody had ever asked her to be.

She joined the team later and "absolutely loved it."

"And then when I went to Northern Illinois University, it was on a tennis scholarship," Swanson said. "I skipped tennis practice one day and tried out for the swim team and made it and swam all four years there. I've always enjoyed the competitive nature of swimming and swimming in general."

Coaching swim teams board if it would create

in Rochelle is something Swanson has loved in her time at Spring Lake and with the park district. After she was hired in 1981, the swim team was disbanded after being run by a private group of parents.

Swanson asked the park

a swim team, and it was

supported. 'That's one of my fondest memories, getting that start and watching that grow from a team of 20 kids to 100 kids each year,"

Swanson said.

See SWANSON p. 3

COVID-19 updates at RCH

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

Visitor

restrictions

RCH visitor restrictions have changed from one designated visitor to one visitor at a time. This does not have to be the same person but only one visitor is allowed in the hospital per patient at a time.

Masking

RCH will continue to follow CDC/IDPH guidance for masking in a healthcare facility, which means everyone - employees, patients and visitors — still need to wear a mask when you enter the hospital or any RCH clinic for the duration of your visit.

All visitors, patients and employees will continue to be screened upon

entry to the hospital until the CDC/IDPH changes their guidance.

Department changes

Mid-June capacity limits at RCH changed in a couple departments. There are no longer capacity limits in the cafeteria. Anyone in the cafeteria who is vaccinated can be unmasked when they are dining or conversing while dining. Persons who are not vaccinated will need to remain masked when not dining.

The Fitness Center no longer has capacity limits. Appointments will no longer be necessary for members. Members should adhere to the hospital masking policy. Hours will remain the same for the public: Monday to Friday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Gift Shoppe is open Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and closed weekends. Both the



(NEWS-LEADER FILE PHOTO)

Rochelle Community Hospital recently shared a series of updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Updates include changes to visitor restrictions, capacity limits and masking policies.

Gift Shoppe and Cafeteria are part of the Rochelle Municipal Utilities Shop Local program.

Triage Line The Triage Line offers an opportunity to seek answers to questions regarding COVID-19 symptoms, testing and vaccination by calling 815-561-8829. Hours will continue to be Monday through Friday

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Callers may leave a message and your call will be returned. There is also a Spanish option.

See RCH page 2



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(PHOTOS BY ELLEN O'MALLEY)



Rochelle residents enjoy Fourth of July festivities

The Fourth of July holiday was celebrated in Rochelle once again this past weekend after last year's festivities were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Area residents celebrated on Saturday at the Rochelle Municipal Airport and Flight Deck Bar & Grill by watching skydivers and fireworks. Army Jeeps were among the participants in Sunday's Fourth of July parade, which included the local Cub Scouts Troop, "Gertie" of the Rochelle Fire Department, volunteers from the Flagg Township Museum and members of the Moose Lodge.



Jordan Miller, RN Emergency Length of Service: 7 Years

No person can ever be prepared for the

death of a loved one.

But with the outpouring of support from

friends, neighbors, family - far and near - you

have made the healing process less painful.

Deb loved the community and you all have

shown love back in your kind words and

fond memories.

friend, my partner, my wife, my mother and

my proud grandmother.



High Performer July 2021

To read Jordan's nomination, go to the RCH Facebook page or rochellehospital.com.

Thank You

From the family of Debra Ann Wyka

RCH: Hospital offering COVID-19 vaccinations

From page 1

Vaccinations

Effective this week, COVID-19 vaccinations are being offered to patients age 12+at the Family Healthcare Clinic at the time of their scheduled appointment. Second doses will be offered in the clinic

on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Starting mid-July, the Ogle County Health Department will be providing COVID-19 vaccinations at their Oregon and Rochelle offices on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday every week. You will need to call 815-562-6976 to make an appointment for either location.

COVID-19 vaccinations are available at all pharmacies in Rochelle.

Are you FULLY

vaccinated?

You will have the best protection against COVID-19 or any of the variants by getting both doses of your Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and are not considered fully-vaccinated until you do have both doses.

If you need a second dose, go back to where you had the first dose or go to any local pharmacy

to receive it and take your vaccination card. Please continue to wear a mask to protect yourself and others if you are not fully

vaccinated.

In general, people are considered fully vaccinated are two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

If you don't meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are not fully-vaccinated. Keep taking all precautions until you are fully vaccinated.

If you have any questions related to certain health conditions or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, speak with your healthcare provider about COVID-19 vaccination.

We appreciate your cooperation and diligence in following COVID-19 guidelines.



Dan, son Don (Mary) Woodburn & granddaughter Annabelle; T-Byrd Lanes extended family, Judi, Mistie, Steven, Denise, Liz, Lizzy, Devin, Johnny, Bruce, Johnnie, Blaise and Joey.



Read and Recycle

SWANSON: Aquatics director reflects on 40-year career

From page 1

"Now the indoor facility will let us offer programs all year round. I'm hoping we can find a year-round swim coach. Maybe even a high school program would be ideal. A lot of kids would be interested. It's hard to find coaches."

Swanson said the best part of her job is building relationships with swimmers and watching some become lifeguards. Over the holiday weekend she saw some ex-lifeguards and former pool managers that were back in town that stopped by Spring Lake.

"They tell me they can't believe I'm still here," Swanson said with a laugh. "We become a family. We spend a lot of time together each day because we're open so long. We have to trust each other. We have to work together as a team. The lifeguards and my pool family are the highlight of what I do."

The park district has an aquatic staff of 41 people this year. Even though Swanson has been there for 40 years, she said she's not the only one with the knowledge of hard-to-find things at Spring Lake. She prides herself on how she shows employees what to do.

She sang the praises of her lifeguards, many of which are 15-16 years old.

"Because this is 40 years, I want to celebrate more than me," Swanson said. "Celebrate Spring Lake and the whole facility. The lifeguards, their training and commitment to the facility. Lifeguards, people think it's a great job to sit in the sun all day and get a tan. They're under extreme pressure. It's a lot of responsibility. I don't think people realize what these kids do. They're the most unappreciated group."

Thirty years is typically the lifespan of most outdoor pools, Swanson said. She remembers when there was talk about shutting the facility down rather than investing in its infrastructure. \$500,000 worth of renovations were recently completed at the venue.

She was glad to see Spring Lake invested in, even with how much she enjoys the new REC Center facility.

"It's just not as much fun swimming inside as it is outside," Swanson said. "The ambiance and the atmosphere. It's exciting. We do the chicken dance and water polo contests and inner tube races. I think it strengthens the entire community."

Swanson called last year when Spring Lake was closed due to the pandemic "anticlimactic."

She has young grandchildren that she was able to spend time with, but they weren't able to go to the park or go swimming. She feels the high attendance numbers Spring Lake has seen so far this year can be attributed to the lack of a summer last year. After 40 years, Swanson

is unsure what her future holds. She said it could look like a lighter schedule and being part of a possible aquatic management team for both Spring Lake and



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Marianne Swanson is currently overseeing an aquatics staff of 41 people this year. Swanson praised her lifeguards, many of which are 15 or 16 years old.

The REC. What she does know is why she's been unable to say goodbye to Spring Lake yet.

"It's just kind of how I'm wired,"Swanson said. "My

husband says that to me all the time, and so does my mom. I like to be busy and stay busy and when you're passionate about what you do, it doesn't seem like

work. Most days. This summer has been more demanding just because of the number of hours.

"But I can't say I'm not having fun."

nual ByronFest returns this weekend

BY BRAD JENNINGS

OGLE COUNTY LIFE EDITOR

BYRON - Byron-Fest is returning to the streets of downtown Byron on July 9, 10 and 11. This festival will offer bigname entertainment and exciting activities for the entire family.

"We are so excited to bring our community together and enjoy the summer festival after a long, hard year of being unable to gather together," said Sarah Downs, executive director of the Byron Chamber of

Presented by Byron Bank and organized by

the Byron Chamber of Commerce and ByronFest Steering Committee, this community carnival and music fest is staged in historic downtown Byron, just one block north of scenic Illinois Route 2. The festival is in its 34th year.

"The success of the longevity of our festival is because of our great committee who meets all year round, our 300 volunteers that step up to help, and the support of our sponsors, community, and city," Downs said. "We are extremely grateful for the 34 years of Byron Bank being the presenting sponsor of ByronFest."

Admission wristbands are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the gate. They can be purchased in advance until Thursday, July 8 at a variety of businesses around town. For more information, please see byronfest.org.

New this year is the Mega Pass. This pass provides unlimited rides at the carnival and entry into the festival grounds. Along with a carnival, music, and food, Byron-Fest also hosts a variety of different events throughout the weekend.

GospelFest kicks things off on July 8 at Generations at Neighbors. The 5K is held at the Byron Forest

Preserve on Saturday, July 10 and the Bags Tournament is held on the festival grounds on Saturday as well. Sewing enthusiasts should not miss the judged Quilt Show that is held in the Byron Museum of History.

As always, the Byron-Fest Parade will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday with a route starting behind Byron High School and going down Third Street. Don't miss out on all the ByronFestmusic, entertainment, food, and beverages this year. There will be a variety of bands performing all three days of the festival at both the Exelon Stage



and the Byron Lion's Club

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Obituaries

Ruthanna Berniece Carr Rodatz

ROCHELLE — Ruthanna or Sissy was born to George and Dorothy Carr of Shabbona on June 4, 1933. She died and went to be with her Lord on July 4, 2021 at the age of 88. Independence Day for her!

Ruthanna graduated from Shabbona High School and received her AA Degree from Lee College, Cleveland, Tennessee, her bachelor's degree from Tennessee Wesleyan College and her master's degree from Northern Illinois University. She taught physical education at Sandwich and Sycamore High School.

She was married to her husband, Walter Carl Rodatz, for 42 years. She and Walt loved to go fishing. They were very involved in two churches in Rochelle where they resided, the Foursquare Church and First Presbyterian.

In 1976 they started the Cornerstone Christian Academy with six preschool students. Today, the school is K-12 with 160 students. Ruthanna was their first principal. In later years she and Walter ran a

pre-school in their home. She loved children though she could not have any.

Ruthanna is preceded in death by her mother and father, her sister, Karen (Daniel) McAuliff, San Jose, California and her brother Michael (Gwen) Carr, Cottontown, Tennessee. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Walter.

She is survived by a brother, Jack R. Carr of DeKalb and Kathy Corn (Preston) of Gladstone, Missouri and a myriad of nieces and nephews.

Ruthanna lived the last eight years at Franklin Grove Living and Rehabilitation Center and loved the staff who took care of her there and was loved by them as well.

Ruthanna was a very devout Christian woman with a wonderful laugh and sense of humor. She loved silly jokes. Her faith was lived out every day. Sissy loved her Lord Jesus Christ and would tell anyone about His love and Salvation.

She was a kind and generous woman who helped out family and friends many



times in her long life. She

was a giver in many ways.

Her wisdom was only sur-

passed by her grace that

she gave to others. In her

last years, she was inca-

pacitated by Parkinson's

Disease and was unable to

move. Now she is playing

will be held at the First

Presbyterian Church in

Rochelle on Saturday, Aug.

21 at 1 p.m. Online stream-

ing services will be at First

Presbyterian Church Face-

memorials should go to

Aurora Christian Schools

Cornerstone Campus at

355 N. Cross St., Syca-

more, IL 60178. Funeral

services are entrusted to

the Beverage Lyons Family

Funeral Home at 704 N

6th St. in. Rochelle. Online

condolences may be made

at www.beveragelyonsfa-

milyfh.com.

In lieu of flowers: All

book or YouTube.

Her Celebration of Life

volleyball in Heaven.

Peggy Johnson

BYRON — Peggy Johnson, 69, formerly of Rochelle, passed away Friday, July 2 at Generations at Neighbors in Byron.

Peggy was born on July 6, 1951 to Willie L. and Johnnie L. (Ivy) Russell in Parkin, Arkansas. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by four brothers: Bill, James, Lee, and Clyde Russell; sister, Bernice Markley (Russell); sisters-in-law: Faye Call, Jean Russell, Diana Russell; brothers-in-law: Loren Call and Cecil Call; nephews: Lonnie Russell and Dexter Elvin.

Peggy was a social butterfly and loved golfing, walking and traveling when she could. Her greatest joy was to spend time with her three boys, grandchildren and other family.

Besides her family, one ofher greatest accomplishments was being Ms. Carmel and runner-up in a beauty pageant (petite division) in Indiana where she lived for almost 30 years before returning to the Rockford and Rochelle area.

Peggy is survived by her three sons: Rob (Jennifer) Montgomery of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, Josh (Sara Mitchell) Clark of Rochelle, Chad (Kayla) Johnson of Altoona, Wisconsin; brother, Dennis (Candace) Russell of Sikeston, Missouri, sister, Ruby Call, brother-in-law, Ken Markley of Beloit, Wisconsin; sister-in-law, Laurie Heltness Russell of Corvallis, Oregon; and grandchildren: Isabellea



Montgomery, Ashley Seaworth, Brooke Sullivan, Kayleigh Montgomery, Keirra Clark, Landyn Dummer, Aubrey Johnson, Adalyn Johnson, expected baby girl Johnson and many nephews and nieces.

A Celebration of Life gathering will be held Saturday, July 10. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. Visitwww.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Rochelle Police Department

Man arrested for domestic battery

ROCHELLE — On July 1 at 2:01 p.m. Joshua Romero-Burgan, 30, of Rockford was arrested for retail theft and transferred.

On July 3 at 12:32 a.m. Connor J. Carreon, 28, of Mendota was arrested for no valid driver's license and cited for possession of cannabis. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Rochelle court date of

Aug. 13. On Jul

On July 2 at 11:31 p.m. Ryan C. Hoffman, 43, of Chicago was arrested for driving while license revoked and a violation of Scott's Law. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Rochelle court date of Aug. 13.

On July 2 at 9:17 p.m.

Christopher J. Lindenmier, 27, of Amboy was arrested for no valid driver's license. He was released on an I-Bond and given a Rochelle court date of Aug. 13. On July 3 at 8:58 p.m.

Michael X. Schlenbecker, 18, of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a stop sign. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Aug. 13.

On July 3 at 11:19 p.m. Joshua A. Downey, 21, of Rochelle was arrested for an outstanding Livingston County warrant. He paid \$375 and was given an Aug. 8 court date in Livingston County.

On July 4 at 1:22 a.m. Damian Salinas, 18, of Rochelle was cited for no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Aug. 13.

On July 4 at 8:16 p.m.

Jeramie W. Sullivan, 25, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On July 5 at 3:12 a.m. Jorge Cabrera, 31, of Ro-

chelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On July 5 at 12:24 p.m.
Justin M. Miller, 41, of Dixon was arrested on

an outstanding Whiteside County warrant and driving while license suspended and transferred.

On July 5 at 8:37 p.m. Jorge Sanchez, 24, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 52 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h.

Jorge Sanchez, 24, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 52 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Aug. 13.





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Report policy

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

Newsroom Staff

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.





Ogle County COVID-19 Weekly Update
As of Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Ogle County COVID-19 Statistics

Positivity Rate as of July 3rd is **1.8%**Total Vaccinations Administered: **42,622**Total FULLY Vaccinated: **21,301**Pct. FULLY Vaccinated: **41.83%**

Are you FULLY vaccinated?

You will have the **best protection against COVID-19** or any of the variants by getting <u>both doses</u> of your Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and are not considered fully vaccinated until you do have both doses. If you need a second dose, go back to where you had the first dose or go to any local pharmacy to receive it and take your vaccination card. Please continue to wear a mask to protect yourself and others if you are not FULLY vaccinated.

Ogle County Health Department

Beginning Tuesday, July 13, OCHD will be providing COVID-19 vaccinations at their Oregon and Rochelle offices on Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday every week. You will need to 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

COVID-19 vaccinations are offered to patients at the Family Healthcare Clinic at the time of their scheduled appointment.

The RCH COVID-19 Triage Line can assist with questions regarding symptoms, testing or vaccination. Call 815-561-8829, Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Callers have the ability to leave a message with a Spanish option and your call will be returned.

Pharmacies

COVID-19 vaccinations are available at all pharmacies in Rochelle.

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ON THE FARM

The role of technology in agriculture

to think of industries that utilize technology in unique ways, few people may immediately think of agriculture. But technology has left a significant footprint in every industry, and the agricultural sector is no exception.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture notes that modern farms operate a lot differently than the farms of yesteryear. Dramatic changes have taken place within the agricultural industry over the last few decades, helping farming operations become more efficient and profitable as well as safer and more eco-friendly.

Robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and GPS technologies are now routinely employed within the agricultural industry. The NIFA notes that the value of such technologies cannot be understated. Thanks to the technologies at their disposals, farmers no longer have to uniformly apply water, fertilizer and pesticides to their farms. Technology now allows them to use only the minimum amounts required as they zero in on individual



plants and target specific areas of their farms. The NIFA notes that the utilization of these technologies produces some very real benefits, including:

Higher crop produc-

Reduced impact on natural ecosystems.

Less runoff of chemicals into rivers and ground-

Increased worker safe-

Safer, more efficient and more eco-friendly operations can only make the agricultural industry more successful in the decades to come. That's especially

notable as the world continues to confront climate change and how it might affect the food supply.

Though few may recognize the role of technology in modern farming, there's

no denying the impact that various technologies have already had on the agricultural industry. And that impact figures to become even more profound in the decades to come.

agriculture The benefits of organic

sumers have Imore choices than ever before. Whether they're buying appliances, books, clothing, or any of the myriad necessities of daily life, consumers have a wealth of products to choose from.

An abundance of options also is available at the grocery store. That's especially true in the produce aisle, where many stores have expanded their fresh fruit and vegetable offerings. That expansion reflects a growing preference among consumers for fresh products, including fresh produce. A 2018 report from the market research firm IRI and the Food Marketing Institute found that sales of fresh foods comprised just under 31 percent of food industry sales in 2017.

Customers who prefer fresh fruits and vegetables to frozen alternatives may wonder if they should be even more selective when purchasing their favorite foods in the produce aisle. That decision may come down to whether or not to purchase organic produce.

Organic produce can be significantly more expensive than non-organic fruits and vegetables, so it's understandable if budget-conscious consumers cannot afford to go entirely organic. However, it's important that consumers recognize the many ways that organic agriculture is having a positive impact on the health of humans and the planet they call home.

Organic produce reduces exposure to pesticides and antibiotics. UC Davis Health notes that organic produce has been proven to reduce consumers'

exposure to pesticides choosing organic versions

and antibiotics. That's a significant benefit, as pesticide exposure has been shown to lead to neurodevelopmental issues and has been linked to higher cancer risk. Consumers shopping on budgets can pick and choose which organic foods they purchase, as UC Davis Health notes that certain foods have been shown to have higher pesticide residues than others. Apples, celery, grapes, spinach, strawberries, and tomatoes have high levels of pesticide residues, so

wise choice. Avocados, broccoli, cabbage, and cantaloupe are some of the foods that typically have low levels of pesticide residue. Organic agriculture reduces environmental

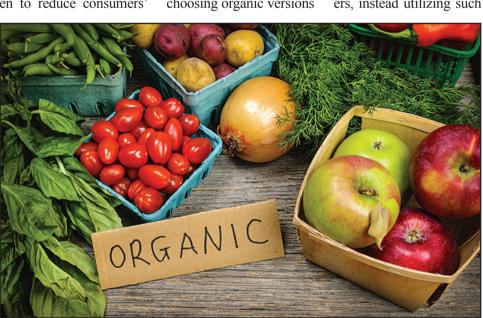
of these foods may be a

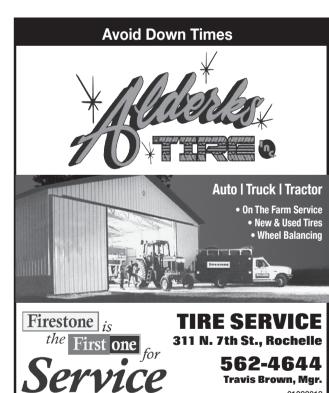
degradation. The Organic Trade Association notes that synthetic pesticides and fertilizers used on some conventional farms can deplete the soil of valuable nutrients and increase environmental degradation. Organic farmers do not use such pesticides or fertilizers, instead utilizing such practices as composting, cover cropping and crop rotation, each of which can have positive, long-term effects on soil quality.

Organic agriculture benefits local wildlife. A 2015 study from researchers in Argentina that was published in the journal Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment found that small mammals were more abundant around organic

farms than conventional farms. That's not just good for those mammals, but also the farmers, as small mammals can feed on insects that would otherwise adversely affect crops.

Many grocery stores are increasing the availability of organic fruits and vegetables. Such foods can benefit human health as well as the health of the planet.







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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Rochelle is 'on the grow' as usual

S we move into spring and summer, everyone is adjusting to many changes that have become the new normal. Rochelle is "on the grow" as usual.

There are many projects in the planning stages, with several to be announced soon. The daycare center has been one of our primary focuses, amongst dealing with the potential legislative premature closing of the Prairie State Energy Campus, which the City of Rochelle is a part owner.

The former daycare center closed its doors in about March of 2020, and as a result, many of our workforce citizens are without a much-needed part of the puzzle to get back to work. This is an extremely critical issue to our community, and we are working extremely hard to get another opened as best we can.

The premature closure of Prairie State will also place some serious adverse impacts on our local area. Through several in-person, Zoom testimony, conference calls and letters to our senators and representatives, we have tried to explain the huge negative impact on not only our community, but the region.

The meetings showing opposition are still ongoing as of the time of this update. We will not give up!

The razing of Hickory Grove is also closer on the horizon, with a hopeful target date of late October

or November to begin the demolition process. We have had several express interests in the "shovel ready" site once we reach that point. **The city manager**

and city council will meet to determine not only the best proposal relative to price, but the best

fit for the community.

The Rochelle Municipal Utilities Shop Local program has been amended to continue through the end of July as it is today. After that, it will return to a cap of three applications per household, just as it was in the beginning.

> That program, I honestly believe has helped save many of our small businesses as we moved through the

pandemic. That pro-

gram, as well as

many others, could not be done without

the dedicated support of our city council, which has been extremely supportive of many programs that helped get all of us to the point we

John

Bearrows

Earlier in the month of June, we did a ribbon cutting on two major projects. First, a \$14 million electrical substation that will be completed without any debt. This substation will allow for not only growth and development of new businesses, but better, sustainable power to existing customers.

The other major project was the ribbon cutting on our newly-redeveloped anaerobic lagoon at the wastewater treatment plant. This was a low interest loan of \$7 million, with \$2.1 million being forgiven. This too will allow for better service to our customers, and room for expansion and future growth.

As the mayor of Rochelle, I couldn't be more proud of everyone in all of the departments that every day work towards the betterment of our community and improve upon the services offered.

You have heard it before, but I will say it again, "Team Rochelle" is a winning team in a winning community. Until next time, remember our new tagline, "Rochelle IL – The Community of Opportunity."

John Bearrows is the Mayor of Rochelle.

Guest column Charles 'Lucky' Ludwig

∠ ∠ IS anyone scared?" a commander barked at his men. "If not, there is something wrong with you. I'll give you a little clue how to fight this war – make believe you're dead already; the rest comes easy."

This meat grinder, which lost two out of every three airmen, had 47,000 casualties and 26,000 fatalities, was to become home for Rochelle's

Charles Ludwig. The Eighth Air Force Bomber Group, England. Charles joined

the Army in 1940 at the age of 18. He first made the local paper when his parents received two telegrams on the same

day. One from the war department, "Your son is missing in enemy action, December 7, 1941." The second from Charles saying he was safe, regardless of what the war department said. For parents with a son stationed at Pearl Harbor, this must have been a very trying time.

In 1943, Charles started on a journey that was as daring and dangerous as any in the military. He trained and became an Army pilot. In 1943, the death and injury rate for bomber pilots was far greater than that of the

ground troops. Bombers were faster

and could fly further than the fighter planes which protected them. This meant that for much of the time the bombers had only themselves to rely on when enemy fighters attacked. The eighth was the deadliest air group flying.

In 1944. Ludwig was co-pilot on the B17 Flying Fortress "Little Joe". He was awarded the "Air Medal" for meritorious

achievement during bombing attacks on Nazi Europe.

Returning from a bombing run in June of 1944 with three engines out, Charles and the other nine members of the crew

Tom

McDermott

had to "ditch" their plane. It crashed into the North Sea and sank in less than a minute. Charles "Lucky" Ludwig and crew were rescued by a British mine sweeper with no injuries. He was given seven days rest and sent back to a new plane and crew. Pilots were at a premium.

Ludwig moved to the pilot seat of "Hell's Kitchen" toward the end of 1944. He continued an amazing career in the air. Charles flew missions on the French coast, Berlin, Paris, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Completing 35 flight missions in the European Theater, Charles was involved in several types of



missions, demolitions and incendiaries on Germany, supply drops to French Underground, supplies to troops at St. Lo, and was in the first wave of bombers on D-Day.

After completing his 35 missions Charles became a flight instructor for "Shooting Star" or the P-80. This was the first jet fighter that saw common use in the Army Air Force. He also served on the seventh emergency squadron as a rescue pilot.

When the war reached its end, Charles volunteered to fly food supplies into Germany as food shortages were leading to starvation of the German people. He flew the first flight ever to land at Tegel

Field in Germany. With 99 flight missions, 35 during combat in the European Theater Charles brought home some impressive hardware. Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 4 Oak Clusters. American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with a Battle Star. European Theater Ribbon with three Battle Stars, and the American Service Defense Medal.

Ludwig survived some of the deadliest combat seen by American forces. He stayed with the Army through WW2, Korea and into Viet Nam. He rose through the ranks and reached Lt. Colonel. Charles was just one of many area warriors through the years that have stood up and fought for the freedoms enjoyed, not only in America but across the world.

Tom McDermott is a historian for the Flagg Township Museum and a Rochelle City Councilman.

How to contact government officials

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

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

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

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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 rom 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

Twelve from Rochelle named to NIU dean's list

DEKALB—Northern Illinois University announced 12 students from the Rochelle area made its spring 2021 dean's list.

To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the college of engineering and engineering technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of business, education, health and human sciences, liberal arts and sciences, and visual and performing arts.

Students who achieved this honor from Rochelle include Katelyn Gabbard, college of education dean's list, ELED-reading teacher, Caitlin Hensley, college of liberal arts and sciences dean's list, actuarial science, Cole Hensley, college of engineering dean's list, en-

gineering management, Tyler Johnson, college of business dean's list, operations and info management, Najwa Morrar, college of liberal arts and sciences dean's list, psychology B.S., Gwendolyn Papke, college of health & human sciences dean's list, nutrition, dietetics, & Wellness, Ellaine Ray, college of engineering dean's list, biomedical engineering

B.S., Jocelyn Robles, college of health & human sciences dean's list, health sciences general, Jonathan Saladino, college of engineering dean's list, electrical engineering, Juanita Saldana, college of education dean's list, middle level teaching & learning, Alyssa Stauch, college of health & human sciences dean's list, hospitality & tourism management.

rom The Heart Calendar

June 12 - Johnson Tractor, Rochelle, \$25

June 13 - Benjamin Weinstein, Deerfield, \$50

June 14 - Patrick Johnson, Rochelle, \$25

June 15 - Donna Chick, Paw Paw, \$25

June 16 - Nancy Carr, Davis Junction, \$25

June 17 - Crystal Fiegenschuh, Princeton, \$25

June 18 - Sarah Flanagan, Rochelle, \$25

June 19 - Patricia Rodgers, Rockford, \$25

June 20 - Cassie Cecil, Rochelle, \$500

June 21 - Amy Hatfield, Rochelle, \$25 June 22 - Jane Cassidy, Rochelle, \$25

June 23 - Patricia Mahan, Illiopolis, \$25

June 24 - Anne Aubry, Whitefish Bay, Wis., \$25

June 25 - Spencer Hayden, Rochelle, \$25

June 26 - Diane May, Volvo, \$25

June 27 - Emily Shrimplin, West Brooklyn, \$50

June 28 - Cheri McGee, Rochelle, \$25

June 29 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25

June 30 - Tom Ellis, Steward, \$25

July 1 - Colette Eckhardt, Rochelle, \$25

July 2 - Peggy Nowicki, Madison, Wis., \$25

July 3 - Johnson Tractor, Rochelle, \$25

July 4 - Gabriela Ortiz, Rochelle, \$

July 5 - Rotary, Rochelle, \$25

July 6 - Rex Renner, Rochelle, \$25

July 7 - Mungor - ClarkDietrich, Rochelle, \$25

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

Rochelle's Schick makes dean's list at Trinity Christian College

PALOS HEIGHTS — In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights named Abigail Schick of Rochelle to its dean's list for spring 2021. The dean's list is Trinity Christian College's highest academic honor.

Adult undergraduate students who achieve a semester GPA of 3.8 or better in six or more graded credits earn this honor.

Traditional undergraduate students who attend Trinity full-time and earned a 3.5 grade point average earn this honor.



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Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pack cargo
- 5 Billboards
- 8 On with 12 Vagrant
- 13 Old
- Oldsmobile
- 14 TV's "Warrior
- Princess" 15 Actress Falco
- 16 Rep.'s rival
- 17 Apple product 18 Criminal's
- "why"
- 20 Latin love
- 22 Whiskey variety
- 26 Dishonor 29 Succor
- 30 Blue
- 31 Runner's tempo
- 32 Greek H 33 "Three
- Sisters" sister 54 Grant's foe
- 34 Last (Abbr.)
- 35 Nay undoer
- 36 Void
- couples
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- "- la Douce"
- 50 Thaw
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- **DOWN** 37 Outing for two 1 Son of Noah 2 Commotion

53 Adams and

Schumer

55 Vegas game

- 40 Bedouin 3 Life story 4 "Alas ... '

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 - Kenya
 - 8 Self-evident truth

- morale boost-
- 11 "Awesome!"
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- exclusive communities
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- 9 Pre-game
- 10 Year in Spain
- 21 Club —
- 23 Like some
- 25 "— the night before ..."
- 27 Head light? 28 In reality
- 32 Size up © 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

- - 33 Washington Monument,
 - 35 Carte lead-in
 - 36 Chowed down
 - 38 Londoners, e.g.

39 Keen

- 42 Nest setting 43 One-named
- supermodel 44 Roman censor 45 Actress
- 46 Tiara sparkler 48 Spell-off

Thurman

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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: Y equals N

JVM NPBLZMR CPHZY'L FZL RZMHZG UZMWPY RPVRPUZ.

FJV XJVEG RPF LCZ NVMRL

XJWZ.

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LJ

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Answer

Meekly SUDOKU

FZL

Solution time: 25 mins

SYSWERS — **Kind** Crossword —

yet to come. You could say the wurst is served German sausage. Our waiters haven't yet SUSMEL

Sheriff's Office releases Fourth of July numbers

Ogle County Sheriff's Office issued 204 citations including six arrests for alcohol-related violations during the Fourth of July "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign. Citations were issued for numerous traffic offenses including: two arrests for driving under the influence, four citations for illegal transportation of alcohol, 15 arrests for driving while license suspended/no valid driver's

license, two citations for no seat belt, two citations for using an electronic communication device while driving, 16 citations for uninsured drivers, three arrests for cannabis violations in a vehicle and 119 citations for speeding. The Ogle County Sher-

iff's Office joined forces with more than 200 other local law enforcement agencies from June 17 through July 5 to get drunk and drugged drivers off county roads and encourage seat belt use.

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

The enforcement period was funded by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of the statewide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" programs.

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Man arrested for reckless discharge of a firearm

OREGON — On July 2 at approximately 6:09 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at Twombly Road and Illinois 251. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested David S. Fant, 41, of DeKalb, for driving while license suspended. Fant was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond. Fant was also cited for speeding 75 m.p.h. in a 55 m.p.h. zone and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

On July 4 at 11:53 p.m.

deputies responded to the island at 7084 N. River Road in reference to a possible armed subject. After further investigation, deputies arrested Jeremy Gabel, 45, for reckless discharge of a firearm and disorderly conduct. Gabel was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On July 5 at approximately 9:15 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 3,000 block of South Illinois Route 26. After investigation, deputies arrested Cainon Canas, 24, of Rock Falls, for driving



while license suspended. Canas was also issued citations for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and an equipment violation. Canas was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS |



SIGNING WITH KISH

Rochelle senior Michael Schlenbecker signed with Kishwaukee College baseball.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Football

Reloading for the fall

Hubs eager to bounce back from second straight losing season

ROCHELLE — With a short amount of time to prepare for the upcoming season, head coach Kyle Kissack and the Rochelle Hub varsity football team are doing everything they can to keep players fresh, both physically and mentally, as the program looks

to bounce back this fall. Rochelle finished 2-4 in the Interstate 8 Conference during the shortened spring season earlier this year. With no opportunity to participate in the postseason due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kissack utilized the six-game season to develop up-and-coming players and build around a talented senior class, which included three All-Conference First Teamers in Ben Harvey, Noah Messer and Ethan Albers. Rochelle will gear up for a full, nine-game season

"We were thankful that our seniors had one more opportunity to compete," Kissack said. "Given how unique the spring season was, our kids did everything they could to be successful, even though we came up short in a handful of games... We've talked as a staff about keeping our kids engaged mentally, especially the kids who played two or three sports from January through June. We wanted our kids to have some time off and slow down a bit."

The Hubs rushed for 10 touchdowns this spring, with Harvey scoring four touchdowns and totaling a team-high 442 rushing yards. Rochelle will return multiple ball carriers this fall including sophomore Garrett Gensler, who averaged 6.4 yards per carry and ran for 328 yards. Gensler was one of six players to be named All-Conference Honorable Mentions, joining seniors Gabe Neece, Crue Larsen, Grant Thompson, junior Braden Alfano and sophomore Jaden Cook.

"We were able to try some new things on offense," Kissack said. "We had some younger kids on that side and we're continuing to build on their experience during the summer."

See HUBS page 3



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior lineman Ethan Albers is one of three Interstate All-Conference 8 First Team honorees from the Rochelle Hub varsity football team who will depart from the program this year.

Rochelle Little League

Saltra

Salinas Chiropractic wins Major League Softball City Championship

Rochelle Little League recently held its Major League Girls Softball City Championship, with Salinas Chiropractic taking home this season's title. The Salinas Chiropractic team includes Maya Esparza, Yessenia Garcia, Phelisity Lopez, Briel Metzger, Camryn Metzger, Vivian Novak, Jazlynn Quinonez, Mariah Stultz, Mackenzie Taylor, Alyssa Thompson and Riley Zimmerman. The team is coached by Brad Metzger and Mike Thompson.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle senior Michael Schlenbecker will be continuing his academics and his baseball career at Kishwaukee College next year.

Schlenbecker signs with **Kishwaukee College**

OCHELLE senior Michael Schlenbecker has signed to continue his academics and his baseball career at Kishwaukee College next season. Schlenbecker appeared in seven games for the Hubs this season, hitting .357 over 16 plate appearances with three doubles and three RBIs.

"Ichose Kishwaukee College for academics and athletics because I felt that it was the best opportunity for me to show out and succeed in the future," Schlenbecker said. "I couldn't be more excited. I'm looking forward to seeing the atmosphere of college athletics as well as the improved skill and work ethic of these college athletes. I'm also looking forward to building new bonds with my coaches and teammates. Playing beyond high school is the next step for me."

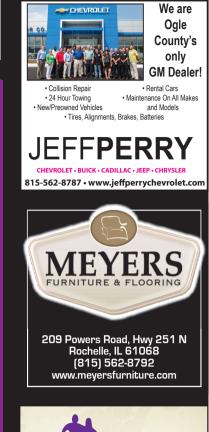
Schlenbecker spent four years with the Rochelle Township High School baseball program. Despite losing his junior season to the COVID-19 pandemic, Schlenbecker was productive at the plate, totaling eight hits and drawing a pair of walks. The lefthanded senior finished with a .438 on-base percentage and a .571 slugging percentage with the Hubs, who went 7-12 this season.

"Playing at RTHS has helped me a lot," Schlenbecker said. "I was able to play against great competition. I thought high school baseball showed me where I needed to be, in terms of skill and work ethic, in order to compete at the college level. I envision my role as doing whatever I can to help the team win. Playing time is earned and my biggest goal for the upcoming season is to bring energy and confidence to the clubhouse. Kishwaukee College will be getting a hard worker who has passion for the game and will do anything he can to help the team win."

Schlenbecker said he plans to study radiology while minoring in engineering. He said he plans to earn his associate's degree from Kishwaukee College and then transfer to a four-year school in order to continue his education and eventually become an x-ray technician.

Michael Schlenbecker









800.262.1680 www.johnsontractor.com





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SPORTS

HUBS: Rochelle looking to improve on 2-4 season

From page 1

"We had some kids step up and really shine. They complemented our senior class very well. Our younger kids earned significant playing time and that should help them throughout the summer."

The Hubs recorded four interceptions and four sacks on defense, with two sacks coming from Alfano at the defensive end position. Rochelle will lose seven starters on defense including two linemen (Messer and Albers), three linebackers (Harvey, Neece and Spencer Warborg) and two defensive backs (Larsen and Thompson). Juniors Nate Burdin (cornerback), Tanner Lager (linebacker), Marco Castro (defensive tackle) and Alfano are all eligible to return.

"I was really proud of how we played defense this season," Kissack said. "Our kids adjusted on the fly and we're going to lose some key defensive players, but we're going to work hard this summer and develop more kids on the defensive side of the

ball. Our kids have put in a lot of effort. I thought our defensive output during the spring was very respectable."

Junior Josh Lloyd tossed one touchdown pass in his first varsity season at the quarterback positon. Junior Ethan Wells headlines Rochelle's returning players at the tight end position, while several offensive linemen including Cook and Castro, as well as juniors Brodie Nantz and Grant Messer, will be able to return when the Hubs kickoff the 2021-22 season this fall.

"It's always nice to prepare for different teams," Kissack said. "It injects a little more urgency and excitement into weekly game planning and I think the kids are looking forward to that. We're familiar with Johnsburg and Kaneland, but we have some new teams on the schedule and I think that brings some excitement into the room. We're looking forward to the new scheduled and facing new challenges that we'll be faced with throughout the school year."



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore running back Garrett Gensler was one of five players on the Rochelle Hub varsity football team to earn an Interstate 8 All-Conference Honorable Mention this past season.

Rochelle Little League















Minor League Baseball teams battle at Bill Wilkinson Field

Rochelle Little League's Minor League Baseball teams recently completed another week of games at Floyd J. Tilton Park's Bill Wilkinson Field. Sixty-eight players across six teams (Bruns, C&C Plumbing, Moose, Dimond Brothers Insurance, Prescott Brothers Ford and Tess, Crull & Arnquist) participated in the Minor League Baseball division this season. Above are some recent action shots of players from each Minor League Baseball team taking in some summer fun.



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CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY IN THE MATTER)No. OF THE)2021)P 41 **ESTATE** OF

JON MICHAEL) RENNER,) Deceased.)

CLAIM NOTICE Notice is given of the death of JON MICHAEL RENNER, of Rochelle, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on June 21, 2021, to MARK S. RENNER, whose address 7100 Haddonfield Ct., Columbus, GA 31904. and whose attorneys Fearer, Nye & 420 4th Chadwick, 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 December 23. 2021, 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 MARK S. RENNER, Independent Administrator of the Estate of JON **MICHAEL** RENNER, deceased No. 0625 (June 23, 30,

July 7)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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SPORTS

Rochelle Little League



Tess, Crull & Arnquist wins Minor League Baseball City Championship

Rochelle Little League recently held its Minor League Boys Baseball City Championship, with Tess, Crull & Arnquist taking home this season's title. The Tess, Crull & Arnquist team includes Brantley Koenig, Teddy Millard, Colin McCullough, Gavin Smith, Vaughn Manning, Jaxon Vaughn, Riley Heal, Jaxon Gomez, Sergio Ramos, Quentin Ansteth, Maddex Jackson and D'Amontae Busick. The team is coached by Corey Ansteth, James Jackson, Noah Millard and Grant Manning.



www.tailshumanesociety.org



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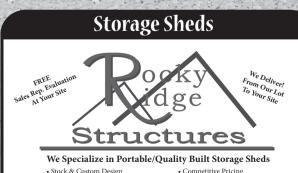
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- Winner will also receive a \$150 in cash for shopping and food in and around Galena or use the money for a stop at the Diamond Jo Casino in East Dubuque!
- Plus we will give the winner a \$50 gas card for the round trip!

*No subscription purchase necessary to enter trip drawing. Total value of trip is \$1,000. Dates of trip ad unit size based on availability. Only one entry per household. Must be at least 21 to enter. News-Leader employees and immediate family members are not eligible for trip drawing.