

## Hahn leaves legacy of a father, fiancé, swimmer and craftsman

“Before we got into the water he said he’d finish in under an hour,” Ciaccio



**Mike Hahn passed away on June 5 while participating in a swim race at Lake Monona in Madison, Wisconsin. A swimmer since high school, Hahn earned “tons” of medals from competitive races throughout his life.**

said. "I did 37 minutes. I was waiting for him. Once an hour passed, I started to wonder where he was.

I didn't want to panic. I went to the official table and they said he was taken away."

Ciaccio will remember her fiancé for his constant positivity. Any time someone asked how he was

doing, Mike would always say, "Awesome."

**See HAHN page 10**

## Prairie State Energy Campus may close early

Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows said at a Monday press conference that the negative economic impact of the plant's early closure would have on Rochelle is "huge," "financially-devastating" and RMU would "probably" no longer exist as we know it today. A decision is expected to be made this week in Springfield. Bearrows praised the newer plant that came online in 2012 and said its

impact on the environment shouldn't be lumped in with older coal plants.

"I want you to flood their offices today," Bearrows said. "Today's the day. We're asking everyone to reach out and show your dissatisfaction with an unplanned closing of Prairie State. I can't stress enough how important this is. This plant should not be in the same group as a plant that was built in 1965. There's a difference. I trust that everyone will reach out."

The aim of the state bill is to transition to green energy. Bearrows said the city is “very proactive” in solar and wind energy and not opposed to a transition to it, but wants to see sustainable, reliable and affordable energy.

Bearrows believes there's "no reason" Prairie State couldn't be carved out of the bill, as it was slated to in recent weeks before being added back to the closure list.

"When you talk about what Prairie State does, 1,600 megawatts of power," Bearrows said. "To



**Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows speaks at a press conference held at City Hall on Monday.**

create 1,600 megawatts with solar panels, you're looking at 13,500 acres of prime farmland taken out of production. Let's look at what the next step might be. Are we going to have to learn how to sustain without food? Because we're going to have to learn how to get along without sustainable power if this happens."

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said Rochelle would have \$50 million in debt left in 2035 when the plant closes that it would still be obligated to

pay. Rochelle would have to go out and buy power to replace Prairie State's supply.

Fiegenschuh said the notion that the city could go out and buy power on the market at a lower rate than it's paying Prairie State is "naive" to think.

“To think we can go out and buy power and guarantee prices are low in 2035 if we don’t have base load generation in this state and other states makes no sense,” Fiegenschuh said.

**See COAL page 5**

# Demolition agreement approved

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an agreement with Rochelle Hospitality, LLC that will pave the way for the demolition of Hickory Grove Convention Center this fall or winter.

The Comfort Inn & Suites hotel is connected to the Hickory Grove building and so are its utilities. The agreement will allow the buildings to be "properly disconnected." The city also decided to subdivide the property so it's more developable. The agreement makes the property more "linear," City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said.

Fiegenschuh said the temporary construction easement and land exchange agreement with the hotel will cost the city \$250,000.

"We need this to demolish Hickory Grove and disconnect the buildings," Fiegenschuh said.

**See CITY page 5**

The image shows the First State Bank logo, which consists of a large yellow number '1' with the words 'FIRST STATE BANK' in blue capital letters to its right. The background is a light-colored brick wall. On the left is a portrait of Brent Ohlinger, a man with a shaved head wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie. On the right is a portrait of David Eckhardt, a man with dark hair wearing a grey suit and a blue tie. Below the portraits are their names and titles. At the bottom, the address '304 East Highway 38 • Rochelle', the website 'firststatebank.biz', and the phone number '815.562.2200' are listed. In the bottom right corner, there is a 'Member FDIC' logo.

# LOCAL NEWS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Cardiac rehab graduate Raul Cobos (left) is pictured with Lisa Charboneau, RN and Ariana Welle, CNA. Cobos graduated from the cardiac rehabilitation program on June 11.

## Cobos graduates from RCH cardiac rehabilitation program

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Community Hospital congratulated Raul Cobos, who graduated from the cardiac rehabilitation program on June 11 at RCH.

Cardiac rehab is a medically-supervised program designed to improve cardiovascular health if you have experienced heart attack, heart failure, angioplasty

or heart surgery.

RCH offers cardiac rehab phase II and phase III. The program is offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6-10 a.m. To

participate in the program, patients need a referral from their physician.

For more information, call 815-562-2181, ext. 2732.

## RCH offering sports physicals

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Community Hospital will be offering sports physicals on Thursday, July 8 from 4-7 p.m. These physicals will take place at the Family Healthcare Clinic at the hospital.

As part of the physical, a free physical therapy assessment will also be offered by RCH physical therapy staff.

In addition, COVID-19 Pfizer vaccinations will be offered to ages 12-17 free of charge and a parent must be present.

To schedule an appointment, call 815-562-2181 and dial "0". Walk-ins are welcome.

High school, middle

school, Rochelle Junior Tackle athletes or any student athlete is welcome.

The cost is \$35 to be paid by cash or check only; no insurance will be accepted that night. All proceeds will be donated back to the schools/organizations represented.

Students and parents are asked to use entrance "G" at the south end of the hospital in the Health & Wellness Center. Masks are required in the hospital.

Parents should be advised that this physical does not meet the requirements for incoming sixth graders or freshman physicals.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

## Fishing event at Flagg Township Museum

**ROCHELLE** — It's summer and there's nothing better than spending the day fishing! At the museum we won't be going to the lake and baiting our hook but we will be celebrating fishing and summer with an exhibit of fishing gear collected by local enthusiast Marv Jenner.

On Sunday, June 27 at 1 p.m. Jenner will be at the museum for a reception with many fish stories to share, you know, the stories about the big ones that got away.

Jenner's fishing experiences span his lifetime and often took him to Canada as well as Alaska, and into countries around

the world, returning often to the local fishing holes. He's sure to tell the story of the 100-pound spoon-bill catfish he caught from the Mississippi and how it ended up not being the state record at that time.

The "Gone...fishing" exhibit is on display at the museum during June and July. Coming in August is "Miss Rochelle...now gone from Rochelle."

The mission of the Flagg Township Historical Society and Museum is to stimulate interest in Flagg Township history through education, research, collection and preservation of information for the benefit of the public of today and in the future.



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**STEPHANIE CRAWFORD, DNP, APRN**

At a young age, Stephanie knew she wanted to help people—and as a family medicine provider at Rochelle Family Healthcare Clinic, she does just that. While her career started at a large health system, Stephanie chose RCH because it feels like home. "Everyone takes care of each other. It's family; it's a whole community," she shared. "I'm taking care of my neighbors, my friends. Being here *just feels right*."

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Ogle County Education Cooperative honors staff

**OGLE COUNTY** — Ogle County Education Cooperative (OCEC) recognized staff this year for years of service. Among the staff are four leaders within the organization and together they offer 90 years of service to students, staff and families in Ogle County.

### Terry Camplain

OCEC honors Terry Camplain for 30 years of service. Camplain serves as the principal of Chana Education Center, a therapeutic day school program of OCEC, which focuses on the social and emotional growth of students.

Camplain has served 13 years as a school psychologist in Rochelle and 17 years as principal at Chana. His biggest accomplishment may very well be demonstrated by his daily interactions with students, families and staff. Camplain encourages others to be their best and provides solid advice in challenging situations.

He mentors others and provides the school program with a steady balance of head and heart, always with a direct focus of what is best for kids. Camplain was awarded Illinois School Psychologist of the Year in 2001, as well as, Focus House Volunteer of the Year.

He is a member of the Ogle County Juvenile Justice Council and certified trainer for trauma-informed school approaches.

He develops and provides training to local school districts and for

regional offices of education on trauma-informed care with his teams. He has enjoyed serving as a referee for The Ogle County All Stars.

He has been a supervisor for school psychologists in training. Not only can you see Mr. Camplain encouraging, supporting, teaching and providing for his students at school day to day, you may catch a glimpse of him in a local dart tournament or on stage!

He is a member of Vince Carney Community Theatre and a member of Exit 99 Improvisational Comedy Troupe. The OCEC is thankful for his leadership and service. He has created an effective and outstanding program for students based on trauma-informed approaches and growth mindset. Camplain resides in Davis Junction with his wife, Jeanie.

### Chris Roberts

OCEC celebrated Chris Roberts for 20 years of service to OCEC. Mr. Roberts serves as the school psychologist for Rochelle Township High School. He is highly valued, appreciated and revered by his RTHS colleagues, families and OCEC.

Roberts graduated from Illinois State University with B.S. in 1981 with psychology major and a minor in sociology. He later graduated from Illinois State University with an M.S. in school psychology in 1983.

He served as a school psychology intern during the 1983-84 school year



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

**Terry Camplain (left) and Toby Luxton (right) are two of the four Ogle County Education Cooperative staff members who were recently recognized for their years of service with the organization.**

in the Kankakee School District and later at Northwest Special Education Cooperative from 1984-1987. Ogle County was fortunate to gain him as a school psychologist from 1987-1992.

Prior to his service at OCEC, he was the director of Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinic in Memphis, Tennessee.

Roberts enjoys working in a rural setting, the camaraderie at OCEC and a supportive work environment. He participated in the threat assessment and diagnostic

eligibility guidelines committees and served as a supervisor to interns.

He is known as a calm, efficient, and a well-spoken psychologist with a wealth of knowledge. He enjoys playing golf, traveling, reading books and watching the Chicago Bears, Chicago Bulls and Chicago Cubs. He has two daughters and 6 grandsons. He resides in Lindenwood with his wife, Christine.

### Amy L. Henkel

OCEC recognized Amy L. Henkel, associate

director of special education, for 20 years of service. Henkel worked as a school social worker for 11 years serving member districts before becoming special education coordinator in 2012, and later moving to the position of assistant director in 2014.

She serves in a principal role for the life skills program, administrator for OCUSD #220 and Polo Schools #222, staff supervisor, autism team leader, and as liaison to Northwestern IL Association.

She enjoys working

with school-based teams and serving as a crisis prevention intervention senior instructor. She participated in the development of PBIS, a threat assessment guidance document, and strategies for teaching based on autism research, to local school districts. As an organizational partner representative to Kreider Services she aided in the vision and development of Florissa as a local organization and asset to the community.

**See OCEC page 8**

## Municipal concerts underway

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Municipal Band has begun its summer concert series.

All concerts will be held at the Atwood Park band shell at the corner of 10th Avenue and 20th Street. Each concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and lasts approximately one hour.

The band also looks forward to once again performing the popular July 4 concert which will begin at 8 p.m. The band plays on an every other week and on the off weeks there are special concerts planned that include groups that have performed in the past.

The Concert Schedule is as follows: the Rochelle Municipal Band on June 16, the Bluegrass Reunion Band on June 23, the mu-



nicipal band and fireworks on July 4, the Backroads Trio on July 7, the municipal band on July 14, the Footstompers on July 21 and the municipal band on July 30.

The Rochelle Municipal Band is open to any instrumentalists in the Rochelle area. Feel free to email Ron Duval, director at rochmunibnd@gmail.com. It is important to make this

contact as arrangements will be made so that the number of chairs, stands, and music will be made accordingly.

Unfortunately if there is inclement weather for either the rehearsal or concert there will be no concert for that week.

Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy nights of live concert music at the Atwood Park Band Shell.



## DANIEL J.A. HAYWARD

December 25, 1970 - June 16, 2004



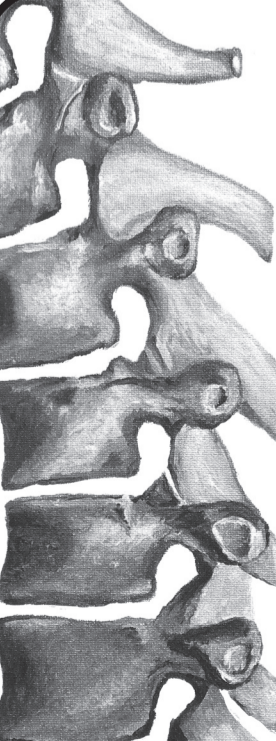
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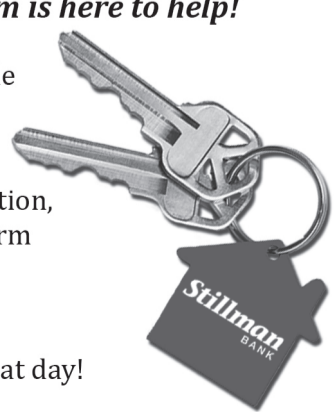
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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### George H. Vrana

**ROCHELLE** — George H. Vrana, 90, passed away Thursday, June 10 at his home in Rochelle. George was born on Oct. 19, 1930 in Lady-smith, Wisconsin, the son of Frank and Rose (Cajka) Vrana. He graduated from Colby High School in Colby, Wisconsin.

On Aug. 9, 1969, George married Donna C. Herring at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Rochelle. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving during the Korean Conflict. He was a lifetime member of the Rochelle VFW Post 3878 and longtime member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. George enjoyed hunting and fishing and after retirement, he spent a lot of time

doing volunteer work. He was employed by Burlington Northern Railroad for 42 years.

George is survived by his two sons: Mike (Debbie) Vrana of Princeton and Chuck (Patty) Vrana of Lafayette, Indiana; four grandsons: Scott (Abby) Vrana of Madras, Oregon, Ryne (Alison) Vrana of Rochelle, Joshua and Noah Vrana of Lafayette, Indiana; brother, Stan (Grethe) Vrana of Rochelle; three great grandchildren: Olivia and Benjamin Vrana and Scotlyn Vrana; nephews, Tom (Janet) and their son Tom Jr. and special niece, Sue Vrana and family.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Donna on March



12, 2021.

Burial will be at Lawnridge Cemetery at a later date. Memorials may be made in George's memory to St. Paul Lutheran Church or St. Paul Lutheran School. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle.

Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

## Obituaries

### Patricia Ann Sartin

**MICHIE, Tenn.** — Patricia Ann Sartin was born April 27, 1957 in Rochelle, the daughter of the late Raymond Ray Crawford and Jaunita Elizabeth Cox Crawford. She departed this life on June 13 in Michie, Tennessee at the age of 64 years, 1 month and 17 days. Patty was united in marriage to Randy Joe Sartin on November 3, 1973.

She had worked for Payson Casters in Russell as a forklift operator in the 1970s. She also worked at Cherry Electric and for the Department of Defense in the food industry while living in Kaiserslautern, Germany

where her husband was stationed in the military. Patty attended Gateway Community College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She enjoyed crocheting, cooking and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her husband, Randy Joe Sartin; her children: Jennifer Lynette Sartin (Kerry South), Cory Ryan Sartin (Charlie Wood) all of Michie and Randi Brieana Courtney Sartin (Will Johnson) of Florence, Alabama; a brother, Burley Starns (Mary) of Robertsdale, Alabama; uncle and aunt, Larry Cox and Phyllis of Creston and a host of other relatives and



friends.

In addition to her parents, Mrs Sartin was preceded in death by an unborn child in 1977. No public services are scheduled. You may visit [www.shackelfordfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.shackelfordfuneraldirectors.com) to view her tribute page.

### Lela Carolyn Ackland

**ROCHELLE** — Lela Carolyn Ackland, 82, of rural Compton, passed away Saturday, June 12, at Liberty Village of Rochelle. Carolyn was born Dec. 24, 1938, in Washington, Iowa, the daughter of Leland and Florence (Koonts) White. She married Lloyd Ackland on July 10, 1971, at the Fairfield Methodist Church in Fairfield, Iowa.

Carolyn blessed many others through her teaching, music and ministry. She taught second grade and special education for nine years in Davenport and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She taught piano lessons for about 30 years and poured her heart into her students.

She had been first chair clarinetist in Fairfield High School. She was a dedicated church pianist, organist and choir director and wanted to share her joy of music with everyone.

Carolyn was a devoted servant in women's ministries, VBS and children's

ministries at Ashton Bible Church and was a member of the Gideon's Auxiliary. She had an incredible green thumb and loved to bless others with her flowers and plants. She was a spiritual mentor to several women and a devoted friend. She loved her family dearly and served her husband, children and grandchildren with her whole heart.

She came to saving faith in Jesus Christ at the age of 20 and lived the rest of her life following Him. She was a fervent lover of scripture and lived it out with her life. She believed Psalm 37:4 — "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." She was known for her bright smile, unique sense of humor, warm hospitality, and her friendliness to all.

Carolyn is survived by her husband, Lloyd, of rural Compton; two children, Lisa (Jason) Carriere of Indianapolis, Indiana and Todd Ackland of Rochelle; two grandchildren, Ian and Elena Carriere of Indianapolis, a brother,



Dana (Shirley) White of Edina, Minnesota; Dana's three children and their families and many more family members who hold Carolyn dear.

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, June 17, at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St. in Rochelle.

Funeral service will be at 10 a.m., Friday, June 18, at the Ashton Bible Church, 702 Main St., in Ashton with Pastor Farrel Stauffer officiating. Interment will follow in Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle.

Contributions in Carolyn's memory may be directed to Gideons International or World Vision International. Please visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Wymore G. Wascher

**ROCHELLE** — Wymore G. Wascher, 80, of Rochelle, died Friday, June 11 at Alexian Brothers Hospice Residence, Elk Grove Village.

Born Sept. 4, 1940, in Wayne, Nebraska the son of Irwin and Anita (Simmons) Wascher, Wymore married Bonita DeBarr on Sept. 3, 1960, at the Lutheran church in Kirkland. A

graduate of Kirkland High School, he farmed in the Kirkland area for 60 years. He loved traveling, camping, boating and fishing in Canada.

Wymore is survived by his wife, Bonita; sons, Brian (Vicki) of Kirkland and Brad (Stephanie) of Kings; daughter, Mishelle (Mike) Rubeck of Monroe Center; grandchildren, Bre-

anna, Brendan, Chandler and Austin; brother, Vernon Wascher of Chillicothe, Missouri; three nephews; a niece and several cousins. He was predeceased by his parents; and a sister, Beverly Strom.

The family thanks Serenity Hospice and Alexian Brothers Hospice for their loving care. Memorials can be made in Wymore's name to Serenity Hospice, 1658 Illinois Route 2, Oregon, IL 61061.

Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, June 18, at Olson's Quiram Kirkland Funeral Chapel, 309 S. Fifth St., Kirkland, IL 60146. The Rev. Phil Gronbach, pastor of First Lutheran Church, Kirkland, will officiate. Visitation will be from noon-2 p.m. Friday. Masks are optional.

Visit [www.olsonfh.com](http://www.olsonfh.com) to express a condolence; 815-784-2518.

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Ogle County COVID-19 Weekly Update

As of Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Ogle County COVID-19 Statistics

Positivity Rate as of June 11 is **1.8%**  
Total Vaccinations Administered: **40,478**  
Total FULLY Vaccinated: **19,960**  
Pct. FULLY Vaccinated: **39.20%**

Ogle County Health Department

- COVID-19 Johnson & Johnson Walk-In Clinics:  
**Thursday, June 17th from 12:30-4:00 p.m.**  
**Friday, June 18th from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**  
No appointment necessary. Must be age 18+.  
This vaccine is a single dose.  
OCHD Offices, 907 Pines Road, Oregon

Upcoming clinics will be posted on the OCHD Facebook page, website at [health.oglecounty.org](http://health.oglecounty.org), or call 815-562-6976.

Rochelle Community Hospital

- Watch for more information about COVID-19 vaccination at RCH

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 also available at all pharmacies in Rochelle.

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.

# LOCAL NEWS

## CITY: Agreement reached for Hickory Grove demolition

From page 1

"I'm sure there will be some more surprises as we go into the demolition and find out what's underneath that facility. But as of now this is the best deal we can get. It protects the city and the hotel operator."

The hotel will be building a new pool for its guests as part of its plans.

### Shop Local Program

The council amended its Shop Local RMU Credit Program Monday. The program will run with unlimited credits through July 31 and then a maximum of three credits per household will be allowed through the end of the year.

The program has generated \$1.179 million for the local economy at a cost of \$218,000 to RMU.

Fiegenschuh said his staff spends 25-30 hours a week processing the credits.

"It's a great program and we want to continue it," Fiegenschuh said. "But we have to limit it. And everything is reopened now."

mously approved an additional \$17,500 cost to the scope of its Rochelle Transload Center expansion project due to changes in future use of the RTC.

The original plan was to extend track and land to facilitate a road salt transloading operation. However, an opportunity has been presented to the city to re-establish an intermodal service through the RTC and this would require a change in the plan to modify the existing RTC yard.

The change would include paying the entrance of the RTC and constructing a concrete loading pad to allow intermodal containers to be loaded & unloaded from the RTC track.

"Revenue potential for this project is more than four times what the original project would have generated and therefore the additional \$17,500 cost to change the scope of the project is justifiable," City Economic Development Director Jason Anderson said.

### Stormwater replacement

The city unanimously approved a \$820,532.75 expenditure for its upcoming



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an agreement with Rochelle Hospitality, LLC that will pave the way for the demolition of Hickory Grove Convention Center this fall or winter.

ing stormwater drainage structure replacement project. \$165,000 in possible change orders to the project was approved as well.

### Good News

Fiegenschuh presented Good News awards to Ben Johnson and Jason Underwood, both of Rochelle Fire, for receiving their

master of public administration degrees.

The water department was also recognized for its management of the wells in town after issues have plagued them in recent weeks. Utilities Superintendent Adam Lanning and Jay Mulholland were present at the meeting and accepted the award from Fiegenschuh.

### RACF

The city and its employees who have made charitable donations out of their checks to the Rochelle Area Community Foundation presented a check for \$20,520 to RACF Director Emily Anaya.

"Each gift adds up, and when combined over time, the result is incredibly

impactful," Anaya said. "Each year the City of Rochelle has made goals and has exceeded those goals. This is attributed to the generosity and support of the employees, the hard work and passion put in from [Human Resources Coordinator] Nancy Bingham and the leadership and drive demonstrated by Jeff Fiegenschuh."

## COAL: City has \$150 million debt with Prairie State plant

From page 1

"If Prairie State closes, our rates will have to go up. Because we're going to pay debt service on a plant we can't use and we're going to have to find 30 megawatts of power to make up what

we're losing from Prairie State."

Fiegenschuh believes the move in the direction of renewables needs to be done in a sustainable way that doesn't impact rate payers, who he says will see a major rate increase to

cover costs of Prairie State closing.

The city hasn't had a rate increase in six years and power costs at Prairie State have gone down in the past five years, Fiegenschuh said.

Fiegenschuh said the city

would have to think about buying more power in the late 2020s if Prairie State closes. It would also look at investing in and producing more renewable power in town and how it would pay for that, which would likely be rate increases.

The closing of Prairie State would force the city to look at the business model it currently uses with RMU and its ability to continue to provide power at a low cost, Fiegenschuh said.

"There's a lot of questions that need to be answered," Fiegenschuh said.

"Do I want RMU to go away? Absolutely not. I love our local utility. There's a lot of positives to having our local utility. The flip side is, we have a business model and we have to be able to fall within that business model."

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# LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

## A flag folded 13 times

WHILE I never intended to keep the theme of the last column going, again it seems very fitting. I have certainly been thinking over the past month mainly about the American flag and the 13 folds. While many people enjoy the three-day weekend, spending time camping, grilling out or even time-honored traditions like the Indianapolis 500, Memorial Day is much more than that.



Sheriff Brian VanVickle

ended their watch in 2020 or the agencies they represented, but the state leaders. For the first time in many years, the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General did not participate in the service. This is something to think about. With that said, I keep going back to a different flag folded 13 times, and it was a funeral for someone that I've never met, but a brother in blue. A brother that left four daughters and a wife, two different law enforcement agencies and many in multiple communities behind. I attended this funeral in Decatur and listened to Chris' daughters speak about his love for them and all the funny stories they hold dear. When Amber, Chris' wife, spoke, everyone heard her challenge. Ambers' challenge was to quit being the silent majority, stop turning the other way when it's uncomfortable and be passionate about how we want our communities to be long after we are gone. Our foundation was built from these now-quiet or even at-times silent ideologies and if we continue down this path, the "changes" will be our fault. If the funeral procession was any indication of the sleeping giant, you are certainly not alone. But we do need to remember this challenge and make sure other points of view are heard. Chris Oberheim EOW 05/19/2021.

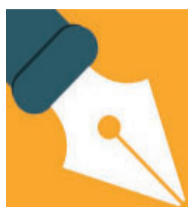
*Brian VanVickle is the Ogle County Sheriff.*

Letters to the Editor

## City opposes closure of coal-fueled plants

Dear Editor, For more than 100 years, the City of Rochelle has operated a municipal utility committed to providing energy to its residents and businesses. Because of an unrelenting commitment to providing low-cost, reliable electricity, we oppose the proposed mandated, premature closure of coal-fueled plants currently being discussed in Springfield, which would cause drastic economic damage to our city. Rochelle works hard to keep energy affordable and reliable while investing in a cleaner energy future. Our portfolio already includes solar, and the city council is considering additional solar and wind generation options in the next five years. Those would make renewable energy account for 15 percent of our daily energy load. One resource that would be

forced to close is Prairie State Energy Campus. A leader in carbon-capture technology, they are partnering with the University of Illinois and the Department of Energy to study ways to reduce carbon emissions and create future job opportunities in Illinois. The resource continues to play a critical role in shielding our customers from volatile costs in the wholesale energy market and provide stability during unpredictable events like severe weather. The city's bond obligations on Prairie State will continue whether the plant is operational or not. The costs required for replacement capacity and decommissioning amount to an estimated 10-15 percent increase for our customers. We are concerned about the downward economic spiral rate in-



creases would trigger. Businesses will leave and not be replaced, increasing resident rates. Residents would leave, if possible, as property values plummet. A decreased tax base would force service cuts. Investor-owned utilities have other sources of revenue and can spread costs across millions of customers, but Rochelle has just 7,000. A proposed task force to study a Prairie State closure falls woefully short of easing our financial concerns. Forcing a premature shutdown is akin to taking our home away before it is paid off and forcing us to pay rent elsewhere. We ask our legislators to do the right thing for our people and our economy and reject the early shuttering of Prairie State.

Mayor John Bearrows  
City of Rochelle

## How 'Iron Joe' came to be

Dear Editor, Many in Rochelle may not know the story of how the community came to have "Iron Joe" or the Iron Fountain, currently located in front of the Flagg Township Museum. On May 1, those who attended the opening and turning on of the Iron Fountain at the museum learned a little history. In a nutshell, Mrs. James (Laura) Fessler, Fessler in some histories, was a very effective community activist. Her list of accomplishments includes many organizations and many philanthropic deeds for Rochelle. She was born in Pennsylvania in 1853, married James Fessler in

1879 and settled in Rochelle for the final time in 1902. Until her death in 1920 she was known for her good deeds. We have her to thank for establishing the state tree, the oak, and the state flower, the violet, among other things and for bringing "Iron Joe" to Rochelle in 1915. It provided fresh water for people, birds, dogs and horses, each having its own place to drink at the fountain. Originally it was located at the corner of 4th Avenue and Lincoln Highway, then moved to the municipal building at Sixth Street and Fifth Avenue in 1970, and in 1996 or 1997 it was re-

located to the museum. The museum turns it on from May to October when the museum is open, so the water flows Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. That's the historic part. Today, we like to think we made new history on May 1 when for the first time in probably 100 years, a horse drank from the fountain. The goats that came were a little timid but a couple of dogs enjoyed a cool drink and the people in attendance did too. The museum would not have been able to do this without the help of Amanda Headon,

who brought the horse, goats and dog to the museum along with several members of her family: sister Aubrey, mom Cass and grandma Vicky LaRue. A man and a plans to study veterinary medicine and currently attends the University of Tennessee at Martin, putting her love of animals to good use. The Headon family made the day very special and we are very grateful. Special thanks to them for helping us make history.

Jan Devore  
director Flagg Township Museum



## A thank you for my birthday celebration

Dear Editor, Rochelle Tres Dias group is known for bringing good news to the community as part of their ministry. But this is the first time Tres Dias reunion attempted to add joy to a young man turning 80 in a wonderful way. They descended upon Squires Landing where the Prabhakars live, in four or five cars

full of eager participants with toilet paper and they decorated the yard with exotic modern designs using simple toilet paper! They also serenaded the birthday king John Prabhakar with a song composed specially for the occasion. The birthday celebration continued inside the home with prayer and refreshments.

The biggest surprise came when the new Rochelle News-Leader editor Jeff Helfrich walked in to take photos of the damage and the TP'd couple in their home. When the editor asked the couple, "How do you feel?" they both replied, "We feel blessed to live in Rochelle, the land of the free, brave and kind."

John Prabhakar  
Rochelle

### How to contact government officials

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1218 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C.  
20515  
(202) 225-3635

IL Sen. Brian Stewart  
M104A State House  
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Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to (news@rochelle-news-leader.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



Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle and newly appointed Ogle County Deputy Chief Danielle Hardesty.

## Hardesty appointed Ogle County Sheriff's Office chief deputy

**OREGON** — Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle recently announced the appointment of Lt. Danielle Hardesty to the position of chief deputy.

Hardesty began her career with the Sheriff's Office in 2001, serving in many capacities including corrections deputy, patrol deputy, investigations, patrol sergeant and most recently as lieutenant. Hardesty has resided in the area her entire life, graduating from Ashton High School and attending Illinois State University earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She is also a graduate of Northwestern University's staff and command program.

Hardesty is the highest ranking female deputy in the 184 year history of the agency.

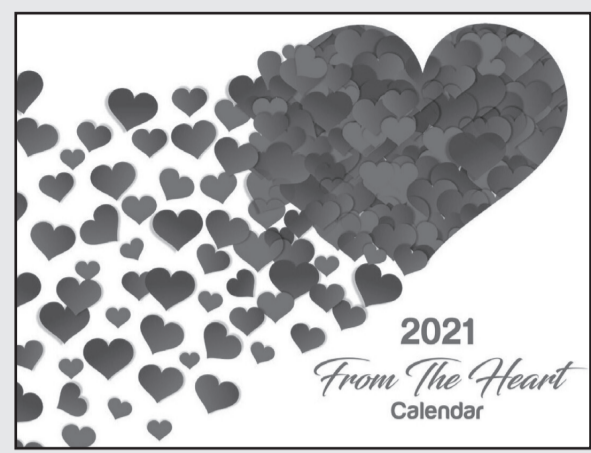
"Danielle's extensive knowledge and passion to serve the citizens of this county makes her a great selection to lead this agency well into the future," VanVickle said.

### THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

June 17 (Thursday) – Chicken Licken Bowls, Coleslaw, Biscuits with Honey	July 4 – (Sunday Brunch) – NO SUNDAY BRUNCH – ENJOY THE 4TH OF JULY WEEKEND!!
June 18 (Friday) – BBQ Baby Back Ribs, Potato Salad, Salad, Rolls	KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries
June 22 (Tuesday) – Kabobs – Chicken, Beef or Shrimp, Veggie Rice and Salad	**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.
June 24 (Thursday) – Taco Salad – Chicken or Beef, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Salsa, Sour Cream	www.KitchenTableRochelle.org
June 29 (Tuesday) – Pork Chops, Mac N Cheese, Peas, Dinner Roll	

Stay Connected Wherever You Go!

[www.rochellenews-leader.com](http://www.rochellenews-leader.com)



- May 22 - Rochelle Community Foundation, \$25
- May 23 - Kwami Gati, Rochelle, \$50
- May 24 - Rochelle Community Foundation, \$25
- May 25 - Bill Patrick, C/O Edward Jones Linc. Hwy, \$25
- May 26 - Jon Cappel, Waywatos, Wisconsin, \$25
- May 27 - United Way of Rock River Valley, \$25
- May 28 - Laura Evangelista, Rochelle, \$25
- May 29 - PDG Steve Kuhn, Sycamore, \$25
- May 30 - Kathy Olson, Rochelle, \$50
- May 31 - Karen Ravnarik, Peru, \$1,000
- June 1 - Missy Heisner, Ashton, \$25
- June 2 - Rajni and Prem Sud, Rochelle, \$25
- June 3 - Ann O'Donnell, Rockford, \$25
- June 4 - Alissa Bchog, Rochelle, \$25
- June 5 - Michelle Glen, Rochelle, \$25
- June 6 - Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, \$50
- June 7 - Josh Albright, DeKalb, \$25
- June 8 - Anita Bowers, Byron, \$25
- June 9 - Larry Hageman, Rochelle, \$25
- June 10 - Bob Caron, Rochelle, \$25
- June 11 - R. Arch Millotte, Rochelle, \$25
- 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

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



## Coffee Break

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 Egyptian deity
- 5 Piercing tool
- 8 Probability
- 12 Lion's share
- 13 Hot tub
- 14 Stench
- 15 Unoriginal one
- 16 Home to the Buccaneers
- 18 Pizza topping
- 20 Wine container
- 21 Off-white
- 23 Dict. info
- 24 Spoofs
- 28 Pharmaceutical
- 31 Playwright Levin
- 32 Leg bone
- 34 Mentalist's gift
- 35 Rhett's last word
- 37 Mildew cause
- 39 Scratch
- 41 Valentine flower
- 42 Molds
- 45 Foliage
- 49 Marshmallow toaster
- 51 Carousel, for one
- 52 "I cannot tell —"
- 53 Pair

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16			17				
18				19			20					
			21			22		23				
24	25	26					27		28		29	30
31				32				33		34		
35			36		37				38			
		39		40		41						
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49						50			51			
52					53				54			
55					56				57			

- |                          |                              |                         |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 54 Aspiring atty.'s exam | 8 Gave a speech              | 29 Constitution letters |
| 55 Fork setting          | 9 Owing nothing              | 30 Family docs          |
| 56 Still, in verse       | 10 Transaction               | 33 Church section       |
| 57 Orange veggies        | 11 Terrier type              | 36 Caught some z's      |
|                          | 17 Group of seals            | 38 Almost               |
| <b>DOWN</b>              | 19 Highlander                | 40 Ump                  |
| 1 Apple computer         | 22 Release a deadbolt        | 42 "Lion King" villain  |
| 2 Former frosh           | 24 Cover                     | 43 Saintly ring         |
| 3 "Got it"               | 25 Altar constellation       | 44 Faction              |
| 4 Meryl of film          | 26 Abba-inspired hit musical | 46 Travel permit        |
| 5 Space rock             | 27 Buck                      | 47 Dutch cheese         |
| 6 New Deal agcy.         |                              | 48 Collections          |
| 7 Gentle soul            |                              | 50 Regret               |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆ ◆ Challenging
- ◆ ◆ ◆ HOO BOY!

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## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: **G** equals **L**

AOJX VOA CK EVF ACM PDDGF  
IVFNF UTGBJ ENPRF UTTEIFPN PGG  
RPX: KFI XTNB JTLB FHLVPKMF.

King Crossword  
Answers  
Solution time: 22 mins.

Weekly SUDOKU  
Answers

CryptoQuip  
answer  
Busy hub in the Big Apple  
where folks trade footwear all  
day: New York Stock Exchange.

# LOCAL NEWS

## OCEC: Education staff members recognized for service

From page 3

She is a licensed clinical social worker and received her Master's Degree and Administration Leadership Endorsement at Aurora University and Bachelors of Science at University of Illinois.

Henkel currently serves on the Ogle County 708 Mental Health Board, Village of Progress Human Rights & Behavior Management and Project Search Rockford Mercy-Health Steering Committees.

She was awarded the IAASE Regional Trailblazer Award in 2017. Henkel's contributions to the students, families and programs of OCEC cannot be overstated.

Henkel's leadership, knowledge and passion for high-quality special education and service delivery are second to none. She resides in Oregon with her husband, Alan, and has two sons and one daughter.

### Toby Luxton

OCEC recognized Toby Luxton for 20 years of service. Luxton is employed as the STEP coordinator for OCEC. STEP is the Secondary Transitional Experience Program, or job program for local high school students in which students learn from employment and training experiences.

Luxton earned his Bachelor's of Science from Taylor University in Indiana in 1995, with a concentration in history and environmental science. He earned his Master's in special education at Northern Illinois University in 2001.

Luxton first worked as a paraprofessional for OCEC (within classrooms at Chana Education Center) in 1999, where he was encouraged to get Masters in special education because of his skills and ambition in teaching students.

He began his career in special education as



Chris Roberts (left) and Amy Henkel (right) are two of the four Ogle County Education Cooperative staff members who were recently recognized for their years of service to the organization.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

a teacher at Chana Education Chana in 2001 until 2018. He taught in the high school program for students with needs related to emotional and behavioral regulation.

Luxton makes great connections with students and motivates them to grow, and achieve goals related to young adult-

hood. He enjoyed Pay It Forward Day, during the school year and how the students were able to be involved in the community and demonstrate service to others.

His classroom cleaned up Illinois Route 64 in Oregon. In Fall 2018, he was promoted to STEP coordinator. With this po-

sition, he is able to observe high school students and their capacity to learn and demonstrate employability skills.

He provides linkages between students to the community and understands well that if students work and gain skills in high school, they have a better chance to be em-

ployed as young adults. Luxton works closely with IL Division of Rehabilitation Services and Best, Inc., local businesses and member high schools.

In his spare time, he spends time engaged in outdoor activities, field work and fishing. Luxton resides in Davis Junction with his wife, Kellie.

### Ogle County Sheriff's Department

## Tennessee man arrested for possession of cannabis

OREGON — On June 5 at about 7:44 p.m. deputies, along with Leaf River Fire, responded to a one vehicle rollover in the 800 block of South Main Street in Leaf River. After completing an investigation into the incident, it was determined that Cassandra Kaltenbrun, 45, of Mt. Morris, had been traveling northbound in a 2001 green Subaru when she

struck multiple parked cars and overturned. Kaltenbrun was transported to Swedish American Hospital for minor injuries. She was arrested and released on an I-Bond for driving under the influence and no valid driver's license as well as cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, no insurance, and improper use of registration.

On June 8 at 10:44 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Illinois Route 38 at Lincoln Highway in Rochelle for an equipment violation. After an investigation, Jacob Simpkins, 31, of McEwen, Tennessee was arrested for possession of cannabis 100-500 grams and improper container of cannabis as a driver. Simpkins was also cited for no rear registra-

tion light and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Simpkins was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held pending an appearance before a judge.

On June 8 at 9:31 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on a gray Toyota at the intersection of 9th Avenue and Tilton Park Drive in Rochelle for an equipment violation. Pursuant to the stop, Rita M.

Walsh, 24, of Rochelle, was arrested for driving while license suspended. Walsh was released on a notice to appear with a court date of July 16 at 9 a.m. in Ogle County court.

On June 10 at 10:28 p.m. deputies and Oregon Ambulance were dispatched to an injury traffic crash on Illinois Route 2 just south of the Oregon city limits. Investigation

by deputies revealed that a Harley Davidson motorcycle operated by Nickolas Langley 32, of Rock Falls was traveling north on Illinois Route 2 when he struck a deer. Langley was transported by Oregon Ambulance to KSB Hospital in Dixon for treatment of what appeared to be non-life threatening injuries. Oregon Police assisted at the scene.

### Rochelle Police Department

## Rochelle resident arrested on county warrant

ROCHELLE — On June 11 at 8:31 a.m. Quinton Casey, 19, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 50 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of

Aug. 13. On June 13 at 12:07 p.m. 12:07 p.m. Ethan B. Hjelm, 22, of Sycamore was cited for disobeying a stop sign. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date

of Aug. 13. On June 13 at 1:42 p.m. Dylan H. Knowlton, 23, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 49 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date

of Aug. 13. On June 13 at 7:59 p.m. Talon Thomas Drown, 24, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred. On June 13 at 7:43 p.m. Amber N. Anders, 28, of

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

On June 14 at 8:18 p.m. Christopher A. Jones, 20, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and paid

\$896. On June 15 at 1:34 a.m. Joshua A. Marcoux, 18, of Rochelle was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of Aug. 13.

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# FATHER'S DAY

## Unique ways to make this Father's Day special

LIKE a handful of holidays that came before it, Father's Day in 2021 will be different than in years past. Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19, much of the world continues to live under some degree of stay-at-home restrictions. Those guidelines will influence how people can celebrate Father's Day.

St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day celebrations were all affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, so people may now be accustomed to celebrating in the era of social distancing. But those looking for unique ways to let Dad know how much he's loved and appreciated can consider these ideas to make Father's Day special in 2021.

### Game day

It's a tradition in many families to take dad to a ballgame on Father's Day. But many sports leagues have been forced to shut down to prevent the spread of COVID-19, while even those that have returned to action are doing so without fans in the stands. But that doesn't mean Dad still can't enjoy a ballgame outdoors this Father's Day. If there's room in the backyard, set up a television outdoors and stream a classic game (many sports



channels have compensated for no live action by broadcasting classic games from years past). For apartment dwellers, charge up a tablet, take Dad to a local park and let him relax as he streams a ballgame.

### "Go" golfing

If Dad's an avid golfer, finding a tee time on a

local course may be difficult come Father's Day. While many golf courses are among the first businesses to reopen, competition for tee times may be steep, especially on Father's Day. But that doesn't mean Dad can't still play a round on Father's Day. Moms and kids can turn their yards into a mini golf course for

Dad. Use beach buckets to create sand traps and create makeshift flags to mark each "green." Then take turns serving as Dad's caddies as he traverses his very own course.

### Dine "out"

A reservation at Dad's

favorite ethnic restaurant might not be possible this Father's Day, but that doesn't mean the family cannot still dine out and indulge in some of Dad's favorite foods.

Let Dad relax as Mom and the kids whip up a favorite ethnic meal for

Dad, serving it up al fresco on the patio or the deck for dinner.

Father's Day 2021 will be different than any other. But there's still many ways for families to make this Father's Day one Dad will remember for all the right reasons.



## Fun ways to celebrate Father's Day this year

FATHER'S Day presents an opportunity for people to honor the special men in their lives. These include not only dads, but father figures and other influential men who offer care and guidance to the people they love.

Many celebrations continue to look different than they were prior to the pandemic, and Father's Day festivities may still require some modifications this year, even if celebrations are not governed by the same restrictions as in 2020. The following are some ways to show dads they are appreciated.

### Backyard

#### bash

Restrictions on outdoor gatherings have eased up considerably in many areas. Outdoor parties are some of the safer ways to bring people together, particularly if attendees maintain their distance. Weather permitting, families can host barbecues and enlist someone other than Dad to man the grill.

Serve foods buffet-style and space out tables so people can safely celebrate.

### Plan a sports outing

Professional sports teams are once again welcoming fans to stadiums and other venues, albeit with reduced capacities to maintain safety. It may be possible to purchase tickets to an upcoming game and surprise Dad or Grandpa with tickets on Father's Day. Make Father's Day festivities sports-centric, with coordinated decorations and themed foods to set the scene.

### Plan a game day

Whether your father likes board games, video games or crossword puzzles, gear Father's Day around fun and games. Let Dad lead the way and choose the activity, and then everyone can step away from their screens and come together at the

table over jigsaw puzzles or trivia questions.

### Host a beer tasting

If Dad is a beer lover, organize a trip to a local craft brewery to sample their offerings. If establishments are closed or still restricting indoor seating, pick up beers from a few different breweries and create a flight at home.

### Set up an outdoor movie night

Perfect for a father who is a movie buff, borrow or purchase a projector and show a movie on an outdoor screen or against a blank outdoor wall. Select one of Dad's favorite movies to watch and invite friends and family to join in on the fun. Make sure there are refreshments at the ready and plenty of hot popcorn.

Celebrating Father's Day this year may require some ingenuity, but there is still fun to be had.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## HAHN: Family members reflect on life of local swimmer

From page 1

Ciaccio said he always cared for others and helped anyone who asked. Mike was strong. He worked out a lot. He had a good work ethic. He went early to work and stayed late. "He was the kindest and healthiest person I knew," Ciaccio said.

Hahn and Ciaccio became friends after meeting

at the pool at the YMCA in Rockford. After a while, Mike asked her out. "Later on, he asked me to marry him," Ciaccio said. "When he proposed, he gave me a wooden box he made that said 'Will you swim with me for the rest of my life?'"

Mike worked at Cain Millwork where he embraced his ability to design and craft projects of all

types as senior production engineer. While away from work, he developed woodworking projects on his own. He made things for family and friends. "He always told us if we wanted something to draw it up and he'd make it for us," Ciaccio said. "He built me things for the yard."

Mike's son, Cody, along with Ashley were also the recipient of a lot of his projects.

The family walked through Ashley's house last week and marveled at everything that came from Mike.

Hahn wouldn't give up on a project until it was done and perfect. Every Christmas Eve he could be found in his workshop finishing gifts for people. He helped Ashley and Cody with their 4-H projects in school.

"He wouldn't let us go

to bed until everything was done," Ashley said. "They're such ordinary things he made me. But he put so much craftsmanship and love into it. Now, my brother has a workshop just like my dad. Today, he made a planter basket display. Not only do we have the things he made us, but my brother is carrying it on."

Ashley recalls Mike "booking it" to get to ev-

ery one of her and Cody's athletic events on time. "He loved swimming so much," Ashley said. "He forced my brother and I to join the Rochelle swim team, and we were by far the worst on the team (laughs). He'd swim every morning. When he got older it was still no shock that he'd be doing a race."

"I think to put it best, he was a man that gave."



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Mike Hahn (right) is pictured above with his fiancée Leslie Ciaccio (left). Ciaccio said Hahn, who passed away on June 5, was the kindest person she knew.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

### Moose supreme governor visits Rochelle chapter

Bruce Berger and his wife, Donna, recently visited the Rochelle Moose. Bruce currently serves as the supreme governor and is the highest elected official of the Moose fraternity. Bruce and his wife were greeted by local Moose members from left to right: Tom Richardson (deputy supreme governor), Ellie Schultz (higher degree chairman), Roger Woodcock (deputy supreme governor), Paul Bearrows (past governor), Dave Schabacker (treasurer), Cissy Zies (fraternal activities chairman), Mike Wilson (chaplin), the Bergers, Curt Preston (past treasurer) and Scott Baikie (territory manager).

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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS

ALL-CONFERENCE GIRLS

Three RTHS softball players earned Interstate 8 honors this season.
See page 2 for more details

# RTHS Girls Track



(COURTESY PHOTO) Rochelle Township High School track and field athlete Teagan Meyers competed at the IHSA 2A State Championship meet in Charleston this past weekend, with several friends and family members making the trip to the Eastern Illinois University campus to show their support.

Jumping in Charleston

Lady Hub standout Meyers competes at IHSA 2A State Championship

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**CHARLESTON** — Lady Hub track and field standout Teagan Meyers received quite the enormous surprise when she and her coaches departed from Rochelle Township High School for the IHSA 2A State Championship meet at Eastern Illinois

University on Thursday. Not only was Meyers escorted out of town by the Rochelle Police Department, but several friends, family members and local supporters cheered her on from the end of Purple Pass, holding signs and wearing Lady Hub colors. Many of her friends and family also made the journey down south to

watch Meyers, Rochelle’s first state-qualifying high jumper since 2009, represent Rochelle in the state meet. Meyers said the support was unforgettable. “The support was unreal and it was a complete surprise,” Meyers said. “I will forever be thankful for all of the people who came out. The support from friends, family and

even strangers was amazing. Knowing I have that support really does help me perform better. The experience at the state meet was something I won’t ever forget and I enjoyed the chance to jump one more time.” Meyers advanced to the state meet after finishing second in the IHSA 2A Plano Sectional with a

personal-best clearance of 1.54 meters. Although Meyers admitted she didn’t perform her best at the state meet, she said the experience will motivate her to jump even higher and return to the state meet. She said her goals are to place and set a new personal best next season. “I wasn’t very happy with my performance,”

Meyers said. “I had cleared the opening height before, so I was pretty disappointed to not make it over. I thought the nerves got to me and I unfortunately had an off day. I know for a fact that I want to go back next year and I think having this year under my belt will help calm my nerves for next season.”

# RTHS Wrestling

Hubs split season finale with Dixon, Amboy

Rochelle varsity team finishes with overall record of 21-8

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team added one final victory to its record Saturday morning, when the Hubs defeated Amboy 42-21 after falling 53-27 against Dixon in a nonconference triangular meet. Rochelle finished the season with a 21-8 overall record. “The kids had a long week,” head coach Alphonso Vruno said. “They wrestled tough against Kaneland and a replenished Sandwich team on Friday, then we asked them to wake up the next morning and compete against a tough Dixon team... Our motto this season was to make the most of any situation and I think the team, as a whole, overachieved this season. The seniors all stepped up and wrestled well and they were great leaders for our young team.”

**Dixon** Freshman Tommy Tourdot opened the dual

against Dixon with a Rochelle win at 106 pounds, scoring two takedowns and a near fall before pinning Ayden Rawley. The Dukes then scored pins at 113 and 120 pounds, taking a 12-6 lead before adding 11 points on a technical fall at 126 pounds and another pin at 132 pounds. Senior Grant Thompson and junior Caleb Nadig stopped the bleeding for the Hubs, recording pins at 138 and 145 pounds. Leading 23-18, Dixon won three straight bouts at 152, 160 and 170 pounds, scoring two pins and a forfeit before Rochelle senior Ben Harvey defeated Duke wrestler Brady Potter at 182 pounds, recording three reversals and a near fall for a 10-4 decision. After Dixon received a forfeit at 195 pounds, senior Noah Messer made quick work at 220 pounds, pinning his opponent in only 21 seconds. The Dukes pinned to win the 285-pound bout and end the dual.

See **HUBS** page 3



(COURTESY PHOTO) Senior Ivan Pineda scores a takedown during the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling meet with the Dixon Dukes and Amboy Clippers on Saturday. Rochelle defeated Amboy to finish the season 21-8 overall.



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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle sophomore Morgan Smardo (left) and senior Bella Lodico (right) each received All-Conference First Team recognition from the Interstate 8 this season.

## Lady Hubs earn Interstate 8 First Team recognition

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Three members of the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball team were recognized with Interstate 8 All-Conference honors this season. Sophomore Morgan Smardo and senior Bella Lodico each received First-Team recognition, while junior Jordin Dickey took home an Honorable Mention after hitting .370 with four doubles, five stolen bases and 11 RBIs.

"I was honored to receive All-Conference First Team honors for the season," Lodico said. "I worked really hard to try my best and be the best for my teammates. I wanted to continue making an impact on the team and I'm very thankful for this award... I felt that our team really improved this year. We always gave 110 percent effort and we trusted each other."

"I'm very happy to make the All-Conference team this year, especially as a sophomore playing on the varsity team," Smardo added. "This is a big honor for me... I felt that our team played well this season. We had a lot of great hits and a lot of great plays in the field. We had very close games against Morris, Ottawa and Geneseo and our defense did very well this year."

A four-year varsity starter in the pitcher's circle, Lodico led the Lady Hubs with 76 and two-thirds innings thrown this season. Lodico posted a 3.84 ERA and struck out 73 batters while allowing only nine walks. Offensively,

Lodico held a .286 batting average with four doubles, six RBIs and 13 runs. Lodico will be competing collegiately at Judson University next year.

"My teammates and I developed a better mental understanding of the game this season," Lodico said. "I did my best to remember where batters hit the ball during previous innings or games. I felt that I had better control and movement on my pitches as well. I'd like to improve more by adding more pitches and staying more consistent. I'm excited to play in college and do the best I can for my team. I'm going to miss the bonds my teammates and I shared at RTHS."

Smardo turned in a tremendous season at the plate, leading the Lady Hubs in batting average (.417), on-base percentage (.485), slugging percentage (.617), hits (25), singles (16), doubles (6), triples (3), runs (19) and RBIs (14). Smardo also served as Rochelle's No. 2 pitcher this season, tossing 28 innings and striking out 40 batters in 14 games, which included five starts.

"I feel that I did well at the plate this season," Smardo said. "I played center field when I wasn't pitching and I felt that I was a big asset to the team in that position. I'm looking forward to seeing more time on the mound next year. Bella is such a strong pitcher and I have some big shoes to fill... One of my goals for next season is breaking the record for most stolen bases. I will be working hard pitching for my KV Storm travel team this summer."



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# SPORTS



(COURTESY PHOTO)  
Senior Ben Harvey works against Dixon's Brady Potter during the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling meet with the Dukes and Amboy on Saturday. Harvey earned two wins on Saturday including a 10-4 decision and a forfeit.

## HUBS: Rochelle scores nonconference win over Amboy

**From page 1**  
**Amboy**  
The Clippers rallied from a 5-0 deficit in the 113-pound bout, winning with an 8-5 decision to score the first points of the Amboy-Rochelle dual.

After the Clippers pinned to win the 120-pound bout, sophomore Weldon Nay stepped up at 126 pounds, pinning his opponent in 38 seconds. Rochelle and Amboy traded pins at 132 and 145 pounds, with Grant Thompson scoring a takedown and a three-point near fall before pinning his opponent in the 145-pound bout.  
Caleb Nadig and junior Matt Eyster received forfeits at 152 and 160 pounds. Rochelle and Amboy double-forfeited three weights including 138, 195 and 220 pounds. Amboy pinned to win the 170-pound bout, but Ben Harvey secured a forfeit at 182 pounds and Noah Messer moved up to 285 pounds, recording a first-period pin to seal the Hub dual victory. Tommy Tourdot closed out the dual against the Clippers, receiving a forfeit at 106 pounds.  
“The coaching staff and I were very emotional after the duals,” Vruno said. “We kept the message simple and we got some heartfelt talks in with the kids. We are going to try and do some sort of end-of-season celebration to recognize a season that was weird and had a lot of adversity, but the kids managed to persevere through most of the season.”

### Rochelle Little League



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

### Coed Rookie League teams play ball at May School fields

Rochelle Little League's Coed Rookie League players took to the fields at May School on Monday. Fifty-three players across four teams (C&S Flooring, A&E Builders, Lifeworks Photography Studio and Stillman Bank) are participating in the Coed Rookie League this season. Rookie League games have been played on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the May School fields. Above are several action photos from this week's Rookie League action.

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Public Notice is hereby given that on June 11, 2021, a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: Baked with Tiff, 1204 Pickwick Dr., Rochelle, IL 61068  
Dated: June 11, 2021  
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk  
No. 0612 (June 16, June 23, June 30, 2021)

present at said time and place and may be heard in regard to the budget and ordinance. The tentative budget is now on file with the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Creston-Dement Public Library District, at the Library office and may be reviewed upon request prior to said hearing by the Public.  
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ROCHELLE: 425 S 9th St (behind Casey's South) Wednesday June 16th 5pm-7pm. Thursday June 17th and Friday June 18th 8am-5pm. Men's Harley Davidson T-Shirts, Size Large and Extra Large, John Deere Toy Tractors by ERTL (most are still in the box and excellent condition), Department 56 Dickens Village Pieces (MANY), Radio Flyer Red Wagon, Knick Knacks, Baby Playpen, Baby Diaper Pail, Toddler Potty Chair, Some Garden Plant Stands, Matching End Tables and Coffee Table, 2020 Craftsman Lawn Mower, New Nuwave Air Fryer Clothes. (06-16-21)

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**Office Hours:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday)  
**Phone:** 815-562-4171  
**Fax:** 815-562-2161  
**Email:** classifieds@rochellenews-leader.com  
**Address:** 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle  
**Mail:** P.O. Box 46 Rochelle, IL 61068

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# SPORTS

Rochelle Little League

## Pitchers shine as Rotary holds off Kiwanis

Dyer, Hunley combine for 24 strikeouts in Major League Boys action

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Two Rochelle Little League Major League teams battled at Floyd J. Tilton Park on Monday, with Rotary edging Kiwanis 7-5 behind a two-run sixth inning.

Connor Hunley earned the start on the mound for Rotary, throwing five innings and striking out 12 batters while allowing only one walk. Alex Dyer threw five and two-thirds innings for Kiwanis, striking out 12 batters. Warren Schweitzer struck out three batters in one inning to earn the Rotary save.

Bryson Wells led the Rotary offense, finishing 4-for-4 with three runs and one RBI. Schweitzer went 2-for-3 with three RBIs and Dayton Mellor added one RBI. Andrew Eyster recorded two hits and two RBIs for Kiwanis, while Holden Liebhaber went 1-for-3 with two runs scored.

Rotary took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Wells tripled and scored on a passed ball before Schweitzer walked and stole home plate. Hunley reached on a catcher's interference

call and scored on an RBI single from Mellor. Tyler Johnson singled to lead off the Kiwanis offense in the bottom of the first inning, scoring on an RBI single from Eyster to make it 3-1.

Rotary went ahead 5-1 in the top of the second inning, with Wells doubling and Schweitzer hitting a two-run homer to right field. Kiwanis fought back in the bottom of the fourth inning, scoring two runs after Dyer doubled and Liebhaber singled. Dyer scored on a dropped third strike and Liebhaber reached home plate on a wild pitch to cut the Rotary lead to 5-3. John Williams walked and scored on an RBI triple by Eyster in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Leading 5-4, Rotary added two runs in the top of the sixth inning. Wells hit a two-out, RBI triple before scoring on an RBI single from Schweitzer. Liebhaber scored on a dropped third strike in the bottom of the sixth for Kiwanis, but Rotary held on to secure the victory.

Elijah Schweitzer and Aiden Lopez each added hits for the Rotary offense on Monday, while Eyster struck out one batter in his one-third inning of relief for Kiwanis.



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rotary and Kiwanis squared off in Rochelle Little League Major League Boys Division play Monday evening. Rotary's Bryson Wells (left) went 4-for-4 in the game, while Kiwanis pitcher Alex Dyer (right) had 12 strikeouts.

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# SPORTS

## RTHS Wrestling



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Junior Caleb Nadig won two matches to finish first in the 138-pound bracket at the IWCOA 2A Rock Island Super Regional on Sunday.

## Nadig wins IWCOA 2A Super Regional bracket

**ROCK ISLAND** — Junior Caleb Nadig won two consecutive matches to medal in first place at 138 pounds in the IWCOA 2A Rock Island Super Regional on Sunday.

The Rochelle Township High School wrestler will

advance to the IWCOA 2A Geneseo Sectional on Saturday, June 19.

Nadig received first and second-round byes before facing off against Hampshire's Niko Skoularikis in the semifinals, where the Hub wrestling

dominated his opponent with an 18-2 technical fall at the 2:08 mark. Nadig advanced to the championship bout against Rock Island's Aoci Bernard, who Nadig defeated with a 7-4 decision to claim the title.

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