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Vol. 102 • No. 4

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

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KNOW IT TODAY



Hayden joins Kish Board of Trustees

Rochelle resident Geri-Dee Hayden elected to board in April. **Page 5**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
64 34	66 39
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
68 43	63 46

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OBITUARIES

• DAVID RAINES WALTRIP
• DEBRA A. WYKA
• SARAH PLOURDE
• CHRISTOPHER ADAMS
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Headon's has new owners 'Business as usual' for local meat shop

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

CRESTON—Rumors that the new owners of Headon's Fine Meats in Creston are getting rid of brats are unfounded.

"That would be the dumbest thing we could do," new owner Mark Hibshman said with a laugh. "There's a lot of rumors going around that we're going to change things. It's completely the opposite."

Hibshman and his son, Justin, officially purchased Headon's on April 3 from Lyle Headon, who owned the business for 50 years. Headon sold it because he wanted to retire, Mark said.

The Hibshman family has lived in Creston since

2009 and owns Mark's Stuff across the street from the butcher shop, which specializes in woodworking and other items.

The name, meat, recipes, managers and butchers at Headon's will remain the same.

"It's truly an honor to take it over," Mark said. "Whoever took it over was going to take over the legacy. The employees are extremely happy. It's business as usual. We can't say enough good things about being able to do this."

Any changes to the shop will be additions, a lot of which are in the works. An ice cream parlor has already been added inside, Justin Hibshman said.

The Hibshmans have

experience in other business sectors like property management and manufacturing, but this will be their first go around with the meat business. They'll have someone to learn from.

"Lyle's been doing this 63 years," Mark said. "It will take a long time to learn his secrets. He still comes in and we communicate daily."

Justin will be handing the day-to-day operations while Mark works on big picture tasks related to growing the business.

Buying a business during the COVID-19 pandemic can be risky, Mark said.

See HEADON page 3



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Justin and Mark Hibshman are the new owners of Headon's Fine Meats in Creston. The father-and-son duo plans to keep business as usual at the local meat store.

Black Pearl sets sail in the 'Hub City' Coffee shop receiving warm welcome from Rochelle community

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE—While on vacation with his son one year, Ken Foss saw a little coffee shop with a drive thru.

Then, he owned McKendrie Street Cafe in Mt Morris.

"I told my son we don't have anything like that in Illinois," Foss said, "I told him when he graduated from high school, I was going to open a drive thru coffee. He graduated in 2019 and I closed the restaurant the week after he graduated and opened this."

Black Pearl Coffee Shop is open in the Hickory Grove parking lot Monday through Wednesday from 6 a.m. until 1 p.m. Foss set up shop for the first time

last month.

Black Pearl offers various coffees, hot chocolate, slushies and smoothies. Muffins and cookies are also on the menu along with Hub City-branded cups and mugs.

The shop is housed in a mobile trailer, which Foss uses to sell in other towns when he's not in Rochelle. The Stillman Valley resident formerly lived in Rochelle for 21 years.

"The community has been awesome," Foss said. "They love me being here. There's times in the mornings where traffic is backed up. And I'm just getting started. There's things I know I can do to speed up the process. It's all trial and error."

When Foss had his Mt. Morris restaurant, he



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Ken Foss is the owner of the drive-thru coffee shop Black Pearl, which is open in the Hickory Grove parking lot from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.

worked on the concept of Black Pearl with his customers in his parking lot and got feedback from cus-

tomers. Before COVID-19 he participated in a lot of fairs and festivals. During the pandemic he was able

to operate due to being licensed as a drive thru.

See PEARL page 3

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LOCAL NEWS

Council discusses potential bridge on Route 38

Liquor license for north side Shell station approved via 5-2 vote

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle began the process of an attempt to build a shared use path and pedestrian bridge over the Kyte River and North of Illinois Route 38 at its Monday meeting.

After recent conversations with the owner of 1211 Brookside Drive and the realtor currently engaged in the sale of said property an opportunity arose to begin acquisition of city easements necessary for the possible future project. The easement identified herein is one of three easements necessary for the construction outside of the Route 38 right-of-way.

The acquisition is intended to happen over the next couple of weeks with the new owner of 1211 Brookside Drive. If the acquisition is successful, city staff will begin discussions with the other parcel owners to acquire other necessary easements.

The council authorized City Manager Jeff Fie-

genschuh to execute an easement agreement not to exceed \$6,000 plus closing cost and fees in a 5-0 vote that saw Mayor John Bearrows (professional real estate involvement) and Councilman Tom McDermott (family ties to sale) abstain.

City Engineer Sam Tesreau said the city has had a desire to put a bridge in the area for a decade.

"This is the first step towards acquiring these easements," Tesreau said. "A number of individuals have been before this council in the past seeking our help in trying to facilitate the construction of a pedestrian bridge. Now's the time to strike while the iron is hot."

Tesreau said the project would require permits from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which is a one-year process.

Shell

The council approved a Class S liquor license for the Shell station at 505 W. Illinois Route 38 by a vote of 5-2 with Council-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows recognized the week of May 16-22 as National Public Works Week during Monday's City Council meeting. Bearrows (right) is above with City Engineer Sam Tesreau.

woman Kate Shaw-Dickey and Councilman Bill Hayes voting against it.

The Class S license allows for the retail sale of packaged beer and wine,

not for consumption on the premises where sold. There are now a total

of three Class S liquor licenses in the City of Rochelle.

"I wasn't opposed to giving them this license and they're one of our few left that don't have it," Bearrows said. "They want to compete with the rest of the quick stops in town. It should be fair."

The Class S license does not allow video gaming. Councilman Dan McDermott said he believes the business will come to the city requesting a gaming license at some point.

"If we don't want to end up with every possible building in the world having some kind of alcohol and gaming, as a council we have to talk about having a cap on how many we're going to have," McDermott said.

"Agreed," Shaw-Dickey said. "I think we need to decide that before we get to a point where we feel we've gone too far. It's hard to backtrack once you've gotten there."

See CITY page 7

Let's Hear It for Our Nursing Staff



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LOCAL NEWS

PEARL: New coffee shop located in Hickory Grove lot

From page 1

Foss also sells his own line of coffee in both ground and whole-bean varieties. Customers can purchase redeemable pirate-themed coins to use later or give to others. Gold coins are worth \$5 and silver ones are worth \$3.

"I named it Black Pearl because coffee beans look like little black pearls," Foss said. "Instead of a ship on my logo, I use the coffee cup. The sail has the name on it."

Foss's goal in the next year or two is to have more trailers to sell coffee in. He hopes to have a second by the end of the year. He also has his eyes on selling in Rochelle more days per week.

"We live in a convenient world," Foss said. "Any drive thru is convenient and people don't want to get out of their car and get



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Black Pearl owner Ken Foss said the new coffee shop sells its own line of coffee in both ground and whole-bean varieties.

anything. I am the only license in five counties that I have participated in activities in that is a mobile

drive thru coffee. There's coffee trailers. But I'm the first to do anything like this."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The Black Pearl Coffee Shop can be found in the Hickory Grove parking lot Monday through Wednesday. Owner Ken Foss said his goal is to eventually sell in Rochelle more than three days per week.

CRASH: Two-vehicle accident under investigation

From page 1

Hamilton failed to stop at the stop sign on Illinois Route 251 and struck Groves' car on the driver side. Both vehicles traveled off the west side of the roadway and came to rest in the front yard of a private

residence.

Hamilton was extricated and transported to Rochelle Community Hospital by Rochelle Ambulance for treatment of serious injuries. Groves was extricated and transported to Rochelle Community Hospital by Rochelle Ambulance for

treatment of critical injuries.

Groves was subsequently flown to St. Anthony's Hospital in Rockford by Life Flight for additional medical treatment. Hamilton was cited for disobeying a stop sign and the accident remains under investigation.

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.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

New owners Justin and Mark Hibshman are looking to keep Headon's Fine Meats in Creston going for decades to come.

HEADON: Creston meat store under new ownership

From page 1

"But on the flip side Headon's has such a great name and it's one of those

things, people always need to eat," Mark said. "To buy a business that's been around for 50 years is a lot less risky."

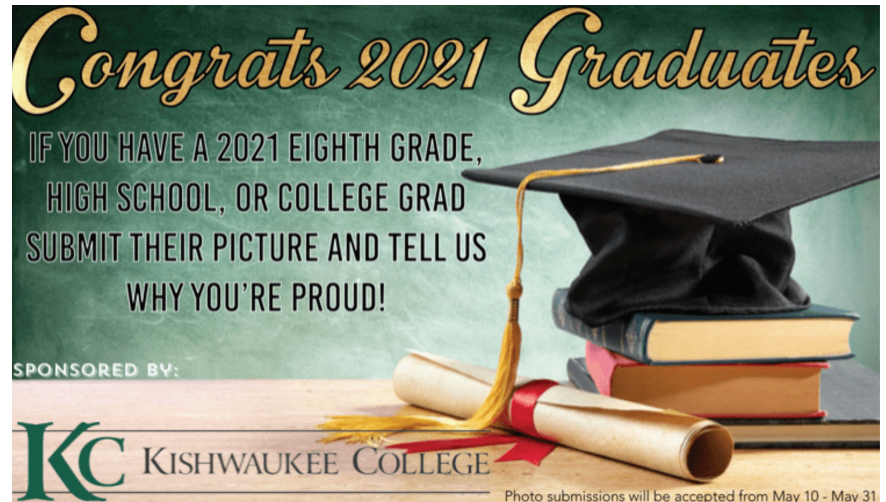
"We're not looking to buy it to resell or anything. He has two kids and we hope to keep it in the family for another 50 years."

Celebrate your graduate!



Do you have an eighth grade, high school, or college 2021 graduate? Celebrate them by submitting their photo and tell us why you're proud!

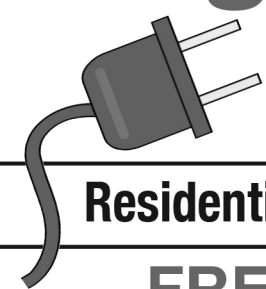
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<https://rochellenews-leader.secondstreetapp.com/Congrats-2021-Grads/rounds/1/eighthgrade>



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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

David Raines Waltrip

ROCHELLE – David Raines Waltrip, 79, passed away on Friday, May 7 at St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He was born on Oct. 19, 1941 in Chicago, the son of Glen and Ruth Raines Waltrip.

Dave proudly served in the U.S. Marines Corp where he was honorably discharged with a rank of Sergeant. He married Dawn D. Bozee on Oct. 1, 1966 in Arlington Heights. Dave and Dawn would have celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary this October.

He retired as terminal manager from Amoco Oil in 1999. Dave loved spending time with his family and traveling. He loved road trips and exploring new places and new roads. Dave was a huge NIU Huskie supporter and could always be found watching and cheering on the NIU Huskies.

He enjoyed watching all sports and cheering for the Chicago Blackhawks, Chicago White Sox, Chi-



cago Bears and Rochelle Hubs. Dave loved giving back and volunteering his time. Over the years he has coached baseball, football and basketball and served on league boards for many years in different capacities.

He continued to volunteer for NIU Athletics along with the Hubs Athletic Booster Club and the Rochelle golf team. Dave enjoyed serving his community through participating in the Needy Family Food and Toy Drive for many years and supporting the Rochelle Fire Department. He also served on Rochelle City Council and other governmental boards.

Dave was involved

both with the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce and Rochelle Rotary Club, both of which he served as president. Dave loved to stay active and enjoyed golfing, socializing and being with friends and family. He dearly loved his seven dogs he had over the years, especially his male shelties which helped bring balance to his all girl family.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Glenn Gary Waltrip, and two sisters: Sallie Panzer and Carole Bergstrom.

Dave is survived by his wife, Dawn of Rochelle; two daughters: Denise Waltrip of Gilbert, Arizona, and Darci Waltrip of Rochelle; sister Linda (Matt) Coach of Damienville and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12 at Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. Funeral Service will be at 10 a.m. on Thursday at the Unger Horner Funeral Home with Pastor Rob Hamilton officiating.

Burial will follow at the Lawnridge Cemetery with military honors provided by the U.S. Marine Corp and the Eastern Lee Ogle Honor Guard. Services will be live streamed on the Unger Horner Facebook Page. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association. Guest book at www.UngerHorner.com

Debra A. Wyka

ROCHELLE – Debra A. Wyka, 62, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, May 9, 2021 surrounded by family at her home. Deb was born on October 31, 1958 to Joseph G. and Margaret (Marinko) Lujan in Chicago. On February 15, 1991, she married Daniel Wyka in Las Vegas. Deb worked as a bookkeeper and with her husband owned and operated the T-Byrd Lanes in Rochelle.

Deb enjoyed miniature golf, steak dinners and pasta, pampering herself at the spa and of course, bowling. You may have



heard more than once at T-Byrds one of her two favorite songs, Unchained Melody from the movie Ghost or Sweet Caroline by Neil Diamond. There were many special people in her life, her friends in Chicago, the entire town of

Rochelle and surrounding area (so many nice friends), her T-Byrd crew, Judi E., Mistie B. and Steven D. and her biggest joy was her granddaughter, Annabelle.

Deb is survived by her husband, Dan of Rochelle; son, Donald (Mary Morgan) Woodburn of Vail, Arizona and granddaughter, Annabelle Rose Woodburn.

There will be a celebration of Deb's life at a later date. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Sarah Louise Plourde

ROCHELLE – Sarah Louise Plourde, 100, passed away on Nov. 2, 2020. She was born Feb. 17, 1920 in Rochelle. She was the daughter of Joseph and Dell (Mansfield) Rhoades. She married Maurice Plourde on June 25, 1955 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Rochelle.

Louise held various jobs throughout her life but none as important as being a wife and mother to her four children. Louise loved to entertain, cook, bake, sew and paint. She spent many years traveling the United States but she was especially happy in Florida with Maurie golfing away their retirement.

Louise was a founding member and was twice the former President of the Women's VFW Post 3878 Auxiliary. She was a Cub Scout and Blue Birds leader. She taught CCD out of her home which



was always full of friends and family who adored her. Louise was known for many things but especially her amazing pies.

Louise is preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Richard, Joe and his wife June Rhoades and the man she was blessed to spend 55 years with, Maurie.

She is survived by her four children: Pam Bondan of Las Vegas, Doug Plourde of Boise, Dave (Danette) Plourde of Billings, Montana and Kathy Marchesi of Rochelle; seven grandchildren: Alicia (Jeff) Detig, John (Chieko)

Bondan, Carly (Andy) MacNaughton, Halley (Tobin Hauck) Plourde, Sarah (Josh) Kulwicki, Sam (Colleen Koehler) Marchesi and Joe Marchesi; seven great grandchildren: Ryan (Kaleigh Launsby), Cameron and Addison Detig, Spencer, Eleanor and Meredith Kulwicki and Cooper Hauck and many nieces and nephews.

There will be a graveside memorial service at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 19, at St. Patrick Cemetery with Father Jesus Dominguez officiating. Memorials may be made to Pinecrest Manor at 414 S. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris, 61054. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger Horner Funeral Home.

The family would like to extend their sincerest thanks and appreciation to the staff at Pinecrest Manor for loving our mom as family. Guest book at www.UngerHorner.com

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Joe Meadows

Christopher Scott Adams

PUEBLO, Colo. – Christopher Scott Adams died suddenly in his home in Pueblo Colorado on April 27. Chris is the son of Scott and Sharon Adams of Colorado City, Colorado and was born in Rochelle on Jan. 9, 1985.

He lived in Rochelle for the first 13 years of his life and moved to Colorado in 1999. Nobody who met Chris did not talk of his kindness and willingness to help out.

Chris is survived by his parents; two sisters, Elicia (Sage) Hulmes of Colo-



rado Springs, Colorado and Katie Sage of Pueblo, Colorado; grandfather, Ralph Jungels of Rochelle and several aunts, uncles, cousins, and nieces who loved him dearly. He will be missed deeply by all.

Rochelle Police Department

Local arrests made

ROCHELLE — On May 7 at 9:45 p.m. Amber M. Failor, 39, of Rochelle was cited for speeding. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of June 18.

On May 7 at 4:15 p.m. Maria Palacios-Rosales, 31, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license suspended and improper lane usage. She was given an I-Bond and a Rochelle court date of June 18.

On May 7 at 7:17 p.m. Joshua A. Marcoux, 18, of Rochelle cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of June 18.

On May 7 at 11:54 p.m. a 16-year-old male juvenile of Rochelle was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of June 18.

On May 8 at 2:34 a.m. Paul Shell, 52, of Rock-

ford was arrested for an outstanding Rockford Police warrant. He was transferred to Rockford by Rochelle Police.

On May 8 at 2:16 p.m. Craig A. Baker, 34, of Rochelle was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. He paid \$200 and was given an Ogle County court date of June 2.

On May 8 at 11:52 p.m. Tracy J. Lemay, 50, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery.

On May 9 at 1:42 a.m. Demetrius B. Reece, 23, of Dixon was arrested for an outstanding Lee County warrant. He paid \$500 and was given a June 10 court date.

On May 9 at 10:11 a.m. Michelle L. Basham, 48, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Stephenson County warrant. She was transferred to Stephenson County by Rochelle PD.

See POLICE page 5

ROCHELLE

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LOCAL NEWS

POLICE: Woman arrested on warrant

From page 4

On May 10 at 1:54 p.m. Brandi N. Smith, 32, of Rochelle was arrested for speeding 50 m.p.h. in a 30-m.p.h. zone with no insurance and possession of cannabis over 20 grams.

Ogle County Sheriff's Department

Arrests made for suspended licenses

OGLE COUNTY —

On May 7, Dawan Gordon, 33, of Battle Creek, Michigan was arrested for driving while license suspended after being stopped by deputies for speeding on Interstate 39 near Monroe Center. Gordon was held in lieu of bond.

Christopher Forney, 25, of Forreston was arrested at 12:56 a.m. for driving under the influence of alcohol after deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois 72 and Adeline Road. Forney was also cited for speeding, improper lane usage, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and an equipment violation.

Forney was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

She signed a promise to comply and was given a Rochelle court date of June 18.

On May 10 at 4:07 p.m. April R. Burgess, 32, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

May 8

Heather Heathcott, 40, of Mt. Morris was arrested at 3 p.m. for no valid driver's license after deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1100 block of West Blackhawk Drive in Byron.

Heathcott was also given a warning for a registration violation and issued a return court date. Heathcott was released on an I-bond.

May 9

Damoria Smith, 23, of DeKalb was arrested for driving while license suspended after being stopped by deputies for speeding on Illinois Route 64 near Woodlawn. Smith was released on an I-bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

Hayden joins Kish Board of Trustees

MALTA — Rochelle resident Geri-Dee Hayden joined the Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees during its May 4 meeting.

Hayden and Sycamore resident Kathy Countryman were both elected to the Board in April to fill the seats of retiring Trustees Ken Doubler and Dr. Roberta "Bobbi" Burke — both of whom did not seek re-election.

Hayden brings familiarity with higher education into her new role. For more than a decade, she has served on the Kishwaukee College Foundation Board of Directors, most recently acting as treasurer.

Her professional background is in finance, having worked in commercial banking before recently taking a role with AC Johnston Holdings in Rockford. Hayden said she has seen firsthand how community colleges can provide a positive impact in the region they serve, and she wanted to continue to give Rochelle a voice on the Kishwaukee board.

"I think it is important to have representation from the wide geography Kish serves," Hayden said. "I also have a vested interest in the college and the role they serve in providing opportunities for our communities."



Geri-Dee Hayden

Hayden is familiar with the community college experience, having started her higher education journey at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon. Along with her long tenure on the Foundation Board of Directors, she has also served as a member of the Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees Audit Committee.

Hayden said her small-town upbringing, paired with her extensive background in finance, will lend a unique perspective to the board of trustees, where she hopes to continue to help Kishwaukee offer students a variety of educational and career possibilities.

"I want to see the college continue to develop different pathways for our students. Not everyone seeks out a four-year degree," Hayden said. "Kish has done a great job developing these pathways to create more opportunities within the community."



Ogle County COVID-19 Weekly Update As of Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ogle County COVID-19 Statistics*

Number of Positive Cases:	5,887
Recovered Cases:	5,707
Current Active Cases:	99
Deaths:	81
Positivity Rate:	5.9%

*Most current statistics available.

Every vaccination counts...bring back normalcy!

Total Vaccinations Administered: 34,490
Total FULLY Vaccinated: 16,068
Pct. FULLY Vaccinated: 31.55%

OCHD Vaccination Clinics—age 18+

Upcoming Clinics:

- **Thursday, May 13th**, Moderna vaccine, OCHD Oregon office, 907 Pines Road.
- **Thursday, May 20th**, Johnson & Johnson and 2nd dose Moderna vaccines. Drive-thru at the Fire Department, 123 N. 2nd St., Oregon.

The registration links are available on the OCHD Facebook page, go to [health.oglecounty.org](https://www.facebook.com/health.oglecounty.org), call **815-562-6976** or one of the partners listed below.

Call these partners for assistance with scheduling OCHD appointments:

Hub City Senior Center	815-562-5050
Flagg-Rochelle Public Library	815-562-3431
City of Rochelle	815-562-6161
Hispanic residents call LULAC	815-570-3111
Rock River Center	815-732-3252
Oregon Public Library District	815-732-2724
Univ. of IL Extension Office	815-732-2191
Mt. Morris Senior Center	815-734-6335
Polo Senior Center	815-238-8645
Polo Library	815-946-2713
Bertolet Memorial Library, Leaf River	815-738-2742

RCH Vaccination Clinic—age 18+

- **Wednesday, May 19th from 3:00-7:00 p.m.**, Moderna vaccine, 50 doses, **WALK-IN** at the RCH Tent, South side of the hospital in the Health and Wellness Center parking lot.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

ATVs not meant for fun

I don't like ATVs. I will start out by saying that so you know my feelings upfront.

I know they have a place in the world. They are great work vehicles for farms, ranches, or large estates. They are wonderful for park districts, sheriff's departments and other local organizations or municipalities that need a smaller vehicle to get the work done. But they are also noisy and degrade the environment.



Terry Dickow

and hiking trails at Skare Park. They are not supposed to be driven on public roads or right of ways.

ATVs are generally faster and more powerful than golf carts, making the accidents more serious when they do happen.

As I said at the beginning I don't like ATVs. There just are not enough pluses for them to make me happy.

Candy Cloud

I went to Cooper Park Tuesday because my wife wanted cotton candy. Candy Cloud, a little pop up trailer, was there with cotton candy, shaved ice, and some beverages. It was fun to watch them spin the cotton candy and package it as a to-go item.

If you have kids, or if you are an adult with a sweet tooth, you might want to check them out Tuesday late afternoons at Cooper Park.

Residential postal customer

I received a flier addressed to "residential postal customer." A DeKalb firm is looking for second shift production workers. Starting wage is \$19 an hour, which works out to almost \$40,000 a year. I figure they must be finding it difficult to fill the jobs, otherwise why the mass-mailed flier?

Contact Terry Dickow at terrydickow@gmail.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Norcross thanks Shrine Club customers

Dear Editor,
On behalf of the Ogle County Shrine Club, a sincere thank you to everyone who purchased the Vidalia onions this past weekend.

We sold over 2,500 pounds Friday and Saturday and sincerely hope that everyone who purchased them will

enjoy them over the summer and fall.

Also, thanks to Walmart for allowing our club to sell at their very busy Rochelle store entrance. We look forward to our sale at the same time next year. Hope to see you then.

Bud Norcross
Rochelle



VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:
How did you or your family celebrate Mother's Day this year?



"A little antiques and out for lunch."

Monetta Young

"At home with my immediate family, enjoying our new puppy."

Danielle Arredondo

"Mini golf and Shogun restaurant."

Cayce Bridges Groves

How to contact government officials

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

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

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

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

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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



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows proclaimed May 9-15 as Police Week in the Hub City. Above are Bearrows with members of the Rochelle Police Department.

CITY: Mayor Bearrows issues two proclamations

From page 2

Bearrows read a proclamation during the meeting recognizing National Police Week 2021 from May 9-15,

which honors the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty while protecting communities. Bearrows also proclaimed the week of

May 16-22 National Public Works Week, honoring the city's employees and their importance to infrastructure and services in the community.

Ogle County recycling event scheduled for May 21

OGLE COUNTY — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be holding a residential electronic recycling event on Friday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the County Annex Building at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

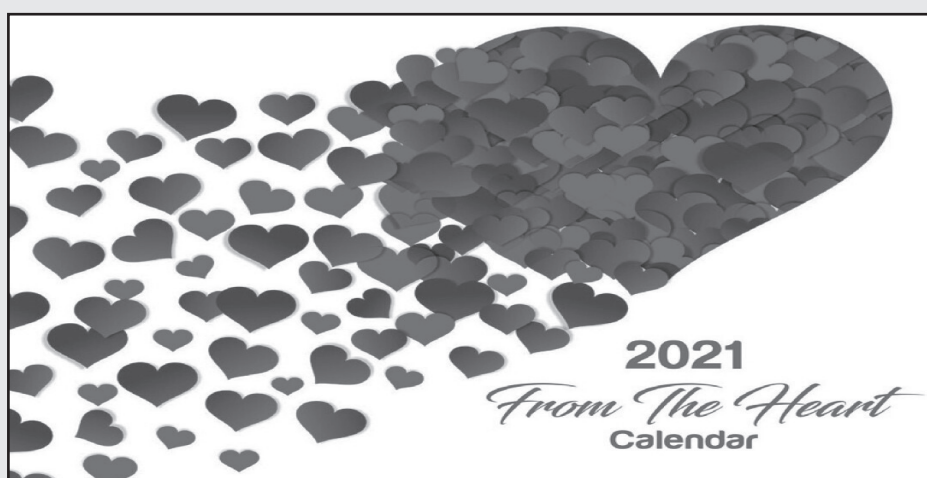
A free permit is required in advance to attend this recycling event. Permits are limited and must be requested by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19. To obtain a permit call the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020 or email the department at solidwaste@ogle-county.org and provide your name address, phone

number and email address. Permits are limited to one per household per month, and allow up to seven large items to be brought in for recycling. A full list of accepted items and other event information is included with the permit.

This event is for Ogle County residential electronics. Accepted items include all types of televisions and computer monitors, computers and all computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, video game equipment, printers, FAX machines, copiers, scanners, VCR/ DVD players, cable and satellite

boxes, all remote controls (please remove batteries), radios, stereo equipment, phones, digital clocks, calculators, holiday light strands, computer power back-ups, rechargeable batteries and printer ink cartridges. Microwave ovens are accepted for a \$5 fee per unit.

A full list of accepted items and further instructions will be included with issuance of the permit. Please call the OCSWMD at the number above, visit www.oglecounty.org, or go to Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management for more information.



FROM THE HEART DAILY CASH WINNERS

April 18 - Donna Keller, Davis Junction, \$50	May 1 - Rochelle Foods, Rochelle, \$25
April 19 - Don Daub, Oregon, \$25	May 2 - Susan July, Rockford, \$50
April 20 - Denise Richardson, Rochelle, \$25	May 3 - Hannah Goodnight, Rochelle, \$25
April 21 - Eric Cech, Rochelle, \$25	May 4 - Pam Zimmerlein, Rochelle, \$25
April 24 - Jacob & Taylor Bigelow, Rochelle, \$25	May 5 - Jeff Perry Chevy, Rochelle, \$25
April 25 - Russell A. Crull, Rochelle, \$50	May 6 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
April 26 - Jessica Price, Rochelle, \$25	May 7 - Sam Barkus, Rochelle, \$25
April 27 - Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, \$25	May 8 - Spencer Meyers, DeKalb, \$25
April 28 - Kaylee Meyer, Genoa, \$25	May 9 - Evi O'Rorke, Steward, \$500
April 29 - Judith Wyatt, Rochelle, \$25	May 10 - Lexi Eckhardt, Bloomington, \$25
April 30 - Angie Byrd, Rochelle, \$25	May 11 - Johnson Tractor, Rochelle, \$25
	May 12 - Jenny Thompson, Rochelle, \$25

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 16 Kathy Conant	May 20 Darrell & Beth Bolhaus
May 18 Arianna Thompson	

The Kitchen Table menu

May 13 - (Thursday) - Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread	Salad, Garlic Bread
May 18 - (Tuesday) - Chicken Fried Steak, Country Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn	June 6 - (Sunday Brunch) - Sausage Gravy & Biscuits, Sausage Bacon Ham and Egg Bowls over Fried Potatoes
May 20 - (Thursday) - Chicken Salad Sandwich on bread or lettuce, Soup, Salad	KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries
May 25 - (Tuesday) - Grilled Hamburgers or hot dogs, Pasta Salad, Cowboy Beans, Chips	**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.
May 27 - (Thursday) - White Chicken Lasagna,	www.KitchenTableRochelle.org



Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Borscht veggie
- 5 Nourished
- 8 Great Lakes fish
- 12 Choir voice
- 13 "— been real"
- 14 Plane-related
- 15 Pear variety
- 17 Fury
- 18 Away from WSW
- 19 Mine yield
- 20 Say
- 21 Snoop
- 22 Upscale auto
- 23 Golf great Sam
- 26 Husband of Eurydice
- 30 Level
- 31 Genetic letters
- 32 Sicilian peak
- 33 New Mexico's capital
- 35 Director DeMille
- 36 "Nasty!"
- 37 Cowboy's sweetie
- 38 Brag
- 41 Gaiety
- 42 Mauna —
- 45 Pac-12 sch.
- 46 Cocktails garnished with olives
- 48 Avoid

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			

DOWN

- 1 Innocent one
- 2 Flair
- 3 French 101 verb
- 4 Preschooler
- 5 Red-hot
- 6 Diminutive suffix
- 7 "Spring ahead" hrs.
- 8 Sideways somersault
- 9 Miami team
- 10 Desire
- 11 Afrikaner
- 16 Byron or Tennyson
- 20 Strike caller
- 21 Devoted supporters
- 22 Bikini top
- 23 Rds.
- 24 Actress Long
- 25 Still, in verse
- 26 Small bill
- 27 List-ending abbr.
- 28 Half of bi-
- 29 Bando of baseball
- 31 "Bobby" subj.
- 34 Do something
- 35 Quitter's word
- 37 Mentors
- 38 Small statue
- 39 Twice cuatro
- 40 Grad
- 41 Notoriety
- 42 Leg joint
- 43 Aachen article
- 44 Now, on a memo
- 46 Club —
- 47 Sort

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: J equals F

LJ YZPBQZFC GZGEHHC WTX Y ZTG
ZJ QWBEGI PLXGY, SZTHF CZT YEC
IB'Y TX-SBWG-LJLBF?

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

P	E	S	D	E	S	K	E	P	
A	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
A	U	L	E	M	U	L	E	A	
S	I	N	I	N	I	N	I	S	
A	E	A	M	A	F	N	K	E	A
S	O	A	S	T	F	U	N		
	</								

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answer

King Crossword

he's un-certified?
of breath mints, could you say
If somebody totally runs out
answer
Cryptoquip

SPORTS

RTHS Baseball

Rochelle splits nonconference doubleheader with Rock Falls

Hubs drop Interstate 8 rematch against Sycamore

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Senior Mark Hopkins had no trouble shutting down the Rock Falls offense Saturday morning, when the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team hosted the Rockets for a nonconference doubleheader. Hopkins allowed only one hit over five shutout innings on the pitcher's mound, striking out six batters and leading Rochelle over Rock Falls 11-0 in Game 1. "My main goal was to go out and execute," Hopkins said. "I wanted to get ground balls and let my defense help me out. We hit the ball well and our goal was to barrel the ball up and see what we can do. We kept our weight back and we looked for pitches that we could drive. I feel like we're a team to beat and I don't think we're a team anybody wants to cross paths with."

Rochelle scored three runs in the first inning behind a two-run single up the middle from junior Andy Buskohl and a bases-loaded walk by senior Spencer Warborg. The Hubs went ahead 6-0 in the second inning, adding three more runs courtesy of a passed ball and an RBI single through the left side from Hopkins. Rochelle rallied for four runs with two outs in the third inning, scoring on three extra-base hits from juniors Eric Briseno, Buskohl and Braden Alfano.

Senior Oscar Linares then slapped an RBI single to right to put the Hubs ahead 10-0. Briseno, who

went 4-for-4 with two doubles and two singles in the first game, plated Rochelle's final run with a base hit in the bottom of the fourth inning. Rock Falls went hitless over the last four innings of play, with the team's lone hit coming on a single in the top of the first inning.

Game 2

Rochelle dropped the doubleheader finale against Rock Falls, falling 13-10 and finishing the afternoon 5-4 on the season. Junior Nate Burdin struck out five batters in four innings on the mound, while senior Evan Meyers tossed two and two-thirds innings of shutout relief. Eric Briseno had another stellar performance at the plate, going 4-for-5 with four runs scored.

The Hubs scored three runs in both the first and third innings to take the early lead over the Rockets. Rochelle plated three first-innings runs behind three consecutive hits from Meyers, senior Kyler Lara and senior Reese Kirk. Junior Forrest Gerber started the Hubs with an RBI double in the third inning, which preceded run-scoring hits from Briseno and Meyers.

Rock Falls exploded for eight runs in the top of the fifth inning, erasing a 6-5 deficit to surge ahead 13-6. A sacrifice fly from Meyers scored one run in the bottom of the fifth inning. Despite falling short, Rochelle finished with a three-run seventh inning that included sacrifice flies from Meyers and senior Sam Hacaga as well as



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)
Junior Eric Briseno totaled eight hits for the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team on Saturday.

an RBI single from Andy Buskohl.

Sycamore

The Hubs concluded their two-game Interstate 8 series with Sycamore this past Friday, falling 5-3 to the Spartans on the road. Oscar Linares struck out four batters in four and two-thirds innings, while Andy Buskohl led Rochelle at the plate, finishing 2-for-3 with one RBI.

Trailing 1-0, Rochelle tied the game in the second inning on an RBI single from Mark Hopkins. Sycamore surged ahead with one run in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth innings. Buskohl's RBI single plated one run in the

fifth inning, while Spencer Warborg hit an RBI single in the sixth.

Fresh/Soph

The Rochelle freshman/sophomore baseball team edged Sycamore 4-3 this past Friday to improve to 3-2 overall. Noah Lara threw five innings and allowed only two hits, while Christian Burnette struck out three in two innings of relief to earn the save. Lara went 2-for-4 at the plate.

Bradley Cooney hit two doubles and recorded two RBIs for the Hubs. Alex Burnette doubled and totaled two RBIs, while Garrett Gensler scored two runs and Lara added one run scored.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)
Sophomore John Green helped secure a point for the Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team on Monday.

BOYS: Hubs fall to Rockford Christian

From page 1

The Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team hosted Rockford Christian on Monday, nearly securing the win but ultimately losing 3-2 to move to 1-7 overall. Rochelle earned two doubles points in the match, with junior Peter Forsberg and sophomore Owen Haas rallying to beat Danny Lynch and Christian Clembrownicz 0-6, 7-6(7), 10-1 at No. 2

doubles.

Sophomore John Green and freshman Parker Lenkaitis bested Tony Chen and Cody Olson 6-3, 6-2 at No. 3 doubles, while juniors Jason Zheng and Devansh Patel fell 0-6, 2-6 against Trevor Beale and Chatham McIlroy at No. 1 doubles. Sophomore David Wanner lost 0-6, 0-6 to Finley Buelte at No. 1 singles and junior Alex Gilbert fell 1-6, 0-6 to Brandon Istad at No. 2 singles.

Rochelle Junior Tackle

Online sign-ups now available

ROCHELLE — Registration for the 2021 Rochelle Junior Tackle season has officially opened online at <http://www.rochellejunior tackle.com>.

The current cost to register a tackle football player is \$60 and the cost for a flag football player is \$40. Fees will increase on June 1.

RTHS Dance



(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Chellettes take home Interstate 8 & RTHS awards

The Rochelle Chellette dance team held its season-ending awards ceremony this past week. Alexis Huerta was named Most Improved Chellette and Kayla Keilman was named Chellette of the Year. (bottom right). Five Chellettes received Interstate 8 All-Conference honors including Jessica Vagle, Makaila Crump, Macy Ramos (Honorable Mention), Keilman and Taylor Ponto (above from left to right). Ponto and Kelsey O'Brien (bottom left) took home Academic All-Conference honors.

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- one week - 7 publications - price must be listed)



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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive

109 CEMETERIES AND LOTS

ATTN: Trinity Memory Gardens lot owners. Looking for a group of lot owners that would be willing to form an association to take over the cemetery. **Interested parties, please call 815-218-6513.**

05122021

203 HELP WANTED

St. Paul Lutheran School in Rochelle has an opening for a **third grade teacher** for the 2021-2022 school year. Candidates should have a valid and active Illinois teaching certificate. If interested, contact Principal Steve Hall via email at shall@stpaulrochelleil.org or in the office by phone at **815-562-6323.**

05052021

Summer Help Wanted

30-40 Hours per week, Monday-Friday at Ag equipment service and repair shop located in Rochelle. Duties include assisting our service technicians, cleaning around shop, and inventory cycle counting. For people interested, call Matt directly at 815-786-4063 or apply in person at 8887 Highway 251 South, Rochelle IL.

HELP WANTED

Hub City Car Wash
1185 N 7th St. Rochelle, IL 61068

Job Description
40 Hours per week. Looking for full time Attendant with mechanical skills a must. Will train, but must have a mechanical background. Pay will reflect on ability to repair and maintain equipment.

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"Requirements"
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2) Keeping property clean
3) Be-able to scrub cars and empty trash
4) Weekday and weekends availability
5) Light maintenance skills
6) Good transportation

Go to Facebook to fill out an application online or come in for one in person.

05022021

113 FINANCIAL

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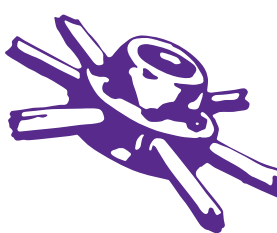


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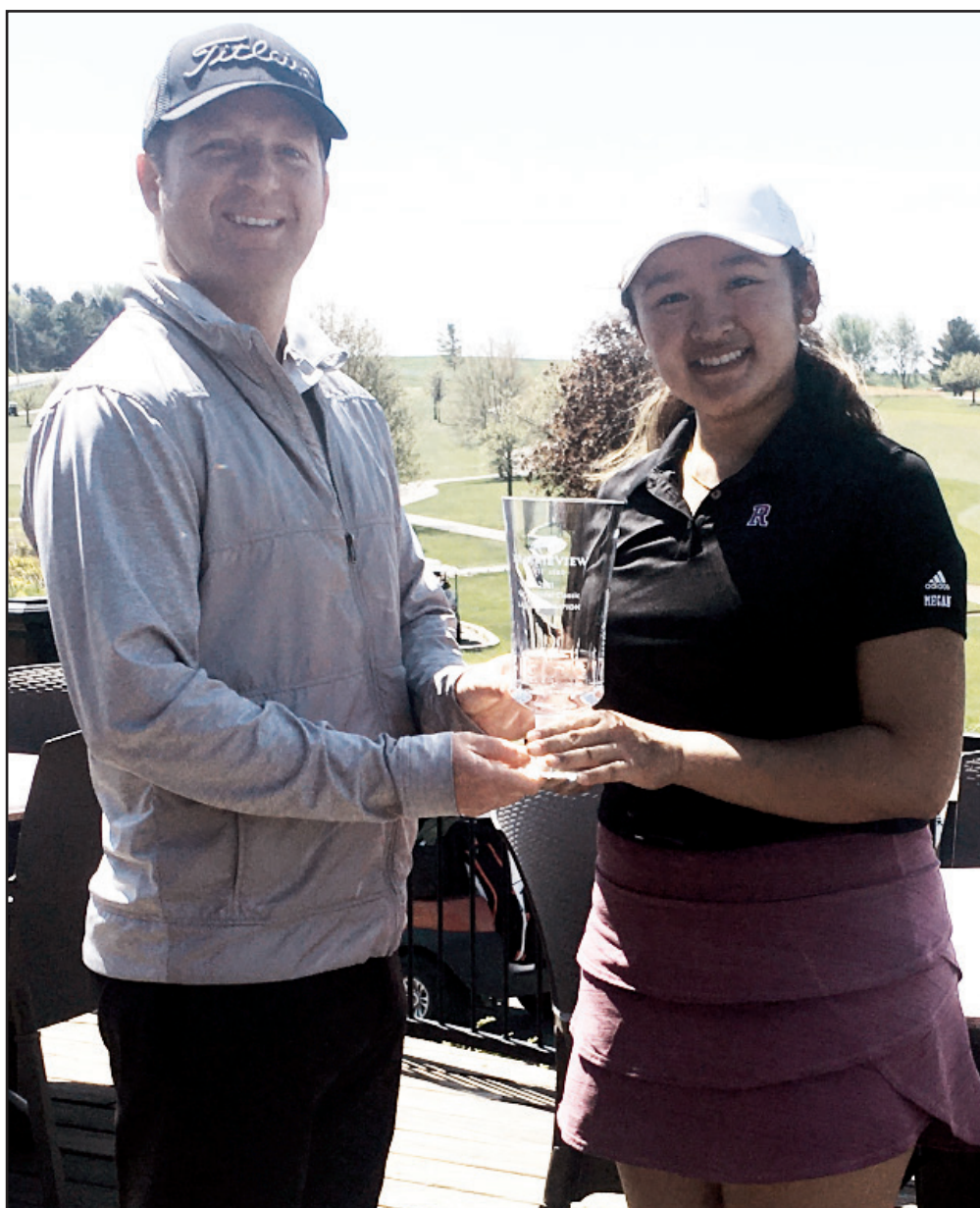


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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle senior Megan Thiravong (right) took first in the Ladies Championship Flight at the 30th Gold Medal Classic in Byron this past weekend.

Thiravong wins 30th Gold Medal Classic

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

LADYHub senior Megan Thiravong adjusted on the fly as she worked with a new set of irons during the 30th Annual Gold Medal Classic at Byron's PrairieView Golf Club this past weekend.

With wind gusts reached as much as 45 miles per hour, approach shots proved challenging for many players including Thiravong, who overcame both the weather conditions and her new clubs to score consecutive rounds of 81-78-159 to win the Ladies Championship Flight. Thiravong bested local standout player Hui Chong Dofflemeyer, who took second with 168.

"It's an honor to compete with the ladies and have my name etched into the champion's trophy for the 30th Anniversary of the Gold Medal Classic," Thiravong said. "I'm thankful to have competed with Hui Chong Dofflemeyer and Joanna Sharp because they are fabulous role models and women I look forward to competing against in the future..."

This tournament gave me an idea of what I need to work on before this summer including iron accuracy and swing form."

A four-year varsity player and IHSA State Championship qualifier for Rochelle Township High School, Thiravong will be preparing to take her talents to Saginaw Valley State University next year. Thiravong's offseason is well underway, with the 30th Gold Medal Classic serving as her first notable win as she continues to gear up for the college level.

Thiravong has been active on the Prep Tour, recently taking third in the Prep Tour event at Pontiac Elks with an 84. Megan's younger sister Ailani also competed in the event, finishing sixth overall with an 87.

"I will move into my dorm in Michigan in August, which allows me only a couple months of practice before I train with my team," Thiravong said. "Moving forward, my sister and I will be competing in various tournaments like the Prep Tour tournament series. I hope that she will surpass me soon as she will compete in the high school divisions as a sixth-grade student."



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SPORTS

RTHS Softball



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Jordin Dickey awaits a throw at second base during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball game against Ashton-Franklin Center on Saturday.

Lady Hubs shut out Ashton-FC

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Lady Hub softball team continued to roll on the offensive end Saturday morning, when Rochelle hosted Ashton-Franklin Center for nonconference action.

One day after run-ruling the Plano Reapers in Interstate 8 competition, Rochelle started strong against the Raiders, defeating Ashton-Franklin Center 10-0 and going above the .500 mark for the first time this season. The Lady Hubs (5-4) will host Morris on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Sophomore Morgan Smardo earned the win on the pitcher's mound, striking out nine Raiders and allowing only one hit. Freshman Ella Alfano ignited the Lady Hub offense in the first inning, plating Smardo on an RBI single before junior MeLisa Young put Rochelle ahead 3-0 with an RBI triple three at-bats later. Sophomore Addie Friestad's RBI groundout made it 4-0 Rochelle.

"We've started off the

season really well," Young said. "We're hitting the ball and we're playing great defense. We're waiting on the ball and we're really driving the ball and finding the open spots in the field. We need to keep playing great defense and I think we have a chance to go really far in the regionals if we play defense and continue hitting the ball."

The Lady Hubs rallied for five runs in the third inning to surge ahead 9-0. Junior Ashley Knight delivered a two-run single before eventually scoring on a wild pitch. Senior Kendal Ansteth singled and scored on a wild pitch to keep the Rochelle offense moving, while Smardo helped herself with a triple and a run scored on another wild pitch. Alfano reached on an error with one out in the fifth inning, scoring three at-bats later courtesy of an RBI putout from Young.

Ottawa

The Lady Hubs faced Ottawa on the road Monday, falling 4-0 to move to 5-5 on the season. Rochelle was no-hit in the loss.

RTHS Girls Soccer

Rochelle falls to LaSalle-Peru

Through balls hurt Lady Hubs in 3-0 loss

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Some brief miscommunications on defense prevented what otherwise would've been a stout effort from the Lady Hub varsity soccer team Monday afternoon, when Rochelle hosted the LaSalle-Peru Cavaliers looking to end a three-game losing streak.

The Lady Hubs shut LaSalle-Peru down over the first 30 minutes of play before the Cavaliers scored the first of three unanswered goals during the final 10 minutes of the opening half. While Rochelle stepped up to shut out the Cavaliers in the second half, the early deficit was too much to overcome, with the Lady Hubs ultimately falling 3-0 to move to 0-4 on the season.

"It was unfortunate that they were able to score on us late in the first half," head coach Brad Male said. "We had some miscommunications there, but I was pleased with how we played during the second half. I thought the girls worked well together on the back end for the majority of the game, but we unfortunately let a couple of through balls get behind us and they capitalized on them. We need to keep taking our shots on offense and they'll eventually fall."

Sophomore Kyra Rimstidt and senior Vianey



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Kyra Rimstidt battles for possession during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer game against LaSalle-Peru on Monday.

Perusquia applied most of the pressure on offense for the Lady Hubs, who had several shots on goal Monday but were unable to find the net. LaSalle-Peru broke the scoreless tie in the 31st minute,

converting a through ball down the middle to take a 1-0 lead before adding a second goal on a similar play in the 32nd minute.

With 8.7 seconds remaining in the first half, Rochelle committed a

hand-ball violation in the penalty box, resulting in a penalty kick that the Cavaliers cashed in to take a 3-0 lead at half-time. The Lady Hubs will face Ottawa on the road Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 1 • PAGE 12

SPORTS



GOLD MEDAL WINNER

RTHS senior Megan Thiravong took first in tournament play at PrairieView Golf Club.

See page 10 for more details

RTHS Bass Fishing

Statebound anglers

Hasz-Ohlinger-Samo trio takes third at IHSA Shabbona Lake Sectional

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

SHABBONA — Rochelle anglers Cooper Hasz and Griffin Ohlinger leaned on head coach Curt Samo’s experience at Shabbona Lake on Thursday, when the Hub bass fishing team sent two boats out on the water for one of several IHSA Sectional meets happening across the state.

With the weather conditions changing throughout the morning and afternoon, finding the fish early and often would be paramount for any team looking to qualify for the IHSA State Championship at Carlyle Lake. Rochelle’s No. 1 boat of Samo, Hasz and Ohlinger did exactly that, with the anglers reeling in their biggest catches within a one-hour time frame and ultimately finishing third out of 14 boats with a final weight count of 9 pounds and 10 ounces.

The third-place performance was enough to advance Rochelle to the

IHSA State Championship for the sixth time in seven years (the 2019-20 IHSA State Series was canceled due to COVID-19). For Hasz and Ohlinger, who are both in their first years with the Hub bass fishing team, relying on the knowledge of their veteran head coach was a key to their success.

“I was surprised that we qualified because we had no idea how the competition was going and we had fished the same area for a good amount of time at the start of the competition,” Ohlinger said. “We knew an area where the fish were, thanks to coach Samo, and we reached our limit within an hour... I have high hopes for the state meet because I know coach Samo can find us a good spot on the lake that will help us do well and hopefully pull out a top placement.”

Rochelle’s No. 2 boat, which featured Garrett Burdin, Sergio Guevara and coach Phil Hasz, finished 11th with a weight count of 2 pounds and 3



(COURTESY PHOTO)
The Rochelle bass fishing team sent two boats to the IHSA Sectional at Shabbona Lake on Thursday. Coach Curt Samo, Cooper Hasz and Griffin Ohlinger (left to right) took third and qualified for the state meet.

ounces. The IHSA State Championship will take place from May 21-22 at Carlyle Lake. Rochelle’s best performance at the state meet came in 2016,

when the Hubs took fourth overall with a final count of 13 pounds and 14 ounces. “Being able to qualify for state in my first year on the bass fishing team

is a really cool experience,” Cooper Hasz said. “Patience and going with our gut were the keys to our success and it worked out for us. It was a roller

coaster of a day. I expect that the state meet will be harder than sectionals, but competing with the other top bass fishermen in the state will be fun.”

RTHS Boys Tennis

Team effort results in first victory of season

Hubs defeat Freeport 6-3 to snap six-match winless streak

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team snapped its six-match winless streak on Saturday, defeating the Freeport Pretzels 6-3 in nonconference action. Sophomore David Wanner brought home three points for the Hubs, securing two singles wins over Freeport’s Caden Geiser (6-0, 6-1) as well as Rock Falls netter Dawson Newendyke 6-3, 7-5.

“It feels good to break through and get our first win,” Wanner said. “We’re starting to figure ourselves out and we’re beginning to put together what we’ve learned over our first two weeks. My consistency was the key for me today. I kept the ball in play and waited for my opponents to make errors. Our mechanics will be important for us moving forward. I think our consistency is improving and our understanding of match flow is getting better as well.”

Rochelle and Freeport opened the match in doubles competition, with the Hubs taking a 2-1 lead heading into singles play. Wanner and sophomore Owen Haas downed Owen Helm and Nate Wilks 6-1, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles, while

juniors Peter Forsberg and Alex Gilbert teamed up to defeat Ashley Kubly and Guillermo Alanis Barajas 6-1, 6-0 at No. 3 doubles. Juniors Jason Zheng and Devansh Patel battled at No. 1 doubles, falling 3-6, 2-6 to Geiser and John Helms.

“I thought we all did really well today,” Forsberg said. “We’ve come a long way from our first few matches and I thought we won a lot of games today. Practice and consistency will be our focuses moving forward and we’ll going to work on getting all of our ground strokes over.”

Haas dominated Alanis Barajas in singles, sweeping him 6-0, 6-0 on the No. 6 court to give Rochelle a 3-1 lead. Forsberg took the No. 5 singles match 6-1, 6-0 over Kubly before Zheng fell 2-6, 1-6 against Helm at No. 2 singles. With Rochelle leading 4-2, Wanner secured the team victory for the Hubs with his singles win over Geiser. Patel scored Rochelle’s final point of the match, outlasting Wilks 6-2, 6-4 at the No. 4 court. The Hubs are now 1-6 on the season.

“We’ve been working hard in practice so we deserve this win,” Haas said. “Our chemistry in doubles will be important for us and



Juniors Devansh Patel (left) and Jason Zheng (right) battle for the Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team during Saturday’s nonconference match with Freeport.

we’re learning how to work with each other as opposed to playing by ourselves. My

serves were on point today and that made everything easier for me.”



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)
The final match concluded on the No. 3 singles court, with Gilbert falling 1-6, 5-7 to Helms.

See BOYS page 8