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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021

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Summer means seal coating

BY ELLEN O'MALLEY
INTERIM EDITOR

ROCHELLE — If you grew up in Rochelle you remember the city seal coating various streets throughout town. One day you were riding your bike on a relatively smooth surface, the next day it was gravel. At least until enough cars drove down the street to flatten it back out.

It is now, as it was then, a cost-effective way to extend the life of the streets and to protect the pavement.

Each year, Rochelle City Engineer Sam Tesreau and his staff deduct which streets in the “Hub City” need the most attention versus how much they can afford.

Unlike most other projects

See CITY page 2

RTHS Senior Blast Royalty



COURTESY PHOTO

Instead of prom, RTHS hosted its first-ever Senior Blast Saturday with games, fireworks and royalty. Above are Queen Ava Coglianese and King Garrett Burdin just after they were crowned. See more photos on page 5.

Kish College honors Burke

Rochelle resident taught at the college before serving as a trustee

MALTA — Kishwaukee College recognized two outgoing Board members at Tuesday night's Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Roberta “Bobbi” Burke of Rochelle and Ken Doubler were both commended for their dedication to the College and each received a plaque to recognize their service to Kishwaukee College.

Burke was initially seated on the Board in 2014 and also spent time teaching at the college and saw a board position as an opportunity to

continue serving Kish.

“As a past student and instructor at Kish, I was very interested in bringing that experience to the Board. I felt I could offer a different perspective,” Burke said.

Both Doubler and Burke were praised by their fellow board members for their dedication to multiple initiatives at the College during their tenure.

“Serving as a trustee requires community-minded people that

bring unique perspectives so we can best represent the residents of our district,” said Bob Johnson, board chair. “Both Dr. Burke and Mr. Doubler have put thought and care into all their work on the board of trustees. I thank them both for their dedicated service to the Kishwaukee College community.”

Burke and Doubler both said one of their biggest achievements on the

See BURKE page 3



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Roberta “Bobbi” Burke of Rochelle and Ken Doubler, outgoing members of the Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees, were recognized for their years of service during the April Board meeting. Pictured, left to right, are Bob Johnson, board chair; Dr. Bobbi Burke, trustee; Ken Doubler, trustee; and Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College.

Bridge work begins on I-39

Down to one lane next week

OGLE COUNTY — The Illinois Department of Transportation announced Monday that construction on the bridges carrying northbound and southbound Interstate 39 over Kilbuck Creek in Ogle County will begin on Monday, May 3, weather permitting.

The bridges are located at milepost 107 between exits 111 (Illinois Route 72) and 104 (Illinois Route 64).

Martam Construction Inc. of Elgin is the contractor of the \$1,754,249 project, which is funded under the bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital plan. Work includes deck patching, expansion joint replacement, concrete overlay and structure repairs. One lane of traffic on each bridge will be maintained throughout the project, which is expected to be completed by mid-July.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices and be alert for workers and equipment.

The Rebuild Illinois capital program is investing \$33.2 billion into the state's aging transportation system, creating jobs and promoting economic growth. Rebuild Illinois is not only the largest capital program in state history, but the first one that touches all modes of Illinois transportation: roads and bridges; transit, waterways, freight and passenger rail; aviation; as well as bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,300 miles of highway and 8.4 million square feet of bridge deck.

For IDOT District 2 updates, follow them on Twitter at @IDOT-District2 or view area construction details on GettingAroundIllinois.

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LOCAL NEWS

Limb on a wire



PHOTO BY ELLEN O'MALLEY

Crews were called to Shirley Avenue on Monday after a limb fell on electrical wires and was causing sparks. Roughly 25 homes were without power for three hours while RMU worked to resolve the issue.

Food Truck Fest a success

The annual downtown event had great weather

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Community Action Network (C.A.N.) will hosted its annual Food Truck Fair on Saturday at the downtown gazebo.

Each vendor donated \$100 to C.A.N. to support its various programs.

The Food Truck Fair raises funds for several C.A.N. programs including the annual holiday shopping trip, which matches adult shoppers with low-income children in Rochelle. Two more events made possible with

the help of funds from the Food Truck Fair are the annual backpack program and coat drive.

The backpacks, which are filled with a variety of school supplies and additional essentials each spring, are given to Rochelle children during registration before the upcoming school year.

The coat drive, which takes place each winter, provides children with clothing such as coats, mittens, gloves, scarfs and more.



COURTESY PHOTO

Rochelle residents took advantage of the decent weather and came out to support Rochelle CAN at its annual Food Truck Festival.

Vidalia onion sale proceeds benefit Shriners' programs



ROCHELLE — The Tebala Shrine, along with local Masonic Lodge members, will be selling Vidalia onions on the afternoon of Friday, May 7 and all day on Saturday, May 8.

The sale will take place in front of the Rochelle Walmart entrance, with 10-pound bags of onions being sold for \$11.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit Shriners' programs and projects.

CITY: Seal coat program underway

From page 1

ect costs, the bid for seal coating came in at \$128,375, 10 percent lower than budgeted.

Tesreau suggested that the city go ahead with the budgeted amount of \$150,000 and seal coat additional streets.

The city street crews will do the prep work and the entire council voted in favor of spending the

\$150,000 with Helm Civil Constructors, Inc. for the seal coating.

This discussion led to the condition of streets such as Seventh Street as well as Route 38, both which run through town. Mayor John Bearrows was quick to point out that the city can only do so much in the way of repairs because they're

owned by the state.

"Thirty-eight is not ours. I know it's rough, I drive it, too ... we can't do anything about it," Bearrows explained.

Tesreau added that all the city is allowed to do is "pothole patching," which he agreed isn't enough. He said he's had multiple conversations with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and they haven't indicated it will be redone soon.

Which streets?

There will be smaller patches of pavement here and there throughout the city, but here are the main areas:

The Cleveland Ad-

dition, which includes Shirley, Janet, Phyllis, Irene and Cleveland avenues as well as Gary and Dennis streets

East Steamplant Road Avenues C, D and E along with South Second Street

East McConaughy and Drake avenues, Linder Lane and Calvin Road

North 14th Street as well as stretches of Pickwick Drive and Clifton Terrace

Check out Sunday's edition of the Rochelle News-Leader for additional coverage of city council, including public comment about Rochelle Rail Fan Park, ambulance rates and equipment purchases

County sheriff deputies make multiple stops

On April 24 at 9:55 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff Deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of South Seventh Street and Clay Street in Oregon.

After investigation, deputies arrested Brianna Bendis, 26, Oregon, for no valid driver's license.

Bendis was also issued a citation for an equipment violation.

Bendis was transported to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon where she was released to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

April 25

On April 25 at 6:29 p.m., sheriff deputies responded to the 5000 block of West Harvey Road for the report of a domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Michael A. Schehorn, 50, Oregon, for domestic battery. Schehorn was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held with no bond.

April 27

On April 27 at 12:02 a.m., deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 200 block of South Fourth Street in Oregon. After further investigation, Steven Pancryz, 26, Dixon, was placed under arrest for driving while license revoked and unlawful possession of cannabis. Also arrested was a passenger in the vehicle, Caisha Hilliard, 32, Dixon, for possession of a controlled substance. Both Pancryz and Hilliard were transported to the Ogle County Jail where they were held in lieu of bond.

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LOCAL NEWS

Drink from history

The museum opens its historic iron fountain

ROCHELLE — The Flagg Township Museum will turn on the historic Iron Fountain at the museum on Saturday, May 1 at 11 a.m. This is the official opening and turning on of the fountain for the season. The museum is grateful to the city for maintaining the water line for the fountain and keeping it in good repair.

This special program is an opportunity to learn the history behind the Iron Fountain, to learn about Laura Fesler who brought the Iron Fountain to Rochelle, and to learn about the previous locations of the fountain.

Light refreshments will be available on Saturday and drinks of water for man or beast from the Iron Fountain are always available when the museum is open, Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The mission of the Flagg Township Historical Society and Museum is to stimulate interest in Flagg



COURTESY PHOTO

They're turning it on this year so horses, dogs, people and even birds can get a refreshing drink from the historic iron fountain. History and refreshments, too, on Saturday, May 1 at 11 a.m.

Township history through education, research, collection and preservation of

information for the benefit of the public of today and in the future.

Police make arrests

On April 25 at 1:57 p.m., Jenell S. Brown, 53, Rochelle, was cited for driving while license suspended, no insurance and expired registration following a traffic stop at Route 38 and Seventh Street. She posted an individual bond and was given a court date of June 4 in Rochelle.

On April 25 at 9:54 p.m., Raul Martinez, 25, Des Moines, Iowa, was stopped for driving while license suspended after being stopped at Route 251 and Steward Road. He signed a promise to comply and is to appear in court in Rochelle May 21.

On April 25 at 11:11 p.m., Kimberly B. Lowery, 35, Sterling, was arrested for obstructing an ID following a call for theft. She posted an I-bond and was given a court date of May 28 in Oregon.

April 26

On April 26 at 8:19 p.m., Tyree Sim-

mons, 18, Rochelle, was cited for no valid driver's license following a traffic stop at Seventh Street and Fourth Avenue. She posted an I-bond and is to appear in court in Rochelle June 4.

On April 26 at 10:30 p.m., Tommy Price, 32, Rochelle, was arrested on a Livingston County warrant. He was transported to the Ogle County Jail.

Clarification

On April 21, it was wrongly reported that Raul Avila was arrested for having a dog at large. Avila was warned, he was not taken into custody.

Correction

On April 24, it was incorrectly reported that Thomas B. Shaw was arrested following a domestic incident. Shaw was arrested following a traffic stop at Sixth Avenue and Lincoln Highway.

BURKE: From professor to trustee at Kish College

From page 1

board was finding a new college president in 2015.

"As a Board, we could not have worked any harder at finding the right candidate to fill that very important position and one of the accomplishments I am most proud of is knowing that we chose the right candidate in Dr. Laurie Borowicz," Burke said.

Doubler echoed the sentiment, "I am most proud of being part of the selection

team that hired Dr. Borowicz in 2015, the first woman President at Kish."

During their time on the board, the college established dual credit opportunities with local high schools, built relationships with Northern Illinois University and other local community partners, celebrated Kish's 50th anniversary and assisted

in guiding the college through the State of Illinois' two-year budget impasse and the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

"Their leadership will be missed."

Laurie Borowicz
President
Kishwaukee College

The outgoing trustees both expressed confidence in the

remaining and incoming Board members to continue to oversee the values and goals of the college.

"Kishwaukee College is fortunate to have such committed and community-minded board members. There have been seven years of stability in the Board leadership at the College, with each Trustee demonstrating

their dedication to the role they are elected to fulfill," stated Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College.

"I want to thank Ken and Bobbi for their contributions over the years. Their leadership will be missed."

Kathy Countryman of Sycamore and Geri-Dee Hayden of Rochelle were recently elected to fill the vacancies and will officially be seated on the Board in May.



Ogle County COVID-19 Weekly Update As of Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Ogle County COVID-19 Statistics*

Number of Positive Cases:	5,720
Recovered Cases:	5,395
Current Active Cases:	247
Deaths:	78
Positivity Rate:	4%

*Most current statistics available.

**Every vaccination counts...
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Total Vaccinations Administered: 31,164
Total Fully Vaccinated: 13,955
Pct. Fully Vaccinated: 27.4%

Vaccine Eligibility: Anyone age 16+ is now eligible to be vaccinated.

OCHD Vaccination Appointments:

NEXT CLINIC: Thursday, May 6th, Moderna vaccine. The registration link is available on the OCHD Facebook page, go to **health.oglecounty.org** or call **815-562-6976**.

RCH Vaccination Appointments:

NEXT CLINIC: This Friday, April 30th from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Moderna vaccine, 300 doses. Schedule your appointment by calling the RCH Triage Line at **815-561-8829** Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Callers have the ability to leave a message with a Spanish option and your call will be returned.

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

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituary

Dennis Echelbarger

FRANKLINGROVE — Dennis Echelbarger, 64, died on Friday, April 23, 2021 at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford from Covid-19.

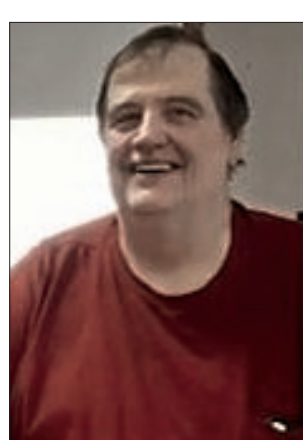
Dennis was born on Sept. 1, 1956 in Dixon, the son of Jesse and Hannah (Essex) Echelbarger. He married Bonnie Engelkes on Nov. 16, 1974 in Payne's Point.

Dennis was a lifelong resident of the area and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He especially enjoyed spending time in the garage working on cars and snowmobiles with his son and brothers.

He was an amazing husband, father and loving "Papa" who was always involved in their lives. He loved being able to coach basketball. He

followed all of his children's activities and never missed a game.

He is survived and missed by his loving wife and best friend of 46 years, Bonnie Echelbarger of



Franklin Grove; son, Dr. Lee (Jodi) Echelbarger of North Barrington; daughters, Desa Echelbarger of Franklin Grove and Darcy (Chuck) Spence of

Forreston; grandchildren, Alec, Cara, Sawyer and Max; brothers, David Echelbarger of Rochelle and Roger (Rose) Echelbarger of Merrill, Wis.; brother-in-law, Bruce Engelkes; sisters-in-law, Barb (Randy) Shankel, Billie (Doug) Heier and Vi Echelbarger. Dennis is preceded in death by his parents; grandson Gavin; and brothers, Ralph Echelbarger and Rodney Echelbarger.

A celebration of Dennis's well lived life will be held Saturday, May 8 from 1-4 p.m. at the Mills & Petrie Building, 704 N. First St. in Ashton. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic masks and social distancing will be required.

To leave an online condolence please visit www.FarrellHollandGale.com

REAL ID extended



SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extended the federal REAL ID deadline to May 3, 2023.

DHS cited that it extended the deadline due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the impact the virus is having on the general public and driver's license and ID card-issuing agencies nationwide.

White, along with other state and business leaders from around the country, had called on DHS to extend the REAL ID deadline due to the pandemic.

"I applaud the decision by DHS to extend the REAL ID deadline to May 3, 2023 — 19 months past the old deadline of Oct. 1, 2021," said White. "This is the proper and necessary action in response to the pandemic."

With the extended federal deadline of REAL ID, current Illinois driver's licenses or ID cards will continue to be accepted at airports and secure federal facilities until May 3, 2023.

As a reminder, White has expanded online services and encourages the public to visit his office's website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com instead of visiting a Driver Services facility.

Many transactions can now be conducted online, including renewing standard driver's licenses and ID cards for those who are eligible.

In addition, White has extended all driver's license and ID card expiration dates until Aug. 1, 2021.

This extension does not apply to commercial driver's licenses (CDL) and CDL learner's permits.

'BioBlitz' at Franklin Creek happening again

FRANKLIN GROVE — "Bio" means life and "Blitz" means to do something quickly and intensively. Together they make

for a collaborative friendly team competition against the clock to discover and inventory as many species of flora and fauna as possible

in a set location.

The next Bio Blitz will be Saturday, May 8 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. They will meet on the third floor of the Grist Mill for a brief presentation. Participants must wear a mask when in the mill, but don't have to be masked when social distancing can be maintained at the headquarters.

These events start off

with a brief introduction and "How to I.D." presentation so no prior experience is necessary. Kids 9 and up are welcome to participate with parent supervision.

Please RSVP by emailing engage@franklin-creekconservation.org with how many people are attending. The BioBlitz is free.



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KC uses funds to support students

MALTA — During the regularly-scheduled Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees meeting on April 13, the board reviewed the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) for the college.

These funds are federal and state dollars provided to institutions of higher education, to be used for direct student support and college infrastructure in adjusting operations in response to the pandemic.

Since March 2020, the college has increased support as well as removed barriers, to assist students with their financial challenges brought on by the pandemic.

Support efforts include: per credit-hour Covid-19 relief support payments to students; removal of payment plan enrollment fee; elimination of dropping of students from classes for non-payment; student debt forgiveness; expansion of the textbook loan program; internet support with Wi-Fi hotspots; Chromebook/laptop computer loan program; expansion of the food pantry; and emergency financial support

through the Champions Fund.

Starting this summer, registered credit students will receive textbooks and their required digital course materials free from the college through the textbook loan program.

To support a quality remote learning environment for students, the College has invested in technology and other resources to support faculty and staff in the virtual environment during the pandemic and moving forward.

For more information on the College's response to Covid-19 and HEERF funding, please visit www.kish.edu.

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LOCAL NEWS

They went out with a Blast ... and a bang!

First Senior Blast is one for the books

HUBLAND — If you heard some booms and bangs around 10:15 p.m. Saturday, it was all for a great reason ... RTHS seniors were enjoying their last hurrah.

Ava Coglianese and Garrett Burdin were crowned queen and king as the sun set on "Hubland" Saturday night, kicking off the Senior Blast 2021 on what would have been, if not for the pandemic, their last prom night.

About 75 seniors enjoyed volleyball, bag toss and music before hunkering down under blankets for the movie "Spiderman Homecoming" on the big screen followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Those participating would like to thank the administration and the teachers, like prom advisor Amy Schweitzer, who made the event possible.

A very special shout out to former Rochelle Hub Jake Vogeler and his RRKM Fireworks!

At right, Afi Gati serves it up at one of the volleyball games during the Senior Blast. Below, Giselle Huearmo, Hillary Leon, Daniela Belmonte, Makaila Crump and Azeneth Milan show up in their coordinating flannel shirts and blankets for the movie. And below right, Zoe Hardcastle and Gabe Garcia take their turn at a bags game.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Havin' a Blast!

At right, Jillian Thomason, Vanessa Avolio, an unidentified senior, Griff Barker, Nathan Vaupel and Ethan Burgholzer, wearing his official Class of 2021 glow stick which Mrs. Naylor distributed as the kids arrived. At left, Elise Hayenga shows off the T-shirt each Senior Blast 2021 attendee received.



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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

I paid my student loans, now I’m forced to pay others’ loans?

Imagine a state government with the worst credit rating in the nation, borrowing money to pay off the personal debts of individuals with six-digit incomes buying homes that cost as much as \$500,000.

Make much sense? Nope. But that’s exactly what the state of Illinois is doing.

Two years ago, Illinois lawmakers passed the \$45 billion Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan. It was a bipartisan proposal negotiated behind closed doors and designed to pay for repairing highways, building bridges and erecting public buildings. But the plan also set aside \$25 million to forgive student loan debt.

The SmartBuy program pays off as much as \$40,000 in student loans if the debtor buys a home in Illinois and holds it for three years. Another \$5,000 is available as a no-interest loan for a down payment or closing costs.

Student loan forgiveness sounds magnanimous

until you figure out it really means folks who either didn’t go to college or who have already paid for college will end up footing the bill for someone else’s college education.

“The last

I checked, two-thirds of Americans don’t have bachelor’s degrees.

It’s not fair to expect them to pay for the college educations of those who are better educated and often better off than they are,” said Lindsey Burke, director of education policy at the Heritage Foundation.

In case you are thinking Illinois’ program targets hard-luck cases struggling to survive under crushing debt, think again.

Folks earning \$109,200 a year can qualify for loan forgiveness.



Scott Reeder

That is 65 percent higher than the median household income in Illinois of just under \$66,000.

The program is expected to pay off the debts of about 1,000 people. But former State Rep. Jeanne Ives notes that about 2 million Illinoisans have outstanding student loans.

This means that the other 1.99 million Illinois taxpayers with student loan debt are not only paying for their own college education – but someone else’s.

It’s not fair to them or the students who worked through college, earned scholarships, went into the military, chose less expensive schools or whose parents sacrificed to send them.

I reached out to Kristen Faust, executive director of the Illinois Housing Development Authority which administers the SmartBuy program. But neither she nor her staff immediately responded.

Let me acknowledge that a ridiculous amount of debt

is being taken on to pay for college.

But who are the bad guys in this mix? Well, college administrators.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says on average the price of college tuition has increased 31 percent during the last decade.

But that is not the case at all schools.

For example, Purdue University hasn’t raised its tuition for 10 years. Not only has tuition remained flat, but room and board rates have dropped during that period from second highest in the Big Ten to the most affordable.

But most college presidents haven’t followed the Boilermakers’ lead.

After all, students are able to borrow and pay whatever schools charge. So, colleges maximize revenues by driving those they are supposed to serve deeper into debt.

And colleges use much of that money to create more administrative positions.

Since 2001, administrative positions on college campuses have grown at a rate 50 percent faster than teaching posts, Burke said

“It’s also important to remember that colleges are competing with each other to recruit students. They feel the need to add more frills and amenities like climbing walls, lazy rivers and nicer buildings. And this too drives up costs,” Neal McCluskey, an education policy analyst at the Cato Institute, added.

Our current student loan system is like giving 18-year-olds credit cards and telling them to charge whatever they like and worry about how to pay for it later.

And until this blank check mindset is addressed, our young people will be going deeper and deeper into debt.

Scott Reeder is a veteran statehouse journalist. He works as a freelance reporter in the Springfield area. Scot-treeder1965@gmail.com.

Five local county boards oppose state overreach

Dear Editor,
Ogle, Winnebago, Stephenson, DeKalb and Boone County boards reject proposal limiting County Government’s ability to regulate zoning.

This month, Ogle County unanimously resolved to oppose Senate Bill 1602 and any other bill with similar language that would seek to limit county control of zoning and land use affairs.

This bill language would severely restrict county governments from zoning regulations relating to wind energy projects.

The language of SB 1602 is expected to be a part of one of the multiple energy bills currently under consideration in the Spring Session of the Illinois General Assembly.

Public hearings and county boards would mostly become bystanders in the zoning process.

New state standards supported by the wind industry would take effect and remove any local county standards.

A coalition of local governmental officials, farmers and landowners, under the name of “Preserving Illinois County Rights,” have joined county boards all over the state to voice their common objections.

They recognize the argument for state control is based upon a false premise that county governments are hindering the governor’s renewable energy goals.

Illinois is already one of the leading wind developers in the country with many counties adding wind projects each year.

Ogle County, as others, spent a great deal of time and resources listening to testimony and examining evidence while adhering to our comprehensive

plans to develop an appropriate wind ordinance for their county.

Those ordinances would be nullified under the proposed legislation.

Ogle County Board member Ben Youman stated, “Whether you want more control and/or limitations for solar and wind, regardless if this bill passes, it would set precedence for a variety of future issues minimizing or outright elimination of local control and say on zoning requirements, with a reverberation of detrimental impact on citizens and local communities. State or Federal government should not bypass local government impact from their capital ivory towers.”

Rebekah Fehr

President

Preserving Illinois

County Rights

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

Friday is National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day. Have you ever rescued a pet from the shelter and what was your experience?

“Yes! We rescued our cat, Midas, from Paws Humane Society in Rockford two years ago. He, literally, made our lives complete.”

Cody Dale

“All our ‘fuzzies’ have been rescues (mostly seniors). They have been loyal, amusing, annoying, sweet, loving ... the best!”

Kimberly Diane Ekes

“Each year, approximately 1.5 million shelter animals are euthanized (670,000 dogs and 860,000 cats). Please adopt, don’t shop! There are also breed-specific rescues.”

Cee Barnes

“I have two pups, both rescued from Tails and from Rescue Warriors; two cats, one from Tails. I love my fur babies and would adopt more if I could!”

Sarah R. Fox

“Yes! We rescued Rikki Bobbi from Friends Forever in Freeport ... We can tell by some of the signs on her body that she had puppies at a very young age because she was only a year-and-a-half when we adopted her.”

Gigi Carnes Beaird

See more responses along with several photos on the Rochelle News-Leader Facebook page.

What do you think?

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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Mike Kerns	ac.kerns@comcast.net
Mike Misch	mmfam@live.com
Curt Ward	caward92@comcast.net

Hillcrest Village Board

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Tim Ball	tball@hillcrestil.us

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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

Golden 'K' honors local businesses



The local Kiwanis Golden K honored local businesses for contributing supplies and space for fundraisers. Dennis Swinton, Golden K member and acting president, and Tom McDermott are shown presenting certificates of appreciation to Josh Crofton of Ace Hardware, top, Tomatt Thimjon of Rochelle Foods, middle, and Shane Langsford of Walgreens. All money from fundraisers is donated to local youth organizations by Golden K.


College news

Local & area students recognized

WIU
Mason Lamb of Rochelle will graduate magna cum laude in law enforcement and justice administration from Western Illinois University in Macomb.

Knox College
Madelyn Bunker of Rochelle was named to the Knox College Dean's List of distinguished students for the 2021 winter term. Bunker's major is biochemistry. Britney Salinas of Lindenwood also was named to the Dean's List, she's majoring in biochemistry. Knox College is located in Galesburg.

Central College
Gregory Ricketts of Rochelle was one of more than 800 students at Central College who would have been honored at the college's annual scholarship celebration on April 22, which was canceled due to Covid-19. Ricketts received the Orville and Ermina Dykstra Scholarship and the Journey Scholarship. Central College is located in Pella, Iowa.



2021
From The Heart
Calendar

FROM THE HEART DAILY CASH WINNERS

April 21 - Eric Cech, Rochelle, \$25

April 22 - Austin Robles, Rochelle, \$25

April 23 - Carol Elliott, Rochelle, \$25

April 24 - Jacob & Taylor Bigelow, Rochelle, \$25

April 25 - Russell A. Crull, Rochelle, \$50

April 26 - Jessica Price, Rochelle, \$25

April 27 - Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, \$25

April 28 - Kaylee Meyer, Genoa, \$25

Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Fashion

6 Cougars

11 Copier part

12 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"

14 Sweatshirt variety

15 "The Raven" maiden

16 Off-roader (Abbr.)

17 Burn with steam

19 Khan title

20 "Moonstruck" star

22 — -la-la

23 War god

24 "Praying" singer

26 TV actor Prinze

28 Business mag

30 Melancholy

31 Dagwood's lady

35 Chic again

39 Lariat

40 Neither mate

42 Actress de Matteo

43 — -de-France

44 Red Square figure

46 Last (Abbr.)

47 Sister of Moses

49 Restaurant fan

51 Sports venues

52 Not as small

53 Admin. aides

54 Plant firmly

DOWN

1 Mollify

2 Caches

3 Pay stub abbr.

4 Floral rings

5 Upright

6 Columns

7 Secondhand

8 Chess piece

9 On the train

10 Composer Prokofiev

11 Crude cabin

13 Rental contract

18 Canine cry

21 Bonn's river

23 Threw in

25 Moreover

27 Corn serving

29 Movie houses

31 Hat edges

32 Nabokov novel

33 Puccini works

34 Very long time

36 Plod

37 Counted (on)

38 Western flick

41 Sentry's weapon

44 Cannes milk

45 Linguist

48 Check-cashing needs

50 Sphere



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

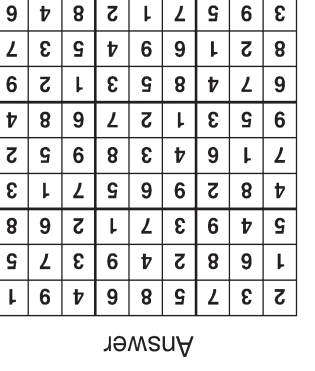
Clue: X equals J

GTWY NZLWZYW J WVZLWN EIPP

EISKYF DTW GK YDWS, K FIWNN TW


VZIPE JW XWXIYW KY XRYIRSA.

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



Answer

Solution time: 21 mins.

King Crossword

When someone becomes dull during the winter, I guess he could be jejune in January.

answer

CryptoQuip

LOCAL NEWS

Turn to an expert when drafting your will

Things people should know about estate planning

Drafting a last will and testament is an essential component of estate planning. Despite the importance of having a will, a recent survey from AARP found that two out of five Americans over the age of 45 do not have one.

Putting wishes down on paper helps avoid unnecessary work and sometimes heartache upon the death of a loved one. Wills allow heirs to act with the decedent’s wishes in mind, and can ensure that assets and possessions will end up in the right hands.

Estate planning can be tricky, which is why many people turn to attorneys to get the job done right. Attorneys who specialize in estate planning will no doubt discuss the following topics with their clients.

- **Assets owned:** Make a list of known assets and figure out which assets are covered by the will and which will have to be passed on according to other estate laws, such as through joint tenancy on a deed or a living trust. For example, life insurance policies or retirement plan proceeds will be distributed to your named beneficiaries. A will also can cover other assets, such as photographs, clothing, cars, and jewelry.
- **Guardianship:** Parents’ wills should

include a declaration of who they want to become guardians their underage children or dependents.

- **Pets:** Some people prefer to use their will to also dictate guardianship for their pets and to leave money or property to help care for those pets. However, pets do not have the legal capacity to own property, so one shouldn’t gift money directly to pets in a will.

- **Funeral instructions:** Settling probate will not happen until after the funeral. Therefore, funeral wishes in a will often go unnoticed, states the legal advisement resource Find Law.

- **Executor:** An executor is a trusted person who will carry out the terms of the will. This person should be willing to serve and be capable of executing the will.

People who die without a valid will become intestate.

This means the estate will be settled based on the laws of where that person lived, and a court-appointed administrator will serve in the capacity to transfer property.

This administrator will be bound by laws and may make decisions that go against the decedent’s wishes.

To avoid this outcome, a will and other estate planning documents are crucial.



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Brent A. Wagner

Hewitt & Wagner - Attorneys at Law

Education/Years of Experience:

B.A. Concordia College – Nebraska, J.D. Northern Illinois University College of Law,
14 Years practicing Law

Services Provided:

General Practice, Real Estate, Estate Planning, Landlord/Tenant, Bankruptcy, Our office serves as the prosecutor for the City of Rochelle

Memberships/Associations/Boards:

Illinois State Bar Association
Ogle County Bar Association

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www.TessCrullLaw.com



Russell A. Crull

Tess, Crull & Arnquist, LLC

Education/Years of Experience:

Northern Illinois University College of Law - Cum Laude (2013); Western Illinois University (2009)

Services Provided:

General Legal Practice & Counsel in Ogle, Lee, Winnebago, Whiteside & Dekalb Counties.

Areas of Focus:

Personal Injury, Criminal Law, Family Law, Estate Planning, FOID Card Cases, Municipal Law, Civil Litigation, Real Estate, Traffic, Business Law

Memberships/Associations/Boards:

Illinois State Bar Association, Ogle County Bar Association, Lee County Bar Association, Lee Ogle Young Attorneys & Lawyers

Community/Civic Involvement:

Foundation for Focus House (Vice Chairman), Byron Chamber of Commerce (Board), Rochelle Rotary, Rochelle Moose, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever

Personal or Family Information:

Lifelong Resident of Ogle County

04292020



420 Fourth Ave.
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www.fnclaw.com



Kaycee I. Chadwick

Fearer, Nye & Chadwick

Education/Years of Experience:

B.S. Accounting, Illinois State University; J.D., Northern Illinois University. 16 Years practicing law.

Services Provided:

Real Estate – Commercial & Residential, Planning, Zoning & Development, Commercial Lending, Corporate, Employment, Estate Planning, Probate

Memberships/Associations/Boards:

ISBA, WCBA, Ogle County Bar Association, Rockford Area Association of Realtors®, General Counsel

Community/Civic Involvement:

Rochelle Community Hospital Board Member
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

Personal or Family Info:

Kaycee & Paul enjoy spending time with their family and extended family, watching sports, hiking, and biking.

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www.TessCrullLaw.com



David D. Tess

Tess, Crull & Arnquist, LLC

Education/Years of Experience:

University of Wisconsin - Whitewater BS (1975), Northern Illinois University College of Law (1981). 38 Years Experience.

Services Provided:

We are a local law firm providing big city legal services including litigation in all matters.

Areas of Focus:

Personal Injury, Work & Auto Accidents, Criminal, Juvenile, Traffic, FOID Card Reinstatement, Family Law, Divorce, Custody, Adoption, Real Estate, Probate & Estate Planning, Tax Lien Redemption.

Memberships/Associations/Boards:

Ogle County Bar Member (Former President), Foundation for Focus House (Chairman), Rochelle Rescue Mission (Board Member), Kiwanis

Community/Civic Involvement:

Focus House Volunteer, Rescue Mission Volunteer

Personal or Family Information:

Wife - Jean Tess, Rochelle Elementary School Board; Son - Major David C. Tess , US Army Reserve - Barrington, IL; Son - Scott R. Tess - Urbana, IL

04292020



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Paul E. Chadwick

Fearer, Nye & Chadwick

Education/Years of Experience:

B.B.A. University of Notre Dame; J.D. Northern Illinois University; 17 years practicing law

Services Provided:

Real Estate, Family Law, Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Administration, Corporate, Municipal Law and General Practice

Memberships/Associations/Boards:

Illinois State Bar Association, Ogle County Bar Association

Community/Civic Involvement:

Coaching - Youth Football, Basketball & Baseball, Past board member of Rochelle Community Hospital, Rochelle Area Community Foundation and Rochelle Junior Tackle; Present member of St. Patrick Catholic Church Finance Council.

Personal or Family Info:

It's an honor to practice law with my wife, Kaycee, and my father, Robert, and to be able to raise a family in my hometown of Rochelle.

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Eric Arnquist

Tess, Crull & Arnquist, LLC

Education/Years of Experience:

University of Dayton School of Law - 2009. 10 Years Experience.

Services Provided:

General Legal Practice & Counsel in Ogle, Lee, Winnebago, Whiteside & Dekalb Counties.

Areas of Focus:

Personal Injury, Criminal Law, Family Law, Estate Planning, FOID Card Issue, Real Estate, Traffic & Business Law.

Memberships/Associations/Boards:

Ogle County Bar Association, Lee County Bar Association, Lee Ogle Young Lawyers

Community/Civic Involvement:

SMSF Club, Byron Chamber of Commerce

Personal or Family Information:

Ogle County Resident, Married to Courtney (Cassidy) Arnquist.

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Robert Chadwick

Fearer, Nye & Chadwick

Education/Years of Experience:

B.S. United States Air Force Academy; M.A.P.A. Northern Illinois University; J.D. University of Notre Dame; 39 years practicing law

Services Provided:

Real Estate, Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Administration

Memberships/Associations/Boards:

Illinois State Bar Association, Ogle County Bar Association

Community/Civic Involvement:

RTHS Board (12 years); Zoning Board of Appeals (21 years); Downtown Area Association Board (6 years); Rotary; St. Patrick Catholic Church religious education teacher (25 years) and past member of Finance Council; Coach and still coaching - Rochelle Jr. Tackle (over 20 years); Rochelle Little League (16 years) and RYBA basketball (over 20 years).

Personal or Family Info:

I am blessed with a wonderful wife, 3 great sons and their wives, and 14 grandchildren, all of whom live in Rochelle.

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SPORTS



WALTERS COMMITS

Hub senior Zane Walters will be playing soccer at Carroll University next year.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Boys Track

Lacing up the spikes

Rochelle takes second in season-opening meet with Plano, Kaneland

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Strong efforts in the field events fueled the Rochelle Hub track and field team to a second-place finish during its three-team matchup with Kaneland and Plano on Tuesday.

Scoring nearly half of their points in the field events, Rochelle finished second with 43 points, while Plano took third with 28 points and Kaneland won with 108 points in the Hub track and field team’s Interstate 8 Conference opener. Senior Trevor Goodwin won the triple jump with a leap of 13.16 meters, picking up where he left off at the IHSA 2A State Championships in 2019. Goodwin also placed second in the 110-meter hurdles with a personal record of 16.99 seconds.

“I thought our guys really stepped up today,” head coach Dale Bergeson said. “Our kids really want to compete and I’m really happy about that...”

Trevor’s off to a really good start. He’s already reached a state-qualifying mark in the triple jump and we know he’s going to have a really good year. He’s way ahead of where he was when he started his sophomore season.”

Senior Oscar Aguirre and junior Zach Sanford shined in the throwing events for the Hubs, with each athlete recording top-4 finishes in both the discus and the shot put. Aguirre placed second in the shot put (12.37 meters) and fourth in the discus throw (28.28 meters), while Sanford took second in the discus throw (32.14 meters) and third in the shot put (11.93 meters).

“The field events are what win our meets,” Bergeson said. “We score a lot of points in the field events and if we’re low in one or two events, it really affects the whole team’s score. Having Zach out here and scoring points in his first meet is a great sign of things to come.”

See HUBS page 3



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub track team opened its season against Kaneland and Plano on Tuesday. Senior Trevor Goodwin (left) won the triple jump, while junior Michael Ramsey (right) took fourth in the 100-meter dash.

RTHS Baseball

Hubs shake off rust in opening loss at Ottawa

Briseno, Lara record RBIs as Rochelle falls to Pirates 20-5

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

OTTAWA — Despite showing some rust in its season opener against Ottawa on Monday, the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team found some positives as the boys prepare to move forward.

The Hubs strung together a four-run fourth inning, but three errors and a tough afternoon on the mound proved too much to overcome in Rochelle’s 20-5 loss to the Pirates. Ottawa held a brief 2-0 lead early before breaking the game open with back-to-back seven-run frames. Rochelle will host Ottawa for Game 2 of the Interstate 8 series Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

“We haven’t had much time to practice and I thought that showed today,” head coach Jarrod Reynolds said. “I think we’ll be fine. We just got all of our guys back so we’re a little rusty.”

Senior Oscar Linares started the opener for the Hubs, recording two strikeouts in one and two-thirds innings. Ottawa took a 2-0 lead in the first inning, when Luke Cushing delivered a two-out, two-run double to center. The Pirates rallied for

seven runs in the second inning, which included an RBI groundout, a run scored on a hit-by-pitch, a two-run single from Cushing and a two-run triple to right from Adam Weitzel. Cushing then came around on a passed ball.

Trailing 9-0, Rochelle (0-1) scored its first run of the season in the third inning, when senior Evan Meyers doubled to center and scored on a passed ball. But the Pirates responded with seven runs in the bottom half of the inning. Levi Sholders slapped a two-run double to right-center and scored twice on a fielder’s choice and a sacrifice fly. Leading 13-1, Ottawa extended its lead on Anthony Cooper’s two-run triple to left field and Juan Zytrowski’s infield single.

Rochelle showed some life in the fourth inning, where junior Andy Buskohl led off with a single before scoring on an RBI single from junior Eric Briseno. Junior Braden Alfano scored on a passed ball after doubling earlier in the frame, while junior Josh Lloyd came off the bench to walk and eventually score on a passed ball. Ottawa closed the win out with a four-run bottom.



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team dropped its season opener at Ottawa on Monday. At left, senior Evan Meyers digs in at the plate. At right, senior Oscar Linares fires off the pitcher’s mound.

“I thought we made solid contact with two strikes, which I like to

see,” Reynolds said. “We made more contact as the game went on and a four-

run inning is always nice to have. When we look at our positives from this

game, I’d say our at-bats in the fourth inning were positives.”



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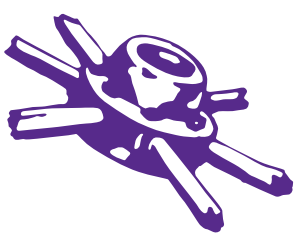


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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle senior Zane Walters will be continuing his academics and his soccer career at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin next year.

Walters commits to Carroll University

BY RUSSELL HODGES
 SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELE senior Zane Walters made the most of his shortened varsity soccer season this spring, leading the Hubs with 15 goals while adding five assists. After spending four years with the Rochelle Hub soccer program, Walters will be taking his talents to the NCAA Division III level.

The senior midfielder will be continuing his academics and his athletics at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin next year. A four-year varsity player, Walters started in the midfield for the last two seasons, recording 24 assists and 22 goals during the span. Walters led the Hubs to a 6-5-1 record and a third-place finish in the Interstate 8 Conference tournament this year.

“Carroll University has a really good coaching staff and they’re rebuilding their program,” Walters said. “They have a lot of potential next season. Their academics in the health field are really good and that’s what I’m going for. I want to play at the highest level available to me and I want to play against the best players. I plan to study chemistry and pre-dentistry.”

Walters earned All-Conference Honorable Mention consideration from the Inter-

state 8 during his junior season, where he recorded 19 assists and seven goals. The talented midfielder emerged as a reserve during his freshman season, totaling five assists and two goals before stepping up as a sophomore, helping the Hubs to a record-setting 20-1-1 season where Rochelle won both the Northern Illinois Big 12 West and IHSA 2A Sterling Regional titles.

“Playing soccer at RTHS has helped me get into shape and become strong enough to play at the college level,” Walters said. “I hope to be fighting for a starting spot and scoring goals. I will bring a work ethic with me that will push my teammates to work harder on the field.”

Walters said he plans to pursue dental school in the hopes of opening his own practice. Walters will be one of seven seniors graduating from the Rochelle Hub soccer program this year. Rochelle finished 51-22-2 across the four seasons Walters spent on the varsity team.

“It’s been a pleasure to watch Zane over the last four years,” head coach Brad Male said. “Zane has a really good sense of the game and he has exceptional ball control. He does an incredible job at controlling the speed of the game. I’ll miss having Zane here at RTHS, but I have no doubt that his skills and dedication to the sport will help carry him over to the next level.”



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SPORTS

RTHS Baseball



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Freshman Christian Burnette homered and totaled two hits in the Rochelle Hub fresh-soph baseball game against Ottawa on Monday.

Fresh-Soph Hubs drop home opener

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub fresh-soph baseball team teed off its season on Monday, falling 12-9 against Ottawa. The Hubs (0-1) will play at Ottawa on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Brandon Moody started on the mound for Rochelle, striking out six

batters in four innings pitched. Alex Burnette entered in relief, fanning four hitters in three innings.

Christian Burnette led the Hub offense, going 2-for-4 with a home run and one RBI. Five Rochelle players recorded RBIs including Burnette, Alex Burnette, Garrett Gensler, Cody Eichinger and Noah Lara.

HUBS: Rochelle track season begins

From page 1

“The throwing events are going to make a big difference for us as the season progresses.”

Rochelle won the 3200-meter relay with a time of 13:52.02 as well as

the 400-meter relay with a time of 1:00.57. The Hubs saw two athletes score in the long jump, with sophomore Christian Harding taking second place (5.31 meters) and junior Ryan Simmons finishing fourth (4.92 meters). Sophomore Hayden

Inman took third place in both the pole vault (2.58 meters) and the 110-meter hurdles (23.34) while finishing fourth in the 300-meter hurdles (54.68).

Junior Michael Ramsey led Rochelle in the sprints, placing fourth in the

100-meter dash with a time of 12.81 seconds. The Hubs took second in the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:45.33.

Rochelle (1-1) will race against Ottawa and LaSalle-Peru on the road Thursday at 4:30 p.m.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Hayden Inman clears the bar in the pole vault during the Rochelle Hub track and field meet with Plano and Kaneland on Tuesday.

RTHS Boys Tennis

Rochelle takes loss at DeKalb

Wanner, Ward score points in 5-2 defeat

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

DEKALB — The Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team faced DeKalb on the road Tuesday, falling 5-2 and dropping to 0-2 on the season. Rochelle will play Ottawa on the road Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

Sophomore David Wanner emerged victorious at No. 1 singles, defeating Hunter Davis 6-0, 6-4. Sophomore Ryan Ward also secured a point for the Hubs, topping Paul Hoppenworth 6-1, 3-6, 10-4 at No. 3 singles. Junior Peter Forsberg faced Ben Grych at No. 2 singles, falling

0-6, 0-6.

Juniors Alex Gilbert and Devansh Patel took the court at No. 1 doubles, falling 6-7, 3-6 in a close battle with Zach Kaczka and Pano Tsifilis. Sophomores Owen Haas and Evin Odle also battled at No. 2 doubles, falling 1-6, 6-7 to Matteo Bennardo and Yair Nunez.

Sophomore John Green and freshman Parker Lenkaitis played at No. 3 doubles, losing 3-6, 4-6 against Jared Trejo and Joseph Rendon. Sophomore Nolan Fonfara and freshman Avery Auld took on Caleb Diefenderfer and Hayden Hess at No. 4 doubles, losing 4-6, 4-6.

NIU Football

Huskies close out ‘excellent’ spring practices

Waylee, Lafayette earn Most Valuable Player honors

DEKALB — The Northern Illinois University Huskie football team closed out what head coach Thomas Hammock termed an “excellent” spring that exceeded his expectations with a 1:45 minute workout in full pads Saturday at Huskie Stadium that included extensive scrimmage action.

By the end of the workout, the last of 15 that began on March 19, Hammock was still beaming over the progress made during the spring by his young team.

“It’s exciting to see how the team has grown over the last three to four months,” Hammock said. “We still have to make another jump this summer, but I’m excited to see where we can take this thing.”

Following practice, Hammock presented the spring awards, beginning with the coveted “I Hit for 15” T-shirts given to players that did not miss a rep during the 15 spring practices. A total of 45 players on a roster of just over 80 received the shirts, which Hammock credited in part to their offseason training, which included yoga sessions.

“To give out that many I hit for 15 shirts was great,” Hammock said. “Those guys practiced every single day, they never missed a rep, never missed a period and considering the way we practice and the physicality, it’s not easy. I think yoga really helped those guys,



(JUSTIN NICELY/NIU ATHLETICS)

along with the work they put in the weight room helped. It’s been a great spring of development.”

Sophomore offensive tackle Marques Cox (Peoria/Peoria HS) and redshirt freshman defensive tackle James Ester (Detroit, Michigan/Cass Tech) earned the coaching staff’s “Hard Hat” awards, given to players who may not receive notoriety outside of the film room, but who consistently come and do their job every day.

“Marques is playing at a high level, he’s probably our top offensive lineman right now, and James Ester is not going to fill up the stat line but he keeps the linebackers free and he’s going to demand double teams. We expect big things from him,”

Hammock said.

Three players were presented with Most Improved honors for the spring. Offensively, redshirt freshman wide receiver Fabian McCray (Chicago/Phillips HS), who had another excellent day Saturday with a pair of touchdown catches, including one on a flea flicker from Ethan Hampton (Elburn/Aurora Christian HS), was named Most Improved. The defensive Most Improved Award was shared a pair of second year freshmen in cornerback Eric Rogers (Burlington, New Jersey/Burlington Township HS) and defensive tackle Devonte O’Malley (Midlothian/Bremen HS).

“During spring, you want to see some guys make

jumps and on offense, it was Fabian. He consistently made plays all spring, including today, he’s catching the ball better, he can do everything a wide receiver needs, he just had to focus which he’s done,” Hammock said. “Eric Rogers is a corner with great ball skills, change of direction speed and he’s had a phenomenal spring. Devonte O’Malley is a guy we moved inside to the three technique and he’s going to be a dominant player, a force to be reckoned with.”

Two more “Covid” freshmen, who each played in all six games in 2020, were named the Most Valuable Players of 2021 spring practices as tailback Harrison Waylee (Johnston, Iowa/Urbandale HS) earned the

honor for the Huskie offense, while safety Devin Lafayette (Brunswick, Georgia/Brunswick HS) was named defensive MVP.

“Harrison Waylee, I think he broke a 70-yard run every day,” Hammock said. “He’s going to be an explosive and dynamic runner for this team; I spoke to [NIU Hall of Fame running back] Garrett Wolfe about him and said, come mentor this young man. Defensively, Devin Lafayette started six games as a true freshman and he has made a big, big jump this spring. I couldn’t be more excited about his future and what he can do for us on defense.”

After rain dampened last week’s Huskie Spring Showcase, that was “won”

by the defense, the NIU offense was on full display in picture perfect conditions Saturday, beginning with a long run for a touchdown by Waylee on the first play from scrimmage, one of several highlight runs for the second-year freshman.

While the defense came up with several big plays late in the scrimmage, including a pass break up by Myles McGee (Canton, Georgia/Sequoyah HS) on a blitz play and an interception by safety Josh Earl (Naperville/Neuqua Valley HS), Hammock wasn’t sure it was enough to earn the win.

“Today’s practice was excellent,” Hammock said. “Guys really competed on both sides of the ball. We saw a lot of explosive plays on offense and the defense came back at the end and made a couple of plays. The defense thinks they came back and stole the day but I don’t think so.”

Overall, Hammock said he and the coaching staff got everything they wanted out of spring ball and more.

“To have the ability to practice 15 times, still as we’re dealing with this pandemic, I thought our guys did a phenomenal job,” Hammock said. “We needed to practice. We’re a young football team that wants to make a jump and we needed every practice and to have guys committed to being out here every day was big for us and we got better for it.”

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RTHS Football



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Sophomore Trey Taft stiff arms an Ottawa defender during the Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football game against the Pirates on Saturday.

Fresh-Soph Hubs fall to Ottawa in finale

Taft, Stover-Cullum score touchdowns as Pirates beat Rochelle 30-14

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football team closed out its season Saturday morning, falling 30-14 against Ot-

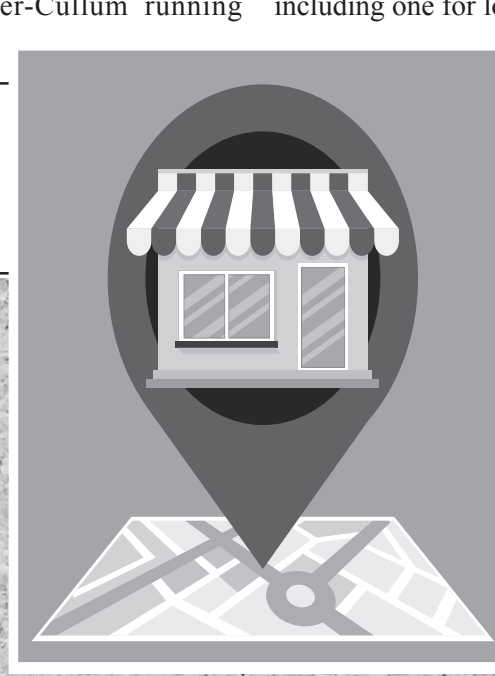
tawa to end the year with a 4-2 record in the Interstate 8 Conference.

Sophomores Trey Taft and Cody Stover-Cullum each rushed for touchdowns in the game, with Stover-Cullum running

for 76 yards while Taft had 72 yards on the ground. Sophomore Kyce Jaradat compiled nine tackles to lead the Hub defense, with sophomore Bradley Cooney adding six tackles including one for loss.

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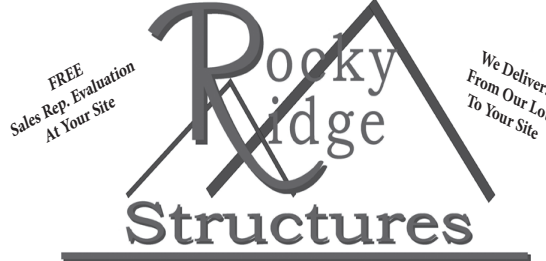
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Before taking off for parts unknown, men and women over 50 can take steps to ensure their excursions are as safe as they are memorable.

1. Consider risk. The coronavirus pandemic of 2020 taught the world that situations can change

your beachside vacation to social media as you are immersed in paradise. Unfortunately, seniors tend to be targets for thieves because they are seen as vulnerable. Don't make the job easier by advertising you are away from home. In addition, have a neighbor periodically pick up your mail and set lights on timers to give the impression you are home even when you're not.

5. Share your itinerary. Keep loved ones apprised of your general travel itinerary, especially if you



rapidly. Before booking any travel, weigh the risks and the benefits of a trip. Determine if Covid-19 is spreading where you live or at your destination. Older adults have a higher risk for severe illness caused by the virus. Until you are vaccinated, it may be best to wait to travel.

2. Use senior-friendly services. Seek out travel services that offer the best perks for older adults. Many travel providers no longer offer senior discounts, but they may offer other benefits, such as early boarding or assistance with traveling from gates to baggage areas.

3. Get travel insurance. According to Liz Dahl, cofounder of Boomer Travel Patrol, a website featuring expert advice geared toward the Baby Boomer demographic, travel insurance can be essential for older travelers. Older travelers may be more at risk of falling or getting sick and some may need extra medication if travel is interrupted or delayed. Travel insurance can provide extra coverage for a relatively low price if something goes wrong.

4. Don't advertise your absence. It may be tempting to upload photos of

are traveling solo, recommends AARP. Keep a mobile phone on you at all times.

6. Pack copies of important documents. In the event paperwork is lost while traveling, request copies of prescriptions and/or statements of medical conditions from each physician and medical treatment center so you have a second set. Keep copies of your passport, driver's license, insurance cards, travel tickets, and other documents as well.



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How to approach exercise

Frequency & knowing when to stop are keys in staying healthy

Making exercise part of their day-to-day routines, people of all ages, including men and women over the age of 65, can greatly improve their overall health.

Exercise is a great way to incorporate physical activity into your daily routine and has been linked to reduced risk for diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and osteoporosis.

Frequency

Seniors, particularly those who have not exercised much in the past, may not know how much exercise they need to reap the full rewards of physical activity. Though it's best to discuss exercise with a physician prior to beginning a new regimen, various public health agencies advise seniors to get at least 2.5 hours of moderate aerobic exercise each week. Brisk walking is one example of moderate aerobic exercise. Seniors who want to sweat a little more when exercising can replace moderate aerobic exercise with one



hour and 15 minutes of vigorous exercise, such as jogging, each week.

Is strength training safe for seniors?

The CDC advises seniors to incorporate muscle-strengthening activities into their weekly fitness routines twice per week. Lifting weights, working with resistance bands, heavy gardening, and even some forms of yoga qualify as muscle-strengthening activities. Exercises that use your body weight for resistance, such as sit-ups and push-ups, also can help

build strength. Always speak with a physician before beginning a muscle-strengthening exercise regimen and, if possible, work with a personal trainer, especially if you're a novice.

When to stop a workout

It's imperative that seniors recognize when to stop working out. Exercising more than is recommended by your doctor can increase the risk of illness or injury. In addition, stop exercising if any of the fol-

lowing symptoms appear:

- Dizziness or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or pressure
- Swollen joints
- Nausea
- Tightness in muscles or joints
- Pain anywhere in the body
- Throbbing or burning sensations

Exercise can help seniors stay healthy and feel more energetic throughout the day. Before beginning a new regimen, seniors should discuss physical activity with their physicians.

15 living ideas for seniors

1. Take advantage of the senior discount
2. Get a library card
3. Refinance your mortgage
4. Improve your credit score
5. Take a safe

- driving course
6. Try your hand at thrift shopping
7. Drop disability insurance
8. Reconsider life

- insurance
9. Give travel rewards a try
10. Travel off season
11. Take the train
12. Travel light

13. Declutter your home
14. Add safety features to your home
15. See a \$5 movie

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

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- Transportation: 1-888-239-9228
- Energy Assistance: 1-800-323-5434

• Depression/other behavioral related issues call Sinissippi Centers: 1-815-562-3801

• Need help with your Benefit Access Application (formerly Circuit Breaker), Medicare, housing, personal care, homemaking, heating/cooling assistance Call Linda or Jill at Rock River Center: 1-800-541-5479

• For all other assistance such a grocery, medicine pickup, etc. for call: 1-815-757-3199



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