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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021 \$1

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PROGRESS 2021 EDITION

**Progress sections
in today's edition**

This year's Progress sections feature articles on local businesses and entities.
Sections 3 & 4

WEATHER

 WEDNESDAY HIGH LOW 41 22	 THURSDAY HIGH LOW 38 22
 FRIDAY HIGH LOW 50 41	 SATURDAY HIGH LOW 69 42

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OBITUARIES

• IVAN SEXTON
• STANLEY WILLIAMS

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• FARM & FLEET

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Monday Madness for officials



PHOTO BY ELLEN O'MALLEY
Emergency crews were called to the scene of a truck fire Monday morning.

Emergency crews responded to a truck fire on Dement Road ...

BY ELLEN O'MALLEY
INTERIM EDITOR

ROCHELLE — A Massachusetts woman suffered severe burns over a large portion of her body while sitting in the cab of a semi truck Monday morning.

The victim, in her 70s, was waiting in the cab of his husband's truck while he unloaded cargo in the rear of the truck. The incident took place at 915 N. Dement Road, just after 10 a.m.

According to Rochelle Fire Chief Dave Sawls-ville, the husband was gone for approximately

15 minutes, when he, along with the security guard, heard commotion and found the whole cab to be fully engulfed with his wife still inside.

The husband attempted to pull her from the cab, and once they did she had suffered second- and third-degree burns over nearly half of her body. According to Sawlsville, the victim is a double-amputee and suffered burns on her hands, stomach, thighs and buttocks.

He added that she only had one burn spot on her face and did not complain

See TRUCK page 2



PHOTO BY ELLEN O'MALLEY
A Mitsubishi Outlander rests upside down on North 11th Street.

... two hours later they were on the scene of a roll-over accident in town — both with injuries

BY ELLEN O'MALLEY
INTERIM EDITOR

ROCHELLE — A quiet Rochelle neighborhood was the scene of a rare scene Monday around noon.

Shortly after noon, an SUV ran a stop sign, lost control, struck a pick-up truck parked on the street and rolled over onto its top in the 400 block of North 11th Street.

According to Rochelle Police Sgt. Bill Hahn, the driver of the vehicle, Jesse M. Torres, Jr., 45, Rochelle, was possibly going as fast as 40-50 m.p.h. when the

incident began to unfold. Skid marks were visible from north of the intersection to the points of impact. It's estimated the pick-up truck Torres struck traveled roughly 30 feet, which pushed it into another car parked on the street.

Torres was cited for DUI/alcohol and improper lane usage. It took the Rochelle Fire Department crew nearly 30 minutes to extricate Torres from the upside-down SUV.

Torres was taken by ambulance to Rochelle Community Hospital for non-

See ROLLOVER page 3

‘Curb Appeal’ contest underway



ROCHELLE — In an effort to help one Rochelle business improve its curb appeal, Rochelle Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors established the Curb Appeal Makeover Contest.

A program to fund the facility improvements of one member business with a monetary grant of up

to \$5,000. All interested members are required to complete a simple application and adhere to the contest criteria. A banner announcing the participant as the winner will be provided to them and must be displayed prominently for 60 days after the ceremony announcing the winner. When work is completed,

the Chamber will hold an unveiling ceremony at the business. The winner allows the Chamber to use any photos of the completed work for Chamber promotions.

An independent selection committee of five, appointed by the Chamber Board, will make the final decision after reviewing all eligible applications.

The contest winner will be announced shortly after the contest ends. The purpose of the contest is simple — to improve aesthetics and provide an op-

portunity for the Chamber to give monetary support to its members.

Many businesses will benefit from their program.

Conteste Rules

1. Contest is open only to Chamber Members in good standing.
2. Non-Members who wish to participate must first purchase a two-year membership.
3. Entrants must be the facility owner of record, or have written permission from the landlord

See CURB page 2

Brunch plans?

ROCHELLE — The Kitchen Table will be serving Easter Brunch from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Sunday.

The menu includes roasted ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, corn, angel eggs and dinner rolls.

The Easter Bunny will be there giving out candy to the kids and parents are welcome to take photos.

The Kitchen Table is located at 7034 S. Klondike Road, west of Rochelle.

Vaccine event at Byron school Thursday

BYRON—There is going to be a mass vaccination clinic at Byron Middle School on Thursday, April 1, by appointment only. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is intended for phase 1B and 1B+ as well as new priority groups who live or work in Ogle

County.

The vaccine being administered is the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. These appointments will be first come, first served basis and will fill up very quickly.

The Ogle County Health Department is still running clinics

here at the Oregon office as they continue to work their way through the wait list with the assistance of Rochelle Community Hospital and KSB Hospital in Dixon.

The health department will continue to run clinics and have

more availability as the weeks go on, so if people are not able to get into this one, there will be more clinics soon.

To register, go to the health department website or call can go to this link to register OR call (833) 621-1284.

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LOCAL NEWS

Ritchie celebrates first birthday

OREGON — Ella Ryann Ritchie celebrated her first birthday recently with a “the lucky one” themed party.

Ella was born on March 17, Saint Patrick’s Day, and her parents are Jonathan and Sara Ritchie of Oregon.

The family gathered for the birthday celebration at Hazel’s Café in Oregon.

Ella’s grandparents include Kim Snow, John and Maria Shank and Dean Ritchie.

Her great-grandparents are Santiago and Maria Ramos of Rochelle, as well as Dave and Sharon Brown of Creston, Char Smith of Rochelle, Carol Snow of Dixon and



Dolores Shank of Rockford.

Ella loved having so many family and friends come out to celebrate her first birthday.

2021 CURB APPEAL

CURB: Businesses can apply now

From page 1

ply with all of the requirements and obligations of the contest.

4. Up to \$5,000 will be awarded for exterior improvements only.

5. Applications must be received by: 4:30 p.m. on April 12, 2021.

6. Work should be com-

pleted by Nov. 1, 2021.

7. The business receiving the grant will be asked to sign a waiver of liability.

8. Contractors and suppliers employed by the grant must be members of the Chamber. If a contractor is not a member, they may become eligible for

this program upon receipt of a paid two-year chamber membership.

Mail applications to:
Rochelle Area Chamber of Commerce
501 6th Ave.
Rochelle, IL 61068

State promotes ‘Think Before You Throw’

Trash pick up along the highways cost Illinois residents more than \$6 million last year

SPRINGFIELD — With the arrival of spring, the Illinois Department of Transportation is reminding drivers to be on the lookout for crews picking up litter and asking the public to do its part by properly disposing trash and saving taxpayers millions of dollars a year in unnecessary costs.

“While IDOT is committed to maintaining a positive impression of Illinois by having our maintenance teams collect litter from our roadsides, we need your help,” said Acting Illinois Transpor-

tation Secretary Omer Osman. “If the warmer temperatures make you tempted to toss that food wrapper or pop can out your car window, please don’t.

Trash is more than just an eyesore. It has real, negative impacts on both the environment and our communities.”

If you encounter maintenance vehicles and workers in litter pickup operations, slow down, move over and give them space — it’s the law.

Other litter facts:

• Last year, IDOT spent

approximately \$6.1 million on litter pickup, the equivalent of resurfacing 30 miles of road or purchasing 40 new maintenance trucks that also plow snow in winter.

• Items tossed onto the road cause distractions, crashes and even hurt people. They also put workers who have to pick them up later at risk.

• Littering is illegal, subject to a fine of up to \$1,500. If convicted of littering on a highway, the violator may, in addition to other penalties, be required to main-

tain litter control for 30 days over a portion of that highway as well.

• Litter kills plants and animals.

• It’s unsightly — no one likes to live where there’s litter.

• Littering is a problem that’s easily controlled. Use a trash can instead.

• Remember: Think before you throw!

After limiting activities in 2020 due to COVID-19, IDOT’s Adopt-A-Highway program is resuming normal operations.

The program partners IDOT with volunteer groups to help keep the state’s non-interstate roadsides clean.

Anyone can apply by completing an online

application found on the IDOT website and “adopting” a two-mile section of highway.

Please email DOT.AAH@illinois.gov or call (217) 557-3224 if you have any questions or wish to join the 10,000 volunteers currently involved in the Adopt-A-Highway program.

TRUCK: Victim flown to hospital

From page 1

of difficulty breathing. Sawlsville explained that when there is a fire with significant injuries the state fire marshal’s office conducts an investigation. It was determined that the origin of the fire was likely to be misuse of smoking material.

The victim was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital and shortly thereafter airlifted by Life Flight to Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford to be treated for her injuries. The husband was transported to the hospital by Sawlsville.

The Rochelle Police Department along with Ogle-Lee Fire Protection crews assisted the fire department.



PHOTO BY ELLEN O’MALLEY

Emergency crews were on the scene of a truck fire for about an hour Monday morning.

Deputies make arrests

On March 27 at 11:20 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff’s deputies conducted a

traffic stop in the 12,000 block of North Tower Road. After an investi-

gation, deputies arrested Michael R. Molnar, 18, Byron, for driving while license suspended.

Molnar was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

Molnar was also cited for operating uninsured motor vehicle and given in written warning for improper traffic lane usage.

March 28

On March 28 at 6:24 p.m., deputies initiated a traffic stop at the 5,000 block of West Pines Road in Oregon.

Upon Further investigation, deputies arrested Thomas Davis, 61, Polo, for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Thomas was transported to the Ogle County Jail in Oregon. Davis also received citations for improper lane usage and operating a communications device while driving.

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LOCAL NEWS

ROLLOVER: Driver taken to hospital

From page 1

life-threatening injuries. While at the hospital, he submitted to blood and urine tests and was later given an I-bond with a court date of April 30.

Prior to the accident, a someone reported a suspicious vehicle matching the description of the one Torres was driving near Flagg Road and North 20th Street.

The vehicle, a red Mitsubishi Outlander, was not his and registered to Torres's sister. Torres was the only occupant of the vehicle.



PHOTOS BY ELLEN O'MALLEY

A Rochelle man was taken by ambulance to Rochelle Community Hospital following a rollover accident in a norhside neighborhood. Jesse Torres was the only occupant of the vehicle which lost control near the intersection of 11th Street and Fifth Avenue Monday.

Police cite local motorists

On March 18 at 9:48 a.m., Christopher Norkus, 41, Creston, was arrested for leaving the scene of an accident, failure to give information and failure to reduce speed. He On March 23 at 10:48 p.m., Layza Gutierrez-Delgado, 20, Rochelle, was cited for speeding 55 m.p.h. in a 20 m.p.h. zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 30 court date.

a.m., Joseph Magdziarz, 19, Poplar Grove was cited for speeding 51 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone. He'll appear in court April 30.

March 26

On March 26 at 11:33 p.m., Manuel Torres-Guerrero, 33, Rochelle, was cited for speeding 65 m.p.h. in a 40 m.p.h. zone. He posted bond and is to appear in court on April 30.

March 27

On March 27 at 1:33 p.m., Adam A. Herstad,

18, Rochelle, was cited for improper display of a license plate, no valid driver's license and no insurance. He posted an individual bond and was given an April 30 court date.

March 28

On March 28 at 1:22 a.m., Billy E. Loveless III, 30, Rochelle, was arrested for speeding 42 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h zone, DUI and having a blood alcohol content of more than 0.08 percent. He posted an

I-bond and will appear in court April 30.

On March 28 at 9:50 p.m., Cacique Juan F. Pizano, 32, Rochelle, was cited for open/possession of alcohol in public. He OV?

March 29

On March 29 at 12:17 p.m., Jesse M. Torres, Jr., 45, Rochelle, was arrested for DUI and improper lane usage following an accident on North 11th Street. He posted an I-bond and was given a court date of April 30.

Hospital receives reaccreditation

ROCKFORD — OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center further establishes its position as the number one hospital for stroke and aneurysm care in Rockford with DNV-GL reaccreditation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center.

OSF Saint Anthony was the first hospital to receive Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) designation in the Rockford region in 2018 and is now the longest accredited hospital in the Rockford area for stroke and aneurysm care.

DNV-GL is a surveying, accrediting body, that partners for safer health care, providing quality driven accreditation and clinical excellence certifications to America's hospitals.

The DNV-GL Comprehensive Stroke Center Recertification is the result of a thorough two-day audit at OSF Saint Anthony.

"This is important to the region and the people of Rockford," said Sue Fischer, vice president of ambulatory and procedural services for OSF Saint Anthony.

"We provide the latest and best technological advances in health care. So, if you have a loved one or family member suffering from a stroke or brain aneurysm, you want them to be brought to OSF

HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center."

A Comprehensive Stroke Center like OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center has the capability of providing the most specialized care for patients with complex strokes, 24/7 – 365 days per year. OSF Saint Anthony cares for patients with all types of stroke – blood vessel blockages, as well as hemorrhagic (bleeding) strokes – often caused by ruptured brain aneurysms.

"Being a Comprehensive Stroke Center means we provide the latest, cutting-edge, evidence-based, quality care to stroke and brain aneurysm patients," said Dr. Ayman Gheith, co-medical director of neuro intervention at OSF Saint Anthony.

Patients have 24/7 access to minimally invasive catheter procedures to treat strokes.

The neuro-intervention surgical suite allows surgeons to capture 3-D imaging of vasculature leading to, and within the brain, and is further utilized to treat ruptured and non-ruptured brain aneurysms safely.

The neuro-intervention suite also enables physicians to accurately see the blood clot causing the stroke and treat it safely and effectively.

Recycling & shredding event planned for next month

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a Latex Paint Recycling & Document Shredding Event on Saturday, April 17 at 909 Pines Road in Oregon.

This event is for Ogle County residents only and identification is required (valid driver's license, identification card or recent utility bill accepted for identification).

Latex paint will be collected for recycling from 8 a.m. until noon. The first 10 containers of latex paint per vehicle will cost \$1 per quart-sized container; \$2 per gallon-sized container; and \$8 per 5-gallon pail.

The OCSWMD will subsidize the remaining cost to recycle the latex paint. Any additional containers of latex paint will be charged the full price to recycle, which is \$2.50 per quart, \$5 per gallon and \$18 per 5-gallon pail.

Cash, credit card or checks payable to EarthPaint.org will be accepted for payment.

Oil-based paints, stains and varnishes and spray cans will not be accepted. No business or contractor paints accepted. No bulking of latex paint as bulked latex paint cannot be recycled. EarthPaint.org is a

nonprofit business in the Chicago area that works with adults with special needs and disabilities to sort and recycle unwanted latex paint into new paint or other products.

Secure, on-site document shredding will be conducted by Freeport Recycling's Shred-Beast truck from 9 a.m. to noon. There is a limit of three boxes per vehicle.

No business or institutional material accepted. There is no cost to residents for paper shredding because the OCSWMD will cover the cost of the Shred-Beast truck and staff.



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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Stanley “Stan” Williams

ROCHELLE — On Sunday, March 28, 2021, Stanley Williams was called to be home with the Lord at the age of 64.



Stanley, who preferred to go by “Stan,” was born on Oct. 18, 1956 in Rochelle to James T. Williams and Betty (Manning) White. Stan worked for Rochelle Printing for more than 30 years. Stan enjoyed classic country music, gospel music and reading his Bible. Stan also was a big fan of Ronald Reagan and the Chicago Bears. Stan is known for his wit, sense of humor and

his love of God.

Stan was preceded in death by his father, James T., and his mother, Betty; stepfather, Don White; and his grandson, Kayden Williams.

Stan is survived by his children, Michele (Paul) Chapman, Melissa Rutherford, Laticia Rutherford, Christina Rutherford and Jessica Williams.

A celebration of life service will be held on Thursday, April 1 at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Rochelle, 810 N. Woolf Court in Rochelle.

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Pending Obituaries

Ivan G. Sexton

ROCHELLE — Ivan G. Sexton, 88, passed away on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at his home with his family at his side. Funeral arrangements are pending at the Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N 6th St., Rochelle.

You can sign the guest book at www.UngerHorner.com.

Loans available for non-profits

SPRINGFIELD — USDARuralDevelopment has the authority to guarantee or make direct loans to public bodies and not-for-profit corporations in rural areas to construct, enlarge or otherwise improve essential community facility projects which serve the public.

Related costs such as land, architectural, legal, environmental analyses, interest during construction, equipment and machinery, and certain other costs are eligible. Applicants for direct loans must be unable to get credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms. Projects in rural areas and communities of not more than 20,000 in the population are eligible. The loan

repayment period shall not exceed 40 years or the useful life of the facility.

Health care facilities, group homes, assisted living projects, rehab and counseling centers, fire and rescue buildings and vehicles, courthouses and city halls, and many other types of projects are eligible.

A limited amount of grant funds is available to assist eligible applicants in developing otherwise unaffordable projects.

Projects in small, rural communities with low-income levels receive the highest priority for funding. Generally, grants are made in conjunction with loans. Grants for 100 percent of the project cost are not available.

Konstans named to dean’s list

BLOOMINGTON — Baxter Konstans of Rochelle was named to the dean’s list for the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year at Illinois Wesleyan University. Konstans is a freshman majoring in acting.

Konstans was among 771 students from 28 states and 15 countries named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List.

To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a GPA of 3.50 or better during the semester, based on 4.0 for straight A’s.

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Mike Feltes (815) 561-2124

Newsroom Staff
Ellen O'Malley, Interim Editor (815) 561-2151
Russ Hodges, Sports (815) 561-2152

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Ogle County COVID-19 Weekly Update
As of Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Ogle County COVID-19 Statistics*

Number of Positive Cases:	5,280
Recovered Cases:	5,047
Current Active Cases:	155
Deaths:	78
Positivity, 7 day rolling average:	4.9%

**Most current statistics available*

Please continue to follow precautions— the pandemic is not over!! Positive cases in Ogle County and Region 1 have been increasing in the last two weeks.

Total Number Vaccinated: 20,351

Total Fully Vaccinated: 14.37%

Vaccinating Phase 1b, 1b+: Essential frontline workers, age 65+, those with high risk medical conditions.

Vaccination Clinics:
April 1st at Byron Middle School—FULL
April 5th at OCHD in Oregon—FULL
April 6th at OCHD in Oregon—FULL
More clinics are being scheduled in April—watch for new dates to be announced.
Get vaccinated! Help us move forward, not backward!

Wait List: Ogle County Health Department no longer has a wait list online and is working through the remaining names. Watch for more clinics being scheduled in April.

When more clinic dates are announced, you can call these partners for assistance with registering:

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	815-738-2742

Art contest announced

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Adam Kinzinger (IL-16) announced the start of the 2021 Congressional Art Competition. As the competition celebrates its 40th year in operation his office is pleased to begin accepting submissions from all high school students that live in the 16th Congressional District of Illinois.

The competition offers high school students from across the country to showcase their artistic abilities and creativity. First-place winners will have their artwork displayed in the Cannon Tunnel leading to the U.S. Capitol for one full year.

Due to the COVID, the Congressional Institute was



unable to host an in-person reception in 2020. If one is possible this year, the winner will be awarded two tickets to Washington, D.C. to attend the official art show opening and a subsequent reception.

The submission deadline for the competition is Friday, April 30 at 5 p.m. in the Ottawa District Office. All high school students living in Illinois’ 16th Congressional District are encouraged to participate.

For more information on the competition, please visit the website at www.kinzinger.house.gov. If you have any additional questions, please call his office at (815) 431-9271.

NEWS

Food Bank Unveils: UNITE

The non-profit organization serves many area communities in northern Illinois

NORTHERN ILLINOIS — For many, the New Year symbolizes a renewed start — a time of resolutions, commitments and change. For Northern

Illinois Food Bank, 2021 marks the beginning of a five-year collaborative journey as the Food Bank unveils its new Strategic Plan: UNITE.

Strategic Plan: UNITE is the culmination of more than a year of preliminary work and planning to identify key strategies and to increase collaboration among its network of 900 agencies and feeding programs, neighbors and supporters.

The plan will guide the co-creation of programs to ensure that everyone the Food Bank serves has

equitable access to the quantity and quality of the food they need and want. In conjunction with the new strategic plan, Northern Illinois Food Bank

Embrace Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI); Enhance Food Supply; Empower our Neighbors; Engage our Network; and Evolve the Food Bank.

understanding of what the Food Bank's neighbors need and want to feel safe, welcomed and valued when they seek help. UNITE addresses this by seeking feedback and input directly from neighbors to drive food sourcing and accessibility decisions.

he plan also calls for enhancing direct-to-neighbor approaches such as mobile and online markets, SNAP outreach, and direct marketing to meet growing community needs and add food distributions at some of its existing centers to reach more food-insecure neighbors in 2025.

"With our strategic partners Boston Consulting Group and See What I Mean, the Food Bank leadership team engaged with our stakeholders to gather information and shape our efforts for the future through the new plan," said Dirk Locascio, Board Chair of Northern Illinois Food Bank. "We realize that achieving the

goals outlined in UNITE will require continued extraordinary commitment, investment and support of the community."

About Northern Illinois Food Bank

Our vision at Northern Illinois Food Bank is for everyone in Northern Illinois to have the food they need to thrive.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and proud member of FeedingAmerica, we serve our neighbors in 13 counties with dignity, equity and convenience, providing 250,000 meals a day. We bring together manufacturers, local and corporate grocers, area farmers, corporations, foundations, and individuals who donate food and funding, and each week nearly 1,000 volunteers help us evaluate, repack, and distribute

food. We also proudly partner with more than 900 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and youth and senior feeding programs to provide nutritious food and resources.

Our distribution centers are located in Geneva, Park City, Rockford and Joliet. Find out how you can get help, volunteer, donate or get involved at



SolveHungerToday.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. For more information on the Food Bank's new strategic plan, visit SolveHungerToday.org/UNITE.

**JULIE YURKO, PRESIDENT AND CEO
NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK**

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has adopted new Vision and Mission statements, which will guide the continued development of organizational culture in the coming years.

Vision — For everyone in Northern Illinois to have the food they need to thrive.

Mission — To provide nutritious food and resources for our neighbors, with dignity, equity and convenience, through partnerships and innovation.

UNITE is centered around five interconnected strategic pathways:

Within each pathway are strategies and detailed measures of success.

"We selected UNITE as our strategic plan's theme, because we did not develop this plan alone and we will not achieve it alone," stated Julie Yurko, President and CEO of Northern Illinois Food Bank. "The cornerstone of UNITE is rooted in collaboration and reaching even more neighbors with new approaches, enhancing their overall experience."

The key to achieving the new strategic plan's goals is a heightened

Calling all Illinois entrepreneurs!

Apply now for the annual 'open call' for products made, grown in the United States

CHICAGO — The application process for Walmart's eighth annual Open Call is now open, and the company invites Illinois entrepreneurs dreaming of landing their products on Walmart shelves and online to apply for the opportunity to meet with Walmart buyers on June 30, 2021, via virtual pitch meetings.

The deadline to apply for participation in this year's Open Call for products made, grown or assembled in the United States is April 30.

The application and additional information about the event are available via this link.

On March 3, Walmart announced a new commitment to spend an additional \$350 billion on items made, grown, or assembled in the United States.

It's estimated that this spend will support more than 750,000 new American jobs. Walmart's Open Call is one way in which the company supports this commitment.

The June 30 virtual event will include similar programming to last year. In addition to one-on-one pitch meetings with Walmart merchants, participants will have an opportunity to hear directly from Walmart executives at the hour-long kickoff of the event.

Smaller breakout sessions will be available throughout the day where suppliers can learn more on valuable topics and about resources available to them.

"Open Call is like watching the American Dream play out in real time," said Laura Phillips, Walmart senior vice president for Global Sourcing & US Manufacturing. "You see on full display the spirit and energy of new ideas and the hope of what could be — founded on creativity, hard work, and self-belief. It's inspiring."

"Walmart's announcement earlier this month to spend an additional \$350 billion on products made, grown or assembled in America makes Open Call even more exciting and important. We know how much this opportunity means to small businesses,

and we can't wait to see the new product submissions from potential new suppliers."

This year's Open Call attendees could secure opportunities that range from promoting products in a handful of stores in local markets to supplying products to hundreds, even thousands, of Walmart stores, Sam's Clubs and online.

"Walmart makes it easy — they really do," Henry Johnson, who owns Le'Host Hair & Wigs with his wife, Haith, said about their experience at Walmart's 2020 Open Call.

"They sent us a video that they send to everyone who's going to present to buyers and said, 'This is what we're looking for.' ... We found out what was important to Walmart as a company, in the community. What's important to Walmart is their customers. To us, our customers are No. 1. So, when we saw that was the mindset of Walmart, we knew it was a good marriage."

Earlier this year, Walmart began expanding

Le'Host products into some 300 stores across the Southwest and Southeast regions of the United States.

Apply for Open Call today by visiting Walmart-jump.com. Join the conversation on social media by using #WalmartOpenCall.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Some lawmakers back bill to prevent employers from making COVID-19 vaccine mandatory

Lawmakers in Springfield could soon consider a measure that would prevent employers from mandating COVID-19 vaccines as a condition of employment. The bill, sponsored by state Rep. Joe Sosnowski, R-Rockford, would only apply to vaccines approved under the Food and Drug Administration's emergency-use authorization.

"While vaccinations are in an emergency review process, I don't think it's appropriate that any business, govern-

ment, or other agency would require them," Sosnowski said. "Once they receive full FDA approval, that's a different story, as we see with requirements for flu vaccinations for medical personnel and at hospitals."

Sosnowski said this measure would help protect the individual rights of employees around the state.

"All this is requiring is that there'd be a full FDA approval before there could be any requirement," Sosnowski said.

"We think it's a fair

compromise and something that's reasonable for the state of Illinois."

Sosnowski said he's not anti-vaccine, but worries about a possible precedent being set for the future.

"It becomes a little bit worrisome in the mad rush to mandate and require everything because then it opens the door for future vaccinations," Sosnowski said.

"Again, we want to give people the choice. We want to take into account public safety."

Recent guidance from the EEOC makes clear federal law would allow employers to require vaccinations that protect the health and safety of others, including COVID-19 vaccines.

Sosnowski said this measure would carve out an

exemption in the state.

"That's already protected by federal laws. At the state level, we can't do anything to change that," Sosnowski said. "This is just dealing with emergency-issue vaccinations only."

After full FDA approval, these restrictions would not apply, leaving the door open for requirements in the future.

"I just think there is some concern out there," Sosnowski said. "Considering that it's not fully FDA approved and it is under an emergency order right now, we can take a slow methodical approach."

Scot Bertram is a correspondent for The Center Square. His email is radio.bertram@gmail.com.

It seems we struck a nerve

Monday afternoon, the Rochelle News-Leader posed its "Voice on the Street Question" via its Facebook page — What do you think about companies making the COVID vaccine mandatory? The reaction from you, our readers, was strong.

We chose this question because recently a bill was introduced in the Illinois House of Representatives by Rep. Joe Sosnowski (R-Rockford) which would prohibit employers from discriminating against employees who refuse to receive the Covid vaccine.

This means there was a reason someone thought such a bill should be introduced.

Are companies currently requiring their employees to receive the vaccine? Or do they plan to? Are there any such employers in our area?

We're still in search of these answers and will continue to keep our readers informed of new and important information regarding all aspects of the vaccine.

Most readers disagreed with employers requiring a vaccine, but a few saw both sides. One reader thought we were stirring a pot that already is bubbling over, one introduced a genetic conspiracy theory and a few said, "my body, my choice."

We all know the vaccine, no matter which company created it, was developed quickly and under duress. Statistics are tricky on results, but one thing is clear: there are no guarantees.

Some people are getting the virus despite having been fully vaccinated.

Others who have had the virus are having reactions that they say are worse than actually having the virus. And there have been deaths recorded.

Many more have slight symptoms following the second shot, but otherwise all is good.

The statistics almost seem like "noise" at this point, so it's difficult to put them all together to draw a concise conclusion.

That doesn't stop us from talking about it and having opinions. Every day, everywhere, questions gets asked multiple times, "Did you get the vaccine? Which one? Did you have a reaction? I know 'so-and-so' who had a reaction, but my sister sailed through it ..."

But it looks to be that our readers who responded have made their decisions for various reasons. Few of these reactions are "on the fence."

And maybe you're reading this and work for a company that isn't necessarily "requiring" the vaccine, but encouraging employees to do so.

Either way, we're glad you all have opinions and we're pleased that you shared them with us. Please, continue to share your ideas and thoughts with us on all topics. This is your community newspaper.

We couldn't publish all of the responses, but they're available on the Rochelle News-Leader Facebook page.

Ellen O'Malley is the Interim Editor of the Rochelle News-Leader. She can be reached at ellen@rochellenews-leader.com.

Question:

What do you think about companies making the Covid vaccine mandatory?

"Absolutely ridiculous. Any free-thinking person understands this."

Mandi Rechenmacher Cruz

"I think asking a question like this fuels the great divide and fear we have right now. I am so grateful that all my family chooses to be vaccinated so we can gather together again. We need to find ways to encourage people that vaccines are the way out of this!"

Leah Clue Van Stone

"It's the wrong approach. It should be a person's choice and some people cannot take it. Also, if there's an injury or death due to the vaccine, employers are opening themselves up for big legal trouble."

Cindy Foster Knight

"I can understand both sides of the situation. Companies making vaccinations mandatory are doing so for the protection of staffing, money lost due to absenteeism as well as the safety of the employees. I also understand the need for people to freely choose to do with their bodies as the desire. Unfortunately, when personal choices impact a population, it becomes questionable on what's best for everyone."

Laura Emke Salazar

"My question would be can an employee/their family sue a company if they get Covid, get very sick and even die? My understanding is if a company, even a person who doesn't do everything diligently to not spread Covid, could be sued. If this is true, blame the laws not the companies in this sue-happy world."

Debbie Ramsey

"Depends on the variants and how deadly. I think furloughs might work better, but never firings. Going to have my vaccination card laminated. Staying masked for awhile. Also thinking about school districts banning students who are unvaccinated — for measles, etc."

Laura Mabel

"Coercion is not consent. It violates HIPAA, the Nuremberg Code and several WHO ethical standards. The shots aren't even FDA approved yet. Why are we talking about universally mandating them?"

Kara Prewett

"Everyone needs to stop being so concerned and opinionated about other people's choices! It's my choice what I do and nobody else's. End of story!"

Angela Hicks Seldal

"Feels pretty much like they gonna have some staffing issues."

Cody Dale

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
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Ogle County Board Dist. 3

Lloyd Droege ldroege@oglecounty.org
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Bruce McKinney bmcKinney@oglecounty.org
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Deanne Haub hobnob67@comcast.net
Tom Byro tommyb_47@yahoo.com
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Pam Pitman ppittman@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

Stage Coach kicks off 75th season

Year-long celebration includes live production in May

DEKALB — Stage Coach Players is kicking off its year-long 75th Season Celebration, marking the anniversary of their first ever production, “Pure as the Driven Snow,” with the announcement that “Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean” will take the stage May 20-30, 2021.



COURTESY PHOTO
The 1946 inaugural Stage Coach production of “Pure as the Driven Snow.”

It’s the first live production on stage since February of 2020.

Pure as the Driven Snow takes place on a dark and stormy night with Purity Dean, a working-class girl with a secret, seeking shelter from the storm at an inn in Vermont. There is a classic villain, Mortimer Frothingham; a brave leading man, Leander; a bomb, daring escapes and rescues.

The 1946 Stage Coach Players production of the show took place at the White Shrine DeKalb Masonic Temple, previously located at 318 E. Locust St. in DeKalb.

Having weathered the storm of 2020 as they waited in the wings, Stage Coach Players will continue to celebrate their 75th season throughout the year.

For more information about upcoming events and ways to participate in the celebration, please watch for announcements on www.stagecoachplayers.com and be sure to follow Stage Coach Players on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

You can contact Stage Coach Players directly via email info@stagecoachplayers.com or leave a message with the box office at (815) 758-1940.

‘Egg-citing’ virtual show

ROCKFORD — The Discovery Center is hosting Egg-citing Egg-xperiments — a fun and educational virtual science show for families to enjoy from their homes via Zoom on Friday, April 2 at 7 p.m. After the live show, families are encouraged to chat with science educators.



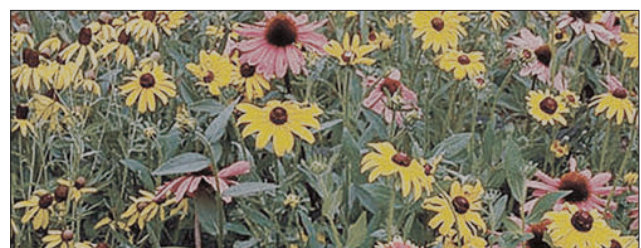
Egg-xcellent, egg-citing egg-xperiments abound in this 45-minute virtual show. Learn about incredible, sometimes edible, eggs and the amazing science behind these egg-xperiments. After the show, download Egg-xcellent

Egg-xperiments and try some out at home!

It’s just \$5 per family for the public or \$4 per family for museum members.

The Association of Children’s Museums estimates that 30 percent of children’s museums across the country will close as a result of

COVID-19. By participating in any of the museum’s paid virtual programs, becoming a member, purchasing a gift certificate or making a donation, the public is directly supporting Discovery Center’s mission.

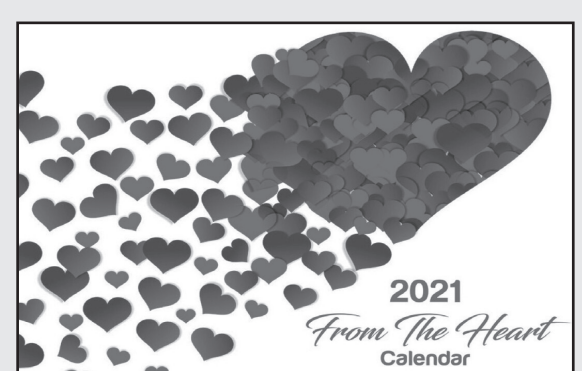


Native plant sale underway

ROCKFORD — The annual native plant sale by Wild Ones Rock River Valley Chapter is now underway. Advance orders are due Friday, April 30. The plant sale brochure and order form are available on the WORRVC website at http://wildonesrrvc.org/Plant_Sales.html. Orders can be picked up and the public can purchase plants on Friday, May 7 from 3-7 p.m. and Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Knowledgeable volunteers will be available on sale days to answer questions about a particular plant or location to plant natives. A wide range of native plant species for rain gardens, butterfly gardens, pollinator gardens and birds have been selected for sale.

Gardeners are strongly encouraged to place orders early to improve chances of getting the plants they want. Quantities are limited and some plants sell out quickly. For questions about the native plant sale, call Jane Evans, 815-494-7731. COVID-19 precautions:



FROM THE HEART DAILY CASH WINNERS

- March 10 - Sandy Sullivan, Rochelle, \$25
- March 11 - Sandy Gould, Steward, \$25
- March 12 - Bruce Norkus, Rochelle, \$25
- March 13 - Tina Vincent, Rochelle, \$25
- March 14 - Anne Broderson, Stillman Valley, \$50
- March 15 - Robert Eckhardt, Rochelle, \$25
- March 16 - Bev Bartmess, Franklin Grove, \$25
- March 17 - Gail Pyne, Sycamore, \$250
- March 18 - Valerie Seiler, Stillman Valley, \$25
- March 19 - Timothy Remsen, Maple Park, \$25
- March 20 - Vince Carney Community Theater, \$25
- March 21 - Guillermo Martinez, Rochelle, \$25
- March 22 - Juan Salinas, Rochelle, \$25
- March 23 - Camryn Whitaker, Rochelle, \$25
- March 24 - Kelly Morris, Rochelle, \$25
- March 25 - Michele Hardcastle, Rochelle, \$25
- March 26 - Tina Saylor, Mendota, \$25
- March 27 - Kari Andrist, Rochelle, \$25
- March 28 - Rotary, Rochelle, \$50
- March 29 - Rhond Ruppert, Paw Paw, \$50
- March 30 - Adriana Milan, Rochelle, \$25
- March 31 - Marian Austin, Rochelle, \$25

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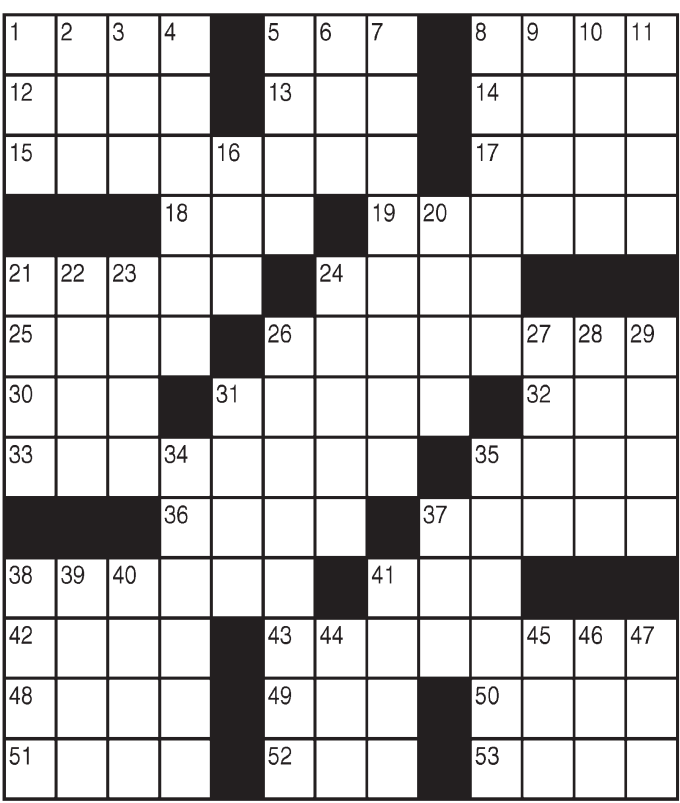


Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Tub session
- 5 Petrol
- 8 Microwaves
- 12 Jai —
- 13 Dadaist artist
- 14 Vicinity
- 15 Home to the Buccaneers
- 17 Fish feature
- 18 Evening hrs.
- 19 Whirl
- 21 Jazz genre
- 24 Crossword hint
- 25 Former mates
- 26 Turquoise-like color
- 30 Mimic
- 31 Rib
- 32 Ltr. holder
- 33 Pentagon
- 35 Broad
- 36 The Eternal City
- 37 Golfer's wear
- 38 Calms
- 41 Actor
- 42 Canal zone
- 43 Dorm room sleepers
- 48 Curved molding
- 49 Corn spike
- 50 Pakistani language



- 51 Office plant
- 52 Reuben bread
- 53 Grate
- 9 Operatic solo
- 10 Hide
- 11 Auction
- 16 Sound booster
- 20 Year-end celebration
- 21 Tempo
- 22 Big fair, for short
- 23 Pager sound
- 24 Stop
- 26 Trucker in a union
- 27 Floral rings
- 28 Nullify
- 29 Always
- 31 Helen's home
- 34 Impudent
- 35 Orville's brother
- 37 Moving day rental
- 38 Starting
- 39 Olympic sled
- 40 Lusty look
- 41 Employ
- 44 Path
- 45 Epoch
- 46 License to drill?
- 47 Dine

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦ ♦ ♦

♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging
♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**
One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

YUWNXZNDN, YUWNQZJRB
JRHDNAJMPN JY XEJQJRB
QU MN GRUXR.
— HEDP YEBER

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Answer

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

P	S	A	P	S	A	P	S	A	P
R	A	S	P	R	A	S	P	R	A
D	U	R	D	U	R	D	U	R	D
E	A	R	E	A	R	E	A	R	E
S	U	E	S	U	E	S	U	E	S
B	E	D	B	E	D	B	E	D	B
S	A	L	S	A	L	S	A	L	S
O	R	A	O	R	A	O	R	A	O
R	M	E	R	M	E	R	M	E	R
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E	N	E	E	N	E	E	N	E	E
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Solution time: 23 mins.

CryptoQuote
answer
Somewhere, something
incredible is waiting
to be known.
— Carl Sagan

ROCHELLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

APRIL

HUB NEWS

2021



Election Day is Tuesday, April 6

RTHS D212 Board of Education Candidates (4, 4-year terms):

- Thomas L. Huddleston III
- Martin W. Ravnaas, Jr.
- Robert T. Chadwick
- Jacky Aguilera

During early April, RTHS Seniors need to:

- Check all grades to be sure you are on track to graduate
- Order a cap & gown in the main office



APRIL CALENDAR

April 2	NO CLASSES RTHS or KEC	April 14	Wednesday - Gr 9/10 in person only 11 am to 1:30 and 4:30-7 pm Focus House Spaghetti Supper Drive Thru
April 4	Easter Sunday	April 15	SENIORS: Silver Service claims are due
April 5	RTHS is in session	April 16	Friday Gr 11/12 in person
April 6	10-11 am NI Mobile Food Bank @ Loaves & Fishes Mt. Morris	April 19	5:30 pm Board of Education meets in the Gallery
April 7	OSF College of Nursing visit 10:30 am; Zoom link available in the CC	April 21	Kish hosts 1-stop Class of 2021 registration. RSVP in CC
April 9	Friday - Gr 9/10 in person	April 23	Friday Gr 9/10
April 12	UIS - University of Illinois @ Springfield 11 am; get Zoom link in the CC	April 30	Friday Gr 11/12
April 13	Tuesday - Gr 11 in person only - the SAT test will be administered A remote learning day for Gr 9, 10 and 12	AP Exams will be administered May 4 through May 17; **dates are subject to change	

Bass Fishing meeting March 29

If you are interested in our Bass Fishing team, make plans to attend the first meeting at 4 pm on Monday, March 29 in the Commons. Sign up by contacting the Athletic Department for the required paperwork. A current physical must be on file before the first outside practice. No fishing equipment will be needed on March 29.

April brings new sports seasons

The RTHS Baseball, Softball, Girls Soccer, Boys Tennis, Girls & Boys Track seasons will begin after Spring Break on Monday, April 5. Athletic Director Rich Harvey said the Wrestling season begins on Monday, April 19.

If you intend to join one of these sports, stop at the Athletic Office to sign up & receive additional information. If you are currently in a sport & the start of the next one will overlap the current season, you will receive instructions regarding practices.

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Kishwaukee-bound Seniors...

If you plan to attend Kishwaukee College next year, this is for you!

**Kish will host a one-stop sign up day
Wednesday, April 21 for RTHS students.**

On this day you will take placement tests, set up your Kishwaukee account, choose your fall semester classes & more.

If you are interested in taking part on this day or have questions, you need to sign up in the counseling center or email your counselor.



We invite you to join us for our Focus House
Drive-Thru Spaghetti Supper and Online Auction

SPAGHETTI SUPPER: April 14, 2021
LUNCH (presale delivery only): **11am-1pm**
DINNER (Drive-Thru only, presale OR pay when you arrive): **4pm-6:30pm**
WHERE: Focus House in Rochelle
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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



LADY HUBS EDGE PLANO

The Rochelle Lady Hub volleyball team defeated Plano on the road Tuesday.

See page 3 for more details

RTHS Football

Cavaliers shut out Hubs

Rochelle offense held to 39 total yards in 29-0 loss at LaSalle-Peru

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

LASALLE—LaSalle-Peru dominated on both sides of the trenches Saturday afternoon, when the Rochelle Hub varsity football team faced the Cavaliers on the road in conference play.

Despite a valiant effort in the first half from the Rochelle defense, LaSalle-Peru’s defense successfully shut out the Hubs for a second straight season. Behind four rushing touchdowns, all in the second half, LaSalle-Peru defeated Rochelle 29-0 and dropped the Hubs to 0-2. The Cavaliers limited Rochelle to only 39 rushing yards and four first downs in the contest.

“They got after us today,” head coach Kyle Kissack said. “It’s hard when we can’t win first downs and we didn’t have any opportunities to find our rhythm today. They have big, physical kids and that sort of game requires us to respond in an equally physical manner. We weren’t able to do that today offensively, but I thought our defense played really well in the first half.”

Rochelle held LaSalle-Peru to three first-half points, which came when Cavalier senior Drake We-

ber booted a 35-yard field goal through the uprights during the first quarter. LaSalle-Peru moved four first-half drives into the Rochelle red zone, but the Hubs rallied behind senior linebackers Gabe Neece and Ben Harvey, who combined for 19 tackles in the game, to keep the Cavaliers out of the end zone. Rochelle’s first two offensive possessions went for -1 yards.

“We had some nice red-zone stops and we have some things we can build on,” Kissack said. “This week will test our standards and our character and I think our kids will respond. Even though they had some size inside and really pounded the ball there, I thought we trusted our technique defensively and our kids fought through it. I’m happy with our defense right now.”

LaSalle-Peru scored on its first second-half possession, with running back Matt Carrico rushing for a 15-yard touchdown off the left side to put the Cavaliers ahead 9-0 after a failed 2-point attempt. LaSalle-Peru linebacker Trevon Hunter then intercepted Rochelle quarterback Josh Lloyd’s sideline pass for tight end Zach Sanford, leading to another Cavalier scor-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)
Junior Eric Briseno looks for running room as teammate Garrett Gensler sets a block during the Rochelle Hub varsity football game against LaSalle-Peru on Saturday.

ing drive capped off by a 1-yard touchdown up the middle from LaSalle-Peru quarterback Tyler Hartman.

Leading 15-0 entering the fourth quarter, the

Cavaliers forced Rochelle to punt before piecing together another scoring drive. Running back Sean Whitfield broke free off the right side, reaching the end zone from 21 yards away

and putting LaSalle-Peru ahead 23-0 after Weber converted the 2-point play. After a turnover on downs from the Hubs, LaSalle-Peru iced the win with a 2-yard touchdown

run from Carrico, who finished with a game-high 105 rushing yards.

Rochelle will face the Kaneland Knights on the road Saturday, April 3 at 1 p.m.

RTHS Volleyball

Green, Hasz lead Lady Hubs in three-set thriller

Rochelle drops 23-25, 25-21, 25-27 heartbreaker against Stillman Valley

ROCHELLE — The Lady Hub varsity volleyball team saw its best chance to snap a three-match losing streak slip through its fingers Saturday afternoon, when Rochelle hosted the Stillman Valley Cardinals and battled to the bitter end across three thrilling sets of nonconference play.

After dropping the first set by only a few points, Rochelle bounced back with a series of runs to claim the second set and force a tiebreaking third set. The Lady Hubs fought to the final point of the third set, but the Cardinals emerged victorious, winning back-to-back service points and handing Rochelle a 23-25, 25-21, 25-27 loss. The Lady Hubs dropped to 0-4 overall.

“I thought we played a good three sets,” coach Lindsay Suess said. “Clare [Green] had a great game and our front row did a nice job of swinging today. I thought our missed serves were down from earlier in

the week and we blocked the ball better. We have to figure out how we can get ourselves out of tough rotations when the other team’s scoring a lot of points against us.”

Despite opening the first set on a 7-2 run, Rochelle slowly saw its lead vanish as Stillman Valley took advantage of some unforced defensive errors from the Lady Hubs. Trailing 1-0 in the match, Rochelle fell behind 7-3 in the second set before the Lady Hubs rallied for four consecutive points. Senior Clare Green facilitated the offense on Saturday, finishing with 34 assists for the Lady Hubs while junior hitter Sylvia Hasz totaled a team-leading 16 kills.

“Those two are definitely our leaders on the court and we definitely need them to perform well,” Suess said. “Their performances throughout the season have been really promising.”

The second-set seesaw

continued with the set tied 7-7. Stillman Valley broke off an 8-3 run to take a 15-10 lead before Rochelle recovered to score six consecutive points with junior Morgan Haas on the serve. Sophomore hitter Addie Friestad stepped up on the outside when Hasz rotated to the back row, compiling a season-best 12 kills to aid the Lady Hub attack. Leading 21-19, Rochelle forced Stillman Valley to burn a timeout before closing the set on a 4-2 run.

The Cardinals erased an early deficit in the third set, scoring seven unanswered points to earn a 10-5 advantage and force a Rochelle timeout. With Lady Hub senior Bella Lodico providing some timely kill shots from the right side, Rochelle clawed back into the match, tying the third set 17-17 before Stillman Valley inched ahead 21-20. Lodico totaled five kills in the match.

Hasz netted a kill shot to lift the Lady Hubs ahead 24-23 with one point need-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)
Senior Clare Green serves during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball match against Stillman Valley on Saturday. Green totaled 34 assists in the match.

ed to seal the victory. But the Cardinals answered the call with two straight points, regaining control

before Friestad evened the match at 25-25 with a kill from the outside. The Lady Hub defense was

unable to settle two kill shot attempts from Stillman Valley over the final two points.



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(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Sophomore Hayden Inman carries the football during the Rochelle Hub fresh-soph game against LaSalle-Peru on Monday.

Fresh-Soph Hubs fall in overtime to LaSalle-Peru

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

LASALLE — The Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football team battled LaSalle-Peru on the road Monday evening, falling 12-6 in overtime to move to 1-1 on the season. Rochelle will face Kaneland on the road Monday, April 5 at 5 p.m.

Sophomore Trey Taft led the charge on offense, running for 93 yards and Rochelle's lone touchdown of the game. Sophomore Cody Stover-Cullum added 78 rushing yards and seven tackles on defense.

Sophomore Kyce Jaradat compiled nine tackles on defense, while sophomore Aidan Darby and freshman Ivan Cortez each added one sack for the Hubs in the loss.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Aidan Rodriguez hauls in a reception despite contact from a defender during the Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football game against LaSalle-Peru.



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SPORTS

RTHS Volleyball

Lady Hubs rally over Plano for first victory

Rochelle wins 25-14, 15-25, 25-17

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

PLANO — Having been through the rigors of three-set matches throughout her four-year varsity volleyball career at Rochelle Township High School, Lady Hub senior Clare Green stepped up for her team Tuesday evening, when Rochelle faced Plano in an Interstate 8 Conference matchup.

With both teams seeking their first victories of the season, Rochelle and Plano split the first two sets before the Lady Hubs fell behind 10-6 midway through the third set. Digging deep, Green led Rochelle to a late-set rally, with the Lady Hubs taking the lead before eventually sealing a 25-14, 15-25, 25-17 win over Plano. Green finished with 26 assists and three aces for the Lady Hubs (1-4), who ended the night on a 9-2 run to snap a four-match losing streak.

“We knew that what happened during the sec-

ond set wasn't how we play Rochelle volleyball,” Green said. “We knew we had to step up and play at our level. We have more confidence now and we know what it feels like to win. Even though we had a rough start to our season last week, we didn't get down on ourselves and we continued to work hard in practice.”

Rochelle and Plano opened the match with a 7-7 tie in the first set before the Lady Hubs rallied off four straight points behind a series of kill shots from junior Sylvia Hasz, who led Rochelle with 15 kills on Tuesday. With senior Alexis Sanford serving well for the Lady Hubs, Rochelle built an eight-point advantage, surging ahead 20-12 before closing the set on a 5-2 run.

“We showed that we can be a good team,” Hasz said. “We worked together really well early in the match. I think this win shows everyone on our team that we're capable

of winning.”

Plano wouldn't shy away in the second set, however, with senior hitter Anna Gonzalez pounding the Lady Hub defense with a barrage of powerful kill shots to ignite the Reaper offense. With Gonzalez leading the charge and Rochelle's back row struggling to receive tough serves from the Reapers, Plano easily claimed the second set after opening with a 16-5 run.

As Plano lined multiple blockers up to defend Hasz, sophomores Addie Friestad, Payton Hale and senior Bella Lodico found their offensive rhythm during the third set, with each player scoring kills to keep Rochelle in the match. Short balls also became effective for the Lady Hubs, who erased a four-point deficit with a 10-5 run to take their first lead of the third set at 16-15. Friestad and Hale combined for 12 kills for the Lady Hubs, who face Sandwich on Thursday.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Afi Gati blocks a shot at the middle of the net during the Rochelle Lady Hub volleyball match against Plano on Tuesday.

RTHS Boys Soccer



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Bryce Whitehead clears the ball during the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer match against Sycamore on Monday.

Hubs blown away in road loss at Sycamore

Spartans down Rochelle 8-0

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

SYCAMORE—Strong winds made it difficult for the Hub varsity soccer team to clear any balls away from the defensive zone during Rochelle's road match against Sycamore on Monday.

The Spartans dominated the ball for nearly the entire match, using the wind to their advantage and scoring on multiple long-range shots to cruise over the Hubs 8-0. Rochelle (1-3-1) will host Ottawa on Wednesday before battling Indian Creek in nonconference play Thursday evening.

“Sycamore has a tough

squad, but I don't think the score shows how hard our guys fought,” head coach Brad Male said. “We battled with them for a little while, but we unfortunately couldn't get anything on the board. We have a few things we need to work on offensively. The wind definitely was a factor and I thought there were a couple through balls that otherwise wouldn't have gotten through our defense. But we couldn't capitalize on the wind today.”

Leading 1-0 early in the match, Sycamore extended its advantage in the 12th minute, sending a left-footed cross into the Rochelle box and cashing in the assist.

The Spartans scored their next two goals in the 17th and 30th minutes on shots from well outside the Hub box, with the wind carrying the ball over the heads of multiple defenders and into the back of the Rochelle net.

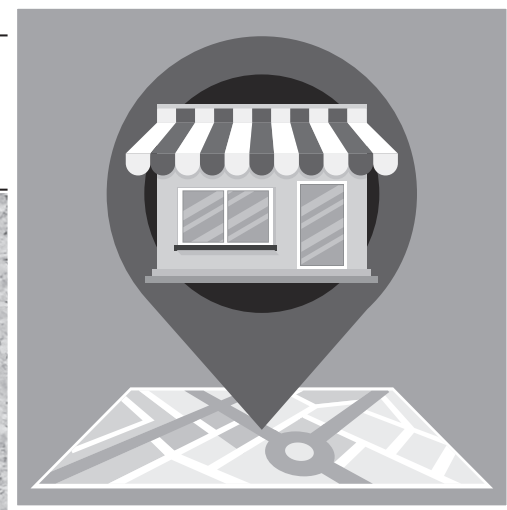
Monday's winds made saves tough for Hub goalkeeper Diego Cincire, who had a shot deflect off his fingertips into the Rochelle net during the 31st minute before Sycamore fired a shot that rolled through Cincire's legs in the 36th minute. The Spartans initiated the shortened second-half clock with a goal in the 42nd minute before icing the win with a goal in the 44th minute.

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INFORMATION

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Fax:
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Email:
classifieds@rochellenews-leader.com
Address:
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Mail:
P.O. Box 46
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DEADLINES:

Sunday News-Leader:
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Tuesday Shopping News:
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Wednesday News-Leader: Monday, 4 p.m.
(Deadlines subject to change
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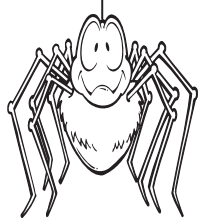
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PRIME TIMES



Learn, benefit from different generations

IN the not-so-distant past, extended families frequently lived in close proximity to one another. Such families shared meals and experiences and essentially grew up together. Nowadays, families separate for various reasons, such as job opportunities and cost of living concerns.

While there are advantages to spreading out, there are also some disadvantages, namely that grandparents and grandchildren may not see one another frequently enough. Even though people of different age groups may not entirely have the same interests, the interactions between generations can benefit both young people and their aging relatives.

Finding renewed vigor

Senior living and active lifestyle communities provide invaluable care and amenities for seniors. While being around like-minded individuals can be handy, it's also limiting. Seniors who continue to age in place in mixed-age communities can extract joy from watching youthful children and young adults growing up, playing and socializing. Being around multiple generations also can spark interesting conversation, and all parties involved can learn something from one another.

Planning for the future

Younger generations may not understand the concept of "hard times" or "doing without" like a person who has lived through

various ups and downs. Passing along advice about economic cycles, saving for the future and maintaining stability is one area of expertise at which many seniors excel.

Practicing interpersonal skills

All the technological savviness in the world cannot compensate for the power of strong interpersonal skills. Being able to address a group of people or speak one-on-one is essential in the workplace and in life. When younger generations speak to older adults, they may become stronger at verbal discourse and have greater perspective of different points of conversation.

Learning new technology

Younger generations can impart knowledge of technological devices to older adults. People with

skills are usually happy to share their knowledge. Even if seniors aren't ready to purchase tablets or smartphones, they may be excited to have their grandchildren teach them about the latest gadgets.

Providing sense of purpose

Both seniors and younger generations can realize a greater sense of purpose when interacting with one another. That person may be the reason the other one greets the day with a smile. Visits from grandchildren can reduce the likelihood of isolation and depression in older adults. And younger generations can discover the benefits of personal social interaction rather than communicating exclusively through social media apps.

Fostering intergenerational connections is a great way to broaden social circles, improve communication and learn new things.



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Adopt a pet later in life

COMPANION animals bring great joy to their owners. The unconditional love cats and dogs provide appeals to people of all ages. While many people associate pets with kids who can't wait to welcome the first cat or dog into their homes, pets can benefit aging men and women as well.

It's not uncommon for seniors to feel lonely or depressed when they retire, their children move away or they lose a spouse or close friend or friends. The American Humane Society states that studies show pets help seniors overcome loneliness and depression by providing affection, company and entertainment. Pets also provide much-needed mental stimulation, and many pet owners find their pets

help them become more physically active as well.

Seniors who adopt pets may also feel a sense of purpose when helping animals who may not have anywhere to live. This is particularly true of older companion animals, which many young families are understandably hesitant to adopt. Mature pets might be an ideal fit for seniors. When seniors are looking to adopt a pet, there are various reasons why older pets or particular animals might be the perfect fit for them.

Adult pets may already be house trained, saving seniors the trouble and effort of training them.

Seniors may find cats fit their lifestyles more than dogs, as cats are less active and do not need to be walked or played with as much as dogs. Cats also are

small and easily maneuverable, meaning even seniors who have arthritis or other physical limitations can easily care for cats. Many cats are also content to spend long periods of time sleeping on their owners' laps.

Small dogs that can be active within the house might be a good idea as well, especially for seniors with mobility issues. They're also easily transported to and from vet appointments.

It's important that seniors carefully weigh the benefits of adopting a pet against any limitations they may have. Having a backup plan for care is advantageous as well. Seniors should not adopt a pet if they anticipate frequent travel or medical care that requires they be away from home for long periods of time.



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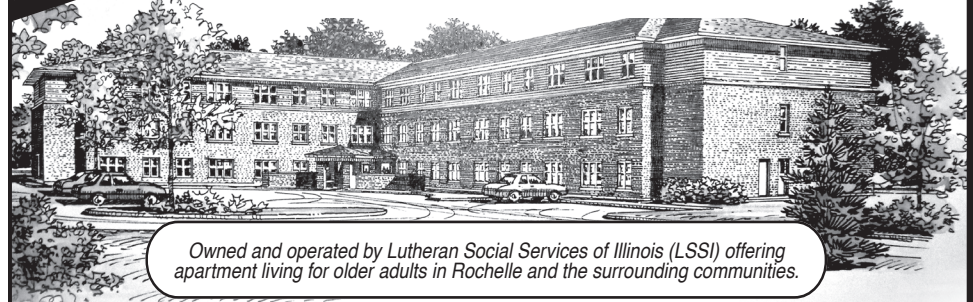


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AUTISM AWARENESS

Get involved with autism awareness efforts

AUTISM spectrum disorder has the potential to touch just about anyone. The World Health Organization estimates that one in 160 children across the globe has ASD, while some well-controlled studies have reported that figures are substantially higher than that.

ASD affects all ethnic and socioeconomic groups, meaning just about any family can be affected.

In 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released its biennial update of autism's estimated prevalence among the nation's children. The update was based on analysis of medical records, and where available, educational records of eight-year-old children from 11 monitoring sites across the United States. In a two-year period, the new estimate indicated a 15 percent increase in ASD prevalence.

Understandably, anyone who has been affected by ASD wants to learn more about what individuals can do to advocate for high quality services for those

with ASD. The autism information group Autism Speaks says more work is needed to understand the increased prevalence and the complex medical needs that often accompany ASD. There are many different and effective ways to become more involved in the autism community.

Educate children

Many schools have integrated classrooms where children who have ASD work alongside their peers. Others may have specialized programs for those who need one-on-one support. Either way, the goal is to introduce children to ASD when they are young, as many have friends or classmates with ASD. Helping to dispel myths about ASD and encouraging support and compassion can improve relationships during childhood.

Fundraise

Research into causation as well as treatment options and interventions for ASD can be expensive.

That makes fundraising a necessary component. Individuals can participate in many organized fundraisers, such as walks, runs, rides, and other activities. However, enterprising people also can create their own fundraisers or ones unique to their own needs.

Support others

Those who do not have someone with ASD in their immediate family but know a relative, friend or neighbor with ASD can be a listening ear, a person to rally at events or advocacy meetings, or just a touchstone when a little extra support is needed. People who own businesses can support adults with ASD in the community through program's like the Organization for Autism Research's Hire Autism Initiative.

Autism spectrum disorder affects many different people. During the month of April and throughout the entire year, there are many ways for people to spread the word about ASD and support ASD research.



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