



ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

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Vol. 101 • No. 64

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020

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Holiday release

RTHS grad releases holiday novel. **See page 3**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
47 27	48 33
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
43 34	37 26

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• FARM & FLEET
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Above, Dave Drayna presents a new refrigerated van to Bill Vanstone, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry president, Cal Jacobs, pantry board member, and several other pantry volunteers.

Refrigerated van will benefit food pantry

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Christian Food Pantry received a new refrigerated van from Dave Drayna of Zanotti Central States in Brookfield, Wisconsin on Monday, Dec. 7. The Northern Illinois Food Bank and the Rochelle Community Foundation

provided grants to purchase the van. Graphics on the van were partially donated by Jose Villegas of Jesus Artz & Productionz, LLC. The Pantry Board would like to thank the Northern Illinois Food Bank, the Rochelle Community Foundation and the

Rochelle community for their generosity. This new refrigerated van will enable the food pantry to better maintain food quality, enhance food safety and allow access to donations that had previously been denied because of the lack of a refrigerated vehicle.

Golden K collecting for Salvation Army

ROCHELLE — Again this year, the Kiwanis Golden K is cooperating with the Salvation Army to collect donations for families in need. The kettles will be stationed at Walgreens, Ace Hardware and Walmart on Friday and Saturday Dec. 11 and 12 and Dec. 18 and 19. Because of COVID-19, the kettles will not be manned. Donation checks may be mailed to Rochelle Kiwanis Golden K, PO Box 644, Rochelle, IL 61068. Donations may also be made online at donate.saheartland.org/Rochelle. Eighty percent of the money raised stays in the Rochelle community.



Pictured are Rochelle Rotary President Greg Folmar, Park District Director Jackee Ohlinger and Rochelle Rotary President-elect Sarah Flanagan on Monday morning.

Many hands make light work

Volunteers pitch in at recent community theater work day

ROCHELLE—Vince Carney Community Theater held work days at the Lincoln Arts Center this past weekend, and some star power turned out to lend a hand. Philip Earl Johnson, who performs in Renaissance faires across the country as MooNie the Magnif'Cent, pitched in to help install railings and painted along with the local crew. Johnson also is active in the Chicago theater scene, performing with Goodman Theater, Steppenwolf Theater and the Illinois Shake-

speare Theater. He has appeared in several movies and television shows including Chicago Med, Chicago Fire and Empire. He performed a benefit for VCCT in October, an outdoor show at the former Lincoln School site, and offered to help on some upcoming workdays. VCCT is hoping to finish enough work to have a spring show in its new home. Among the other volunteers over the weekend were Dale Rand, Carol Weidmann, Steve Frank, John Whitaker, Terry Cam-



Above, Philip Earl Johnson and Steve Frank work on installing the railing. At right, Dale Rand stands on a scaffold and paints the top of a wall.



plain and Gary Mason. Volunteers are always welcome but must be at

least 18 years old. If interested in volunteering, contact VCCT either through

its website or Facebook page or by contacting Steve Frank.

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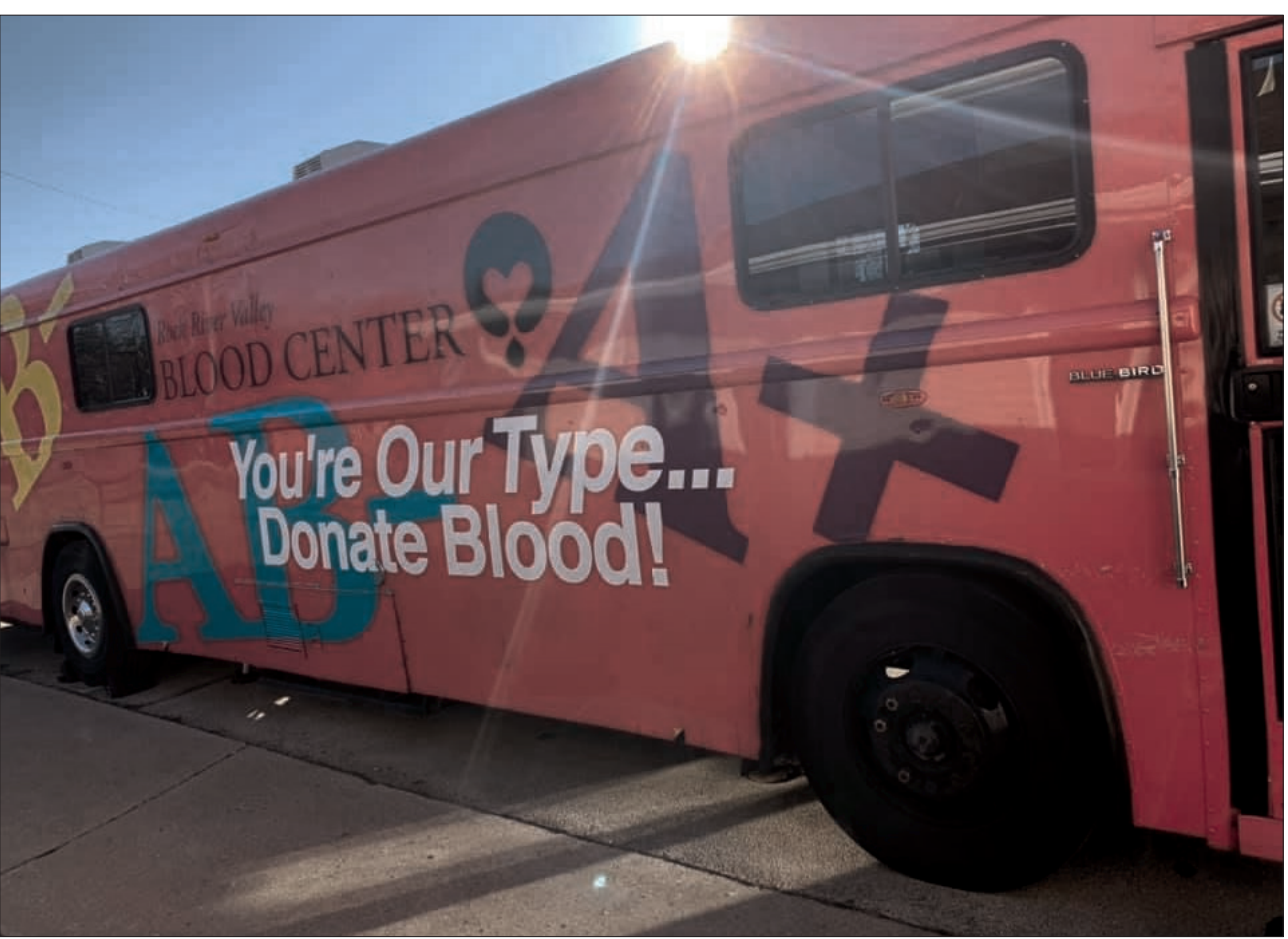
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LOCAL NEWS



Ralfie's BBQ hosted the first-ever Conor's Carryout event at Steward Elementary School on Sunday. The event was held in support of the Conor O'Rourke Memorial Fund and in recognition of the 2020 Conor O'Rourke Memorial Basketball Tournament being canceled due to COVID-19. The Rock River Valley Blood Center also hosted its regular Conor O'Rourke Memorial Blood Drive at the Steward Fire Station on Saturday, with 30 volunteers donating blood during the day.



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LOCAL NEWS

Rochelle alum releases holiday story

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

GROWING up in the mountains of Wyoming, Trina and Dean had been childhood friends until the bitter feud between their families drove them apart. When the magic of Christmas Eve tips the star-crossed lovers together year after year, will they be able to make sure this holiday is not their last?

That is the premise of the latest book written by a Rochelle native. Award-winning author of 30 books, Molly O'Keefe is the pen name of Molly Fader a 1993 Rochelle Township High School graduate. A married, mother of two living in Canada, O'Keefe has released her latest work, "Christmas Eve: A Love Story."

Recently, her mother,



Gayle Fader, shared one of Molly's recent Tweets:

"My Historical Western SEDUCED is on Oprah's list of Historical Romances to Read RIGHT NOW and I'm pretty freaking amazed! What incredible company to be in! oprahmag.com/entertainment/..."

Molly is a Goodreads author and "Seduced" is rated 4.2 stars. It's a gritty and emotional historical western romance.

Melody Hurst's days

as a Southern belle are over. Now she's widowed and alone in the foothills of the Rockies, struggling to make a life in a dangerous world. She's determined to secure a future by marrying – but love is out of the question. Cole Baywood has turned bounty hunter after serving in the horrors of the Civil War, but the ghosts of the men and women he's killed still haunt him. He's drawn to the beautiful widow trying to seduce him, only the darkness in his soul forces him to reject her. Is it possible that Melody's touch can heal the demons of his past? And how can he convince a woman who has lost so much to risk her heart?

Here's what Amazon and Fantastic Fiction websites have to say about Molly:

Molly O'Keefe is an award-winning author of more than 50 romance

novels. Originally from (Rochelle) a small town outside of Chicago, she went to university in St. Louis where she met and fell in love with the editor of her school newspaper. They followed each other around the world for several years, got married and settled down in Toronto, Ontario. She lives in Canada with her family and the largest heap of dirty laundry in North America.

Molly also writes under the pseudonym of M O'Keefe. "Wild Child" is the first novel in the Boys of Bishop series and was released in the year 2013. This is the story of one sexy small-town mayor and one notorious bad girl who discover home really is where the heart is.

Sign up for Molly's newsletter to get release day news, exclusive excerpts, sale announcements and in-depth author interviews.



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[bookbub.com/authors/molly-o-keefe](https://www.bookbub.com/authors/molly-o-keefe)
Her Facebook group - The Keepers! <https://www.facebook.com/>

Scholarship application process open

ROCKFORD — Dec. 1 marked opening day for the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) scholarship application. With just one application students access over 90 unique scholarships awarding more than \$300,000 this year alone. The application will close Feb. 1, 2020.

Each of CFNIL's scholarships were established by individuals or organizations that recognize the importance of helping students achieve their educational goals, now and in perpetuity. The endowments' creators selected the criteria for each scholarship, based on their interests and the community's need.

CFNIL scholarships are for students in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties, and each scholarship has unique criteria. There are scholarships for graduating high school seniors, non-traditional students, students with financial need, student athletes, students of color, and students pursuing careers in teaching, STEM, business, fire science, and healthcare. Some scholarships are renewable for up to four years. The diversity of scholarship offerings reflects the diversity of CFNIL's donors and the communities it serves.

All scholarship applications must be submitted through CFNIL's online ap-

plication portal. Once registered for the portal, students answer questions about their academics, background, and extracurricular activities. From these answers, applicants will be automatically matched to all scholarships for which they are eligible. Applications are read and scored by committees of volunteers who use a "blind" review process and make award recommendations to CFNIL's Board of Trustees. Scholarship recipients are announced in late April. Awards are sent directly to the school the recipient will be attending. Interested students should visit <https://cfnil.org/scholarships> to learn more and apply.

Kish offering holiday stress management workshop

MALTA — Kishwaukee College — Community Education will offer "This Year Make Your Holidays Meaningful: Holiday Stress Management Workshop 2020" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15 via Zoom.

Michelle Govan, certified stress management consultant, will share tips on how to say no to holiday expectations and how to say yes to holiday

peace and love. She will help you find the strength to "just be" as you bask in the glow of your own holiday decorations, listen to lovely holiday music and reflect on the reason for the season — love and peace. Give yourself this gift. The cost of the program is \$25.

Register through [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) using code: [kceest.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).



Michelle Govan

Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for Creston Community Consolidated School District #161

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Creston Consolidated School District #161 for 2020 will be held on Monday, December 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at Creston School located at 202 West South Street, Creston, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Mr. Rheingans, District Superintendent, 202 West South Street, Creston, Illinois. Phone (815) 384-3920.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2019 were \$1,594,114.00

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$1,756,699.00. This represents a 19.84 percent increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2019 were \$51,000.00.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2020 are \$49,584.00. This represents a 2.80 percent decrease compared to the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2019 were \$1,594,114.00.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$1,756,699.00. This represents a 20.47 percent increase over the previous year.

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Kalah Bidstrup

SHABBONA—Kalah Jo (Olson) Bidstrup, 82, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020 at Prairie Crossing Nursing Home in Shabbona.



She was born in Rochelle on May 12, 1938 to Harland and Virginia (Thorpe) Olson.

Kalah graduated from Shabbona High School and attended Northern Illinois University. She was employed by her father at Shabbona Grain Company and then went to work for A.O. Smith Harvestore as a senior accountant,

retiring in 2005.

She was a loyal member of The Order of the Eastern Star for 64 years in Shabbona/DeKalb.

Kalah was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She is survived by her best friend and loving companion of 30 years, Jim Watson of DeKalb; five children, Tammy (Dan) Johnson of Waterman, Lesa (Bryant) Clanin of Paw Paw, Harland (Jane) Bidstrup of DeKalb, John (Lori) Bidstrup of Cortland and Greg Bidstrup of Rockford. Also surviving are her

beloved grandchildren, Kyle and Micky, Jay and Tiffany Johnson, Danessa (Brad) Iversen, Austin and Logan Clanin, and Emily, Anna and Jacob Bidstrup; great-grandchildren, K a y l e e ,



Conner, Harper Johnson, Walker and Evelyn Iversen.

Kalah is also survived by her special cousins, Karen Johnson and Christine Dolejs; sisters-in-law, Sally Olson, Laura Olson and JoAnne Sell, all of Arizona, Sue Bidstrup and Ken and Patti Bidstrup

of Sycamore, and Marie Robinson of Florida; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister in infancy; and brothers, Ron Olson and Gary Olson.

Private family graveside services will be held at North Clinton Cemetery in Waterman.

A memorial has been established for The Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children.

Arrangements were completed by Jacobson Funeral Home in Shabbona.

Richard Rockstead

DEKALB—Richard A. Rockstead, 89, of DeKalb, died Dec. 3, 2020 at Bethany Rehab and Healthcare Center. He was born Jan. 9, 1931, in Sycamore, to George and Mildred (Fraunberg) Rockstead.

He married Nancy Bergeron on June 24,

1950. Together they raised eight children; which blessed them with 12 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Most of his life, Richard worked in the area for Diamond Wire in Sycamore, DeKalb Ag in Esmond, and Swenson Spreader in Lindenwood.

Richard always enjoyed a good laugh, a meal with family, and teasing his grandkids.

He is survived by his children, Mike Rockstead of DeKalb, Janice Saylor of DeKalb, Kelli (Jay) Kempson of DeKalb, Joe (Erin) Rockstead of Kings, and Scott Rockstead of Rochelle. Richard has four half-sisters and one half-brother who reside in Wisconsin.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Nancy,

on May 15, 2013; his two sons, Douglas Rockstead in 1989 and Stacey Rockstead in 2000; and his daughter, Kimberlee (Rockstead) Griswold in 2016.



Walk-through visitation will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Olson's Funeral Home, 1245 Somonauk St., Sycamore, followed by a private graveside service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Sycamore.

Memorials can be made to the family.

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Driver service facility closure extended

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is announcing that Driver Services facilities statewide will remain closed for in-person transactions until Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. White is reminding the public that expirations for driver's licenses and ID cards have been extended until June 1, 2021.

Expanded online services

White also has expanded online services for the public, which they can take advantage of by visiting www.cyberdriveillinois.com. Some of these services include:

- Renewing a license plate sticker;
- Renewing a valid driver's license for qualifying drivers;
- Renewing a valid ID card for those age 22-64 (seniors 65 and older have free, non-expiring IDs);
- Obtaining a driver record abstract;
- Filing Business Services documents, such as incorporations and annual reports; and
- Customers with issues involving administrative hearings may contact adminhearings@ilsos.gov.

Select facilities open to serve new drivers ONLY

In addition, White announced that the following facilities will be open for new drivers ONLY:

Bradley, 1111 Blatt St.; Charleston, 1010 E. St.; Chicago North, 5401 N. Elston Ave.; Chicago South, 9901 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.; Danville/Tilton, #5 Southgate; DeKalb, 1360 Oakwood St.; Marion, 1905 Rendleman St.; Mascoutah, 9221 Beller Dr.; Moline/Silvis, 2001 Fifth St., Ste. #10; Olney, 1302 S. West St.; Peoria, 3311 N. Sterling Ave., #12; Princeton, 225 Backbone Rd. East; Quincy, 2512 Locust St.; Rantoul, 421 S. Murray Rd.; Rockford, 4734 Baxter Rd.; Salem, 1375 W. Whittaker St.; and Springfield, 2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy.

Chicago North and Chicago South facilities will be open for new drivers only Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The other facilities listed above will operate under normal hours.

Select facilities open to serve CDL applicants ONLY

White also reiterated that 18 CDL facilities remain open for CDL written and road exams. These CDL facilities include:

Bradley, 1111 Blatt St.; Charleston, 1010 E. St.; Danville/Tilton, #5 Southgate; DeKalb, 1360 Oakwood St.; Elk Grove Village, 650 Roppolo Dr.; Marion, 1905 Rendleman St.; Mascoutah, 9221 Beller Dr.; Moline/Silvis, 2001 Fifth St., Ste. #10; Olney, 1302 S. West St.; Peoria, 3311 N. Sterling Ave., #12; Princeton, 225 Backbone Rd. East; Quincy, 2512 Locust St.; Rantoul, 421 S. Murray Rd.; Rockford, 4734 Baxter Rd.; Salem, 1375 W. Whittaker St.; South Holland, 41 W. 162nd St.; Springfield, 2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy.; and West Chicago, 1280 Powis Rd.

"Commercial truck drivers provide essential services by ensuring goods can be transported safely and efficiently throughout the state and country during this pandemic," White said.

CDL driving tests are by appointment only by calling 217-785-3013.

Seven facilities offering drive-thru services

Lastly, White again reminded the public that seven facilities will continue offering drive-thru services for license plate sticker transactions ONLY. These facilities were selected due to the configuration of the buildings that allowed for drive-through transactions. The seven drive-through facilities are: Chicago North, 5401 N. Elston Ave.; Chicago South, 9901 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.; Chicago West, 5301 W. Lexington St.; Danville/Tilton, #5 Southgate; Macomb, 466 Deer Rd.; Rockford-Central, 3720 E. State St.; and Springfield, Dirksen 2701 S. Dirksen Parkway.

Online renewals for licenses, ID cards

In an effort to reduce future facility visits for in-person service, White has expanded online renewals for driver's licenses and ID cards. Not everyone qualifies, particularly those who are required to pass a written or road test. For qualifying drivers, if the driver's license or ID card expired between Feb. 1, 2020, through Jan. 31, 2021, then the individual will receive a letter this month with a unique PIN needed to renew online. If the driver's license or ID card expires after Feb. 1, 2021, the individual will receive the PIN letter approximately 90 days before the expiration date.

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LOCAL NEWS

Ogle County Sheriff

Man charged with aggravated assault

On Dec. 3 at 9:20 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to 118 S. 1st Ave. in Forreston to assist the Forreston Police Department at the scene of a disturbance. During the Forreston Police Department's initial response to the scene, a Forreston police officer observed a male standing in the doorway of the residence displaying a weapon. The officer then discharged his firearm and struck a wall near the doorway. The male then put down his weapon and was taken into custody without incident.

The Illinois State Police were contacted and responded to the scene to investigate the discharge of the firearm by the officer.

Sheriff's deputies investigated the original disturbance and as a result of that investigation Jeffery L. Slick, 31, of Forreston, was charged with aggravated assault and placed under arrest. Deputies also arrested Colton Moser, 18, of Leaf River, for domestic battery. Both Slick and Moser were transported

to the Ogle County Jail where they were held in lieu of bond.

On Dec. 3 at approximately 7:20 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of East Illinois Route 38 and South Brooklyn Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Kayla Martin, 30, of Ashton, for driving while license suspended. Martin was also issued citations for expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Martin was released from the scene on an I-bond with a court date later next month.

On Dec. 3, Alexandra Schaefer, 29, of Rochelle, was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant for aggravated battery. Schaefer posted the \$5,000/10 percent bond and was released from the Ogle County Jail. Schaefer will appear in court on Dec. 18 at 9 a.m.

Dec. 5

On Dec. 5, the Ogle County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Jesus Orozco, 29, of Rochelle, for domestic battery. Orozco was held in lieu of bond at the Ogle County Jail.

On Dec. 5 the Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jonathan Thurmond, 31, of Lockport, for driving while license suspended. Thurmond was arrested by Ogle County Sheriff's deputies on Interstate 39 near Rochelle after being stopped for speeding. Thurmond was released on an I-bond and will appear in court at a later date.

Dec. 6

On Dec. 6 the Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested Munyonge Tembele, 23, of Des Moines, Iowa, for driving while license suspended. Tembele was arrested by Ogle County Sheriff's deputies on Interstate 39 near Monroe Center after being stopped for speeding. Tembele was released on an I-bond and will appear in court at a later date.

On Dec. 6 the Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested Latoya McHenry,

25, of Machesney Park, for driving while license suspended. McHenry was arrested by Ogle County Sheriff's deputies on Interstate 39 near Illinois Route 64 after being stopped for speeding. McHenry was released on an I-bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

Dec. 7

On Dec. 7 the Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested Timothy Coleman, 34, of Madison Wisconsin, for driving while license revoked. Coleman was arrested by Ogle County Sheriff's deputies on Interstate 39 near Illinois Route 72 after being stopped for speeding. Coleman was released on an I-bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

On Dec. 7, Jessica Lewis, 33, of Oregon, was arrested on two outstanding Ogle County warrants for failure to appear (\$944 full cash bond) and retail theft (\$10,000/10 percent). Lewis was unable to post bond and was scheduled to appear in court Dec. 8.

Illinois State Police

District enforcement figures released

STERLING –Illinois State Police District 1 Commander, Captain Matthew Hodgdon, has announced District 1 enforcement figures and activity for November.

Illinois State Police District 1 Troopers issued 627 citations, 494 written warnings, and made 19 criminal arrests during the month of November.

Speeding accounted for 339 citations, 79 citations were issued for occupant restraint violations, and 65 citations were issued

for distracted driving violations.

Troopers investigated 26 traffic crashes, assisted 126 motorists, and conducted 24 commercial vehicle inspections, three of which were placed out-of-service for safety reasons.

There were 11 arrests for driving under the influence.

District 1, which encompasses Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside counties, investigated no fatal traffic crashes in November.

Report policy

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

Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.



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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

‘Learning difference’ is all about perception

THE nun’s ruler snapped across Anne Burke’s knuckles as she struggled to form words onto a page. Burke, who is chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, has come a long way from being that Chicago school girl who wanted to write from right to left.

“I didn’t even know there was a name for what I was doing. My friends were getting As and Bs and I was getting Cs,” she said.

Growing up in the 1950s, Burke derived much of her self-worth from athletics not academics.

“Neither of my parents had gone to high school so I wasn’t under a lot of pressure to get good grades. I guess I just thought I wasn’t a good student. It took me a lot longer to read things than many of my peers.”

It was not until she was well into adulthood that she learned that there is a name for the different way she perceived the world: dyslexia.

Dyslexia is a difficulty in learning to read or interpret words, letters, and other symbols, but it in no way affects general intelligence.

In fact, dyslexics tend to have high intelligence levels, Sally Shaywitz, a Yale University physician specializing in dyslexia, told me during a telephone interview Monday.

Gavin Newsom, California’s governor; Henry Winkler, an actor and producer; David Boies, one of the nation’s top appellate lawyers; Charles Schwab, a businessman specializing in discount brokerage services; and Tim Tebow, a Heisman trophy winner and NFL quarterback are among the most well-known dyslexics.

Successful dyslexics are greatly shaped by their childhood struggles but have found coping strategies Shaywitz said.

“I was at conference

and many prominent people who are dyslexics there. Someone asked what school was like for them when they were younger and they all ended up crying,” she said.

As a journalist I can relate to the challenges Burke and others have faced. I, too, am dyslexic.

I was never struck with a ruler, but I had a third-grade teacher who would shake me like a rag doll. She was a woman who brimmed with contempt for those who struggled.

Over and over she and another third-grade teacher would say, “You just aren’t trying.”

If only they had known just how hard I was trying.

For me, the solution came in the form of my mother. For two years she would sit with me each day and we would read a book together. She’d read one page aloud, I’d read the next. She’d gently correct me when I mispronounced or misread a word.

Shaywitz said this approach of listening, modeling and correcting is now the gold standard for teaching dyslexics to read.

But she added that since dyslexics perceive the world differently they tend to be original thinkers with problem solving skills.

“We are risk takers,” Burke said.

Burke attended college for a year but when the school moved from Chicago to a western suburb, she dropped out and began working with disabled children in the Chicago Park District, which led to her establishing the Chicago Special Olympics in 1968 and later helped expand the program into the International Special Olympics.

Burke and her husband, Ed, a Chicago alderman, are licensed foster parents who have five children, only one of whom is biologically theirs.

“When three of the

children were young, she left her job with the park district with plans to return.

Instead she went back to college and earned a degree in education from DePaul in 1976.

Four years later, her husband encouraged her to apply to law school saying she could do more for children with disabilities as a lawyer than she could through direct service.



Scott Reeder

“When you are dyslexic, you learn coping skills. I was admitted to three different law schools, but I chose Chicago-Kent (College of Law) because it was the one that didn’t require an accounting class.”

Math is often difficult for dyslexics because like reading it involves the interpretation of symbols, numbers and letters.

In 1987, Burke was appointed to the Illinois Court of Claims. In 1995 she became an appellate judge and 2006 she joined the state

supreme court.

It’s an intriguing career path for someone who early on had trouble reading.

“Reading law cases is like reading stories or novels. I find it fascinating to learn the circumstances with each case,” she said.

I’ve read many of Burke’s decisions over the years. They are well reasoned and well written.

But what strikes me as most significant about Burke is her empathy for others. Her struggle to learn not only has made her a better judge, but

a better person. It may well explain her desire to help disabled children through the Special Olympics and foster care.

She dislikes the word “disability.”

“I say ‘learning difference’ Dyslexia is just a different way of perceiving the world. It’s helped me gain problem solving skills and take risks that others might never consider.”

Scott Reeder is a veteran statehouse journalist and a freelance reporter. ScottReeder1965@gmail.com.

Letter to the Editor

Applauds all who had hand in REC Center coming to fruition

Dear Editor,

We have been watching the construction of the REC Center in Rochelle and have been anxiously anticipating it’s opening. Now that it



is open, we have used it almost daily. For those of you who have not taken a

tour, it is fabulous...even better than we thought it would be.

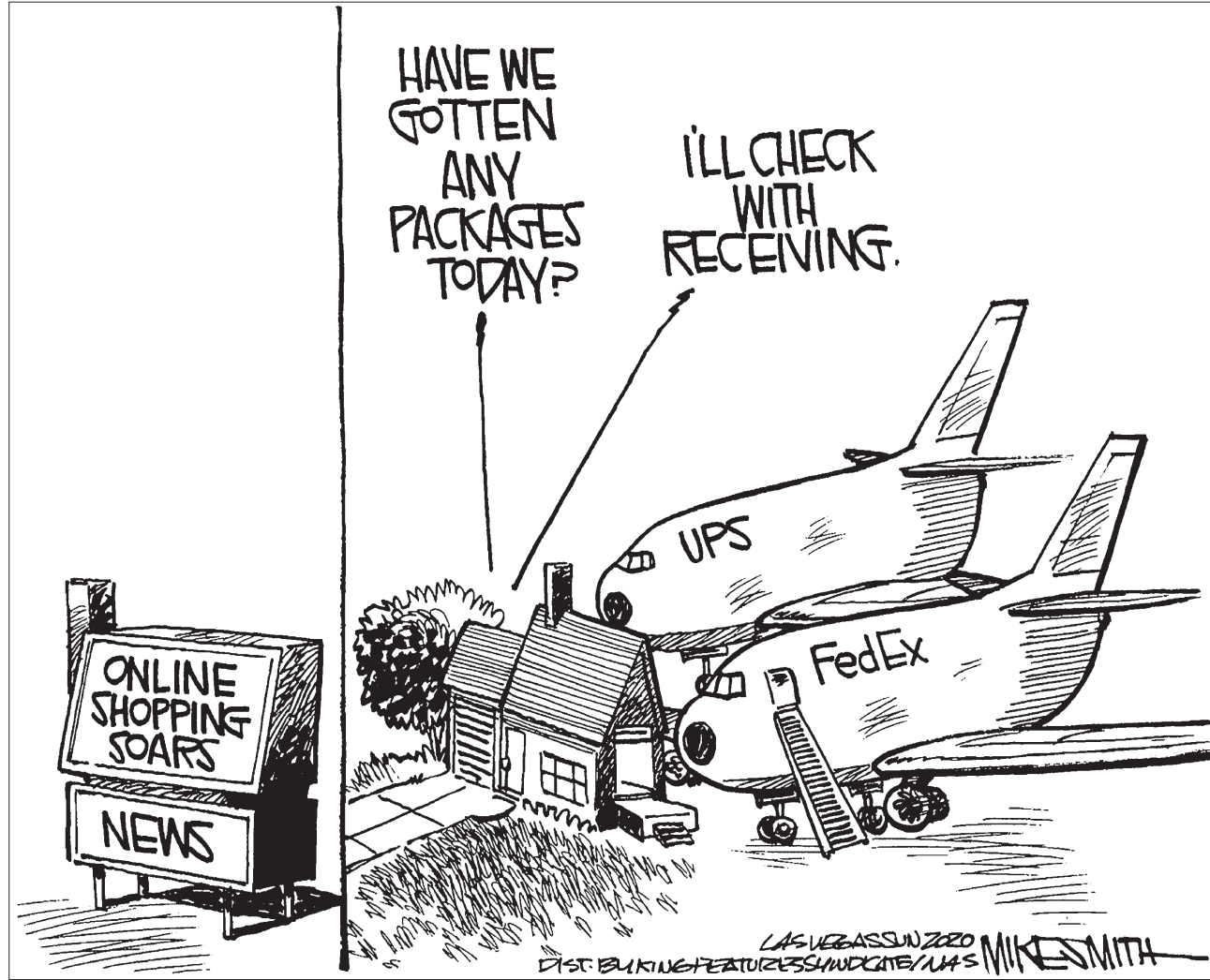
We would like to give a ‘shout out’ to Park District Board President Tim Hayden, Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger, the entire park district board and the many others

that have helped give our town this modern facility to exercise and enjoy sports. In our opinion, all those involved made really good decisions regarding the building floor plan, offered activities, choice of equipment and the staff to run the place. The men and women Jackee has

picked to fill the staff positions are all helpful, polite, dedicated and qualified.

Our new REC Center is certainly a feather in Rochelle’s cap. It is something to be proud of. We encourage you to sign up and use it.

Jim and Marilyn May
Rochelle



How to contact government officials

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IL Sen. Brian Stewart
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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.

LOCAL NEWS

Resident buys dinners for Sheriff's department

OGLE COUNTY – Rural Byron resident Mark Schwendau donated \$500 to purchase 100 meals for the Ogle County Sheriff's Department at the Kitchen Table at Rochelle.

Schwendau did so as sheriff's deputies came to his home to conduct two different wellness checks during the year. The first occurred when his cell phone pocket dialed 911 while he was mowing the lawn. The second happened when a neighbor could not reach him and became concerned about him during the COVID lockdown.

"Seeing all this propaganda about defunding the police in the media made me angry," Schwendau said. "I realized I wanted to do something to show these men and women working in local law enforcement how appreciated and respected they really are."


The Kitchen Table is Illinois' first community cafe where people can dine two days per week where those who have much can help pay a little forward to help feed those who may be struggling.

If you would like to learn more about the Kitchen Table to dine, volunteer or donate, visit their website www.KitchenTableRochelle.org.




Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle (far left) receives meal gift cards from Mark Schwendau (right) by way of Kitchen Table director Carolyn Brown.

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JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF OGLE
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BANK)
ILLINOIS,)
Successor)
in interest)No.
to the)2020
FIRST)ch
NATIONAL)51
BANK O)
ROCHELLE,)
Plaintiff,)
V.)
JOHN)
VUKADIN)
OVICH and)
HELEN)
VUKADIN)
OVICH, and)

UNKNOWN)
OWNERS)
OCCUPANTS)
and)
NONRECORD)
CLAIMANTS,)
Defendants.)
NOTICE OF
PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS
HEREBY GIVEN TO
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OCCUPANTS and
N O N R E C O R D
CLAIMANTS, that an
Amended Complaint
for Foreclosure of
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Block Two (2) as

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The Rochelle News-Leader has a part-time mailroom position open that would include inserting flyers, banding bundles and occasionally help stacking papers coming off the press.

The position typically calls for 24-28 hours per week over four or five days per week, and includes mandatory shifts on Fridays and Saturdays when work load is heaviest. Applicants must be able to quickly insert advertising flyers into newspapers, strap and lift medium-sized bundles onto a delivery truck, and work well as a team with others to follow instructions, pay attention to detail and get newspapers out the door. Mailroom staff members are also asked to perform other basic duties in the department as needed, and may be trained to drive a fork lift.

Anyone (18 years or older) interested in this position should apply in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office, 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle, IL 61068.

HW

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

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Telephone (815) 562-2704
Attorney for Plaintiff.
No. 1133 (Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9)

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Notice is hereby given that Public Hearings will be held at:
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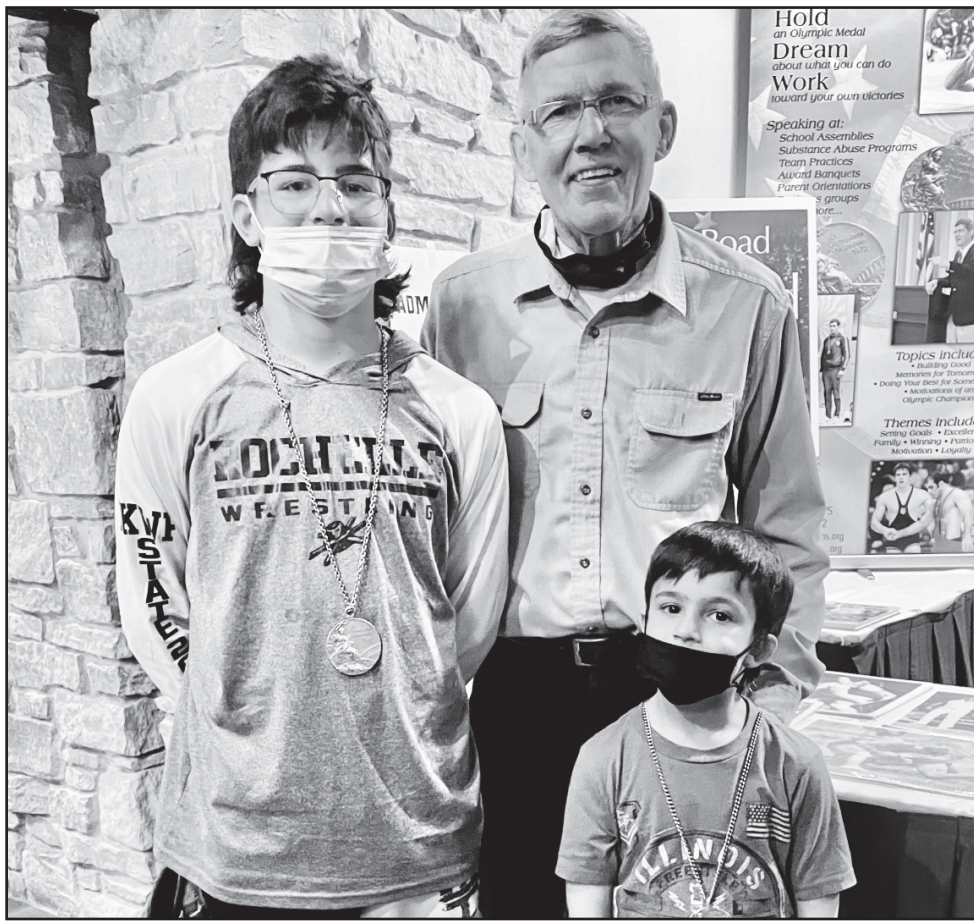


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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Roman and Rowen Villalobos share a photo with Olympic wrestling champion Ben Peterson during the 2020 Yeti Youth Championships this past weekend.

Local wrestlers battle at Yeti Youth Championships

BY RUSSELL HODGES
 SPORTS EDITOR

WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis.—Several local wrestlers grappled in the 2020 Yeti Youth Championships at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin this past weekend.

Kaiden Morris finished first in the 15U 200-pound bracket, winning four straight bouts. Morris won by fall over Forest Lake's Gunnar Johnson before defeating Ponce Trained Wrestling's Carson Gilbert by 3-1 sudden victory. Morris earned a 12-2 major decision over Alex Reyna and sealed his title with a fall victory over Monticello's Mason Bauer.

Roman Villalobos took third place in the 12U 140-pound bracket, finishing 3-1 overall. Villalobos won by fall over Hard Drive Wrestling Club's Barrett Mieras in the first consolation round before topping World Gold Wrestling's Urijah Magnus by 4-2 sudden victory. Villalobos claimed third place with a 10-3 decision against Team Gotcha's Ryder Balkema.

Two wrestlers recorded fourth-place finishes including Aidan Lopez and Xavier Villalobos. Villalobos competed in the 15U 100-pound bracket, going 3-2 overall with one forfeit victory and two fall victories against Ringers' Nathan Mielke and Pinnacle's Payton Herbst. Lopez battled in the 12U 64-pound bracket, finishing 0-3 overall.

Caleb Nadig competed in the High School 138-pound bracket, going 3-2 overall with one fall victory over Iron Mountain's Evan Haferkorn and decisions



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Kaiden Morris took first place in his bracket during the 2020 Yeti Youth Championships this past weekend.

over The Empire's Trevor Skoda (7-1) and Sauk Valley Wrestling Club's William Rude (6-4). Benjamin Nadig wrestled in the 12U 82-pound bracket, finishing 3-2 with an 8-6 decision over Takedown Wrestling Club's Caden Kramer and fall victories over Rebels' Max Clark and Shiocton Wrestling's Mason Demerath. Joseph Nadig battled in the 15U 100-pound bracket, going 0-2 overall.



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SPORTS

TRACK: Goodwin ready to shine during senior season

From page 1

Now a senior, Goodwin is channeling the frustration over losing his junior season and setting greater goals for 2021 including qualifying for state in three events including the triple

jump, the long jump and the hurdles. Goodwin also said he wants to break the varsity triple jump record after breaking the freshman record in 2019.

"Losing my junior year was really tough and I was really upset about it, but

I put all my frustration into working out and I've been using that loss as a motivator to work hard and surprise everybody my senior year," Goodwin said. "I've been checking in with my coaches and asking what I can do to

keep improving over the offseason. I also practiced with the team once a week during September and October and focused on improving my skills and motivating my team."

Goodwin's current personal record in the long jump is 19-3 1/2, which he marked during Rochelle's only indoor meet of the 2020 season. Goodwin set personal bests in both the 110 and 300-meter hurdles

as a sophomore, finishing with respective times of 17.50 and 45.28 seconds. Goodwin has come a long way from when he first took up track and field at St. Paul Lutheran School in fifth grade, when he thought doing track and field would only help improve his skills for another sport he played.

"My mom told me that I should do track and field and I didn't want to

because I thought it was nothing but running long distances," Goodwin said. "I agreed to try track and field because I figured it would increase my speed and endurance for baseball. I fell in love with the sport when I started practicing and learning about the long jump, and when I learned about the triple jump in sixth grade, I fell in love with the sport even more."



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Trevor Goodwin set personal records in both the 110 and 300-meter hurdles during his sophomore season with the Hubs. Goodwin said he wants to qualify for state in three events, including one hurdle event, during his senior season.

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SPORTS



BATTLE IN THE DELLS
Local wrestlers competed in the Yeti Youth Championships recently.
See page 10 for more details

RTHS Boys Track

Leaping forward

Sophomore success priming Goodwin for strong senior season

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

TREVOR Goodwin's rise to becoming one of the best triple jumpers in the state began during his sophomore season with the Rochelle Township High School track and field team.

Goodwin showed promise during the indoor season, leaping 40 feet and 6 inches for a personal best during the 2019 Gary Egler Invitational. That was only the beginning, however, as Goodwin continued to compile excellent jumps during the outdoor season. His PR increased from over 41 feet to over 42 feet and finally, during the IHSA 2A Sterling Sectional, Goodwin surpassed 43 feet, marking 43-2 3/4 to win the triple jump title and qualify for the IHSA State Championships.

Goodwin saved his best performance for last, though, finishing sixth and medaling in the state finals with a personal-record mark of 43-9 1/4 to end the season as an All-State triple jumper.

"I thought I made huge improvements during my sophomore year because I did a lot of weightlifting over the offseason and I kept doing workouts



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Senior Trevor Goodwin will return as one of the top athletes with the Rochelle Township High School track and field team this coming season. Goodwin reached the IHSA State Finals in the triple jump as a sophomore, medaling in sixth place.

to increase my speed," Goodwin said. "Another huge factor was having coach [Vic] Worthington help me anytime I needed him. He provided me with resources to help me fine tune my skills. I was also competing head-to-head with my teammate Mason [DeLille] and we pushed each other during every practice and meet."

As Goodwin prepared for his junior season, he had expectations including a return to the state meet and earning another medal. Unfortunately, Goodwin and many others lost their

2020 track and field seasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

See TRACK page 11

RTHS Football

Briseno building strength, confidence with Hubs

Hub running back reflects on promising sophomore season

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ERIC Briseno made the most of his opportunities with the Rochelle Township High School varsity football team this past season. While he was only a sophomore, Briseno stepped up for the Hubs when multiple starters in the offensive backfield were sidelined with injuries.

Briseno's breakout performance came midway through the 2019 season, when he took seven carries for 57 yards and the first rushing touchdown of his varsity career against Sandwich. Briseno finished the season ranking fourth on the Hubs with 39 carries and 188 rushing yards.

Now a junior, Briseno said his goals for next year are to add muscle and play with confidence.

"I'm looking forward to having more confidence and putting more muscle

on so I can become a better athlete," Briseno said. "My goals are to gain weight, be more confident, be faster and be a better teammate. As a team, we need to be a family and trust one another. I felt that I performed alright this past year, but I definitely need to play with more confidence."

Briseno grew stronger as the season progressed this past year. He totaled nine carries for 58 yards against Plano before adding a season-high 12 carries for 40 yards in Rochelle's double-overtime win over Ottawa. Briseno also chipped in one catch for 6 yards in 2019.

After averaging nearly 5 yards per carry, Briseno will compete for a starting role in the backfield when the Hubs eventually take the field this coming season. Briseno, who first took up football in seventh grade, says he enjoys the energy the game brings him.

"My role last year as an



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Junior Eric Briseno evades a trio of defenders during Rochelle's varsity football game against Plano this past season. Briseno ran for 188 yards and one touchdown on 39 carries as a sophomore in 2019.

underclassman was to give the upperclassmen everything I had, especially the seniors who were in their last seasons," Briseno said. "This season, my role is to be a good teammate and do as much as I can to help our team dominate and get the win. I enjoy the thrill of the game and I think the game benefits me in a lot of ways."