



ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

Today's RNL issue
sponsored by
Community
Unity
member:

Rochelle
Community Unity
Shop • Play • Stay

Maplehurst
936 Moore Road
Rochelle

Vol. 101 • No. 66

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020 \$1

Your life.
Your education.
Your way.

KC KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE

Enrolling Now for Fall!

www.kish.edu/fall

KNOW IT TODAY



Showing appreciation

U.S. National Guard
presents RTHS with
special plaque . **Page 7**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
35 19	35 23
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
39 28	39 26

Today's RNL issue
sponsored by
Community
Unity
member:

Rochelle
Community Unity
Shop • Play • Stay

LIQUOR 'n' WINE
Enjoy the difference!

1140 N. Seventh St.
815-561-2337

OBITUARIES

- EARL MARSH
- TODD SMITH
- TOM STRAWBRIDGE
- VIRGINIA SCHULTZ

See page 4

INSERTS

- ALDI
- FARM & FLEET
- STOCK & FIELD
- MENARDS

INSIDE

Local News.....	2, 5, 7
State News.....	3, 8
Obituaries.....	4
Opinion.....	6



Good News in Rochelle

City staff members recognized for service with special awards

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh recognized several staff members with Good News Awards during the Rochelle City Council meeting Monday evening.

Fiegenschuh recognized City Clerk Sue Messer, Deputy City Clerk Rose Hueramo, Community Development Director Michelle Pease and Public Relations Director Jenny Thompson for their work in helping Rochelle conduct the 2020 census. The State of Illinois achieved a 71.4 percent self-response rate, which is higher than the rate accomplished during the 2010 census.

“I want to recognize the ladies for their hard work,” Fiegenschuh said. “The census is extremely important to us because a lot of our revenues are based on our per-capita and population.”

Fiegenschuh also recognized Industrial Development Manager Peggy Friday and Finance Director Chris Cardott for their



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

City staff members Chris Cardott and Peggy Friday were recognized by City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh with Good News Awards for their assistance in helping Rochelle receive the 2020 GFOA Distinguished Budget Award. Cardott, Friday and Fiegenschuh are pictured above from left to right.

work on helping the City of Rochelle apply for and receive the GFOA Distinguished Budget Award. The award reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting

the highest principles of governmental budgeting. “When we applied for the award, we put Peggy in charge and she worked on it continuously for six months,” Fiegenschuh

said. “It’s rare for a community to be awarded after its first time applying for the award, but we received the award this year and that’s because of Peggy and Chris.”

Budget

Council members approved the 2021 fiscal year budget during Monday’s meeting.

See COUNCIL page 2

Landing in the Hall of Fame

Rochelle native celebrated for achievements in communication

BY VICKI SNYDER-CHURA
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

IN 1896, Otto Wettstein Jr. of Rochelle completed the first independent telephone exchange in Illinois. He installed numerous exchanges across Iowa, Nebraska and most notably, in Florida.

He was the son of Rochelle jeweler Otto Wettstein Sr. In a 1944 Orlando Sentinel story, Otto Jr. was described as a ‘genius at acquisition and operation, born in (Rochelle) 1876, the same year that Alexander Graham Bell quite accidentally discovered telephone communication while working on a device to facilitate hearing. (Bell taught the deaf and mute).

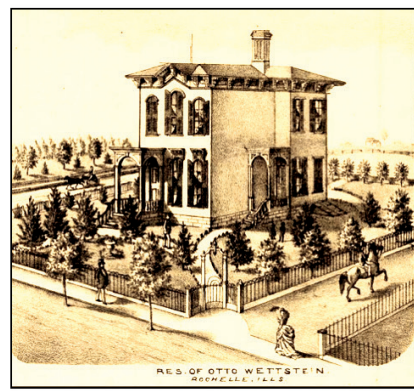
Otto Jr. was vacationing in Eustis, Florida in 1910 when a friend advised him of the small Dade City exchange for sale. At that time, Florida’s population was about 700,000. Telephones numbered 32,000. With financial assistance, Wettstein bought the Dade

City exchange which included those in Eustis and Tavares and organized the Lake County Telephone Co. at a cost of about \$25,000.

Otto Jr. next developed the Ft. Lauderdale exchange, but the following year he was bitten by the real estate bug as well as homesickness. Wettstein traded his phone exchanges for 42,000 acres which he thought resembled Midwest farmland. His plan was to colonize the property and farm. Unfortunately, the land was wet. Otto Jr. went broke trying to sell the property and farm the 60 acres he kept for himself.

He was nearly penniless in March 1915 when he read in a Tampa newspaper that a lineman for the Lake County Telephone Co. had been electrocuted.

Wettstein wrote and asked for the lineman’s job. On April 2, 1915 he arrived in Dade City to work for the company he had once owned. Earning \$80 a month, Wettstein returned to climbing poles,



The Wettstein home in Rochelle and the Otto Wettstein gold pocket watch

something he had not done since leaving Rochelle 17 years earlier.

A few months in, when Wettstein learned he was about to be fired, he asked for a meeting with the directors. Their complaint - he devoted too much time to civic work and not enough to telephone business. Otto Jr. argued his civic work was good public relations for the company. He kept his job, continued to volunteer with the American Red Cross and the Board of Trade, which organized the Farmers Dairy Association.

Within a year, he purchased the company. He

returned to Eustis in 1917 where he added more exchanges.

When his daughter graduated from Live Oak High School in 1922, Wettstein moved his family to Orlando to enroll her at Rollins College. He built a headquarters in Leesburg, then acquired the balance of 28 exchanges, which he merged into Florida Telephone Corp. in 1925.

“Starting with nothing except experience, energy and ambition in 1915, with (financier) Mr. Edge’s confidence and help, I had, in 10 years, acquired a system of 28 telephone exchanges

and control of a corporation with a capital of \$1.4 million,” Otto Jr. wrote in his autobiography.

Otto Jr. died in Leesburg in 1967 at age 92. Florida Telephone Corp. was purchased by United Telephone Co. of Florida in 1973. United Telephone became Sprint Corp. in 1992. Incidentally, the first telephone exchange in West Pasco, Florida (early 1900s) was inside the home of Clyde and Harriet Lapham. Harriet was the operator on call 24 hours a day.

See HUB page 4

Stillman BANK

Register for our annual
Holiday Giveaway

3 Beef Quarters and 3 Pork Halves will be given away
December 23rd! You could be one of 6 Winners!

Register at any one of our six locations
or online at www.stillmanbank.com!

Byron • Oregon • Rochelle • Rockford • Roscoe/Rockton • Stillman Valley

FIRST STATE BANK

Brent Ohlinger
Community President

David Eckhardt
Vice President/Loan Officer

304 East Highway 38 • Rochelle
firststatebank.biz • 815.562.2200

Member FDIC

LOCAL NEWS

COUNCIL: City approves 2021 fiscal year budget

From page 1

The 2021 General Fund revenues are budgeted at \$11,020,148, roughly a 10 percent decrease from 2020. Budgeted expenses will total \$11,019,849, roughly 10 percent lower than 2020.

The combination of the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, Internal Service Funds, Trust and Agency Funds and Capital Project Funds will result in budgeted revenues of \$75,645,544 and budgeted expenses of \$85,751,822.

Credit Program

City council members approved an ordinance further amending the city's Shop Local RMU Credit Program. The program was created to encourage residents to assist local businesses that were forced to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides \$60 reimbursements in the form of RMU bill credits for qualifying minimum \$300 purchases spent at local businesses including shops, bars and restaurants located in the RMU service territory.

Council members approved three amendments to the program including unlimited submissions, purchases made at qualifying businesses through Dec. 31, 2021 and purchases made from residential households as well as commercial, retail and industrial businesses.

Restart Rochelle

City council members approved an ordinance

amending the Restart Rochelle Small Business Assistance Program on Monday. The program was created to allow nonessential businesses that were forced to shut down due to the pandemic to apply for grant funding from the city.

The city will open applications for a Round 3 Grant under the requirement that businesses must generate sales or property taxes, close indoor service, comply with Governor JB Pritzker's mandates and close on or before Dec. 15, 2020. Restaurants and bars seeking to apply must have a physical business within city limits that differs from the owner's primary residence.

Restaurants that are exempt from the governor's order and are allowed to stay open are not eligible for the Round 3 Grant. Businesses with drive-thru service are also not eligible. Home-based businesses do not qualify. The maximum amount of grant funding a business can receive is \$10,000 for qualifying expenses. Eligible expenses include rent or mortgage payments, insurance and utilities. Grant funds will be paid out at the end of each month.

Agenda Items

City council members approved a 15-year capital improvement plan that will run from 2021-35 during Monday's meeting. The plan is a multi-year planning instrument for the evaluation and identification of the capital infrastructure projects in need of renovation, repair, and/or construction along with the equipment or



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

City staff members Michelle Pease, Rose Hueramo, Sue Messer (left to right) and Jenny Thompson (not pictured) were recognized with Good News Awards by City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh on Monday.

vehicle replacement over the next 15 years.

Council members approved the purchase of a Horton ambulance from Foster Coach Sales Inc. for the Rochelle Fire Department. The new ambulance will cost \$228,913 and will replace an old ambulance with approximately 80,000 miles. The old ambulance will be traded in for \$9,500.

City council members also approved the purchase of a sewer jetter truck from EJ Equipment for \$399,950 for use at Rochelle Municipal Utilities. The existing sewer jetter truck will be shared by the city's water, streets and electric departments to hydro excavate and jet storm systems.

City council members approved two lease agreements with Enterprise Fleet Management for a 2021 Chevy Silverado at a monthly rate of \$466.37 for the electric department

and a 2021 Ford F250 at a monthly rate of \$657.08 for the water department. Council members also approved a five-year maintenance service agreement with Altorfer for six Caterpillar engines at the Caron Road substation at a cost of \$103,580 as well as a new radiator for one engine at \$76,305.62.

City council members approved a professional services agreement with Fehr Graham to expand the Rochelle Transloading Center. The city purchased roughly 20 acres east of the RTC in 2019 for the

purpose of expanding the RTC and the City Industrial Rail system.

City council members approved revising an ordinance to delete one Class B liquor license for TJ's Lounge and add one Class B liquor license for Sissy's Wild Card Saloon, which will be located at 417 Cherry Ave. The owner of TJ's Lounge plans to surrender the liquor license upon consummation of the sale to Ken Rosencrans, which is scheduled for Dec. 15, 2020.

City council members approved an ordinance

authorizing the lease of a property located at 8764 S. Illinois Route 251. The city has negotiated a month-to-month leasing plan beginning Jan. 1, 2021 with a monthly payment of \$800, which is a \$50 increase from last year.

City council members approved an ordinance continuing the temporary suspension of late fees for RMU customers through July 31, 2021. The initial suspension was created to assist residents who are struggling to keep up with payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kish Spring 2021 Relief Scholarship

Go full-time.

Get \$500.

Paying for college is not easy right now.

Kish is here to help.

The Kish Spring 2021 Relief Scholarship can help offset financial hardships caused by Covid-19.

Here's how:

- New and returning students — Register for 12 or more credit hours by January 18, 2021

For details, visit — kish.edu/spring21relief

No Scholarship Application Required

KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE

Proudly Serving Ogle County.

WilliamsMcCarthy LLP is proud to have long-standing relationships with individuals and businesses throughout Ogle County. With many family and personal connections in the area, we look forward to continuing to meet the legal needs of our community.

To schedule an in-person, phone, or video conference meeting, call 815-987-8900 or visit wilmac.com.

Our practice focus is in the areas of business law, commercial and general litigation, employment, health care, real estate, wills and trusts, personal injury and workers compensation, insurance law, and intellectual property law.

Rockford
120 W. State Street
4th Floor
P.O. Box 219
Rockford, IL 61105-0219
(815) 987-8900

wilmac.com

Show off your Christmas decorating skills in the Christmas Tree Photo Contest

Visit rochellenews-leader.secondstreetapp.com/Christmas-Tree-Photo-Contest/rounds/1/gallery to enter and to vote.

Submissions will be accepted until Dec. 15. Voting starts on Dec 16 and runs through Dec. 31.

The winner will receive a \$100 gas card!

Sponsored by:

JEFF PERRY

CHEVROLET • BUICK • CADILLAC • JEEP • CHRYSLER

STATE NEWS

Illinois electors cast ballots for Biden, Harris

Electoral College marks final step in presidential race

BY PETER HANCOCK

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

PHANCOCK@CAPITOLNEWSILLINOIS.COM

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois' presidential electors officially cast their 20 ballots Monday for the Democratic ticket of Joseph R. Biden and Kamala Harris, marking the all-but-final step in a bitterly contested presidential election that incumbent President Donald Trump has refused to concede.

"Today, all over the country, electors just like us are fulfilling a constitutional duty to affirm the will of the people," Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, an elector who presided over Monday's session, said after the vote. "Ladies and gentlemen, you have fulfilled a solemn and important responsibility for our democracy here today. The election is affirmed and it is now time for us as a country to move forward, transition in full, and embrace the promise of a new administration led by President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. Their success is our success, and we need desperately to unite as a people. Our democracy and our residents deserve no less."

State Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, was also an elector. "The next year has the potential to be one of the most difficult our country has ever faced," he said in a statement after the vote. "We need leadership to



(CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS PHOTO BY PETER HANCOCK)

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, two of the state's presidential electors, announce the vote of Illinois' Electoral College delegates, who cast their 20 votes Monday for President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

beat this pandemic, provide economic relief, bridge deep divides and help our country grieve and heal from this unprecedented tragedy."

The electors met in the Illinois House of Representatives chamber, a room large enough to allow social distancing among the electors and a handful of staff.

Biden and Harris won the popular vote in Illinois 58-41 percent over the Republican ticket, a difference of just over 1 million votes. That meant the Democratic Party's state central

committee was entitled to choose the electors. They included one from each of the state's congressional districts and two at-large electors, Lightfoot and Harmon, representing the state's two votes in the U.S. Senate.

Secretary of State Jesse White opened the ceremonial session and presided while electors chose a chairperson and vice chairperson. Lightfoot was named chair and Harmon was named vice chair.

One by one, each elector stepped to the front of

the room and placed two ballots in a wooden box, one for president and one for vice president. Some also took the opportunity to speak before dropping their ballots in the box.

"As the elector of the 4th Congressional District it is with great pride, as a proud Illinoisan, a proud Chicagoan, proud American and Puerto Rican that I cast my vote for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for president and vice president," said state Sen. Omar Aquino, D-Chicago.

"I am so relieved to be

casting my vote for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, and they will be our president and vice president," said District 6 elector Nancy Shepherdson.

After the votes were cast, each elector signed a certification of election. By federal law, copies of the certified vote will be sent to the president of the U.S. Senate, the national archives and the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, Sara Darrow. Additional copies are also maintained in the Illinois

secretary of state's office.

Congress will meet on Jan. 6 to count the ballots from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Biden and Harris will be inaugurated at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.



FREE ESTIMATES

Bruns Construction, Inc.

Residential & Commercial Roofing

Residential, Concrete Driveways, Flatwork and Foundations

- Shingled Roofs
- Flat Roofs
- Metal Roofs For Farm Facilities
- Custom Built Homes
- Additions

Tim & Roger Bruns, Owners
Established 1997

815-561-0099

Licensed & Insured

HSF2015



GET THE NETWORK THAT WORKS AS HARD AS YOU DO


Our Lifeline Calling Plans bring discounted wireless service to participants in certain government-assisted programs.

Visit uscellular.com/lifeline or call 1-800-447-1339 for more information.

Plans starting at

\$34²⁵

before Lifeline discount.



LG K8

Things we want you to know: Lifeline is a federal government benefit program and only qualified persons may participate. Lifeline service may not be transferred to any other individual. Applicants must present documentation of household income or participation in qualifying programs. Lifeline is only available for one phone line per household, whether landline or wireless. The Lifeline Calling Plan/Lifeline discounts are only available to residents in states where U.S. Cellular® is an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC). Eligibility to receive Lifeline discounts will be verified annually. Lifeline Calling Plans support all of the federal universal services provided for in 47CFR Sec. 54.101. Additional terms and conditions apply. See store or uscellular.com for details. ©2020 U.S. Cellular

SPECIALIZING IN ALL AREAS OF AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

We are able to service and honor extended warranties and contracts!



WE OFFER LOCAL VEHICLE PICKUP & DROP OFF

MASTERBEND

221 Powers Rd., Hwy. 251 North

Rochelle, Illinois

815-562-2465

OPEN MON-FRI
8AM-5PM





03272016

Got Debt ?


Holiday Bills?

Car Repairs?

Leaky Roof?

We can help!

Stop in and see us!



CENTRAL ILLINOIS LOAN

Jami Hackman & Magan Stevens

Loans For All Your Needs: ★ Auto ★ Home Improvement ★ Vacation

310 Eagle Drive, Rochelle, IL 61068

Give Us A Call – 815-561-4035!

All loans subject to our normal credit requirements and policies.

01082020

LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Todd Smith

ROCHELLE—Kevin Todd Smith, 62, of Rochelle, passed away Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford. Todd was born April 29, 1958 in Rochelle, the son of Howard and Ellen (Parkins) Smith. He married Teresa Hopkins on August 3, 2016 at Summit Lake in Colorado.

Todd is survived by his wife, Teresa, of Rochelle; children: Cole (Meghan) Smith of Dubuque, Iowa, Kyle (Nicole) Hansen of Woodhaven, MI, Mary (Michael) Pelozo of Burlington, Wisconsin, and Emily (Josh) Carow of Kouts, Indiana; three grandchildren: Matthew Hansen, Thorin Pelozo, and Gideon Pelozo; three brothers: Tom (Dawn) Smith of Rochelle, John (Laurie)

Smith of Rochelle, and Steve Smith of Beaumont, Texas; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Todd is preceded in death by three brothers: Howard Jr. (Dutch), Stacey, and Brad Smith.

After years of being an ironworker, Todd pursued his passion in photography. This can be seen in the countless photos he took and shared of many Rochelle community activities, sporting events, weddings, and other celebrations. He had finished his bachelor's degree in Ministerial Studies and was pursuing his master's degree in the same field. Todd is a disciple of the Lord and he wanted to spread the good news with anyone he came into contact with.



Todd thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He was a devoted member of City First Church in Rockford, as well as a member of their production team. Todd and his wife, Teresa, enjoyed taking Jeep trips into the mountains of Colorado and also relished the time that they spent at home with their three dogs.

A private family funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home with Pastor Jack Smith officiating. The funeral will be live streamed on the Unger-Horner Funeral Home Facebook page. Cremation care will be provided after the service. Contributions in Todd's memory may be directed to the family for a memorial to be established. Please visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Obituaries

Virginia Schultz

ROCHELLE — Virginia Barbara Schultz, age 92, of Rochelle, passed away peacefully at her daughter's home in Hales Corners, Wisconsin on Dec. 5, 2020. Born on May 29, 1928 to Michael Cpleis and Anna Walouskiti. She grew up as a huge Chicago Cubs fan and continued that throughout her last days. On May 14, 1949 she married the love of her life, Roy John Schultz, Sr. and they began their beautiful journey of nearly 47 years.

Virginia worked as a coil winder, a school bus driver, a Stanley dealer, a newspaper inserter at Rochelle News Leader and her last job for 15 years, until she was 87, was doing food prep and service for Lifescape at the Hub City Senior Center in Rochelle. She loved her family, her pets, her friends and bowling. Virginia was a selfless giver, always there to help with a smile on her face. She

was a rare combination of kindness and toughness. We are all so proud of her for all she's done for so many in her lifetime. We couldn't have had a better mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt and friend.

She is preceded into death by her husband Roy, and brothers: Chuck Erbon and Frank Ceplawskes. She is survived by her daughters: Kathy Dodrill (Bob Williams)

and Jan Schmidt (Jeff Henry); her son Roy Schultz, Jr.; son-in-law, Greg Schmidt; two grandchildren: Brandon Dodrill and Barbara (TR) Thompson; step grandchild, Bryanna Henry; four great grandchildren: Makayla Dodrill, Arianna Thompson, Danica Thompson and Callen Dodrill; step great grandchild, Hayley Thompson; along with many other nieces and nephews that

were very special to her.

Due to COVID restrictions, we are limited to a private, immediate family only viewing and service at Unger Horner Funeral Home – 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle, IL 61068 from 3-5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020.

She will be cremated and buried beside her husband sometime in 2021. When it is safe to do so, we will have a life celebration in Rochelle for all that want to come. You can view a livestream of the service at 4 p.m. central time on the Unger Horner Funeral Home Facebook page.

In lieu of flowers, a donation in her name to the Hub City Senior Center, the Alzheimer's Association, or contributions to the family for her final expenses would be appreciated. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.



HUB: Wettstein family roots trace back to Rochelle

From page 1

Subscribers fluctuated throughout the boom years and the Great Depression, but their numbers doubled right after WWII. Otto Jr. invested in a larger switchboard and five additional operators.

The first telephone calls were put through by cranking the telephone to call the operator. The caller provided the operator with the name of the person to be called (before phone numbers). The operator rang that person, connecting the two, but since the

calls weren't private, the operators were privy to the latest town gossip.

For his pioneering work on phone exchanges, Otto Jr. became an inductee into the Independent Telephone Historical Museum Hall of Fame.

Otto Sr. was a German immigrant who settled in Rochelle as an optician, diamond merchant and jeweler. Otto Sr. became internationally famous for creations like the Otto Wettstein watches and the intricately designed Colonel Ingersoll Souvenir Spoon. He eventually sold his jewelry store to the Hackett Family.

Tom Strawbridge

ROCKFORD — Thomas S. "Tom" Strawbridge died peacefully of natural causes Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 at Amberwood Care Center in Rockford. The son of L. R. "Bud" Strawbridge and Isla (Whitsell) Strawbridge, Tom was born March 21, 1952 in DeKalb.

Tom attended grade school in Rochelle and high school in Oregon. He enlisted in the US Army on Nov. 9, 1969 and was stationed at Kaiserslautern, Germany where he served as

a supply clerk. He was honorably discharged in 1972. "Pops", as he was known to his wide circle of friends, enjoyed a variety of jobs but identified most affectionately his years as a bartender, barber, insurance agent, car salesman, and restaurateur. He never met a stranger and relished his connections with people.

Surviving are his son, Christopher "Kit" (Julie) Strawbridge of High Point, North Carolina; grandsons, Joshua (Alex) Burcham and Jarred (Kenzie) Burcham and great-granddaughter, Averie. Also, surviving are sisters Linda R. Daub of Chana, Donna (Tom) Heid of Cape Haze, Florida and Aunt Marjorie (Strawbridge) Gregory of Cottonwood, Arizona as well as nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends who cared. Tom was preceded in death by his parents;

brother-in-law, Darrell Daub; niece, Angela Daub-Bergstrom and significant other, Debra Matheny.

At Tom's wishes cremation will take place. Assistance to the family was graciously accorded by Tim at Honquest Family Funeral Homes with Crematory. Family also wishes to acknowledge Rochelle Community Hospital, Amberwood Care Center, Unity Hospice and the VA Hospital of Madison for the kind and respectful care he received in his final days.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions memorial services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Tom's name may be given to Rochelle Fire Department Ambulance Service or Lifescape Meals on Wheels program, both of which were active participants in Tom's care in the past several years.

Earl Marshel

ROCHELLE — Earl Marshel, age 76, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020 at his home with his family at his side. Arrangements are pending, cremation care is being provided by Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle.

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.

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.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

PRESCOTT BROTHERS

See us for all your tire needs!
Call Mel or Barb in our service department.
Service Department open Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Semi-Synthetic Oil & Filter Change & FREE Tire Rotation

\$40 Plus tax & fees. Up to 5 quarts.

620 S. 7th • Rochelle, IL | 815-562-2177
www.Prescottbrothersford.com

ANDERSON
Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning, Drinking water systems, Water Heaters, Softeners, Iron Filters & More.

LENNOX
One Less Thing To Worry About

Since 1976

Like on on Facebook
Lic# 055-013999

621 First Ave., Rochelle (815) 562-8784

QUESTIONS
about

MEDICARE - PART D SUPPLEMENTS DRUG BENEFITS

WE CAN HELP

Dimond Bros.
Insurance Since 1867

CALL TODAY!
815-562-5596
x205 for appointment.

Joe Meadows

ROCHELLE News-Leader

211 IL Route 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068
(815) 562-4171

USPS (467-820) ISSN (1075-2811)
Published every Wednesday and Sunday by Rochelle Newspapers Inc. at 211 E. State Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068. Periodical postage paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Rochelle News-Leader, P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068. Subscription rates are \$112 per year by mail in Ogle County. Outside county rate is \$134 per year. No mail delivery in newspaper-carrier serviced areas. The circulation department is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are a carrier subscriber and your paper does not arrive, contact Wanda Brimhall at 561-2112.

IN-COUNTY REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION RATES

- \$114 for one year • \$64.99 for six months
- \$26.99 for three months • \$10.99 for one month

Call (815) 561-2112 or Visit our website at www.rochellenews-leader.com

HOW TO CONTACT US

News-Leader Main Switchboard	(815) 562-4171
General Manager Mike Feltes	(815) 561-2124
Newsroom Staff Jennifer Simmons, Managing Editor Russ Hodges, Sports	(815) 561-2151 (815) 561-2152
To Place a Display Ad Tiffany Smith Andrew Heiserman	(815) 561-2153 (815) 561-2123
To Place a Legal Ad Mike Feltes	(815) 561-2124
To Place a Classified Ad Kelly White	(815) 562-4171
Subscriptions and Delivery Wanda Brimhall	(815) 561-2112

Stop by for a tasty family outing!

HOURS: Open Daily Sun.-Thurs. 11:30-9:00pm Fri.-Sat. 11:30-10pm

Flavors: Vanilla or Chocolate or our Flavor of the Day

• Milk Shakes • Arctic Blast

• Malts • Black Cow

• Sodas • Slushies

• Specialty Sundaes

Call to order specialty pies for birthdays, anniversaries or any other occasion! (24 Hour Notice)

Ollie's Frozen Custard 2290 Oakland Drive, Sycamore
815-758-8222
www.ollieessycamore.com

LOCAL NEWS

2021 Illinois Specialty Crop Conference connecting growers near and far virtually

BLOOMINGTON — The annual Illinois Specialty Crop Conference (ISCC) will bring Illinois growers together through its new interactive, virtual format on Jan. 6 through 8, 2021. The conference provides a platform for education, information and networking during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. "Illinois specialty crop growers have faced many challenges in the wake of the pandemic," said Raghela Scavuzzo, executive director, Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA). "Now more than ever our industry has proven to be adaptive and resilient. The ISGA board of directors recognizes the industry need to continue engaging in innovative solutions with our members."

ISCC will feature two live keynote speakers shar-

ing insights and strategies, a roundtable discussion with live chat features, an engaging networking opportunity brought to us by COUNTRY Financial, and a robust exhibition floor where exhibitors and attendees can share business and industry information.

Sarah Frey, founder of Frey Farms, will lead the Thursday keynote as she details how her farm operation pivoted during the pandemic. Frey and her family operate farms and facilities in seven states and are headquartered in southeastern Illinois.

"From farm to store to table, our specialty crop supply chain has been challenged and adapted in 2020 to ensure the delivery of fresh crops here at home and around the globe," said Frey, who is an author, businesswoman and the country's top pumpkin

seller. "Ours is an industry that requires teamwork, and I am very excited to connect with everyone in our industry. We truly are in this together."

The Friday keynote will be led by Chris and Angie Eckert of Eckert's Country Store and Farms in St. Clair County as they share how their seven-generation family business worked together to respond to COVID-19. The Eckerts operate the largest pick-your-own fruit business in the country.

All in all, attendees can access three or more live sessions daily and 60 go-at-your-own-pace virtual sessions. This marks the first time attendees will have access to every conference session and the ability to view content at their own pace.

Registered attendees will have exclusive ac-

cess to educational video presentations on leading industry topics including: Produce Safety Training (LIVE), Beginning Farmer, Pollinators, Berries and Beyond, Tomatoes and Peppers, Digital Business, Vegetable Production, Tree Fruit Production, Herb and Flower Production, Agritourism and Agritainment, Business Development and Of Special Interest.

All the sessions will be recorded and available through password protected access to attendees after the conference. In addition, there will be fun and interactive activities including virtual games, a scavenger hunt and a virtual swag bag full of materials and giveaways.

"Members and partners need this opportunity to connect, learn and share," said Scavuzzo. "COVID-19 has strength-

ened our commitment to each other and to our communities. A virtual conference is an opportunity to connect every segment of the specialty crop supply chain, from growers, shippers, processors, wholesalers, and distributors to retailers, suppliers, and partners. We are united to address our industry challenges and find solutions."

The conference price was reduced to help ensure these educational workshops are easily accessible to our members. ISGA members receive an exclusive rate of \$15 per attendee and any non-member can register for the rate of \$100 per attendee.

As a reminder, ISGA membership is open to everyone, and anyone joining will have access to the reduced fee. All attendees of the virtual conference



Chris and Angie Eckert of Eckert Country Store and Farms.

will also have access to the online conference library following the conference.

Please note you can register up to four attendees per ISGA membership. Conference registration will close Dec. 28, 2020.

Conference details and registration can be found at www.specialtygrowers.org/iscc2021. Contact ISGA at 309-557-2107 or CBLarry@ilfb.org for sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities.

Illinois State Fire Marshal stresses safety when decorating for the holidays

SPRINGFIELD — The holidays are here and that means many will be decorating their homes. Hanging up decorations is fun, but keep in mind, holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association more than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. The NFPA also reports that U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 780 home structure fires per year that began with decorations between 2013-2017.

More than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. Candle fires peak in December followed closely by January. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve. Before you head to

bed or out for the evening, extinguish all lit candles.

"The OSFM will once again be hosting the Keep the Wreath Red Campaign at our offices in Springfield and Chicago. This campaign raises awareness about the importance of fire safety during the holiday season (Dec. 1 through Jan. 2)," says Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez. "Unfortunately, last year 15 lives were lost in fire related incidents during the holiday season in Illinois. Following and exercising fire safety measure can reduce your risk of fire or injuries related to fires not only during the holiday season but every day."

Keep the wreath red campaign began in 1954 in Naperville to raise awareness about holiday fire safety. Wreaths will be placed and lite with red bulbs outside of the OSFM offices in Springfield and at the Thompson Center in Chicago. White light bulbs will replace the red bulbs

when a fire related death is reported in the state.

"These white lights are not just bulbs; they represent a person. That person could be your mom, dad, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, friend or neighbor," says Fire Marshal Perez. The goal of the campaign is to strive for zero fire related deaths during the holiday season.

Tips

Here are some tips to keep in mind to stay fire safe when decking the halls this holiday season.

Be careful with holiday decorations. Make sure decorations are either flame retardant or flame resistant. Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from decorations or anything that can catch fire. Keep children and pets away from lit candles. Extinguish all lit candles before going to bed or leaving the house. Check to make sure your lights are rated for indoor or outdoor use or both.

Replace any light strands that have worn or broken cords. Make sure to read the recommendation for number of light strings you can string together. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

If you have a real Christmas tree, make sure to check water levels daily! It is not unusual for a tree to drink two gallons of water the first day it is in the stand. Keep real Christmas trees

away from a heat source. It can dry out the tree quickly.

After a busy cooking day on Thanksgiving, before firing the oven back up preparing the next holiday meal, make sure to clean it. In case of an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed until it is cool. Clean cook tops as left-over grease can catch fire. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, but Christmas and Christmas Eve follow

closely behind.

If you are planning to host family and friends during the holidays, make sure they are aware of your fire escape plan. Show them where all the exits are in your home and make sure they are aware of the meeting spot's location. Make sure they are following all the social distancing protocols issued from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the CDC.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Remove all decorations. No wreaths, garland, or plastic bags.

Sponsored by:
Ogle County Solid Waste Mgmt. Dept.

Due to Covid-19 there will be no curbside pick up of trees by the high school FFA clubs. Please take your tree to a drop off site.

Rochelle Residents: The City Street Department will chip trees at the curb, January 4-18, 2021

REMOVE ALL DECORATIONS. NO WREATHS, GARLAND, OR PLASTIC BAGS.

*Any questions call
Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department
815-732-4020*

DROP OFF SITES:

STARTING DECEMBER 26TH

Oregon:
Park District
Maintenance Dept.,
507 Hill St.

Byron:
Byron boat launch lot,
E. Blackhawk Dr. (Rt. 2)

Forreston:
407 N. Locust St.

Leaf River:
605 Main St.

Rochelle:
Atwood Park, 10th Ave.
& 20th St.

Monroe Center:
Lichty's Landscaping
309 Pacific St.

Polo:
Southwest corner of E.
Colden St. & S. Green Ave.

**DROP OFF ENDS,
JANUARY 24, 2021**

121620200

Be Ready... WINTER IS COMING!

\$59.00
\$99 Value

Heating Furnace Tune-Up

815-562-4440

IL Lic. 058-111840

PLUMBING • SEWER HVAC • ELECTRICAL

\$20 Instant Savings + \$10 First Time Customer Discount

\$30 Added Savings!

Plus, get \$10 off for donating a non-perishable canned food item to The Salvation Army.

Expire 1/12/20

\$50 OFF ANY REPAIR OR PURCHASE

Mention this ad and receive: Not valid for maintenance. Not valid with other offers or discounts. Limited time only.

\$500 OFF DELUXE SYSTEM

FREE ESTIMATES. PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE.*

*With approved credit. Cash rebates available from Nicor and ComEd up to \$1000. Expires 3/1/21

\$100 OFF WHOLE HOUSE DUCT & DRYER VENT CLEANING

Must present coupon. Not valid with other offers. Restrictions may apply. Expires 3/1/21

\$75 OFF HUMIDIFICATION SYSTEM

Not valid with other offers. One coupon per customer. Expires 3/1/21

servicenowhomeservices.com • servicenowhomeservices.com

LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Someone I thought I knew

SOMETIMES you'll read a news story about someone you thought you knew well and be flabbergasted. That happened to me this month. John Willard, a reporter I worked with for a decade at the Quad-City Times, died in 2017 at age 74. His wife, Carol, died a couple years later. Last week, I read that they left a \$3 million estate to various charities.

John was a reporter and Carol a secretary. "I'd be shocked if John ever made more than \$35,000 or \$40,000," said Linda Cook, another reporter who worked with us at the Times.

Former Quad-City Times editor Dan Hayes, demurred on how much Willard may have earned during his career saying only, "As you know, Scott, reporting is not something where you're ever going to get rich."

Except, John Willard managed to become rich. His net worth was in the top 3 percent of Americans at the time of his death. Just how he got there has some of his former colleagues scratching their heads.

Some have wondered if there was an inheritance that the Willards received that no one knew about.

So, I called up John's brother, Tom, in Pennsylvania, who is the lone survivor of the Willard clan. And he said, no, that there wasn't a significant inheritance.

"He just saved and invested really well," he said.

After a long pause, he asked just how much his brother's estate amounted to. When I told him \$3 million, his only response was, "That sounds about right."

Wealth accumulation has more to do with discipline and plan-

ning than it does with income," said William Danko, who co-wrote "The Millionaire Next Door."

The premise of the book is that there are many millionaires like the Willards, ordinary Joes and Janes, who have saved, invested and lived frugal lives.

In a telephone interview Sunday, Danko said couples deferring on small expenses can reap large returns.

For example, if instead of smoking three packs of cigarettes a day, a couple quit smoking and invested the equivalent amount of money into the tobacco company Philip Morris' stock,

they would have had a portfolio worth more than \$2 million after 46 years, Danko said.

"Small expenses add up over time. If a person is disciplined and invests instead, it really accumulates," he said. "These people spend the first half of their lives working for money and the second half having their money work for them."

John and Carol owned one car and often rode the bus. During the decade I worked with him, I can only remember Willard wearing one pair of shoes to work – brown wingtips that were nicely polished but well worn.

Cook, who worked with him for about 30 years, said the whole time she knew him he wore the same coat. (If it was the one I remember, it was an off-white trench coat of perhaps 1970's vintage.)

"John didn't drink – he had no vices – and believe me, I would know if he did," said Bill Wundram, a retired editor and columnist, who worked at the Times for more than 70 years.

"Most of the time I knew him, he drove an old Volkswagen. He drove it until it was

completely worn out and he didn't think it would go on any farther."

Willard was a meticulous reporter who worked at one speed: slow.

"He'd probably write one story a week and that would really upset some of the other reporters," Wundram recalled. "But I never got upset because I knew that one story would be really well written."

Willard worked for the Davenport, Iowa, newspaper for 34 years, retiring in 2007. He and Carol were married 46 years. They had no children.

They left their money to: Friends of Vander Veer (Park); Friends of Davenport Public Library; University of Illinois Foundation; George Williams College, Aurora; Iowa PBS Foundation; Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport; the Genesis Hospice program; Humane Society of Scott County, and to a discretionary fund to be used in the community.

John's favorite restaurant was Ma's Studio Diner, a Davenport dive where the owner would holler at patrons if they didn't eat their vegetables. I ate there once with him and refused to return. Linda Cook said she accompanied him there twice.

"The cockroaches were tame – I wouldn't go back," she said.

Wundram hosted a retirement party for Willard at his home. "I just invited reporters – no husbands or wives – just the working press. I bought four cheap bottles of champagne and some food. John was really touched that I would do that for him. He came up afterwards and tried to give me \$100. I kept telling him, 'No.' I told him I knew he was a reporter and couldn't afford that. But he insisted and insisted, so I finally took the \$100. I guess I know now that he could afford it."



Scott Reeder



Guest column

A tribute to Todd Smith

BY ANDY COLBERT
OREGON REPUBLICAN
REPORTER

SO far, there are three parts to this story, but the fourth and final chapter promises to be the best of all.

Part I begins at Rochelle in 1972 with my freshman football season and ends in November of 1975 after a playoff loss to Geneva. For each of those four years, I had the good fortune of lining up next to Todd Smith. He was a tackle and I was an end. No matter the formation, we were always on the same side and when it came to double-team blocking, Todd made my life very easy.

Strong bonds are created in sports, but once the cheering stops and the games are over, people often move on with their lives and that was the case with Todd and I. It wasn't until about 25 years later that I began to see Todd again and ironically it was at the exact same place that football-playing bond ended – at Helms Field in Rochelle.

Because of an injury he wasn't able to work as ironworker anymore and began taking photos at football games, eventually setting up a Rochelle athletic website. I had already been prowling the sidelines for a few years as a part-time sports reporter. Whenever I was on the Rochelle beat, there was Todd and his camera.

Newspaper clippings of my articles were old-school scrapbook stuff,

while his digital camera offered cyberspace memories. As we reacquainted ourselves, a new bond was created and that is Part II of the story.

As you get older, the years pile up and exact dates get fuzzy. But, I would have to say Part III begins on a car ride to Morris in November of 2017. Let me set the background.

Rochelle's football program has a proud history, but has never made it to the state championship game, suffering an inordinate amount of gut-wrenching playoff losses, starting when Todd and I were seniors. In 2017, the Hubs had its best team in quite a while and a quarterfinal match-up at Morris was the biggest obstacle to that dream.

As Todd and I drove down Interstate 39 to Morris, I remember hearing how proud he was when his son Cole was a senior and Rochelle beat Geneva in a regular-season game a few years earlier. It was a bit of redemption for our 1975 loss, but beating Morris would really exorcise the demons. The emotional attachment as former players was taxing enough, let alone the one we had as reporter and photographer.

Like a dagger to the heart, Rochelle narrowly lost to Morris and the ride home seemed a lot longer. But, it was dangerous ground we were treading by allowing a high-school football game to determine our happiness. We both knew that and that is

where Part III begins to take shape.

Until this time, any bond we shared, be it as players or sideline media, was based upon high-school football and all the subsequent glory it attains. Slowly, we began opening up to one another about where God fits into the equation.

Bear in mind, we were two guys that had spent much of their adult life separated from God. Little did we know we were about to be rocketed to a spiritual realm of living that would make a state football title by Rochelle pale in comparison.

It started with me inviting Todd to go to a three-day Christian retreat, which is much harder than asking a guy to go to the ball game with you. He went to a Tres Dias weekend in spring of 2018 and fully committed himself to a life of Christ, soon taking classes in ministerial leadership.

What an inspiration Todd became to me and soon our talks were not about football, but of love and service to your fellow man. Instead of just friends, we became true brothers on a path to glorify God.

The reason that the fourth and final chapter of this story promises to be the best is because Todd and I have an eternal resting place in Heaven. Todd died on Saturday from Covid-related pneumonia and when my time comes, I will be with him again.

There is no bond better than one given by Christ.

How to contact government officials

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

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

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

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

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

* Denotes Chairman/President

Rochelle City Council

*John Bearrows	jbearrows@rochelleil.us
Kathryn Shaw-Dickey	kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us
Bil Hayes	bhayes@rochelleil.us
Don Burke	dburke@rochelleil.us
Dan McDermott	dmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Tom McDermott	tmcdermott@rochelleil.us
John Gruben	jgruben@rochelleil.us

Rochelle Elementary School Board

*Dave Casey	dcillini94@gmail.com
Steve Builta	sbuilt@gmail.com
Shirley Reif	sreif@crestfoods.com
Jean Tess	dtess503@comcast.net
Eric Van Hise	eric.vanhise@gmail.com
Trisha Vaughn	jrvtlv02@msn.com
Javier Zepeda	jzepeda@rthsd212.org

Rochelle Township High School Board

*Tom Huddleston	tom.huddleston@rthsd212.org
Carol Hayenga	carol.hayenga@rthsd212.org
Bill Ravnaas	bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org
Robert Walsh	bob.walsh@rthsd212.org
Jeff Tilton	jeff.tilton@rthsd212.org
Brent Tracy	brent.tracy@rthsd212.org
Brian VanVickle	brian.vanvickle@rthsd212.org

Flagg-Rochelle Park Board

Mic Brooks	mbrooks@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Brent Carmichael	bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org
John Dobbs	jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Dale Wells	dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org
*Tim Hayden	thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Jodie Hart	jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Joe Lenkaitis	jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 3

Lloyd Droege	ldroege@oglecounty.org
Jamey Sulser	jsulser@oglecounty.org
Greg Sparrow	gsparrow@oglecounty.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 4

Bruce McKinney	bmckinney@oglecounty.org
Skip Kenney	skkenney@oglecounty.org
Kim Whalen	kwhalen@oglecounty.org

Creston Village Board

*Wayne Williams	jwdw13@yahoo.com
Deanne Haub	hobnob67@comcast.net
Tom Byro	tommyb_47@yahoo.com
Greg Hopkins	ghopkins522@comcast.net
Steve Katzman	skatzman@essex1.com
Mike Kerns	ac.kerns@comcast.net
Mike Misch	mmfam@live.com
Curt Ward	caward92@comcast.net

Hillcrest Village Board

Randy Salsbury	rsalsbury@hillcrestil.us
Pam Pitman	ppittman@hillcrestil.us
Don Potter	dspotter@hillcrestil.us
Richard Rhoads	rrhoads@hillcrestil.us
*Jason Fore	jfore@hillcrestil.us
Tim Ball	tball@hillcrestil.us

Flagg Township

*Bob Withrow	flaggtwp@rochelle.net
Joanna Patrick	flaggtwpc@rochelle.net
Susan Rothenberger	assessor@rochelle.net
Scott Seebach	scottseebach@gmail.com

Board of Trustees

Lance Noggle	noggle62@gmail.com
Eric Gruben	egruben@comcast.net
Susan Hagar	susanhager303@comcast.net
Jim Kenney	jimk@rocketsupply.com

Flagg-Rochelle Library

*Jaqueline Dickow	dickow@comcast.net
Teresa Haggstad	haggstads@comcast.net
Michael Scanlan	scanlan@comcast.net
Lanning Nicoloff	nicoloff118@comcast.net
Sheri Klindera	alwayslefty2@gmail.com
Susan Sevedge	nit1prl22@yahoo.com
Darci Waltrip	doobs12@comcast.net

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

National Guard appreciation



Sgt. Nicholas Lavender of the U.S. Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Charlie Company (center) visited Rochelle Township High School on Dec. 8 to present Principal Chris Lewis with an appreciation plaque. Counseling secretary Andrea O'Reilly (right) works closely with the military recruiters to provide students considering life beyond high school and opportunity to make informed decisions. Sgt. Lavender is stationed in the Dixon Armory behind Dixon High School.

Engelkes named to Dean's List

BOURBONNAIS — Emily Engelkes, of Rochelle, was named to the Dean's List at Olivet Nazarene University during the recently completed fall 2020 semester.

To qualify for inclusion on the dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts university offering more than 140 areas of undergraduate and graduate study, including the doctor of education in ethical leadership.



FROM THE HEART DAILY CASH WINNERS

Nov. 24 - Erie Foods/Dean, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 25 - Liz Shank, Byron, \$25

Nov. 26 - Dawn Peters, Rochelle, \$500

Nov. 27 - Tonja Greenfield, Rochelle, \$25

Nov. 28 - Dick Hart, Elgin, \$25

Nov. 29 - Pamela Shore, Monroe Center, \$50

Nov. 30 - Sean Saweikis, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 1 - William Jandak, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 2 - Dallas Schuler, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 3 - Kasandra Elliott, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 4 - Rick McConaghie, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 5 - Kelley Doughty, Waukesha, Wisconsin, \$25

Dec. 6 - Charles or Christy Kessen, Rochelle, \$50

Dec. 7 - Jannell Effiong, Mahomet, \$25

Dec. 8 - Tonja Greenfield, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 9 - Brenda Mason, Dixon, \$25

Dec. 10 - Celia Castillo, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 11 - Tina Fletcher, Westville, Indiana, \$25

Dec. 12 - Daisy Russell, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 13 - Cal Jacobs, Rochelle, \$50

Dec. 14 - Laurie Borowicz, Sycamore, \$25

Dec. 15 - Adlai Schaefer, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 16 - Shelley Haws, Rochelle, \$25

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

The Kitchen Table menu

Dec. 17 – (Thursday) – Christmas Dinner: Porcupine meatballs, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans, stuffing, pea salad
Dec. 22 – (Tuesday) – CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS
Dec. 24 – (Thursday) – CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS
Dec. 29 – (Tuesday) – Shredded beef brisket, roasted potatoes, steamed broccoli and cauliflower, dinner rolls
Dec. 31 – (Thursday) – New Year's Eve Dinner: Good Luck cornbread skillet, pork roast, black eyed peas, collard greens

*The Kitchen Table is located at 7034 S. Klondike Road, Rochelle. The suggested donation is \$5 unless otherwise stated. A kid's menu is available each serving date and includes peanut butter and jelly, corn dog with chips or chicken nuggets. Please note that all menus are subject to change. Serving is from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Sunday brunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu is always available on the answering machine by calling 815-561-9074 or visit www.KitchenTableRochelle.org.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec. 20
Amanda Avila
Dec. 21
Jacob King
Bill Patrick
Dec. 22
Deb Wooten

Dec. 24
Luke Gilliam
Dec. 25
Maribel Ortiz
Dec. 26
Annette Sulser
Dec. 28

Chris Prosser
Dec. 29
Kelsey Rogers
Dec. 31
Jamey & Nicole King
Ruth Allen
Hayleigh Jones

Call 815-561-2151 to submit names for birthdays or anniversaries



Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Porter's burdens

5 Before

8 Dull sound of impact

12 Enticement

13 Blend

14 Abundant

15 Opera show-stopper

16 U.K. broadcaster

17 Black, in verse

18 Fight

20 Like a lot

22 Solid ground

26 Entire

29 Smack

30 Zilch

31 Bees' home

32 Parsons or Gaffigan

33 Slangy negative

34 — out a living

35 One of the Brady Bunch

36 Grown-up bug

37 Brownish orange

40 Warmonger

41 Barbershop tools

45 First victim

47 Luau bowlful

49 "American —"

50 Ring out

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

51 Barn bird

52 Alaskan metropolis

53 Vortex

54 — Aviv

55 Get larger

7 Cry out

8 Italian fountain site

9 Ireland

10 Venusian vessel?

11 Lair

28 Above

32 Lotto win

33 Incredible

35 Mandible

36 Call — day

38 Make a comeback

39 Warble

42 Bloodhound's clue

43 Quarterback Tony

44 Dispatched

45 Mimic

46 Foundation

48 Didn't pay yet

19 Appomattox surrenderer

21 Frequently

23 Serengeti beast

24 Chinese dynasty

25 Choir member

26 Sharpen

27 Raise

DOWN

1 Spill the beans

2 Emanation

3 Determination

4 Birthplace of Starbucks

5 Fireplace bit

6 Cage component

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: R equals E

XS V WRVY NRYR VQQLNRU PL
KYRKVYR JLSSRR LY PRV, JLGQU
ALG PMRH OVA MR NVO WYGXH?

©2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

W	O	N	G	R	O	L	T	E	L										
E	D	D																	
P	E	A	L																
L	O	D																	
S	H	O	Z																
T	A	V																	
T	E	R	A	V															
E	K	E																	
I	N	T																	
N	T																		
L	I	N																	
T	E	R	A	V															
A	V																		
B	A	T																	
N	O																		
E	B	O																	
B	A																		
L	A																		
E	R																		

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Cryptoquip

answer

If a bear were allowed to

prepare coffee or tea, could

you then say he was bruin?

STATE NEWS

State lawmakers propose cut in Medicaid rates

Koehler, Crespo say insurers making excess profits during pandemic

By PETER HANCOCK

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
PHANCOCK@CAPITOLNEWSILLINOIS.COM

SPRINGFIELD —

Two Democratic lawmakers this week introduced legislation to reduce state payments to the insurance companies that manage Illinois' Medicaid program, arguing that the COVID-19 pandemic is resulting in excess profits for the insurers.

Sen. Dave Koehler, of Peoria, and Rep. Fred Crespo, of Hoffman Estates, say that money saved due to the pandemic could be used to help struggling downstate hospitals whose resources have been strained by excess hospitalizations and low revenue.

"While insurance companies and managed care organizations see record-setting profits at the height of a global pandemic, rural communities across the state are experiencing unsustainable strain in their health care systems due to lack of resources," Koehler said in a statement Wednesday. "The money recouped through this legislation

would provide immediate relief for Downstate hospitals that have been devastated by COVID-19."

The Illinois Medicaid program operates under a "managed care" model in which private insurance companies, known as managed care organizations, or MCOs, are paid a flat rate for managing the care of each Medicaid patient. Their profit margin is the difference between how much they are paid and how much they have to spend reimbursing health care providers for the patients' care.

Koehler and Crespo argue that patient demand for other, routine, nonemergency medical services like outpatient procedures has plummeted amid the pandemic. In contrast, the insurance companies that manage the program have continued to receive the same per-patient monthly rates for managing the care of each Medicaid recipient, resulting in higher profit margins.

On Wednesday, the two lawmakers filed companion bills in the General Assembly, Senate Bill 4207 and House Bill 5867,

which call for reducing the enrollment-based payments by 20 percent for the duration of the COVID-19 disaster declaration.

In addition, the bill would effectively make the reduced rates retroactive by reducing future payments on a prorated basis to claw back a portion of the rates that have already been paid out since the disaster declaration went into effect March 9.

Koehler said Illinois spends roughly \$1.7 billion per month for MCO payments, so a 20-percent reduction would reduce that by \$340 million.

Because the General Assembly is not currently in session, the bills have not yet been assigned to committees. However, the organization that lobbies for the MCOs has already begun pushing back against the plan, arguing that it's based on a false premise that utilization rates have actually decreased.

"There were significant decreases in utilization in April and May; however, by July utilization had rebounded," Samantha Olds Frey, CEO of the Illinois



(CREDIT: SENATOR DAVE KOEHLER.COM)

Sen. Dave Koehler, D-Peoria, introduced legislation this week to reduce state payments to the insurance companies that manage Illinois' Medicaid program, arguing that the COVID-19 pandemic is resulting in excess profits for the insurers.

Association of Medicaid Health Plans, said in a statement. "It is important to note that MCOs don't just pay for hospital visits but a comprehensive healthcare benefit; such as: pharmaceuticals, long term care, and behavioral health. We recognize there may be individual providers with decreased utilization, but with the expansion of telehealth and the reinstatement

of elective procedures health care utilization has stabilized."

Koehler said in an interview Friday that he expected resistance from MCOs, but he said he believes the plan has support within the health care provider industry.

It is unclear if lawmakers will meet again during the 101st General Assembly, which officially ends in January, meaning both

bills may need to be refiled during the 102nd General Assembly scheduled to begin Jan. 13.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Grubsteakers

Open 6am-9pm
Dine In & Carry out Available

Come Check Out Our Daily Drink Specials and Gaming!

RT. 251 & 64 - Kings, IL
815-562-3430
Carryout Available

We are now located at
136 May Mart Drive
Same Great Service at a New Location!

Jennie McLaughlin,
Broker
(815) 561-9488
jlmnm1953@yahoo.com
www.jenzhomes.com

Norm McLaughlin,
Broker
815-901-2005
Normanmc123@yahoo.com

RE/MAX

Hub City

Independently owned & operated.

Always Welcoming New Patients!

Kelly Ann Tonielli Davis
DNP, APRN, FNP-BC-CME

Davis Family Health LLC

1212 Currency Court
Rochelle, IL
815-561-8500

Appointments Available
Mon., Wed. & Thurs.
Most insurances accepted.

We Fix Boo Boos

ROSATI'S

Authentic Chicago Pizza
MyRosatis.com

Party Package \$119

Feeds 20-25 Guests

- 4 lbs Italian Beef w/ Italian Bread
- Full Tray Penne Pasta
- 30 Pc of Chicken
- 24 Garlic Bread Pieces

Add Full Tray of Salad for only \$25

Served with Sweet Peppers & Rosati's own Hot Giardiniera

Offer valid at Rosati's of Rochelle only. Must mention coupon when ordering & present it during pickup or delivery. Not valid with any other offers/coupon. Exp 9/30/20.

ROCHELLE | 1233 N. CARON RD. | 815.562.5000
ORDER ONLINE @ MYROSATIS.COM/ROCHELLE.COM

We are now offering
LIPO MINO MIX injections
Introductory price \$25
Call for an Appointment!

This lipotropic combination of B12 and methionine, an essential amino acid and other B vitamins can promote:

- Increase Fat metabolism
- Boost Energy Level
- Reduce appetite

Mon: 7:30 - 6pm, Wed: 7:30 - 6pm, Thurs: 8 - 1pm, Fri: 7:30 - 4pm
Some Saturday appointments available

DLX Medical GROUP
We Accept Most Insurances and Patients Without Insurance

815-227-9594
1212 Currency Ct.
Rochelle IL

WHO IS UNITY HOSPICE?

- Care provided by the entire hospice team: physician, nurse, social worker, certified nursing assistant, chaplain, dietitian, pharmacist, and volunteers.
- Care is individualized and based on the patient's and family's goals of comfort and quality of life.
- Supplies, equipment and medications.
- Service where the patient resides.
- Specialize in pain & symptom management.
- Spiritual enrichment and bereavement counseling.
- Ancillary Therapies: Music, Physical/Occupational, Speech, Massage, Pet, etc.
- Ability to provide education to caregivers and family members.
- On-call nurse available 24/7.
- Volunteers providing special attention and stimulation.
- Assistance with advance directives and community support.
- Provide Education to those we care for

Unity Hospice and Palliative Care
CALL UNITY:
(815) 561-8866
915 N. Caron Rd.
Rochelle, IL

@unityhospice

R.J. Bowers DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

Fall Special Discounts

Karcher Full Size 230V Motor with Fuel Burner
@ 3000 PSI-3.5 GPM Hot Pressure Washer
Get Additional \$500 Off (Ends 11-30-20)

N. Illinois Expert Supplier of Pressure Washers-Parts-Sweepers-Scrubbers
2003 Harrison Ave-Rockford-IL
800-383-6584 815-399-8839

Serving Rochelle for over 52 years

Colonial Flowers & Gifts Shoppe

Enjoy Hometown Hospitality, Discounts and More!

Hours

Monday thru Thursday:
10AM-2PM
Friday: 10AM-6PM
Saturday: 10AM-2PM
Sunday: 10AM-2PM

50% off Santa's Cellar (Seasonal products Excludes antiques)

408 Lincoln Hwy., Rochelle • 815-562-8101
Order online at: floristrochelleil.com

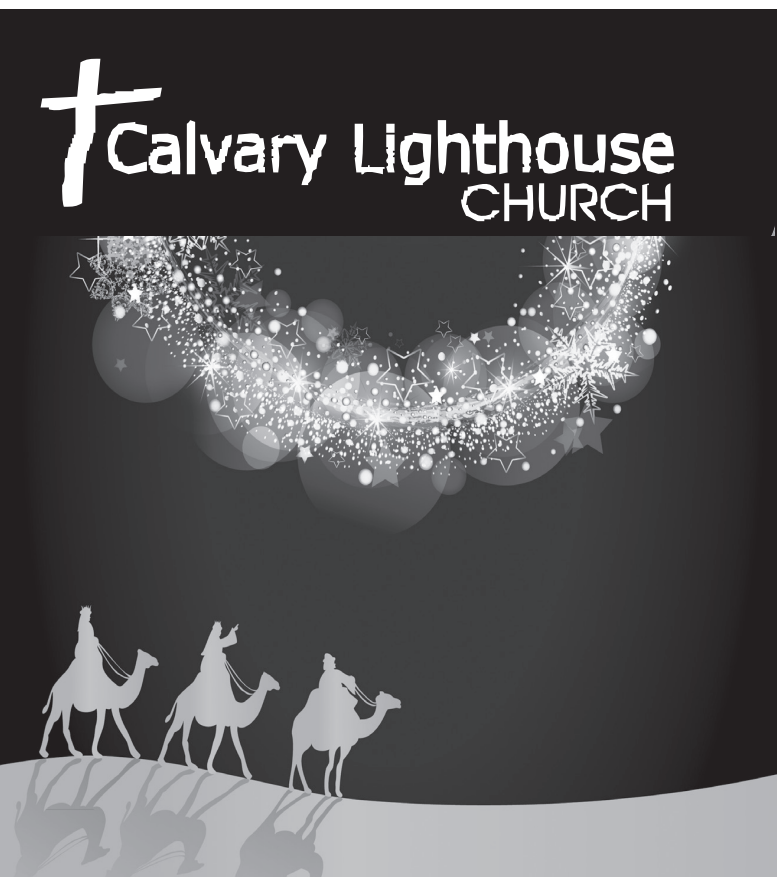
\$100 Move-In Bonus* APARTMENTS NOW AVAILABLE! COUNTRYSIDE VILLAGE

907 N. 2nd Street • Rochelle
For Adults 62+ &/or Persons with a Disability
On-Site Services Coordinator
Affordable Rent is Based on 30% of Income

815-562-8487
www.meridiangroupinc.net
* Offer valid thru 12-31-20



CHRISTMAS *services*



HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 10:00 A.M.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AND FAMILY CHRISTMAS TALENT NIGHT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 6:00 P.M.

MUSIC, DANCE, POETRY & SKITS. FOLLOWING
PERFORMANCE WILL BE A COOKIE WALK.

12022020

CALVARYLIGHTHOUSE.COM | 14409 HEMSTOCK RD., ROCHELLE | 815-562-7701

St. Patrick Catholic Church

Welcomes you and your family

Rev. Jesus Dominguez - Pastor

Please join
us weekly

Saturday Vigil:
5pm

Sunday Mass:
7:30am, 9am - English;
11am - Spanish



Please join us in
celebrating the
miracle of our
Savior's birth!

Christmas Eve:
4, 5:30 & 11:30 p.m. -
English

8pm - Spanish

Christmas Day:
8am - English
11am - Spanish

Reservations are asked in advance so that we may prevent the potential problem of overcrowding at any of the Christmas Masses.

Kelley Drive & Caron Road, Rochelle • 815.562.2370

12022020



Faith Lutheran Church

Reverend Joy L. S. Alsop, Pastor

*Please join us virtually
as we prepare for and
celebrate the birth
of Christ!*

14206 E. Flagg Rd. • Rochelle, IL 61068 • 815-562-7575

*Worship is live
each Sunday at
9:00 a.m.*

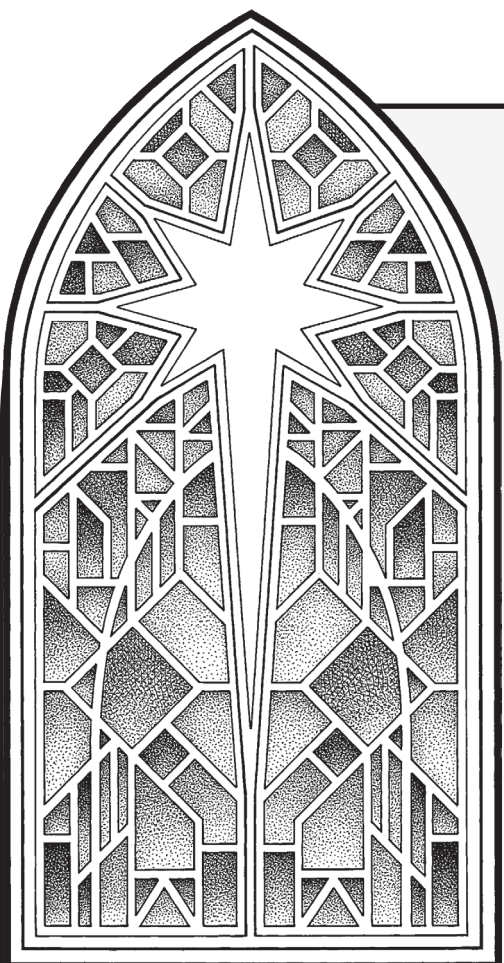
YouTube

*Find us on YouTube -
"Faith Lutheran Social"*

12022020



CHRISTMAS *services*



St. Paul Lutheran Church

1415 Tenth Ave., Rochelle, IL • 815-562-2744

December 24	4pm 7pm	Festival Worship Candlelight Worship - Available on Facebook Live
December 25	9am	Hymns and Word - Available on Facebook Live
December 26	NO Saturday Worship	
December 27	9am	Worship - Available on Facebook Live or Listen at 10am on WRHL 1060AM and 93.5 FM

Facebook Live can be found at
St. Paul Lutheran Church

We are following Covid guidelines of masks, social distancing and sanitizers.

12022020



A PLACE FOR
YOU
THIS CHRISTMAS

Celebrate Christmas 2020 with your local United Methodist Churches!

Whether you plan to celebrate Christmas online, in-person, on the radio, on Youtube, or Facebook the 10 Hub Cluster United Methodist Churches welcome you and your family to join us for Christmas Services. Check out www.UMCHub.org/Christmas or the listed webpage or Facebook page listed for the most up to date info for service or streaming options.

**HUB Cluster
Christmas
Carol Cruise**

Ready to get in the holiday spirit?
Checkout the Hub Cluster
Christmas Carol Cruise. Dec 4-6.
Drive by each of the Hub City
area churches to sing
along and learn the
history of 10 different
Christmas Carols. Scan
this code to learn more.



Ashton United Methodist Church
Facebook search Ashton UMC, Ashton IL

Chana United Methodist Church
www.ChanaChurch.org

Creston United Methodist Church
www.facebook.com/CrestonUMCIL

Esmond United Methodist Church
Facebook search Esmond United Methodist Church, Esmond IL

Franklin Grove United Methodist Church
Facebook search Franklin Grove UMC, Franklin Grove IL

www.facebook.com/NICHUBCluster
YouTube search HUB Cluster

Lighthouse United Methodist Church
www.facebook.com/LighthouseUMCIL

Malta United Methodist Church
Facebook search Malta United Methodist Church, Malta IL

Reynolds United Methodist Church
www.ReynoldsUMC.net

Rochelle United Methodist Church
www.RochelleUMC.com

Steward United Methodist Church
www.facebook.com/StewardILUMC

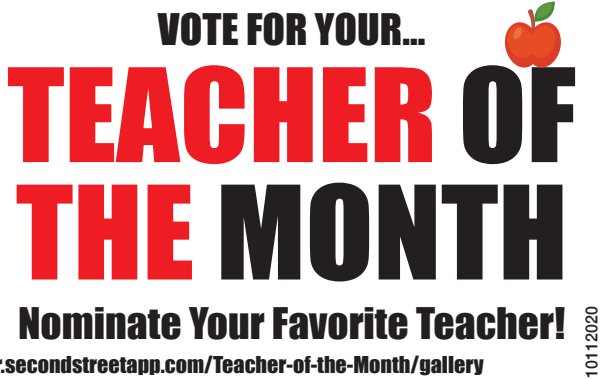


Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

www.UMCHub.org/Christmas



*to the world,
the Lord has come!*



A photograph of a baby and a dog, possibly a Weimaraner, both wearing red Santa hats with white trim. They are lying on a white, fluffy blanket. The baby is on the left, and the dog is on the right, looking towards the camera.

HOLIDAY SLEEP SALE

Sleep like a dream all year

with limited-time savings on today's best comfort mattresses.

A small decorative graphic of holly leaves and red berries.

HUB CITY FURNITURE

A small decorative graphic of holly leaves and red berries.

429-433 Lincoln Hwy. | Rochelle, Illinois | 815-562-8765 | hubcityfurniture.com

90 Days Same as Cash

The Visa logo.

The MasterCard logo.

The Discover logo.

Mon-Fri 9am-5:00 • Sat 9am-4pm • Sun Closed

12/12/18

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



Hub runner Michael Ramsey eager to become an all-around leader at RTHS.

See page 2 for more details

Tearing up the trails

Orlikowski brothers making great strides with Hub varsity team

MA X Orlikowski has one motivator when competing with the Rochelle Township High School cross country and track teams. That's keeping up with his twin brother Luke, who emerged as one of the top varsity harriers for the Hubs during the recent fall cross country season.

Max has run cross country for Rochelle over the last three years, while Luke went out for the team as a sophomore after playing football during his freshman year. Both runners have grown throughout their time with the cross country team, with Luke dropping his personal-record time almost four minutes from his sophomore year to his junior season this year.

"I was convinced to go out for cross country as a way to help me improve for track," Luke said. "I feel my stamina and endurance have improved the most. I want to increase my speed for next season. I thought I

performed really well when compared to last season. Max and I pushed each other by staying with each other in practice or trying to push ahead of each other.”

Luke ran his strongest time of the season during the IHSA 2A Belvidere Regional, clocking in at 19:01.3 after running in the 20-to-21-minute range for most of the season. Max enjoyed a fast start to his cross country career with the Hubs, setting a personal record of 19:38.8 as a freshman at the Freeport Pretzel Invitational. Max has set each of his last two season records at the Interstate 8 Conference Championships, running times in the 21-minute range.

"I thought I did better this year than I did last year," Max said. "I just try to keep up with Luke. I enjoy running and beating my personal record. I think I've improved in running longer distances and I'd like to keep improving in that area. I usually do long jump, the 400 and the 1600 relays in track and field. I enjoy getting better records in the long jump. I just try to stay with Luke."



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Juniors Luke (left) and Max (right) Orlikowski each ran for the Rochelle varsity cross country team this past season. Max has been with the team for three years, while Luke recently finished his second year.

The Orlikowski brothers are both three-sport student-athletes, competing with the cross country, bowling and track teams. Not only will Luke and Max have a chance to

earn varsity roles with the bowling team this coming season, but they will be key pieces of both the track and cross country teams moving forward. The brothers compete in similar events

such as the long jump, the 400-meter dash and the sprint relays, sometimes in the same relay group.

"I think my strength is in the medium-distances races," Luke said. "I compete

in the 400, the 1600 relay and the high jump. I enjoy the meets and being with my teammates the most. Max and I always push each other during speed drills in practice.”

Hayes turning frustration into motivation

Junior sprinter raising expectations after strong freshman season

WHETHER it's through powerwalking with her grandmother, working her cattle, riding her horses or taking up new sports, Lady Hub sprinter Liberty Hayes has been doing everything she can to stay prepared for the upcoming track and field season at Rochelle Township High School.

Hayes has found tremendous success in track since she first began running under coach John Dobbs with the Rochelle Area Track Club in third grade. A former three-time Lutheran State Championship qualifier at St. Paul Lutheran School in Rochelle, Hayes immediately earned varsity roles with the Lady Hubs when she arrived at RTHS during her freshman year.

"I enjoy that track and field is both a team sport and an individual sport where I can compete against myself and others," Hayes said. "I feel a sense of accomplishment after each meet and after every practice. I thought I performed well

during my freshman track season. I was thankful to receive the opportunity to run at the varsity level and I was challenged greatly.”

Hayes began her first indoor season running the 200-meter dash and both sprint relays for Rochelle, helping the Lady Hub varsity team take second in the 800-meter relay during the Warrior Invitational in Sterling. Her outdoor season was headlined by a strong performance in the Ogle County Championships, where she finished second in the 100-meter dash and assisted the 400 and 800-meter relay teams to second and first-place finishes, respectively. Hayes recorded top-8 finishes in both the 100 and 200-meter dash at the IHSA 2A Rochelle Sectional

"I had been used to running the anchor position in the past, but being able to keep the anchor position as a freshman really motivated me to work harder than ever," Hayes said. "Before the sectional meet, coach [Alison] Vrana reminded me that she believed in me, no matter what the outcome was, and that she was proud

of me. I went out and ran my fastest 200-meter time of the season that day. That race was a memory that I will forever hold close to my heart.”

Hayes had been preparing to become a leading contributor for the Lady Hubs as a sophomore. Unfortunately, she and student-athletes across the state lost their track and field seasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hayes was initially in disbelief that her season had been canceled, and although those emotions briefly turned into anger over being unable to train or compete for her team, Hayes has used the loss to set even higher expectations for her junior season.

"I kept replaying all the things I wouldn't be able to achieve or become better at," Hayes said. "I was upset I wouldn't be able to make my coaches or my family proud. Having lost one season, I hope to have the opportunity to work harder than ever and make up for lost time. . . I'm ready to step up and be a team leader and truly support my teammates and coaches. I



Junior Liberty Hayes has earned roles in both the varsity sprints and sprint relays during her time with the Lady Hub track and field team.

hope to place in sectionals and continue competing in the 100 and 200, the sprint relays and even the 400."

With activities largely shut down during the spring and summer, Hayes utilized the modified fall season to play tennis for the Lady Hubs. Hayes, who's also a member of the RTHS varsity cheerleading team, said

she has also been jogging, biking and hiking on her own in order to stay active and ready for the track and field team's eventual return to action next year.

"One area I need to improve will be running the 400 during practice and in meets so I can improve in the 100 and 200," Hayes said. "I'd also like to come

out of the starting blocks stronger to ensure a faster start to each race. I learned I had a love-hate relationship with the 400 during my freshman season. I felt somewhat intimidated, but I received advice from teammates like Abby Tilton, who knew exactly what I needed to hear in order to stay focused.”



The businesses featured on this page are
"Hubs Super Fans"
 They proudly support our local athletes and students.



Please show your appreciation by patronizing their businesses.

WE SUPPORT OUR HUBS!

**GO
HUBS!**

Local People Providing Local Service

Rochelle
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

Water • Waste Water
Electric • Communications

Phone: 815-562-4155 333 Lincoln Highway
Fax: 815-562-5861 Rochelle, IL

www.rmu.net

HS2016

Wendy's
Highway 38
Rochelle, IL

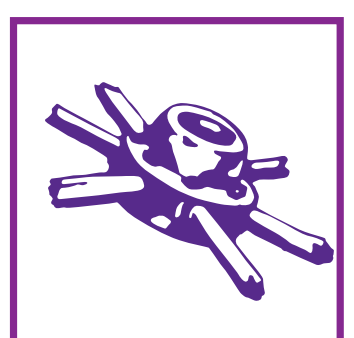


MORTON BUILDINGS
If you can dream it, we can build it.



Rochelle Sales Office • Hwy. 251 N. • 877-613-3050

HSF2016

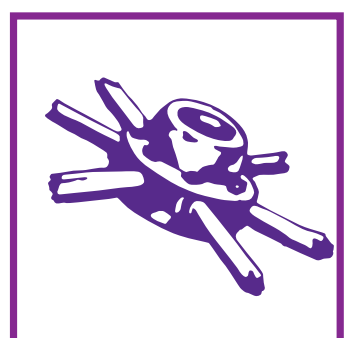


Busy Schedule?
Leave the cooking to us.

- Large menu of foods
- Rochelle's famous chicken by the dinner or bucket
- Hand dipped ice cream (16 flavors)

COUNTRY SCHOOL
DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT
251 N. ROCHELLE • 562-6039

HSF2016



HUB SPOTLIGHT

Ramsey finds success with Hub sprinters

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

HUB sprinter Michael Ramsey was hesitant to take up track and field during his freshman year at Rochelle Township High School. Ramsey didn't know much about the sport and the thought of attempting a new sport in his first year of high school was intimidating.

Ramsey surged past his fears, however, and the result was a successful freshman season that saw him earn roles in Rochelle's varsity sprints and sprint relays. Ramsey dropped his personal-record time in the 200-meter dash by nearly four seconds during the outdoor season, and his personal-best time of 12.26 seconds in the 100-meter dash earned him a top-10 standing at the underclassman level in the Northern Illinois Big 12 Conference Championships.

"What I like most about track and field is the people I meet," Ramsey said. "I have made many new friends in Rochelle and in other towns where we've competed. I felt like I exceeded my expectations. It was my first year and I had little knowledge of the sport, but I eventually made my way onto a few of the varsity relays and I thought we ran better as the season went on."

Ramsey was ready to breakout as a sophomore, lowering his personal record in the 55-meter dash to 7.13 seconds during Rochelle's lone indoor meet of the 2020 season, which was ultimately canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ramsey said he was devastated to learn his season had been lost, but since then, he's been staying prepared for when the Hubs can lace up once again. Now an upperclassman, Ramsey wants to be a role model for all of his teammates.

"I know that if we had a season, our team would have been able to do great things," Ramsey said. "Whenever our school was allowed to hold practices, I was there. I've also met up with some of my teammates and done some workouts to prepare for the upcoming season... I want to be someone who my teammates can count on and I want to be a reason our team does great things this coming season, whether it's through running faster times or motivating others."

"We have many really great coaches guiding us and we have great athletes who are very talented. I know we're capable of placing higher in meets, running faster times and bringing home more awards."

Michael Ramsey



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Michael Ramsey used the RTHS track and field team's fall contact days to stay prepared for next season.

Ramsey has taken to the short sprints during his time with the track and field, often running the 100 and 200-meter dashes. Ramsey said his goals for next season are to improve in the 400-meter dash and increase his stamina. He also said he wants to see the Hubs take the next step.

"We have many really great coaches guiding us and we have great athletes who are very talented," Ramsey said. "I know we're capable of placing higher in meets, running faster times and bringing home more awards... I thought I did well in my shorter races. I need to improve in the 400 because it's one of the hardest races, so I've been working to improve my stamina."



We are
Ogle
County's
only
GM Dealer!

- Collision Repair
- 24 Hour Towing
- New/Preowned Vehicles
- Tires, Alignments, Brakes, Batteries
- Rental Cars
- Maintenance On All Makes and Models

JEFF PERRY

CHEVROLET • BUICK • CADILLAC • JEEP • CHRYSLER
815-562-8787 • www.jeffperrychevrolet.com



209 Powers Road, Hwy 251 N
Rochelle, IL 61068
(815) 562-8792
www.meyersfurniture.com



900 N. 2nd Street, Rochelle
815-562-2181
www.rochellehospital.com

JOHNSON TRACTOR
SALES • PARTS • SERVICE

1030 South 7th Street
800.262.1680

www.johnsontractor.com



Residential & Commercial Roofing
Residential, Concrete
Driveways, Flatwork
and Foundations

• Shingled Roofs
• Flat Roofs
• Metal Roofs For Farm Facilities
• Custom Built Homes
• Additions

Tim & Roger
Bruns, Owners
Established 1997

815-561-0099
Licensed & Insured



HUB-REMSEN
PRINT GROUP

101 Maple Ave • Rochelle, IL 61068
815.562.7057 • hub-remsen.com



926
Custom Embroidery

- Custom Embroidery
- Direct to garment printing
- Custom Heat Transfer
- 1,000's of products available
- Fast Turn Around
- No Minimum Order



Rochelle's #1 Stop for all your Custom Logo Wear Needs.

Downtown Rochelle • 815-561-9500 • 926customembroidery@gmail.com

M-F 10-5, Sat. 9-12

SPORTS

Illinois High School Association

Board of Directors provide update on contact days

IHSA to hold special session after meeting with state officials

BLOOMINGTON — The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Board of Directors met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Dec. 14, 2020, where the board announced a season change for the sport of girls badminton, provided an update on contact days, and reiterated that a timeline on sport schedules for the remainder of the school year will be forthcoming following discussions with state officials. The board voted to move girls badminton from a spring sport to a winter sport within the modified 2020-21 sports calendar.

"Given its status as a low-risk sport, we believe we can safely conduct

badminton in the winter as soon as the current mitigations are lifted," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "The feedback that we have heard from our schools is that this is an optimal time to conduct badminton as they look at balancing sports and facilities throughout the remainder of the school year."

The board also permitted the allowance of contact days for out-of-season IHSA sports (2020-21 fall, spring, & summer sports) as soon as the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Governor Pritzker's office lift Tier 3 mitigations. Contact days will be restricted to six hours per student-athlete

per sport each week, and can include practices, drills, and intra-squad scrimmages allowable under IDPH guidance. Competition against any other high school, conducted in-state or out-of-state, is prohibited.

"The board felt that it was important for the physical and mental health of our student-athletes to resume contacts days for all out-of-season sports as soon IDPH deems it safe," said Anderson. "Winter sports are not included, as we anticipate all low-risk winter sports will be able to begin their seasons at the same time. Basketball remains the outlier in the equation. We hope to be able to conduct basketball

"The board reiterated on Monday that they plan to do everything in their power to provide a season for every IHSA sport in 2020-21. There have been no cancellations of any sports, or discussions about cancelling any sports, thus far."

IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson

during the winter season, but if we cannot, basketball will be provided the same contact day opportunity as we determine where the basketball seasons fits best in the remainder of the school year."

The board plans to meet with representatives from IDPH and the Governor's office prior to January to develop a timeline for

the resumption of winter sports. Following that meeting, the board will call a special meeting to finalize scheduling for the winter, spring, and summer sport seasons.

"The board reiterated on Monday that they plan to do everything in their power to provide a season for every IHSA sport in 2020-21," said Anderson.

"There have been no cancellations of any sports, or discussions about cancelling any sports, thus far. The board appreciates the patience and flexibility of the IHSA membership and remain optimistic, especially as vaccines begin to be administered, that we will return to conducting IHSA sports early in 2021."

Tails Humane Society
PET OF THE WEEK
815.758.2457
www.tailshumanesociety.org



Herbie

Hiya! I'm Herbie, cute as a bug's ear and very smart. I am still very much a pup as I'm only a year old and I'm a wee little guy at only 25lbs! I love toys and running around outdoors. At such a young age I still have some things to learn and I'm willing to put in the work. My manners aren't the best and so I need a patient, confident, experienced dog owner who is willing to put in the time and work to help shape me into the perfect pupper. My pals here at Tails recommend an adult only household for me. I do enjoy the company of dogs sometimes, but it might be best if I was your only pet, at least at first. I'm a very good little boy, I'm housetrained and know several commands, but I just haven't found that Special Somebody yet. Will it be you? And if not, would you please tell all your friends about me? My person HAS to be out there somewhere. P.S. I am staying in a quieter area of the shelter, so please ASK to meet me.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

ROCHELLE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Compassionate, quality care for your companion.

Dr. Nicole Marquardt
Dr. Steve Baker
Dr. Taryn Pfeiffer
Dr. Lynn Deets

A Full-Service Clinic

- Experienced Groomer
- Boarding and Daycare
- Surgical Laser
- X-ray
- Gas Anesthetic
- On-site Laboratory
- Geriatric Care
- Dentistry

www.rochellevet.com

Lobby Hours:
Mon-Fri 8-5
Sat 8-noon

(815) 562-5207
1381 N. 7th St., Rochelle

5 Tips for a Pet-Safe Christmas Tree

1. Securely anchor your tree to keep curious pets from knocking it over!
2. Sweep up pine needles frequently to avoid ingestion
3. Keep glass, breakable or any edible ornaments up high, out of pets reach!
4. Keep pets from drinking tree stand water & don't add toxic preservatives to it!
5. Avoid using tinsel, string or ribbons - they can cause severe damage



Grooming

Trust with a Groomer is important - our Groomer has over 10 years experience & expertise.

Please call for appointments

dachshies to DANES
Boarding And Grooming
815-453-2843
1751 Melugins Grove Rd Steward, IL 60553

Now is a great time to adopt a pet! Call Tails today!

COMMUNITY BOARD

Need to get the word out about a product or service you offer?

Give us a call at 815-562-4171.

We can reach over 9,000 homes!



Advertise Here

What Service Do You Offer?

562-4171

The Rochelle News-Leader

Gutters

THEISEN
ROOFING & SIDING CO., INC.

SEAMLESS GUTTERS

ALL ALUMINUM

- Will Not Rust, Chip Or Peel
- Most Colors Available
- Manufactured On The Job

815-758-8998
257 W. Stephanie Dr., Cortland
www.theiscnroofing.com

Storage Sheds

Rocky Ridge Structures

FREE Sales Rep. Evaluation At Your Site

We Deliver! From Our Lot To Your Site

We Specialize in Portable/Quality Built Storage Sheds

- Stock & Custom Design
- Many Options Available
- Competitive Pricing
- Site Preparation Available

See Displays at 3500 S. Chana Rd. Chana IL 61015
Call Norm or Albert for Free Literature packet
779.861.3542

Plumbing/Heating/Cooling

Anderson Plumbing & Heating Inc.
Serving Rochelle For Over 40 Years

LENNOX
Quality Service • Free Estimates
Residential & Commercial
815-562-8784
Lic.#058-087891

Heating & Air Conditioning

HULL
HVAC & Household Services

Furnaces - Air Conditioners - Boilers
Duct Cleaning - Water Heaters

Precision Furnace
Clean & Check

\$70.00

plus
get a FREE carbon monoxide test.
Expires: 04/30

Ask about our complete
home duct cleaning.

815-561-6551

www.HullHVAC.com

Commercial & Residential Roofing

Bruns
Construction, Inc.

Residential Concrete
Driveways, Flatwork
and Foundations

- Shingled Roofs • Flat Roofs
- Metal Roofs For Farm Facilities
- Custom Built Homes • Additions

FREE ESTIMATES

561-0099

Tim & Roger Bruns, Owners
Established 1997

www.brunsconstructioninc.com

Advertise Here

What Service Do You Offer?

562-4171

The Rochelle News-Leader

Classified Marketplace

FREE!

Sell your household items for free.

 Total value of item must be \$200 or less. (15 words
- one week - 7 publications - price must be listed)


ROCHELLE • HILLCREST • CRESTON • STEWARD • KINGS • ASHTON

101 LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

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.

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

JNJ JUMPERS Indoor/ Outdoor Bounce House Rentals Available Year Round. Please Call 815-784-4256 For Availability or Visit us on Facebook.

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in it's care.

203 HELP WANTED

PART-TIME LPN - CNA - MA - Wanted in Doctor's Office. 815-761-2503. Email jio8082@hotmail.com (01-03-20)

301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 8AM-NOON ONLY. SEE

303 APPLIANCES

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

RECEPTIONIST AT FRONT COUNTER Rochelle News-Leader.

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 & 2 - B E D R O O M Apartments. Clean, Quiet Available Now. Some Utilities Included. Call For Showing 815-762-6650 or 815-761-3968. (12-20-20)

NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION

**NEW, USED
SCRATCH & DENT**
• Refrigerators • Freezers
• Washers/Dryers • Stoves

We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

6331 11th Street, Rockford
815-874-2257



11222020

Healthy Hand Hygiene Habits



Protect yourself against COVID-19 and other diarrheal and respiratory illnesses, and help prevent the spread of germs to others, by following these simple hand hygiene guidelines:

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water, lathering for at least 20 seconds.
2. If soap is unavailable, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol to clean your hands.

Wash your hands throughout the day, and particularly under these circumstances:

- Before preparing food
- Before eating
- After using the toilet
- After changing a diaper or helping a child use the toilet
- Before and after exposure to someone who is sick
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
- After touching an animal or picking up animal waste
- After handling pet food or treats
- After handling garbage or garbage cans
- Before and after attending to a cut or wound

Information resource: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

ROCHELLE
News-Leader

Proper handwashing helps all of us stay healthy, so remember to be aware and do your part to help protect yourself and others!

MILESTONE INC.



Building Lives, Building Futures

URGENTLY HIRING!

With a great job, come great benefits!

Available positions:

RN - New Grads - \$30.97
LPN - New Grads - \$24.97
Nursing Sign-On Bonus \$5,250.00
New Increased Nursing Rates based on Experience!
Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional - \$18.05
Direct Service Providers - Up to \$12.95/hr.
Cook - \$12.08

Head to our website to apply:

www.milestone-inc-il.org

Please contact the Human Resources department if you have any questions at 815-639-2849 or by email at hr@milestone-inc.org

Equal Opportunity Employer

12162020

4060 McFarland Road, Rockford, IL, 61111

Want To Teach Your Kids About Responsibility?

The Rochelle News-Leader has three openings for newspaper carriers.

- Must be 10 years or over
- 2 deliveries per week
- Most routes take less than 45 minutes
- No collecting
- A great place to teach your child about responsibility - and the rewards of earning their own spending money
- Adult carriers are welcome, too!

Contact Wanda at the Rochelle News-Leader office
211 E. Hwy. 38,
561-2112



ROUTE 13-14
NORTH 6TH STREET AND
NORTH 7TH STREET AND
AVENUES IN BETWEEN
ROUTE 24-25
SOUTH 1ST, 2ND 3RD
STREETS & AVENUE IN
BETWEEN
ROUTE 28
SOUTHVIEW DR., WILLIS
AVE., LAKE LIDA LANE
AREA

HW

BUY! BUY! BUY!
SELL! SELL! SELL!

SPORTS

NIU Football



(PHOTO BY STEVE KING/EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY)

Season closes with loss to Eastern Michigan

Eagles defeat winless NIU team 41-33

YPSILANTI, Mich. — Eastern Michigan led the Northern Illinois University Huskies by 17 points three times in the second half before turning back a late NIU rally to claim a 41-33 win in the season finale for both teams.

With the loss, NIU completed the shortened, six-game 2020 Mid-American Conference season with an 0-6 record while Eastern Michigan finished at 2-4.

Freshman Harrison Waylee recorded his second straight 100-yard rushing game with 122 yards on 23 carries, and back-up quarterback Dustin Fletcher provided a spark in the second half with 63 yards on 11 carries. Quarterback Ross

Bowers completed 22-of-37 passes for 221 yards with touchdown passes to Tyrice Richie, Messiah Travis and Cole Tucker. Senior Kyle Pugh led the Huskie defense with nine tackles, while freshman Devonte O'Malley recorded a pair of tackles for loss, a quarterback sack and forced a fumble.

"Obviously the end result is disappointing," said NIU head coach Thomas Hammock. "I appreciate the fight of our young men, they kept fighting for four quarters. We didn't make enough plays early in the game to keep it closer than what it was. For us, it's going to be a critical offseason."

NIU fell behind 41-24 with 10:14 to play on a

one-yard touchdown run by Eastern Michigan quarterback Preston Hutchinson. After a Huskie punt, EMU got the ball on its 20, but lost 18 yards on a bad snap. Two plays later, NIU's Michael Kennedy tackled Hutchinson in the end zone for a safety. With 3:20 to play, Eastern Michigan led 41-26.

NIU's Trayvon Rudolph returned the free kick 36 yards to the NIU 48 and three Bowers completions — to Daniel Crawford for 11 yards, Richie for 13 and Trayvon Rudolph for 11 — along with a pass interference penalty on Eastern Michigan, put the Huskies on the EMU 3-yard line.

See NIU page 6

GET TWO GREAT GIFTS IN ONE BUY!



Start or Renew a 52-Week News-Leader Subscription for

\$99*

just

PLUS get a Rotary Cash Calendar

FREE!

(\$134 total value!)

You can't beat this holiday gift deal!

ROCHELLE News-Leader

211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle, IL 61068
815.562.4171 | www.rochellenews-leader.com

* Offer expires December 31, 2020



The 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients: Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.

OUR CHARITIES NEED OUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!



For Just \$20 you have a chance to be one of **365 DAILY WINNERS TOTAL CASH PRIZES \$18,250** PLUS Each Calendar Has VALUABLE LOCAL COUPONS

Here are 3 Ways to Purchase Your 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

• **ONLINE:** Go to <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org> and click on **PURCHASE CALENDARS**. Once the calendar is purchased we will mail it out to you! Shipping and processing fees will be added to cost.

• **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:

In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest
In Oregon at: Merlins
In Dixon at: Shining Star
In Amboy at: Amboy News Office

• **BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

YES! Send me my 2021 From The Heart Cash Calendar!
(Please Print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF CALENDARS: _____

Clip and mail this form along with \$22
(\$20 per calendar plus \$2 per calendar postage) to:
Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068

is the permanent, clog-free gutter solution!*

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free

QUALITY TESTED GOOD HOUSEKEEPING 1909

LeafGuard 15 YEARS BACKED BY THE SEAL

- LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
- MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM.
- SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH

ENGLERT LeafGuard®

815-673-7532

Call Today for Your FREE Estimate!

85% OFF LABOR**

PLUS RECEIVE A \$25 LOWE'S GIFT CARD

WITH FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE!†

**Does not include cost of material. Expires 12/31/20. †All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$25 gift card. Retail value is \$25. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail or e-mailed within 30 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Lowe's and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Expires 12/31/20.

SPORTS

NIU: Huskies finish shortened season with 0-6 record

From page 5

Bowers hit Tucker for the 3-yard score and John Richardson's PAT narrowed the lead to 41-33 with 2:16 to play.

Eastern Michigan recovered the onside kick attempt before the Huskie defense came up with a stop. The EMU punt was downed at the five-yard line with 1:00 to play. Bowers completed passes to Crawford, Travis and Richie to the NIU 46 before a penalty on the Huskies pushed NIU back and effectively ended the comeback attempt.

"It was just too little, too late," Hammock said. "We came out in the third quarter and had a good drive going. We converted on a short pass on third down, then fumbled and they picked it up and scored. These kids fought to the end, they didn't give up and that's going to serve us well long term."

NIU received the second half kickoff and drove into EMU territory. Bowers completed a seven-yard third down pass for an apparent first down before the ball was stripped by Eastern Michigan's Kempton Shine and returned 61 yards for a touchdown by Mark Lee, Jr., giving EMU a 27-10

lead less than two minutes into the second half.

NIU responded with a 10-play, 76-yard drive to trim the lead back to 10. Erin Collins scored on a nine-yard run after Fletcher picked up 28 yards to the Eastern Michigan eight-yard line. Fletcher gained 50 total yards on the ground on the drive as the Huskies narrowed the gap to 27-17.

EMU once again extended the lead, driving 75 yards in just seven plays to extend the lead once again. Darius Boone Jr. scored from 18 yards out to give EMU a 34-17 lead with 5:43 to play in the third quarter. The Huskies cut the deficit back to 10 as Bowers connected with Travis on an 18-yard pass play. The redshirt freshman tiptoed down the sideline for the score, completing a 10-play, 73-yard drive that took 6:04 off the clock.

Eastern Michigan took a 7-0 lead on a 14-yard pass from Hutchinson to Tanner Knue after a 10-play, 68-yard opening drive and extended the lead to 10-0 at 5:45 of the first quarter on a 39-yard field goal by Chad Ryland.

NIU broke through on the ensuing possession with Waylee's 19-yard run kick-starting a 43-

yard, nine-play drive to the EMU 27-yard line. From there, Richardson's season-long 46-yard field goal was good as the Huskies pulled within seven, 10-3.

The Huskies tied the score just minutes later after Richardson's kickoff bounced off several EMU players and was recovered by NIU's Jyrant Mitchell at the Eastern Michigan 24-yard line. After a 5-yard completion to Rudolph, Bowers hit Richie on a short swing pass and the receiver did the rest of the work, taking it 19 yards for the touchdown, his fourth consecutive game with a touchdown.

EMU came right back with a 10-play, 71-yard drive to take 17-10 lead. After picking up 56 of the 71 yards on the ground, Hutchinson hit Dylan Drummond for an eight-yard touchdown with 13:15 to play in the half.

The Huskies went three and out, but Matt Ference's 60-yard punt forced EMU to start at its own nine-yard line. The Eagles picked up a quick first down before back-to-back sacks by freshmen Jordan Hansen and James Ester led to an EMU punt.

Bowers' fourth down pass to Dennis Robinson was knocked down to end



(PHOTO BY STEVE KING/EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY)

NIU's next possession and the Eagles took advantage of good field position and drove to the NIU three-yard line. From there, the Huskie defense stiffened, forcing Eastern Michigan to try a 24-yard Ryland field goal, which was good for a 20-10 EMU lead with 3:40 left in the half.

NIU forced another turnover before halftime

with O'Malley's sack causing a fumble which Pugh recovered at the Huskie 25-yard line to stop an Eastern Michigan drive.

Despite the loss, Hammock was grateful for the season and the experience gained by the young team.

"I'm happy we had the opportunity to play," Hammock said. "I don't look at the record as the end result,

you have to look at the process of where we're going, where we're headed. To me, a lot of guys got experience. We're going to have 11 starters back on defense, six will still be true freshmen. To me it's a launching point—we need to have a great offseason, get a lot stronger, a lot bigger and we look forward to attacking the offseason."



Kishauwau's Starved Rock Area Cabins
4.9 ★★★★★ 259 Google reviews
●●●●● 260 reviews TripAdvisor



Ask About Our
DOG FRIENDLY
Cabins

Not doing the traditional
Thanksgiving this year?
Consider
Kishauwau Cabins.



Family reunions, single family vacations
or romantic couples getaways

The Perfect
Social
Distancing
GETAWAY



17 WELL SPACED CABINS IN VARYING SIZES SPREAD THROUGHOUT 65 ACRES OF WOODED PROPERTY, ALL JUST A 10 MINUTE DRIVE FROM STARVED ROCK & MATTHIESSEN STATE PARKS. 12 OF OUR CABINS OFFER HUGE DOUBLE SIZED WHIRLPOOL TUBS FOR THE PERFECT ROMANTIC GETAWAY. FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 30 YEARS. OUR CABINS ALL OFFER CENTRAL AIR & HEAT, FULL KITCHENS, PERSONAL OUTDOOR BONFIRE PITS, PICNIC TABLES & GRILLS. COME ENJOY THE QUIET NATURE GETAWAY KISHAUWAW OFFERS TODAY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SPEAKING WITH YOU SOON.

KishauwauCabins.com

901 N. 2129th Rd. • Tonica, IL • 815-442-8453