



# ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM



Vol. 101 • No. 46

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020

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## KNOW IT TODAY



### Special performance

High school band director invites musicians in community to take part in Saturday musical event.  
**See page 3**

### WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
74 41	72 49
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
79 60	77 51

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### OBITUARIES

- LAURIE BALLWAHN
- TINA LOCKARD
- SHIRLEY PATRICK

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### INSERTS

- ALDI
- FARM & FLEET
- SWEDISH AMERICAN

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# Paid-on-call volunteers needed

Fire Prevention Week is the perfect time to answer the call to become a volunteer

**ROCHELLE** — All fire departments within the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District are asking the community for its help as they are currently in need of more paid on-call volunteers.

The Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District consists of four different fire departments that work and train together as one unit. The departments include Hillcrest, Creston, Flagg Center and Steward. All are in need of volunteers.

Paid on-call volunteers are called in for help anytime the department needs the extra hands, whether full-time employees are on vacation or out on other calls. The Rochelle Fire Department currently has 26 paid on-call volunteers, but some are more active than others. While these volunteers can be called in at any time of the day or night, the department is especially in need of individuals who can be available between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

"We staff four firefighters a day, essentially enough for one call," said Rochelle Fire Chief Dave Sawlsville. "But, frequently we will get simultaneous calls, we will get two or three ambulance calls going at the same time. When this happens, we have to use our full-timers and call in our paid on-calls at the same time."

### Requirements

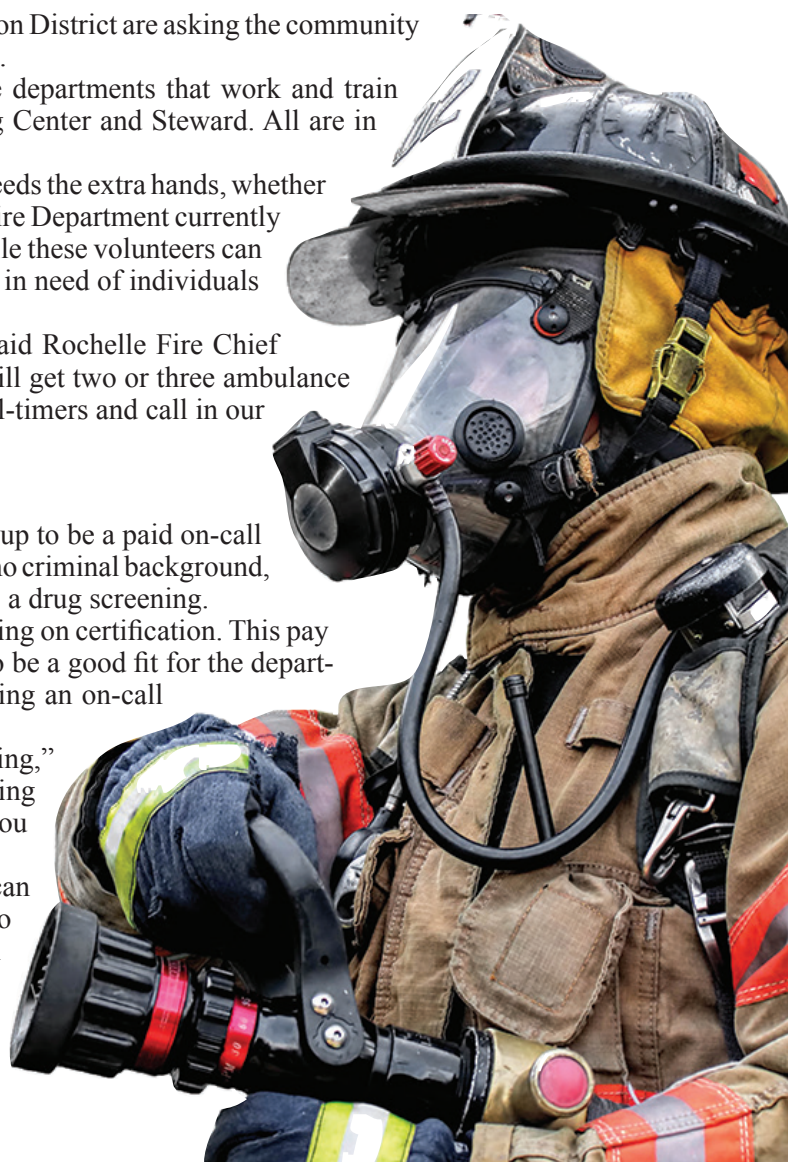
Anybody who is over the age of 18 and under the age of 65 can sign up to be a paid on-call volunteer, as long as they meet four requirements: Individuals must have no criminal background, a valid driver's license, an equivalent to a high school diploma and pass a drug screening.

Pay for on-call volunteers starts at a minimum of \$12 per hour depending on certification. This pay can go up or even turn into a full-time position if an individual seems to be a good fit for the department. Along with the pay and helping local communities stay safe, being an on-call volunteer also offers valuable experience.

"Once you become a volunteer, we send you through a lot of training," Sawlsville said. "We will get you licenses in Emergency Medical Training and we will send you through a basic operations firefighters class to get you certified as a firefighter."

Anyone interested in signing up to become a paid on-call volunteer can get an application from their local fire department on Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. Applications for any department in the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District can also be acquired by stopping by the Rochelle Fire Department, located at 401 5th Ave. in Rochelle.

"I would like to emphasize that all five stations are really looking hard and could use the help," Sawlsville said. "If you have an interest and the time, you are going to be helping out your community and your own neighbor."



### Statue installed

On Tuesday, the statue of the soldier overlooking the War Memorial was installed on the pedestal at Lawnridge Cemetery facing the engraved bricks of the veterans honored at the memorial. Above, John Beck, from the City of Rochelle, and his crew lifted the 600-pound statue into place on the pedestal. The Rochelle Veterans War Memorial Association plans to meet and discuss options for a dedication ceremony, most likely to be held around Veterans Day. This is the very first piece of bronze art to be placed in Rochelle. The piece, shown at left, was sculpted by Fran Volz.

## Village sets trick-or- treat hours

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**CRESTON** — Village of Creston officials set trick-or-treating hours for Halloween during the October board meeting at Creston Village Hall on Tuesday.

Trick-or-treating will take place from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31. Village trustees recommended that those handing out candy or participating in Halloween activities practice social distancing and wear masks due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"We need to reiterate all safety aspects," Village President Wayne Williams said.

### Old Business

Village trustees discussed ideas to honor former village president William Heal during Tuesday's board meeting. A founding member of the Creston Booster Club, Heal passed away in April at the age of 93. Heal served as village president from 1982-2007.

Some ideas include hanging a plaque inside Village Hall and putting a bench in the Creston Booster Park. Village Trustee Tom Byro will continue leading discussions with the Heal family.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Recognition



In recognition of Constitution Week honoring the signing of the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787, 19 members of the Rochelle Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution are shown with their newly dedicated U.S. flag, which had recently been flown over Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

## DAR's "In Her Shoes" program to support HOPE of Ogle County

**ROCHELLE** — In partnership with Hope of Ogle County, the Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will hold its next meeting on Saturday, Oct. 10 beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Creston Opera House.

The Financial Justice edition of "In Her Shoes," a socially distanced, experience based, domestic violence, community education event will be presented. The event is open to the public (suggested age high school and above) who should plan to arrive any time between 1:30 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. to participate in the self-paced scenario.

There is no charge for tickets, but donations for HOPE of local gift cards valued at \$10 to \$20 would be appreciated. The



Rochelle Chapter will also be presenting three scenarios, one each in three separate Zoom sessions for those who wish to participate virtually. The Zoom sessions are scheduled at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10, and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11. Contact the chapter via email at [ViceRegent.DAR.Rochelle@gmail.com](mailto:ViceRegent.DAR.Rochelle@gmail.com) for the Zoom links.



## Steward United Methodist Women hosting drive-thru dinner event

**STEWART** — The Steward United Methodist Women will host a drive-thru turkey supper on Thursday, Oct. 8.

The supper will be held at the Steward United Methodist Church,

507 Main Street in Stewart, and will be carry-out only. Dinners will be served first come, first served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The menu includes homemade turkey, dress-

ing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, rolls, coleslaw, cranberry sauce and bakery pie.

Meals cost \$12 for adults, \$6 for ages 5 to 10 and free for children 4 and under.

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# LOCAL NEWS



Pictured left to right are Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger, Board of Commissioners President Tim Hayden, Stillman Bank President and COO Tom Hughes and Vice President of Retail Banking at Stillman Bank Kathleen Yocum.

## Stillman Bank partners with park district

**ROCHELLE** — On Tuesday, the Rochelle Community Park District announced a partnership with Stillman Bank. As part of the partnership, Stillman Bank has committed \$20,000 to the park district's REC Center project.

The REC Center is 91,000 sq ft of RECREATIONAL space for all to play, learn, compete and connect. The REC will allow for a variety of activities — from basketball, soccer, football, golf, volleyball, soft/baseball with the indoor turf and multi-purpose flooring in the fieldhouse; to swimming, water aerobics, and swim lessons in the aquatic center. A state-of-the-art fitness center and group fitness classroom as well as two multi-purpose rooms and an outdoor patio for gathering space are included. The lobby is open flexible space for small organization meetings, social gatherings and so much more.

"On behalf of the board, staff and all of the local tax payers that we represent, we would like to extend

our gratitude to Stillman Bank for their generous contribution to The REC," Tim Hayden, Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District board president said. "The REC will be a wonderful community asset for many years to come and we are proud to call Stillman Bank a partner in the successful community events that will happen within those walls. The support of local business, like the support of the residents, is appreciated as we bring a new asset to our community."

"As a locally-owned and headquartered financial institution, we have been committed to our communities for over 138 years," stated Martin C. Larson, Stillman Bank chairman and CEO. "It is an honor to partner with the Rochelle park district, as they provide such beneficial services to Rochelle and the surrounding area. We are excited about the new opportunities The REC Center will bring and are delighted to do our part in helping make this vision a reality."

Larson also acknowledged that Stillman Bank is making their contribution in recognition of Dick Gensler's 21 years of service on the Stillman Bank Board of Directors.

"Dick has always been proud to be a citizen of Rochelle and we hope this donation helps illustrate his mission and continued commitment to the Rochelle community," Larson said.

Stillman Bank is a local, independently-owned community bank founded in 1882 and has been meeting the financial needs of its customers in northern Illinois for over 138 years. Stillman Bank has remained independently owned since its founding and is one of only a few banks in the area that remains locally headquartered. With six locations throughout Ogle and Winnebago County, they strive to provide service that exceeds their customers' expectations while offering the latest in financial products, services, and technology.

## Lift your voice Saturday night

**ROCHELLE** — After participating in a previous musical performance with fellow alumni teachers, Rochelle Township High School Band Director Shaun Schaefer invited band students to participate in an upcoming performance.

The Lift Your Voice project will take place on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

"The musicians who organized this are teachers in the school district that I grew up in, Indian Prairie School District 204 in Aurora and Naperville. I know several of the teachers through playing in the district alumni band that they run, and I participated in the project back in May when they ran the first distanced performance," Schaefer explained.

The musically distanced performance is designed for all musicians — instrumentalist and vocalists of all ages and skill levels — to perform right from home continuously at the same time.

"When I heard about this second performance that they were planning, I wanted to extend the opportunity to our students to participate since our performance opportunities have been limited during this pandemic," Schaefer said. "I've also encouraged students to have their family members participate if they play an instrument, as it's important to me that students know music can be a lifelong pursuit, and that it doesn't have to end once they graduate from high school."

Participants are encouraged to perform the specific piece, Simple Gifts, from outside their home whether from the front yard, back yard, balcony, porch or just from an open window. Music for the piece can be found at <https://liftyourvoice2020.weebly.com/>

"A performance like this is an opportunity to beautify the community through sound, if even for a few fleeting moments," Schaefer said.



Rochelle Township High School Hub Marching Band member Evin Odle practices his piece on the trumpet for the Saturday Life Your Voice performance.

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# LOCAL NEWS



Pictured left to right are Emily Pratt, Senator Brian Stewart and Leonard Sheaffer.

## Stewart named Friend of Agriculture

**BLOOMINGTON** — Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) ACTIVATOR recently announced that it has designated State Senator Brian Stewart of the 45th Senate District as a Friend of Agriculture.

“Senator Stewart consistently has shown his support for agriculture during his term,” said Don Meyer, Lee County Farm Bureau president. “He is truly deserving to be recognized as a Friend of Agriculture.”

IFB ACTIVATOR designates legislators as a Friend of Agriculture and endorses them because they demonstrate an understanding of the important

role agriculture plays in Illinois. Those designated a Friend of Agriculture have shown they support the farmers of their district and the issues important to them.

ACTIVATOR, Illinois Farm Bureau’s Political Involvement Fund, is a voluntary, non-profit, segregated fund promoting the economic and social well-being of farmers which seeks to help elect pro-farm candidates no matter their party affiliation. ACTIVATOR trustees are local Farm Bureau leaders representing each county in the Illinois General Assembly Legislative District.

## Extension given on expired licenses

**SPRINGFIELD** — Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that expiration dates for driver’s licenses and ID cards have been extended an additional three months – from Nov. 1 until Feb. 1, 2021.

This new Feb. 1 extension also includes those who have October, November, December and January expiration dates. As a result, expired driver’s licenses and ID cards

will remain valid until Feb. 1, 2021, so customers do not need to rush into Driver Services facilities during the pandemic.

License plates stickers remain extended until Nov. 1 as they can easily be renewed online.

White recently extended the driver’s license expiration date by one year for qualified drivers age 75 and older. The new expiration date is their birthday in 2021.

### Obituaries

## Laurie Ballwahn

**ROCHELLE** — On July 15, 2020 with her three children and her family there, our beautiful Mother, Laurie Kaye Ballwahn, 69 of Rochelle, passed on from this world into God’s care. We told her to go and we would find our way. One tear fell from her eye and God whisked her away.

Laurie was born in Sycamore, to the late Keith and Joan (Beck) Densborn. She grew up in Sycamore, and was a 1969 graduate of Sycamore High School. Laurie married Steven J. Du Prey in 1969 and together they have three children, Heather (Christopher Tenggren) Wiedrich, Angela (Jeremy) Adams, all of Rochelle, and Jason (Tonia) Du Prey of Salem, Wisconsin; and six grandchildren, Joshua, Zachary, Kayden, Dylan, Alexa and Matrix.

Laurie later married Larry L. Ballwahn in 1989 and welcomed his children, Teresa (Todd) Busch of McQueeney, Texas, and the late Anthony Ballwahn of Genoa; and four more grandchildren, Derek (Cory Brooks) Hodg-

son, Deniel (Travis) Robbins, and AJ (Laura) Busch, all of Texas, and Logan (Jacob) Coronado of Utah; and seven great-grandchildren of Texas and Utah.

Laurie is survived by her husband, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her great-aunts Jane Vandenburg of Sycamore and June Cadie of DeKalb, her sister-in-law Colleen (Gordy) Winchel of Belvidere, her Godson and nephew Ryan Vandenburg of Sycamore and many cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her baby brother, Gregory Keith; her step-son; her grandparents; and aunts and uncles and great-grandparents.

Special thanks to the staff at Serenity House in Oregon and to Pastor Doug Cowan of First Baptist Church in Rochelle for being there for our mother and our family. A memorial is established for First Baptist Church, 810 Woolf Court, Rochelle, IL 61068.

At Laurie’s request, there will be no services.

## Tina Lockard

**BYRON** — Tina Marie (Catron) Lockard, 58, passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, Oct. 2, 2020, surrounded by her children and husband of 31 years.



Tina was the daughter of the late Rufus and Helen (Richardson) Catron and the youngest of the seven children. In 1989 she married the love of her life, Michael Lockard. Tina was 18 when she began working at Rochelle Pharmacy. She was passionate about helping others, especially her customers. This year Tina won Illinois Pharmacy Technician of the Year, with over 90 letters of recommendation from customers and co-workers.

She loved traveling, boating, spending the day at the sandbar, and spending time at their Florida home, and cooking (from the heart) for her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and her brothers, Lohman Catron and Richard Catron.

She is survived by her husband, Michael, and

children, Eric (Jamie) Herrmann and Boone Lockard (Megan Carbon); one grandchild Colton Herrmann; furry-baby Brynley; father-in-law “Dad” Charles (Connie) Lockard; mother-in-law Dorothy Lockard; her sisters, Sheryl Gammon, Peggy Jones and Sheila Catron; her brother, Edward Catron; brother-in-laws, Doug (Heidi) Lockard and Kent Harrison; sister-in-law, Michelle Lockard; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A private family ceremony will be held on Monday, her ashes will be spread at “Her Happy Place,” a little island at Clearwater Beach, Florida.

Those who knew Tina know that she hated being fussed over and would rather give than receive. In lieu of funeral services, and to honor Tina’s character, we ask that all who wish to participate make donations to Serenity Hospice 1658 S. Illinois Route 2 Oregon, IL 61061.

Tina’s Facebook page will remain open and all are welcome to post memories and final words to her there.

## Shirley Patrick

**ROCHELLE** — Shirley Jean Patrick, 82, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020 at her home with her family by her side.

Arrangements are pending with the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com).



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# LOCAL NEWS

## Department of public health urges flu shots as COVID-19 continues to spread

1,617 new cases, 32 additional deaths reported Tuesday

BY PETER HANCOCK  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS/PHANCOCK@  
CAPITOLNEWSILLINOIS.COM

**SPRINGFIELD** — State officials on Tuesday urged Illinoisans to get their seasonal flu vaccinations as a way to conserve medical resources for COVID-19 patients. “There is the potential that people could become co-infected with both flu and COVID-19,” Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said in a statement. “Although a COVID-19 vaccine is still being developed and tested, we do have a vaccine to combat this season’s anticipated flu viruses. I want to challenge everyone to roll their #SleeveUp and show us you that you’ve received your flu shot and are committed to protect those around you.”

Although the seasonal flu is significantly less lethal than COVID-19, many of the initial symptoms of both illnesses are similar — coughs, fevers, chills and shortness of breath.

Increasing the number of people who are vaccinated for the flu, IDPH said, can help reduce the number of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths. That, in turn, would help reduce the burden on the state’s medical system and save medical resources for COVID-19 patients.

That plea came as the number of people hospitalized for COVID-19 in Illinois as of Monday night rose to 1,673, an increase of 42 over the previous day, although that number

“Although a COVID-19 vaccine is still being developed and tested, we do have a vaccine to combat this season’s anticipated flu viruses. I want to challenge everyone to roll their #SleeveUp and show us you that you’ve received your flu shot and are committed to protect those around you.”

**Dr. Ngozi Ezike**

often fluctuates widely on a daily basis. Of those, 384 patients were in intensive care units, including 159 who were on ventilators.

IDPH also reported Tuesday that 1,617 new cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed over the previous 24 hours out of 49,513 tests performed, making for a single-day positivity rate of 3.3 percent. The seven-day rolling average positivity rate held steady at 3.4 percent. There have now been 305,011 cases of the disease in Illinois since the pandemic began.

On a regional basis, Region 1 in northwest Illinois continued to have the highest positivity rate, at 8.5 percent, as of Oct. 3, the most recent date for which data was available. Public health officials imposed additional mitigation efforts in that region effective Saturday, Oct. 3.

In Region 4, which includes the Metro East area across the border from St. Louis, the positivity rate stood at 6.7 percent on Oct. 3.

Enhanced mitigation measures

in those regions will only be lifted when they reach an average positivity rate of 6.5 percent for three consecutive days.

Officials also reported an additional 32 confirmed virus-related deaths on Tuesday, bringing the statewide total to 8,836 since the pandemic first appeared in Illinois. That means about 2.9 percent of those who have tested positive for the virus in Illinois have died, although the number of cases is likely understated as many can have the virus but be asymptomatic, meaning they would not get tested.

According to estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the death rate from seasonal flu during the 2017-2018 flu season was less than 0.2 percent.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has already killed more than 200,000 Americans, the deadliest flu year since 2010, which occurred in 2017-18, claimed 61,000 lives, according to preliminary estimates from the CDC.

## Arrest made following disturbance

On Sept. 29 at 6:07 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to the 6000 block of S. Sarah Avenue in Rochelle for the report of a disturbance. After an investigation, Corey Carter, 36, of Steward, was arrested for battery. Carter was released from the scene on an I-Bond and will appear in court at a later date.

On Sept. 30, Daniel Rice, 40, of Muscatine, Iowa, was arrested on a driving while license suspended warrant. Rice was given a bond of \$3,000/10 percent. Rice was scheduled to appear in court Sept. 30.

On Oct. 1, Jacob A. Haws, 34, of Rockford, was arrested on a for failure to appear warrant. Haws had a bond of \$2,625.50. Haws was able to post the \$2,625.50 and was released from jail.

On Oct. 3 at 12:27 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff’s deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 19000 block of East Illinois Route 64 for an equipment violation. After an investigation, Malcom Mcneal, 37, of Rockford, was arrested for driving on a revoked license. Mcneal was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Oct. 3 at approximately 2:11 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff’s deputies responded to the intersection of Allen and Second Streets in Holcomb for a property damage accident. After investigation, deputies placed Jeremy Probasco, 32, of Holcomb, under arrest for driving while license revoked. Probasco was additionally issued citations for failure to yield, expired registration and operating an uninsured vehicle. Probasco was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Oct. 2 at approximately 11:55 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff’s deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation, deputies arrested Robert Curatola II, 33, of Oregon, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Curatola II also received citations for equipment violation and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Curatola II was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

### Report policy

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

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

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# LOCAL VIEWS

## Guest column

## Removing Justice Kilbride affects the independence of the judiciary

**L**AST week, I picked my 15-year-old daughter up from school and told her I had an interview with a Supreme Court justice that afternoon.

She gasped, “Re-ally, Daddy? That’s impressive.”

I said, “Yes, I’ve known Justice Tom Kilbride for 30 years. He’s a good guy.” “Oh, he’s just an Illinois Supreme Court justice,” my no longer impressed daughter said as she stuck her nose back in a book.

When I related this story to Kilbride, he howled with laughter.

That’s Tom Kilbride: a man void of pretension.

Every decade, voters are asked if the Supreme Court justice representing their district should be retained. Sixty percent must say “yes” for the judge to stay on the bench. And this year, it’s Kilbride’s turn to be on the bubble.

Or perhaps it would be more accurate to say he’s in the crosshairs. Monied special interests have made him a target.

For example, billionaire Wisconsin businessman Dick Uihlein, founder of Uline shipping and office products, has given \$250,000 toward removing Kilbride. The Judicial Fairness Project, a dark money group that does not disclose its donors, gave \$200,000.

Illinois Chamber of Commerce CEO Todd Maisch also is calling for Kilbride to be ousted. He was quoted in Crain’s Chicago saying the judge “has been a consistent supporter of organized labor and trial lawyers,” to the detriment of the state’s economy.

Oh, please. Maisch, Uihlein and their ilk have one beef with Kilbride: he’s a Democrat.

And those folks want a Republican in the spot.

During his two-decades on the high court, Kilbride has carved a pragmatic, moderate path. He’s known for his bipartisanship. He’s neither the most liberal member of the court nor the most conservative.

I’ve read his decisions. I agree with many and disagree with some. But I’ve found all of them

well-reasoned. Republican Bob Thomas, served 20 years on the high court with Kilbride and likely was the most conservative person on the court during his tenure. But he has endorsed retaining Kilbride, calling him honorable, independent and thoughtful.

“There is a reason judges wear black robes,” Kilbride told me. “You wouldn’t want them wearing red or blue robes saying they are ‘Republican’ or ‘Democrat.’ You want them to be neutral. You may get elected to the court as a Republican or a Democrat, but you don’t function as one once you are on the court,” he said.

Justices fill vacancies on lower courts and Kilbride routinely fills those spots in his district with both Republicans and Democrats, said Peoria lawyer Tim Bertschy, who heads Kilbride’s judicial selection committee.

“Never once has party affiliation played a role in selecting a judge. Tom has been very clear that he wants just quality judges. When we interview candidates, political affiliation or political activity is not brought up or considered.”

Not all members of the high court have this policy. Some only appoint members of their own party.

Jim Nowlan, a former Republican state representative, is chairing the committee trying to oust Kilbride. He

said they hope to leave the Supreme Court deadlocked 3-3 between Republicans and Democrats, if his group is successful in getting Kilbride removed.

“That way when Mike Madigan comes out with his (redistricting) map, we can have a judge – from outside Cook County – rule its unconstitutional and the supreme court will be deadlocked and unable to reach a majority to overturn the decision.

He presumes the high court would also be deadlocked in picking a replacement for Kilbride. And he also presumes that a judge will be found who is willing to rule a map – which hasn’t even been drawn yet – is unconstitutional. And he presumes the high court would vote in a partisan manner on a redistricting case.

There are a lot of presumptions there.

But these kinds of political machina-

tions are not why the drafters of the Illinois Constitution allowed for voters to decide whether a judge should be retained. While few drafters of the 1970 constitution are still alive, I spoke with one of them, Springfield lawyer Mary Lee Leahy, ten years ago about this topic. She died two years later in 2012.

Here is what she had to say, “Nobody ever dreamed that retention would be used in this way. The idea was to give voters a chance to get rid of bad judges – ones who made sloppy decisions or were rude to lawyers or who behaved in an erratic way. It was never intended to be used to punish judges for voting a particular way. The judiciary has to remain independent and act without fear of retaliation of an interest group.”

In other words the way Kilbride is being targeted is an abuse of the process.

The other shortcoming of this process is that it ignores a judge’s accomplishments. During his three-year stint as chief justice, Kilbride did more than perhaps any other Illinois jurist in making courts accessible.

First, he spearheaded an initiative allowing cameras into trial courts. This has made it easier for media organizations to share with the public what is happening in a courtroom.

But his Access to Justice initiative has profoundly changed how Illinois courts operate, Circuit Judge Linnea E. Thompson of Rock Island County said.

“More than 60 percent of people appearing in court in civil cases are not represented by an attorney,” Thompson said. “This program is designed to help them.”

The program:

Revamped legal forms so they are written in plain English

rather than legalese.

Clears the way for trial court judges to provide guidance to unrepresented individuals on what they need to do to work through the legal process.

Provides interpreters for individuals not proficient in English.

Encourages lawyers to provide pro bono, or free, services to impoverished individuals.

“Before the Access to Justice initiative, somebody who showed up in court unable to speak English would likely get yelled at,” Thompson said. “For some reason, some judges thought if you talked louder and slower, you were more likely to be understood. Today, we have an alternative. And that’s because of Justice Kilbride.”

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



Scott Reeder

### VOICE ON THE STREET

## Question:

*How do you feel about bars and restaurants in Region 1 staying open for indoor service despite recent mitigations from Gov. JB Pritzker and the IDPH?*

*“All people have the right to patron whatever establishment they wish in whatever way as long as establishments are taking all necessary precautions to keep everyone safe. Why are these businesses being punished when there is the same amount of risk of contracting the virus as there is with every day-to-day activity? Even if you religiously wear a mask you could happen to touch or pick up an item that contains the virus from the grocery store. Every place is vulnerable even taking every precaution possible. So why should these small businesses give up profit when other types of businesses are still allowed to function as normal? I truly support their move. If you don’t, then order curbside pick up or delivery. Free choice.”*

Katherine Mosher

*“I fully support businesses that are remaining open. It is not an outlaw move. Just be safe and take the same precautions that they have been taking since reopening.”*

Debbie Czekala



*“From everything I have seen and heard from many business owners, there has been no definitive link between their establishments and increased cases. Remember that thing called contact tracing? I understand that some people are more vulnerable. The ones I know, and their families, take the necessary precautions.”*

Jimmy Rot

*“I’m torn. The burden falling on specific businesses seems unfair*

*when no contact tracing shows this is where the spread is occurring. Stores are still open as is every other business, so why bars and restaurants specifically? The local Walmart had cases among staff yet didn’t notify the public. Schools have cases but classes are still in session. In essence, we need to either close down again or take this seriously—that includes masks, social distancing and avoiding large gatherings. You may not be affected as severely as the person you infect.”*

Laura Emke Salazar

## How to contact government officials

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Washington, D.C.  
20515  
(202) 225-3635

**IL Sen. Brian Stewart**  
M104A State House  
Springfield, IL 62706  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Rochelle News-Leader encourages responsible letters to the editor on subjects of interest to our readers. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include address and phone number or e-mail address for verification purposes. Neither the street address nor phone number will be printed. Letters should be typed or legibly

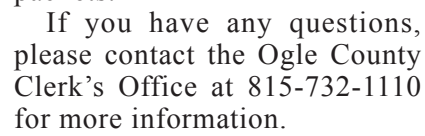
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however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the News-Leader office (211 IL Route 38 East), mailed to the News-Leader (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068) or e-mailed (news@rochellenews-leader.com.) 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.



# Vote by mail ballot tracking program announced

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 \*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](http://www.KitchenTableRochelle.org).

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Stephanie Wiginton  
Bryce Weems  
**Oct. 30**  
Jack Powell  
**Oct. 31**  
Angel Weyhrauch

Oct 7 - Shawn Knight Polo \$25

# Cryptologic



# STATE NEWS

## Lawsuit takes aim at graduated tax ballot language

BY JERRY NOWICKI

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS/JNOWICKI@CAPITOLNEWSILLINOIS.COM

**SPRINGFIELD** — A think tank once tied to Republican former Gov. Bruce Rauner is suing the Illinois State Board of Elections and secretary of state, charging that graduated tax constitutional amendment language is “misleading” as it appears on the General Election ballot and in a pamphlet sent to voters.

The Illinois Policy Institute, which describes itself as a libertarian-leaning think tank and has been a leading organization in opposition to the amendment, is joined by three retirees in the lawsuit which asks a judge to force election authorities to send “a corrective notice” to voters regarding the graduated tax constitutional amendment.

That amendment—which is a marquee policy initiative of Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker, who has given more than \$50 million to groups lobbying for its passage — would change the state’s constitution to allow lawmakers to impose different tax rates on varying levels of income. Currently, the state must level a flat rate income tax on every penny of a taxpayer’s income.

On the ballot, voters are asked to vote “yes” or “no” after reading the following language:

“The proposed amendment grants the State authority to impose higher income tax rates on higher income levels, which is how the federal government and a majority of other states do it. The amendment would remove the portion of the Revenue Article of the Illinois Constitution that is sometimes referred to as the ‘flat tax,’ that requires all taxes on income to be at the same rate. The amendment does not itself change tax rates. It gives the State the ability to impose higher tax rates on those with higher income levels and lower income tax rates on those with middle or lower income levels. You are asked to decide whether the proposed amendment should become a part of the Illinois Constitution.”

### The lawsuit

The IPI’s lawyers argue in the court document that the amendment would “eliminate important structural safeguards that deter legislators in the General Assembly from imposing new taxes on retirement income and deter legislators from imposing higher taxes on individuals with middle or low incomes.”

Many of the arguments in the lawsuit filed in Cook County Circuit Court mirror those that conservative groups have used to argue against the amendment’s passage in public advertisements, opinion pieces and campaigns.

The basis of the lawsuit is the language of the question and the arguments in favor of the proposal that were distributed to voters.

The phrasing of the ballot question and pamphlet was

approved on a partisan roll call in the General Assembly earlier this year. But the lawsuit claims the “misleading statements in the ballot explanation deny voters their rights to a free and equal election in violation of the Free and Equal Elections Clause of the Illinois Constitution,” as well as the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The lawsuit objects to the language that says the amendment allows the state to “impose higher income tax rates on higher income levels,” and suggests it be changed in a corrective notice to be sent to voters to read “different income tax rates on different income levels.” It also seeks an added sentence noting, “The General Assembly would continue to have the authority to establish income tax rates.”

When the language passed, Republicans in the General Assembly issued similar concerns, noting the language in the question was similar to language used in arguments supporting the measure.

The lawsuit also argues that the absence of the actual amendment language in the pamphlet and on the ballot is also a violation of voters’ U.S. and state constitutional rights. The lawsuit seeks to have that information included in the corrective notice they are asking a judge to require.

### The amendment

Specifically, Article 9, Section 3 of the Illinois Constitution would be amended if the ballot question passes. The new language would read: “The General Assembly shall provide by law for the rate or rates of any tax on or measured by income imposed by the State. In any such tax imposed upon corporations the highest rate shall not exceed the highest rate imposed on individuals by more than a ratio of 8 to 5.”

That would replace the current language, which states: “A tax on or measured by income shall be at a non-graduated rate. At any one time there may be no more than one such tax imposed by the State for State purposes on individuals and one such tax so imposed on corporations. In any such tax imposed upon corporations the rate shall not exceed the rate imposed on individuals by more than a ratio of 8 to 5.”

Under current law, lawmakers already have the authority to tax retirement income — it is not an added power granted by the amendment. While lawmakers could tax retirement income currently, it would have to be at the same flat rate of any other income tax levied and it would have to apply to every retirement earner equally.

Because the amendment removes the flat tax requirement, however, it would open the door to taxing some levels of retirement income without taxing every retiree’s income. Opponents argue this makes raising or creating such a tax politically easier.

Gov. JB Pritzker has frequently said he opposes any tax on retirement income, and a rate structure already approved by the General Assembly in separate legislation that will become law in January if voters approve the amendment does not provide for retirement income taxation. That structure would raise taxes on those earning more than \$250,000 annually while keeping taxes level or lowering them slightly for those earning less than that amount.

But the lawsuit argues those rates are subject to change and a retirement income tax could be instituted by a future General Assembly.

The number of votes required to raise income taxes in the General Assembly — a simple majority — is unchanged by the amendment.

The lawsuit argues, however, that a pamphlet sent by Secretary of State Jesse White’s office to voters which states “This amendment does not tax retirement income” could be interpreted by voters “to mean that voting in favor of the (graduated tax) amendment is specifically a vote against the imposition of a tax on retirement income,” when it in fact is not.

### Treasurer comments

The lawsuit cites a June comment from Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs, a Democrat who has no role in setting tax rates, as an indicator that retirement taxes are being considered by state lawmakers.

“Specifically, the Illinois State Treasurer, Michael Frerichs is reported as stating at a Chamber of Commerce event that ‘[o]ne thing a progressive tax would do is make clear you can have graduated rates when you are taxing retirement income, and, I think that’s something that’s worth discussion’ or words to that effect,” according to the lawsuit.

Frerichs had scheduled a news conference for Tuesday morning to “condemn misleading statements” about taxing retirement income, but he canceled it about 10 minutes before the event. Instead, he issued a statement in favor of a graduated tax and said, “I oppose creating a retirement tax in Illinois, along with the General Assembly, and governor.”

John Tillman, who is the chairman and CEO of Illinois Policy Institute, is not a stranger to suing the state. In August, a Sangamon County judge declined to hear a lawsuit filed by Tillman as a private citizen challenging the constitutionality of two of the state’s general obligation bond issuances.

Former Gov. Rauner’s family foundation had given at least \$500,000 to IPI before he was governor, according to the Chicago Tribune, and several staffers went from IPI to serve briefly on Rauner’s staff in high level positions in 2017 before the ex-governor vowed not to give any more money to the organization.



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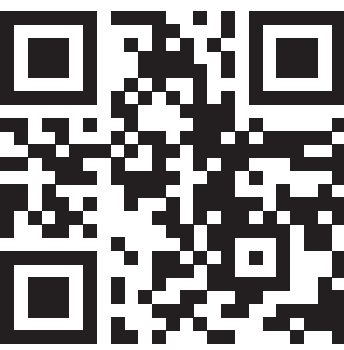
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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

# SPORTS



### GIRLS NET ROAD WIN

The Lady Hub tennis team topped Morris in a three-team meet on Saturday.

See page 5 for more details

RTHS Girls Tennis

# Lady Hubs stepping up

## Rochelle netters dominate Rockford Christian in 4-1 victory

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE**—It was nearly a clean sweep for the Lady Hub tennis team when Rochelle hosted Rockford Christian for nonconference play Monday afternoon.

The Lady Hubs dominated the Royal Lions in doubles, surrendering only one point across all three matches. Junior Emma Hicks played a perfect singles match against her opponent, and the Rochelle netters earned their most decisive victory of the season, a 4-1 win over Rockford Christian to reach 5-11 overall. Rochelle has won four of its last seven matches.

“We’ve been a lot more focused in practice and we’ve been able to get a lot more done,” junior Jordin Dickey said. “We’re giving our all and we’re working really well together... We’ve played some tough teams this year and we’ve beaten a couple of them, and I know we’ll have a lot more confidence going into the postseason because we know there will be some good teams.”

Hicks had no trouble on the No. 2 singles court, de-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)  
**Junior Ashley Knight extends for a soft shot during Rochelle’s tennis match against Rockford Christian on Monday.**

feating Taylor Powell 6-0, 6-0 for Rochelle’s fourth point of the match. Senior Anna Guevara nearly sealed a perfect day for the Lady Hubs, splitting two sets before falling against Zoe Antczak 6-3, 6-7, 5-10 at No. 1 singles.

Rochelle put its first two points of the match on the board simultaneously, with Dickey and teammate MeLisa Young sweeping Savannah Jackson and Gracie McMahon 6-0, 6-0 on the No. 1 doubles

court while senior Sawyer McGee and junior Sylvia Hasz won 6-0, 6-0 over Cameron Groenwald and Elle Jones at No. 2 doubles. Juniors Josie Lundquist and Megan Thompson cruised over Gia Buscema and Katie Kirschmann at No. 3 doubles, winning 6-1, 6-0.

“Our communication is really good,” Dickey said. “Our serves have improved a lot as well.”

The Lady Hubs will play the Interstate 8 Conference Varsity Championship at

Ottawa Township High School on Saturday, Oct. 10 before beginning the IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional at home on Friday, Oct. 16. Rochelle has two dual meets remaining against Belvidere and Freeport.

### Fresh/Soph

The Lady Hub tennis team took sixth place with five points in the Interstate 8 Conference Fresh-Soph Championship at LaSalle-Peru Township High School on Saturday.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)  
**Senior Melanie Gonzalez serves the ball during doubles play against Rockford Christian on Monday.**

Sophomore Torrin Nantz fell 2-6, 0-6 against Kane-land’s Lexi Maberry at No. 1 singles, while freshman Maceznie Glosser went down 0-6, 1-6 against LaSalle-Peru’s Ella Kamke at No. 2 singles.

Sophomores Francesca Williams and Abby Tarve-

stad lost 1-6, 0-6 to Morris at No. 1 doubles, while freshmen Laney Hicks and Annaleigh McKinney fell 0-6, 0-6 against LaSalle-Peru at No. 2 doubles. Freshman Allison Dickey and sophomore Sammy Sanford lost 1-6, 0-6 at No. 3 doubles.

RTHS Golf

# Hubs take eighth in IHSA 2A Sterling Regional

## Kirk, Ohlinger lead Rochelle team at Emerald Hill Golf Course

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**STERLING** — Blistering conditions and challenging greens presented the toughest obstacles for Rochelle golfers during the IHSA 2A Sterling Regional at Emerald Hill on Tuesday.

The Hubs fought hard throughout the tournament, ranking as high as fifth place in the team standings before ultimately finishing eighth out of 10 schools with a final score of 393. Senior Reese Kirk, who was tied for seventh place overall at one point during the afternoon, led Rochelle with a 93 while sophomore Griffin Ohlinger added a 98 for the Hubs.

“The kids had a lot to deal with today,” head coach Glen Mehrings said. “It was windy today, there were fast greens and there was a lot of pressure because it was a regional tournament. The kids performed as well as they could and I thought they fought hard throughout

the day. They came up a little short at the end, but I thought we fared as well as we could have.”

Sophomore Damen Harrington and senior Dominic Williams carded 100 and 102, respectively, while junior Brett Ferguson and sophomore Wade Smith rounded out Rochelle’s varsity lineup with 106 and 125, respectively. Although windy conditions affected many players throughout the tournament, the combination of sloped and slippery greens made putting extremely tough. Mehrings said the tournament was a good learning experience for players returning next year.

“Griffin and Damen are two talented sophomores who are coming back next season,” Mehrings said. “The kids are realizing that they have to putt well under pressure. When the kids get nervous, those 2-foot putts start looking like 5-footers and those misses will wear on young players as the tournament goes on. Hav-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)  
**Senior Dominic Williams clears the bunker during the IHSA 2A Sterling Regional at Emerald Hill Golf Course on Tuesday. The Rochelle Hubs finished in eighth place out of 10 schools in the tournament.**

ing a good putting routine and getting comfortable on the greens make a big dif-

ference, and unfortunately we weren’t able to do that today.”

Ottawa finished first in the tournament behind regional champion Jonathon

Cooper, while Princeton placed second and Stillman Valley took third.





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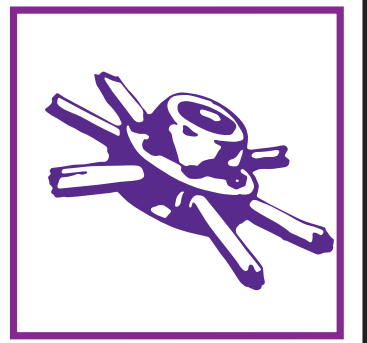
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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Alexander  
Burke**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Cross Country*

**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**

*A: This is my third year.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: The adrenaline rush at the end of each race.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: English because I enjoy writing.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?**

*A: The older runners on the team.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: To work in construction management because it pays well.*

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?**

*A: Being a student-athlete at RTHS is tough, but I like that it pushes me to do my best.*

**Karina  
Lopez**

*Year: Sophomore*

*Sport: Cross Country*



**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**

*A: This is my first year.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: Knowing that I can always improve.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: Math because I think it's very simple sometimes.*

**Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?**

*A: Yuelma Ortiz because she's such a strong person.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?**

*A: Sara Johnson because she's the oldest runner of all the girls and she's a great role model.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: I would like to study plants or business.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**

*A: Peru because it's such a pretty country.*

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?**

*A: It introduced me to a very welcoming family of athletes and amazing runners.*

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# SPORTS

RTHS Tennis

## Eckardt, Pence share special tennis bond

Lady Hub grad takes coaching reigns from RTHS Hall of Fame father

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**K**RISTY Eckardt could only help but smile as she watched her father, longtime tennis coach Mike Pence, receive his induction into the Rochelle Township High School Hall of Fame in 2017.

The ceremony was perhaps the pinnacle of a well accomplished career for Pence, who taught at RTHS and coached both the Hub and Lady Hub tennis teams for well over 30 years. Eckardt has since taken over the reigns as head coach of the boys, but much of what she has learned about coaching and the game of tennis stems from the experiences she shared with her father.

"It was a really great experience," Eckardt said. "We knew he had received a lot of support from the community, and to see him recognized in front of the whole stadium and to see everybody show their appreciation for what he did through coaching was really special for me."

Eckardt has enjoyed tennis from the day she first picked up a racket as a little girl. She grew up watching the sport on television with her father, whose coaching career started before she was born, and she still remembers attending summer camps at the high school. When she arrived

at RTHS as a freshman in the late 1990s, the two saw their tennis bond grow even stronger.

"He was always very calm and he expected a lot of us," Eckardt said. "He never got upset with us and that's something I really picked up on that I keep in mind while I'm coaching. I want the kids to enjoy what they're doing and I want them to be more relaxed while they play... We always got along really well and I was really excited to play for him. He'd bite his sweater a little more when I was playing, but I knew he held me to a high standard which was encouraging."

Eckardt enjoyed a great amount of success during her high school career, spending three seasons with the varsity team and reaching the IHSA State Championships twice. RTHS hired Jeff Truckenbrod as an assistant coach during Eckardt's sophomore year, and over two decades later, Truckenbrod remains on the coaching staff as Eckardt's assistant coach.

"What I enjoyed most about playing for my dad was the time we spent together," Eckardt said. "We had a really great core group of players who I grew up playing with since grade school. The times we spent playing over the summer are probably some of my fondest memories."

Eckardt went on to play collegiately with the Augustana Vikings, ranking fourth on the school's all-time list in singles victories. She graduated college in 2005 before moving to Kewanee and eventually relocating to Oregon, where she currently lives with her husband Andy and her children David and Sarah. Eckardt, who also played basketball in both high school and college, said she began pursuing coaching opportunities as soon as she graduated college.

"I loved playing sports so much and I didn't want that to end," Eckardt said. "I always thought it would be cool to come back to Rochelle and take over for my dad... I had five tennis coaches in college, which was rough, so I always relied on what I learned from my dad growing up. Whether it was staying calm, playing one point at a time or not getting upset... I was also fortunate that Augustana was close to home, so my parents came to a lot of my meets."

Pence retired from teaching in 2011 and his final year as a head coach was 2014. When Eckardt took over the Hub tennis program in 2015, Pence had the chance to work alongside his daughter, serving as a volunteer assistant until he and his wife Trish moved to Tennessee this past year. Pence knew his daughter would excel in tennis at an early age, and while he may



(COURTESY PHOTO)

RTHS boys tennis coach Kristy Eckardt (right) shares a photo with her parents Trish and Mike Pence (left) and her children Sarah and David Eckardt (middle). Pence coached tennis at Rochelle Township High School for over 30 years before his daughter Kristy took over coaching the Hubs in 2015.

not be around this coming season, he's extremely proud to see how far his daughter has come.

"It was really fun having the opportunity to coach her," Pence said. "Kristy played multiple sports growing up, but she really enjoyed tennis all through the years and she picked up on the strategy of tennis really quickly. She always anticipated really well and she still does when we play together. She really under-

stands the game and she knows how to tell kids what they need to try because she can see where kids need to be positioned and where they need to improve."

Nowadays, Eckardt helps run the youth summer camps at the high school, the same camps she participated in as a kid. She said both of her children have picked up tennis, and while they may be years away from reaching high school, Eckardt said having

the opportunity to coach her kids, the same way her father coached her, would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"Oregon doesn't have a team at the moment, but maybe they could co-op with Rochelle," Eckardt said laughingly. "It would be nice to see David and Sarah play tennis. I would love to have that opportunity and hopefully they'll be more receptive to the sport in high school."

Kishwaukee College

## Kougar golf, eSports teams see action

**MALTA** — The Kishwaukee College men's golf team traveled to Byron and PrairieView Golf Club Friday afternoon for the team's last invite before the regional championships next week.

The Kougars finished in sixth place as a team. Thomas O'Connor finished in a tie for fifth place shooting a 77. Dyllon Davis tied for 10<sup>th</sup> place carding an 80. Noah Forsberg finished with an 89, while teammates Hayden Jones (Rochelle Township HS) a 91 and Matthew Randall a 93 were right on their heels.

"This was our best overall performance so far this Fall," head coach Thomas Brennan said. "That is a very good sign leading into the regional championships next week. We are improving in many aspects and they all can't wait to get to our biggest event of the season next week."

PrairieView will be the host site again next week for the regional championships with potential qualifiers being able to go to the NJCAA Division II Men's Golf Championship held May 18-21, 2021 in Plymouth, Indiana.

### eSports

The Kishwaukee College eSports intercollegiate team put in some major time this past week in competi-



tions.

On Tuesday night, Jack and Josh Sunderlage both won their Smash Bros matches making them both 2-0 so far on the young season. Madison Bauling played a competitive match, taking a match from her opponent but coming just short of the victory in her Smash Bros event.

In Rocket League action, the team of Allen Bredeson, Josafat Brizuela and Kyle Rasmussen played hard but lost a tough one evening up their season record to 1-1. The Kougars also played a tough match this week in Overwatch, with the team of Bredeson, Chase Littlefield, Bauling and the Sunderlages giving it their all but taking the loss in a close one.

Wednesday saw Littlefield win his Hearthstone match 3-2 which gets his overall record so far to 2-0. Friday night, the team of Tucker Mark, Bredeson, Rasmussen, Jack Sunderlage and Brizuela won in Valorant play 13-10 with an overall 2-0 record.

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**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:

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

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- Before and after exposure to someone who is sick
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
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ROCHELLE  
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Proper handwashing helps all of us stay healthy, so remember to be aware and do your part to help protect yourself and others!



# ON THE FARM

## Illinois Department of Labor stresses farm vehicle safety as busy harvest season begins

**SPRINGFIELD** – The agricultural industry is one of the most dangerous with a work-related death rate of 23 deaths per 100,000 workers, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. And the fall harvest season is one of the busiest and most dangerous times for agricultural workers.

“This is the time of year when it is so important for both farmers and motorists to be patient and share the roads. We want everyone to head home to their families safe and sound at the end of each day,” Michael Kleinik, director of the Illinois Department of Labor said.

Vehicle safety is an especially important focus this time of year. Tractor overturns are the leading cause of fatalities in the agriculture industry, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. These accidents result in about 130 deaths each year nationwide, according to the National Ag Safety Database.

While tractor roll-over accidents most often occur on the farm, roadways also pose a major safety hazard. Too often a non-farm vehicle attempting to pass causes a collision before the tractor or farm implement can finish a left-hand turn onto a rural road or into a field. Many collisions occur simply because the driver fails to reduce speed for the slower moving farm implement.

“We all appreciate the important work our farmers do, and this time of year it is vital that we support and protect them by slowing down when you approach farm vehicles on rural roads,” said Kleinik.

Visibility is also a key to safety on the roads. All agricultural vehicles using the public roadways must display the fluorescent orange Slow Moving Vehicle triangle. Additionally, tractors and other self-powered farm vehicles must have proper lighting. According to Illinois law:

Lighting is required from 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise.

There should be two white lamps on the front of the vehicle, visible from at least 1000 feet to the front of the vehicle.

There should be two red lamps on the rear of the vehicle, visible from at least 1000 feet to the rear of the vehicle.

There should be at least one flashing amber signal lamp on the rear of the vehicle, mounted as high as possible and visible from at least 500 feet, which can be used during daylight as well.

Drivers should remember that farm vehicle operators have limited visibility to the rear. Anyone passing such

a vehicle needs to use extreme caution.

Modern farm equipment provides effective safety devices if they are used properly. Death and serious injury from tractor roll overs can be prevented by roll-over protective structures – a roll bar or cage designed to provide a safe space around the driver.

But too often workers fail to use a vital part of this safety device – a safety belt. Unless the operator is buckled in, the roll over protection cannot do its job and an injury or fatality can still occur.

Another key to harvest-time safety is being healthy and alert. The temptation during harvest season is to keep pushing until the work is done. But that can be a recipe for disaster. Safety experts stress three words for agricultural workers to

stay safe during the busy harvest days – Rest. Nutrition. Hydration.

Take regular breaks to stretch your legs – these breaks can serve the dual purpose of taking time to make a quick inspection of your tractor or combine. Also, your tractor isn’t the only thing that needs fuel. Make sure to eat and drink fluids regularly to help stay alert.



## Farm income projected to dive this year

IT’S no secret the pandemic has raised havoc with everything we do. I can’t imagine the length of time it will take to recover economically from this disease. Of course, in Illinois we will just tax ourselves out of this hole.

Farm income is projected to dive this year through pandemic, trade issues and poor exports. I’ll share with you the numbers from AFBF. Hold on, it’s not pretty.

Following a sharp downturn in many commodity prices following COVID-19, e.g., Coronavirus Sends Crop and Livestock Prices into a Tailspin, USDA’s most recent Farm Income Forecast, released Sept. 2, projects cash receipts from the sales of crops and livestock will decline by \$12 billion, or 3 percent, from 2019 to \$358 billion. If realized, U.S. farm cash receipts will be at the lowest level in more than a decade, and \$18 billion below the 10-year average of \$376 billion.

Largely through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program and the Paycheck Protection Program, Congress and the administration have provided a projected \$23.4 billion to help farmers and ranchers impacted by COVID-19. Importantly, nearly \$3 out of every \$4 in federal support to farmers and ranchers comes from CFAP, PPP and other ad hoc assistance programs, like the tariff-mitigating Market Facilitation Program. When this support is combined

with traditional farm bill conservation and risk management programs and other farm income, total gross income is forecast at \$447 billion for 2020, up 3 percent from 2019, but more than \$36 billion below 2013 and 2014 gross income levels.

After taking into consideration a decline in total production expenses of \$4.6 billion, or 3 percent, to \$344 billion, net farm income, a broad measure of U.S. farm profitability, is projected at \$103 billion for 2020, up 23 percent from the prior year and the highest level since 2013’s \$123 billion. Removing all federal payments, net farm income in 2020 would be approximately \$66 billion, slightly higher than prior-year levels, but \$10 billion below the 10-year average. In short, the actual farm economy and what growers receive from the market largely remains depressed.

### Cash receipts by commodity

USDA’s latest farm income report reflects the significant impact of COVID-19 on commodity prices and cash receipts. Cash receipts for poultry (broiler) producers are projected to decline by 23 percent from 2019 to \$22 billion, falling to the lowest level in more than a decade. Similarly, cash receipts for hogs are projected 16 percent lower to \$18.5 billion. Cattle and calf cash receipts are forecast to decline 8 percent to \$61 billion, while cash receipts for dairy farmers are projected to be 2 percent lower at \$40 billion. Overall, livestock-related cash receipts are projected to decline by \$14 billion, or 8 percent, from 2019.

For crops, corn, soybeans, wheat and cotton are all projected to post lower cash receipts in 2020. With a decline in cash receipts of \$3 billion, or 6 percent, from 2019, corn producers are expected to have the largest dollar decline. Driven by higher expected prices, specialty crop cash receipts are forecast to increase by 17 percent in 2020 — one of the few agricultural sectors with higher expected cash receipts.

### Other farm financial indicators

During 2020, U.S. farm sector debt is projected to increase \$15 billion, or nearly 4 percent, to a record \$434 billion. Nearly 65 percent of farm debt is in the form of real estate debt. Real estate debt is projected to increase \$14.7 billion to a record-high \$282 billion. Non-real estate debt is projected to increase only slightly to \$152 billion. Farm assets, including farmland, animals, machinery and vehicles and crops in inventory, are projected at \$3.1 trillion, \$33 billion higher than 2019. Most of this increase, \$29 billion, is related to higher farmland values.

Based on 2020 debt and asset levels, the debt-to-asset ratio is projected at nearly 14 percent for 2020, which would be the highest since 2002. Every year since 2012, debt-to-asset levels have climbed higher.

Working capital, which takes into consideration current assets and liabilities, is the amount of cash and cash-convertible assets minus amounts due to creditors within 12 months. In 2020 it is projected to fall by \$10 billion, or nearly 13 percent, to \$68 billion. Current working capital levels have declined sharply in recent years and now stand 43 percent below 2012’s level of \$121 billion and are 55 percent lower than 2010’s \$153 billion. The low level of working capital suggests that many U.S. farmers have just enough capital to service their short-term debt.

Another metric that highlights the downturn in the farm economy and low profitability is the rate of return on assets. For 2020, the rate of return on assets is projected at less than 3 percent. The rate of return in agriculture has been less than 3% for three consecutive years and is in stark contrast to the 10 percent-to-16 percent returns experienced from 2010 to 2012.

### Summary

While the headlines would suggest the farm economy is improving, the opposite is true. The actual farm economy remains depressed, and without the ad hoc support from Congress and the administration, farmers, ranchers, rural communities and the businesses they support would be in an even worse financial position.

Farm income from the sales of crops and livestock have fallen by \$12 billion since last year. Nearly every major sector of the farm economy will have lower cash receipts this year compared to last year, and total cash receipts will be the lowest since 2010. Moreover, farm debt and debt-to-asset levels continue to climb, while working capital levels deteriorate further and the rate of return on farm assets remains thin.

Lower production costs alongside federal assistance via CFAP, MFP, PPP and other ad hoc support temporarily help offset the impact of lower commodity prices and revenue. Longer term – beyond additional stimulus likely to come from Congress and the administration – U.S. farm income will be critically dependent on maintaining international market access and remaining competitive around the world, restoring demand for renewable fuels and finding innovative ways to generate revenue for farmers’ conservation and sustainability efforts.



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# SPORTS

RTHS Girls Tennis

## Lady Hubs sweep Morris in singles play

Lundquist, Thompson net doubles win as Rochelle tops Redskins 7-5

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**MAPLE PARK** — Doubles has been a strength of the Lady Hub tennis team in recent seasons. Rochelle's dominance in singles was the key to victory on Saturday, however, when the Lady Hubs battled Morris and Kaneland in a three-team conference meet at Kaneland High School.

The three programs competed in a unique 12-point format, with each team fighting for six singles points and six doubles points. Rochelle opened the meet against the Morris Redskins, who topped the Lady Hubs 4-1 earlier this season, but Rochelle was the superior squad on Saturday, as the girls swept all six singles matches to defeat Morris 7-5.

"I'm really happy with how confident the girls are playing and how well they're holding themselves on the court," head coach Lizzie Cartwright said. "Their confidence has grown a lot and they're realizing that they can win. They're doing a great job right now."

Juniors MeLisa Young and Jordin Dickey started strong, with Young winning her No. 1 singles match 8-3 over Olivia Moore and Dickey defeating Darcy Ancel 8-1 on the No. 2 singles court. Senior Sawyer McGee and junior Sylvia Hasz earned victories as well, with McGee taking



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Senior Sawyer McGee smacks a forehand shot for Rochelle. McGee helped the Lady Hubs pick up a road win against Morris on Saturday.**

down Lydia Gile 8-5 at No. 3 singles and Hasz beating Bridget Pellens 8-3 at No. 4 singles.

"I was really proud of how well the girls adjusted," Cartwright said. "They all wanted to win. I don't think they felt as much pressure to play well and they went out there to have fun."

Juniors Megan Thompson and Josie Lundquist, who teamed up for Rochelle's only doubles point in the match, competed the team's singles sweep with wins at No. 5 and No.

6 singles. Thompson took down Rachel Heap 8-4 and Lundquist bested Kylie Villareal 8-6, respectively. At No. 3 doubles, Thompson and Lundquist won 8-5 over Ancel and Moore.

"Josie and Megan both hustle really well and they don't give up on their points," Cartwright said. "When they communicate with each other, they do great things together."

### Kaneland

Rochelle also faced the Kaneland Knights on Sat-

urday, falling 9-3 to finish the afternoon with a 4-11 overall record. Kaneland claimed all six singles matches over the Lady Hubs, but Rochelle brought home three points in doubles play.

Dickey and Young defeated Delaney Douglas and Sarah Schimmel 8-4 at No. 4 doubles, while Hasz and McGee won 8-2 over Hannah Wooten and Jenna Mauthe. Lundquist and Thompson topped Barbara Martinez and Abby Shoaff 8-5.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

**Junior Sylvia Hasz prepares a serve for the Lady Hubs. Hasz was one of six players to win singles matches against Morris on Saturday.**

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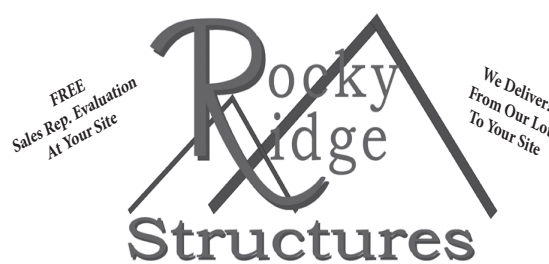
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the invalid application or provision, and each invalid provision or invalid application of this Ordinance is severable.

SECTION FOUR: Where the conditions imposed by any provisions of this Resolution are more restrictive than comparable provisions imposed elsewhere in any other local law, ordinance, resolution, rule or regulation, the regulations of this Ordinance will govern.

SECTION FIVE: The City Clerk shall publish this Resolution in pamphlet form.

SECTION SIX: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.

PASSED THIS 28th day of September, 2020.

AYES: 7

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

APPROVED THIS 28th day of September, 2020.

Mayor John Bearrows

Attest:

Susan Messer,  
City Clerk

STATE OF )  
ILLINOIS )ss.  
COUNTY )  
OF OGLE )

CERTIFICATE

I, Susan L. Messer, City Clerk of the City of Rochelle, County of Ogle and State of Illinois, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. R20-36, "AN RESOLUTION APPROVING A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH 1600 RITCHIE COURT, LLC" which was adopted by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Rochelle on September 28, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the City of Rochelle this 28th day of September, 2020.

Susan Messer,  
City Clerk

No. 1004 (Oct. 7)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**ON FLAGG**  
**TOWNSHIP BUDGET**

Notice is hereby given that a tentative amended budget and appropriation ordinance for Flagg Township in the county of Ogle, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2021, will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at the Flagg Township Office Building, 303 W. Highway 38 Rochelle, IL, starting October 7, 2020, during regular office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held on Monday, November 9, 2020 during the regular board meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Flagg Township Office Building Board Room, 303 W. Highway 38, Rochelle, IL whereas final action on said ordinance will be taken by the Flagg Township Board of Trustees.

Joanna G. Patrick  
Flagg Township Clerk

Contact Person:  
Joanna Patrick  
Flagg Township Clerk  
815-757-4310  
No. 1006 (Oct. 7)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

State of the ownership, management, circulation, etc.; required by the act of Congress of October 23, 1962, Section 4369, Title, 39 United States Code of Rochelle News-Leader published bi-weekly at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Ro-

chelle, IL, for Sept. 13, 2020. State of Illinois, County of Ogle.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Mike Feltes who, having been duly sworn to law, deposes and says he is the publisher of the Rochelle News-Leader and that the following is to the best of his knowledge and belief and a true statement of the ownership, management, circulation, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of Congress of October 23, 1962, Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code. The names and addresses of the publisher and editor are:

PUBLISHER: Mike Feltes, P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068. MANAGING EDITOR: Jennifer Simmons, P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068.

That the owner is: News Media Corporation, 211 Hwy. 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068, John C. Tompkins, 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle, IL 61068,

That the known bondholders, mortgages and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: Holcomb State Bank, 223 E. IL Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068, Central Bank, 340 May Mart Dr., Rochelle, IL 61068, Byline Bank, 180 N. Lasalle St., #400, Chicago, IL 60601.

That the six paragraphs next about, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company as Trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for who such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing Affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees hold stock and security in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner, and the Affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation, has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds or other securities that so stated by him.

A. Total number of Copies Printed (net press run). Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 3,353, single issue nearest filing date 3,272.

B. 1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 89, single issue nearest filing date 86.

B. 2. Paid In-County Mail Subscriptions. Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months 287, single issue nearest filing date 285.

B. 3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales and other non-USPS paid distribution. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 1,175, single issue nearest filing date 1,119.

B. 4. Other classes mailed through USPS. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 0, single issue nearest filing date 0.

C. Total Paid distribution (sum of 15B (1), (2), (3), and (4). Average no. copies each

issue during preceding 12 months 1,551, single issue nearest filing date 1,490.

D. 1. Free Distribution by mail Outside-County. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 20, single issue nearest filing date 20.

D. 2. Free Distribution by mail In-County. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 20, single issue nearest filing date 18.

D. 3. Free distribution by other classes mailed through the USPS. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 0, single issue nearest filing date 0.

D. 4. Free Distribution outside the mail (carriers and others). Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 32, single issue nearest filing date 30.

E. Total Free Distribution (sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4)). Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 72, single issue nearest filing date 68.

F. Total distribution (sum of 15c and 15e). Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 1,623, single issue nearest filing date 1,558.

G. Copies not Distributed. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 1,730, single issue nearest filing date 1,714.

H. Total (sum 15f and 15g). Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 3,353, single issue nearest filing date 3,272.

I. Percent Paid and or Requested Circulation. Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 95.56%, single issue nearest filing date 95.63%.

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Mike Feltes, publisher  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of September, 2020.

Kelly White,  
Notary Public  
My commission expires 10-10-22  
No. 0940 (Oct. 7)

**101**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Girl Scouts host online SnapShots and in-person drive-thru events for new members

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS** – Recent health and safety guidelines affected many youth serving organizations, and Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) is no different. The organization turned to technology and safe, in-person outdoor events to provide girls with the necessary benefits of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

The organization started offering Girl Scout SnapShots—20-minute virtual activities for girls in Kindergarten and grades 1–3 and their families who are interested in learning more about Girl Scouts! Girls meet new friends online in real time while choosing between activities like building an edible campfire, making a robot friend, crafting a bird’s nest, or designing a fairy house. SnapShots are available in both English and Spanish.

After participating in a SnapShot event, interested families are invited to an online family meeting where they can choose to register their girl as a Girl Scout! Families can sign up for a convenient Girl Scout SnapShot that fits their schedule at [www.girlscoutsni.org/snapshot](http://www.girlscoutsni.org/snapshot).

GSNI kicked off their virtual recruitment campaign in mid-July 2020 and has hosted over 20 SnapShot

events resulting in nearly 50 girls registering as first-time Girl Scouts!

“SnapShots give families the chance to preview Girl Scouts. We meet online and do virtual activities together in real time, but we talk about safe ways Girl Scouts can currently have adventures in-person and online. Then, as interested girls register, they’re placed in new and existing Girl Scout troops in their area to start their own Girl Scout journey,” says MaryBeth Markwell, GSNI Recruitment Resource Manager.

The organization is also hosting safe, in-person Girl Scout Drive-Thru events for interested new members! These events take place outdoors where girls and their families can easily socially distance while playing outdoor Girl Scout games and meeting new friends! GSNI will follow all recommended health and safety practices, including asking participants to wear masks and providing enough space to maintain a distance of 6 feet between families. Hand sanitizer will also be available.

Interested families can learn more and get started at [www.girlscoutsni.org/snapshot](http://www.girlscoutsni.org/snapshot) or contact GSNI at 1-844-476-4463 or [customercare@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsni.org).



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# Fire Prevention Week

Saluting members of the Rochelle Fire Department  
and the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District

**Oct. 4 - 10, 2020**



Rochelle News-Leader  
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020 • Section 3





### Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District trustees

Pictured at left are the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District trustees, back, Carl Johnson and Thad Hayes; and front left to right, Rick Kasmar, Erik Petry and Lance Noggle. The Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District serves the communities of Creston, Hillcrest, Flagg Center and Steward.



### Flagg Center

Pictured front row, left to right, are Lisa Bolhous, cadet Cody Eichinger, Larry Lange, Tyler Carls, James Rodriguez, Mike McGill; back row, left to right, Matt Bolhous, cadet Dominic Williams, chief Orville Good, assistant chief Rich Patterson and Zech VanVickle. Not pictured are Kyle Aldridge, Zeke Horn, Dale Lippold, John Plaza and Tom Westin.



# Serve up fire safety in the kitchen

**T**HE National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 95 years, has announced “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4 through 10.

NFPA’s focus on cooking fire safety comes in response to home cooking fires representing the leading cause of U.S. home fires, with nearly half (49 percent) of all home fires involving cooking equipment; unattended cooking is the leading cause of these fires.

“Cooking continues to be a major contributor to the home fire problem,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. “The good news is that the vast majority of these fires are highly preventable. This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign works to better educate the public about where potential cooking hazards exist and basic but critical ways to prevent them.”

Carli notes that this year’s focus on cooking safety is particularly timely.

“As the public may continue to avoid restaurants for some time and opt instead to do more cooking and entertaining at home, the potential for home cooking fires will likely increase as well,” Carli said.

Key messages around this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen” will include the following:

Keep a close eye on what you’re cooking; never leave cooking unattended

Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — at least three feet away from your stovetop.

Be on alert. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don’t use the stove or stovetop.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and this year’s theme, “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen,” along

with a wealth of resources to help promote the campaign locally, visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).

As all of us continue to navigate the evolving situation with COVID-19, NFPA remains committed to supporting you with the resources you need to minimize risk and help prevent loss, injuries, and death from fire, electrical, and other hazards. For information on NFPA’s response to the coronavirus, please visit our webpage.

## About Fire Prevention Week

NFPA has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since 1922. According to the National Archives and Records Administration’s Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation declaring a national observance during that week every year since 1925. Visit [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) for more safety information.

## About the NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA

is a global self-funded non-profit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.

The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).



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### Hillcrest Fire Department

Pictured left to right are Justin Kaecker, Danielle Kaecker, Joelle Bulta, chief Steve Bulta, assistant chief Roger Johanning, James Brandt, Paul Cooney and Heather Johnson. Not pictured are Scott Anderson, Anita Byrd, Josh Lewis and Beth Smith.



### Steward Fire Department

Pictured left to right are Gary Morgan, Terry Macklin, Josh Harmon, explorer Noah Simmons, Zachery Burkhart and chief Galen Cardott. Not pictured are assistant chief Don Arjes, Brandon Barkei, Tom Brown, Alexander Frye, Mike Harmon, Brian Johnson, Zack Lawrence, Bill Miller, Matthew Moore, Ricky Moore, Jason Pavlak and Lowell Taylor.





### **Creston Fire Department**

Pictured are explorer Christian Thorne, Corday Cathina, Tyler Pellegrini, Ben Ward, explorer Sydney Thorne, chief Curt Ward, explorer Dani Ward and Mary Fiedler. Not pictured are Noah Allgeyer, Josh Crawford, Jeremy Good, Levi Johnson, Brian Roose, Javier Salinas, Lonie Sarver, Tonya Sarver, Gary Taylor, Judy Williams and Wayne Williams.

**Thank you to the Rochelle  
and Ogle-Lee firefighters!**



# Rochelle Fire Department Paid-on-Call volunteers



**Dan Miller**  
34 years



**Tim Leahey**  
28 years



**Curt Ward**  
21 years



**Josh Valdivieso**  
16 years



**Ryan Brown**  
14 years



**Brian Bakker**  
14 years



**Lanet Erickson**  
13 years



**Jordan Miller**  
9 years



**Angela Gillis**  
9 years



**Maria Perusquia**  
8 years



**Dylan Fisher**  
6 years



**Nick Rhoads**  
6 years



**Brandon Sanders**  
6 years



**Austin Gillis**  
5 years



**Paul Hardcastle**  
5 years



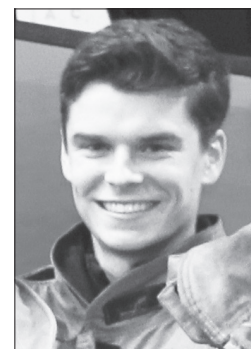
**Beth Smith**  
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**Matt Wittenauer**  
4 years



**Mike McGill**  
4 years



**Zech VanVickle**  
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**James Brandt**  
2 years



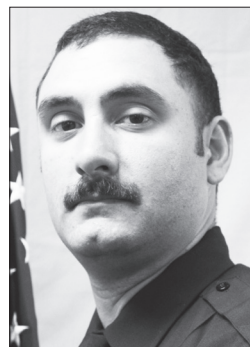
**Anita Byrd**  
2 years



**Jordan Isaacs**  
2 years



**Kyle Aldridge**  
2 years



**Jon Plaza**  
1 year



**Heather Johnson**  
1 year

**Not pictured:**

**Madison Underwood -  
New Hire**

**Qualifications to become a  
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- 18 years old or older
- Possess a valid driver's license
- High school graduate or equivalent

**\*For more information, contact the  
Rochelle Fire Department at  
815-562-2122**