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MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020

\$1

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FOID fix
House GOP aiming to fix backlog of FOID backlog.
See page 8

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
57 46	74 48
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
52 34	50 39

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OBITUARIES

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• WARREN SEEBACH

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• ALDI
• FARM & FLEET
• SWEDISHAMERICAN

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Initiative earns Mott award

ROCKFORD – A nurse from SwedishAmerican hospital and with ties to Rochelle has been awarded for her initiative in helping newborn infants born exposed to opioids during pregnancy.

On Monday, Janel Mott, BSN, RNC-CLC, was awarded the Dr. Henry C. Anderson Quality Award. Mott is a nurse in the SwedishAmerican Mother/Baby Unit.

Each year, SwedishAmerican recognizes one individual in the health system who provides outstanding quality, achievement and education to patients and to one another. The award is named after Dr. Henry C. Anderson, a physician and healthcare leader who was dedicated to SwedishAmerican's heritage of quality excellence for more than 50 years. He joined the medical staff at SwedishAmerican as a primary care physician in 1955. After 34 years of practicing medicine, he joined the administrative staff at SwedishAmerican, where he served as vice president of professional affairs and chief quality officer.

This year's recipient, Mott, championed the Eat, Sleep, Console (ESC) initiative to help infants exposed to opioids during pregnancy. Before ESC was implemented, hospital stays for the infants averaged 14 days, often including a stay in the NICU. In addition, pharmacologic interventions were used to manage withdrawal and breastfeeding rates were decreased.

"Implementing ESC at SwedishAmerican Hospital was hard work but an easy decision to make. It's the right thing to do for infants exposed to opioids during pregnancy," Mott said. "I'm so passionate about this project because seeing these babies stay with their mothers and not needing the medications we were giving them is incredible. I work for an amazing organization that supports their employees in taking evidence based research and turning it into practice."

The ESC initiative keeps the infant in the Mother/Baby Unit for four to seven days with parents and care providers rooming with the infant. Eating, sleeping and consoling are the first line of treatment, and mothers are allowed to continue to breastfeed.

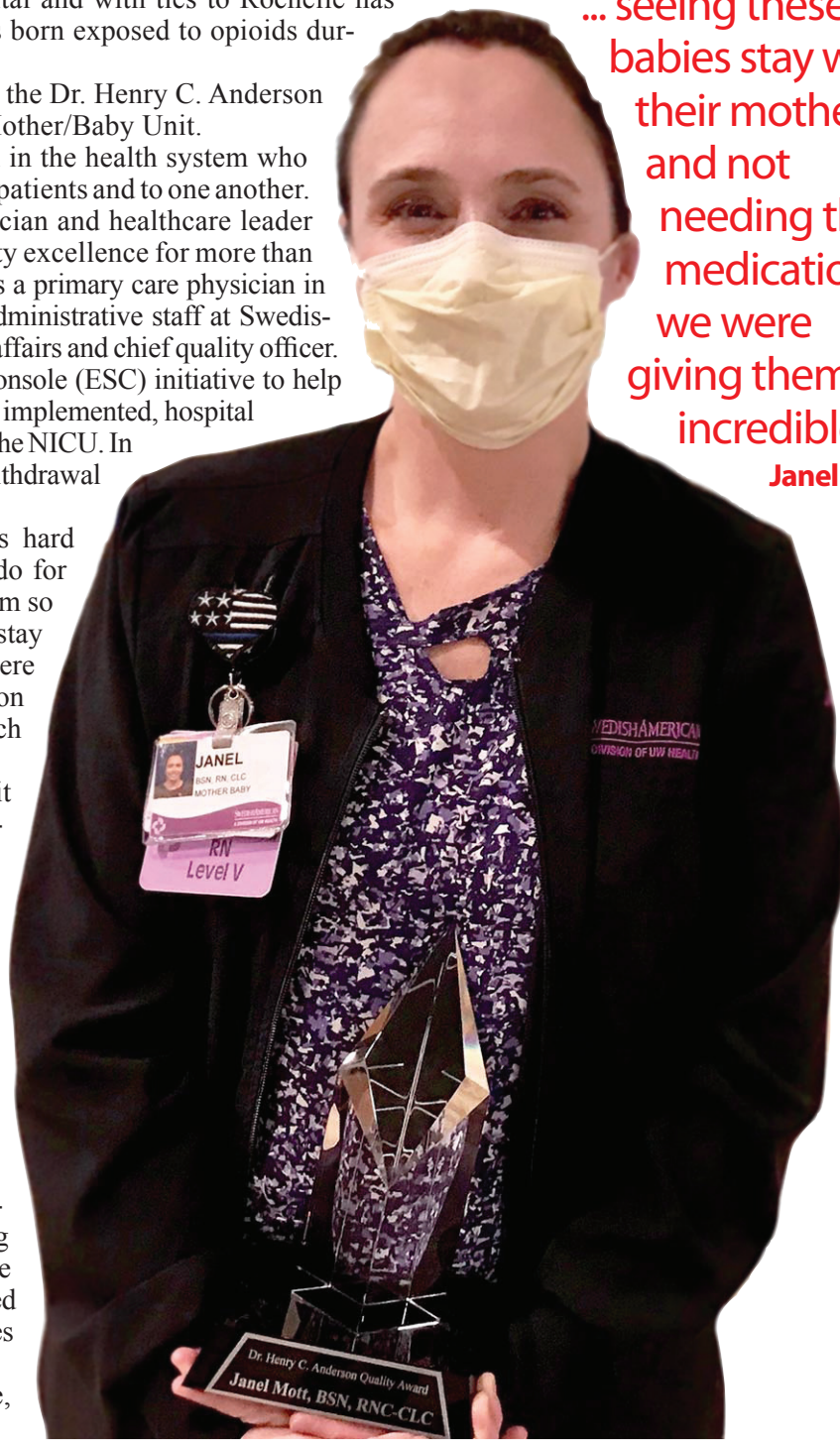
Mott successfully implemented ESC by working to gain provider approval, collaborate and develop the policy, provide education, develop an ESC tool to use, change the infant order set and to get Cuddlers signed up in the unit to hold babies as needed. During the first six months after making the changes, the length of hospital stay for the babies was reduced to 7.75 days.

"The eat/sleep/console program has changed the way care is being provided to these babies," said Ann Gantzer, SwedishAmerican Vice President, Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer. "Janel provided the education, worked to ensure the processes were understood, and monitored the care provided for the babies. She is a true advocate for the moms and babies receiving care on the Mother/Baby Unit."

Mott is the daughter of Dave and Barb Kinn, of Rochelle, and a 1999 graduate of Rochelle Township High School.

"... seeing these babies stay with their mothers and not needing the medications we were giving them is incredible."

Janel Mott



Crews have begun renovation work at Spring Lake Pool.

Pool projects underway

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — While construction wraps up on the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District's recreation center at Helms South, workers have begun renovations at Spring Lake Pool.

Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger said workers have started sandblasting the pool, diving boards and bath house as well as demolishing concrete and planting material near the concession area. Workers have started excavating

and laying gravel for the new parking lot area. Ohlinger said patchwork will come next before painting can begin after the winter.

REC Center

There have been 813 memberships sold for the recreation center, which Ohlinger said will open next month for early access to presale members before opening to the entire community on Dec. 1.

See PARK page 2

RTHS

In-person class changes announced

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School students conducting in-person learning will see a slight change to their class schedules when the first semester concludes this winter.

Superintendent Jason Harper said students attending school will have five in-person classes and one online class during the second semester. Students currently attending school are taking four in-person classes and two online classes. Harper revealed the decision during the monthly Rochelle School District 212 Board of Education meeting Monday evening.

"After taking some time to see what has worked and what could be improved upon from the first quarter, we think that offering a fifth in-person

class will help alleviate some of the stress and challenges we are seeing from both teachers and students," Harper said. "In most cases, we continue to see better outcomes for our in-person learners due to regular access to teachers."

RTHS currently has 67 percent of its students taking four in-person classes and two online classes. Harper said students attending school are performing better than those who are sticking to remote learning, and the superintendent said he hopes a greater percentage of students opt for in-person learning for the second semester. Harper said the deadline for parents and guardians to decide whether their students will opt in or out of in-person learning is Oct. 23.

See RTHS page 4

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LOCAL NEWS



FFA holds pork chop drive-thru

RTHS FFA Chapter representatives Mark Hopkins and Mary Coglianese (pictured at left) would like to thank Donnie Luxton (also pictured) of the Ogle County Pork Producers for grilling the 225 chops needed for the pork chop dinners sold Friday for the chapter's drive thru fundraiser. The drive-thru event replaced revenue usually earned during home football games which at this point have been pushed back until spring because of coronavirus. FFA is now selling fruit, meat and cheese boxes. Orders will be taken through Nov. 15 and will be distributed beginning Dec. 7. Order online and pay via credit card at <https://2020-rochelle-ffa-fruit-sales.cheddarup.com>.

PARK: Administrators will begin transitioning offices to new building

From page 1

Ohlinger said 93 percent of presale memberships were all-inclusive memberships, which grant access to all recreation center facilities as well as Spring Lake Pool, Skare Park Driving Range and the future Splashpad that will be completed in 2021.

Ohlinger said administrators will begin transi-

tioning their offices from the current park district office, located at 735 N. 2nd St. in Rochelle, to the recreation center next week. Norwest Construction will begin preparation work for the south parking lot on Wednesday, with paving work beginning the following week.

The project is expected to be completed before Dec. 1.

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 NEWS



Hay fire

On Monday at approximately 12:15 p.m., Rochelle Fire Department was called to Bethel Road just west of Illinois Route 251 for the report of a hay bale on fire in the roadway. Upon arrival, firefighters extinguished a few small bales of hay that the driver had moved from the back of his pickup truck to the roadway when he realized that they had caught fire while transporting them with a fire pit in the truck bed.

(PHOTOS BY JENNIFER SIMMONS)



Deputies make arrest for aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol

On Oct. 12 at approximately 11:39 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 12000 block of North Illinois Route 26. After further investigation Bobbi Heinze, 26, of German Valley, was placed under arrest for aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while license suspended and improper use of registration. Heinze was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

Oct. 16

On Oct. 16 at 10:05 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 251 and Lindenwood Road. After

an investigation, deputies arrested Jermaine Hollins, 32, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license and an active warrant out of Ogle County. Hollins was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he is being held in lieu of bond.

Oct. 17

On Oct. 17 at 3:04 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop on Illinois Route 251 at Illinois Route 72 on a Brown GMC Envoy for a traffic violation. After an investigation, Lucinda Perez, 30, of Rockford, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Perez was transported to the Ogle County Jail

and held in lieu of bond.

On Oct. 17 at approximately 7:45 p.m., Ogle County deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of West Mud Creek Road and North Rock Road. After investigation, Ogle County deputies arrested Richard Gallagher, 36, of Oregon, for possession of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of cannabis, possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting/obstructing a peace officer. Gallagher was also issued a citation for an equipment violation. Gallagher was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

Man cited for improper lane usage

On Oct. 14 at 4:38 p.m., Rochelle police cited Frank Chasteen, 47, of DeKalb, for improper lane usage. He posted a promise to comply.

On Oct. 14 at 10:12 p.m., Rochelle police cited Elmer Paz Morales, 32, of Rochelle, for speeding 53 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone. He posted a promise to comply.

On Oct. 17 at 1:02 a.m., Rochelle police cited a 15-year-old male juvenile, of Rochelle, for curfew violation. He posted an I-bond.

On Oct. 17 at 12:43 p.m., Rochelle police cited Ki-ersten Albert, 29, of Rochelle, for expired registration. She posted a promise to comply.

On Oct. 17 at 9:24 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Michael Rivera, 50, of Rochelle, for driving while license revoked, DUI, improper lane use and failure to stop. He posted \$300 bond.

On Oct. 18 at 2:44 a.m., Rochelle police cited Kameli Ransom, 18, of Glendale, California, for speeding 73 m.p.h. in a 40 m.p.h. zone. She posted a promise to comply.

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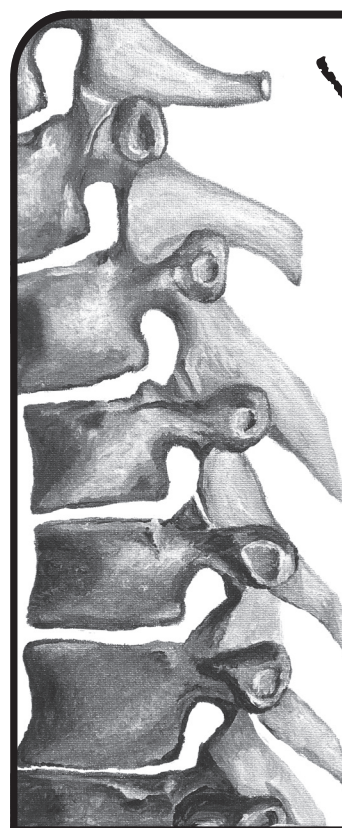
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LOCAL NEWS

Pegasus Special Riders to benefit from drive-thru pork chop dinner

ASHTON — Those looking for some good food to carry-out for a cause are invited to join Pegasus Special Riders as they hold a Pork Chop Pick-up Dinner at Ralphie and Lulu's in Ashton on Thursday, Oct. 22 from 4 to 7 p.m.

This event is a fundraiser for the organization located halfway between Franklin Grove and Oregon. Covid-19 has greatly impacted the services they offer. Rather than lessons starting in April, they only began in mid-August and with half the regular number of students. Both the Summer Family Picnic and the fall "Mane" Event fundraisers were canceled.

Preorders are appreciated but not required. Meals are \$10 each and include a pork chop, baked beans, au gratin potatoes and dessert. Pegasus has partnered with Kristie's Sweet Treats Shop in Ashton and each meal will include a coupon for a free small soft serve ice cream cone.

All proceeds from the pork chop dinner sales will benefit Pegasus Special Riders.

Pegasus Special Riders is a non-profit organization providing therapeutic horseback riding to northern Illinois residence with physical, mental, and emotional challenges. Pegasus provides these services with the generous help of individuals, clubs, corporations, grants, fund raising and in-kind donations.

The organization is staffed by over 70 volunteers who are involved with all aspects of the program from horse care, horse handling during lessons and barn chores to fund raising and special events.

A quote they often use is "To ride a horse is to borrow freedom". That feeling of freedom appears in the riders' smiles and as they connect with their horses at each and every lesson. Come out to support Pegasus in its 23rd year of operation.

Obituaries

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Charlotte Jean Willrett Berg, 94, died Oct. 12, 2020 at the home of her son, Gerald Berg, in Scottsdale, Arizona. She was born on Dec. 5, 1925, the second daughter of George and Caroline (Rueff) Willrett near Malta.

Her mother died when she was five years old and the family was split up until George remarried 15 months later. At that point, Charlotte, Dorothy and Robert returned to live with their dad and stepmother Dorothy. In the meantime, she had lived with Uncle Jac and Aunt Ruth Willrett in Malta.

She attended school in Malta graduating in 1943 as Valedictorian. She received a scholarship to Northern Illinois State Teachers College graduating with a bachelor's degree in Home Economics in 1947. While a college student, she lived with her Grandma Rueff, who managed a student house on John Street. She taught Home Economics at Chadwick for two years and then at Keithsburg for another year.

On Feb. 10, 1951 Charlotte married

Gaylord Berg and they moved to their farm home at Creston. She was a homemaker, co-manager of the Hallmark Gift Gallery in Rochelle and secretary/bookkeeper at Estech for 13 years. Charlotte was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church, rural Lee, and the Ruth Circle since 1951. She was Sunday School Superintendent for many years. She was secretary for the Creston School Board and for the Dement Township Board for many years. She was an avid card player, gardener, refunder and knitter.

In September 2014 she sold her home in Creston and moved to Oak Crest Area Retirement Center in DeKalb where she enjoyed the friendships of family and friends with her apartment door always open.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gaylord Berg, in 1995; her parents, George and Caroline Willrett; her stepmother, Dorothy (Banfield) Willrett; her brothers, Raymond, Robert and Frank Willrett; and her sister, Barbara DeWitt.

She is survived by two sons, Gary and Assunta Berg of Summit, New Jersey, and Dr. Gerald Berg and

Dr. Patricia Flynn of Scottsdale, Arizona; two daughters, Pastor Sandy Berg-Holte and Jim Holte of Aitkin, Minnesota, and Karen and Dr. Tom Fincel of Eugene, Oregon; 10 grandchildren, Jason (Donna) Berg, Pauline (Chris) Minch, Craig Berg, Julie (Joseph) Fewes, Brandon Berg, Dodge and Tucker Flynn, Brian (Julia) Holtemeyer, Emily (David) Mueller and Janelle Holte and five great-grandchildren, Sage Berg, Jocelyn and Daniel Minch, Clara Fewes and Lauren Mueller. She is also survived by her older sister, Dorothy Stoddard, brother and sister-in-laws; and many nieces and nephews.

A family graveside service will take place at Union Cemetery on Perry Road, north of Lee, on Oct. 23 at 10:30 a.m. the family invites you to join them virtually on zoom, please go to the Anderson Funeral Home website, www.AndersonFuneralHomeLtd.com to access link.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested for Calvary Lutheran Church 19 Perry Road Lee, IL 60530 in memory of Charlotte Berg.

Arrangements are with Anderson Funeral Home of DeKalb. To sign the guestbook go online to www.AndersonFuneralHomeLtd.com.

Warren Seebach

ASHTON — Warren Arthur Seebach, 85, of Ashton, passed away at his home on Monday, Oct. 19, 2020 surrounded by his loving family. He was born at home in Steward, on May 1, 1935, the son of Robert and Evelyn (Ewald) Seebach. He married Beverly Messer on April 27, 1958.

Warren proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1953 to 1956. He

farmed in the Ashton area and was a founder and board member of the Lincoln State Bank in Rochelle.

He was very active in the Ashton United Methodist Church, where he served in many committees. Warren was extremely community minded and was always willing to serve. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion, Eastern Lee-Ogle Honor Guard, and

a 50 year member of the Masons.

Warren also served as the Township Supervisor for Lafayette Township. He really enjoyed going to all his grandchildren's activities, and spending time at family meals. He loved his family, his community and his country.

Warren is survived by his wife, Beverly; two daughters, Angela (Andrew) Waters of Ashton and Lisa (Jeremy) Munson of Rockford; four grandchildren, Aidan Ellsworth, Alyssa, Austin, and Avamarie Waters; sister, Audrey Seebach of Rockford; step-brothers, Donald (Debra) Vogeler of Indiana and Ronald (Marcia) Vogeler of Roscoe; sisters-in-law, Kathy Messer of Rochelle, Judy Seebach of Rochelle, Christy Seebach of Rochelle, and Lynn Messer of Ashton; brothers-in-law Gene (Judy) Messer of Ashton; and numerous

nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Warren is preceded in death by his stepfather, Laurence Vogeler; two brothers, Harvey and Jerry Seebach; and his brother-in-law, Jerry Messer.

A walk-through visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22 at Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St. in Rochelle.

A private family funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 23 at the United Methodist Church of Ashton. Interment will follow in Ashton Cemetery. The funeral service will be live streamed on the Unger Horner Facebook page.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Ashton Fire Rescue or the American Legion Post 345.

Please visit www.ung-erhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

RTHS: Parents urged to make choice by Oct. 23

From page 1

Harper also said enrollment at RTHS is currently 903 students, 17 fewer than last year.

"Since we have a larger building that can accommodate social distancing of more students each day, we highly encourage all students to return to in-person learning if medically and otherwise appropriate," Harper said. "It's important that we hear from all parents regarding their choice to be an in-person or remote learner before Friday so we know each student's plan for the second semester."

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LOCAL NEWS

4-H club helps youth experiencing anxiety, stress, depression

URBANA – Teens are experiencing anxiety, stress, and depression throughout the pandemic, according to a Harris Poll conducted by 4-H, the national youth development organization. University of Illinois Extension is offering support for struggling youth, providing a safe place to talk about mental health issues with family and friends.

The six-part online series, Your Thoughts Matter, is open to teens. Register before Oct. 30 at go.illinois.edu/YourThoughtsMatter. “We need to be advocates for teen mental health and be willing to listen to what they are feeling,” says Susan Sloop, 4-H youth development educator and moderator for the sessions. “Providing youth a safe place to share their emotions and being a source of support can go a long way. Positive adult-youth relationships build resilience and can be a game-changer for many teens who are experiencing adversity and trauma.”

Your Thoughts Matter: Navigating Mental Health was written by Jami Dellifield and Amanda Raines, Ohio State Extension to equip teens with basic understanding of their mental health. COVID-19 has increased that need, exacerbating existing mental health issues and introducing a whole host of new challenges and obstacles for teens to navigate.

“While we understand that teens experienced mental health issues prior to the pandemic, it is important to note the Harris Poll survey was conducted during the COVID pandemic,” says Sloop, which may elevate their anxiety level. “Teens were isolated from friends, navigating virtual learning, and dealing with the loss of milestone events, such as prom and graduation.”

Separation from family and friends during COVID was the greatest stressor for teens, with 61% of the youth indicating they have increased feelings of loneliness and 64 percent saying COVID will have a lasting impact on their generation’s mental health, Sloop says.

The online platform will allow more youth to participate across the state, though Sloop admits there are also disadvantages to an online-only format. “When you transition from an in-person to a virtual format, you lose the nonverbal communication and the energy you gain from being in a room with others,” Sloop says. “That’s hard to replicate, but youth are already familiar and comfortable with communicating in a virtual world.”

Your Thoughts Matter is structured as a 4-H Special Interest Club, which Sloop says allows youth who are interested in a certain topic to engage in a very concentrated way. Participation is open to any Illinois youth 13 years of age and older. Using the experiential learning model, youth will share, process, generalize, and ultimately apply what they learn in a culminating activity.

The program is free. “We feel that there should be no barrier for any youth to participate, including cost,” she says.

Sloop says many communities have local mental health providers with school outreach and on-site services available. There are some good resources available online, such as National Alliance on Mental Illness in Illinois, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and Teen Mental Health.

Sloop cautions the SPIN club is not intended as a resource for those in crisis. “If you feel your teen is in distress or at risk of suicide, please seek help immediately,” says Sloop. “Call the Suicide Prevention Hotline at 800-273-8255 or visit their website.

Programs available online

Family, Food and Finances

Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m.: Discover Caregiving: Changing Relationships

Identify and understand the relationship changes that can develop among family members, successful long-distance caregiving, and the need for family support. Presenters: Cheri Burcham and Tessa Hobbs-Curley

Oct. 27 at 6 p.m.: Happy Healthy Providers: Healthy Habits

Good nutrition and an active lifestyle help prepare children for learning while positively influencing growth and development. Early care and education centers can help build those habits by offering a variety of healthy foods and plenty of opportunities to be physically active.

Learn strategies that early care and education center staff can use to support children and their families in developing a foundation of healthy habits that last a lifetime.

Coordinator: Kaitlyn Streitmatter

Oct. 28 at 10 a.m.: Managing Diabetes in a Modern World: Making the Most of Your Diabetes Resources

You do not have to manage your diabetes alone. In this session, explore the different resources, services, and supports related to diabetes that you and anyone in your life can use. From websites, books, and classes to insurance-covered education classes and diabetes footwear, we will cover a variety of resources you can use to better manage your health.

Presenter: Caitlin Melendorf

Oct. 28 at noon: Fermented Foods: What do they do?

Have you seen kimchi, kombucha, kefir, soy sauce, or probiotic supplements recently for sale at the grocery store? They might claim to improve your gut microbi-

ome, help you think more clearly, and improve your health.

Learn how to decipher fact from fiction with enthusiast, fermenter, and nutritional sciences PhD student Breanna Metras. Join us and learn how to run some experiments in your own home and understand what the science really says these foods can do for you. Coordinator: Chelsey Byers

October 29 | 6:30 PM: Discover Caregiving: Care for Couple Relationships

Caregiving situations can bring unexpected challenges to couple relationships. Learn more about those unique circumstances and techniques for maintaining your special bond and relationship dynamic.

Presenters: Chelsey Byers and Karla Belzer

Youth

Development

Oct. 27 at 5 p.m.: Teacher Tuesdays: Library and Museum Resources

Join us for virtual networking events designed to connect teachers and their classrooms with local STEAM resources. Chat with other teachers and professionals in STEAM fields to learn about resources and activities for your classroom. The Virtual Resource Fair will highlight multiple local organizations and their activities, specifically focused on virtual offerings.

It will also include a breakout room discussion where you’ll have a chance to chat with other educators. The Panel Discussions will allow a more in-depth look at resources and a chance to ask questions of professionals in specific fields.

Organizers: Judy Schmidt, Emily Schoenfelder

Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.: It’s Not Scary, It’s Parliamentary Procedures

Just because it’s spooky season, doesn’t mean you

have to be spooked by parliamentary procedure! Join us as we dive into the 4-1-1 on parliamentary procedure. We will explore officer roles, review general parliamentary procedure, and share ideas to help make parliamentary fun! Grab your ghouls and ghosts and save this date!

Presenter: Pat McGlaughlin

Home Gardening and Small Farm Operations

Oct. 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.: Virtual Urban Farmer Workshop Series: Soils

Are you an urban farmer? With the growing season coming to an end, take a chance to learn more about small-scale operations with the Master Urban Farmer Workshop Series. Presenter: Zach Grant

Community and Economic Development

Oct. 22 at noon: Local Workforce Investment Opportunity Areas Updates

University of Illinois Extension and Richland County Development Corporation will co-host a legislative summary and update of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), regional and local offerings, workforce investment areas, and resources.

Participants can expect to get a general knowledge of WIOA services offered by Local Workforce Investment Area 23 and their partners and learn more about who benefits from WIOA services. Jamie will highlight the Local Workforce Innovation Area 23’s purpose, benefits, and goals as it pertains to WIOA. The webinar will open with remarks from Courtney Yockey, Executive Director of the Richland County Development Corporation.

Coordinator: Nancy Ouedraogo

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Is the proposed Fair Tax really fair?

WHEN it comes to the proposed income tax amendment to the Illinois Constitution, neither side is being particularly honest. Sadly, that's come to be expected in any political campaign, but it doesn't make it any easier for voters to make an informed decision as they cast their votes before polls close Nov. 3.



Scott Reeder

What the proposal would do is move Illinois from its current flat income tax rate of 4.95 percent to a graduated income tax that takes a higher percentage of folk's income as they earn more money.

Gov. JB Pritzker and other advocates of the change say it will lower taxes for 97 percent of Illinoisans and raise it for just 3 percent.

Maybe. But probably not the case for the long haul.

Here's why - the rates aren't included in the constitutional amendment. The amendment empowers the Illinois Legislature to set the rates at whatever it sees fit.

It is true that the Legislature has passed a measure setting rates that would very slightly reduce taxes for most people and jack it up for top earners. But - and this is a big but folks - Illinois lawmakers could change rates at any time for anyone. So, the rates they are proposing almost certainly won't be permanent.

In fact, since top earners derive much of their income, not from paychecks but from investments, fluctuations in the stock market would make it hard to depend on revenue under the proposal year-to-year.

That's why it's likely the higher rates will spread downward to those earning much less.

When the state con-

stitution was drafted in 1970, a flat tax rate was created as a deterrent to lawmakers routinely raising rates. The idea was that if all voters would see more withheld from their paychecks, lawmakers would think twice before increasing taxes.

On the other hand, opponents of the change haven't exactly been paragons of virtue either.

For example, one of the most oft repeated lines is that creating a progressive income tax will lead to taxing retirement incomes.

Lawmakers could tax retirement income now, but choose not to. They could choose to tax retirements if the constitutional amendment is passed, but it's a stretch to think one causes the other.

One often shared meme on social media is, "Every state with a progressive income tax, taxes retirement income."

Well, only three states - Illinois, Pennsylvania and Mississippi - don't tax proceeds from retirement accounts or pensions. But Mississippi has a progressive income tax, so that statement isn't accurate.

Also, Alabama and Hawaii don't tax pensions but both have progressive income taxes.

So, the argument is spurious at best.

That said, there are sound reasons not to alter our state's constitution and give greater taxing powers to legislators.

I routinely receive letters and emails from readers saying they are leaving the state because of the high taxes levied here. It's not just the income tax, it's the aggregate load of property, income, sales and business taxes that are fueling this exodus.

Passing this amendment will spur more wealthy individuals and businesses to leave for better managed, tax-friendly states.

And when businesses leave, workers will follow.

Somehow, we need to stem the flow of people and jobs from this great state.

The governor and Democratic legislative leaders need to embrace reform before they even think of asking voters for more taxing power.

Here are some good places to start:

Reduce the number of governmental entities in Illinois. Illinois has about 7,000, much more than any other state and this is an expensive, inefficient way of delivering services. Whether it is mosquito control boards, townships, libraries, school districts or a host of other entities, we need to consolidate.

Bring pension reform to Illinois. The Land of Lincoln has the worst funded pension system in the nation and desperately needs to reduce its liabilities. For too long, lawmakers have talked but failed to act on ways

of reducing costs that contribute to an unfunded liability that exceeds \$130 billion.

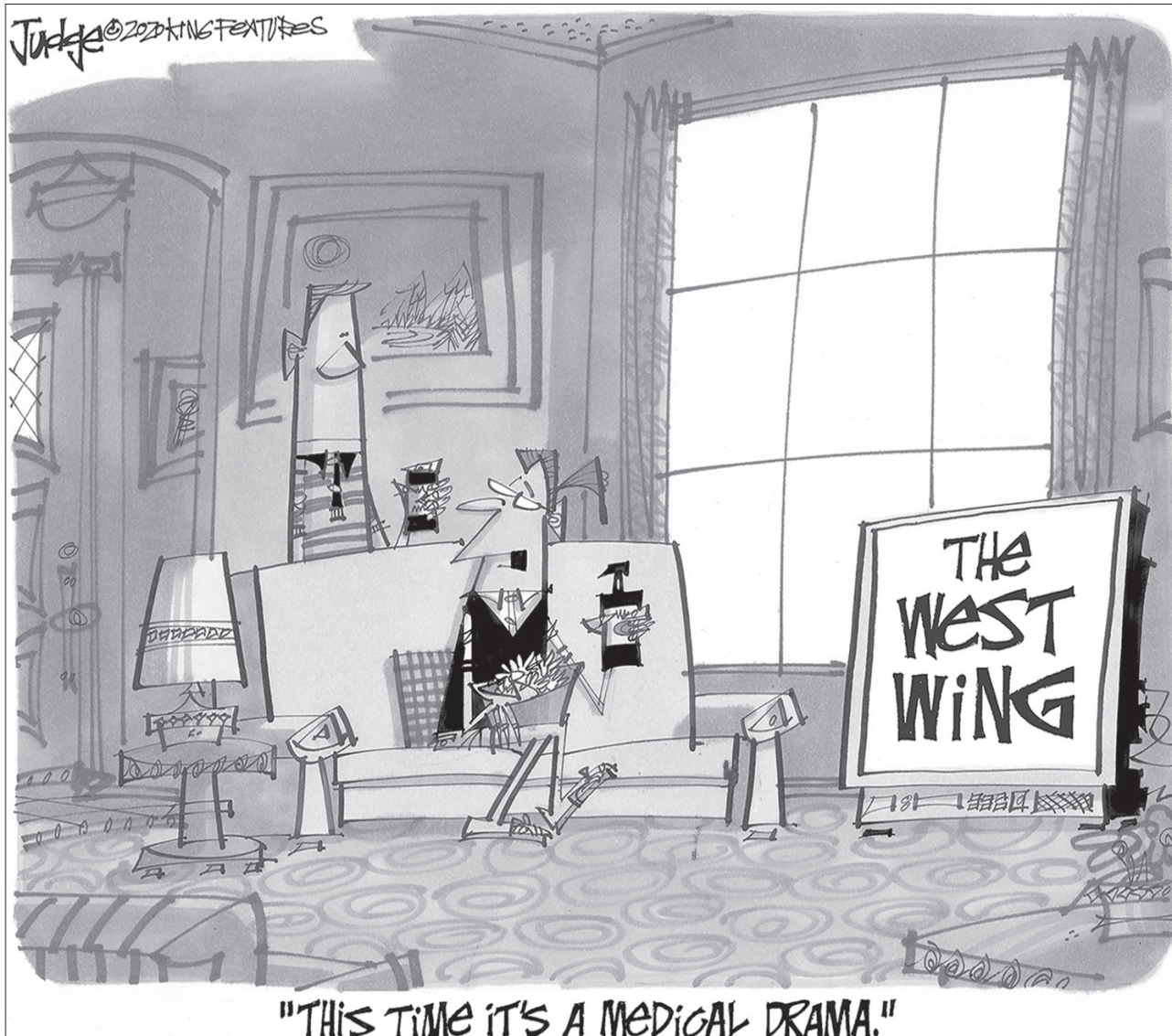
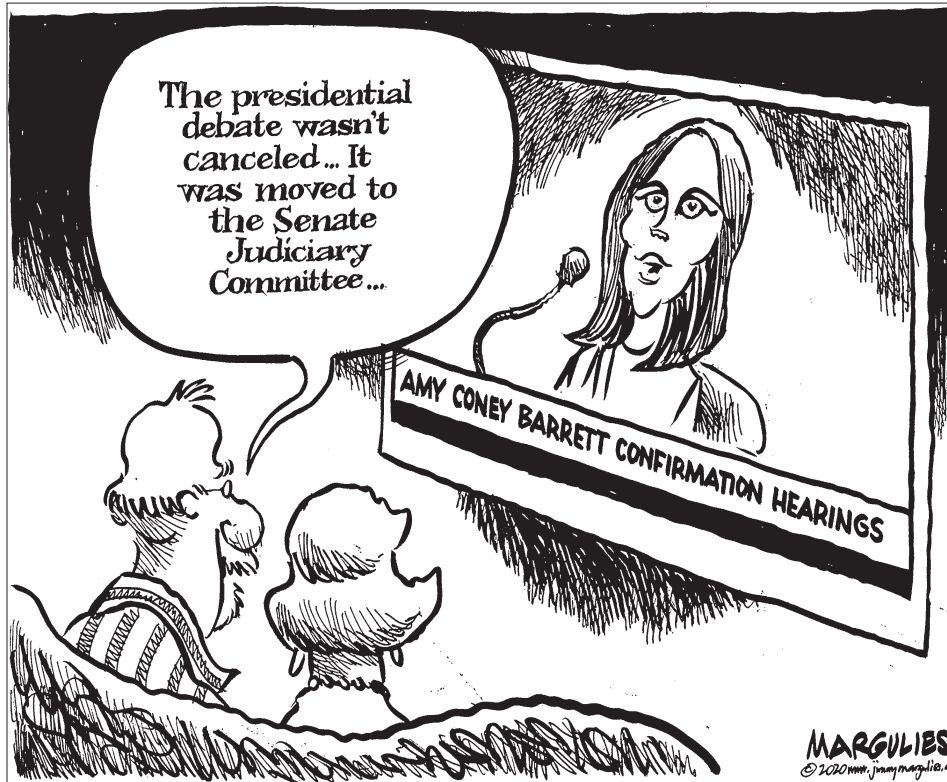
Embrace ethics reform. Four of the last 10 men elected Illinois governor have ended up in prison. Commonwealth Edison is cooperating with federal prosecutors in an apparent corruption investigation of

House Speaker Michael Madigan. And a host of legislators and other state officials have gone to prison over the years on corruption charges. It's time for lawmakers to implement reforms and end this culture of insider deals and pay-to-play politics.

These are reforms well within the power of

the General Assembly to address. And, yet, they haven't. Only after they have they done so, should we even consider amending our constitution.

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



How to contact government officials

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

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

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

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

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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

Several services available at library

ROCHELLE — Several services are available for patrons at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library who possess a library card.

Grab and Go Service

The library is open by appointment only. Masks are required and patrons can schedule 30-minute appointments by calling 815-562-3431, by e-mail at rochellereaders@gmail.com or schedule a time on the library website at flaggrochellepubliclibrary.org.

Hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Beginning Nov. 1, Saturday hours will be 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Curbside services are also offered and are very popular. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (beginning Nov. 1).

Patrons can place their holds via phone at 815-562-3431, the Prairie Cat Encore Catalog or e-mail at rochellereaders@gmail.com. If you choose to place your order via Encore please select Flagg-Rochelle Public Library after you search to ensure that you are placing your hold on our materials. You can place holds on materials from other libraries, but

remember that everything must be quarantined for seven days before it will be available for checkout. You will need your library card number to place holds on our materials.

Staff will call or e-mail patrons when their items are ready for pick-up. Patrons will call when they arrive at the Library and park in a numbered parking stall. Please tell us that you have arrived, the parking stall number you chose and your library card number.

Staff will check out materials to you and bring your materials out to your vehicle in a bag.

Staff will not take returns. All returns must be placed in the book drop. Library staff will be wearing masks when they are delivering materials to your vehicles.

HOOPLA

Search and borrow audiobooks, eBooks, comics, music, movies and TV.

First, patrons will have to set up an account at <https://www.hoopladigital.com>. Once registered, patrons may stream the item or download to their device.

According to library director Sarah Flanagan, Jane DeGolier called and suggested Hoopla. "During COVID, I have depended, more than ever, on access to library books.

I continue to like holding a book in my hands, but for the time that the library was closed, I needed to find a source for online literature," DeGolier said. "Many neighboring communities were able to use the Hoopla app to check out ebooks through their local libraries. I was very disappointed to learn that this was not available to Flagg-Rochelle patrons. When our library opened again, I mentioned this to Sarah. I am so happy to share that Sarah and our library board has made the decision to add Hoopla to the many services offered in Rochelle. In addition to reading, we can all enjoy audio books, music and movies from the convenience of our homes. Thank you."

Haybale

Be sure to check out the haybale on display at the library. The haybale this year is "Pete the Cat!"

"We would like to thank the Rochelle Community for all of their support throughout COVID-19. The library board and staff are working hard to ensure the safety of all of our patrons. Behind every great Library, is a great community!" Flanagan said.

For more library information, call 815-562-3431 or e-mail director@flaggrochellepubliclibrary.org.



FROM THE HEART DAILY CASH WINNERS

- Sept. 29 - Kathleen Wayman, Oregon, \$25
- Sept. 30 - Lauren Kellen, CHS-Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 1 - Dave Mavghan, Highlands Ranch, Colo., \$25
- Oct. 2 - Herb Sondergroth, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 3 - From the Heart auction, \$25
- Oct. 4 - Natalia Garza, Rochelle, \$50
- Oct. 5 - Dennis & Angela Burkhart, Steward, \$25
- Oct. 6 - Ralph Dauphin, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 7 - Shawn Knight, Polo, \$25
- Oct. 8 - Tracey Johnson, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 9 - Benjamin Reineck, Maple Park, \$25
- Oct. 10 - City of Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 11 - Chad Horner, Rochelle, \$50
- Oct. 12 - Jessica Meyers, Rochelle, \$250
- Oct. 13 - Steve Haas, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 14 - From the Heart Auction, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 15 - Nacho Fulgencio, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 16 - Sunshine Bakery, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 17 - Ben Ignaszak, Oregon, \$25
- Oct. 18 - Paul Stavrakas, Rochelle, \$50
- Oct. 19 - Megan Gardner, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 20 - Carrie Cappel, Rochelle, \$25
- Oct. 21 - Cal Jacobs, Rochelle, \$25

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

The Kitchen Table menu

- Oct. 22 (Thursday) Pork chops, mac 'n cheese, peas, bread
- Oct. 27 (Tuesday) Shrimp and grits, fried okra, salad (vinaigrette)
- Oct. 29 (Thursday) Chili - traditional or white chicken chili - cornbread
- *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

- Oct. 22**
Kayleigh White
Johnny Roinas
- Oct. 24**
Brittany Brown
- Oct. 25**
Bianca Herrera
- Oct. 28**
Stephanie Wiginton
Bryce Weems
- Oct. 30**
Jack Powell
- Oct. 31**
Angel Weyhrauch

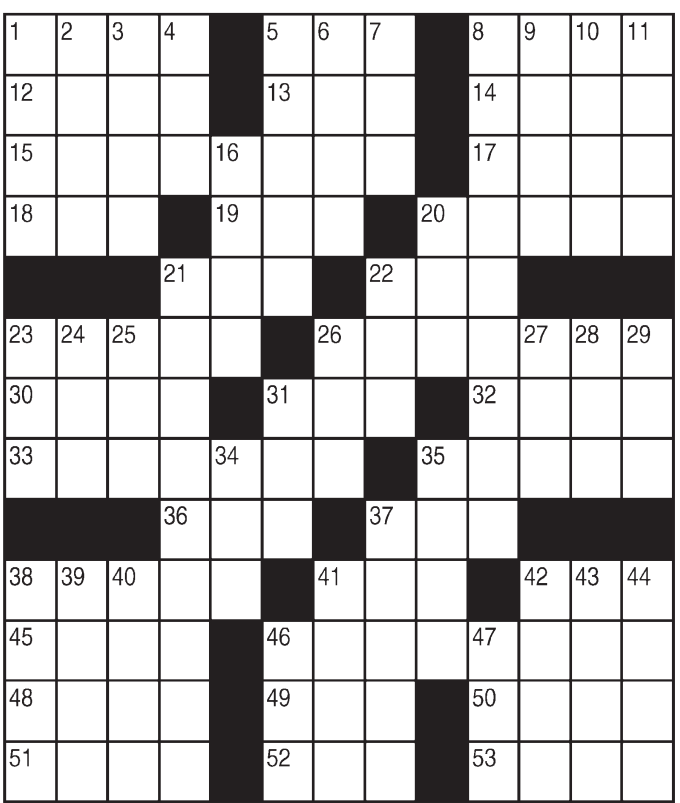


Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Manhandle
- 5 Kimono sash
- 8 Hollywood clashers
- 12 Otherwise
- 13 Paid athlete
- 14 Swindle
- 15 Glass made of lava
- 17 Small song-bird
- 18 Series of battles
- 19 Individual
- 20 Too thin
- 21 Prompt
- 22 Evergreen type
- 23 Happen
- 26 Andean vultures
- 30 Courts
- 31 Email alternative
- 32 Pedestal occupant
- 33 Panacea
- 35 Golfer's aid
- 36 Rowing need
- 37 Junior
- 38 Suspicious
- 41 Pal
- 42 Hot tub
- 45 Stereo hook-up
- 46 — bacon
- 48 Pod vegetable
- 49 Plant bristle



- 50 Fairy tale
- 51 Lowly worker
- 52 Thickness
- 53 Chew like a chipmunk
- 54 side
- 55 Charged bit
- 56 Early era in England's
- 57 20th century
- 58 Mentor
- 59 File command
- 60 Transmitted
- 61 Gloomy
- 62 Card player's call
- 63 Janitor
- 64 Hounds' prey
- 65 Possess
- 66 Bill's partner
- 67 Trig ratio
- 68 Rotating part
- 69 Peculiar
- 70 Scepter
- 71 Like 22-Down
- 72 Bear hair
- 73 Shaft of light
- 74 Last few notes
- 75 Optimistic
- 76 Buy stuff
- 77 Woodsy walk
- 78 Frizzy 'do
- 79 Cry loudly
- 80 Portent
- 81 Law firm aide, for short
- 82 From the beginning
- 83 Upper limit
- 84 Mutt

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: X equals E

ZNDX OWNMZ YIWOF S RKWMTWMA
FSLXKM SMR ASLX WF FBX
FSAOWMX "VBXKX XLXKQYNRQ
TMNVZ QNIK DSMX."

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Answer

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

Answers

W	A	G	L	P	L	N	O	A	P	E	R	E
G	R	E	N	A	N	W	A	K	O			
N	I	A	D	I	A	F	I	H				
S	P	A	B	U	D	S	H	A	D			
D	O	S	N	O	S	A	V	A	O			
D	O	C	A	C	M	U	T	S	O	N		
I	D	O	X	F	A	S	O	O	W			
S	R	O	C	R	O	U	S	O	O			
F	I	R	F	I	R	C	U	E				
N	T	G	N	O	N	O	I	S	O			
N	E	N	A	V	A	I	S	O				
D	P	E	P	R	O	E	L	S	E			
S	O	L	O	B	I	E	G	O				

Solution time: 21 mins.

Some lions built a drinking tavern and gave it the tagline "Where everybody knows your name."

LOCAL NEWS

House GOP aims for FOID fixes in light of application backlog

While they prefer complete repeal, lawmakers take aim at more realistic administrative action

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS/JNOWICKI@CAPITOLNEWSILLINOIS.COM

SPRINGFIELD—Republican lawmakers are calling to abolish the state’s Firearm Owners Identification card requirement — or at least to install fixes to expedite the Illinois State Police’s handling of a backlog of applications that is leaving gun owners in a state of uncertainty.

“My office receives three to five calls almost every day now (with FOID delay concerns),” Rep. Charlie Meier, R-Okawville, said at a Capitol news conference Wednesday. “Wherever I go, I’m contacted by people that walk up to me, ‘I have a problem with my FOID card.’ You have to explain the process. And you tell them that, you know, you’re not the only one that’s two, three or four months behind. There’s many more.”

Meier and some of his fellow Republican House members said their offices have been “inundated” by callers who have had issues with FOID. They said the delay in FOID card processing has left law abiding gun owners in the lurch as they await renewals, and two constituents who experienced delays shared their stories at the news conference Wednesday as well.

“You have several problems here,” said Rep. Michael Marron, R-Fithian. “The first thing is, is that you are taking law abiding citizens who are trying to exercise their constitutional right to bear arms, and you’re creating a problem for them being compliant with the state law.”

The lawmakers said nearly \$30 million in funding was swept from the ISP’s coffers to the state’s general revenue fund from fiscal years 2015 to 2019, including more than \$13 million from the Firearm Services Fund which goes to FOID administration.

A FOID card costs \$10 and must be renewed every 10 years. Of that fee, \$6 goes to the Wildlife and Fish Fund, \$3 to the Firearm Services Fund and \$1 to the State Police Services Fund.

Rep. Patrick Windhorst, a Metropolis Republican who represents all or parts of the state’s southernmost 11 counties, said his priority is abolishing FOID card requirements in the state, and he noted there are court challenges to the FOID card’s constitutionality.

“Now we understand the makeup of the General Assembly and the possibility that that bill will not be called or not be voted on,” he said of a full FOID repeal. “So there are other pieces of legislation that we feel will address these issues.”

Right now, a FOID cardholder can apply for renewal within 90 days of the card’s expiration date. Windhorst said, due to long delays, this often creates a window between when a FOID card expires and when the cardholder gets a renewed card in the mail.



(CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS PHOTO BY JERRY NOWICKI)

Rep. Patrick Windhorst, R-Metropolis, joins lawmakers and constituents in calling for changes to the state’s Firearm Owners Identification application process during a news conference Wednesday at the Capitol in Springfield. The group backs a full repeal of FOID requirements and several other bills which they said would be more actionable in the current political climate.

He said people who file in a timely manner but fall victim to that period can still possess guns legally, and an ISP spokesperson said FOID cards “should remain valid as long as they have submitted the renewal application prior to the expiration of their card.”

But Windhorst said gun owners falling victim to delays often have trouble purchasing guns or ammunition because an expired FOID is not accepted by gun dealers.

Windhorst said House Bill 4447, backed by the group, would move that renewal window to 180 days before expiration in the hopes of closing any overlap between expiration and a lag in processing.

Another measure, House Bill 4448, would require ISP to automatically renew the lapsed FOID card of anyone who has a valid and current concealed carry license as long as the license holder is in good standing with the state. An automatically renewed FOID would expire at the same time the CCL does.

CCLs cost \$150 for five years and require training and fingerprinting. The State Police Firearm Services Fund sees \$120 of that amount, while \$20 goes to the

Mental Health Reporting Fund and \$10 goes to the State Crime Laboratory.

House Bill 4450, another measure backed by the group, spells out an appeal process for FOID or CCL denials or revocations and provides specific guidelines and timelines for the ISP in processing any such appeal.

A proposed state constitutional amendment would create a “lock box” to place fees collected from FOID and CCL applicants in a fund protected from future sweeps.

At a news conference last month, ISP Director Brendan Kelly called for greater resources to enforce FOID revocations and administer the program, and he backed Senate Bill 1966 which would double FOID fees and require renewals every five years. It also would require fingerprinting of FOID holders.

The lawmakers on Wednesday said the fund sweeps show that more funding is not needed, but rather the funding needs to be used the right way. Marron also said adding fingerprinting to the application process would infringe on rights and serve only to deepen the backlog.

The Illinois State Rifle Association also contended that millions of dollars in the ISP budget went unspent each year between 2015 and 2019. That group is suing the Illinois State Police, its director and the chief of the Firearm Services Bureau for “not acting in a timely manner on Firearm Owners Identification card and concealed carry applications.”

“We at ISRA believe that ISP has enough resources to complete its mission without asking law abiding firearm owners for more money or forcing citizens to be fingerprinted to exercise a constitutional right,” ISRA Executive Director Richard Pearson said in a statement.

Beth Hundsdorfer, an ISP spokesperson, released a statement in response to the Wednesday news conference.

“Sweeps’ of the firearms services fund prevented long-term planning and improvements to firearm services for years,” she said. “Now that the firearms services fund has been stabilized under the governor’s bipartisan budget, the ISP is implementing a multi-year plan for hiring and technology upgrades to provide the customer service that firearms owners should expect. We currently have 35 positions available.”

She said ISP “needs the help of the Legislature to streamline and improve the FOID and CCL process,” and is ready to work with Windhorst and others “to shorten and standardize appeals, consolidate FOID and CCL functions, and reduce costs.”

She said FOID administration is separate from the need for enforcement resources for state, county and local law enforcement.

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SPORTS



LODICO COMMITS

RTHS senior Bella Lodico will play softball collegiately at Judson University.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Girls Tennis

Historic sectional finish

Lady Hubs place multiple doubles teams for first time ever

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The belief and will to win was what spurred the Lady Hub tennis team to a series of historic achievements during the final rounds of the IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional on Saturday.

With one doubles team already clinching a top-4 finish, attention turned to Jordin Dickey and MeLisa Young, who needed a victory against Rockford Lutheran’s Olivia Stram and Adalia Yeung to earn their way into the semifinals. The Lady Hub juniors controlled the first set, but a tough second-set tiebreak extended the match into a third set. Digging deeper than they had all season, Dickey and Young turned the match around, outlasting Stram and Yeung 6-3, 6-7, 7-5.

The win advanced Dickey and Young into the semifinals, where they strung together another stunning upset against Sycamore’s Olivia King and Abby Golembiewski, the top-ranked doubles team in the tournament. After splitting the first two sets, both teams played to a 5-5 draw before an injury forced Sycamore’s team to retire, elevating Dickey and Young into the finals.

“Jordin and MeLisa had

played both the Rockford Lutheran team and the Sycamore team earlier in the season,” head coach Lizzie Cartwright said. “They had fallen to both of those teams, but we knew they could have done some things different in both matches... I had a feeling that if they could tighten up a few of their shots and start each match strong, they could beat them both. I knew they could win and the girls knew they could win. The girls walked up to me before both matches and told me they could win and I absolutely believed in them.”

Dickey and Young finished second in the doubles tournament, falling 5-7, 1-6 against Sycamore’s Emma Hardin and Abby Bourdage in the finals Saturday afternoon. On the other side of the bracket, senior Sawyer McGee and junior Sylvia Hasz placed third in the doubles tournament, falling 3-6, 1-6 to Hardin and Bourdage in the semifinals before earning a default victory over Golembiewski and King in the third-place match. It was the first time in Rochelle Township High School history that two doubles teams earned top-4 sectional medals.

“I was ecstatic for the girls,” Cartwright said. “I was elated for them because they haven’t played tennis for very long and Sylvia



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior MeLisa Young keeps her eye on the ball during the opening rounds of the IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional this past weekend. Young and teammate Jordin Dickey placed second in the doubles tournament, becoming Rochelle’s highest-finishing doubles combo since 2009.

came out this year for the first time. Their success speaks to their athleticism and how coachable they are. They work really hard and they are driven to win. I’m so happy for them and I’m so proud of the hard work and dedication they showed.”

Behind both doubles teams, Rochelle scored 15 points and finished third out of 11 schools in the sectional tournament. Dickey and Young became Rochelle’s highest-placing doubles combo since 2009, and it was the program’s best

performance at a sectional since 2010. Under normal circumstances, both Lady Hub doubles teams would have competed in the IHSA State Championships, but there will not be a state tournament this fall due to COVID-19.

“When the girls practice hard, that’s when I can really work with them and give them pointers on how to improve their game,” Cartwright said. “I really hope the girls come out as much as possible during open courts over the summer.”

RTHS Cross Country

Harriers take flight at Interstate 8 Championships

Varsity Hubs finish seventh overall, Lady Hubs place eighth

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

SYCAMORE — Despite cold, rainy and windy conditions with gusts ranging as high as 40 miles per hour, the Rochelle Township High School cross country team managed to record several strong times during the Interstate 8 Conference Championships at Sycamore High School.

Senior Aiden Seldal and junior Luke Orlikowski each cracked the 20-minute mark on Saturday, leading the Hubs to seventh place out of eight teams in the varsity race. Seldal finished 34th with a time of 19:24 and Orlikowski took 39th with a time of 19:59. Sophomore David Wanner anchored Rochelle’s fresh-soph boys in the meet, placing seventh with a time of 19:04 while freshmen Parker Lenkaitis and Alex Burke finished 13th and

15th, respectively.

“Our team ran really well overall, with most athletes bettering their times from when we ran against Sycamore about a month ago,” head coach Mark Zilis said. “I was surprised how well we ran considering the conditions our athletes had to endure, but I think that could be a sign that our training is working... Our varsity boys set a goal of beating at least one team and our fresh-soph boys finished third after setting a goal to finish in the top half of the conference.”

The Rochelle varsity girls finished eighth in the conference meet behind junior Sara Johnson, who led the Lady Hubs with a time of 22:38 to take 16th overall. Sophomores Yuelma Ortiz (29th), Karina Lopez (38th) and Ahtziri Zepeda (44th) rounded out the top four Rochelle varsity girls on Saturday with respective times of



Junior Josue Huerta and sophomore Yuelma Ortiz were two of Rochelle’s top varsity runners during the Interstate 8 Conference Championships at Sycamore High School this past weekend.

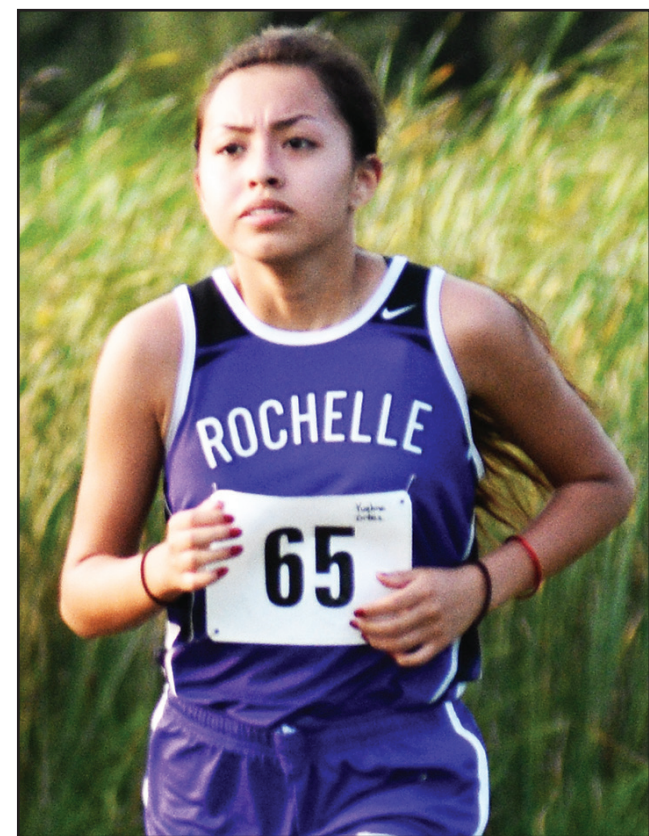
24:05, 26:02 and 28:14.

Rochelle’s varsity teams will compete in

the IHSA 2A Belvidere Regional on Saturday, Oct. 24 at 9 and 11 a.m.

The girls will race first and the boys will race second. Qualifiers will advance to

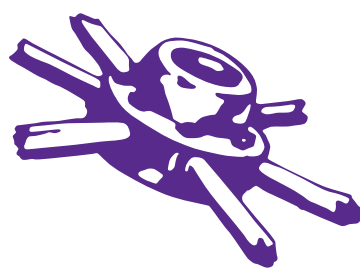
the IHSA 2A Lake Villa (Lakes) Sectional on Saturday, Oct. 31.



(FILE PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)



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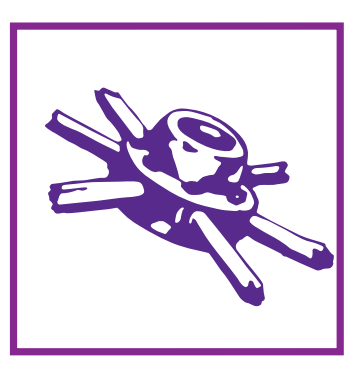
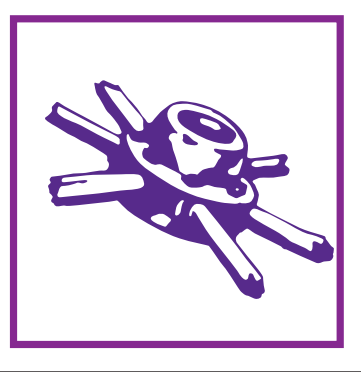
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HUB SPOTLIGHT

Lodico commits to Judson University softball team

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

BELLA Lodico was only a freshman when she became the starting pitcher for the Rochelle Township High School softball team. Lodico knew it would be a challenge facing older and more experienced hitters, but that challenge has helped her to become a better person and leader.

Now a senior, Lodico will be looking to finish her high school career strong with the Lady Hubs before she takes her academics and athletics to Judson University in Elgin. Lodico said she plans to study psychology in hopes of becoming either a school counselor or a therapist.

"I chose Judson University because it will provide the best future for me," Lodico said. "When I first visited the campus, the environment and the people made me feel at home. I knew I wanted to be closer to home because my family and friends mean so much to me... I'm looking forward to competing against girls who have as much passion and love for the game as I do."

Lodico showed great promise her freshman season, striking out 103 batters and totaling only 29 walks in 103 and one-third innings pitched. The left-hander took a step forward as a sophomore, throwing 120 innings and recording six wins while striking out 124 batters. Lodico, who also plays for the Kishwaukee Valley Storm, was Rochelle's Most Valuable Player in 2019.

"I knew my freshman year was going to be a challenge," Lodico said. "Playing softball at RTHS has helped me become much stronger mentally... As a lefty, I know situations chance against other opponents. I want to make it a challenge for other teams to compete against Judson and I know I can do what the coaches tell me and more. I want to make an impact on the Judson team and the only way to do that is by working hard and getting better every single day."

Lodico and the Lady Hubs will tee off their upcoming season next April. Softball is one of several sports that saw its 2020-21 season pushed back to the summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lady Hubs have won 11 games in Lodico's three-plus



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle senior Bella Lodico will be continuing her academics and athletics at Judson University in Elgin next year.

years with the softball program.

"I'm excited to see Bella have a chance to play at the next level," head coach Lindsay Suess said. "She has been a great leader in our program and she works extremely hard. Bella will be a great asset to the Judson program."

"I want to make it a challenge for other teams to compete against Judson and I know I can do what the coaches tell me and more. I want to make an impact on the Judson team and the only way to do that is by working hard and getting better every single day."

Bella Lodico



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SPORTS

RTHS Boys Tennis



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Devansh Patel smashes a forehand shot during tennis practice this past week. Patel is one of a few Hub tennis players who have taken advantage of the 20 fall contact days allowed by the Illinois High School Association.

Hub netters staying active through the fall

Players taking advantage of contact days

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — While Rochelle Township High School's fall athletic programs wrap up their respective seasons, the Hub and LadyHub winter, spring and summer teams have been taking advantage of their 20 fall contact days allotted by the Illinois High School Association.

Those teams include the Hub tennis program, which has been taking the courts at RTHS throughout September and October to prepare for the upcoming season. Head coach Kristy Eckardt said that kids have been working through drills and taking as many reps as possible before to stay in playing shape and keep their tennis skills sharp for the summer season.

"We've had a few kids come out," Eckardt said. "It's been nice to get back into the swing of things since we didn't have any time to play over the summer and some of our kids weren't able to get out and play on their own. We're getting used to being on the court again, which is nice because some of our kids compete and then don't touch a racket again until March."

Since seeing its 2019-20 season canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hub tennis program has been attempting to keep kids involved throughout the summer and fall. In addition to the fall contact days, Eckardt said kids received weekly challenges during the summer through the RTHS Tennis Facebook page, with some of the chal-

lenges including playing a singles match, playing with family members or playing with new opponents.

"The more time the kids can be out playing tennis, the better they'll be," Eckardt said. "I hope the kids have been taking advantage of our time together. I also encourage our kids to get involved in other sports during the offseason, and I think other sports help as far as agility, quickness and strategy go. I'd like to see our kids compete in four sports if they can."

The Hub tennis program will be one of several teams scheduled to begin an unprecedented summer season on April 19, 2021. The team will have two weeks of practice before matches are allowed to begin on May 3, 2021. The summer season concludes on June 26, 2021.

RTHS Golf



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Thiravong takes third in Prep Tour event

Rochelle Township High School senior Megan Thiravong placed third out of nearly 30 girls at the 36-hole Prep Tour event in the Bloomington-Normal area this past weekend. Thiravong opened the tournament on Saturday, shooting 80 at The Den in Bloomington before stepping up with 78 in the final round at Ironwood Golf Course on Sunday. Thiravong overcame tough weather conditions at the tournament, which featured several top high school players from Illinois. Thiravong is pictured above with her third-place trophy.

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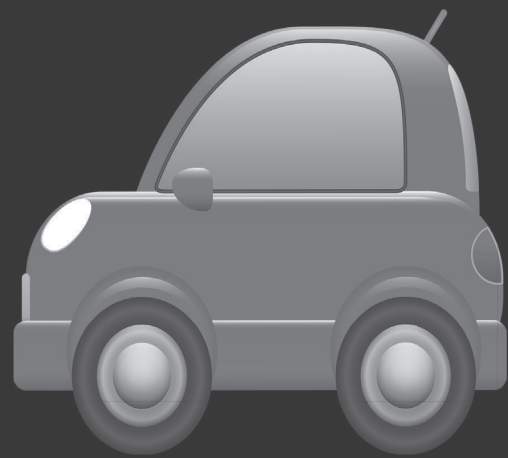
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
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SPECIFICATIONS and other requirements may be obtained by emailing Fire Chief David Sawlsville at dsawlsville@rochelleil.us. Within 24 hours of the receipt of your email request, you will receive an email including the bid specification and the additional requirements document.

THE CITY OF ROCHELLE PREFERS THE SEALED BID BE DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, CITY HALL, 420 NORTH SIXTH STREET, ROCHELLE, ILLINOIS BEFORE 10:00 A.M., November 20th, 2020; HOWEVER, BIDS MAY ALSO BE MAILED. ANY BID RECEIVED AFTER 10:00 A.M., November 20th, 2020 WILL BE RETURNED, UNOPENED.

ALL BIDS will be publicly opened and read aloud at a bid opening at 10:00 a.m., November 20th, 2020, in the Council Chambers at City Hall in Rochelle, Illinois. ANY OBJECTIONS, QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS on the City's specifications shall be submitted by emailing Fire Chief David Sawlsville at dsawlsville@rochelleil.us on or before 10a.m. November 13th. If deemed necessary by the City, an addendum will be distributed to all prospective bidders by email transmission at least two (2) days prior to the bid opening date.

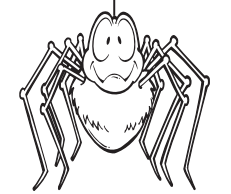
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No. 1018 (Oct. 18, 21)

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Dated: October 16, 2020
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk
No. 1021 (Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4)

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Part-time mailroom position

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

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

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

HW

301 ANTIQUES

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 RECEPTIONIST AT FRONT COUNTER Rochelle News-Leader.

Universal Brand
Accordion 13" x 23" Grayish Color \$100.00
Mendota Cell #815-414-3029 Lets Rock! (10-25-20)

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

ROCHELLE: LARGE 2-BEDROOM, North Side. Heat & Water Included. No Pets. Available Now. 815-919-9015. (10-28-20)

203 HELP WANTED

Part-Time Delivery Person Needed.

Must be able to lift & have valid drivers license. Flexible hours. Call or stop in at

Hub City Furniture
429-433 Lincoln Hwy
Rochelle, IL
815-562-8765

04102019

Office Assistant Manager

Senior Apartment Complex in Rochelle, IL has an opening for an Assistant Property Manager. Qualifications include high school diploma or equivalent, leasing license or ability to obtain, Certified Occupancy Specialist designation, computer literacy, effective oral/written communication skills, organizational and administrative skills. Preferred experience: apartment management.

Please send resumes to:
Tonya.Sarver@LSSI.org

EOE

10112020

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



HW

203 APPLIANCES

NEW MILFORD REFRIGERATION

NEW, USED SCRATCH & DENT
• Refrigerators • Freezers • Washers/Dryers • Stoves
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We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

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103 AUCTIONS

40± Acre, Wooded, Potential Building Site

Offered at auction on

October 31

Property is between Byron & Rockford, IL. 2 % Buyer's Premium
Seller: Iron Horse Acres, LLC
Contact Auction Company for Details
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10212020

Attention Hunters - Illinois Virtual Land Auction

Saturday, October 31
10 am CST

Great Hunting & Recreational Opportunities on tracts in Stark, Ogle & Winnebago Counties. Various size tracts available! Part of an 1132± acre, 21 tract auction in six counties.

2 % Buyer's Premium

Seller: Iron Horse Acres, LLC

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ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Hacksauction.hidbid.com

Gary Wilson Antique Auction

BIDDING OPENS: TUES., OCT. 20th @ 8 A.M.

1332 W. Demeter Dr., Freeport, IL 61032

Gary Collected Beautiful Pieces for Many Years!

Home Full

Antiques & Collectibles; Primitives; Huge Selection Fine China, Crystal & Glassware; Stoneware; Advertisement; Freeport-Local-Historical Post Card

Collection; Glass Door China & Display Closets & Hutches; Lighting; **Much More!**

PREVIEW: Mon., Oct. 19th - 3 to 6 P.M.

PICKUP: Mon., Oct. 26th - 3 P.M. to 6 P.M.

BIDDING CLOSES: Sat., Oct. 24th @ 7 P.M.

REAL ESTATE SOLD

SAT., OCT. 31st @ 10 A.M.

Two-BR Ranch Home, 2-Car Unattached Garage,

Full Basement, Newer Mechanicals, Shaded Lot, Near Krape Park.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Hunt Antique Toy & Bank Collection

BIDDING OPENS: Thurs., Oct. 22nd @ 8 A.M.

Hack's Auction Center

440 W. Third St., Pecatonica, IL

Great Selection of Vintage & Antique Toys!

Desirable Arcade Cast Iron-Carpenter-Kenton; Early Strauss-Lehmann-Ives-German Toys; Pressed Steel Kingsbury & Sonny, Graf Zeppelin & Pull Toys; Cast Iron Vehicles-Motorcycles-Animal & Horse Drawn;

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Tru-Scale Farm Toy Set; Major Matt Mason 1966 Man in Space; Match Box; Tonka; GI Joe; Sports Cards; **Many Boxed & Rare Items.**

PREVIEW: Wed., Oct. 21st - 3 to 7 P.M.

BIDDING CLOSES: Tues., Oct. 27 @ 7 P.M.

PICKUP: Thurs., Oct. 29th - 3 to 7 P.M.

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Paul & Linda Chermak Antique Auction No. 1

BIDDING OPENS: SAT., OCT. 24th @ 8 A.M.

7320 N. River Rd., Byron, IL

Selling Home, Will Sell Large Collection of Quality Glassware Incl. Cranberry, Opalescent, Fenton, Etc..

Antiques & Collectibles; Furniture; Tools; Lawn & Garden; Much More!

PREVIEW: Sat., Oct. 24 - 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

BIDDING CLOSES: Wed., Oct. 28 @ 7 P.M.

PICKUP: Fri., Oct. 30 - 3 to 6 P.M.

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SPORTS

NIU Football

Freshmen shine during Huskie scrimmage Sunday

Head coach Hammock pleased with balance, competition

DEKALB — With the Northern Illinois University football team set to take on Buffalo in its 2020 season opener in a little more than two weeks, NIU head coach Thomas Hammock put his Huskies through the last major scrimmage of the preseason Sunday at Huskie Stadium.

On a cold, wet day — which met with Hammock's approval — the offense and the defense both had their moments during the almost 90-play scrimmage, while multiple members of an impressive freshman class showed they are ready to contribute immediately.

"I thought the defense really stepped up early, especially in the situational periods early," Hammock said. "Then the offense came back and responded with some long touchdown

drives. Toward the end of the day, the defense came back. To me, that's what you want to see if we're going to be a good team. If it was one-sided, then we probably have a problem. I was happy with the way the guys responded. They had energy. They had excitement. They were finding ways to make plays."

The team worked on specific down and distance situations early, including red zone, third down and short and with the offense on its own two-yard line. In the early red zone situations, freshmen Jordan Hansen and Myles McGee showed their ability to make plays on the defensive side of the ball with a tackle for loss and a pass break-up to stop touchdowns. McGee's PBU was one of two on the day, while redshirt freshman de-

fensive end Tommy Brunner knocked down a pair of passes on the day as well.

On offense, freshman Harrison Waylee and red-shirt sophomore Jyrant Mitchell, who moved from wide receiver to tailback for 2020, received most of the carries on a run-heavy series, with Waylee scoring twice, including once in a goal-line situation to close out the day. Throughout the scrimmage, freshmen dotted the line-up, from the skill positions to the offensive and defensive lines.

"I've never been afraid of young guys playing," Hammock said. "I think sometimes experience is overvalued. When you can play, you can play, it doesn't matter if you're a freshman

or a senior. We have a great group of young guys that have come out here consistently every day and put the work in and made plays. They proved themselves to the older guys and I'm excited to see those guys go out there and play."

Sunday's scrimmage provided an opportunity for both freshmen and upperclassmen to cement their spots on the depth chart entering the final week plus of the "preseason" practices and the coaching staff highlighted some of those position battles prior to the workout.

"We talked as a staff before the scrimmage and we had probably four or five positions that we really felt like, okay, we have to be able to make a decision after

this scrimmage," Hammock said. "It was good to see guys step up and make plays. Now, we'll have a chance to watch the tape and evaluate it and we'll make a depth chart. I think it will be clear for us after watching the film, and I think it will be clear to the players as well."

While the season opener with Buffalo on Nov. 4 looms, Hammock said the team will continue in preseason mode for the next week as the Huskies continue to improve on both sides of the ball.

"I think we've got great competition going — offense versus defense and we want to keep that edge over the next week," Hammock said. "For us, the competition aspect and the good on good work that we're getting is phenomenal. Our first team

offense needs to see our first team defense, and to me, that's how we're going to get ourselves ready for an excellent Buffalo team."

Hammock is also looking for the Huskies to "stack days, plays and practices" to build consistency and wants to see NIU's leaders step up heading into the season opener.

"I want to see our leadership really galvanize our young players and show them what it takes to prepare for a game," Hammock said. "How you act during the game and when you're faced with adversity, how do you respond? Those are the things over the next two weeks, we have to make sure that we feel good that when something doesn't happen quite right, that the leadership steps up and takes it to the next level."



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