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MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

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Vol. 101 • No. 40

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

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**Good news**  
Rochelle's superintendent of utilities receives award.  
See page 3

**WEATHER**

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
80 51	72 46
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
60 42	65 49

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• FARM & FLEET  
• ALDI  
• SWEDISH AMERICAN

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## State police continuing Tyler Smith investigation

**GALESBURG** — Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation officials announced Monday that the investigation into the death of Tyler L. Smith still continues as they approach the second anniversary of his death.



Smith

Smith, a 23-year-old Western Illinois University college graduate from Rochelle and a member of the Army National Guard, was found deceased on Sept. 15, 2018. On the evening of Sept. 14, 2018, Smith was reported to be with some friends in the downtown area of Galesburg when for unknown reasons he was separated from them.

On Sept. 15, 2018, Smith's body was found approximately one block and a half north of Casey's General Store in Galesburg in the Cedar Fork Creek directly behind Hansen Lumber Company near

the intersection of North Academy Street and West Ferris Street. An investigation into the circumstances surrounding Tyler's death was initiated by the Galesburg Police Department.

Recently, the Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigations became involved in the investigation and are requesting the assistance of the public. Anyone with any information regarding Tyler's death are asked to contact the Illinois State Police Zone 2 Investigations at 815-632-4010 (extension 230).

The investigation is open and ongoing and no further information is available at this time. A Facebook page titled "Pledges for Tyler Smith Information Reward" has been set up by Tyler's family with information pertaining to reward money. The Facebook page can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/Pledges-for-Tyler-Smith-Information-Reward-2420917861270688>.



(PHOTO BY JENNIFER SIMMONS)

**MightyVine is located at 222 Centerpoint Drive in the Centerpoint Intermodal Center west of Rochelle. The originally proposed setback variance for a packhouse extension was amended and approved at Monday night's Rochelle City Council meeting.**

## Expansion approved

### Variance setback amended, approved for packhouse project

**BY JENNIFER SIMMONS**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — A setback variance was approved by Rochelle City Council members Monday night that will allow for a local business to move forward with expansion plans. However, the originally proposed request was amended prior to council approval.

The petitioner, Pasquesi Farms LLC, also known as MightyVine, was originally seeking a variance request for a 20-foot setback rather than the required 60-foot front setback in order to construct a proposed packhouse expansion at its facility on Centerpoint Drive. This would

be MightyVine's fourth expansion.

However, Sergio Gomez of MightyVine approached council and asked to amend the petition to allow for a 16-foot setback instead of the 20-foot setback. The location for the proposed packhouse was chosen in order to be adjoining with the existing packhouse.

"When we originally discussed what we were trying to do for our facility to try to make it more efficient, more safe and accessible for our growth within the community and our greenhouse, we thought that the 20-foot setback was what we needed," Gomez said.

See APPROVE page 3

# Protecting the pack

Northern Illinois University issues change to undergrad course delivery

**DEKALB** — On Sept. 11, Northern Illinois University officials notified its undergraduate students of changes in instruction through the end of September due to increased positive cases of COVID-19. Undergraduate students residing on campus and in DeKalb County also received specific requests for limited contact with other persons.

On Friday, students were notified that effective immediately, NIU officials would temporarily be moving undergraduate courses online. It is also expected that all students who reside on campus, and undergraduates who live in DeKalb County, limit in-person activities and interactions until Monday, Sept. 28.

In a letter to students dated Sept. 11, NIU President Lisa Freeman outlined the reasons for the change in undergraduate studies at the university.

Dear Students,  
I'm writing today to inform you of several, important developments in our efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 and

protect our Huskies. Effective immediately, we are temporarily moving undergraduate courses online and expect all students who reside on campus, and undergraduates who live in DeKalb County, to limit in-person activities and interactions until Monday, Sept. 28. It's imperative that you read this entire e-mail so that you understand the latest information and expectations as an NIU student.

**Why is action necessary?**

More than 120 students are currently positive for COVID-19, and more are currently quarantining due to exposure and/or pending test results. Through contact tracing, we have determined that the vast majority of student cases involve those who live off-campus or who attended off-campus gatherings where masks were not worn and physical distancing was not respected. We are also aware that some students are not fully cooperating with health officials and following guidelines on

reporting symptoms and potential exposure.

These careless and unacceptable activities have led to a substantial increase in the overall positivity rate for DeKalb County and put our entire community at risk. We continue to work closely with our partners at the DeKalb County Health Department, and together determined that we need to take immediate and significant action to reduce opportunities for further spread.

**Limiting in-person activities and interactions**

Effective immediately, the university expects all students who live on campus, and undergraduates who reside in DeKalb or the county, to strictly limit their in-person interactions to only those that are essential such as obtaining meals and groceries, seeking medical care or attending work. It also means absolutely avoiding gatherings or parties, indoors or out.

I know that this is very frustrating, especially for those students who have

"The actions we're taking might seem harsh and too challenging, but they are preceded by other universities and provide students and NIU the necessary time and precautions to be able to prevent an outbreak."

Lisa Freeman

been diligently following the rules and prioritizing the health of fellow Huskies. By taking bold measures and limiting exposure now, however, we have the best opportunity to stop these trends.

**Changes in course delivery**

Undergraduate courses will be delivered online beginning Monday, Sept. 14, through Friday, Sept.

25. A few exceptions may be granted by the Provost in response to a faculty member's request. Please check your Blackboard course site after noon Sunday, Sept. 13, to see if your course is one of the exceptions. Our intention at this time is for in-person classes to resume Monday, Sept. 28.

See NIU page 2

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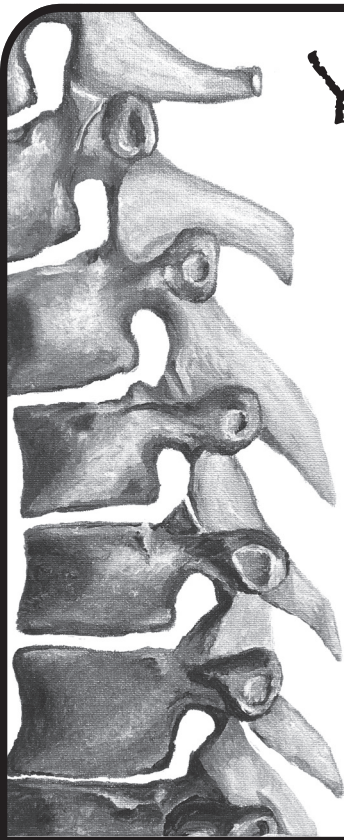


# LOCAL NEWS

## Ag Awareness Day



Roger Tourdot, from Holland and Sons in Dixon, shows off tractors to students at the virtual Ag Awareness Day. Students received a tour of all the equipment farmers can purchase and how much it costs to own the different equipment. Ag Awareness Day has been held annually for 17 years at the Ogle County Fairgrounds for fourth and fifth-grade students from Ogle and Carroll counties to raise awareness of the daily impact that agriculture has on them, regardless of where they live. This year's event was held virtually.



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## NIU: Students urged to limit close contact

From page 1

### On and off-campus/ DeKalb housing restrictions

On-campus students are required to stay in their residence hall room as much as possible for the next two weeks. Students can leave their residences to:

Pick up meals from dining facilities or the Holmes Student Center

Pick up to-go meals from local establishments

Pick up deliveries (grocery and restaurant deliveries)

Spend time outdoors doing individual activities while masked

Use university Wi-Fi, computer labs or the Founders Memorial Library

Utilize the Student Health Center and Counseling and Consultation Services

Take care of essential errands (grocery store, medical appointments, getting a flu shot)

Attend work (both on- and off-campus) after getting approval from supervisors

Participate in off-campus internships or clinicals organized by a student's college

Manage child care responsibilities

Undergraduate students who live off-campus in DeKalb County (apartments, houses or fraternity and sorority houses) should stay in

their respective locations and also follow the above guidance for limiting in-person activities/interactions to those that are essential.

### University events and student organiza- tions

All planned, in-person events have been canceled for the next two weeks, but virtual events will continue as scheduled. Student organizations are not to meet in person over the next two weeks.

### Gatherings/parties

I cannot emphasize enough that the points of origin for the spread of COVID-19 at NIU are parties and gatherings, especially ones where participants have failed to wear masks and physically distance. It is because of these activities that we now must take this two-week pause.

I want to be clear that ALL student gatherings and parties of any size, whether on campus or off in the DeKalb area, are strictly prohibited during these two weeks. This includes residence hall common areas (such as lobbies, lounges and hallways), Greek housing and all outdoor spaces (parking lots, streets and lagoon areas).

### Guests and parking

All guests of students are prohibited from campus, indoors and outdoors, weekdays and weekends. Guests are expected to voluntarily abide and comply with requests to leave; those who do not can be cited for trespassing.

Additional on-campus parking restrictions have been put in place for after 5 p.m. weekdays and on weekends.

### Surveillance testing

The university will continue to do surveillance testing during this time. Students who have been scheduled to participate must come to their appointments.

### Students currently isolating/quarantining or recovered

Students who are currently under orders by the DeKalb County Health Department to quarantine or isolate must continue to do so as directed. Students who have previously tested positive and recovered from COVID-19 are also expected to abide by requirements outlined in this letter.

### NIU Helpline and DeKalb County Health Department

We need all students to cooperate in an open and honest manner with NIU and public health officials about testing, tracking and tracing efforts. All students who have been exposed, have symptoms or test positive MUST notify the NIU Helpline (815-753-0444), respond

to any calls from state or local health departments and follow guidance of public health officials.

### Responsibility and accountability

Every Huskie is expected to take very simple, responsible measures to keep one another safe. When Huskies choose otherwise, such as hosting and participating in gatherings, breaking quarantines/isolations or failing to cooperate with public health officials, we must hold one another accountable and take immediate action. We have begun taking measures with individuals and student organizations, including our Greek system, for these types of actions that have put the health and safety of our community at risk, and will continue to do so moving forward. Failure to comply with the instructions in this letter will result in disciplinary measures that can range from written warnings and loss of university privileges to semester-long suspensions and, if necessary, permanent removal from the university.

### Together Forward

The actions we're taking might seem harsh and too challenging, but they are preceded by other universities and provide students and NIU the necessary time and precautions to be able to prevent an outbreak. I have confidence that if you work together as Huskies, and take this situation and each other's well-being seriously, that we will see improvement and can resume our semester plans. Your fellow Huskies and the DeKalb community are counting on you.

We will provide you with a status update prior to our intended return on Sept. 28.

Together Forward,  
Lisa C. Freeman,  
President

Freeman also sent a message to faculty and staff regarding the change in course delivery.

"This immediate action is similar to what other universities recently had to implement. By doing this now, when our positivity rates are lower and manageable, we have more opportunity to stop the spread of the virus before things escalate further," Freeman's message read. "In view of these changes, student-facing offices might want to modify the fraction of services offered in person and shift more toward being virtual during this period. Supervisors should work with their divisional leadership to make those determinations."



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## A black and white photograph showing Adam Lanning on the left, wearing a dark jacket and a baseball cap, holding a certificate. On the right, a man in a suit and face mask is handing the certificate to him. The certificate reads: "ROCHELLE", "2021", "GOOD NEWS AWARD", "ADAM LANNING", "OPERATOR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION", "Presented by", "The Mayor". In the background, another man is seated at a desk with a microphone.

**APPROVE:** MightyVine packhouse variance approved

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Deputies called to business multiple times

On Sept. 12, Ogle County Sheriff's deputies were again dispatched to Sledgehammer's Pub at 1450 N. Illinois Route 2 for a noise complaint of loud music. Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested manager Justin Coltrain for disorderly conduct. Coltrain was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was able to post bond.

On Sept. 12, Ogle County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to Sledgehammer's Pub at 1450 N. Illinois Route 2 for a noise complaint of loud music. After a brief investigation, Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested pub manager Justin Coltrain for disorderly conduct. Coltrain was released on an I-Bond and will appear in court at a later date.

On Sept. 13, Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a follow up investigation at 1450 N. Illinois Route 2, Sledgehammer's Bar, in reference to two separate noise complaints at the bar the previous night (Sept. 12). As a result, Jason Stombaugh, 34, of Oregon, was arrested for disorderly conduct.

On Sept. 14 at approximately 9:36 a.m., deputies conducted a traffic at the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Grandview Terrace. After investigation, deputies placed Timothy Marszalek, 29, of Arlington Heights, under arrest for driving while license revoked and obstructing identification. Marszalek was additionally issued a citation for improper display of registration. Marszalek was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Sept. 15 at approximately 2:10 a.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Scott L. Thorne, 48, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license. Scott was also cited for no insurance, an equipment violation along with a valid Boone County warrant. Thorne was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

### Obituaries

## Shirley Bresette

**SABULA, Iowa** — Shirley Faye (Myers) Bresette, 84, of Sabula, Iowa, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020 at Big Meadows Nursing Home, Savanna, Illinois. A visitation will be held from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, Sept. 18 at Law-Jones Funeral Home, Savanna, with a funeral service to follow at 2 p.m. Burial will take place in Evergreen Cemetery, Sabula.



Shirley was born Aug. 25, 1936 in Effingham, the daughter of William and Fannie (Goens) Myers. She attended the Effingham schools.

She and her first husband, Harry Conner, were married in 1955. They had two children, Kathy and Kevin, while making their home in Beecher City, and then later moving to Lindenwood. There, they shared their life together for over 25 years. She was also a longtime employee of Eaton Controls in Rochelle.

Shirley began another chapter in her life when she married Fred Bresette on June 30, 1990. Throughout their life together, they enjoyed their home along the Mississippi River,

where they took weekend-long boat excursions and traveled with friends up and down the river to various destinations. In their motorhome,

they also ventured across the country to visit family and friends. Shirley always loved seeing the changing of the seasons on the river from their sunroom. In their later years they spent many hours watching the water, wildlife, boats, and barges on the river. Over the years, they had collected and decorated their home both indoors and out with many nautical-themed items.

No matter the day, Shirley always had her hair done, wore a complimenting outfit with matching jewelry, kept a fresh face of makeup, and maintained her polished nails. Shirley had a love for collecting carousels, painting ceramics, attending craft shows with family, and maintaining her yard, landscaped with flowers. She loved annuals and many perennials that had even been passed on from her mother. She took great pride in pristine flower beds. As the years passed, the family would try

to maintain her flowers, keeping up her traditions. Her grandchildren always eagerly awaited holidays with her, as they were filled with tables of food, delicious desserts, intricate egg hunts, and a house full of seasonal decorations. Even Fred joined in on the fun, playing Santa Claus each year.

Shirley is survived by husband, Fred Bresette; daughter, Kathy (Steve) Austin; daughter-in-law Sheila Conner; stepdaughters Linda Ware and Susan Gillespie; grandchildren, Michael (Jillian) Austin, Mark (Katy) Austin, Jennifer (Brett) Miller, Caitlyn Conner, Brock (Mandi) Conner; great-grandchildren, Jonathan, Lauren, William, Annabelle, Grant, Ellen Marie, Margaret, Levi, Amelia, Ruby, Violet, Payton, Paige, Arianna, Alanna, Kaleb, Konner, Kole, and Monica; many nieces and nephews.

Shirley was preceded in death by both parents; her brothers, William, Paul and Artie and her son Kevin.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the family to establish a memorial to Big Meadows Nursing Home in her name.

## GROWMARK announces 2021 essay contest theme

**BLOOMINGTON** – The theme for the 2021 GROWMARK Essay Contest is: "If you could invent a new technology to improve agriculture, what would it be?" The contest is open to all high school FFA members in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

This is the 28th year for the program, sponsored by the GROWMARK System and FS member co-operatives, in conjunction with state FFA leaders, to help young people develop their writing skills, learn about current issues affecting agriculture, and understand the unique role of cooperatives.

Students will describe a problem within the agricultural industry, and a creative way to provide a solution. Students are encouraged to be creative with their ideas, whether or not the solution they propose is currently possible.

Essays will be submitted online at [www.bit.ly/GMKEssay2021](http://www.bit.ly/GMKEssay2021). The deadline for all submissions is midnight Central time on November 6, 2020.

Additional program details have been sent to agriculture teachers and are online at [growmark.com](http://growmark.com).

Each state's winner earns a \$500 award and the winner's FFA chapter receives a \$300 award. Four runners-up per state each win \$125 awards.

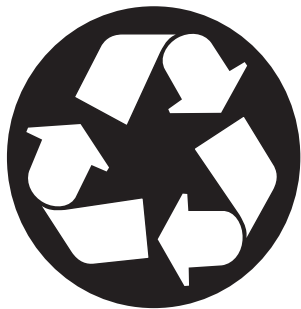
The program is offered annually, and many agriculture teachers use it as part of their class curriculum. Past topics have included sustainability, careers in agriculture, and the cooperative principles.

## Chana UMC to host drive thru dinner Oct. 3

**CHANA** — Chana United Methodist Church is hosting a chicken noodle drive thru dinner on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 4 through 6:30 p.m.

Cost of the dinner is \$10 and includes: a hearty portion of home made (from scratch) noodles and chicken, a generous serving of homegrown squash casserole and freshly made warm orchard apple crisp.

Chana UMC is a certified kitchen and is COVID-19 compliant.



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### 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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# STATE NEWS

## Illinois EPA to resume household hazardous waste collection events for fall 2020

**SPRINGFIELD** — Illinois EPA Director John J. Kim announced the agency is resuming Household Hazardous Waste collections for the fall of 2020. Illinois EPA HHW collections provide residents an opportunity to safely dispose of unused or leftover household products commonly found in homes at no cost.

Due to precautions related to COVID-19, most of the spring 2020 events were postponed. Illinois EPA has scheduled six sites for the fall with additional events being scheduled for the spring of 2021. As with past events, all Illinois EPA HHW collections are contactless for the safety of participants. Additional safety tips are included below the schedule.

"We are excited to resume our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, assisting residents with disposing of old, unused chemicals and other potentially hazardous waste from their homes, and ensuring it will be disposed of in an environmentally-safe manner," Kim said. "This program would not be possible without the support and cooperation of local co-sponsors."

In addition to the fall schedule, Illinois EPA is announcing partnerships with several hub locations, where HHW collection events will be held once each year. Those hubs will then be supplemented with other more remote collection partners based on the need to adequately cover the State. Our HHW hub partners include the City of Springfield, the City of Effingham, Champaign County, Jackson County, and Peoria County. The City of Springfield will be the first hub partner hosting this fall, while the remaining partners have spring dates planned.

Residents participating in these events are encouraged to bring chemical cleaners, oil-based paints, thinners, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, kerosene, weed killers, insecticides and pesticides, old or outdated medication, and similar hazardous household products. Fluorescent and other high-intensity discharge lamps may also be brought to the collec-

tions. Items not accepted include latex paint, explosives, propane tanks, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, agricultural chemicals and business wastes. A complete list of household hazardous wastes that are and are not accepted is available online at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/Pages/acceptable-wastes.aspx>.

One-day collections are open to all Illinois residents and operate from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the below scheduled Saturdays. The fall 2020 one-day collections are scheduled as follows:

For safe transport of household hazardous waste, residents are asked to pack household hazardous waste items in a disposable box to avoid spilling during transport, keep like chemicals together and separate unlike chemical, secure lids and make sure containers are not leaking, place box(es) of household hazardous waste in empty trunk of your vehicle, away from passengers during transport and remain in vehicle at collection site. On-site personnel will remove the household hazardous waste from your vehicle.

In addition to the one-day collections, the following long-term collection facilities are available for disposal of household hazardous waste throughout the year:

Naperville, 156 Fort Hill Drive (immediately North of Naperville Public Works), DuPage County; [www.naperville.il.us/hhw.aspx](http://www.naperville.il.us/hhw.aspx); Hours: Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Phone: 630-420-6095.

Rockford, Rock River Reclamation District, 3333 Kishwaukee, Winnebago County; <http://www.kishwaukee.org>

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS	COSPONSOR(S)
September 12	Sullivan Moultrie County	Wyman Park 725 North Worth Street	City of Sullivan
September 19	Belvidere Boone County	Belvidere-Administration Campus 1212 Logan Avenue, Suite 102	Boone County
September 26	Kankakee Kankakee County	Kankakee Community College 100 College Drive	City of Kankakee
October 3	Du Quoin Perry County	Du Quoin Elementary School 845 East Jackson Street	City of Du Quoin
October 10	Watseka Iroquois County	To Be Determined	Iroquois County
November 7	Springfield Sangamon County	Illinois State Fairgrounds 801 East Sangamon Avenue	City of Springfield

[knib.org/recycling/green-guide/household-hazardous-waste-site/](http://knib.org/recycling/green-guide/household-hazardous-waste-site/); Hours: Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m., Phone: 815-987-5570.

Chicago, Goose Island, 1150 N. Branch, Cook County [www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf](http://www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf); Hours: Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to noon, Thursdays 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and first Saturday of every month 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Phone: 312-744-3060

Lake County, The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) currently operates a long-term household chemical waste collection program. Information and a collection schedule can be found on their website ([www.swalco.org](http://www.swalco.org)) or by calling 847-336-9340.

For questions concerning the Illinois EPA's one-day or long-term collections, please contact the Waste Reduction Unit of the Illinois EPA at 217-524-3300. Household Hazardous Waste collection schedules are also available on the Illinois EPA website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/Pages/collections.aspx>.



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# LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

## Cloak of anonymity makes work less credible

I read The Atlantic magazine story asserting that Donald Trump denigrated America’s war dead, and then I cringed.

It’s certainly troubling if any president were to say such a thing. But I have no way of reaching an objective determination on whether it was said or not.

Why? The story is based on anonymous sources.

Not only do we have no idea who these people are, we have no idea why they are speaking up now – two years after — the alleged utterance. And we also don’t know what access, if any, they had to the president.

Regular readers of this column know I’m no fan of Trump. But I am a fan of good journalism. And The Atlantic story doesn’t make the cut.

Yes, there are rare instances where unidentified sources are necessary, but it has become all too common a practice in American journalism.

In this case, the journalist is asking us to take his word that he was told these things.

Sorry, I’m not biting.

“Not having any identified sources in that story makes it far less credible,” said Al Tompkins, a senior faculty member at the Poynter Institute, a journalism school for news professionals.

The cloak of anonymity makes it next to impossible to hold sources accountable. What if they are lying or simply mistaken? Their identity will never be known.

I remember 25 years ago, I had a source on the Moline City Council who would leak to me what was discussed in closed executive sessions.

After I published a story citing an unnamed source spilling the beans on a project the city was involved with, my source rose the next week, wagged his finger at his colleagues and denounced “whoever was leaking to the press.”

I sat there, notebook in hand unable to hold this person accountable without breaking my promise of confidentiality. In other words, I’d inadvertently given the fellow a ticket to lie.

Some might say that is an extreme example. But it really isn’t. People in government are routinely asked by supervisors, peers and other reporters if they were the confidential source in a news story. Do you think they tell the truth when they are asked? Don’t bet on it.

And sometimes it’s not the source who is lying.

“There are liars in every profession – including journalism,” Tompkins reminded me.

Friends have pointed out that The Atlantic is a prestigious publication and for that reason we should give it extra credibility. Well, I love the magazine and have subscribed for more than 25 years.

But I also know that Jayson Blair worked for the New York Times, Stephen Glass for The New Republic, Janet Cooke for the Washington Post and Jack Kelley for USA Today. And each of these scoundrels fabricated sources despite working for high-profile publications.

So, the prestige of a publication doesn’t

make it immune to wrongdoing within its ranks.

It’s worth noting that the Associated Press and other news organizations have apparently contacted some of the same individuals as The Atlantic and been told the same things — not for attribution.

Well, if the magazine’s competitors could figure out who the sources were within a few hours, don’t you think the president and other administration officials have a pretty good idea who is talking, too?

So, if the political insiders are in the know, the only people being deprived of the knowledge are the readers.

And we have no way of evaluating the credibility of the information. In that light, what value does it have?

Scott Reeder is a veteran statehouse journalist and a freelance reporter. [ScottReeder1965@gmail.com](mailto:ScottReeder1965@gmail.com).



### VOICE ON THE STREET

## Question:

*Podcasts have become popular and range on a variety of topics from news, gardening, home improvement, finance and entertainment to name a few. Are there any specific podcasts that you enjoy listening to? What types of podcasts do you typically tend to have interest in?*

*“Mike Rowe’s “Returning the Favor” and “The Way I Heard It.”*

Bill Tracey



### 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](mailto:news@rochelle-news-leader.com)

### KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

\* Denotes Chairman/President

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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](mailto: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.







NATIONAL

# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15

## The nation celebrates Hispanic heritage

**E**ACH year between Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 people observe and celebrate the unique histories, contributions and cultural influences of Hispanics. Hispanic people are those who hail or whose ancestors hail from South America, Central America, Mexico, Spain, and areas of the Caribbean. Throughout early autumn, Hispanic culture

and history is celebrated. The dates of Hispanic Heritage Month is significant because it includes the anniversaries of independence for various Latin American countries. September 15 marks when Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua achieved independence. The first official Hispanic heritage commemoration was observed

in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week. It was expanded in 1988 under then-president Ronald Regan to encompass a full month. Enacted into law on Aug. 17, 1988, National Hispanic Heritage Month has been celebrated ever since. The term "Hispanic" refers to people who can trace their lineage to Spanish-speaking nations. Hispanic also

includes Latinos, who originate from Latin American countries. Nearly all Latinos also can be classified as Hispanic, with the exception of Brazilians because they speak Portuguese. People from Spain would be considered Hispanic, but not Latino. Other Latin American countries that are French-speaking, like Haiti, also cannot be classified as Hispanic.

According to Hispanic Research Inc., the Hispanic demographic in the United States includes people from more than 20 countries. For marketing and research purposes, as well as classification, these nations and territories are primarily listed as Hispanic: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic,

Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela. When mid-September arrives, the Americas and their Latin American neighbors pay homage to the very influential and ever-growing Hispanic population. It is a time of food, festivals and fanfare.



**OUR HATS OFF!**  
To The Hispanic Community During Hispanic Heritage Month

Queremos agradecer a la comunidad hispana de Rochelle y a nuestros empleados hispanos por sus muchas contribuciones.

We wish to thank the Hispanic Community of Rochelle and our Hispanic employees for their many contributions.

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09162020



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### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
Notice is hereby given that the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District, 735 North 2nd Street, Rochelle IL 61068 will receive bids at the office of the Executive Director until September 21, 2020 at 9:00 AM for the REC South Parking Lot Project. All requirements and details are described and listed in the bid packet. Prospective bidders may obtain bid packets from the office of the Executive Director or the Park District website (www.rochellepark-district.org). The Flagg Rochelle Community Park District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities and to accept the proposal that the Flagg-Rochelle Park District Board of Commissioners believes to be in the best interest of the District. All bidders must abide by the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act where applicable.

By order of:  
Jackee Ohlinger  
Executive Director  
Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District  
No. 0921  
(September 16, 2020)

### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

### 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

### 113 FINANCIAL

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

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### 127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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

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Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

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### 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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### INFORMATION

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815-562-2161  
**Email:**  
classifieds@rochellenews-leader.com  
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211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle  
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P.O. Box 46  
Rochelle, IL 61068

**DEADLINES:**  
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**Tuesday Shopping News:**  
Friday, 10 a.m.  
**Wednesday News-Leader:** Monday, 4 p.m.  
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• Rochelle News-Leader • Ogle County Life • Rochelle Shopping News • Ashton Gazette • Amboy News • Mendota Reporter • Mendota Money Saver

**Call for pricing that starts at \$32.99 for private party ads and \$44.60 for commercial business ads and \$19.99 for garage sale ads.**

**DISCLAIMER:**  
If your advertisement appears incorrectly, notify us immediately. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and will only credit customer for one insertion.

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## VOTE NOW!\*

(\*You may vote only once per email address)

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bestofoglecounty.com**

Voting ends September 24, 2020

08262020

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



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07122020

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## Kishwaukee College

# Kougar golf, cross country teams compete

RTHS grads Jones, Hickey see action

**BYRON** — The Kishwaukee College men's golf team made some history at the Skyhawk Classic at PrairieView GC in Byron on Thursday. The two-day tournament marked the first time in about a decade that Kishwaukee College has fielded a team for competition.

The team of Matthew Randall, Noah Forsberg (Sycamore HS), Dillon Davis (Sycamore HS), Hayden Jones (Rochelle HS) and Thomas O'Connor moved up the standings in a steady rain all day to finish in sixth place ahead of host Sauk Valley Community College. The Kougars turned in solid scores throughout the roster in their first invite of the year, with Randall (183) Forsberg (183) Jones (197) and Davis (207) all playing for the Kougars.

"I am very happy to finally get our season up and running," head coach Thomas Brennan said. "It has been a long summer with a lot of uncertainty and it's great to get a tournament under our belts. An amazing performance by Thomas in winning the Skyhawk Classic. He could not have started the year any better. He and the team persevered through very bad weather both days of the event."

Individually,



O'Connor finished in first place by one stroke with a final total two-day score of 151 on Kishwaukee's historic return to competition. O'Connor was tied for the lead after day one and carried it through today's rounds to medal.

The team will travel to Silis next Tuesday, Sept. 15 in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Duane Chanay Invitational at TPC Deer Run hosted by Black Hawk College.

"Each team member improved a great deal the second day and the team moved up the standings," Brennan said. "I'm very proud of all of the guys for hanging in there and finishing strong. We certainly have a lot to look forward to this season and

I can't wait to get the guys out there next week."

## Cross Country

The Kishwaukee College cross country teams got their 2020 seasons underway in Normal, Illinois at the Heartland Community College Relay Challenge.

For the women's team, sophomore Anne Hickey (Rochelle HS) turned in a time of 23:55 while freshman Lydia Myers (DeKalb HS) finished with a 27:31.

The teams will gather to run a one of a kind event at the Rockford University Virtual Relays on Sept. 15 before returning to Normal in the Heartland Invite on Oct. 9.

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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Megan Thompson, a first-year player, has already secured two varsity singles wins for the Lady Hub tennis team this season.

## Thompson thriving in first year with Lady Hubs

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

AFTER spending her first two fall sports seasons with the Rochelle Township High School volleyball program, Megan Thompson decided over the summer that she would begin her junior year with the Lady Hub tennis team. While she has only played the game for a few months, Thompson has already made a significant impact with the varsity team.

Not only has Thompson earned a varsity role with the Lady Hubs, but she's already brought home two victories in singles play including a 6-4, 7-5 win at DeKalb that helped Rochelle defeat the Barbs 4-3 for the team's first victory of the 2020 season. Thompson wasn't expecting to start the season on the varsity team, but she was excited nevertheless.

"I've had a lot of fun and the start of the season has been really encouraging to me," Thompson said. "I really like tennis. I was planning on playing tennis this year because I have a lot of friends on the team and I thought it would be really fun. I'm really enjoying singles and the opponents I've played against have been really nice to me."

Thompson played doubles in her first

varsity match of the season before transitioning into Rochelle's No. 2 singles slot. She said her recent wins over DeKalb and Rockford Lutheran have boosted her confidence, and as she continues through her first tennis season, she said her goals are to hit the ball harder and find more consistency with her hitting strokes.

"It makes me feel a lot better knowing that I can play well," Thompson said. "We've been practicing a lot since the summer. I was having a tough time with my backhand hits early on, but I feel like I've improved on them a lot and they're more under control now. I want to hit the ball harder with both my forehand and backhand, and I'm working on serving the ball harder."

Thompson is one of several juniors who make up a core group of players that could be successful not only this season, but next season as well. She said head coach Lizzie Cartwright has helped her adjust to not only the varsity level, but playing a new sport in general.

"She's really encouraging and she's helped me feel a lot more confident about tennis," Thompson said. "She makes sure I understand what I'm doing and she's given me tips on how I can stay ready, stay quick on my feet and anticipate shots that have helped me play better."



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**See page 2 for more details**

# Back on the court

## Lady Hubs return to action with road match at Dixon

A full-page photograph of a female tennis player in action. She is wearing a black sleeveless athletic top with a white Nike swoosh and a purple 'R' logo with 'RUTGS' underneath. She is also wearing a purple tennis skirt with a white 'R' logo and 'RUTGS' underneath, and a white Nike swoosh. She is swinging a tennis racket with a black frame and white strings. A yellow tennis ball is visible in the upper right corner. The background is a chain-link fence and green foliage.

A full-body photograph of a young woman, likely a tennis player, standing on a tennis court. She is wearing a black tank top with a white 'R' logo and the word 'HUBS' below it, and purple athletic shorts. She is holding a tennis racket in her right hand, raised behind her head, and a yellow-green tennis ball in her left hand, held up near her face. She is looking upwards and to the right. The background features a chain-link fence and a blue and white striped wall.

# Rochelle harriers tested in three-team meet

## Wanner leads Hubs with top time; Ortiz, Johnson record top-6 finishes

A young male athlete with light brown hair is captured in a full-body shot while running outdoors. He is wearing a white tank top with a large blue 'T' logo on the front and a white bib with the number 35. He is also wearing black shorts. The background is a blurred green field and a chain-link fence.

A full-page photograph of a female athlete, likely a runner, captured in motion. She is wearing a dark blue singlet with white trim and the word 'ROCHELLE' printed across the chest. A white bib with the number '64' is pinned to her singlet. She is also wearing dark blue shorts with white trim. The background is a blurred green field, suggesting an outdoor running track or park.

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)