Raffle drawing to be held **Saturday**

PAGE 7





Woeppel wins second straight **Fairways title**

SEE SPORTS

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Vol. 101 • No. 30

\$1

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE **Enrolling Now for Fall!** www.kish.edu/fall **KNOW IT**



Lawsuit filed

Case seeks repayment of \$450 million to ratepayers from Madigan, ComEd. See page 5

WEATHER



Your life. Your education. Your way. Storm packs a punch

ROCHELLE — Severe storms moved through Ogle County Monday afternoon, bringing strong winds in excess of 70 m.p.h. and heavy rains.

The storms hit the Rochelle area shortly after 2:30 p.m. and residents were alerted to the high winds when the storm sirens were sounded.

Damage around town included downed power lines in the area of the 300 block of North 11th Street as well as downed trees and limbs including a reported tree on the roof of an apartment building in the 500 block of South Main Street.

Nearly 600 Rochelle Municipal Utility customers lost power due to the storm.

The hardest hit area in the county was the Village of Forreston where there were 48 blocks of tree and wire damage and 13 blocks of structure damage. Two mobile home parks were also damaged.

As of Wednesday morning, the village is still without power as ComEd crews work to restore power lines brought down by the confirmed derecho (a widespread, long-lived, straight-line wind storm) that traveled through the village.



(PHOTO BY JENNIFER SIMMONS)

A tree caused damage to the roof of an apartment building in the 500 block of South Main Street during Monday afternoon's storm.











OBITUARIES

- GERALD KERSTEN
- TOM PETERS
- JERRY LEE WILLIAMS
- DORAN GRENNAN

See page 4

INSERTS

 FARM & FLEET ALDI

INSIDE

Social News3, 4, 7, 8
Obituaries4
State News5
Opinion6



This trampoline was moved through a yard and into a tree on Ninth Street during Monday afternoon's storm.

indoor turf and multipurpose flooring in the fieldhouse; to swimming, water aerobics and swim lessons in the

aquatic center. Plans include a 24-hour state-of-the-

art fitness center and group fitness classroom, along

with two multipurpose rooms and an outdoor patio for gathering space; video tours are available at www.

"The park district is thankful for the support of

businesses such as First State Bank," Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Commissioner Joe Lenkaitis

said. "We are grateful for the commitment and gen-

erosity of First State Bank while leading the way to

and organizations that benefit the local communities

we serve," First State Bank Community President of

Rochelle Brent Ohlinger said. "The REC will be an

Member FDIC

BANK

"First State Bank is committed to building up our local communities by financially supporting projects

strengthen the vision of our community.²

This tree on the Fairways golf course was uprooted by the strong winds Monday afternoon. (See page 8 for more storm photos)



FIRST STATE BANK Date August: 2000 Pay to The Bachelle Park District \$ 63,000.000 Order Of Bochelle Park District \$ 63,000.000 Sixty three thousand and \$	

First State Bank's Brent Ohlinger (right) presents Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Commissioner Joe Lenkaitis with the bank's \$63,000 pledge donation for the park district's REC Center on Monday.

asset to the entire area and First State Bank is proud to be able to contribute."

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es or internet access fees may apply. Contact your cell phone provider for details. A \$0.50 fee will apply to each osit check. 'Debit card may require a parent/guardian co-account owner if student is less than 18 years of ace.



LOCAL NEWS **Memorial bricks installed at the Mills and Petrie building**

ASHTON — The latest installation of engraved memorial bricks was finished recently. The memorial bricks are laid on the brick path between the east sidewalk and the front entry at the Mills and Petrie Memorial Building.

Bricks can be purchased in someone's memory or honor by completing an order form found at the Mills and Petrie Library or by contacting Monetta Young at myoung@ashtongazette. com. The brick can be engraved with your personal message. The message can be three lines long with 15 characters in each line.

The laser engraved memorial bricks for the walkway at the Mills and Petrie are available for \$100. There must be an order of 20 bricks before engraving and installation can be completed.

To purchase a memorial brick for the walkway contact the Mills and Petrie Library at 815-453-2213 or Monetta Young at myoung@ashtongazette.com.

Bricks must be paid in full before they are ordered.





White encourages organ/tissue donation for virtual National **Minority Donor Awareness Month**

SPRINGFIELD — Secretary of State Jesse White is hosting a virtual National Minority Donor Awareness Month "Wave Away the Waiting" to promote organ/tissue donation for multicultural communities at www. LifeGoesOn.com.

"We are working together to end the wait for those in need of organ donation," said White. "Unfortunately, minorities are in great need of organ transplants, yet they donate at a lower rate. I encourage everyone to register to become an organ/ tissue donor to help give the gift of life to someone in need.'

Nationally, people of color comprise 59 percent of the waiting list for organ transplants; however, this year they accounted for only 38 percent of those who donated organs, according to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

According to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network in Illinois:

There are 1,477 African Americans

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 on the waiting list, but in 2019 only 172 African Americans became donors.

There are 826 Hispanic Americans on the waiting list, but last year only 129 Hispanic Americans became donors.

There are 240 Asian Americans on the waiting list, but only 24 Asian Americans became organ donors in 2019.

In Illinois, almost 7 million people are registered as organ/tissue donors, yet there are approximately 4,000 people waiting for transplants. People of color are disproportionately affected by illnesses such as hypertension and diabetes, which can lead to the need for dialysis or a kidney transplant, increasing the number of patients on the organ transplant waiting list, according to United Network for Organ Sharing.

Illinoisans can register with the Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Registry online at www.LifeGoesOn. com, by calling 1-800-210-2106 or by visiting their local Driver Services facility.

Report policy

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.

80%					future	NOW IT NOW				
70% 60%				000			c explains ma	il-in ballots	\vdash	in Local News
50% 50% 40% 30% 20%	56.5%	35.4%	24.6%		evening limitati	o cov	stume.		E B	The City of Rochelle recently conducted a survey of reside asking where they looked for city news, and the top two so listed by those polled were the city's own Facebook page followed closely by the Rochelle News-Leader at nearly 57
10% 0%			19.7%	6 17.8%	9.3%	3.0%	2.4%	4.2%	8.8%	No other sources were within 20% of the News-Leader as evidenced by the graph the city provided at the left.
City of Rochelle Facebook	Family, Friends & Neighbors Rochelle News-Leader	Local FM Radio	www.rmu.net Local AM Radio	www.cityofrochelle.net	City of Rochelle Instagram City of Rochelle	Hello, Rochelle Mobile App	City of Rochelle Twitter	Other	Do Not Receive Information	There are many media options in today's world where area residents can look for important local news, but when it co to credibility, timeliness and details, a significant majority a relying heavily on the Rochelle News-Leader print and only sources!
\$6 for 52	9* weeks	r !	С	R	1	S for 2	3 9 6 we	} *	!	In response to these poll results during these economic to times, the News-Leader is offering all readers special disco subscription prices during the entire month of August so more residents can also stay in the loop like their friends a neighbors!
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Still a Leader

ted a survey of residents ws, and the top two sources own Facebook page at 65% vs-Leader at nearly 57%!

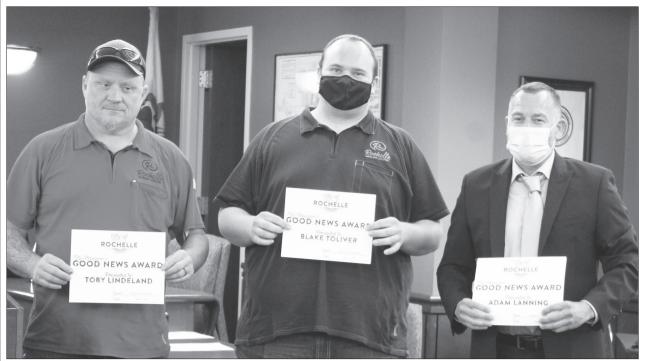
day's world where area I news, but when it comes a significant majority are still -Leader print and online

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ww.roche	llenews-	leader.com

LOCAL NEWS

Good news



Above, Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh (right) acknowledged City of Rochelle employees Toby Lindeland (left) and Blake Toliver during Monday night's Rochelle City Council meeting for their work during a power outage due to an accident on Second Avenue recently involving a semi truck and a utility pole.

Tenggren awarded as Rochelle's August Remarkable Resident

ROCHELLE — Every month the City of Rochelle honors a Remarkable Resident in Rochelle – a program established by the Rochelle Retail Advisory Board nearly two years ago.

Those who are awarded each month are nominated by someone from the community.

The August Remarkable Resident is Christopher Tenggren.

According to the nomination made by Heather Wiedrich, "Christopher Tenggren is the Wolf Den Leader for Cub Scout Pack No. 553 and always gives so much of his time to the youth of Rochelle by teaching them good life skills and so much more. He also serves Boy Scouts of America White Eagle District as co-chair of programs, bringing great programs and events to Boy Scouts

all over the district. He is definitely changing lives and making a difference in our community."



Christopher Tenggren was recognized Monday during the **Rochelle City Council meeting as** the August Remarkable **Resident.**

counties as a member of the district committee." Tenggren was presented with a framed certificate.

Following a photo at the Monday

night Rochelle City Council meet-

ing at which he was recognized for

his award, Tenggren thanked the

business leader in the community -I

manage the Weichert realtors office

here in Rochelle... giving back to

the community is what we believe in

as an organization and company and

also through scouting. Having been

a Scout in my youth I understand the

value of Scouting and at this time in

our society I think we probably need

scouting more than ever before,"

Tenggren said. "...I'm glad to be

involved in Rochelle with the Cub

Scout Pack No. 553. It's also an honor

to serve under the Blackhawk Area

Council in the White Eagle District

which is Lee, Ogle and Whiteside

"It's an honor being a newer

council.

Deputies make several outstanding warrant arrests

On Aug. 6, Ogle County Sheriff deputies responded to a disturbance at 10722 N. Pecatonica Road. Two neighbors were involved in an argument. As a result of the investigation, Kevin Anderson, 63, of Leaf River, was arrested for Battery. Anderson was taken to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Aug. 7 at 9:01 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6000 block of South Illinois Route 26 for an equipment violation. After an investigation, Joe Molette, 22, of Chicago, was charged with improper cannabis container. Molette was released on a notice to appear in court.

On Aug. 10, the following were arrested for outstanding Ogle County warrants:

Richard Gallagher, 36, of Oregon, for failure to appear warrant. Gallagher has a bond of \$944 and was scheduled to appear in court Aug. 10.

Diane E. Dirickson, 38, of Rockford, for failure to appear warrant. Dirickson has a bond of \$389 and was scheduled to appear in court Aug. 10.

Adam J. Satterfield, 42, Rochelle, for failure to appear warrrant. Satterfield has a bond of \$645 and was scheduled to appear in court Aug. 10.

On Aug. 10, Kelvin Jones, 37, of Rockford, was arrested by the Ogle County Sheriff's Office for an aggravated fleeing or attempt to elude peace officer warrant. Jones has a bond of \$50,000 (10 percent). Jones was remained into custody at the Ogle County Jail and was scheduled to appear in court Aug. 10.

Woman cited for disobeying traffic control device

On July 31 at 10:54 a.m., Rochelle police cited Deja Brewer, 28, of Rochelle, for disobeying a traffic control device. She posted a promise to comply and received a Sept. 11 court date.

On July 31 at 3:59 p.m., Rochelle police arrested James Vangello, 25, of DeKalb, for illegal transportation of alcohol, improper display of plates, and Ogle County warrant for no registration and he was also issued citations for

no insurance, no driver's license and disobeying a traffic control device. He was transported to jail.

On Aug. 3 at 4:36 p.m. Rochelle police cited Logan Beaird, 29, of Stillman Valley, for speeding 30 m.p.h. in a 50 m.p.h. zone. He posted a promise to comply.

On Aug. 4 at 12:46 p.m., Rochelle police cited Angelina Brock, 36, of Rochelle, for speeding 56 m.p.h. in a 40 m.p.h. zone. She posted a promise to comply.





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LOCAL NEWS

U.S. Department of Commerce invests \$3.3 million in CARES Act funding to boost economic development programs critical to helping Illinois respond to Coronavirus

WASHINGTON-U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that the Department's Economic Development Administration is awarding \$3.3 million in CARESAct Recovery Assistance grants to nine EDA Economic Development Districts across Illinois to update economic development plans and fortify programs to assist communities in responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

"The Trump Administration is eager to allocate these essential CARES Act funds and deliver on our promise to help American communities recover from the impact of COVID-19," said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. "I am proud of the perseverance and strength shown by our communities coast to coast throughout this pandemic, and these funds will help provide Illinois with resources to make a swift and lasting economic comeback."

"These investments

come at a crucial time to help Illinois' and our nation's economy come roaring back and provide hard-working Americans with new opportunities," said Dana Gartzke, Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. "We are pleased to make these investments in Illinois' EDA Economic Development Districts to help them prevent, prepare, and respond to coronavirus."

"As the pandemic continues to put economic stress on small businesses and communities, this federal funding will provide critical economic relief throughout Illinois," said Senator Dick Durbin. "I will continue working with my colleagues to ensure that every corner of Illinois has the federal resources needed to help get communities and small businesses back on their feet."

"Southern Illinois small businesses have been hit hard by the COVID-19



shutdown," said Congressman Mike Bost (IL-12). "These grants will provide the Southern Five Regional Planning District and Development Commission and the Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission with vitally important resources so that they can continue helping local businesses and communities respond to and recover from this pandemic."

The EDA investments announced include the Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Rock Falls, which will receive a \$400,000 EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to respond to the coronavirus pandemic by supporting local businesses, including the leisure, hospitality, and personal services industries; launching an online resource for local entrepreneurs; developing a plan to attract a strong workforce; and identifying land for development.

Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development serves the counties of Ogle, Lee, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Whiteside.

These entities receiving funding, all EDA-designated Economic Development Districts (EDD), are some of the more than 850 existing, high-performing EDA EDD, University Center, Tribal, and Revolving Loan Fund(RLF)grant recipients invited to apply for supplemental funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

> Shopping around for car insurance? Don't.

Obituaries

Gerald Kersten

ROCHELLE — Gerald J. Kersten, 81, of Rochelle, passed away peacefully on Aug. 9, 2020.

Gerald (Jerry), born on July 22, 1939, was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He farmed all of his life in Ashton and was a member of the Reynolds Township Board. He also served as an Elder of his church.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Lynn E. Kersten, who celebrated their 55th anniversary on July 25, 2020, as well as his three sons, Bradley, Brian and Eric (Stephanie) Kersten. Jerry was the grandfather of Haley (Cody Brill), Kelsey, Madison and Elias Kersten and additionally had three great-grandchildren, Kayson, Colten and Mia. He is proceeded in death by his parents, Elmer and Florence (Gonnerman) Kersten, and his sis-

ter Shirley (Kersten) Sgro. A graveside service will be held Friday, Aug. 14 at 11 a.m. at the Ashton

Tom "Pete" Peters

was born in Rochelle, on

Cemetery for anyone that would like to attend.



flowers, a memorial fund has been set up at Kreider Services in Dixon which currently provides care for Jerry and Lynn's

In lieu of

middle son, Brian.

Jerry was a blessing to all he encountered, brought life and humor into any room, and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

CLERMONT, Florida — Tom "Pete" Peters, 68, formerly of Rochelle,

passed away peacefully Saturday, Aug. 8, 2020, at his home in Clermont, Florida, surrounded by

his family. Tom, a Marine Veteran,

ASHTON — Jerry

Lee Williams, Sr., 66, of

Ashton, passed away on

29, 1953 in Rochelle

to Ralph and Delores

(House) Williams. He

was a Village Trustee

of Ashton. He was in

the concrete business

for 55 years and owned

Williams Concrete. He

enjoyed hunting and

working. He also en-

joyed his coffee at the

Huddle and then would

go see more friends in

Rochelle for breakfast.

Jerry is survived by

Jerry was born on Oct.

Aug. 7, 2020.

July 19, 1952. Tom and Joanne moved to Clermont, Florida, in 2017 to live their longtime dream of golf, sunshine, and Florida-life.

Tom is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, and high school sweetheart, Joanne (Highland) Peters. Tom is also sur-

daughters, Jana Peters Brodsky and Jill Peters; grandchildren, Jake Peters, Jared Kinn, Ellie Kinn, Julian Brodsky, and Dominic Brodsky; father, Jim Peters; and brothers, Dave and Joe.

Tom is preceded in death by his mother, Christine, and brother, Gary. Private services will be

held at a later date.

ily Funeral Home, 601 Richardson Avenue, Ashton. A funeral ser-



Farrel Stauffer will be officiating.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home. Visit www. beveragelyonsfamilyfh. com.

Doran Grennan

OREGON — Doran Aquinas Grennan, 92, passed

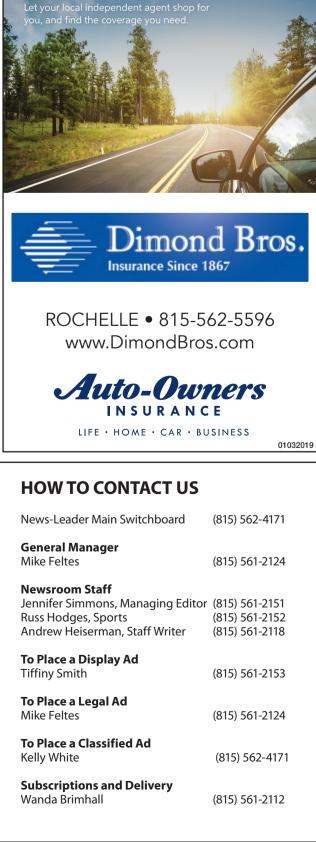
vived by his two beautiful Jerry Lee Williams

> two children, Jerry (Mindy Robertson) Williams, Jr. of Ashton, and Lysa (Nik) Pankhurst of

Dixon; four grandchildren, Madison, Jerry III, Adalynn and Hunter; as well as two brothers, Jimmy Williams of Ashton, and Joe (Laura) Williams of Ashton.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a son, Robert Williams, Sr.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 12 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Beverage-Lyons Fam-



away Aug. 9, 2020 with his family at his side.

Private services will be held in Rochelle with private burial. Visit www.ungerhorner.com for an online guest book.

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STATE NEWS Lawsuit seeks \$450 million payment to ratepayers from ComEd, Madigan

Case alleges violation of RICO, which feds used to dismantle organized crime groups

BY REBECCA ANZEL

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS/RAN-ZEL@CAPITOLNEWSILLINOIS.

SPRINGFIELD—A

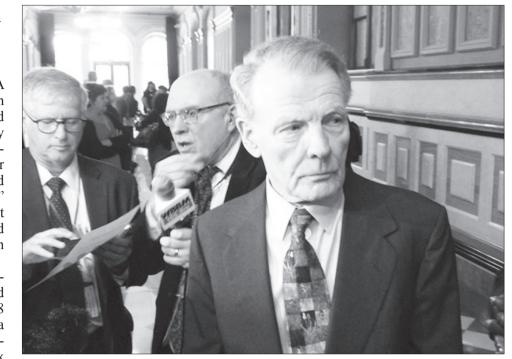
group of Commonwealth Edison ratepayers asked a federal judge Monday to force the utility company, House Speaker Michael Madigan and others to pay "at least" \$450 million to be split among all those affected by an alleged extortion scandal.

The number of affected ratepayers could rise to more than 3.8 million, according to a lawsuit filed by attorneys representing six residents that all resided in the Chicagoland area at some point in the last decade.

In an agreement with the U.S. government to avoid prosecution, ComEd officials in July acknowledged they funneled money through contractors to colleagues and friends of Madigan.

Those "bribes" which total more than \$1.3 million according to a federal lawsuit filed Monday – were made from 2011 through 2019 in an attempt to influence the longtime House gatekeeper to pass legislation favorable to the utility and kill other bills that would negatively impact the company.

That "racketeering scheme" generated more than \$150 million in profits for ComEd, according to the document — all of which is money paid by customers in service charge hikes and



House Speaker Michael Madigan is shown in this file photo from Oct. 28, 2019, at the Capitol in Springfield. Madigan is referred to as "Public Official A" in federal court documents filed last month in which ComEd agreed to pay \$200 million to resolve a federal investigation into a "yearslong bribery scheme." (Capitol News Illinois file photo)

laws for which ComEd and its parent company, Exelon Corporation, lobbied in support.

ComEd distributes electricity to 70 percent of Illinoisans, according to the lawsuit, making the company the largest utility in the state.

Exelon, ComEd, Madigan and various other officials participated in an operation designed to enrich themselves while defrauding consumers, the lawsuit alleges. That would be a violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act, used by the federal government to prosecute and dismantle organized crime groups.

If a judge in the Eastern Division of Il-

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agrees, ComEd ratepayers could be compensated the \$150 million the utility earned in profit "threefold" as well as attorneys' fees.

The Illinoisans who filed the case also requested a judge bar Madigan from being involved in any way with legislation affecting electricity in the state. They also want a judge to force him to resign as chairman of the Democratic Party of Illinois "in order to prevent him from continuing to run the state party in a corrupt manner." He has held that position since 1998.

"ComEd understood that as Speaker of the House of Representatives, Madigan was able fees implemented by linois' Northern District to exercise control over

what measures were called for a vote in the House of Representatives and had substantial influence and control over fellow lawmakers concerning legislation, including legislation that affected ComEd," according to the lawsuit.

A spokesperson for the speaker did not respond to a request for comment.

One of the laws named in the court document was the Energy Infrastructure and Modernization Act, passed in 2011. It changed how utility companies could raise rates.

Previously, ComEd would have to present proposed electricity delivery fees to the Illinois Commerce Commission, which would then conduct "hearings comparable to judicial proceedings in which ComEd had to prove both the reasonableness and justness of its proposed rates," according to a court document. This system was used for almost a century.

Once the act became law, utility companies could "avoid" that process and use a formula dictated by statute "that spits out automatic rates annually," according to the filing. This authority expires at the end of 2022 unless the General Assembly renews it before then.

Due to the change, electricity rates ComEd charges customers jumped by 35 percent over the past nine years, the group argued in their lawsuit.

Those costs increased another 4 percent with the implementation of zero emission credit fees. ComEd and Exelon lobbied for the passage of the Future Energy Jobs Act in 2016, which included the charge, because it provided "massive subsidies" to the two nuclear power plants it owns in the Quad Cities and Clinton.

The lawsuit alleges that in exchange for his help passing those legislative measures, Madigan wanted "ghost-payroll jobs" for his allies. At least 15 such associates were paid by ComEd through other contractors for jobs for which they did little to no work.

These payments "were also intended to influence and reward Madigan in connection with the advancement and passage of legislation favorable to ComEd in the Illinois General Assembly," according to a court document, and were funneled through other companies "in part to assist ComEd in denying responsibility for employment oversight of Madigan's associates."

"ComEd understood that as Speaker of the House of Representatives, Madigan was able to exercise control over what measures were called for a vote in the House of Representatives and had substantial influence and control over fellow lawmakers concerning legislation, including legislation that affected ComEd."

According to the lawsuit



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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

A market-based approach can unite both sides on climate

Throughout the nation, young people care about climate change and are eager to find solutions. With decades of life ahead of us, our generation recognizes that sound policy action could be the difference between a diminished future and one of continued growth and prosperity.

Proposals that seek to dismantle capitalism or advance a partisan agenda, however, can breed mistrust and hinder progress on this issue. Instead, a marketbased climate strategy offers the most promising basis for a bipartisan climate breakthrough.

In this spirit, we are proud to join more than 350 student body presidents from colleges and universities across the United States in support of the market-based solution known as carbon dividends. This statement, signed by more student leaders than any prior policy statement in U.S. history, includes representation from all 50 states and young leaders across the political spectrum.

This call for action underscores how our generation'sconcernsaboutclimate changetranscend party lines. The data confirms this. Recent polling from the Pew Research Center found that amajority of younger Republicans, like their Democratic peers, think the government is doing too little on climate. It is no surprise that House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy recently called for a GOP pivot on the issue, specifically citing the views of young people.

Yet any agreement on the need to tackle climate change does not automatically translateintoanagreementonhow to proceed. Many climate activists have proposed interweaving climate legislation with partisan policy agendas such as Medicare for All and a federal jobs guarantee. Others have called for the unraveling of capitalism in the name of environmental renewal. Regardless of intention, such approaches alienate many Americans and diminish our ability to implement solutions.

addition to bipartisan backing from student leaders across America, the carbon dividends approach was endorsed in 2019 by more than 3,500 US economists – the largest public statement in the history of the economics profession. This includes support from 15 former Chairs of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, representing every administration on both sides of the aisle in the last 50 years

of the aisle in the last 50 years. A carbon dividends plan would harness the power of the market to address the climate challenge more directly than any policy to date. By levying a fee on emissions, the proposal would remove the de facto subsidy on carbon pollution. This would level the playing field for energy competition, spurinnovation, and unleash market forces to develop and deploy clean energy technologies.

Importantly, to prevent the growth of government, all revenue collected as part of this proposal would be returned to the American people as dividends. In addition, to promote economic growth, this plan would help phase out the carbon regulations that are no longer necessary in the presence of this market-based approach. Lastly, through a system of border carbon adjustments that apply a similar fee on imports into the U.S., this policy would work to protect American economic competitiveness and incentivize other countries to follow our lead.

Not only is the carbon dividends strategy capable of earning broad, bipartisan support, but it is also likely to serve its purpose. A carbon price of \$0.02 per pound of CO2-escalating at 5 percent each year - would cut U.S. emissions in half by 2035. These reductions would exceed all prior climate plans, including the goals of the Paris Commitment, demonstrating the inherent power of a market-based solution.

as fears mounted about sulfur dioxide's contribution to acid rain, President George H.W. Bush marshaled bipartisan support for legislation to put a price on sulfur dioxide pollution. The policy, which achieved its goals under budget and ahead of schedule, is widely considered one of the most successful environmental policies in U.S. history.

The U.S. has done this before and can do it again. With the just-announced statement from student leaders, our generation is not only calling attention to the climate challenge but also rallying around a market-based strategy that both parties can support. Working together, this is a problem we can solve.

Jake Manning, Mississippi State University, Student Body President, 2019-2020

Robert Borden, Brigham Young University, Student Service Association President, 2019-2020

Stone Cox, Louisiana State University, Student Body President, 2020-2021

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

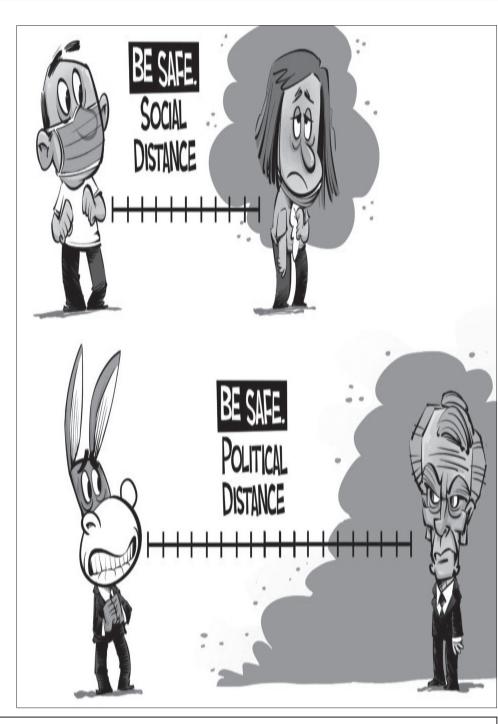
The storm that moved through the area Monday afternoon left some residents without power and due to high winds, trees and limbs were left for many to clean up. Did you experience any major storm damage Monday?

"We had a tree down on Greenland northwest area of town." Drive." Lacey Gabrielson

Paulette Harvey

"Tree damage near May School." Allison Rollin *"My dad had lots of trees down on Brookside — the northeast area of town."* Deborah Schuler Beck

"We lost some shingles in the



Fortunately, the marketbased carbon dividends plan is an effective strategy that can appeal to both sides. In To anyone who doubts this approach, look to history. This same strategy of uniting the parties and leveraging the market solved America's last great environmental challenge: acid rain. In the late 1980s,



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@rochellenews-leader.com

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

 Rochelle City Council *John Bearrows Kathryn Shaw-Dickey Bil Hayes Don Burke Dan McDermott Tom McDermott John Gruben	jbearrows@rochelleil.us kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us bhayes@rochelleil.us dburke@rochelleil.us dmcdermott@rochelleil.us tmcdermott@rochelleil.us jgruben@rochelleil.us	Flagg-Rochelle Par Mic Brooks Brent Carmichael John Dobbs Dale Wells *Tim Hayden Jodie Hart Joe Lenkaitis	<u>k Board</u> mbrooks@rochelleparkdistrict.org bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org	Hillcrest Village Board Randy Salsbury Pam Pitman Don Potter Richard Rhoads *Jason Fore Tim Ball	rsalsbu ppittm dpot rrhoa jfo tb
	<u>18</u>		J	Flagg Township	
Rochelle Elementary Sch	<u>nool Board</u>	Ogle County Board	Dist. 3	*Bob Withrow	flaggt
*Dave Casey	dcillini94@gmail.com	Lloyd Droege	ldroege@oglecounty.org	Joanna Patrick	flaggtwpcl
Steve Builta	sbuilta@gmail.com	Jamey Sulser	jsulser@oglecounty.org	Susan Rothenberger	asses
Shirley Reif	sreif@crestfoods.com	Greg Sparrow	gsparrow@oglecounty.org	Scott Seebach	scottseel
Jean Tess	dtess503@comcast.net			Board of Trustees	
 Eric Van Hise	eric.vanhise@gmail.com	Ogle County Board	Dist. 4	Lance Noggle	nogg
Trisha Vaughn	jrvtlv02@msn.com	Bruce McKinney	bmckinney@oglecounty.org	Eric Gruben	egruł
Javier Zepeda	jzepeda@rthsd212.org	Skip Kenney	skenney@oglecounty.org	Susan Hagar	susanhager
		Kim Whalen	kwhalen@oglecounty.org	Jim Kenney	jimk@r
Rochelle Township High					
*Tom Huddleston	tom.huddleston@rthsd212.org	Creston Village Boa		Flagg-Rochelle Library	
Carol Hayenga	carol.hayenga@rthsd212.org	*Wayne Williams	jwdw13@yahoo.com	*Jaqueline Dickow	dick
 Bill Ravnaas	bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org	Deanne Haub	hobnob67@comcast.net	Teresa Haggestad	haggesta
Robert Walsh	bob.walsh@rthsd212.org	Tom Byro	tommyb_47@yahoo.com	Michael Scanlan	scan
Jeff Tilton	jeff.tilton@rthsd212.org	Greg Hopkins	ghopkins522@comcast.net	Lanning Nicoloff	nicoloff1
Brent Tracy	brent.tracy@rthsd212.org	Steve Katzman	skatzman@essex1.com	Sheri Klindera	alwaysle
Brian VanVickle	brian.vanvickle@rthsd212.org	Mike Kerns	ac.kerns@comcast.net	Susan Sevedge	nit1p
		Mike Misch	mmfam@live.com	Darci Waltrip	doobs
		Curt Ward	caward92@comcast.net		
		I		1	

* Denotes Chairman/President

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 rom 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 (PO. 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.

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noggle62@gmail.com egruben@comcast.net usanhager303@comcast.net jimk@rocketsupply.com

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COMMUNITY

Masons gun raffle fundraiser winners to be drawn Saturday

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Masonic Lodge will be holding its 2020 gun raffle fundraiser with the winners being drawn on Saturday, Aug. 15.

Three winning tickets will be drawn at noon by Naomi Baldwin in front



of Colonial Flowers on a Berretta Pico .380 ACP Saturday, Aug. 15. The or a Smith & Wesson inbuying tickets may call provided throughout first pulled winner will Bodyguard .380 or a Bud at 815-762-1591 or the year by the Masonic have the choice of either Taurus G2C .9mm 12RD, Jerry at 815-262-4416, Lodge.

while the second pulled or tickets may also be choice of the remaining Meats in Creston. two guns.

will be sold and partic- tion they can legally own ipants do not need to be a firearm in Illinois. present to win.

Tickets are being sold ceeds from the drawing for \$5 each or five for will go toward communi-\$20. Anyone interested typrograms and services

winner will have the purchased at Headon's

Winners of the raffle Only 1,500 tickets must provide verifica-

A portion of the pro-

The Kitchen Table menu

Aug. 13 - (Thursday) - Shredded beef over

- potatoes, beef gravy, roasted veggies Aug. 18 - (Tuesday) - Spaghetti and meatballs,
- salad, garlic bread, soup
- Aug. 20 (Thursday) Chicken enchiladas, rice and beans, salad
- Aug. 25 (Tuesday) Grilled BBQ chicken, potato salad, baked beans, Lays chips
- Aug. 27 (Thursday) Italian beef sandwiches, onion rings or fries

Sept. 6 – (Sunday Brunch) – Sausage gravy and biscuits, sausage links, pancakes, breakfast casserole

*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.



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



Coffee Break

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



FROM THE HEART DAILY CASH WINNERS

July 22 - Lois Hayes, Steward, \$25

July 21 - Darlene Reynolds, Rochelle, \$25

- July 23 Tessa Sturgeon, New Albany, Indiana, \$25 July 24 - Cal Jacobs, Rochelle, \$25 July 25 - Delilah Melton, St. Simons Island, Georgia, \$25 July 26 - Mike Dale, Edgerton, Wisconsin, \$50 July 27 - Dennis Stewart, Rochelle, \$25 July 28 - Dakota Ames, Rochelle, \$25 July 29 - Lynette Alcock, Monroe Center, \$25 July 30 - Shirley LeMar, Rochelle, \$25 July 31 - Carter Shaw, Amboy, \$25 Aug. 4 - Joan Woksa, Rochelle, \$25

- Aug. 1 Janice Prusator, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 2 Jeff Stevens, Excelsior, Minnesota, \$50
- Aug. 3 Keith Holland Sr., Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 5 Ralfie's BBQ & Catering, Oregon, \$25
- Aug. 6 Dakota Ames, Rochelle, \$25
- Aug. 7 Evi O'Rorke, Steward, \$25
- Aug. 8 Megan Egyed, Amboy, \$25
- Aug. 9 Sheena Hessler, Stoughton, Wisconsin, \$50
- Aug. 10 Alex Hutson, Rochelle (CHS), \$25
- Aug. 11 John Dreska, Rochelle (CHS), \$25
- Aug. 12 Melissa Long, Tomahawk, Wisconsin, \$25

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

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19	Irish overcoats				42		43		44	\vdash	45			
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each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

Challenging Moderate 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: C equals E

Y ICCF PRIWF IQV KYVKWH

CFCGMPZOH. RC PFF NZQR OMC

GQQV KVCPOWVCH RQVN IQV

GCPZWOH.

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A B E L

Solution time: 25 mins.

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— king Crossword —

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LOCAL NEWS



A resident takes photos of damage to a home on Lincoln Highway Monday afternoon after a tree in front of the house fell toward the home.





A felled tree at St. Paul Lutheran Church and school was cleared out Tuesday morning. At left, a branch from a tree at the corner of Scott and Joanne Lane fell Monday and downed a street sign and light.

Monday's storm leaves Forreston littered with limbs, debris and power lines

BY BRAD JENNINGS OGLE COUNTY LIFE EDITOR

FORRESTON – For Derald DeVries, the signal that a major storm had arrived, and it was time to head down to the basement, was not subtle.

A large pine tree in his neighbor's yard snapped off as the high winds hit Forreston the afternoon of Monday, Aug. 10.

"When the tree broke off and cracked, and the neighbor's apple tree fell in my yard, I knew there was something serious going on," said DeVries, who has lived in the area his entire life, including 45 years in Forreston.

The storm, which first caused extensive damage in Iowa before moving into northern Illinois, had winds reported at more than 75 miles per hour, according to the National Weather Service. The storm downed trees, toppled semi-trucks and damaged homes across parts of Iowa, Illinois and Indiana.

said that the village had 13 blocks of structural damage and 41 blocks of downed trees, power lines and telephone poles. The streets in some areas were littered with tree limbs, twisted metal and downed power lines as people did their best to clean up.

One of those people cleaning up was DeVries, who was working at a home his daughter owned in town.

"They said there was 80 to 100 mph winds coming, and they happened to hit right there," he said, pointing across the street-an area littered with debris.

Not far to the west of where DeVries was standing was a trailer park, where many mobile homes were damaged or destroyed. More than one was lifted off it its foundation.

Gwen Weidman said she was in Dixon when the storm hit, and a neighbor called to tell her a large walnut tree in her yard had toppled. "It came out of the ground," she said. "The roots (are) sticking up out



of the ground."

But she said people have been great helping with the cleanup. Besides neighbors helping neighbors, the county had trucks removing debris on Tuesday, and Weidman said a group of workers from Christian Aid Ministries was helping as well. That group helped patch holes in the roof of her house. "I'm glad there were no fatalities," she said. "I'm

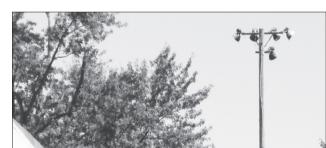
glad they were able to get everyone out."

Power was still out in the village as of Wednesday monring, but it was hoped it would be restored by Saturday. After the storm, Verizon provided chargers and Wi-Fi for use at the fire department, and ComEd provided a cooling bus.

The Red cross also donated items including shovels, rakes, gloves and

tarps to help with cleanup. The Salvation Army also donated clean up kits.

(PHOTO BY BRAD JENNINGS)



At a press conference Monday, Forreston Mayor Mark Metzger

The village also put a strict 8:30 p.m. curfew in place.

and stimulation.

care for

and community support.

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SPORTS



Dan Harper (left) took home the Senior Championship this past weekend, while Rochelle Township High School senior Megan Thiravong (right) won the Women's Championship. James Sly (below) earned the A Flight trophy.

GOLF: 2020 Senior, Women's Championship winners crowned

From page 1

Seniors

Eight players competed in the 2020 Fairways Senior Championship this past weekend, with Dan Harper carding consecutive rounds of 72 and 74 to win this year's senior title with a final score of 146. Mike Mallon, who led after 18 holes with an opening-round 71, scored 77 in his second round to place second with 148. Bill Kubale totaled two rounds of 76 to take third place with 152.

Women

Rochelle Township High School senior Megan Thiravong successfully defended her title at the 2020 Fairways Women's Championship this past weekend, carding 72 and 73 to finish first with 145 in the five-player field.

Younger sister Ailani Thiravong started strong with an opening-round 79 before recording 91 in her final round to place second with 170. Joanne Sharp took third place with 179.





COMMUNITY BOARD



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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS Municipal Rochelle Utilities, Ogle County, will receive Illinois sealed bids for: Park Prologis Substation

Utility

Government

each bid

contents.

K002.

specification

shall be submitted with

The bid shall be marked

to identify bid package

The successful bidder

Register as a bidder

· Furnish in duplicate

the following executed

Non-Collusion Affidavit

· Bid Bond, Certified

Check or Money Order

· All other documents

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Utility for a period the

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Switchgear Purchase until 11:00 a.m. local time on August 27, 2020 at the Rochelle Municipal Utilities, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068.

plans The and specifications are on file with the said Rochelle Municipal Utilities for viewing

purposes only.

Copies the of documents may be acquired from BHMG Engineers, Inc., 630 Jeffco Boulevard, Arnold, Missouri 63010, Consulting Engineers for said City. Please email Laura Stackle. Lstackle@bhmg.com with request.

Bids shall be received for the aforementioned items. А certified check

or bank draft on a responsible. solvent bank, or a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and an acceptable surety company, payable to the Rochelle Municipal Utilities, Adam Lanning,





Manager, or Adam Lanning, Utility Bonds Manager No. 0735 (July 29, Aug. or cash in the amount of not less than five 2, 5, 9, 12, 16) percent (5%) of bid.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Rochelle will hold a public hearing on August 24, 2020, at 6:30 PM, in the City Council Chambers at Rochelle's City Hall to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed **Rebuild Illinois Regional** Economic Development Grant (RIRED) project. Anyone interested in participating in public commentary remotely should contact City Clerk Sue Messer at smesser@rochelleil.

us or 815-562-6161 to make arrangements. The public hearing will also be available for viewing on Facebook Persons with Live. disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact City Clerk Sue Messer, 420 N. 6th Rochelle, Street, IL 61068 at smesser@ rochelleil.us or 815-562-6161 to make arrangements no than Thursday, later August 20, 2020. Every effort will be made

to make reasonable

for

accommodations

these persons. On or about August 31. 2020. the City Rochelle intends of to apply to the Department Illinois Commerce of and Economic Opportunity grant from for а the Rebuild Illinois program. This program funded by state is funds as included in the 2019 Capital Bill.

These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the activities: following construction of an Electrical Substation. The total amount of Rebuild Illinois funds to be requested is The \$2.000.000. City of Rochelle also proposes to expend \$10,000,000 in non-Rebuild Illinois funds on the project. These non-Rebuild Illinois funds will be derived from the following sources: Electrical Utility Capital

Fund.

Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of August 17, 2020 at City Hall, located at 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, II 61068 between the hours of 9 AM and 4 PM. Anyone interested in viewing the documents should contact City Clerk Sue Messer at smesser@rochelleil. us or 815-562-6161 to make an appointment. Interested residents are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by written statement. Written comments should be submitted to City Clerk Sue Messer, 420 N. 6th Street. Rochelle, IL 61068 no later than August 20, 2020 in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. additional For information concerning the proposed project, please contact Noah Carmichael at 815-562-9087 or ncarmichael@ fehr-graham.com. No. 0815 (Aug. 12)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Appropriation and Ordinance for the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District, Ogle County. Illinois. at 7:00pm on September 17, 2020 at the Library District building located at 61 Fourth Avenue, Rochelle, Illinois 61068

Notice is further given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance wi be available for inspection at the Library, August 14, 2020 to the day of the public hearing, during normal library hours. То make an appointment to inspect the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance, please call 815-562-3441 or email director@flagg rochellepubliclibrary org

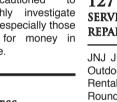
Dated this 1st day of August, 2020 Susan Sevedge, Secretary-Treasurer No. 0816 (Aug. 12)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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105 BUSINESS **OPPORTUNITIES**

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Readers to

REPAIRS



HILLCREST: 200 Ramona Ave. Estate/ Garage Sale. August 8th & August 15th 10am-4pm. Furniture and More. Call For More Info 815-562-9509. (08-12-20)

307

for

12-20)

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RECEPTIONIST

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113 FINANCIAL

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201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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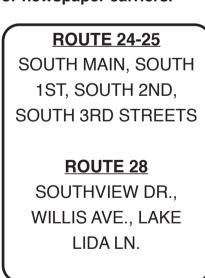




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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE) Rising junior Sara Johnson will be next to carry the leadership torch for the Lady Hub cross country team this coming season.

Johnson pushing for top times with Lady Hubs

BY RUSSELL HODGES SPORTS EDITOR

Since beginning her freshman cross country season at Rochelle Township High School, Sara Johnson has been practicing and competing alongside some of the program's best leaders in recent years. Now an upperclassman herself, Johnson is ready to give back the lessons she's including a runner-up finish at the Interstate 8 Conference Fresh-Soph Championships, where she pushed the Lady Hubs to second place out of eight schools.

Johnson medaled in nearly every single meet, and she capped off her successful sophomore season with a top-30 performance at the IHSA 2A Sterling Regional, assisting the Lady Hubs to their second consecutiveIHSA2ASectional appearance.







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learned from past teammates and step up as the top Lady Hub harrier this fall.

"I'm excited to be back with the team," Johnson said. "It's exciting to reconnect and run with everybody again... I thought I improved my times a lot this past season and I did a good job keeping up with many of the faster runners. I want to continue improving my times and my endurance this season and I want to cut at least a minute off of my 3-mile time."

Johnson will be gearing up for her third season running cross country for the Lady Hubs. As a freshman, Johnson helped Rochelle record a top-6 finish at the IHSA 2A Belvidere North Regional, running a season-best time of 21:47.2. Her sophomore season was marked by multiple accolades Johnson's consistency on the trails was showcased in her ability to either medal or earn an award in seven consecutive meets.

Running under the guidance and leadership of former RTHS harriers like Katherine Bakken and Britney Baez, Johnson will be looking to take her personal-best time (21:36.1) even lower this season, and she'll be counted on for top times as the most experienced girl on the team.

"I want to be kind and welcoming to all ofmy teammates," Johnson said. "This sport may not be the most fun for some people, but it's a great way to build relationships, and I thought Katherine and Britney both made sure we stayed connected as a team and we ran with each other. I'd like for us to get back to sectionals as a team this season."

"I'm excited to be back with the team. It's exciting to reconnect and run with everybody again... I want to be kind and welcoming to all of my teammates."

Sara Johnson





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MOVING FORWARD

RTHS harrier Sara Johnson is next up to lead the Lady Hub cross country team.

See page 11 for more details

Fairways Golf Course

Back-to-back titles

Woeppel wins second straight Men's Championship with 3-over-par 201

ROCHELLE — Jon Woeppel kept as normal of a routine as possible throughout the time leading into the 2020 Fairways Men's Championship this past Saturday and Sunday. As the defending champion, Woeppel entered the weekend looking to play the 54-hole tournament as consistently and safely as he could.

Behind strong putting throughout the weekend, Woeppel fired an even-par 66 over his first and second 18-hole rounds before cooling off with 69 over his final 18 holes to finish the tournament with a 3-overpar 201 and take home the title for the second straight summer. Woeppel was the only player in the nineman championship flight to score under 70 in each of his three 18-hole rounds.

"I showed up 10 minutes before my tee time ready to go and I played as if it were any other Sunday," Woeppel said. "My putter got hot and it was a lot of fun after that. The course was in fantastic shape and Mitch [Hamilton], the superintendent, does a fantastic job. The challenges resulted from how firm the course was since it hasn't rained much, and getting balls "I showed up 10 minutes before my tee time ready to go and I played as if it were any other Sunday. My putter got hot and it was a lot of fun after that... The challenges resulted from how firm the course was since it hasn't rained much, and getting balls to stop on the greens was really tough. I played the course safely and I focused on hitting fairways and greens."

to stop on the greens was really tough. I played the course safely and I focused on hitting fairways and greens."

Woeppel and former champion Thomas Brennan were tied for the lead after the first 18 holes, while Josh Johnson trailed by two strokes with a first-round 68. Woeppel separated himself from the field after the second round, however, building a seven-stroke lead after Brennan and Johnson each carded 73.

Jon Woeppel

on the home stretch, shooting 67 over his final 18 holes to place second in the tournament with an 8-overpar 206. Johnson recorded 215 to finish third, while George Weber rallied behind back-to-back 70s in the first two rounds to take fourth with 216.

James Sly took first



Brennan bounced back

place in the A Flight this past weekend, shooting 240 behind a second-round 75. Rob Mifflin took second with 246 and Joel Ramos finished third at 249.

See GOLF page 9

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Jon Woeppel won the 2020 Fairways Men's Championship this past weekend, taking home the title for the second straight year.

RTHS Boys Basketball

Simmons steps up for Hubs in sophomore season 6-foot-4 wing shooter gaining confidence on the hardwood

BY RUSSELL HODGES

SPORTS EDITOR

HILE the Rochelle varsity boys basketball team surged up the Interstate 8 Conference standings during the second half of the 2019-20 season, the sophomore boys were quietly putting together one of the program's most successful campaigns in recent history.

The sophomore Hubs dominated throughout their season, finishing 24-5 overall while winning the Interstate 8 Conference to bring home Rochelle's first conference championship at the sophomore level in 11 years. One player who had a significant role in the sophomore team's success was Ryan Simmons, who also earned the opportunity to start on the varsity level.

If there were any doubts about whether or not Simmons was ready to compete against varsity basketball aside during the IHSA 3A Regional Semifinals, where Rochelle defeated the Sterling Golden Warriors for the first time since 2015. Simmons was the unlikely spark plug in that game, scoring a season-best 15 points behind six firsthalf field goals including three 3-pointers. His 10 first-quarter points were the most from any RTHS player.

players, those were cast

"We all want to win a regional championship next season," Simmons said. "I thought both the sophomore and varsity team did well offensively, but I think we can improve on defense next season. As a junior, I want to average at least 15 points per game and I want to rebound more. I played AAU basketball over the summer and I have been trying to get better on my own."

Simmons will see his role increase as a rising junior next winter, when the Hubs will look to follow up a 20-win varsity season and replace three graduating senior starters. Although he wasn't the focal point of the offense in every game, Simmons had moments where he showcased his scoring ability, totaling 10 points and making two 3-pointers in a blowout victory over the Ottawa Pirates, a game in which Rochelle knocked down a season-best 16 triples. Simmons converted four 3-pointers for 12 points in the season-finale win over LaSalle-Peru.

"I thought I could've played better, but I helped the team wherever I was needed," Simmons said. "I thought I did a good job of passing the ball and helping my teammates get open shots. I think I can be more confident when I'm on the court next season. I thought the sophomores did really well and I can't wait to play with them on the varsity level next season."



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Ryan Simmons earned a starting role with the varsity basketball team during his sophomore season, helping the Hubs with his perimeter shooting and passing ability. The rising junior will be looking to score more points next season.