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Today's RNL issue

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

Vol. 101 • No. 18



KNOW IT

TODAY



Scholarship winners

Local bank announces area scholarship winners. **See** page 3

WEATHER



HIGH LOW **91** 67

FRIDAY

HIGH LOW







OBITUARIES

WILLIAM 'GENE' BIALAS

See page 4

SATURDAY

HIGH LOW

INSERTS

ALDI • ACE HARDWARE

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Back in play

Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District reopens parks, playgrounds

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN STAFF WRITER

ROCHELLE – As the state of Illinois entered Phase 4 of its reopening plan, The Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District announced its plans and new regulations for opening some of its summertime

The park district has plans to reopen with the following recommendations from the state: A face mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, groups of 50 or less, 30 feet of distance from other recreational groups, washed hands before and after and sanitized equipment before and after use.

Other safety recommendations include bringing water from home (onsite drinking fountains for emergency purposes only), using the restroom prior to arrival (on site restrooms for emergency purposes only) and taking garbage home. While there are many new rules and regulations, the park district is happy to be serving the community again.

"Our top priority is the health and safety of the entire community so we have followed all the guidelines and opened accordingly," park district executive director Jackee Ohlinger said. "We are really looking forward to seeing everybody



"We are really looking forward to seeing everybody again. It is great weather outside and we are hoping people get outside to get some vitamin D, some fresh air and enjoy the parks."

Jackee Ohlinger

again. It is great weather outside and we are hoping people get outside to get some vitamin D, some fresh air and enjoy the parks."

The park district has been operating and will continue to operate within the applicable parameters set forth by the Governor's Office, CDC and IDPH. The park district has prepared all of its amenities for public use and will be hanging signs at each of the locations so patrons clearly understand the guidelines.

The park district appreduring this time and it will provide any further updates and modifications on best safety practices as they are received. The park district would like to thank the community for its support and effort to keep every body safe during the past few

The park district office hours are Monday through iates everyone's patience Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Skare Park Driving Range is open every day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Additionally, facility and shelter rentals per reservations and parks, playgrounds, the dog park, skate park, bandshell, walking and hiking trails

and bike paths are all open. Basketball courts, tennis courts, Helmstrack, football fields, baseball diamonds, soccer fields and volleyball courts are all open as well. The Skare Park Disc Golf Course is open and fishing at Lake Sule and Spring Lake are open for the season.

The park district is also offering virtual camps and classes, indoor fitness classes and recreational programming, outdoor youth sports camps and agility training, adult fitness classes and outdoor adult sports leagues. For any further questions or concerns contact the park district office at 815-562-7813.

Creating extraordinary technologies

Rochelle alumnus paving way in data analytics

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN STAFF WRITER

Rochelle Township High School alumnus is paving the way in data analytics by using new technology to create a better way for marketers to send out information to pos-

Nicholas Ziech-Lopez completed his first two years of high school at Bolton High School in Memphis, Tennessee, before transferring to RTHS halfway through his sophomore year. He attended RTHS from 2006-08 and after graduation, he went to the University of Illinois, where he graduated in May 2012, to study chemical engi-

After finishing college, Ziech-Lopez and a group of fellow engineers worked together on a YouTube channel titled "The Engineer Guy" and co-wrote a book titled "Eight Amazing Engineering Stories: Using the Elements to Create Extraordinary Technologies." The book went on to become an Amazon best seller and the YouTube channel currently has over 1 million subscribers. It was during this time that Ziech-Lopez figured out what he enjoyed and didn't enjoy in the engineering field.

"It was a ton of fun and through that experience as well as a couple of my internships, I learned that I didn't really want to do traditional chemical engineering," Ziech-Lopez said. "I didn't think that was for me, so I decided to go into data analysis."

Ziech-Lopez got his fist analytics job working for Capital One. where he worked for just under three years. He then moved to Atlanta, Georgia and joined a small data analytics startup company called Emcien. The company used information and graph theory to analyze

large amounts of data and make predictions in the company. Ziech-Lopez worked at Emcien for nearly two years and then left the company in 2017 for a position at another software startup company, MessageGears. He is now the director of product strategy

for the company and is working on new and better ways for marketers to send out messages to possible customers.

"A lot of the stuff that marketers are doing is based on decades old technology that has been around since the early 1990s," Ziech-Lopez said. "What we do is take a different approach to how people can better affectively service the customer. We use a handful of new technologies, as well as a completely different architecture and

design pattern than many of the other companies, to quickly deliver what users want to use and not what we think they should

MessageGears uses its technology to make it easier for companies to orchestrate, personalize and send those messages effectively to its consumers with less spam. Whether it be through email, short message service (SMS), or within a mobile application, big companies have lots of data and messages they want to send to their consumers.

See TECH page 4





LOCAL NEWS

Good Citizen



Amboy High School graduate, Ashley Althaus (center) was presented with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen award by members of the Rochelle Chapter, DAR Good Citizen Committee, Darlene Hinkle, left, and Vice Regent Lydia Roberts. Althaus was chosen for exemplifying the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism through a process involving her fellow students and teachers, as demonstrated in her leadership roles in the Student Council, National Honor Society & FFA, as well as in service to her community through Leo's Club, her church and neighborhood events. Althaus plans to attend lowa State University and major in agricultural studies with a minor in ag systems technology.



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High Performer July 2020

To read Stephony's nomination, go to the RCH Facebook page or rochellehospital.com.



Illinois State Fire Marshal awards \$3.5 million in grants to Illinois first responders

Local stations receive funding

SPRINGFIELD—The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal and Governor JB Pritzker have announced the recipients of the Small Equipment Grant Program. A total of \$3.5 million was awarded to 154 fire departments/districts and EMS providers. The OSFM received 540 applications, requesting around \$12 million in funding during this grant period. "First responders put

their lives on the line every single day to do the critical work of protecting Illinois' communities. I am pleased to award \$3.5 million in small equipment grants to 154 fire departments and EMS providers throughout the state that will enable the purchase of new firefighting and ambulance equipment,' said Governor JB Pritzker. "I am grateful for the work our first responders do, and how they work so diligently to maintain the safety of our families."

The Small Equipment Grant Program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000 for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment. This program is an innovative approach to a problem that has long caused difficulties for the fire departments and not-for profit ambulance services in Illinois,

"Most smaller departments and districts struggle financially to replace or upgrade aging equipment. The impending fiscal impacts resulting from the COVID19 crisis make the OSFM's Small Equipment Grant Program even more critical to help ease that burden."

Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez

Ogle County

- Rochelle Fire Department: \$22,000
- Forreston Fire Protection District: \$22,643.08
- Leaf River Fire Protection District: \$21,300
- Polo Fire Protection District: \$14,371
- Stillman Fire Protection District: \$26,000

particularly those that have hardships in generating the necessary revenue for small equipment. The purpose is to allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small equipment that they may otherwise not be able to purchase.

"Ensuring that first responders have the equipment they need to operate effectively and safely is a top priority of the OSFM. Most smaller departments and districts struggle financially to replace or upgrade aging equipment. The impending fiscal impacts resulting from the COVID19 crisis make the OSFM's Small Equipment Grant Program even more critical to help ease that burden," says Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez.

"This is an awesome program and benefits my department in many ways. With everything going on in the world today, my department and many

other departments have had to cancel fundraisers which provides funding to purchase equipment. We currently are using air-packs that are 20 years old, the bottles still pass all testing, but we are in much need of an upgrade. My firefighters, Ibelieve, feel safer knowing we are providing them with state-of-the-art equipment when they put their life on the line as volunteers," says Ava Volunteer Fire Department Chief Rodney Anderson.

"The Mokena Fire Protection District (MFPD) recently received grant funding through the OSFM Small Equipment Grant Program to purchase three 800 Mhz portable radios allowing enhanced emergency communications and response while creating a safer situation during emergencies. As resources have diminished for all taxing bodies, it has become increasingly important to seek alternative sources of funding. Without the support of the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Mokena Fire Protection District would not be able to acquire much needed equipment such as these portable radios used to protect the stakeholders of the MFPD," says Mokena Fire Protect District Fire Chief Howard Stephens.

Most Illinois fire departments, fire protections districts, township fire departments, and stand-alone, nonprofit ambulance service providers were eligible to apply. All fire departments, fire protections districts and township fire department applicants were required to have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years prior to applying.

Duval named to Dean's List at Wheaton College

WHEATON — Wheaton College student Joshua Duval of Steward, was named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2020 semester.

To earn Dean's List honors at Wheaton, an undergraduate student must carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher on the 4.0 scale.

Wheaton College is a coeducational Christian liberal arts college noted for its rigorous academics, integration of faith and learning, and consistent ranking among the top liberal arts colleges in the

For more information, visit wheaton. edu.



of your family cookout. On July 1st, come pick up a free package of hotdogs and buns from our office!

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Announcement

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LOCAL NEWS

Stillman Bank awards Eickman scholarship to area seniors

OGLE COUNTY -Stillman Trust & Wealth Management is pleased to announce the winners of the Eickman Scholarship, an annual scholarship awarded to four area high school seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine.

The 2020 recipients are Alivia Bradford, Byron High School; Elizabeth Villarreal, Oregon High School; Caitlin McMurray, Rochelle Township High School; and Sydnee Overton, Stillman Valley High School. Each student received a \$2,100 schol-

Now in its 25th year, the scholarship fund was established by former Stillman Bank President, William E. Eickman as a way to give back to the Ogle County community. Eickman was always grateful to the people of Ogle County for their support, recognizing that they were the reason for the bank's success since The scholarship is

available to high school seniors attending school in Byron, Oregon, Rochelle and Stillman Valley. The fund is designed to award a scholarship, not less than \$1,500, to one recipient from each of these four communities. Each year, committees review all of the applications that are submitted, and from this process, finalists from each school are selected for personal interviews with the review commit-

"Stillman Bank is





McMurray





Overton

thrilled to present these scholarships on behalf of the William E. Eickman Scholarship Trust whose mission is to invest in the potential of students within our local communities," said Keith Akre, Stillman Bank vice president and trust officer. "This is a fantastic opportunity for high school students that are looking to further their

education within the medical field."

Any high school senior at Byron, Oregon, Rochelle, or Stillman Valley High Schools who are interested in applying for the Eickman Scholarship is encouraged to inquire with their guidance counselor. Application forms are available from each school's respective coun-

seling office and must be submitted by the assigned deadline. A copy of the student's high school transcript and proof of acceptance at an accredited college or university must be attached to the application.

For more information about Stillman Bank. please visit www.stillmanbank.com.

Clement, Nevdal complete training course

ROCHELLE Brandon Clement, PT, DPT, OCS, and Aaron Nevdal, PT, DPT, OCS, physical therapists at Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists in DeKalb and Rochelle, recently completed a continuing education course for Blood Flow Restriction Training by BFR Pros in Rockford.

Blood flow restriction training is an exercise adjunct to enable patients to make greater strength gains while lifting lighter loads. The treatment works by applying an external pressure similar to a blood pressure cuff, which reduces venous outflow causing muscles to utilize oxygen faster and fatigue quickly. This method can produce increases in strength without having to lift heavy weights which can be painful or difficult due to a recent surgery, joint condition, or arthritis.

Upon completion of this training, both Clement and Nevdal are well prepared to independently treat patients using this type of handson treatment.

A physician's prescription is no longer required to receive physical therapy treatment. Clement and Nevdal are accepting new patients at the DeKalb Sycamore Road location; addi-



Nevda



Clement

tionally Nevdal is also accepting new patients in the Rochelle clinic.

To schedule an appointment in one of our clinics or via video conference from your home, or for more information, please call Northern Rehab at 815-756-8524 (DeKalb) or 815-562-3299 (Rochelle) or visit www.northernrehapt. com.



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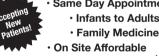
www.tailshumanesociety.org



Sophia

Woe is me! I'm Sophia, I'm 9 1/2 yrs. old, and I don't have a person to call my own anymore. My loved one had to go into assisted living. I'm was really scared and confused when I first lost my home and came to Tails but I'm beginning to come out of my shell after meeting lots of nice staff and volunteers. But nothing beats a home! I'm a nice size at 35lbs, but I don't think I'm as beautiful or cute as so many other dogs so I worry no one will want me. I'm a good girl and friendly with all I've come to know and trust. I'm house-trained and know to "come" and "stay". I don't insist on a lot of attention and won't need a zillion walks a day. Won't you PLEASE give me a home? A shelter is no place for a sweet senior to be spending her days!

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LOCAL NEWS

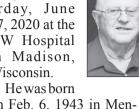
Obituaries

William 'Gene' **Bialas**

WEST BROOKLYN

- William "Gene" Bialas,77, loving father and

Papa, passed away on Saturday, June 27, 2020 at the UW Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin.



on Feb. 6, 1943 in Mendota, the son of Willie and Louise (Kretschmer) Bialas. He graduated from Rochelle Township High School with the class of 1961. Gene married his high school sweetheart and classmate, Joyce E. McGee, on June 16, 1962 in Rochelle. He farmed all his life including and after working at Swift meats for 13 years. Gene was a member of Faith Lutheran Church.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his son, David Gene Bialas on Oct. 9, 2018; and his brother, Herb Bialas. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Bialas of West Brooklyn; two daughters, Cathy (Ron) Fraze of Columbus, Montana, and Angie (Mike) Williams

of Rochelle; daughterin-law, Peggy Bialas of Rochelle; brother, Lloyd (Linda) Bialas; sister, Darlene (Bob) Johnson of both of Steward; 11 grandchildren, Allie, Olivia, Nicki, Luke, Dom, Megan, Cain, Rebecca (David) Eychaner, Josiah, Cheryl and David; two great-grandchildren, Madden and Maycie Cesarone; and many nieces and nephews.

Family funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 1 at Faith Lutheran Church with Pastor Joy Alsop and Chaplain Judy Williams officiating. The funeral service will be live-streamed on Unger-Horner Facebook page. Burial will follow at Trinity Memory Gardens.

A memorial has been established to the family.

An online guest book is available at www.UngerHorner.com.

Deputies arrest man for driving with suspended license

On June 23 at 4:20 p.m., following a traffic stop on Interstate 39 at mile marker 104 southbound, Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested Josuel Valle, 24, of Mercedes, Texas, for no valid driver's license. Valle was released on an I-Bond with a court date of July 31 at 9 a.m.

On June 27 at approximately 8:40 p.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Willie Carter, 52, of Chicago, for aggravated driving while license revoked. Carter was also issued a citation for a registration violation. Carter was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

On June 27 at approximately 2:52 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to a single vehicle accident and the intersection of Apple Road and Maple Grove. After further investigation, Matthew S. Steder, 29, of Mt. Morris, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. Steder was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he is held in lieu of bond. The passenger of the vehicle, Christopher Baker, 29, of Monroe Center, was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Baker was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he is held in lieu of bond. On June 27 at approximately

9:35 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies initiated a traffic stop near Illinois Route 2 and Town Hall Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Michael Hewitt, 26, of Buda, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Hewitt was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On June 28 at approximately 12:23 a.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 9000 block of North Kishwaukee Road. After further investigation, deputies arrested Joseph A. Bail, 45, of Stillman Valley, for driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Bail was also charged with unlawful possession of cannabis (improper container), and cited for improper traffic lane usage and no registration. Bail was transported to Rochelle Community Hospital where he was released on an I-Bond.

On June 28 at 10:31 p.m., dep-

From page 1

read."

uties stopped a 2004 chevy impala at Third Street and Walnut Street in Byron. After a short investigation deputies arrested Dawn Stiff, 51, of Mt. Morris, for no valid driver's license. Stiff was released at the scene on an I-Bond with a return court date of July 31 at 9 a.m.

On June 28 at 6:51 p.m., deputies responded to Beck Road and Illinois Route 38 for a one vehicle crash. Deputies determined that a 1998 Hyundai driven by Betty Newton, 84, of Orland Park, was traveling west on Illinois Route 38. crossed into the south ditch through a bean field then struck the ditch on Beck Road before coming to rest in the field on the west side of Beck Road. Newton received citations for expired driver's license as well as a citation for no insurance. Newton was transported to a local hospital for minor injuries. Deputies were assisted on scene by Rochelle and Creston Fire Departments.

On June 29 Pamela Knapik, 44, of Woodstock, was arrested on a failure to appear warrant. Knapik has a bond of \$2,057. Knapik is scheduled to appear in court June 30. Knapik remained in the Ogle County Jail.

TECH: Alumnus

paving the way

The theory behind this strategy is to better

catch the reader's attention when the message is

opened. Rather than sending one person an email

every day of the week, this method would instead send that person one personalized email a week.

"This method works in favor of both the com-

receiving it," Ziech-Lopez said. "Now, the reader

only sees the messages they want and the brand

isn't wasting money sending out a bunch of mes-

sages the reader doesn't care about and may not

While Ziech-Lopez loves working with big companies and technology, the reason he got into

this line of work is because he loves being a part

of something that is growing. Through his time

at the University of Illinois and working on the

YouTube channel and book, he learned that the best feeling is having a part to play in building

Ziech-Lopez is very appreciative for his time

at RTHS and is looking forward to the next few

"Software and specifically data analysis and

data access is where I want to be because it is that sweet spot between working with some incredibly

complex technologies and explaining it to people

something that will be released out into the world.

pany sending the message and the consumer

Police issue several speeding citations

On June 27 at 9:12 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Justin D. Mallory, 40, of Rochelle, for speeding 75 m.p.h. in a 55 m.p.h. zone. He posted an I-Bond. His court date is set for Aug. 14.

On June 29 at 3:57 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Kimberly D. Crsip, 54, of Rochelle, on a Lee County warrant. She posted \$300 Bond. Her court date is

On June 29 at 7:24 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Delfino Nonato, 40, of Rochelle, for no valid driver's license and speeding, 52 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone. She posted I-Bond. Her court date is set for Aug. 14.

Brandon M. Rogers, 32, of Rochelle, on an Ogle County warrant. He was transported to jail.



On June 29 at 7:43 p.m., Rochelle police arrested





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in a way that makes sense," Ziech-Lopez said.

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STATE NEWS

Year

7/1/20

1/1/21

1/1/22

1/1/23

1/1/24

1/1/25

Minimum wage increases on July 1

Illinois Department of Labor reminds workers to watch their wages

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois' minimum wage will make its second increase this year to \$10 per hour beginning July 1. The Illinois Department of Labor urges minimum wage earners to make sure their checks reflect the increase following

Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation passed by the General Assembly providing a path to a \$15 minimum wage by 2025. Minimum wage earners received the first increase of \$1 to \$9.25 per hour on January 1, 2020.

Prior to the January

increase, the last time Illinois increased its minimum wage was a decade ago. In 2010, the minimum wage was raised from \$8 to \$8.25 per hour. Cook County has a higher minimum wage than the state, with the Cook County mini-

mum wage increasing to

\$13 per hour beginning July 1, 2020. The City of Chicago minimum wage will also increase on July 1, 2020 to \$13.50 per hour for small employers (4 to 20 employees) and \$14 per hour for large employers (21 or more employees).

The state's minimum

Minimum Wage

\$11

\$12

\$13

\$14

wage is scheduled to increase an additional \$1 per hour each year on January 1 until it reaches \$15 per hour in 2025. "While IDOL fully ex-

New Minimum Wage Rates

Tipped

\$7.20

\$7.80

\$8.40

pects employers to abide by the new minimum wage, it is important for workers to inspect their checks to make sure they reflect the increase," said Michael Kleinik, director of the Illinois Department of Labor.

\$9.25

\$10.50

\$12

The new law maintains provisions for employers to count gratuities to offset wages for workers, such as food servers, who regularly earn tips. Tipped employees may

be paid a minimum of 60 percent of the hourly minimum wage. These workers must still earn the minimum wage after receiving tips.

Workers who are under 18 years old and work fewer than 650 hours in a year earn a minimum wage of \$8 per hour.

Illinois awards \$50 million in broadband expansion grants

Funding comes from Rebuild Illinois program and non-state matching funds

BY PETER HANCOCK

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. JB Pritzker traveled to the Henry County town of Geneseo on Wednesday to announce the awarding of \$50 million in grants to 28 projects aimed at expanding broadband internet access across the state.

The \$50 million is part of the "Connect Illinois" program that was included in the state's recently-passed "Rebuild Illinois" capital improvements program. The state funds are being matched with more than \$65 million in non-state funds for a total investment of over \$115 million.

"Connect Illinois is about the right of all our communities to access health care, education, and economic opportunity – because in the 21st century, all those rights are tied to digital connectivity," Pritzker said during an event at an event at Olson Acres Farms in Geneseo. "The unacceptable consequences of disparities in broadband access were clear before the COVID-19 pandemic – and over the last few months, we've seen firsthand what it means when a small business that had to close its doors has no online shop, what it means when an elderly couple has no safe way to get medical advice at a distance, what it means when a child has no ability to access homework assignments online."

The Connect Illinois program calls for spending \$420 million statewide for broadband expansion through 2024, including \$20 million for the Illinois Century Network, a high-speed broadband

network that serves K-12 and higher education institutions. The first round of grants that were announced Wednesday were awarded to 18 internet service providers, rural cooperatives, nonprofits and local governments.

For projects outside the Illinois Century Network, the program requires matching funds from grant recipients, which is expected to attract another \$400 million.

"Reliable and affordable broadband service is a necessity for the success of agriculture and the quality of farm family life," Richard Guebert Jr., president of the Illinois Farm Bureau, said in a statement. "The recent COVID-19 situation has further highlighted the importance of broadband connectivity. Improving broadband service will help revitalize rural Illinois and boost our economy."

According to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, which administers the program, grant applications were reviewed and evaluated on a competitive basis, with proposals evaluated on factors such as broadband impact, matching funds, community support, project readiness and project sustainability.

DCEO said it expects to issue another round of Connect Illinois grants later this year.

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

State launches online service for license plate sticker renewals

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White encouraged residents to visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com to sign up to receive license plate sticker renewal notices by email. This service provides customers 24/7 access to renew their sticker online.

As a result of email reminder notices, the office experienced a 103 percent increase in online license plate sticker renewals from June 1-21, with 338,602 customers renewing online over the three week period. This service allows customers to renew online instead of waiting in line at Driver Services Facilities.

"Customers who receive the email reminder notice can renew online 24/7 at www.cyberdriveillinois.com and avoid waiting in line at Driver Service Facilities," said White. "On June 16, 38,735 license plate stickers were renewed online – a record high for renewals in one day, surpassing the previous high by 10,000. This was after a mass renewal reminder notification was sent to customers who had signed up for the service."

To register, drivers will need their vehicle registration card or past renewal notice containing their Registration ID and PIN numbers. If vehicle owners do not have a renewal notice or a current registration card, they should call the Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980. After obtaining their Registration ID and PIN numbers, they can visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com and go to the "License Plate Renewal Email Notices" under Online Services.

A series of three reminder emails are sent to motorists—three months before expiration, then one month before expiration and the third email is sent the day of expiration. When the sticker is renewed, the reminder emails stop until the following year when it is time to renew again.









check-in





Carryout Available

LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Responsibility ends when Illinois leaders switch into 'automatic'

things on "automatic" just makes life so much easier in Illinois, at least for the

state's leaders. No need to make politically unpopular decisions,

because that

state gasoline tax automati-Weisenstein cally goes up on July 1. Same for lawmakers giving themselves \$1,800 raises while being able to claim: "We didn't vote for those. They

were automatic."

And so it is for Gov. J.B. Pritzker. He doesn't need any courage to face the state's biggest government worker union and speak the truth about COVID-19 shutdowns blowing a \$6 billion hole in the state's revenues. On July 1 there will be \$261 million in raises going to members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal **Employees Council** 31, automatically. Nearly 1 in 4 Illi-

noisans is out of a job. Many are still fighting the state's Rube Goldberg machine of an unemployment system to get the federal money they were promised.

So how fair is it that some of the highestpaid state employees in the nation are getting a raise that must be funded by an economically wounded bunch of taxpayers?

Pritzker dismissed the idea of delaying the state worker raises: "That's not something that we're currently having discussions about," he said in late April.

But other governors, and specifically other Democratic governors. have taken action to preserve scarce cash as they deal with extra

costs and crumbling tax bases thanks to the pandemic.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee is canceling

a 3 percent pay hike for some state employees and forcing one-day-a-week furloughs on 40,000 others to handle a nearly \$9 billion shortfall.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo delayed raises for 80,000 state workers for 90 days, and is now considering employee buyouts. Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam pushed back state worker raises, and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf stopped paying 9,000 state workers on April 11.

Ben

Yet Illinois won't even talk about public workers sharing some of the public's pain. Instead, unemployed Illinoisans get put on hold for hours by the state and then cut off by a recorded message.

The Illinois Department of Employment Security has been an embarrassment throughout the CO-VID-19 shutdown. After weeks of excuses, Pritzker cobbled together fixes that included a \$22 million, no-bid contract that took almost two months just to get federal money provided in late March into the hands of self-employed workers. The new system promptly exposed Social Security numbers of 32,483 applicants, and led to identity theft according to a federal lawsuit in St. Clair County.

Meanwhile, millions of dollars in state worker pay raises flow like water.

Illinois was a financial pit before CO-VID-19, driven mainly by overly generous

public employee salaries and public pension spending handed out by the public servants whose campaigns were so generously supported by those public employees.

Illinois state workers in 2017 were the second-highest paid in the U.S. after adjusting for cost of living, averaging \$61,207. More than half of them

will become retirement millionaires as Illinois spends nearly double the national average, or more than 25percent of the state's operating budget, on pension costs.

The state's pension crisis is driven in part by 3percent compounded annual pension raises, which are – you guessed it – automatic.

Amending the Illi-

nois Constitution could control those costs, and save the state's five pension systems from either failing retirees or continuing to cost taxpayers ever more for fewer services. To get there Pritzker and state lawmakers need to take action, but that's not something that they're currently having discussions about.

Illinoisans cannot

expect solutions if leaders automatically respond to the same old problems with the same unthinking behaviors.

Brad Weisenstein is editor at the Illinois Policy Institute. Before that he spent more than 30 years as an editor at his hometown newspaper. Brad wrote this column for The Center



VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

Many local fireworks shows have been cancelled. Will you be going somewhere to watch a fireworks show for the Fourth of July?

"We're staying in, safe and cool, celebrating with just a couple of family members (outside) with lots of food and playing games. We do have some sparklers for the kids - young and old alike."

Kimberly Ekes

"Davis Junction."

Marilyn Bulthaus Roberson

"Missouri."

Manny Lopez

"Staying home and having

Shelley Sims Reynolds

"Iowa, where life is normal." Heather Bonnell

"Indiana dunes."

Dave Phillips



How to contact government officials

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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 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 (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068) or e-mailed (news@rochellenews-leader.com.) The News-Leader reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.

COMMUNITY

Starved Rock, Matthiessen State Park closures expected during holiday weekend

SPRINGFIELD—Heading into a busy holiday weekend, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Conservation Police Officers are reminding visitors to Starved Rock State Park and Matthiessen State Park to obey No Parking zones and to have a backup plan should parks reach capacity before they arrive.

"Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks are extremely busy on normal weekends, but crowds increase significantly during holiday weekends. Visitors need to remember we will close the parks when they reach capacity, so they should have an alternate park in mind should the parks be at capacity when they arrive," said Captain Laura Petreikis, Illinois Conservation Police. "If they are able to get in, parking restrictions and No Parking zones will be enforced, meaning owners risk having their vehicles towed if they park outside of designated areas."

To encourage appropriate social distancing and other public heath directives inside the parks, both Starved Rock State Park and Matthiessen State Park will not allow additional visitors to enter the parks once all parking lots reach capacity. Parking is not allowed in areas within the parks that are not designated for parking. Additionally, visitors should not park on the sides of Illinois Routes 178 or 71, or any other roads surrounding the parks or in construction zones. Visitors

July 1

Kevin Eggenburg

to Starved Rock Lodge will still be able to enter through the park's south entrance provided they have their lodge pass.

Currently, Starved Rock State Park's south entrance on Route 71 and west entrance on Route 178 are open to the public. With increased traffic, and traffic back ups leading to congestion on state routes and Interstate 80, Conservation Police Officers are urging park visitors to utilize alternate routes when driving to the parks.

Visitors arriving from the east on Interstate 80 should consider exiting prior to Utica at Ottawa, crossing the Illinois River and approaching the park from the east on Route 71. Motorists also can exit southbound on Interstate 39 and take the Route 71 exit at Oglesby. Visitors also should have alternate plans if the park has reached capacity and has been temporarily closed when they arrive.

Other parks

Temporary park closures are not new to Starved Rock or Matthiessen. The heaviest traffic congestion and likely times for park closures occur on weekend days between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Rather than lose a day of outdoor fun to traffic and potential closures, visitors are encouraged to discover some of Illinois' most beautiful - though lesser-known parks in northern Illinois:

Buffalo Rock State Park – 10

miles east of Starved Rock State Park in Ottawa

Illini State Park – 20 miles east of Starved Rock State Park in Marseilles

Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area-47 miles northeast of Starved Rock State Park, 70 miles west of Chicago, in Shabbona

Lowden State Park – 100 miles west of Chicago in Oregon

Rock Cut State Park – 85 miles west of Chicago in Loves Park

Castle Rock State Park – 100 miles west of Chicago in Oregon

White Pines Forest State Park – 100 miles west of Chicago in Mt. Morris

When visiting any state park, fish and wildlife area, recreational area or historic site, visitors are reminded to bring with them hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol as well as a face covering for use in common areas or in case social distancing cannot be achieved on the trails. For additional information and public health directives, visit the IDNR website at https://www2. illinois.gov/dnr/closures/Pages/ ParksOpenDuringCoVID19.aspx.

Visitors can monitor the status of Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks on Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Facebook pages and IDNR Twitter feeds. Additional information can be found on the official Facebook page for Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks.



June 9 - Alice Arjes, Rochelle, \$25

June 10 - Steve Eckhardt, Rochelle, \$25

June 11 - Lynn Kenning, Chicago, \$25

June 12 - Ray Voss, Rochelle, \$25

June 13 - Cheri Devine, Rochelle, \$25

June 14 - Delbert Thomas, Rochelle, \$50

June 15 - Glen Hughes, Dixon, \$25 June 16 - Todd Capes, Rochelle, \$25

June 17 - Jean Schiszik, Rochelle, \$25

June 18 - Peggy Holt, Rockford, \$25

June 19 - Scoops, Oregon, \$25

June 20 - Arnold Mariani, Rockford, \$25

June 21 - Cate Myers, Rochelle, \$500

June 22 - From the Heart Auction, Rochelle, \$25

June 23 - Allie Rae Bagley, Rochelle, \$25

June 24 - Patricia Hansen, Rochelle, \$25

June 25 - From the Heart Auction, Rochelle, \$25

June 26 - Marion Kalnins, Mt. Morris, \$25

June 27 - Iron Skillet (Petro), Rochelle, \$25

June 28 - Teagan Meyers, Rochelle, \$50

June 29 - From the Heart Auction, Rochelle, \$25

June 30 - Taylor and Loren May, Westminster, Colo., \$25

July 1 - Harper Hogan, Leaf River, \$25

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Vallory Lopez July 8 Jazmene Carpenter July 12 Zach Walker Gene Messer Thayde Sullivan Danica Thompson July 14 Eli Jones Peggy Messer

July 15

Seriana Carpenter Julia Jackson Courtney Jones July 17 Carolyn Overstreet July 19 Eric & Kati Johnson July 20 Courtney South Corey Lawrence Zack Lawrence **Aaron Doering**

Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS 1 — and call

- 5 Promptly
- 8 Despot
- 12 Verve 13 Rd.
- 14 Regulation
- 15 Not yet final,
- in law 16 — -relief
- 17 Blind as -
- 18 Body art 20 Pack down
- 22 Half a fluid
- ounce
- 26 Short
- 29 Swiss canton 30 Tokyo, once
- 31 Bergman, in "Casablanca"
- 32 Action star Diesel
- 33 One 34 Mel of
- Cooperstown 35 Programmer's
- woe
- 36 Foolish 37 Skiers' car-
- riages
- 40 Summertime pest
- 41 Starry
- 45 Honeycomb
- compartment 47 Web address
- 49 Wander
- 50 Met melody
- 51 Dos' neigh-
- 52 Yemeni port

10 12 13 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 23 27 29 30 31 32 33

- 34 35 36 37 38 39 43 42 46 47 49
- 53 Helen's home 54 Previous night 10 — carte
- 55 Saucy

50

53

- **DOWN**
- 1 Crooked 2 Director
- Kazan
- 3 Group of
- actors
- 4 Made a
- sweater, maybe
- 5 Biz big shot 6 Eggs
- 7 Oater
- 8 Chaplin per-
- 9 Court sum-

mons 11 Pensioned

51

54

52

55

33 Remove a

seat belt

with underwire

35 Underwear

Python"

opener

38 Dental filling

42 Took the bus

certainty

44 Gave tempo-

Heathcliff

43 State with

rarily

48 Gun the

engine

45 Garfield or

36 "Monty

39 Untrue

- (Abbr.)
- 19 Lummox
- 21 "- was saying ..."
- 23 Playwright
- Pirandello 24 Valhalla VIP
- 25 Memo
- 26 United nations
- 27 Naomi's daughter-inlaw
- 28 Incised print- 46 Blunder
- ing method 32 Predatory sort

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Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

numbers from one to nine.

THIS WEEK: • DIFFICULTY

Moderate





HOO BOY! © 2020 King Features Synd., Inc

CryptoQuip

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

HJEXBV ERWE ZAWETMAH W ZWVJNQ ZTNN BZ JNN-VWDDAMAC XRJNCMAD:

"ERA FMWEEQ FTDXR."

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 25 mins. **Answers**

— **King** Crossword

"Lye Bratty Bunch." full of ill-mannered children: Sitcom that teatures a family SUSMER

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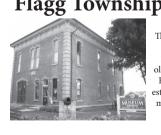
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57 Years

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Happy Birthday America 🖠 Flagg Township Museum



The City and Town Hall Building was built in 1884 and is 136 years old. The Flagg Township Historical Society was established in 1968 so the museum is 52 years old



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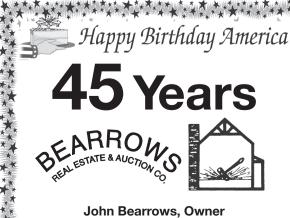


lappy Birthday America

Have a wonderful & safe 4th of July!

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26 Years



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ᡮᡭᡮᡮᡭᢘᡮᡟᢋᡭᡭᢣᡧᢣᢣᡭᡳᢣᠰᡭᢋᢣᡧᠷᡮᡧᡳᢒᡓᡚᠫᡳᡷᡭ

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Estimates

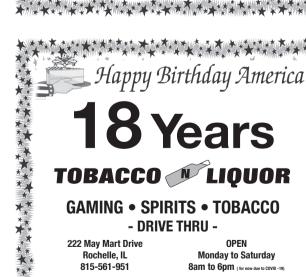
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STATE NEWS

Report says Illinois was ill-prepared for pandemic

Policy group highlights pre-existing nursing shortage; hospital association says it's not a factor

BY PETER HANCOCK

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – A new report from an Illinois think tank says the state was ill-prepared for the COVID-19 pandemic, primarily because of a pre-existing shortage of nurses, and that the pandemic has left state even more vulnerable in the event of another public health crisis.

The report, by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute, a nonprofit organization with strong ties to organized labor, also argues the state would be in a better position if nurses at more hospitals were unionized and if the state adopted a law requiring mandatory minimum nurse staffing levels, an idea that was proposed in the 2019 legislative session but was not adopted.

But while the Illinois Health and Hospital Association agrees there is a nursing shortage, it argues the lack of preparedness was more of a federal problem, and that the nursing shortage did not diminish the quality of care patients received. It strongly opposes legislation requiring minimum nurse staffing levels at hospitals, and disputes any correlation between the quality of patient care and the presence of a nurses' union in a hospital.

The report notes that even before the pandemic, Illinois had a shortage of about 20,000 nurses statewide and that the shortage will likely be exacerbated in the coming years because about half of the nurses practicing are older than 55.

"Even prior to the pandemic, more than 75 percent of registered nurses reported that insufficient staffing levels adversely affects their job satisfaction," the report states, citing a national survey of nurses in 2019. "COVID-19 has the potential to exacerbate the nursing shortage if registered nurses feel even more overworked and stressed."

The report examines patient care data from all 169 hospitals in Illinois, 14 of which are unionized and 155 of which are not. All but four of the unionized hospitals are in Cook County and include some of the largest health care facilities in the state.

Across all levels of care, it noted, nurses in unionized hospitals were able to spend more hours per day treating their patients. They also had lower turnover rates and lower vacancy rates for registered nurses.

The report does not draw specific connections to staffing levels, or union presence, and patient outcomes during the pandemic. Frank Manzo, the institute's policy director, said it's difficult to say with certainty the extent to which the nursing shortage contributed to the severity of the pandemic

"What we can say is that we could have had more infection prevention and control staff," he said. "We could have had better turnover rates and retention rates for nurses and lower vacancy rates and that would have made us better prepared for the pandemic."

Last year, Rep. Fred Crespo, D-Hoffman Estates, introduced House Bill 2604, which would have required hospitals to have at least one nurse for every four patients in medical-surgical units; one for every three patients in intermediate care; and one for every two patients in intensive care. The bill passed out of a House committee but was never voted on by the full House.

"If the legislation had been fully implemented, Illinois would have had between 17,500 and 19,100 more registered nurses - which would have eliminated the shortage of registered nurses," the report states.

But Danny Chun, spokesman for the Illinois Health and Hospital Association, strongly disagreed that hospitals weren't prepared for the pandemic.

"First of all, we've been drilling and doing exercises on pandemics before the pandemic hit," Chun said during an interview. "Every hospital in the state, as you know, has an emergency preparedness plan for disasters of all kinds – mass shootings, traffic accidents, biochemical, biohazard, flu epidemics or pandemics. In the city of Chicago last year in the summer of 2019, Chicago hospitals did an exercise, a drill with the Chicago Department of Public Health on this exact issue – pandemics. And we were directly involved in a lot of the planning and discussions back in January, February, March where hospitals got ready for the pandemic.

Chun said hospitals were directly involved in discussions with Gov. JB Pritzker's administration in the early stages of the pandemic to plan mitigation efforts, including the decision to cancel or postpone "What we can say is that we could have had more infection prevention and control staff. We could have had better turnover rates and retention rates for nurses and lower vacancy rates and that would have made us better prepared for the pandemic."

Frank Manzo

nonemergency surgeries and procedures in order to free up hospital resources for COVID-19 patients.

"Look at the numbers. We flattened the curve, Chun said, referring to hospitalization data from the Illinois Department of Public Health, which have shown a consistent downward trend since May in hospitalizations, intensive care admissions and ventilator usage by COVID-19 patients.

If there was any weakness in preparation, Chun said, it was with the federal government and its failure to maintain a national stockpile of personal protective equipment as well as open supply chains with China, where most PPE is manufactured.

Enacting a law requiring minimum staffing levels, Chun argued, would not solve the state's nursing shortage and would likely harm many smaller hospitals as well as safety-net hospitals in urban areas that wouldn't be able to meet the requirements. "You have an existing shortage of at least 21,000

nurses in Illinois," he said. "Simply requiring hospitals to have a certain number of nurses does not create new nurses. In and of itself, ratios don't do

Chun argued that to address the nursing shortage, the state needs a multi-pronged strategy that includes more scholarships for nursing students, incentives to keep nurse educators in the workforce, and policies that would make it easier for nurses licensed in other states to practice in Illinois.



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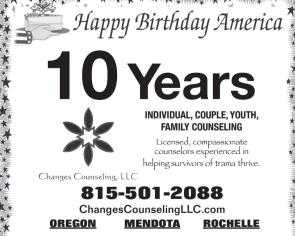
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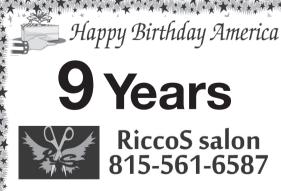
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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS 3



KISHWAUKEE BOUND

RTHS senior Landan Martin signed with the Kougar men's basketball program.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Football

Ansteth leads the way

Hub senior becomes driving force across multiple sports

BY RUSSELL HODGES SPORTS EDITOR

URING the Rochelle Township High School football banquet this past fall, head coach Kyle Kissack shared some details of a private conversation he had with a particular student-athlete, one he could trust to

emerge as a leader on and

off the field.

That player was senior Gavin Ansteth, who stepped up this past season as a two-way starter and delivered not only for his coaches, but for his teammates as well. An Interstate 8 All-Conference First Teamer and Rochelle's Most Valuable Player, Ansteth carried the ball 155 times for a team-high 720 yards and 11 rushing touchdowns

"I enjoyed the summer grind as well as all the fun and hard times we went through," Ansteth said. "We were always a family, regardless if we won or lost. Through playing football at RTHS, I learned that treating others how I want to be treated can go a long way."

during the 2019 season.

Ansteth debuted on the varsity team his sophomore year, working into a reserve role as a junior before earning the starting fullback and inside linebacker positions as a senior. Ansteth steamrolled the Pekin Dragons in Rochelle's 2019 season-opener, running for 137 yards and a careerbest five touchdowns. On Senior Night, Ansteth was a nightmare for the Plano Reapers, totaling a season-high 176 yards and three touchdowns on the ground.

Ansteth's accomplishments went beyond the gridiron, however. As a four-year wrestler, he became a starter as a sophomore and helped RTHS finish fourth in the IHSA 2A State Dual Championships. Ansteth went on to qualify for individual sectionals during his junior and senior seasons while reaching the IHSA 2A State Championships as a senior, finishing 28-14

On the baseball diamond, Ansteth played multiple positions including catcher and third base. He began earning varsity reps his sophomore season



Rochelle senior Gavin Ansteth breaks a tackle for one of his career-high five touchdown runs during a victory over the Pekin Dragons this past fall. Ansteth was the 2019 Most Valuable Player on the football team.

before breaking out his ju- 12. Ansteth, who plans to three homers and 23 RBIs to earn an All-Conference Honorable Mention from the Northern Illinois Big

nior year, hitting .378 with pursue a career as an iron worker for Area Erectors after high school, helped Rochelle win a share of the NIB-12 West in 2018.

friends that I played with when I was younger," Ansteth said. "I learned that nothing is easy and if

"I enjoyed playing var- I want something, it won't sity baseball with all my just be given to me. I've enjoyed the bonds and the friendships I have now through playing sports at RTHS."

RTHS Boys Track

Family record motivates senior sprinter Horner

Four-year student-athlete builds strong work ethic with Hubs

BY RUSSELL HODGES SPORTS EDITOR

Township High School senior Evan Horner took up track and field in seventh grade, he immediately took a liking to the short sprints. A natural competitor, Horner was motivated early in his career to attempt to eclipse his uncle's top 400-meter dash time.

Horner spent four years with the RTHS track and field team, competing in both the sprint relays and the individual sprints. Horner established himself as a relay racer during his freshman season in 2017, when he participated in four different relay events including the 400, 800, 1600 and 3200-meter relay races. Horner continued to run relays as a sophomore,

and his first entry in the

400-meter dash resulted

in a first-place finish at the

Gary Egler Boys Indoor Invitational. "I really enjoyed the ference Championships

meets," Horner said. "I loved the excitement and the nervousness I felt before races and I loved cheering on my teammates... Running for the track team taught me that I should always work hard and never quit. Running constantly during the cold and hot weather taught me about determination and helped me become a hard worker."

As a sophomore, Horner made his greatest impact in the 400-meter events, helping Rochelle take fifth in the 1600-meter relay at the Northern Illinois Big 12 Con-

County Championships. Horner ran his career-low time of 55.35 seconds in the 400-meter dash at the Northern Illinois Invitational, where he took fourth. Horner, who missed his junior season due to injuries, was primed to be a top returning sprinter this spring.

"I think my leadership skills improved throughout my time with the track and field team," Horner said. "I was a shy kid during my freshman

season, but throughout

the years, I broke out

of my shell and started

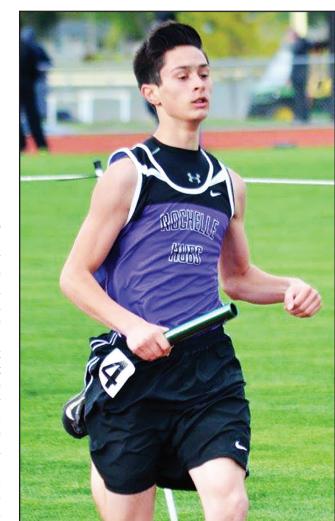
talking and helping more

of my teammates. My favorite memories are the bus rides to and from practices and meets and joking around with the guys.'

In addition to track and field, Horner spent three years with the Rochelle cross country team, recording personalbest 3-mile and 2.4-mile times of 18:54.3 and 17:06.8, respectively, during his freshman season in 2016. Horner, who plans to study business administration at Kishwaukee College, set his 2-mile personal record of

13:01.6 at the Rock River

Run in 2017.



(FILE PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle senior Evan Horner was featured in many sprint relays throughout his four-year career with the Hub track and field program.

helped me become a hard worker." **Evan Horner**

"I really enjoyed the meets. I loved the

excitement and the nervousness I felt before

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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle senior Landan Martin recently signed to continue both his academics and his basketball career at Kishwaukee College next year.

Martin signs with Kishwaukee College

BY RUSSELL HODGES

OCHELLE Township High School senior Landan Martin broke out as one of the Interstate 8 Conference's top players this past basketball season. The 6-foot-1 guard will be taking his talents to the collegiate level, and he'll be staying

close to home as well.

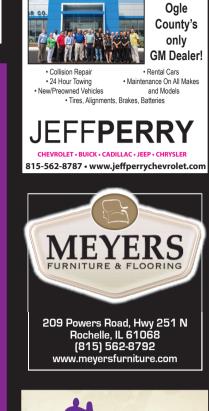
Martin recently signed with the Kishwaukee College men's basketball program, and he'll be one of three Rochelle graduates suiting up for the Kougars next season. A two-year varsity player for the Hubs, Martin earned All-Conference First Team recognition from the Interstate 8 as a senior, averaging a team-high 16.7 points, 6.6 rebounds and 2.4 steals per game at RTHS.

"I'm looking forward to experiencing basketball at a higher level and playing with more pace," Martin said. "Playing for RTHS helped me prepare for the college level. We played with a lot of pace, which is something I will see more of in college. Kishwaukee College is a very affordable school and it has both good academics and a good basketball program."

Martin began his career at RTHS his sophomore year, helping the Hub sophomore team win the Plano Christmas Classic and compile a 21-5 record. He became a starting varsity guard his junior season, averaging 9.2 points and 1.6 steals per game. As a senior, Martin shined with multiple high-scoring efforts including a career-best 34 points in a win over Morris. Martin said he's undecided on what he will be studying while attending Kishwaukee College.

"Landan had a wonderful year for us," Rochelle head coach Tim Thompson said. "I was so proud of the way he grew over his last three years here. He was one of the best players in our conference and he was extremely consistent all season. His leadership was one of the reasons for our success this past year. I can't wait to watch him continue his career collegiately."









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SPORTS

NIU Football

Six Huskie players earn **Athlon Sports honors**

2020 season opens Sept. 5

DEKALB — With summer upon us, the various football publications are hitting the newsstands with their preseason previews and Athlon Sports named six Huskies to one of its four preseason All-MAC teams.

The list features two offensive players, two defenders and two special teamers with punter Matt Ference leading the group as a first teamer. Linebacker Kyle Pugh and kicker John Richardson were second team selections, while tight end Daniel Crawford and defensive lineman Weston Kramer garnered third team accolades. Offensive lineman Marques Cox rounds out the group as a fourth team selec-

Ference averaged 43 yards per punt last season, propelling the Huskie senior to the top of NIU's career list for average yards per punt (41.4). He enters 2020 second on NIU's all-time list for punts (234) and third on the list for punting yards (9,686). Richardson's leg played in a key role in several Huskie victories last season. The Orland Park, Ill. native was 14of-18 on field goals last season and kicked game winners at Ohio and Toledo.

Pugh, who missed most to the 2019 season



after suffering an injury in game two, has 150 tackles to his credit, including a career-high 106 in 2018. Kramer, the Huskies' returning starter on the defensive line, amassed 23 tackles, including 2.5 for loss last season.

Crawford, NIU's second-leading receiver, averaged 12 yards a catch on 37 receptions in 2019. He tallied 443 yards receiving, which ranked third on the team, and scored a pair of touchdowns. Cox participated in all 12 games last year as a redshirt freshman, starting 10 at left tackle. He was one of two freshmen to start on the Huskie offensive line and helped pave the way for an offense that averaged 358.7

yards of total offense per game.

NIU opens the 2020 campaign Saturday, Sept. 5 when NIU welcomes Rhode Island to Huskie Stadium for the season opener, part of a fivegame home slate for the Huskies. NIU's home contest with Buffalo, originally scheduled for Tues., Nov. 3, has been moved been moved to Sat., Oct. 31.

Season tickets are on sale now for as little as \$55 each with the Huskie Family Pack (\$220 for four tickets in sections A and G) or just \$60 for East Side general admission season tickets. Order your tickets online at NIUHuskies.com or by calling 815-753-PACK





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Information resource: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



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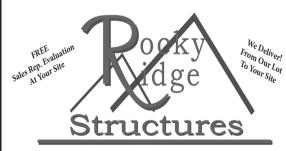
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works", approved June

26, 1941 as amended,

and as effective from.

June 21, 2020 that

the general prevailing

rate of wages in this

locality for laborers,

mechanics and other

workers engaged in the

construction of public

works coming under

the jurisdiction of the

Library District, is the

same as determined

by the Department of

Labor of the State of

Illinois for Ogle County

as of May 2020. A copy

of the full resolution

and the Department of

labor determination is

available for inspection

by any interested party

in the main office of

the Library District at

619 Fourth Avenue,

and to any employer

association

person or association

have filed, or file their

names and addresses,

requesting copies of the

Flagg-Rochelle Public

Rochelle, Illinois 61068-

By: Susan A. Sevedge

No. 0703 (July

Secretary of the Board

Library District

Ogle County

of Trustees

619 Fourth Avenue

employees who

employers and

Illinois,

any

Rochelle,

determined on,

for

public

CRESTON

STEWARD

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101

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF OGLE. **ILLINOIS**

PARENTAGE OF: K.D. AND K.K. Minors, KRISTIE KNETSCH, Petitioner,

And ADAM DAVIS. Respondent.

Case No.: 19-F-83 **PUBLICATION** NOTICE The requisite Affidavit

for Publication having filed, notice is hereby given to you, ADAM DAVIS. Respondent, in the above entitled action, that this action has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Ogle County by the Petitioner, KRISITIE KNETSCH, against you praying for a Judgment of Parentage and for

other relief. NOW, THEREFORE. unless you, DAVIS, ADAM the Respondent, file your answer to the Petition in this action or otherwise make your appearance, in the Circuit Court of Ogle County, held in the Ogle County Judicial Center, 106 S. 5th St., Oregon, Illinois, on or before July 20, 2020, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a

accordance with the prayer of the Petition. Dated this 11th day of June, 2020. Kimberly A. Stahl, CIRCUIT CLERK No. 0628 (June 17, 24,

Judgment entered in

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

303

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SS)P 45 IN THE **MATTER** OF THE **ESTATE OF BEATRICE** A. MANNEL. Deceased.

CLAIM NOTICE Notice hereby is given of the death **BEATRICE** MANNEL, of Rochelle, Illinois. Letters were issued on June 18, DONALD 2020. to J. MANNEL, whose address is 8830 S. Lynn St., Rochelle, IL 61068, and whose attorney is James G. Ahlberg, P.O. Box 358, Rochelle, IL 61068. Claims against

estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, no later than December 24, 2020, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed

JAMES G. AHLBERG. Attorney for DONALD J. MANNEL.

Executor of the Estate BEA TRICE A. MANNEL, Deceased No. 0637 (June 24, July

> **PUBLIC NOTICE** NOTICE OF **ESTABLISHMENT** OF PREVAILING

> > WAGE

TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Library Trustees of the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District, pursuant to "An Act regulating oflaborers, mechanics and other workers employed in any public works by the state, county, city or any public body or

• Freezers

Stoves

119 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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127 **SERVICES AND** REPAIRS

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201 DOMESTIC/CHILD

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101 **LEGAL NOTICE**

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105 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

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113 FINANCIAL

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405 **HOUSES FOR SALE**

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ON THE FARM

Recognizing and Managing Stress webinar planned

FREEPORT

Stress on farmers, ranchers and their families caused by lower crop prices, retracting global markets and natural disasters is still an ongoing issue especially in rural areas.

Even before the coronavirus outbreak, rural communities across the Midwest were dealing with additional economic stressors including the closing of coal-fired electric plants, offshored manufacturing and reduced demand for oil and gas due to overproduction globally. As a result, rural communities have seen increasing levels of suicide from within a variety of industries and occupations.

With limited access to mental health services rural communities are usually the hardest hit.

Having the ability to recognize and manage stress is crucial. This University of Illinois Extension has designed



and Managing Stress Webinar, that will provide participants with: (1) methods for identifying stress within themselves and others; (2) techniques on providing empathy and active listening; (3) examples of constructive emotion-focused coping skills; and (4) a guide to identifying warning signs of suicide and effective research-based actions to take if you feel someone is having thoughts of death or dying.

a program, Recognizing

"This program is a

follow up to the session we hosted in the spring of 2019, which provided basic information about farm stress and its affects," said Margaret Larson, county director, University of Illinois Extension. "We are hoping that this webinar will allow us to continue the conversation and provide more useful facts and strategies for our local audience (partners, ag business people,

The Recognizing and Managing Stress Webinar will be offered twice,

Tuesday, July 14 at 1 p.m. and Tuesday, July 28 at 5 p.m. There is no charge to attend but registration is required and can be completed on-line at https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw. The presenter, Pam

Schallhorn is an Extension Specialist in Community & Economic Development. For the last two years, she has been working with a small team of professors and Extension specialists led by Michigan State University teaching Farm Stress training to Farm Service Agency employees, and members of the American Farm Bureau and National Farmers Union.

For more information about this program visit our website at https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw or call the office at 815-235-4125. Additional farm stress resources can be found at: https://extension.illinois.edu/jsw/ commercial-agriculture.

Dates for junior livestock and horse shows announced

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) will host junior livestock and horse shows providing Illinois' youth with an opportunity to show their animals during an unprecedented show

The Junior Livestock Expo will take place in Springfield over the course of two weekends in September. Beef, sheep, dairy goats, pygmy goats and rabbits will all show Sept. 11 to 13. Swine, dairy cattle and meat goats will have their turn in the show ring on Sept. 18 to 20.

A Junior Horse Show will take place on the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds. The show will run for two weekends on the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds, with English showing Aug. 29 to 30 and Western Sept. 5 to 6.

"After the cancellations of the Illinois and Du Quoin State Fairs we knew there was a need to recognize our junior exhibitors who work year round preparing for the fairs," said Jerry Costello II, Acting IDOA Director. "We are excited to provide modified shows that will provide an opportunity for young adults to exhibit their animals safely following the Restore

Shows are limited to Illinois residents between the ages of 8-21. The entry fee for those participating in the Junior Horse Show is \$10. Junior Livestock Entry Fees are as follows: beef \$20, dairy cattle \$15, swine \$15, sheep \$15, goats \$15, rabbits \$1 and poultry \$1.

Changes to paycheck protection program passed offers farmers and ranchers flexibility

T'S difficult to believe that summer is half over. For me I'm having trouble just trying to remember what day it is, let alone what season. My only solace is looking out at my garden waiting for the first tomato to ripen. That's what delineates summer for me.

Seems as though 2020 has been a year to forget. I know it will be remembered forever by those of us who lived it, but I hope to forget the uncomfort and pain it caused. It's not just the pandemic, it's the social unrest we are experiencing. Not sure what rioting and looting does to further your

Simply it all boils down to respect. Respect of others, respect of property and most importantly respect of yourself. An old friend told me once respect is earned, and those words are true. And so folks I ask that we all practice a little respect moving

forward. I believe it is the key to the solution. At least I hope.

Congress recently passed a bill adding flexibility to the Paycheck Protection Program.

Changes passed by the House and Senate to the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program offers farmers and ranchers more flexibility. American Farm Bureau Federation Economist Veronica Nigh says the changes should help farmers utilize the program much more easily.

Under the previous version, any loan proceeds that you received had to be used within eight weeks of getting the funds. The new bill extends that period to 24 weeks. The other thing is previously, for the loan to be forgiven, at least 75 percent of the costs had to come from payroll. The new bill lowers that threshold down to 60

percent.

Nigh says the legislation also extends the deadline to apply for PPP funds from June 30 to December 31, 2020.

It's also important that any new loans that are made after this bill is signed into law, the amount of time you have to pay the loan back is extended from the previous two years to five years. Now, that doesn't apply to loans that are already in effect. But, the SBA and Congress certainly suggest that borrows reach out to their lender to see if they might be

that five years. Through the two rounds of PPP funding, Nigh says Congress has allocated roughly \$670 billion for the program, with more than \$120 billion still available.

able to get their pay-

back period extended to

Hopefully, the flexibilities and the extensions that have been

provided in the new bill will increase the share of farmers and ranchers who are utilizing the program. Because,

thus far, through May 30, only 1.5 percent of the total obligated funds have been used for agriculture, forestry, fishing and **Ron Kern** hunting operations.

> Now, farm bureau members can not only get going on their painting project, but save money while they are doing it.

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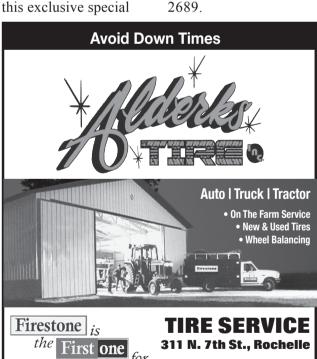
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You'll need your county Farm Bureau Membership number. If you need assistance with your membership number, please contact The Ogle County Farm Bureau office at 815-732-2231 or 309-557-

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FOURTH OF JULY



The safest way to enjoy fireworks is from a distance.

Remember fireworks safety when celebrating

UTDOOR celebrations dominate social schedules each summer. Several of these celebrations coordinate with national holidays or days of national pride and are accompanied by barbecues, parades, picnics, and often fireworks.

Fireworks can add character and excitement to group events. When done well, they can be the focal point of festivities and often mark the culmination of a day of fun. The earliest record of fireworks dates back to 7th century China, believed to be the home of fireworks. Fireworks have long been a part of Chinese culture and were used to accompany many festivities. Soon the use of fireworks spread beyond China.

Today, fireworks may be part of military homecomings, large sporting events and so much more. Holidays like New Year's Eve and the Fourth of July frequently feature fireworks displays. Fireworks tend to be most commonly used during warm-weather months, which is why fireworks safety is emphasized throughout June and July.

Each year, the National Fire Protection Association warns that thousands of people — most often children and teens — are injured while using consumer fireworks. To the novice, fireworks can be dangerous, even in ways people may not realize. Burns, fires, loss of fingers, blindness, and even death are possible. The Alliance to Stop Consumer Fireworks urges the public to avoid the personal use of fireworks and to enjoy displays conducted by trained professionals who adhere to various safety protocols.

Those who engage in personal firework use are urged to do so properly and safely. The American Pyrotechnics Association says 47 of the 50 states and the District of Columbia allow legal "consumer" fireworks. Consider the following safety tips whenever fireworks are included in the festivities.

- Ensure that fireworks are legal where you live before planning a fireworks display.
- Purchase all fireworks, which can include everything from cone fountains to sparklers, from a licensed and reputable dealer.
- Read all instructions before lighting.
- Supervise all firework activities, making sure children do not light any fire-
- Avoid alcohol and drug use when lighting fireworks. Both can impair judgement and create hazardous conditions. • Have safety equipment on hand. This includes safety glasses and ear protec-
- Do not light multiple fireworks at the same time.
- Use fireworks in a clearing far away from buildings and vehicles.
- Always have a hose or bucket of water available to douse fireworks.
- Soak "dud" fireworks in a bucket of water before discarding them. Wait 20 minutes before approaching the dud.
- Don't point fireworks at people.
- Maintain a safe distance between those observing the fireworks show and the
 - Dispose of spent fireworks safely, away from combustible materials.

Fireworks can be an enjoyable component of celebrations when used respon-

Take your Fourth of July burgers up a notch

THE year 2020 is one few people will soon forget. Life changed dramatically and perhaps forever in 2020, when the outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 forced billions of people across the globe to make sacrifices in an effort to prevent the spread of the potentially deadly virus.

The sacrifices made in response to COVID-19 are perhaps most noticeable on holidays, when people accustomed to gathering with family and friends were unable to do so, or only able to do so on limited terms.

Despite those restrictions, people continued to celebrate on holidays like Easter and Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July does not figure to be any different. Fourth of July celebrations often take place in the backyard by the grill, and this year marks a perfect opportunity to expand your culinary repertoire. This recipe for "Best Burger With Blue Cheese Butter" courtesy of Eric Treuille and Birgit Erath's "Grilling" (DK Publishing) offers a new take on a backyard barbecue staple.

Best Burger With Blue Cheese

Serves 4 1 pound ground chuck steak 2 teaspoons salt

1 teaspoon black pepper 4 1/2-inch slices blue cheese butter (see below)

4 sesame hamburger buns, halved

Combine ground steak with salt and pepper. Divide into 4 equalsized pieces and gently shape into 4 burgers about 1-inch-thick. Grill burgers and warm buns according to instructions below. Top burgers with butter and serve hot in sesame buns.

Outdoor cooking:

Grill over hot coals for 3 minutes per side for rare, 4 minutes per side for medium rare, or 5 minutes per side for well done. Place buns cut side down on grill until warm and lightly golden, 1 minute.

Indoor cooking:

Preheat a ridged cast-iron grill pan over high heat. Cook for 3 minutes per side for rare, 4 minutes per side for medium rare, or 5 minutes per side for well done. Place buns cut side down on grill pan until warm lightly golden, 1 minute.

Blue-Cheese Butter

Makes 15 servings 16 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened 4 ounces (1 cup crumbled) blue cheese

2 teaspoons black pepper

Place ingredients in a food processor or blender; pulse until well blended. Wrap in foil. Place in the freezer until hard, about 45 minutes. To serve, roll back foil and cut into 1/2-inch slices. When slicing from frozen, warm the knife under hot water first. After slicing, always tightly rewrap the unused flavored butter roll in the foil before returning to refrigerator or freezer.

Best Burger Variations

- Herbed Burger: Add 2 teaspoons fresh thyme leaves or 1 teaspoon dried thyme, 1 crushed garlic clove and 1 tablespoon finely chopped onion to the
- Spicy Burger: Add 1/2 teaspoon tabasco, 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce and 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard to the ground steak.

Think ahead:

Shape burgers up to 1 day in advance. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate.

Cooks' Note: Overhandling the meat when shaping will result in a tough, dry burger. To guarantee a juicy burger, handle the meat as little as possible.