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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020 \$1

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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
24 5	20 7
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
34 22	43 30

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OBITUARIES

• ANNA JOHNSON

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- BRIDGE PAWN
- SERVICE NOW

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Man arrested following car chase

ROCHELLE—Areapolice agencies were able to arrest a Wheaton man Tuesday night following a high speed chase in rural Rochelle.

At approximately 9:40 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies attempted to stop a vehicle for traffic violations at the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and Interstate 88; however, the vehicle, a black BMW passenger car, did not stop for deputies and fled from the scene.

Deputies originally attempted to stop the vehicle for having stolen

license plates.

The driver of the BMW led police on a chase on several roads including Illinois Route 38, Dement, Creston and Caron Roads in Rochelle as well as Mulford Road.

Officers were able to locate the driver on Creston Road in rural Rochelle after he was involved in a minor accident.

The driver, identified as Joseph Calamia, 44, of Wheaton, was taken to Rochelle Community Hospital for treatment of minor injuries sustained

in the accident and later discharged.

He is being charged with DUI, unlawful possession of a controlled substance, aggravated fleeing to elude, driving while license revoked, reckless driving, possession of stolen property and numerous traffic violations.

Calamia was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he is being held without bail pending a court appearance.

Ogle County Sheriff's deputies were assisted by the Rochelle Police Department and the Illinois State Police.



Flagg-Rochelle Community Park Board members accepted a bid for fieldturf at the recreation center. Above is a sample of the chosen turf.

Turf's up

Park board OKs bid for fieldturf

BY JENNIFER SIMMONS
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle park officials approved a bid for fieldturf in the new recreation center Monday night.

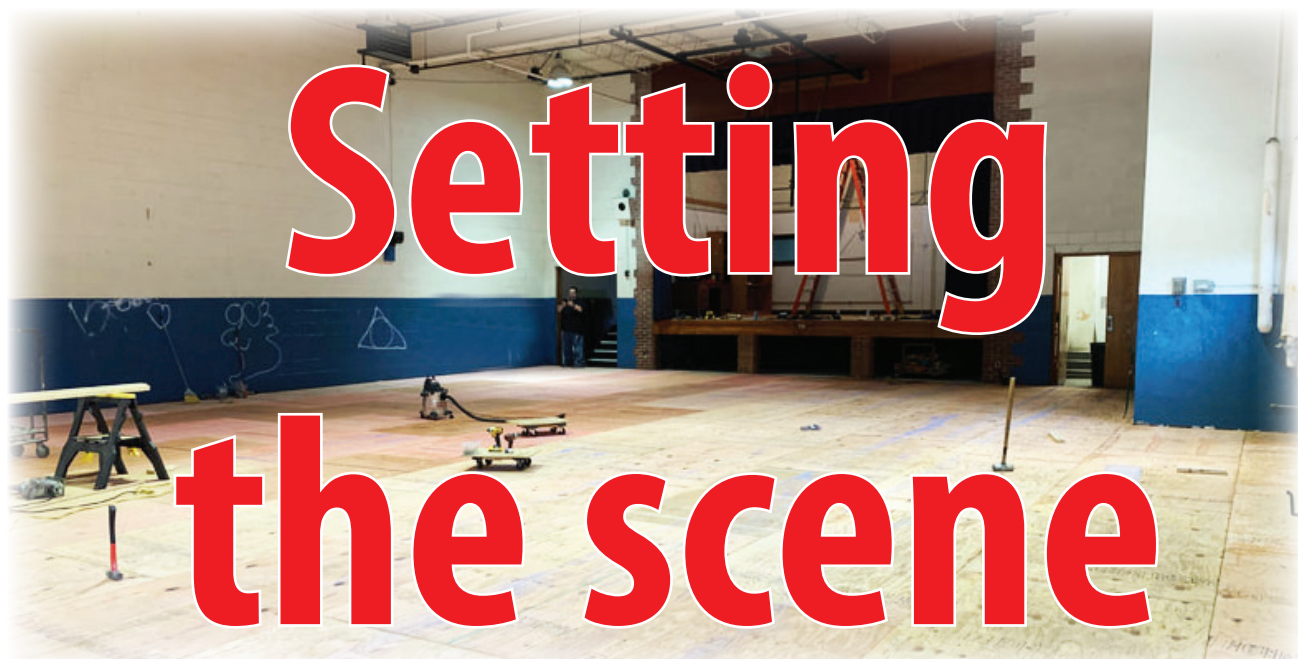
The bid from AllSports was approved in the amount of \$294,400.

"Initially Ringland Johnson went out for the pellet turf which we were not interested in so then they provided us an allowance for the turf on this product and felt that that wasn't probably the exact product that would be best for our needs knowing what we planned to use the turf for and so after about 18 reviews of proposals and products from vendors, it is my recommendation that we choose AllSports which is this larger sample for the turf and installation bid in the amount of \$294,400 and the district will receive a credit for the allowance of the earlier turf in the amount of \$279,560," executive director Jackee Ohlingers said.

"This system is very dense it is an all nylon product. It is supported with a root system and has an 8 mm shock absorbing pad. It is designed for heavy wear and tear."

The approved bid is for a product called AstroTurf PureGrass 8mm which will have a crushed stone base allowing for shock absorbancy. The turf area in the fieldhouse can accommodate football, baseball, softball, batting cages, soccer, golf and indoor track and field activities.

Board members also approved its payment to Ringland Johnson in the amount of \$519,896; approved an update to the personnel policy manual due to new state laws; and approved several new logos to be used in several areas of the new recreation center facility.



100 VCCT support members needed for \$10 per month

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN
STAFF WRITER

ROCHELLE — Since beginning its project of transforming the old Lincoln Elementary School into the new home of the Vince Carney Community Theater last September, the VCCT has made progress, but is now asking the community for help.

The VCCT is well into its restoration project and crews recently finished setting up heating and air conditioning in certain rooms. Workers also recently installed plumbing throughout the entire building.

The base of the stage has



A volunteer measures the blueprints for the wood frames that will be future walls during the VCCT build.

also been built, as well as many of the wood frames that will be future walls. But, the drywall for those frames

cannot be put up until the pipes have been installed inside of them first.

Additional projects that

have been completed include fire separation walls with connected doorways and duct work for the heating and air conditioning. The next steps are connecting the outside and inside water lines and installing the sewers. Then, the final portion is restoring the physical look of the building.

"Next it will be all of the aesthetic aspects to the building," said Amy Frank, VCCT president. "We have to put the drywall up, repaint areas that are beginning to chip or fade, replace windows in the new lobby and just things like that."

See VCCT page 4

Keeping kids on course

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN
STAFF WRITER

ROCHELLE—During its monthly board meeting, Rochelle Township High School board discussed planning for the 2020-21 school year. Planning is being done both with staff members and students choosing classes.

"We are staying on track here, January is when counselors talk to science and English instructors," said RTHS principal Chris Lewis. "We are making sure that students have a clear understanding of what they have taken, what they need to take next year and where they are in that four-year plan."

Approaching final examinations and summer school sign-ups were also discussed during the meeting.

"We are making sure that students have a clear understanding of what they have taken, what they need to take next year and where they are in that four-year plan."

Chris Lewis

Another big topic discussed during the principal's report was senior graduation practice and the official ceremony. Practice will be held on Friday, May 15 and the ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 23 at 10 a.m. in the RTHS gymnasium.

Board members also approved the employment of two new teachers and a softball coach for the 2020-21 school year.

Michael Pullin will be the new vol-

unteer assistant softball coach, Nelson Baker will be a new science teacher and Deana Drew will be a science and agriculture teacher.

"I don't know where you are finding these new teachers, but they look super," said board member Robert Walsh.

Following the board's executive session, members voted to expel a student to an alternative educational placement for two academic years.

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LOCAL NEWS

Funds given for facade work

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN
STAFF WRITER

ROCHELLE—Moving forward with its façade improvement program, the City of Rochelle awarded a long-time downtown business owner the funds needed to improve the front of one of his buildings currently unoccupied.

The City of Rochelle presented Aldo Barone a check in the amount of \$5,000 Monday. Barone, owner of Aldo's Pizzeria and The Red Brick Pub, as well as the connecting building previously home to Off the Wall Café, used funds to repaint and install a new awning on the front of the building located at 422 Lincoln Highway.

The owner also plans to redo the flooring, walls and repaint the

inside of the building in the near future. Barone and his family are very thankful for the donation from the city and are hopeful a new business will soon move into the building.

"We are currently looking for a café to come in and start up and we would love to keep it local," said A.J. Barone, son of Aldo Barone.

Last year, the façade improvement program had a budget of \$15,000 to award to local businesses. This year, the city was approved for \$30,000 that can be spent city wide, not limited to the downtown portion. All commercially operated buildings within the City limits are eligible for the program. A complete list of eligible expenses, boundary map and



Michelle Pease, community development director, A.J. Barone, son of business and building owner Aldo Barone, and Michelle Knight, community development specialist, hold the check from the city used to repaint and install a new awning on the front of the building for rent.

application procedures are available for pick up

at the Community Development Department

located at 333 Lincoln Highway, or through its

website at www.cityof-rochelle.net.

Remembering one of the special people

BY DOUG OLESON
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-LEADER

THERE are special people you meet in your life. Marylou Reeser was one of mine.

Marylou and I worked together at the Rochelle News-Leader for nearly 20 years. I was in the editorial department and she was in composing. Unlike today, when everything is done on computer, you needed to put the paper together by hand in those days, and that's what she did.

Although Marylou never wrote a story or sold a single ad for the newspaper, she was the hub of the whole operation. For some reason everything seemed to just evolve around her. She was one of those

people every company should have: hard-working, dedicated and extremely loyal. She also cared about the people around her.

Marylou passed away recently. She was 76.

Among other things, Marylou was a proud wife, mother - she cried when her children were married - Catholic - she cried the day Pope John Paul II was shot - die hard Cubs fan - she cried the day the Cubs clinched the division in 1984 - and a loyal listener of WGN-radio, especially of Bob Collins, a popular radio personality at the time. Marylou was the kind of person that once she was your friend, you stayed her friend.

Besides work, Marylou was also in on a fair amount of little tricks we

pulled on each other.

The one I remember most came on her 40th birthday. I had written to Mr. Collins a couple of weeks earlier, telling him all about her and that her birthday was coming up and how she had jokingly said he was the only man she would ever have an affair with. (Which she didn't mean, of course.)

At the most, I thought he might send her a little note or something. When that didn't happen, I kind of forgot about it.

Come the day of her birthday, we were having cake in the break room when the phone rang and a man asked to talk to Marylou. Since I hadn't told anyone what I had done, whoever answered the phone - not suspecting anything and not recog-

nizing his voice - put him on hold.

We didn't know what was going on until one of Marylou's friends, who was listening to WGN at the time, called on another line to let us know he was waiting for Marylou on the air.

Despite waiting, Mr. Collins and his staff graciously sang happy birthday to her on the air. It was a very nice gesture on their part. I know it embarrassed her, but at least she didn't cry and I think she enjoyed it. (She also swore she'd get back at me - which she did.)

It is just one of many memories I have of Marylou, who was a kind, decent lady who will be missed by all of us who knew her. I know I'm glad I had the honor of knowing her.

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LOCAL NEWS



Storm spotter class begins Thursday

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN
STAFF WRITER

ROCHELLE — Spring weather approaching means the potential for strong thunderstorms. To help keep the public safe, a storm spotter training class will be held in Dixon this week.

The class will take place on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m., in lecture hall LK04 at Sauk Valley Community College. The class will be presented by the National Weather Service of Chicago, and co-sponsored by both the Ogle and Lee County Emergency Management Agencies.

The class is free and open to the public, but emergency service agencies are urging safety officers, such as police and firemen, to attend. The class will teach guests what to look for when weather is approaching and if that weather could be severe.

"The National Weather Service will give a presentation on what the weather is doing," said Kevin Lalley, director of Lee County emergency service agency. "It will go over different cloud formations, which are the dangerous ones and which are imposters. So, individuals can have a good idea of when to take cover before the storm hits."

Information on becoming a weather spotter and who to report incidents to will also be provided at the meeting. The main goal of this training class is to help keep individuals safer by noticing approaching severe weather before it impacts the area.

"For example, if a person is out on the soccer field with the kids and that person looks up at the sky, he or she can get a heads up if they should get off the field and take cover," said Lalley.

The training course has room for about 126 people to attend and fills up almost every year. There is no registration and seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Attendees are urged to show up early to ensure they get a spot.

For more information on the upcoming course, contact Kevin Lalley, director of the Lee County Emergency Service agency at 815-284-3365, by email at esda@countyoflee.org, or Thomas Richter, director of Ogle County emergency service agency, at 815-562-1001 or by email at trichter@oglecounty.org.

Kish offering tuition free high school equivalency classes this spring

MALTA — The adult education program at Kishwaukee College is offering tuition-free High School Equivalency (HSE/GED) classes and a Citizenship class this spring.

Registration for these classes is required. Interested people can register at the College and at locations throughout the community.

Learners should schedule at least 3 hours for registration, orientation and placement testing. Childcare will not be provided at registration locations. Classes begin in early March.

High School Equivalency (HSE/GED) classes prepare students to take the GED. Subject areas covered in these classes include

reading, writing, social studies, science, math, and the U.S. Constitution. The classes are 8-weeks long and offered twice a semester. Classes can be taken at various locations throughout the community including at the college, Westminster Presbyterian Church in DeKalb and Sycamore High School.

Kish is also offering a Citizenship class for people interested in learning about the U.S. Citizenship process. Relevant information for the U.S. Citizenship test, basic interviewing, test-taking skills, and English vocabulary and grammar will be covered, among other topics. Students will need to be 18 years of age or older and score



Registration opens in late February for tuition free high school equivalency (HSE/GED) classes through Kishwaukee College.

into placement. This class will be offered March through May.

Registration dates at Kishwaukee College

(21193 Malta Rd., Malta, IL) are:

Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

March 2 from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registration dates at Westminster Presbyterian Church (830 N. Annie Glidden Rd., DeKalb) are:

Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Feb. 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registration dates at Sycamore High School (555 Spartan Trail, Sycamore) are:

Feb. 26 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Feb. 27 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information visit www.kish.edu/adulteducation or contact administrative assistant Mari Vesey at mvesey@kish.edu or 815-825-9420.

Scholarships for women in agriculture offered

ILLINOIS — Scholarships for females studying agriculture are offered by the Illinois Agri-Women. The Illinois Agri-Women (IAW) organization supports the agriculture industry, works for legislation to support and preserve family farms, communicates with other agriculture organizations, and strives to educate the public and promote agricultural awareness.

A \$1,500 IAW Agriculture Education Scholarship is for an agriculture education major who is finishing the degree in the next year.

Two \$1,000 WCFA Agent of Change Scholarships are offered to students who have attended

at least one Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Conference. One scholarship is for a high school senior and one for a current graduate student.

Twenty \$1,000 WCFA Agent of Change Scholarships are offered to current college students. An anonymous foundation sponsor will provide matching scholarship funds for donations from 2020 WCFA new or current company sponsors. The scholarships will encourage WCFA student participants to further their education in an agriculture, energy and food related career track; create a strong bond/mentor opportunity for students and company participants; and,

potentially a job shadow experience.

Students who wish to be considered for this scholarship should sign up to volunteer for WCFA and attend the professional development meeting the night before the WCFA event. Current college students who attend both the March 5 IAW Professional Development Event and volunteer for the March 6 WCFA are eligible to apply.

Deadline for submission of an on-line application is March 31, 2020. Find scholarship information and applications at www.womenchangingthefaceofagriculture.com or www.illinoisagriwomen.org.

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LOCAL NEWS

Half-century of love



On Valentine's Day, the Rochelle Community Hospital Foundation hosted a breakfast at the First Presbyterian Church to honor couples married 50 or more years. Forty-two couples enjoyed breakfast from Ralphie & LuLu's, harp/guitar music with a medley of love songs provided by Mary Ley of Aireloom Music Studios in Mt. Morris (left) and a free complimentary 5x7 portrait provided by Brian Thomas Photography. This is one of the hospital staff's favorite annual events.



VCCT: Monthly monetary commitments will help bridge gap

From page 1

Initially, to fund the project, the VCCT received a \$150,000 loan split between Holcomb Bank, Stillman Bank, Central Bank and First State Bank in Rochelle. Once the project is finished and the facility is fully operational, the VCCT has no doubt that it will be capable of repaying the loan in a timely manner.

In the meantime, the VCCT is asking for 100 community members to

"Without being open yet, our only source of income is the fundraisers that we are doing. So, this money will bridge the gap until we can open the theater."

Amy Frank

commit \$10 a month for the remainder of 2020. The VCCT currently has 25 committed donors, and anyone who donates will get his or her name put on a list of donors that are honored at every show for the entire year.

"Without being open yet, our only source of income is the fundraisers that we are doing," said Frank. "So, this money will bridge the gap until we can open the theater."

Donors will also become a voting member

of the VCCT and receive new membership perks that will be announced when the VCCT opens its new location. Anyone who would like to donate can do so through its website at www.vccetrochelle.org.



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Obituaries

Anna M. Johnson

STEWART — Anna M. Johnson, 89, of Stewart, passed away Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020 at Prairie Crossing Nursing Home in Shabbona.

Anna was born Feb. 15, 1930, in Mendota, to George and Hazel (Buchanan) Kettley. She married Warren Johnson on Feb. 22, 1948, at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church. She farmed, camped, fished, and hunted with her husband, Warren, and worked at Safranek's grocery store alongside of her twin sister, Agnes. She worked as a waitress at the Four Corners alongside her daughter, Sandy. Decorating the church for the holidays and special occasions gave Anna joy. She also loved sewing clothes for all three of her daughters and loving and caring for each of her grandchildren.

Anna was a former member of the Paw Paw United Methodist Church for the majority of her life.

Survivors include her two daughters, Nancy

(Kenny) Lobdell, of Lena, and Sherrie (David) Flavin, of DeKalb; one son-in-law, Ronald, of Rochelle; one brother-in-law, Ervin Safranek of Paw Paw; two sisters-in-law, Delores Schrader and Betty Hartman, both of Shabbona; six grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren; along with several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Hazel; two sisters, Betty and Agnes; one brother, Thomas; one daughter, Sandra; and one son-in-law, Kim.

Services will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church, 370 Wiley Avenue in Paw Paw with Pastor Dave Holden officiating. Burial will follow in Wyoming Township Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until the time of the service Saturday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Anna's name may be directed to the family for a memorial to be established.

Please visit www.TormanFuneralHome.com.



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Report policy

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

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

LOCAL NEWS

Man arrested for unlawful presence

On Feb. 15 at 12:06 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Logan T. Buckwalter, 24, of Rochelle, for unlawful presence in a school zone by a child sex offender. He was transported to jail.

On Feb. 15 at 2:11 a.m., Rochelle police arrested Glen M. Mundell, 22, of Ashton, for speeding 37 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone, improper lane usage, no insurance and driving under the influence. He posted an I-bond. His court date is set for March 27.

On Feb. 15 at 1:05 a.m., Rochelle police cited Nicholas J. Seldal, 24, of DeKalb, for disobeying a traffic control device. He issued a promise to comply. His court date is set for March 27.

On Feb. 15 at 7:50 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Tanya Lee Raleigh, 33, of Rockford, for battery. She posted an I-bond. Her court date is set for March 13.

On Feb. 15 at 11:44 p.m., Rochelle police cited Daniel G. Brown, 37, of Rochelle, for speeding, 52 m.p.h. in a 35 m.p.h. zone, and two counts of driving under the influence. He posted his driver's license. His court date is set for March 27.

Clinicals begin



Rochelle Community Hospital welcomed 41 Kishwaukee College nursing students and their instructors for orientation on Feb. 10. These first year students began their clinical rotations at RCH on Monday, Feb. 17.



Deputies respond to two-vehicle accident

On Feb. 14 at approximately 2:45 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle rollover accident at the intersection of Illinois Route 52 and Freeport Road just outside of Polo. It was determined that a Dodge Ram pick-up being driven by Jonathan Troglio, 22, of Peoria, was northbound on Freeport Road and a tractor-trailer semi being driven by Ronald Steger, 57, of Epworth, Iowa, was westbound on Illinois Route 52. Troglio was stopped at the stop sign but stated he did not observe the semi approaching and pulled into the intersection. Steger was unable to stop and the pick-up was struck. Both occupants of the pick-up were uninjured and refused medical transport at the scene. Steger's semi rolled onto its side and he was transported to CGH Hospital in Sterling for minor injuries sustained. Troglio was cited for failure to yield right of way at an intersection.

Feb. 15

On Feb. 15 at 6:58 p.m., the Ogle County Sheriff's deputies along with the Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire Department responded to a two-vehicle injury crash on Interstate 39 at mile marker 105. Investigation by Ogle County Sheriff's deputies revealed that a southbound SUV operated by Angelo Coglianese, 58, of Rochelle, rear ended an SUV operated by Stevie Lear, 55, from Belton, Kentucky. Lear and his passenger, Mary Stratton, 54, also from Belton, Kentucky, were both transported by Lynn-Scott-Rock

ambulance to Rochelle Community Hospital for minor injuries. Coglianese was cited for failure to reduce speed.

On Feb. 15 Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tevin Gray, 24, of Rockford, for driving while license revoked. Gray was arrested by deputies on Interstate 39 after being stopped for speeding. Gray was held in lieu of bond at the jail.

Feb. 16

On Feb. 16 at approximately 1:30 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Henry Road and Illinois Route 26 for a traffic lane violation. After a brief investigation, Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jesus Valdez Jr., 34, of Sterling, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Jesus was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 16, Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested Melinda A. Burkhart, 50, in the 1000 block of South Blackhawk Road for driving under the influence of alcohol. Burkhart was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 16 the Ogle County Sheriff's Office arrested Aaron Funches, 24, of Freeport, for driving while license suspended. Funches was arrested by deputies on Illinois Route 64 near Mulford Road after being stopped for speeding. Funches was held in lieu of bond at the jail.

NIU offering Spring SAT prep schedule

DEKALB — The Northern Illinois University spring SAT Test Preparation program provides individualized attention in a small classroom setting and offers students a chance to prepare themselves for the SAT test. NIU's SAT program covers writing and language arts, reading, and math.

Classes will be held on campus in Graham Hall. NIU parking is free on Sundays but students must not park in spaces marked "Reserved at all times."

Enrollment is limited and registration is now open at go.niu.edu/SAT or by phone at 815-753-0277.

SAT instructors include Lance Vobornik, an experienced mathematics instructor at NIU with a master's degree in applied mathematics, and Melissa

Craig, an experienced language arts teacher at St. Thomas More School.

Spring 2020 SAT Test Preparation Schedule:

Spring Session (Sundays)

March 1 – Pre-test; March 8 – Writing and language arts; March 15 – Reading; March 22 – Math (calculator and no calculator); and March 29 – Post-test.

Cost is \$275 (\$299 after Feb. 21) which includes instruction, book, and retired SAT tests. It does not include registration to take the actual SAT test.

There is also a self-guided online ACT or SAT Test Prep that provides access for students that is always available for a \$225 registration fee.

For more information, call 815-753-1456.

Tails PET OF THE WEEK
Humane Society
815.758.2457
www.tailshumanesociety.org



Hope

Hello, my name is Hope. And hope is what I have in my heart...that you will give me a home! I'm 8 yrs. old and 8 lbs. of sweetness. I'd love to snuggle right up with you in bed or on the couch. And I will follow you to the ends of the earth. I get along well with other dogs, if you already have one or two, but I'd also be happy as a singleton. Your love and care is all I truly need, though a treat or two or five, wouldn't be ignored! Won't you come and meet me, please? You may need to ASK to see me if I'm not in the main dog area.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

There’s a push to fingerprint all gun owners in Illinois

LAST week, I stopped by a friend’s house, ate some pizza, talked about old times and he showed me his latest acquisitions to his gun collection.

My buddy is a good guy, obeys the law and teaches gun safety.

But folks like him – and every other lawful gun owner – are feeling the heat from the state of Illinois. Lawmakers are contemplating fingerprinting every legal gunowner in the state.

Nothing divides Illinoisans more than issues involving gun-owner rights.

Believe me, I’ve covered these political tussles in Springfield for more than 20 years.

And frankly it’s an issue that I find tiresome to write about. Why?

Because the debate always generates more heat than light.

Eventually one side says the blood of children is on the other’s hands. And then the other claims their opponents want to tear up the Constitution.

And it goes downhill from there.

The one thing that folks on both sides of the gun debate can agree on is that criminals and seriously mentally ill people shouldn’t be packing heat.

The different views on guns in Illinois are more often cultural and geographic than partisan.

I grew up on a farm near Galesburg and hunted with my father and brother. It was a good time to talk and enjoy the outdoors and occasionally bring something home for supper.

I was also taught to have a reverent respect for the lethality of guns

and how to handle firearms in a courteous manner. But I have friends who grew up in Chicago whose experiences with firearms were far different than mine.

When I hear gunfire through my bedroom window, I wonder if rabbit or squirrel season has begun. They’d wonder if gangs are at it again.

As the parent of three young daughters, I can’t imagine what it’s like to live in a place where gun violence is a way of life.

According to the Congressional Research Service, there are more than \$300 million guns in the United States. Other estimates put the number of guns at more than \$400 million. If that is the case, this nation has more guns than people.

No matter what laws are passed, that is a number that is unlikely to get smaller anytime soon.

In fact, every time a gun control measure is proposed, gun sales go up.

Just so you know where I fit in this spectrum, I’m a passive gun owner. I find myself sitting in a deer blind once a year waiting to land that ever elusive buck. I’ve yet to harvest one. (My wife would say it probably has something to do with me having my nose in a book the whole time I’m supposed to be watching for deer.)

Regardless, I’m one of the people who would be required by Senate Bill 1966, to be fingerprinted when applying for or renewing a Firearms Owners Identification. In fact, all gun owners are the targets of the legislation.

Illinois already has some of the most restrictive gun laws. Despite this, Chicago remains a quagmire of gun violence.

In regards to the proposed law, I’m ambiva-

lent. I spent more than \$100 bucks three years ago to be fingerprinted for a conceal carry license. So, my prints are already on file.

But many people would find the prospect of spending a significant sum of money just to continue to legally keep a gun they have long owned to be burdensome. I suspect an unintended consequence of the legislation would be that many gun owners would decline to renew their FID cards but still keep their guns.

This would turn many otherwise law-abiding citizens into potential felons. For a law to be effective, it needs widespread compliance.

For example, I don’t drink, but I can see the foolishness that was once prohibition.

Gun ownership isn’t just a pervasive custom like alcohol consumption; the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed that it is a Constitutional right. That doesn’t mean restrictions can’t be put in place, but it does call for extra care on the part of legislators.

Guns are just a tool that can bring security or despair.

As a society, we need to focus on the underlying reasons for violence: mental illness, the lack of mentoring, particularly of boys and young men, and the need for swift, certain consequences for those who choose to do harm to others.

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



Scott Reeder

Letter to the Editor

Celebrating the work of women

Dear Editor,

As the League of Women Voters celebrated its centennial on Feb. 14, we will use this milestone to reflect on our rich history, honor the work that women have done to strengthen our democracy and set the stage for vibrant growth in the years ahead.

Rooted in the women’s suffrage movement, the League was founded as a non-partisan grassroots organization just six months before the passage of the 19th Amendment that granted 20 million women the right to vote. Ever since, the League has been at the forefront of efforts to register, educate, and support voters and voting rights.

Today, democracy is fighting for its life. Some 25 cities have enacted new voting restrictions, including strict photo ID requirements, early voting cutbacks and registration restrictions. The League is prepared to face these threats, using voter reg-

istration drives, tools such as the Illinois Voter Guide.org—a cutting-edge election information website—and local candidate forums in cities throughout the state to help educate voters about key issues and the candidates’ positions.

As we celebrate 100 years of women’s suffrage in 2020, the League of Women Voters is fortunate to have thousands of dedicated members in hundreds of chapters across the nation, including the almost 4,000 members here in Illinois, who share a commitment to protect our democracy. Our organization’s founding and winning the right to vote was only the beginning. We still have much work to do, and we accept that challenge with renewed strength and determination.

Eileen Liezert and

Rebecca Huntley

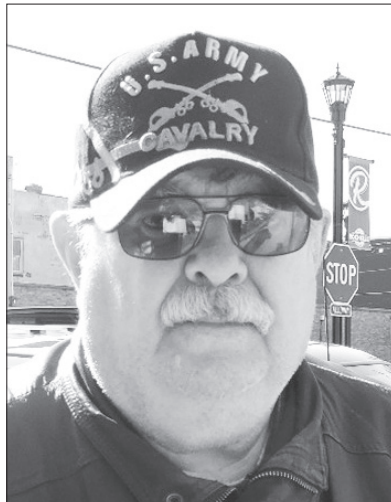
Co-Presidents Rochelle Area League of Women

VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

Last week, House Bill 4571 was filed by Rep. Camille Lilly that would create the Gas Station Attendant Act saying “no gas may be pumped at a gas station” in Illinois “unless it is pumped by a gas station attendant employed at the gas station.”

What are your thoughts on this bill?



“I think that is completely stupid. Who is going to pay for all these new employees when a gas station usually only has to workers? In my opinion, if you are too lazy to pump your own gas, they you have no right being behind the wheel.”

Tom Brickner



“My first reaction is wow, because sometimes you just want to do it yourself. You never know if they are going to forget to put something like your gas cap back or what their attitude is. I think that it takes away some of our freedom.”

Marlene Julian



“I disagree with it completely. It is going to cost everyone more when they could be using that money for things like fixing the roadways. I am still annoyed about the prices being raised for our license plate sticker and now they want to raise this price too.”

Rodger Milton

How to contact government officials

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

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

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

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

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

handwritten, and no anonymous letters will be published. Any letters from boards or organizations must include at least one name of an individual. Any criticism of public officials should be limited to issues related strictly to their position or actions made in office, as personal attacks will not be published. Letters involving private disputes between the writer and a business will not be published. Political endorsements will be published,

however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the News-Leader office (211 IL Route 38 East), mailed to the News-Leader (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068) or e-mailed (news@rochellenews-leader.com.) The News-Leader reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.

COMMUNITY

Northern Rehab taking applications for sports, health scholarships

ROCHELLE — Northern Rehab is pleased to announce scholarship applications are now being accepted for the annual Rochelle Township High School Sports & Health Scholarship sponsored by Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists.

This scholarship is awarded to a Rochelle Township High School senior that participates in at least one sport and plans to enter a career in healthcare or sports medicine. Applications are now available at the High School Counseling Center and online at rtshs@rtshsd212.org or <https://northernrehabpt.com/news/>.

Completed applications are to be submitted to the athletic director by March 13. The Scholarship recipient will be announced and awarded the scholarship at the 2020 Senior Awards Night.

This is the fifth year this scholarship will be awarded to a Rochelle Township Senior. Past recipients include Christina Payton, Hannah Cruz, Alexander Harvey and Katherine Bakken.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Feb. 19

Juan Rubio

Feb. 20

Christian Losoya

Feb. 21

Kris Oleson

Feb. 22

Jessica South

Feb. 22

Lucy Hazlip

Feb. 26

Natalie Powell


Feb. 27

Beth Bolhous

March 8

Donna Sassaman

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



Read and Recycle

CALENDAR

Wed., Feb. 19
1:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at St. Patrick’s Learning Center, 903 N. Caron Road. (every Wednesday)

Thu., Feb. 20
4:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Dinner will be served at The Kitchen Table, 7034 E. Klondike Road. The menu is creamy garlic parmesan chicken pasta, steamed veggies, salad and garlic bread. The kids menu is peanut butter and jelly, corn dog with chips or chicken nuggets. *Menu is subject to change. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Mon., Feb. 24
5 to 6 p.m.— Rochelle Christian Community free Monday supper for all in need. The supper is served at St. Patrick Parish Center, 244 Kelley Drive.

6:30 p.m. – Group Hope meets in the RCH Health & Wellness Center Conference Room. Provides support with depression and bipolar disorder. Affiliated with the Rock River Mental Health Association. (every Monday)

Tue., Feb. 25
4:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Dinner will be served at The Kitchen Table, 7034 E. Klondike Road. The menu is shrimp etouffee, sausage and chicken gumbo, salad. The kids menu is peanut butter and jelly, corn dog with chips or chicken nuggets. *Menu is subject to change. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Wed., Feb. 26
1:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at St. Patrick’s Learning Center, 903 N. Caron Road. (every Wednesday)

2019

From The Heart Calendar

FROM THE HEART

DAILY CASH WINNERS

Feb. 5 - Debbie Vrana, Princeton, \$25

Feb. 6 - T-Byrd Lanes, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 7 - Rachel Aldridge, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 8 - John Vaughn, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 9 - Rob Remsen, Cherry Valley, \$50

Feb. 10 - From the Heart Auction item, \$25

Feb. 11 - Jeff Perry Chevy, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 12 - Kevin and Kim Louis, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 13 - Sherry Simmons, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 14 - Sue Sevedge, Rochelle, \$250

Feb. 15 - Benjamin Reineck, Maple Park, \$25

Feb. 16 - Robert Bowers, Byron, \$50

Feb. 17 - Doris Gruben, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 18 - Julie Snyder, San Francisco, Calif., \$25

Feb. 19 - Ed Worley, Chana, \$25

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

narrative tour of Mexico. Topics will include history, geography, climate, holidays, celebrations, music and foods. Join us at Rochelle City Hall for an inside view of our southern neighbor.

Sun., March 1
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Brunch will be served at The Kitchen Table, 7034 E. Klondike Road. The menu is breakfast burrito, oatmeal, sausage gravy and biscuits and beef burritos, rice and beans. *Menu is subject to change. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Sat., March 7
7 a.m. to noon — The annual David Crawford Foundation Pancake Day will be held at Rochelle Middle School. Tickets are \$6 each. Children ages 5 and under are free. Proceeds will be used for learning materials for classrooms in Rochelle Elementary District 231.

4:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Paynes Point will host its annual pancake and sausage supper. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children ages 5-11 and free for children 4 and younger. The church is located at 764 Stillman Road, Oregon, and is handicap accessible. Proceeds will benefit several local charitable organizations.

Meetings

Thu., Feb. 27
7 p.m. — The Rochelle Wildlife Conservation Club board will hold its monthly board meeting. The meeting will take place in the Dugdale Lodge at the club. Club members are welcome to attend.

(Submit items for the Community Calendar to jsimmons@rochellenews-leader.com)

Thu., Feb. 27
4:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Dinner will be served at The Kitchen Table, 7034 E. Klondike Road. The menu is sausage and chicken gumbo, crawfish boil. The kids menu is peanut butter and jelly, corn dog with chips or chicken

nuggets. *Menu is subject to change. A \$5 donation is suggested.

7 p.m. — The League of Women Voters will host a program, “Culture of Mexico,” by Javier Zepeda. Zepeda is a teacher at Rochelle Township High School. He will present a fascinating visual and

Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Satchel
- 4 Nowhere to be seen
- 8 Visored military cap
- 12 — out a living
- 13 State
- 14 Object of worship
- 15 Have a bug
- 16 Dilute
- 18 Up to
- 20 Finish
- 21 Second letter
- 24 Sponsorship
- 28 Negative aspect
- 32 Took the bus
- 33 Fire residue
- 34 Oodles
- 36 Wager
- 37 Amorphous lump
- 39 Onion rings, e.g.
- 41 Takes to the skies
- 43 Carry on
- 44 "That feels so good!"
- 46 Black board?
- 50 Exemplar of dullness
- 55 Cattle call
- 56 Leading man
- 57 Volcanic flow
- 58 Request
- 59 Floor cleaners
- 60 Gasoline, e.g.

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52					53	54		55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

DOWN

- 1 Suitor
- 2 Related
- 3 Moolah
- 4 Anarchic
- 5 Eggs
- 6 Prepared
- 7 Genealogy
- 8 Actress
- 9 "Green" prefix
- 10 "Bam!"
- 11 Hostel
- 17 Genetic stuff
- 19 — Saud
- 22 Twitches
- 23 Fire-fighting legend
- 25 Asian desert
- 26 Mid-month date
- 27 Green or Rogen
- 28 Slight touches
- 29 Norway's capital
- 30 "Halt!"
- 31 Icelandic
- 35 More than just a few
- 38 Lullaby composer
- 40 Society newbie
- 42 Tool with teeth
- 45 50 percent
- 47 Muscat's land
- 48 Small winning margin
- 49 Oxen's harness
- 50 Water barrier
- 51 Berlin's "What'll — ?"
- 52 Potential syrup
- 53 Greek cross
- 54 56-Across' partner

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: E equals B

DW X EXLFAUEXQQ RQXHAO FARU
UZA EXQQ UI ZDTLAQW, LITAIVA
GICQN HAQQ "ZIXONAO DV UZA
GICOU!"

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Answer

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

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

answer
CryptoQuip
If a basketball player kept the ball to himself, someone could yell "hoarder in the court!"

STATE NEWS

State releases \$500 million for statewide technology innovation network

UI-led public-private research institutes will have 15 hubs across state, including NIU

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. JB Pritzker recently touted statewide benefits he said will result from a \$500 million state investment in 15 hubs of a University of Illinois-led public-private research institute network.

Pritzker, a Democrat, announced at a Chicago news conference on the site of one of the future developments that the state would release the funding, which was originally approved under former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and reauthorized in last year's state operating budget.

The money is for the planning and construction of the Discovery Partners Institute — a public-private research and development and workforce development hub led by the UI — and 14 other hubs of a statewide program.

"Today's announcement is so exciting. It will fast-track construction planning and we hope to break ground for DPI in a few months," said UI President Timothy Killeen.

The DPI campus will receive \$230 million of the \$500 million state investment and will be located in Chicago's South Loop in a development area known as The 78, so named because the real estate developer, Related Midwest, has plans to make it the city's 78th neighborhood.

Pritzker said through another UI-led program — the Illinois Innovation Network, or IIN — the investment's economic impact will be felt statewide. The IIN is a network of DPI and another 14 regional hubs which will receive portions of the other \$270 million in state funding.

Those hubs include partnerships with all of the state's public universities, which will each create specific programs and facilities that fall in line

with the IIN's and DPI's innovation, workforce development and economic growth goals. The stated goal of the program is to train the state's workforce for in-demand technology jobs.

Pritzker said making Illinois a hub for technological innovation will make it a more desirable place for students specializing in technological fields to start their careers after college graduation.

"Through the Illinois Innovation Network, DPI's success will radiate across the state to 15 hubs from Chicago to Rockford to Peoria to Edwardsville," Pritzker said. "We are investing in workforce development and innovation and (Research) and (Development) all across our state."

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot echoed the governor and said the project could be "a game changer" for the city, which will also be making improvements to the area surrounding the new facility. She said it will help the city and state retain students upon graduation.

"The problem is after we train and educate our students...they leave," she said.

She said only about half of UI engineering graduates remain in the state, while only 38 percent of computer science and computer engineering graduates from the UI's Urbana-Champaign campus stay in the state after graduating.

"Today is about turning all of that around," she said.

Killeen quoted an economic impact study conducted by the Boston Consulting Group which said the project will create 48,000 jobs in the next 10 years, creating an economic impact of \$19 billion.

According to DPI's website, programs at the facility "will initially focus on our economy's existing strengths: data analytics and computing, and their

applications in food and agriculture; health and wellness; finance and insurance; and transportation/logistics. All of these industries have a strong Fortune 500 presence in the state."

The state's investment will be met with private and university investment as well, including \$230 million that is already committed from UI fundraising efforts. The governor's office released a document with other committed and pending non-state funds that total more than \$500 million in private and other state university investment in the DPI facility and the other 14 state hubs.

DPI has been operating out of temporary space in downtown Chicago, offering classes and hiring staff. Its leader is UI alum William Jackson, who is the former president of the Milwaukee-based Johnson Controls, which produces building-security, climate-control and HVAC equipment, and fire-suppression products.



Northern Illinois University

Northern Illinois University will create the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability (NICCS)

NICCS will:

- Build a facility on the west side of NIU's campus to house NICCS
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 - Food systems innovation
 - Water resources stewardship and development
 - Climate change adaptation
- Facilitate development of local environmental policy and support an environmental law clinic
- Provide a new platform for NIU and its public and private partners to pursue a unified mission of discovery and innovation, teaching and learning, and meaningful engagement of community sustainability

Illinois coronavirus patients cured, released from home isolation

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Two Chicago-area residents who tested positive for novel coronavirus earlier this year have recovered and were released from home isolation this weekend, according to public health officials.

Federal, state and local health officials made the announcement in a news release Saturday, noting that the risk to the general public remains low and the two patients caused no further spread of the virus.

"Based on what is currently known about the virus, and after close consultation with (the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Illinois Department of Public Health), we believe both patients can now safely return to their regular activities, including work, without restrictions," Dr. Allison Arwady, Chicago Department of Public Health commissioner, said in a news release.

Arwady added the patients have had "multiple rounds of negative testing for the virus and are clinically well." "They do not need to wear masks, and neither does anyone interacting with them. They have been cleared," she said.

The two patients are husband and wife, and the woman, in her 60s, had recently returned from Wuhan, China, where the spread of the virus began. Health officials said at an earlier news conference that the spread of the virus to her husband was "not totally unexpected" due to the couple's close proximity.

The couple was hospitalized at AMITA St. Alexius Medical Center in suburban Hoffman Estates in January and released to home isolation Feb. 7. Public health officials did not release other identifying information due to privacy concerns.

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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



See page 2 for more details



Rochelle wrestlers Ben Harvey and Gavin Ansteth each medaled and qualified for the IHSA 2A State Championships at the State Farm Center in Champaign this weekend. Harvey (left) took second in the Rochelle sectional, while Ansteth (right) finished fourth.

Double trouble

Harvey, Ansteth qualify for IHSA State Championships in Champaign

Ansteth opened the tournament on Saturday needing to win three straight wrestlebacks in order to earn his place in the state meet.

See HUBS page 3

Lady Hubs bounce Belvidere in regional opener

Rochelle clinches semifinal berth against No. 1 seed Sycamore

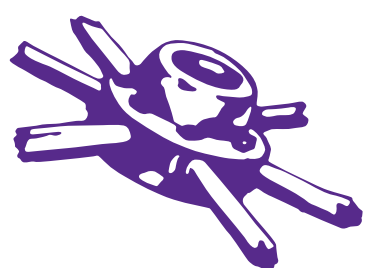


Sophomore Jordin Dickey dribbles between Belvidere defenders Brynn Kirkland and Delaney Hausen during Rochelle's regional game against the Bucs on Monday.

But despite the gritty effort from Smith—who

"It feels really good," said junior guard Sofia Lenkaitis, who led Rochelle with 17 points on Monday. "We're 1-0 right now and we're starting this tournament with a clean slate. We're all trying to do our best... We know that Sycamore has a really strong team, but if we can play together and hit our shots, I think we'll have a good chance to win."

See GIRLS page 3



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY JOHN SHANK)

Former RTHS bowler Dallas Driver rolled his first sanctioned 300 game during the Tuesday Night Service League this past week.

Driver records first sanctioned 300 game

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

FORMER Rochelle Township High School bowler Dallas Driver was casually listening to music during the Tuesday Night Service League at T-Byrd Lanes this past week when he soon realized that something special was happening.

It was like any other game for Driver, who was sharing AirPods with former RTHS teammate Nick Stevens and not worrying about the score posted on the screen above him. The score became tough for Driver to ignore, however, when he stepped up and threw a ninth consecutive strike to carry a perfect game into the 10th frame.

Needing three more strikes, Driver toed the line and delivered the biggest shots of his bowling career, clearing the rack each time and finishing with his first sanctioned 300 game. Days after accomplishing the perfect game, the experience still seemed surreal to the 18-year-old.

"It really set in that I was on pace for a 300 around the ninth frame," Driver said. "I wasn't paying much attention but once I realized it was possible... I never thought

I would throw a 300 game at 18 years old. I was pumped when I threw the 300, and it took days for it to set in. Seeing people react around me was what really made it enjoyable. It was awesome to hear everybody cheering me on and it felt great to have them there to witness everything."

Driver spent four years bowling with the RTHS program, helping the Hubs qualify for sectionals during his junior season. He's been bowling league at T-Byrds for roughly two months now, and he said the new experience has helped him open up and make connections. He still reflects fondly on his time with the Hubs, however, and he credits former teammates Brady Shank and Tyler Johnson for helping him become the bowler he is today.

"I enjoy the people the most and I've talked to more people in league than I thought I would," Driver said. "It's been a great experience for me. I enjoy the friendliness a lot, but I miss competing with Brady and Tyler. I'd love to have one more season with them because they were a big reason why I still bowl today. They ignited my love for the sport and without them, I wouldn't be bowling today."



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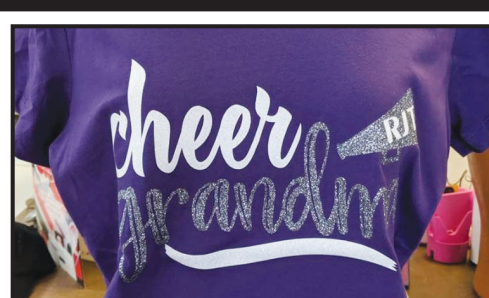
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SPORTS



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle wrestlers Ben Harvey and Gavin Ansteth (left and right) will kick off the IHSA State Championships with opening-round matches on Thursday.

HUBS: State wrestling meet begins on Thursday

From page 1

The senior had minimal trouble during his first two bouts, recording pins over Joliet Catholic's Aidan Watkins and Rich East's Julian Imoniruwe. The twins moved Ansteth into the consolation semifinals, where he used the same move twice to score both takedowns against Hunter and gain the advantage. "I knew I had to dominate with my offense," Ansteth said. "I kept tight ties throughout the match and I was able to get it done. I'm looking forward to enjoying the experience down there. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me and I'm going to make the best of it."

Junior Ben Harvey (39-4) will also be heading to the state championships next weekend. Harvey started Saturday's session with a semifinal bout

against Freeport regional champion Matthew Chavers. After a scoreless first period, Harvey took a slight lead on an escape, and he successfully rode Chavers in the third period to emerge with a 1-0 victory. Harvey placed second in the 182-pound bracket and will compete at state for the second time.

"I tried some things in the first period but nothing was really working for me," Harvey said. "I managed to get up pretty easily in the second period. He chose bottom for the third period, and after about a minute, I realized that he wasn't moving very much. I milked the time with my bar and I was able to hang on for the win."

Six Hubs returned to the mats for sectional competition on Saturday including senior Keegan Davis-Carter (31-11), who fell one match short

of qualifying for the state meet. The 138-pounder won back-to-back wrestlebacks, defeating Rich East's Kaylon Vaughn 14-3 and slipping past Freeport's Tarrone Jackson 8-7. Davis-Carter scored last in his consolation semifinal bout with Geneseo's Logan Tuggle, but fell just short in a 3-2 decision.

Sophomore 126-pounder Caleb Nadig (32-8) won his first wrestleback, pinning Aurora Christian's Adan Rocha before dropping a tough 2-0 decision against Joliet Catholic's Logan Kuhel-Trimmer. Junior 132-pounder Grant Thompson (22-19) and sophomore 145-pounder Ethan Tooley (21-21) both lost their opening wrestlebacks. The IHSA State Championships will begin on Thursday, Feb. 20 at the State Farm Center in Champaign.

GIRLS: Lenkaitis shines during quarterfinal victory

From page 1

Both teams started the quarterfinal contest slowly, with Rochelle inching ahead 8-6 after the first quarter. The Lady Hubs stretched their lead in the second quarter behind four 3-pointers including back-to-back triples from sophomore Josie Lundquist, who finished the game with 12 points. Rochelle made six triples by halftime, with the Lady Hubs leading 25-16.

"We were really there for each other," Lenkaitis said. "We told each other

at the beginning of the game that we had to come out and play with energy."

With the threat of long-range fire bringing Belvidere defenders up to the 3-point line, Lenkaitis took advantage with several dribble-drives to the basket, scoring eight third-quarter points and fueling the Rochelle offense. Leading 40-28 entering the fourth quarter, the Lady Hubs took their largest lead of the game with a quick 5-1 run that forced a Bucs timeout.

"I had a lot of help from my teammates down

low," Lenkaitis said. "They were moving defenders around and that helped create space for me."

While Smith's fourth-quarter outburst and some sloppy turnovers erased most of the Rochelle advantage, the Lady Hubs were able to seal the victory at the free-throw line. Lundquist made four consecutive freebies in the final seconds, keeping Rochelle ahead by two possessions and preventing Belvidere from tying the game or taking the lead.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Lucy Bunker drives against Belvidere's Maya Smith during quarterfinal action at the Sycamore regional on Monday.

RTHS Boys Basketball

Hubs light up the scoreboard against Princeton

Martin, Burdin combine for nine 3-pointers in 75-52 victory

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

PRINCETON — The Rochelle boys basketball team rained down 3-pointers on Princeton when the Hubs faced the Tigers in nonconference play on the road Saturday evening.

Senior Landan Martin scored a team-high 26 points while sinking five triples, while junior Garrett Burdin drilled four triples and added 21 points as the Hubs cruised over Princeton 75-52 and improved to 15-11 overall. Senior Seth Gould recorded 13 points and six rebounds for the Hubs, who dominated the first quarter 18-2 and led 41-19 at halftime.

"Landan and Garrett had a ton of confidence," head coach Tim Thompson said. "Landan starting our scoring off and when they started focusing on

"I was a little concerned because we've played a lot of home games recently. I didn't know how the kids would come out, but they had a spark early in the game. They were turning Princeton over, they made shots and it never felt like Princeton could get into the game. We were really aggressive in our press and we got out hands on a lot of balls... We played really quick."

Tim Thompson

Landan, Garrett was open and knocking down shots. We were 12-for-24 from 3-point range, and when we make 50 percent of our 3-pointers, we're usually going to reap the benefits of those shots."

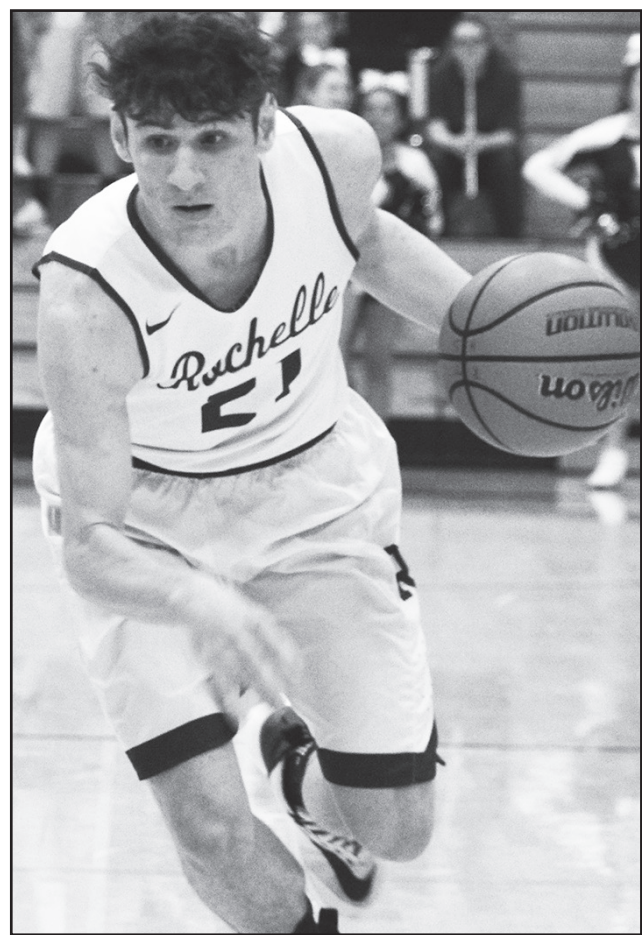
Wyatt Davis (11 points) was the only Princeton player to reach double figures on Saturday, when the Hubs built a 72-37 lead after three quarters before hitting cruise control for the remainder of the game. Rochelle has

won its last three games against the Tigers, who have not beaten the Hubs since 2016. Rochelle will host Sandwich on Friday at 7 p.m. for Senior Night.

"I was a little concerned because we've played a lot of home games recently," Thompson said. "I didn't know how the kids would come out, but they had a spark early in the game. They were turning Princeton over, they made shots and it never felt like Princeton

could get into the game. We were really aggressive in our press and we got out hands on a lot of balls. We were shooting the ball on offense before they could get back to guard us. We played really quick."

Rochelle has been assigned to the IHSA 3A Peoria (Bradley University) Sectional. The Hubs will receive their IHSA regional seed and bracket assignments this Thursday and Friday, respectively.



(FILE PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Seth Gould totaled 13 points and six rebounds on Saturday.

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Summary Statement of Condition for year ending April 30, 2019			
	General	Special Revenue	Enterprise
Revenues	\$ 245,027	18,467.00	\$ 250,318
Expenditures	166,169	68,807	316,970
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	78,858	(50,340)	(66,652)
Transfers In	24,565	-	-
Transfers Out	-	-	(24,565)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	103,423	(50,340)	(91,217)
Previous Year End Balance	961,005	114,789	1,695,840
Current Year End Balance	1,064,428	64,449	1,604,623

The Village of Creston has no outstanding debt.

REVENUE SUMMARY: Property Taxes 23,800. Sales and Use Taxes 74,746. State Income Tax 64,273. Telecommunications Tax 5,417. Motor Fuel Tax 16,855. Miscellaneous 1,606. Rents 53,333. Interest 12,570. Water Utilities 103,105. Garbage/Recycling Fees 33,616. Sewer Charges 41,145. Administration Fee 6,078. Capital Improvement Fee 26,557. Landfill Host Fees 31,490. Miscellaneous Charges 7,002. TOTAL REVENUES: 512,427.

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Subscribed and sworn to on this 30th day of January, 2020.

Penelope C. Payton
Penelope C. Payton, Treasurer

Deanne R. Haub
Deanne R. Haub, Village Clerk

SPORTS

Rochelle Wrestling Club



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Rochelle Wrestling Club grapplers Nehemiah Andronic, Tony Milburn and Zachary Johnson (left to right) show off their first-place medals after competing in the Batavia Classic on Sunday.

Junior Hubs bring home titles at Batavia Classic

Postseason begins with IKWF Byron Regional on March 1

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

BATAVIA — The Rochelle Wrestling Club fielded four champions during the Batavia Classic on Sunday, Feb. 16. Nehemiah Andronic, Rowen

Villalobos, Zachary Johnson and Tony Milburn all went unbeaten to record first-place finishes in their respective brackets.

Both Andronic (2-0) and Villalobos (2-0) won titles in the Tots Division on Sunday, while Brantley

Koenig finished fourth in the Bantam Division. Johnson (2-0) recorded two pins for first place in his Intermediate Division bracket, with Aidan Lopez (2-1) taking third.

Four Rochelle wrestlers battled in the Novice Division including Milburn

(3-0), who led all Junior Hubs with three victories in the tournament. Roman Villalobos (2-1) placed second in his bracket, while Boone Alderks and Deegan Schabacker did not place.

Kaiden Morris (2-1) and Xavier Villalobos (2-1) both brought home second-place finishes in the Senior Division on Sunday. Riley Damask (1-1) and Grant Gensler (2-1) each took fifth in their respective brackets.

The RWC will compete in the IKWF Byron Regional on Sunday, March 1. Top-6 finishers in the Intermediate, Novice and Senior Division brackets will advance to participate in the IKWF Rochelle Sectional on Saturday, March 7.

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SPORTS

RTHS Girls Track & Field

Lady Hubs returning versatile, talented group

Rochelle opens season at Sycamore Invitational on March 10

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle girls track and field team will look to be competitive in several areas when the Lady Hubs lace up their cleats and burn the rubber this season. The Lady Hubs will open the 2020 season at the Sycamore Invitational on Tuesday, March 10.

Rochelle finished the 2019 season with multiple strong showings including third-place performances in both the Landers-Loomis Invitational and the Woodstock Invitational. The Lady Hubs won the Ogle County Invitational before taking fifth in the IHSA 2A Rochelle Sectional under then first-year head coach Alison Vrana, who said she's excited for this season.

"We have a strong group of returning athletes and we have a strong freshman class," Vrana said. "We're looking to be competitive in the sprints and the throwing events, and we're also looking to compete in the triple jump

and the high jump. Our distance crew has strong returners, but we also have several distance freshmen who are ready to compete. I'm looking forward to seeing the versatility of this group."

Rochelle's sprinters are headlined by sophomore Liberty Hayes and senior Macey Ryan, who qualified for the IHSA State Championships in the 100-meter dash last season. Senior Gabrielle Harding will return to lead the throwing crew after recording top-5 sectional finishes in the discus and shot put last season. Senior Maddie Ohlinger finished the 2019 campaign as a top-5 sectional triple jumper, and Ohlinger will lead Rochelle in the jumping pits this spring.

The Lady Hubs will feature sophomore Teagan Meyers in the high jump, while junior Afi Gati will return to the throwing crew after earning a top-5 sectional shot-put finish in 2019. Senior Britney Baez and sophomore Sara Johnson will be Rochelle's leaders



Sophomores Sara Johnson and Liberty Hayes (left and right) will play significant roles with the Rochelle girls track and field team this season.

(FILE PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

in the distance events. The Lady Hubs are excited for their first season as members of the Interstate 8 Conference.

"I think we'll be com-

petitive in the conference," Vrana said. "We're hoping for a top-3 finish in the conference, and I think we'll be competitive in the Landers-Loomis

Invitational, the Freeport Invitational and the Ogle County Invitational. We're looking to get several athletes to the state meet. Gabby, Teagan and

Liberty just missed the state meet last year and they will be stronger this year. Macey is also looking to return to state for the fourth year in a row."

RTHS Boys Track & Field

Hubs blending old, new athletes to build roster

Season-opener scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 29 at DeKalb

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle boys track and field team is less than three weeks away from its 2020 season-opener at the DeKalb Triangular on Saturday, Feb. 29. The Hubs will enter this season with multiple returning athletes in the field events, and the addition of several new athletes will create opportunities to score in individual and relay events.

Rochelle will look to build on second-place performances in the Assumption Invitational and the Ogle County Invitational in 2019. Head coach John Dobbs also said the Hubs are making a concerted effort to bring home first place in the Hub Relays, an event Rochelle has never won. The Hubs finished seventh in last season's IHSA 2A Sterling Sectional.

"It's long overdue that

we win the Hub Relays," Dobbs said. "That's going to be a goal of ours this season... We'd like to win as much as we can, but we also want to get better with every meet, and we want to see continued growth. If we aren't seeing that growth, then we aren't coaching right... We have so many new kids to the sport, and I think we're going to have a good mix of old and new kids this year. I think that mix will make us a much better team."

Junior Trevor Goodwin will return to lead Rochelle in the triple jump after medaling in sixth place at the IHSA State Championships last season. The Hubs will feature senior Aaron Vondergathen in the pole vault as well as seniors Parker Hale and Ben Hickey in the high jump.

Senior Gyvanziel Quinonez was within seconds of reaching state in the 800-meter run at Sterling sectional, and Dobbs will



Junior Aiden Seldal (left) and senior Gyvanziel Quinonez (right) are primed to lead the distance crew of the Rochelle boys track and field team this season.

(FILE PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

be looking for him to step up this spring. Dobbs also said that senior Santi Cordoba and junior Aiden Seldal will have prominent roles in the distance events.

One possible new addition in the long jump, Dobbs said, will be junior Crue Larsen.

"Gyvanziel's off to a better start than he was last

year," Dobbs said. "I'm sure he wants to leave his mark on our program, and I think he's primed for a big senior season... Trevor being an All-State athlete

was really exciting, and he was always improving as the season went along. I think that, with his work ethic, he's only going to get better."



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