

ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

\$1

REASON NO. 3

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Donations

Local business makes donations to organizations.
See page 2

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
30 18

THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
30 18

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
29 15

SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
37 23

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70 TIRE
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OBITUARIES

• WILMA MCCANDLESS
• KENNETH WIESE

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• FARM & FLEET
• ALDI

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Walking miles for warriors

South Dakota man making trek for Wounded Warriors

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN
STAFF WRITER

ROCHELLE – One man from South Dakota is walking across the country to raise awareness for U.S. veterans.

Jerry Meadows is a proud, 65-year-old Vietnam Air Force veteran, who is walking from Bemidji, Minnesota, to Jacksonville, Florida, to raise funds for the Wounded Warriors Project. Meadows chose the WWP, because it is the only organization he could find that takes care of not only veterans, but their spouses and caretakers as well.

Meadows walks up to 11 miles a day pulling his oxygen tank with him everywhere he goes, no matter the terrain. Even though he struggles with his own health issues and long days of walking can make his body ache, he pushes through to honor his fellow veterans.

“There are veterans out there who have given their life and limb for people that they don’t even know,” said Meadows. “This is the way that I get to pay it back to my brothers and sisters.”

Meadows made a promise to veterans, that by the end of his journey he would have walked a total of 1,245 miles and raised a minimum of \$30,000 for the WWP. If he does not reach either of his goals



“There are veterans out there who have given their life and limb for people that they don’t even know. This is the way that I get to pay it back to my brothers and sisters.”

Jerry Meadows

by arriving in Florida, he will not finish his journey. “If I am even one-tenth of a mile off my mark when I get to Jacksonville, I will go to a high school and walk around the track to make it up,” said Meadows. “My tennis shoes are not coming off until I reach \$30,000.”

Meadows is currently

walking along Highway 30 and plans to continue that route until reaching Fort Wayne, Indiana. The incoming winter weather system will cause him to stop for a few days, but he has plans to reach Jacksonville by September or October.

See WALK page 4

In the works

Purchase agreement for Hickory Grove property approved

BY JENNIFER SIMMONS
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Monday night City council members approved the purchase agreement for the Hickory Grove property.

The agreement with the Ogle County Civic Center Authority contained several provisions, including:

Purchase price for the Hickory Grove facility is \$1;

OCCCA’s liabilities (which the city will assume) include City of Rochelle - \$6,600, Anderson Plumbing - \$3,234.85 and Fearer, Nye & Chadwick - \$2,500;

A due diligence period of 30 days from the execution of the agreement;

The purchaser, at the city’s expense, will obtain a boundary survey prepared according to ALTA/ACSM standards within seven business days of the execution of the agreement (already underway);

Purchaser shall, at our expense, shall furnish not less than 10 days prior to the closing, a title commitment for an owner’s title insurance company issued by Kinzley Title Group, Inc.;

Because OCCCA does not have any funds, the city will be responsible for all closing costs.

Although it is not included in the purchase agreement, all funds generated by the facility while in the ownership of the city, either through lease rent or auctioning of equipment will be used to either pay for the demolition of the facility or pay off the outstanding city utility bills.

Council members voted 7-0 to approve the purchase agreement.

Other items

Council members also approved a fiber license agreement with Digital Network Access Communications lease one point to point dark fiber connection from the Frontier building to the DNA Communications building.

According to utilities superintendent Adam Lanning, this agreement will generate \$375 per month for the city.

Council member Don Burke abstained from the vote due to his employment with DNA.

An agreement was also reached to provide Surf Air Wireless, LLC with a half-rack collocation space within the RMU Datacenter. This agreement will generate \$814 per month for the city.

A change order for work on Well 8 was also approved.

See CITY page 4

Schabacker named ambassador

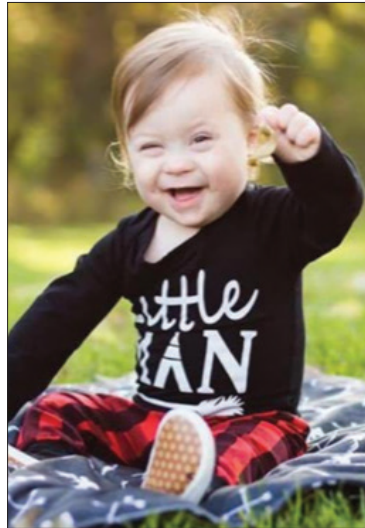
BY ANDREW HEISERMAN
STAFF WRITER

ROCHELLE – A Chana resident has been chosen to be an ambassador for Nothing Down, an international Down Syndrome awareness organization.

One-year-old Lane Schabacker was chosen from over 500 applications from 42 states and 11 different countries, to be one of 29 ambassadors for the organization. The mission of the organization is to provide support, advocacy, education and opportunities for individuals and families that have been touched by down syndrome.

Lane’s parents found out about his diagnosis when his mother was about 12 weeks pregnant. Once the family got over the initial shock, one thing that helped them get through difficult times was seeing success stories from other families of children with Down Syndrome.

“It really helps to see other families that have a child with Down Syndrome thriving,” said Lane’s mother, Margie Schabacker. “If we can be that family for somebody else, that is golden.”



Lane Schabacker

Being an ambassador means that Lane and his family will represent the organization through community outreach, fundraising and social media promotion for the duration of 2020. This can include documentaries, viral photo and video projects, annual calendars and social media campaigns.

Each of the projects and campaigns put on by Nothing Down highlight the promise and beauty of individuals with Down Syndrome. One thing that Margie and her family would like people to know about individuals with Down Syndrome, is that there are many more similarities than differences.

“They are more alike than different, they are just like you and I,” said Margie. “They may reach their milestones a little slower, but they will get there.”

Lane’s family has plans to begin hosting their own fundraisers, in which all of the proceeds will benefit Nothing Down to help them continue funding projects. To keep up with the ambassadors and their missions, or if you would like to donate, visit their website and social media accounts at www.facebook.com/nothingdown, www.instagram.com/nothingdownorg/ or www.nothingdwn.org.

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LOCAL NEWS

Kish College floral design program hosts guest artist

MALTA — The Kishwaukee College Floral Design department hosted a guest designer as part of the Artist In Residence (AIR) program offered through the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at the college.

Students in Janet Gallagher's Floral Design class welcomed Pete Samek, AIFD certified floral designer, for a morning lecture followed by an afternoon of design.

Pete Samek is a freelance designer, a 30-year veteran in the floral industry and is currently serving as an elected representative on the AIFD National Board. He was assistant director at the American Floral Art School for 14 years and taught floral design in Chicago, Taipei, Taiwan and San Juan, Puerto Rico. A former board member of AIFD's North Central Chapter, Samek has been an active member with the organization since 1991. Samek along with designer J. Keith White decorated the VIP entries at the 2017 Rose Parade.

Currently, Samek works in quality assurance in the floral department at FTD LLC and helped organize the 2019 Interflora World Cup competition at the Philadelphia Flower Show.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Pete Samek, AIFD CFD, was the guest Artist In Residence at Kishwaukee College on Feb. 19. Samek presented on formalinear design and foliage techniques for the Floral Design class at the college. Students then worked with Samek to create centerpieces in the design style. Pictured is Pete Samek, American Institute of Floral Designers and certified floral designer.

Samek works as a freelance designer and resides in Naperville.

While at the college, Samek lectured on formalinear design style, a European style that arranges plant materials in groups to emphasize clean lines and bold forms. Students learned about intentional and strong use of negative space to accentuate individual flowers, stem angles, color and textures,

radial stem placement and asymmetrical balance. Samek also covered foliage techniques such as weaving and other leaf manipulations. Following the lecture, students created individual centerpieces in formalinear style.

The AIR program is offered through the AIFD to bring together industry professionals and floral design students at

colleges and universities that have Student AIFD chapters. Kishwaukee College is one of only 14 colleges in the nation with a SAIFD chapter.

For more information on the Floral Design Program at Kishwaukee College, visit www.kish.edu/horticulture. For more information on the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD), visit <http://aifd.org/>.

Donations from Fat Cat Slots



Barb Manning from Fat Cat Slots (pictured above right and below left) recently made donations to two local organizations. Above, Ric Taylor of the Rochelle Golden K accepts the donation. Below, Carolyn Brown of The Kitchen Table accepted the donation.



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LOCAL NEWS

Alliance Francaise is like visiting Paris without leaving the state

CHICAGO—French students from Rochelle Township High School went to the Alliance Française in Chicago last week and absolutely loved their experience.

Lizzie Cartwright's students took a cooking class which was conducted completely in French. They prepared a traditional French meal of salade verte, tarte flambée and une tarte aux pommes (apple tart). For dessert: dommage, which disappeared too quickly to photograph.

Founded in 1897, with the mandate to promote French culture in Chicago, the Alliance Française is among the oldest of cultural institutions in the city.

Throughout its history, the Alliance Française de Chicago has played host to a diverse group of guests; welcoming presidents, ambassadors, royalty, authors, film directors, fashion designers, academics and visual and performing artists to its premises.

Alliance Française de Chicago is a concerned global citizen, having made important contributions to the war relief effort of World War I, World War II and to the reconstruction efforts afterwards. The Alliance held fundraisers for the war-time needs

of the American Red Cross. Members rolled surgical dressings and knit sweaters bound for Europe in Alliance facilities.

Members of the Alliance were awarded the Légion d'Honneur for their efforts in supplying grain and supplies for devastated France after World War I. The Alliance also provided complimentary French language instruction for service men and women who were deployed to Europe at that time.

Today, the Alliance Française de Chicago hosts an array of events annually like Festival de Francophonie which begins Friday with country partners from Bénin, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, China, France, Haiti, Louisiana, Québec, Romania, Switzerland and Togo. Meet the chefs and sample the homemade cuisine tout-monde, from cochonaille to raclette; chill out at our outdoor sugar shack, rain or snow, then shake it up on the dance floor with world rhythm music from coupé-décalé to belly dancing or French EDM.

Alliance Française continues its long tradition of bringing notable lecturers to Chicago. On any given day, hundreds of members and students cross the threshold.



In their French cooking class last week, Kylee Brown, Reece Finnestad, and Cara Forsberg created a salade verte and tarte flambée to perfection.



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Thank You!

Thank you to all the area students who created ads for McDonald's in the recent "Kids Create an Ad" contest.

(Sponsored by the Rochelle News-Leader)



Daphne Wise
Lincoln School
3rd Grade

McDonald's
Hwy. 251 North & 892 Ranger Road, Rochelle, IL

• **Aleko Gonzales**
Lincoln - 3rd Grade

• **Joel Soto**
Lincoln - 3rd Grade

• **Gabe Byee**
St. Paul - 3rd Grade

• **Axel Aldof**
St. Paul - 3rd Grade

• **Jehan***
Tilton - 3rd Grade

• **Tyler Sutton**
Tilton - 3rd Grade

• **Declan McKinney**
May - 3rd Grade

• **Natalie Foster**
Kings - 4th Grade

• **Jasmyn Mascote**
Lincoln - 4th Grade

• **DeLaney Heal**
St. Paul - 4th Grade

• **Dylan***
Central - 4th Grade

• **Andrianna Contreras-Sanchez**
Tilton - 4th Grade

• **Bevan***
May - 4th Grade

• **Layla Macklin**
Lincoln - 4th Grade

• **Caiden Harris**
Lincoln - 5th Grade

• **Larry***
Lincoln - 5th Grade

• **Layla Person**
Tilton - 5th Grade

• **Tre***
5th Grade

• **Adriana M.**
May - 5th Grade

• **Kalee Rodriguez**
RTHS - 9th Grade

* Last Names Omitted



LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Wilma McCandless

ROCHELLE — Wilma Ruth McCandless, 76, of Rochelle, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020 at St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford.

Services are pending with Unger-Horner Funeral Home. Visit www.ungerhorner.com.

Kenneth Wiese

SYCAMORE — Kenneth W. Wiese, 53, of Sycamore, formerly of Rochelle, passed away Monday, Feb. 17, 2020, with his family at his side.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at St. Mary Memorial Hall in Sycamore. Services are being provided by Fredrick Funeral Home, www.fredrickfuneralhome.com.

WALK: Supporting Wounded Warriors

From page 1

Throughout his journey, Meadows has felt an unbelievable amount of support from everyone he has encountered. The local news outlet near Jacksonville even has plans to live broadcast his arrival.

“The support that I have gotten has been unbelievable, the people that pull over and just want a selfie,” said Meadows. “I listen to all of their stories, and that is why I am out there.”

After walking many

miles across the country and meeting different people he has really learned to take a step back and appreciate the beauty that this country has to offer. For anybody who would like to donate to the WWP can do so online at <http://www.bit.ly/2EdXW26> or by contacting Meadows through email at meadows.tom1@gmail.com or by phone at 641-328-3484. Meadows and his journey can also be followed on its Facebook page by searching road walker journey.



(PHOTO BY JENNIFER SIMMONS)

At Monday night's Rochelle City Council meeting Mayor John Bearrows (far left) proclaimed March Irish-American Heritage Month. Pictured with Bearrows is utility superintendent Adam Lanning, Nancy Bingham and Barbara Bell.

CITY: Fire department getting new cardiac monitor

From page 1

“Well 8, located on Caron Road, suffered an equipment failure in 2019 and requires a new pump, motor and cable along with repairing a damaged casing. A bid was awarded to Water Well Solutions in November,” Lanning said. “Since then, Water Well Solutions brushed and televised the well for a second time and found approximately 30 feet of casing that needs repair. The change in cost to repair the additional 30 feet is \$43,042.”

Finally, council members approved the purchase of one cardiac monitor capable of defibrillation and the disposal of one discontinued cardiac monitor for trade-in

value.

According to Rochelle Fire Chief Dave Sawlsville, the purchase will replace a Physio-Control Lifepak 12 4-Lead cardiac monitor that has several issues, including that the parent company, Stryker, has discontinued service, parts and accessories as the device will no longer be approved for use by the FDA.

The 15-year-old device also is only a 4-Lead monitor and therefore is unable to conduct and transmit 12-Lead assessments to Rochelle Community Hospital Emergency Department and other provider hospitals as dictated by the Illinois Department of Public Health Region 1 Standard Medical Orders.

Purchase of the new monitor will complete the cardiac monitor upgrade program for the fire department with each of the three ambulances outfitted with a Zoll 12-Lead Cardiac Monitor.

“Zoll is willing to extend us terms that will allow us to make a moderate payment in this budget year, with the remaining portion of the purchase price in the 2021 budget year. They are also willing to take our non-functional cardiac monitor as a trade-in,” Sawlsville said.

This purchase was anticipated and budgeted, with \$5,000 in the FY2020 budget for the FY2020 portion of the device. The \$26,860.66 balance will be paid in FY2021.

New policy allows convicted felons evade federal authorities

Officials warn that radical policy shift endangers local communities

KANKAKEE — Illinois Sheriffs are raising alarms that a recent policy change by the Illinois Department of

Corrections (IDOC) allows dangerous felons to be released back into Illinois communities. This is occurring

despite valid requests by federal immigration authorities to transfer the convicted felons to a designated holding facility while the individual's immigration case is reviewed and adjudicated.

In 2019, 223 individuals were transferred to the Jerome Combs Detention Center in Kankakee after serving time at an IDOC facility for their felony convictions. This occurred via a notification from IDOC at the request of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Starting in January 2020, IDOC stopped notifying federal authorities and instead allowed these individuals to be released immediately from the correctional facility into Illinois communities where they had been serving their sentence.

“The public needs to know that this policy shift results in convicted felons being released back into our communities without notice—despite federal authorities asking that they be transferred to another facility in the judicial system,” said Sheriff Mike Downey of Kankakee County.

More troubling to the sheriffs and law enforcement is that there is no notice or warning given to local or federal authorities when the individuals are released.

“The State of Illinois is helping convicted felons get a head start on evading federal authorities who simply want to do their job,” said Christian County Sheriff Bruce Kettelkamp. “The lack of coordination is rais-

ing the stakes that a dangerous or violent altercation will occur in our communities between a recently-released felon, who knows that immigration authorities are looking for them, and any law enforcement officer. This policy undermines the rule of law, endangers our local communities and puts the lives of our first responders at risk.”

A review of the transfers completed in 2019 by the Kankakee County Sheriff Office found that the individuals requested by ICE and transferred to the correctional facility had been convicted of committing the following crimes in Illinois:

36 individuals were found guilty of sexual offenses against minors, including crimes against individuals as young as 5 years old;

11 individuals were found guilty of murder, attempted murder or intent to kill or injure; 19 individuals were found guilty of predatory criminal sexual assault;

33 individuals were found guilty of a criminal offense involving a weapon;

50 individuals were found guilty of drug offenses involving a substance other than cannabis; and

55 individuals were found guilty of felony-level traffic offenses including aggravated DUI, having a

fourth DUI or a DUI resulting in death.

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association urges Gov. Pritzker to reconsider the policy and enable IDOC to coordinate with its partner in law enforcement and criminal justice.

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LOCAL NEWS

Man arrested on DeKalb warrant

On Feb. 22 at 5:09 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Oscar R. Guerrero, 20, of Rochelle, for a DeKalb County warrant. He posted \$225 bond. His court date is set for March 27.

On Feb. 21 at 12:54 a.m., Rochelle police arrested Chance P.M. Larsen, 18, of Rochelle, for obstructing a peace officer. He posted I-bond. His court date is set for March 27.

On Feb. 21 at 4:57 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Mathew J. Frank, 22, of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended, unlawful use of a credit card and theft. He was transported to jail.

On Feb. 22 at 8:03 a.m., Rochelle Police cited Jacob Aldrich, 26, of Rochelle, for no insurance. He issued a promise to comply. His court date is set for March 27.

On Feb. 22 at 10:29 a.m., Rochelle police cited Angel G. Guerrero, 22, of Rochelle, for operating a vehicle with expired registration and no insurance. He issued a promise to comply. His court date is set for March 27.

On Feb. 22 at 2:55 p.m., Rochelle police cited Vanessa Gonzalez, 44, of Rockford, for speeding 63 m.p.h. in a 40 m.p.h. zone. She issued a promise to comply. Her court date is set for March 27.

On Feb. 22 at 2:26 p.m., Rochelle police cited Leigha Crum, 18, of Rochelle, for no

insurance. She issued a promise to comply. Her court date is set for March 27.

On Feb. 22 at 12:09 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Paul A. Garner, 33, of Rochelle, for domestic battery. He was transported to jail.

On Feb. 22 at 9:36 p.m., Rochelle police cited Yuniar W. Aguilera, 42, of Rochelle, for speeding. He issued a promise to comply. His court date is set for March 27.

On Feb. 23 at 3:01 p.m., Rochelle police cited Mathew Davenport, 21, of Iowa City, for possession of cannabis and speeding 86 m.p.h. in a 70 m.p.h. zone. He issued a promise to comply. His court date is set for March 25.

On Feb. 23 at 5:11 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Alexandro L. Hernandez, 33, of Rochelle, for domestic battery. He was transported to jail.

On Feb. 24 at 1:41 a.m., Rochelle police arrested Michelle E. Headley, 40, of Rochelle, for domestic battery. She was transported to jail.

On Feb. 24 at 10:45 a.m., Rochelle police arrested Peter N. Hansen, 33, of Rochelle, being gross overweight. He posted I-bond. His court date is set for March 27.

On Feb. 25 at 12:54 a.m., Rochelle police arrested George A. Ogun-dipe, 40, of Rochelle, on a DeKalb County warrant. He posted \$375 bond. His court date is set for March 12.

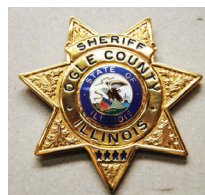
Man arrested for improper cannabis container

On Feb. 21. at approximately 8:49 p.m., deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 2000 block of South Ridge Road. After further investigation Tyler Bunting, 29, of Leaf River, was arrested for improper cannabis container-driver. Bunting was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 21. at approximately 10:32 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies performed a traffic stop in the 8500 block of East Valley View Drive. After investigation deputies placed Brandon Barber, 36, of Stillman Valley, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Barber was also issued citations for operating an uninsured vehicle and a citation for operating a motor vehicle when the registration is suspended. Barber was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 21. at approximately 3:59 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies performed a traffic stop at the intersection of Kishwaukee Road and Condon Road just into Winnebago County. After investigation deputies placed Gene Wheller, 25, of Rockford,

under arrest for driving while license suspended. Wheller was additionally issued citations for speeding and operating an uninsured vehicle. Wheller was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.



Feb. 22

On Feb. 22. at approximately 12:25 a.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of North Sixth Street in Oregon. After a brief investigation deputies arrested Richard Davis, 47, of Oregon, for driving while license revoked. Davis was also issued citations for operating and uninsured motor vehicle and improper lane usage. Davis was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Feb. 22. at approximately 1:39 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence in Chana for the report of shots being fired from a firearm. Pursuant to the investigation, Elias Frankfother, 24, of Chana, was charged with reckless discharge of a firearm, violation of the Concealed Carry Firearms Act and disorderly

conduct. Chet Harrolle, 38, of Leaf River, was charged with aggravated assault, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. Both Frankfother and Harrolle were confined at the Ogle County Jail awaiting a court appearance. Sheriff's deputies were assisted by the Illinois State Police and the Oregon Police Department.

Feb. 23

On Feb. 23. at approximately 1:21 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6000 block of North Illinois Route 251. After an investigation, deputies arrested Alejandro Sorto, 33, of Rockford, for no valid driver's license and no valid registration. Sorto was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he is being held in lieu of bond.

Feb. 24

On Feb. 24. Jacob H. Magana, 29, of Sterling, was arrested by Ogle County Sheriff's office for failure to appear. Magana has a bond of \$369. Magana will appear in court at 9 a.m. Magana did not post bond and remains in Ogle County jail.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Feb. 26
Natalie Powell
Feb. 27
Beth Bolhous

March 8
Donna Sassaman

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

Report policy

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

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

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Leaving the Land of Lincoln

A fellow sat down next to me Saturday on a flight from San Antonio to Chicago and let out a sigh.

I asked if he was heading home and he just shook his head and explained he is in the process of moving from Chicago to Texas. The 50-something fellow said he was returning to Illinois to get his convertible and to drive it south.

I asked him why he was moving and he told me: “the taxes and the politics.”

It sounds familiar. In the two decades that I’ve been writing this column, I’ve received hundreds of letters and emails from folks leaving the Land of Lincoln. The reasons they cite revolve around employment opportunities, tax burden and the state’s political future.

According to Internal Revenue Service data, Illinois has experienced a net loss of 160,000 people since 2010. That’s more than the population of Springfield, Peoria, Rockford or the Illinois Quad-Cities.

Illinois and West Virginia were the only states that lost population during that time.

While middle class people make up the bulk of those leaving the state, the group that had the highest proportion leave are those earning more than \$200,000 per year. Proportionately, the second largest group leaving are those earning between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

That’s bad news. Why? Well, have you ever worked for someone poorer than your-

self? Few of us have.

An inevitable consequence of losing these high earners is that they will invest elsewhere. Which means fewer jobs for Illinois. And that, of course, means more people leaving the state.

A second consequence is the tax base shrinks. This means with fewer people paying taxes, those who remain have to pay more to support the government that we have. Of course, higher taxes mean more people leaving Illinois.

It’s a vicious cycle that shows little reason to abate.

In 2016, the Paul Simon Institute at Southern Illinois University conducted a statewide poll and found that 47 percent of respondents would like to leave Illinois and 51 percent would prefer to remain in the state. Just under 2 percent said they didn’t know.

Taxes are the single biggest reason people want to leave, the weather is next, followed by government and jobs. Specifically, 27 percent cite taxes as the motive for departing, 16 percent say weather, 15 percent cite government and 13 percent name jobs and education.

Illinois has the second highest property tax in the nation, just behind New Jersey.

For years, politicians have denied that Illinois has a problem with population loss. Now, most acknowledge the depth of the problem. But few propose solutions. It’s one of those problems that they would rather ignore than address.

That’s unfortunate. We deserve better.

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



Scott Reeder



VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

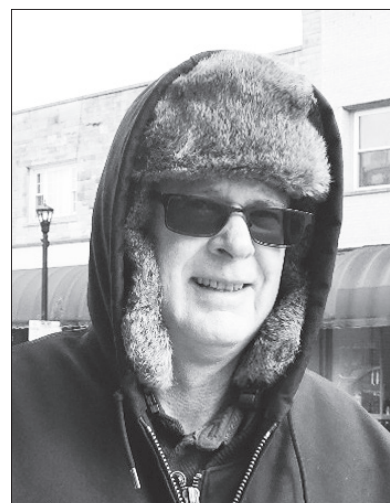
A proposed tax on plastic bags was introduced last year - House Bill 3335 - would place a 10-cent fee on each bag except in cities with more than 1 million people. Three cents would go back to retailers while the rest would be distributed to various environmental funds. Restaurants, food banks, food assistance programs and mobile food delivery are exempted from the bag tax.

What are your thoughts on the tax?



“I think that it sounds like a pretty good idea and it will be good for the environment.”

Cynthia Donahue



“I have no problem with that tax, but I don’t like the exemption for cities of one million or more. Just because you live in a big city doesn’t mean you shouldn’t have to pay. Everyone should have the same rules.”

John Loggins



“I honestly don’t know what to think about it. It sounds like it could be a good idea but is out of the realm of what I normally thing about. So, I don’t know if it will be good or bad.”

Kyle Myers

How to contact government officials

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

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

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

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

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Curt Ward caward92@comcast.net

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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



Artists invited to register for show

DIXON — The Phidian Art Club of Dixon has announced a call for artists to register for their annual Phidian Art Show.

The 73rd Phidian Art Show opens on Tuesday, March 31, at the Loveland Community House’s lower gallery, located at 513 W. 2nd St., in Dixon. Local artists will vie for over \$3,500 in cash awards.

“The Phidian Art Show is eagerly anticipated by both artists and patrons,” remarks Gloria Nusbaum, this year’s committee chair. “Artists can pick up an entry form at The Next Picture Show art gallery or fill their form out during the registration periods at the Loveland.”

Artists must live within 35 miles of Dixon and be 17 years of age or older. Only two-dimensional paintings or drawings, in any medium, will be accepted. Artwork must be original, not produced under the direction of an instructor, no more than five years old, and never have been entered in a previous Phidian Show. Photography, crafts, sculptures, computer-generated art, or three-dimensional work is not eligible for this show. All work must be ready for hanging by wire, no larger than 48” in width, or exceeding 25 pounds.

Artwork will be received in the lower gallery of the Loveland Community House Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27, from 2 to 6 p.m., and Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Artwork will remain on display in the Loveland Building through April 30.

The entry fee is \$15 for one artwork and \$25 for two artworks. There is a two-artwork limit.

For more information, guidelines and entry forms, please contact Gloria Nusbaum at 815-631-3560, or e-mail her at gloria.nusbaum@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

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

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 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.

Mon., March 2
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)



FROM THE HEART DAILY CASH WINNERS

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

Feb. 20 - Barby Holt, Milwaukee, Wis., \$25

Feb. 21 - Sheila Beck, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 22 - Madison Eckhardt, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 23 - Flight Deck Bar & Grill, Rochelle, \$50

Feb. 24 - Erin Kacvincky, Rochelle, \$25

Feb. 25 - Nancy Shull, Oregon, \$25

Feb. 26 - Judith Brodersen, Stillman Valley, \$25

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

Wed., March 4
1:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at St. Patrick’s Learning Center, 903 N. Caron Road. (every Wednesday)

Fri., March 6
11 a.m. to 7 p.m. — The Thiravong Family Egg Roll

Fundraiser will benefit St. Paul Lutheran Church and school. It will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Rochelle. Online orders will be taken at <https://tinyurl.com/stpeggrolls>. A meal including one egg roll, one crab Rangoon, one grilled pork loin, fried rice and a cookie is \$10. Egg rolls are also available by the dozen

for \$15 or crab Rangoon’s for \$10 a dozen. All orders must be placed online prior to the day of the event. Orders will be taken up until 5 p.m., on Thursday, March 5.

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.

Tue., March 3
6:30 p.m. — The Ogle County Democrats will meet at the VFW Post 8739, 1310 W. Washington St., Oregon. We will discuss our support for all our candidates, especially our local candidates. Come in early to order a delicious burger and get a drink at the bar.

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



Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Tummy muscles, for short
- 4 Slapstick arsenal
- 8 Scallopini meat
- 12 Press for payment
- 13 Ireland
- 14 Not working
- 15 Classic Anne Murray song
- 17 Location
- 18 Charlotte's creation
- 19 Capitol VIP
- 21 Pamper
- 24 Gun the engine
- 25 Melody
- 26 Sprite
- 28 Thin smoky streaks
- 32 Messy sort
- 34 Cut the grass
- 36 Fit of peevishness
- 37 High-strung
- 39 Michael Jackson album
- 41 — budget
- 42 Affirmative action?
- 44 About to fall asleep
- 46 Old-style hairpiece
- 50 Curved line
- 51 Neighbor of Cambodia
- 52 Increase rapidly
- 56 Scandinavian city
- 57 Sagan or Sandburg
- 58 Shooter ammo
- 59 Adolescent
- 60 Has bills
- 61 Dr. Ruth's subject
- 5 Square root of IX
- 6 Blunders
- 7 Passover feast
- 8 Compared to
- 9 Tend texts
- 10 Choir member
- 11 Ogle
- 16 Marry
- 20 Fresh
- 21 Money
- 22 Unctuous
- 23 Shade provider
- 27 Watch chain
- 29 Mountain peak covers, often
- 30 Bowlers' target
- 31 Remain
- 33 Blessing
- 35 Bankroll
- 38 Ply oars
- 40 Talks Dixie-style
- 43 Mirror-ball venue
- 45 Sphere
- 46 Basis for a whodunit
- 47 Relaxation
- 48 Portrayal
- 49 Chew like a chipmunk
- 53 Tramcar contents
- 54 Shelter
- 55 Remiss

DOWN

- 1 Billboards
- 2 Chignon
- 3 White-flowered amaryllis
- 4 Little rock

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: **O** equals **S**

C VKIOO UDI TAYEF'O OILAPF-HIOU
TYCUCPV CBGEIBIPU LAKEF HI LXEEIF
UDI GIP KEUCBXUI.

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

Answer

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

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

King Crossword

the penultimate.
writing implement could be called
I guess the word's second-best
answer
CryptoQuip

STATE NEWS



Customers wait in line Jan. 2 outside of HCI Alternatives in Springfield to purchase marijuana for recreational use. The Illinois Department of Revenue reported Monday that the first month of legalized adult-use cannabis sales in the state generated \$7.3 million in cannabis tax revenue for the state, plus another \$3.1 million in retail sales taxes that are shared between the state and local governments. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Jerry Nowicki)

First month’s legal marijuana sales generate \$7.3 million in tax revenue

An additional \$3.1 million comes from retail sales taxes on adult-use cannabis

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Revenue reported Monday that the first month of legalized adult-use cannabis sales in the state generated \$7.3 million in cannabis tax revenue for the state, plus another \$3.1 million in retail sales taxes that are shared between the state and local governments.

“Today marks another milestone in the successful launch of Illinois’ legal cannabis industry,” Toi Hutchinson, a senior advisor on cannabis policy to Gov. JB Pritzker, said in a statement.

Last year, at Pritzker’s urging, lawmakers passed a bill legalizing the production and sale of adult-use recreational marijuana. The law took effect Jan. 1.

Under that law, marijuana cultivators pay a 7-percent privilege tax on their sales to dispensaries. Retail sales, in turn, are subject to retail sales taxes as well as a special cannabis tax that ranges from 10 to 25 percent, depending on the type of product being sold and its THC content.

Those taxes are in addition to the retail sales taxes levied by the state and the local governments where the sales occur, but they do not apply to products that are taxed under the state’s medical marijuana program.

Pritzker’s budget office had estimated that marijuana sales would generate \$28 million in the final half of the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. The Department

of Revenue said Monday’s report showed the state is on pace to surpass that estimate.

The state’s share of the revenue is divided among several funds:

- 35 percent goes to the state general fund.
- 25 percent goes into a special fund for community development projects in areas with high arrest and poverty rates that were disproportionately affected by the “war on drugs.”
- 20 percent goes to the Department of Human Services for substance abuse and prevention programs and mental health.
- 10 percent is put into the Budget Stabilization Fund to pay down the state’s backlog of unpaid bills.
- 8 percent goes to local governments to support crime prevention, training and interdiction efforts.
- And 2 percent is used to fund public education campaigns and to support data collection and analysis of the public health impacts of legalizing recreational marijuana.

“Our goal has been to build the nation’s most socially equitable program that includes new opportunities for the communities most harmed by the failed war on drugs,” Hutchinson said in her statement.

“Revenue raised in this first month will soon begin flowing back into those communities to begin repairing the damage done by the failed policies of the past and creating new opportunities for those who have been left behind for far too long.”

Pritzker says another tax increase and more spending

IN his second Budget Address to lawmakers, Gov. J.B. Pritzker unveiled a proposal that seeks \$1.6 billion in new spending and makes some funding for priorities like education, health care and public safety contingent on the approval of his income tax increase.



Sen. Brian Stewart

Let me repeat that. Pritzker’s message is that his tax increase must be approved in order to fund \$1.4 billion for priorities like schools, health care and public safety. He is basically holding these programs hostage. For example, Illinois’ revamped school funding formula from 2017 requires the state to statutorily increase school funding by \$350 million each year. Under Pritzker’s proposal, only \$200 million is guaranteed, leaving \$150 million of school funding in jeopardy.

The Governor actually has all kinds of ideas that dramatically increase overall spending and require his tax increase to implement. Many of the new programs have merit, but he ignores a simple fact. We can’t afford them.

His plan also doesn’t outline any of the cuts he asked his agencies to provide.

So instead of adjusting his spending to meet the state’s expected revenues, he is making up a lavish wish list and then telling us he needs his new income tax increase to pay for it. This is not the way most people plan their household budgets. New taxes plus more spending without common-sense reforms or cuts to wasteful government programs are not the best ways to prioritize working fami-

lies.

Pritzker’s speech is the first step in negotiating a spending plan for the next fiscal year. Now, we need to get into the details and begin to ask the tough questions. And we want a seat at the table. We are tired of being browbeaten by Democrat leaders who are only looking out for the best interests of some of their residents, no matter what the cost to the rest of the state.

As the legislative budget process gets under way, I stand ready to work with my fellow lawmakers to make the tough decisions necessary to finally pass an actual balanced budget with structural reforms that will boost the economy and create more jobs.

Most of what we heard from the Governor on Wednesday was not unexpected. He put the best face possible on Illinois’ fiscal situation; unfortunately, his glowing assessment does not square with the facts, and his spending plan relies on a huge income tax increase to implement.

He also painted a rosy picture in his first “State of the State” address Jan. 29. But are the citizens of Illinois buying it? We have been promised action and results for years, only to get more of the same old tax-and-spend policies. More recently, we were promised bipartisan discussions, but mostly we’ve received more empty promises and delay.

It can’t be “my way or the highway.” Compromise is needed. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle and in both the Senate and the House of Representatives must work together to create opportunities for working families.

We need less partisan rhetoric and more action. We can do it, and we better get busy.

Things to do in

March!

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(both days)

This class will qualify student to apply for Concealed Carry permit)
March 28.....Concealed Carry Permit Renewal (8a-11p)
Private Concealed Carry Home Defense classes can be arranged but a minimum of 5 students are required. We are offering "Countering The Mass Shooter Threat" classes which are designed for every House of Worship, School, Business and Family. Please contact us for further information and/or scheduling dates. These classes can be taught at any location.
Please call or email for further information.
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WEDNESDAY, MAR. 4, 11 & 18

9:30-1pm
Linda, Caseworker from Rock River Center, here to help you w/government papers.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

10 am
Mayor John Bearrows here to share city updates & listen to questions & concerns

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Rules of the Road Review Course
9:30-11:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Movie Day
12:15 pm
A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood
Popcorn & special treat!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

March Birthday Party
10 a.m.
Corned Beef & Cabbage Irish Dinner!

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

8:30-9:15 a.m.
Eyeglasses Cleaned

PRIME TIMES



The February birthday party at the Hub City Senior Center was held Feb. 12. Those celebrating included Barb Brieltz, Virginia Brickner, Shirley Brown, Vivian Carlson, Barb Cargill, Gloria Covelli, Mike Dailey, Peggy Downey, Phyllis Dyer, Debra Ehren, Jane Elliott, Shirley Frahm, Chris Grennan, Roland Hagemeyer. Barb Hintzsche, Evelyn Hintzsche, Carol Jacobson, John Kaminski, Sherry King, Juanita Manly, Doris Kay McIlvoy, Agnes Meister, Dan Miller, Lois Newman, Tom Plumb, Celesta Reed, Ramona Reineck, Charles Reints, Denise Richardson, Jack Roberts, Nancy Savage, Sally Sawicki, Marla Spratt, Arnold Stangeland, John Swanson, Wanda Ussery, Kathy Windland and Sally Young. Above, several pose with special treats. At left, volunteers dish up food in the kitchen.

(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Senior Moments

WARMER temperatures are on their way. I know that you join me in looking forward to budding trees and flowers, the smell of fresh cut grass, and all the newness that spring brings to us each year. We'll soon start seeing robins and all the other birds that will make their way back to northern Illinois. It makes me happy just thinking about it.

As I'm sure you are all aware, we should all receive our Census cards in the mail this month. The Census counts every single person living in the United States regardless of age or citizenship status and determines the amount of funding for many programs that directly affect all of us, including Medicare, Medicaid, Section 8 housing, funding for our police and fire departments, and the list goes on and on. Census day is actually April 1, 2020; however, you can respond earlier than that. The instructions will be on the card. You can respond online, by phone or by mail. Just choose the option that is most comfortable for you. We are available to help you at the Hub City Senior Center. Call or stop in.

Daylight Savings Time will start on Sunday, March 8. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, March 7.

A representative from the Illinois Secretary of State will be at the senior



Connie Dougherty

center on Thursday, March 12 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. to conduct a Rules of the Road Review Course. This course will help prepare you and give you the confidence you need to take your next driver's exam. We'll serve treats.

Our March Birthday Party will be held on Wednesday, March 18 starting at 10 a.m. with live music compliments of Roger Hintzsche. We will feast on a traditional Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage with red potatoes, carrots, dinner rolls, Watergate salad, and birthday cupcakes, catered by Iron Skillet. We are asking for a donation of \$5 to help cover the costs. Those celebrating their birthday in March include: Doris Baker, Dorothy Banicki, Jacqueline Bennett, Robert Bjorneby, Arnold Boudreau, Hanna Bowerman, Diane Cecil, Karen Collier, Jodi Draege, Nancy Esgar, Darrell Fischer, Linda Furland, Barbara Green, Verna Horn, Norm Jenkins, Debra Kalaitzakis, Candy Karper, Frances Karper, Darlene King,

Doris Kucenski, Ron Macklin, Sylvia Madson, Jim Mecklenburg, Ruthann Mikarovsky, Janet Mitchell, Charles McDermott, Marilyn Murphy, Lela Pemberton, Fernand Plourde, Darrell Phillips, Dwayne Query, Russell Rasmussen, Audrey Reese, Wanda Reid, Darrell Richardson, Beverly Roethlisberger, Daisy Russell, Jan Shaffer, Tom Strawbridge, Gary Tarvestad, Gisa Vinnedge, Geraldine Wheeler, Olivia White, George Wilcox, Gerald Wistrand, Bill Woksa and Bill Zimmerman. Please the senior center at 815-562-5050 to make your reservation as seating is limited.

I'm so sorry, but due to scheduling issues, we will not be serving biscuits and gravy in March. We plan to resume in April.

Mayor John Bearrows will join us on Thursday, March 26 at 10 a.m. Mayor Bearrows will give us an update of happenings in the city as well as listen to your questions and concerns. I hope you will plan now to join us.



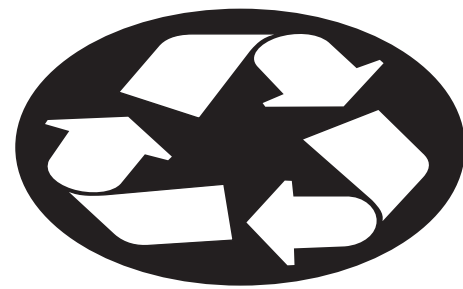
"A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" feature for March movie day

ROCHELLE — Movie Day at the Hub City Senior Center will be Friday, March 27 at 12:15 p.m.

This month's feature will be "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," starring Tom Hanks. This is a timely story of kindness triumphing over cynicism, based on the true story of a real-life friendship between Fred Rogers and journalist Tom Junod.

After a jaded magazine writer (Emmy® winner Matthew Rhys, 2018 Best Actor in a Drama Series, The Americans) is assigned a profile of Fred Rogers, he overcomes his skepticism, learning about kindness, love and forgiveness from America's most beloved neighbor.

There will be popcorn, pop, candy and a special treat.



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ROCHELLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

MARCH

HUB NEWS

2020

RTHS bragging rights

We've earned them and want to use this space to remind you that:

HUBS at 2020 Regional Academic Challenge at Kishwaukee College

- Jason McQuillian 1st place in Computer Science
- Jason McQuillian 3rd place in Chemistry
- Clare Green and Megan Thiravong tied for 2nd in Chemistry

- Cara Forsberg 3rd place in English
- Micah Koziol 3rd place in Physics

RTHS Regional Speech Champions!

RTHS Speech Team is once again the IHSA Regional Champion!!! It happened February 8 at DeKalb High School and Individual speakers qualified to compete at the Sectional Competition Feb. 15. The Hubs won 4th place and the right to compete at state. Congratulations to

Sectional Champion Cara Forsberg

(Radio Speaking) THIRD place at state!

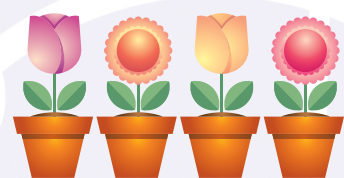
Hub Wrestlers took 3rd place overall with 6 individual wrestlers qualifying for Sectionals: Caleb Nadig (1st); Keegan Davis, Ethan Tooley, and Ben Harvey (all 2nd place); Grant Thompson & Gavin Asteth (3rd), and Zeke Horn, Ben Garza, & Zack Capes, (4th). Representing us at the state Individual Tourney: Gavin Ansteth and Ben Harvey.

From Sectionals Feb. 14, Ben Harvey and Gavin Ansteth emerged as qualifiers for the state tournament Feb. 21-22.

February 2020 it was announced that Ag Teacher Donna Page earned a Master's Degree in Agriculture Education (University Illinois) and English teacher Alison Vrana earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Aurora University.



MARCH IN HUBLAND



- Mar 1** Application window open (thru Apr 15) for Kishwaukee Foundation Scholarships
www.kish.edu/scholarships
- Mar 5** Student Intervention time during FLEX
Music Department Pops Concert, in the auditorium - Doors open at 6:45. Concert begins at 7:30
Tickets cost: Adults - \$5, Students/Seniors \$3
Post Concert Entertainment - RTHS Jazz Band
- Mar 6** Dismiss RTHS at 11:30 am for School Improvement meetings - Assessment all Juniors - Junior level teaches will help proctor - 11:30-12:30 Career Expo, Job Fair Sr/Jr in the Gym for Juniors/Seniors
**Meet with professionals from 40+ businesses
Student Council 1st annual Lip Sync Battle - Tickets: \$5 Show begins at 6pm in the gym
- Mar 9 M** Regional Scholastic Bowl
- Mar 11** ACT Prep Class - English 6-8 pm
- Mar 11-14** Early Voting for Flagg & Dement Precincts at Flagg Twp Offices on Lincoln Hwy 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
- Mar 12** Census mailers will be sent to D212 area homes; Asst Supt. Doyle will talk about the importance of getting counted in Study Hall classrooms

- Mar 13 F** Student v Staff Volleyball & Basketball a part of this year's
Meet the Hubs Event and admission is free
- Mar 14** Lucky Hub 5K Dash 10 am
Volunteers at Irish Hooley 11:30-3:30 downtown
- Mar 16 M** 5:30 pm Board of Education
National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 7 pm
Reception follows in the Commons
- Mar 17** Presidential Primary Election Day in Illinois
St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 18** ACT Prep Class English 6-8 pm
- Mar 20** Renaissance Study Hall Release
- Mar 22 S** Youth in Philanthropy grant deadline via RACF www.rochellefoundation.org
- Mar 23-27** Spring Break No classes RTHS or KEC !!!
- April 1 W** It's Census Day in the USA. Get counted & celebrate!
Ice cream social at city hall and events in local parks
- April 25** Junior-Senior Prom

StuCo's 1st annual Lip Sync Battle Friday, March 6 in the gym

For RTHS student/staff members.

Contestants to date: Sawyer McGee, Ayah Sbeih, and Ariel Zurcher have organized student groups. On staff side, look forward to group performances organized by Mrs. Cartwright, Mrs. Vrana, Mrs. Busching, and Mr. Vruno.

**6 pm Friday, March 6 in the RTHS gymnasium
Cost: \$5 at the door**

Supports: HOPE Shelter, Rochelle Rescue Mission, The Kitchen Table



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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26, 2020

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



PUSHING THROUGH PAIN

Injuries and tough losses are motivating RTHS senior Seth Gould to give his best.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Wrestling

Closing in Champaign

Harvey, Ansteth finish strong at IHSA State Championships

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

CHAMPAIGN — Rochelle senior Gavin Ansteth took some time to soak in his surroundings before entering the wrestling ring for his opening bout during the IHSA State Championships at the State Farm Center this past weekend.

A first-time individual state qualifier, Ansteth faced Waterloo sectional champion Jordan Sommers in the first round of the 195-pound bracket on Thursday. Ansteth looked primed for the upset, taking a 6-4 lead into the third period before Sommers rallied with two consecutive takedowns to win the match 8-6 in overtime.

“I was really excited to go down there and it was an experience I’ll never forget,” Ansteth said. “It was really nerve-racking at first, but as soon as I started wrestling, everything came naturally to me and I was excited to be on the mat.”

See HUBS page 3



(PHOTO BY STACI HARVEY)

Senior Gavin Ansteth faces off against Waterloo’s Jordan Sommers during the opening round of the IHSA 2A State Championships at the State Farm Center in Champaign on Thursday.

RMS Wrestling

Middle-schoolers compete in 2020 Indy Nationals

Rochelle fivesome trains at two-day Toss Em Up Wrestling Academy

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

INDIANAPOLIS — The Rochelle Middle School wrestling program sent five competitors to the 2020 Indy Nationals on Sunday, with four kids earning top-5 performances in the tournament.

Coach Brian Koonce began the weekend by bringing all five kids (Eli Koonce, Erich Metzger, Quentin Berry, Kaiden Morris and Brock Metzger) to the Toss Em Up Wrestling Academy in Champaign on Friday and Saturday. The boys trained for two days, even sleeping on the mats overnight Friday, before taking in the IHSA State Championships at the State Farm Center.

The boys then competed in the 2020 Indy Nationals on Sunday, with Koonce (3-0) and Morris (3-0) taking first place in their respective brackets. Berry (3-1) finished second in his bracket, while Erich Metzger (3-2) placed fifth in his bracket. Eighth-grader Brock Metzger (0-2) battled in the High School Cadet/Jr 120-pound bracket, falling short in two tough bouts.

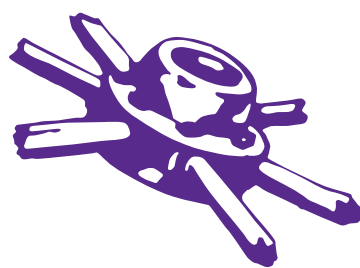


(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle Middle School assistant wrestling coach Brian Koonce brought five grapplers to the Toss Em Up Wrestling Academy in Champaign this past weekend. The boys then journeyed to Indianapolis and competed in the 2020 Indy Nationals. Above from left to right are Brian Koonce, Elias Koonce, Erich Metzger, Quentin Berry, Kaiden Morris and Brock Metzger.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle senior Seth Gould has recovered from multiple injuries to help the Hubs play some of their best basketball in recent history. Gould and his teammates are motivated to win the school's first IHSA Regional since 2009.

Adversity motivating Hub senior Gould

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

THERE were moments before Seth Gould's senior season where the Rochelle guard questioned whether or not he should continue playing basketball for the Hubs.

Gould's junior season ended abruptly when he suffered a serious knee injury during a home game against LaSalle-Peru. His frustrations grew after he chipped a bone in his foot over the summer, but a heart-to-heart with head coach Tim Thompson helped restore his confidence.

"I lost all of my motivation for the game and I didn't want to go back because I was scared that I was going to reinjure myself," Gould said. "Coach Thompson told me that I can't be scared of getting hurt, and that I have to go out there and play my best. That's what I tell myself every time I step on the court. Coach Thompson, Mr. [Mark] Lovell and my dad have all been there for me, and they've really helped me get through my struggles."

Injuries have unfortunately carried into Gould's senior season, but the versatile guard has given Rochelle's backcourt a significant boost since recovering from a broken thumb he sustained during the first game of the season against Belvidere. He helped lead a second-half road rally over Ottawa this past month, scoring 14 points off the bench, and his all-around skills are helping the Hubs close the regular season playing arguably their best basketball of the year.

"I definitely try and bring an inside game to our team," Gould said. "We have a lot of good shooters and I want to be the guy who can drive the ball inside and pass the

ball out to our shooters. My coaches expect me to guard one of the best players on the other team, and they definitely need me to rebound the ball."

Rochelle (17-11) has won 12 of its last 14 games, and the Hubs haven't dropped a nonconference contest since Dec. 28, 2019. Gould, who's one of only two players on the team in his third varsity season, said the team's improved chemistry and ball movement have been most significant in helping overcome a disappointing 2-7 start to the 2019-20 campaign.

"We've been playing unselfish basketball," Gould said. "We had a lot more isolation toward the beginning of the season, but we've had better ball movement and we're playing as a team. I think this season has gone better than we anticipated it would. We knew we were going to have a limited number of seniors and we weren't going to have many big men. . . I went through a rough stretch, but I think I'm getting my legs back and I think I've played pretty well."

The Hubs will once again have a tough mountain to climb if they hope to win their first IHSA Regional Championship since 2009. Gould has seen and experienced Rochelle's regional struggles first-hand, watching from the sidelines as the Hubs fell just short against top seed Rock Falls last season. Gould was a sophomore when Dixon eliminated Rochelle on a buzzer-beating layup, and as a freshman, Gould witnessed his older brother Caleb lead the Hubs to a 20-win season, only to drop a heartbreaker at home against Belvidere in the finals.

"We're angry and we've been working hard every day," Gould said. "We come into practice every day knowing that we haven't won a regional in a long time."



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SPORTS

HUBS: Wrestlers finish season at state championships

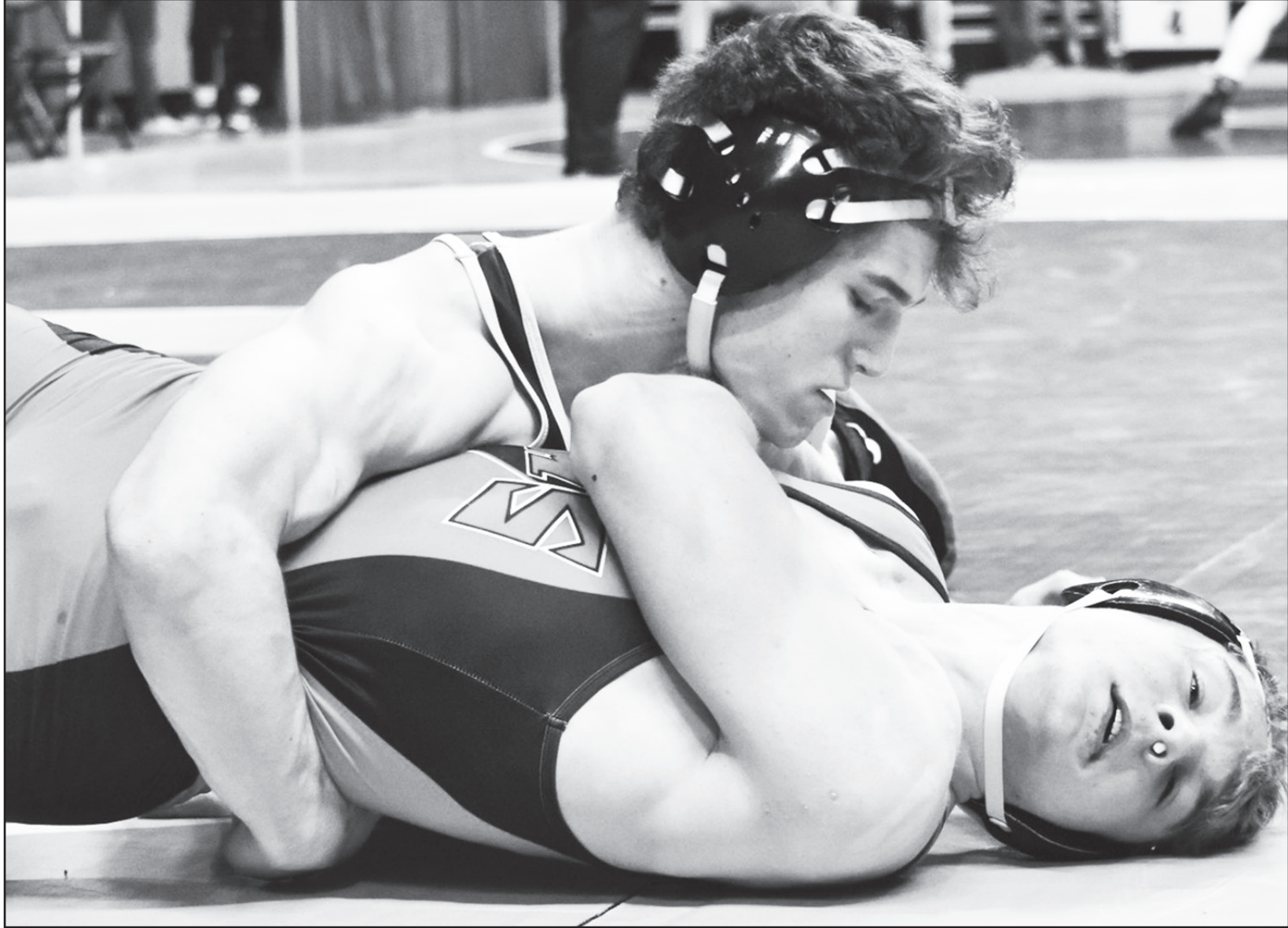
From page 1

“Coach [Alphonso] Vruno told me to take some time, look around and get used to the atmosphere. I thought that helped me when I was wrestling.”

Ansteth (28-14) moved into the wrestlebacks Friday afternoon, where he met with Tinley Park’s Ezekiel Childs and battled for all six minutes before dropping a close 4-0 decision. While he was unable to walk away with a victory, Ansteth said the experience of enjoying the state meet with his family and friends will remain long after his final season.

“I was really happy with my first match,” Ansteth said. “It would’ve been better to come away with a win, but I was just happy to be down there. I’m going to miss being with my teammates and traveling with the team over long weekends. I’m going to miss the practices and the laughs we all shared... I enjoyed spending time with everybody over the weekend, and I enjoyed laughing and making jokes with everybody.”

Ansteth was one of two Rochelle wrestlers representing the Hubs in the state meet. Junior Ben Harvey (40-6) started strong in the 182-pound bracket, winning by fall over Triad’s Kaden Marmon before getting an unfortunate quarterfinal draw against Grayslake Central’s Adrien Cramer, the eventual state cham-



(PHOTO BY STACI HARVEY)

Junior Ben Harvey puts the finishing move on Triad’s Kaden Marmon during the opening round of the IHSA 2A State Championships on Thursday.

pion and No. 1 ranked Class 2A wrestler by the IWCOA. Cramer won the bout 7-0, but Harvey was the only wrestler Cramer didn’t pin before winning the title.

“It was a fun weekend,” Harvey said. “I thought my first two matches were up to my abilities. I thought I should have scored at least one point

in my second match, but Cramer was really quick and he pinned everybody else he faced... I think I could have performed better, and I thought I should have been on the podium, but I’m moving on to next season.”

Harvey’s tough luck continued in the wrestlebacks, where the bracket paired him with Cahokia’s

Arnold Edwards, the No. 2 ranked wrestler in Class 2A. Although Harvey struck first with the opening takedown, Edwards scored a second-period near-fall and totaled the final five points of his 6-2 victory.

While Harvey fell short of his quest to medal for the second straight year, his first-round win over

Marmon made him the first RTHS wrestler in the last 50 years to score at least 40 victories in two consecutive seasons. As he prepares for his senior season, he’ll be looking to not only get back on the podium, but walk away with Rochelle’s first state championship since 2003.

“I learned not to look over anything and to al-

ways be ready for what’s in front of you,” Harvey said. “I learned to be prepared for the worst situation and hopefully that will help me next year... I’m hoping to really turn it up a notch next year, and hopefully I’ll be able to win a state title. It’s going to take a lot, and I need to put in the extra hours and dedicate myself.”

RTHS Girls Basketball



(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Lady Hubs take home awards at team banquet

The Rochelle Township High School girls basketball program hosted its season-ending team awards banquet on Monday. Six Lady Hub players received Interstate 8 Academic All-Conference honors including Afi Gati, Elise Hayenga, Bella Lodico, Sofia Lenkaitis, Gabrielle Harding and Alexis Sanford (above from left to right). Lilly Portzen took home the Coach’s Award, while Gati won the Defender of the Year Award and Lenkaitis received the Most Valuable Player Award. Sanford brought home the Most Improved Player Award (bottom from left to right).

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Flagg Township Building in Flagg Center
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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Mail:
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DEADLINES:

Sunday News-Leader: Thursday, 2 p.m.
Tuesday Shopping News: Friday, 10 a.m.
Wednesday News-Leader: Monday, 4 p.m.
(Deadlines subject to change during holiday times)

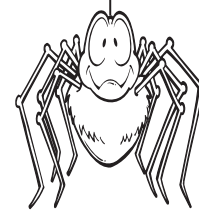
All classified marketplace line ads will appear in the following 7 print publications and on 5 high-traffic newspaper websites:
• Rochelle News-Leader • Ogle County Life • Rochelle Shopping News • Ashton Gazette • Amboy News • Mendota Reporter • Mendota Money Saver

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

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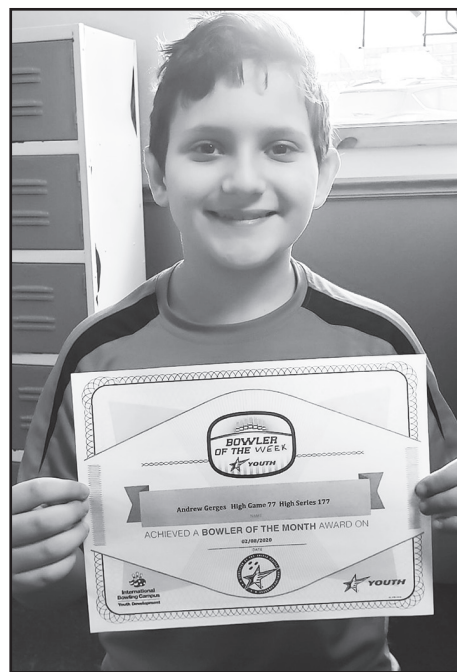
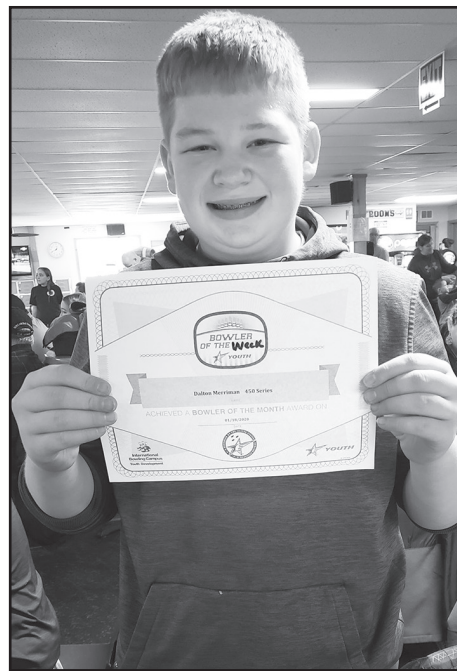
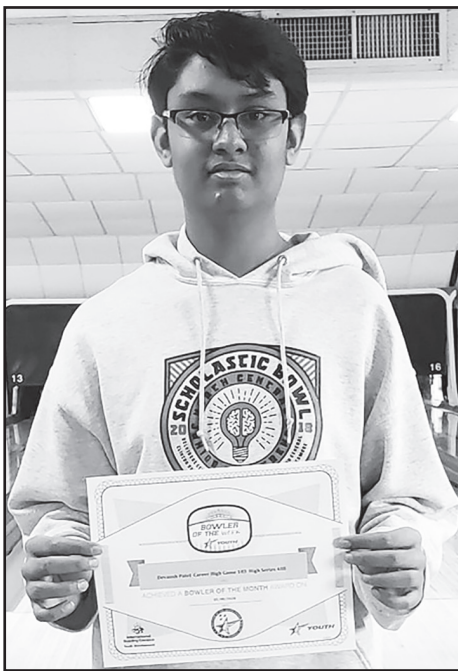
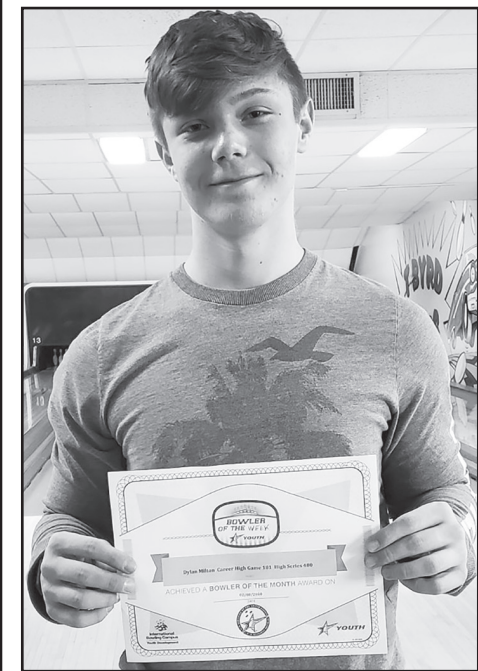


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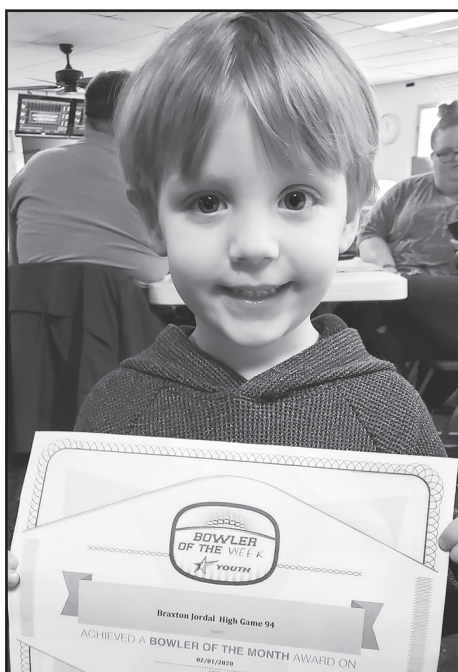
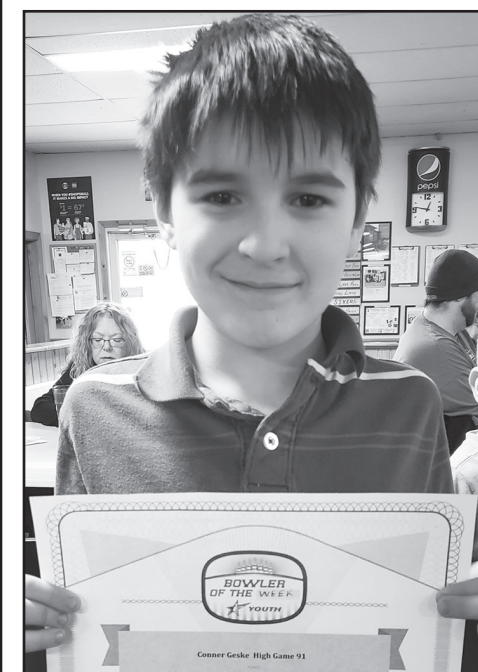


SPORTS

T-Byrd Lanes



(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Local league players earn Bowler of the Week Awards

T-Byrd Lanes recognized 10 local High School League, Youth League and Bumper League bowlers with awards recently. Dylan Milton and Devansh Patel each earned High School Bowler of the Week (9) honors. Five players took home Youth League Bowler of the Week (15) certificates including Dalton Merriman, Christian Thorne, Cassidy Vincent, Faith Adams and Andrew Gerges. Three players including Axel Alsop, Connor Geske and Braxton Jordal won Bumper League Bowler of the Week (15) honors. The bowlers are pictured above, in order, from top left to bottom right.

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SPORTS

RTHS Wrestling

Hubs primed for success after strong season

Rochelle grapplers looking to build on 18-win campaign

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle wrestling team doubled its win total from last season, and the Hubs are already primed for immediate success in the future.

The Hubs rebounded nicely from a tough 2018 campaign, compiling an 18-4 overall record this season after earning only nine victories the previous season. Rochelle (No. 22 IWCOA 2A) qualified six individuals for the IHSA 2A Sectional at RTHS and advanced Ben Harvey (40-6 at 182) and Gavin Ansteth (28-14 at 195) to the IHSA 2A State Championships in Champaign.

"I thought we had an awesome season," head coach Alphonso Vruno said. "I thought we had several kids who made significant leaps forward... I felt that the kids wrestled a lot differently this year than they did last year. I thought our mentality last year was pin or get pinned, and I didn't think the kids wrestled hard for six minutes. We really

stressed that this year, and I thought the kids bought into that mentality and wrestled hard."

Rochelle closed the season with third-place performances in the Interstate 8 Conference Championships and the IHSA 2A Sycamore Regional. The Hubs will graduate seven seniors from the team including Ansteth, Zack Capes (19-18 at 285), Bryan Garza (27-14 at 170), Diego Escobar (10-9 at 160), Zeke Horn (23-20 at 152), Keegan Davis-Carter (31-11 at 138) and Hezekiah Jefferson.

"We definitely improved on our feet and I thought our kids became the attackers in the neutral position," Vruno said. "We weren't waiting for kids to shoot on us. We wrestled with the mentality that we were going to take our opponents down. I thought the kids improved on bottom as well... We can still get better on bottom, but we were trying harder to get off bottom this year as opposed to laying on our bellies and getting pinned last year."

Four sectional quali-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Grant Thompson is one of four sectional qualifiers who are eligible to return to the Rochelle varsity wrestling team next season.

fiers will return next season including Harvey, Grant Thompson (22-19 at 132), Ethan Tooley (21-21 at 145) and sophomore Caleb Nadig (32-8 at 126). Juniors Ivan Pineda, Noah Messer and Ethan Albers, who missed this season

with knee injuries, could also be big contributors next season. Rochelle's freshmen and sophomores will be getting a head-start on next season with the IWCOA Fresh-Soph and Girls State Series next month.

"I'm really excited for next season," Vruno said. "Our lower weights have struggled over the last 3-to-4 years but I think that's an area we can be really strong next season... I thought Weldon [Nay] was spectacular over the sec-

ond half of the season, and we're hoping that Noah and Ethan can take over some spots at our upper weights. We'll also have Jaden [Cook] who will step in as our heavyweight next year and he's developed really well."

Rochelle Wrestling Club



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rhett Watson was one of two Rochelle Wrestling Club grapplers who won first-place titles at the Clipper Wrestling Club Tournament on Sunday.

Junior Hubs battle in Amboy

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

AMBOY — The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent six grapplers to compete in the Amboy Clipper Wrestling Club Tournament on Sunday, Feb. 23.

Rhett Watson (2-0) brought home a first-place title in the Senior Division, while Elijah Nadig (3-0) went unbeaten for a first-place championship in the Bantam Division. Joseph Nadig (1-1) claimed second in his Senior Division bracket on Sunday.

Benjamin Nadig (2-1) also placed second in the tournament, wrestling in the Novice Division.

Phinehas Nadig and Chase Marruffo represented Rochelle in the Tots Division, with both Nadig (1-2) and Marruffo (1-2) taking third in their respective brackets.

Rochelle will compete in the IKWF Byron Regional on Sunday, March 1. Qualifying Intermediate, Novice and Senior Division grapplers will advance to the IKWF Rochelle Sectional on March 7. The IKWF State Championships run from March 12-14 at the BMO Harris Bank Center in Rockford, and the 20th Annual Midget State Championships are scheduled for March 20-22 in Danville.

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