



# ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019 \$1

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## KNOW IT TODAY



**A look back at  
service**  
Part two of a series on lo-  
cal World War II veterans.  
See page 3

**WEATHER**

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
71 52	72 59

FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
62 30	51 37

**OBITUARIES**

- JOEL COLBERT
- ROBERTO T. REYES

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**INSERTS**

- FARM & FLEET
- ALDI

**INSIDE**

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Opinion .....6



## Zoning setbacks recommended for marijuana related operations

BY JOHN SHNAK  
PUBLISHER

**ROCHELLE** — In a unanimous 6-0 vote on Monday night, the Rochelle Planning and Zoning Commission made three recommendations for zoning of possible future cannabis cultivation facilities and dispensary stores.

Committee members are recommending to Rochelle City Council that any cannabis cultivation operations be located only in Industrial zones, including I-1, I-2 and I-3

regions.

The commission is also recommending that any cannabis dispensary business can only be located in a Business 2 zone.

In addition, the committee members are recommending that both the growing centers and the dispensary stores be located at least 200 feet from any residential zone, schools, public parks and daycare facilities.

Prior to the vote, a public hearing was held on the matter and three individuals shared their



**"As a nurse who  
has seen drunk  
driving and  
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a dispensary  
would be  
helpful to the  
community."**

Christina Barrett

**"I am worried  
about the  
ramifications on  
public health and  
I know first-hand  
that marijuana use  
can lead to other  
drug addictions..."**

Gabrielle Lepperd



opinions.

Gabrielle Lepperd, who is a drug abuse counselor, urged the planning commission to deny any marijuana businesses to locate in Rochelle.

"I am not in favor to allow it in town," she stated. "I am worried about the ramifications on public health and I know first-hand that marijuana use can lead to other drug addictions. I don't think it's fair to put this in town and make it easily available."

Christina Barrett gave a different view to the

commission, stating that marijuana has shown to provide pain relief benefits and it will actually help in reducing opioid addictions.

"As a nurse who has seen drunk driving and opioid problems, a dispensary would be helpful to the community," she said. "Marijuana charges that have caused people problems will be erased under the new laws and that is good to help people move past their problems."

See OPS page 4

## Creating a partnership

New strategic partnership: 2 Degrees in 3 Years signed by Kishwaukee College, Northern Illinois University and area high schools

**MALTA** — Furthering their dedication to serving local students, Kishwaukee College, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb High School, Genoa-Kingston High School, Hiawatha High School, Indian Creek High School, Rochelle Township High School and Sycamore High School have signed 2 Degrees in 3 Years, a strategic partnership outlining specific pathways for area high school students to earn both an associate degree and bachelor's degree within three years of high school completion. Representatives from each school participated in the official signing on Kish campus Oct. 7.

"Helping young people be college and career ready is important to all of us living and working in our area communities," stated Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College. "We are proud to partner with our district high schools and Northern



**Kishwaukee College, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb High School, Genoa-Kingston High School, Hiawatha High School, Indian Creek High School, Rochelle Township High School and Sycamore High School sign 2 Degrees in 3 Years, a strategic partnership outlining specific pathways for area high school students to earn both an associate degree and bachelor's degree within three years of high school completion. Pictured left to right are Jason Harper, superintendent of Rochelle Township High School District 212; Dr. Lisa Freeman, president of NIU; and Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College.**

Illinois University to show students and parents the many opportunities to earn college credit while still in

high school, saving time and money in completing college degrees."

The program demon-

strates career pathways for high school students, outlining the college-level courses offered in area

high schools, and how those credits transfer to an associate degree at Kishwaukee College and a bachelor's degree at Northern Illinois University. Currently, program pathways are available for a bachelor's in business administration, computer science, elementary education, mechanical engineering and psychology. Kish and NIU look forward to expanding the number of program pathways in the near future.

"We're excited to collaborate on this effort with Kishwaukee College and our area high schools," said Dr. Lisa Freeman, president of NIU. "We value our close relationships with our local institutions, and we view these relationships as key resources as we continually work to help students earn their bachelor's degrees in a timely and affordable manner."

See KISH page 5

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Quilt raffle to benefit scholarship fund

Several of Nancy Babb's quilts included in raffle

**DEKALB** — Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma will conduct a Silent Auction of five handmade quilts on Saturday, Oct. 12, as part of the 9th Annual Oak Crest Arts and Crafts Fest.

The auction will be held at Oak Crest Retirement Center, 2944 Greenwood Acres Drive in DeKalb, with bidding starting at 10 a.m. and closing at 1 p.m. The quilts are hand pieced, hand embroidered, hand appliqued, and/or hand quilted, full/queen size. Proceeds from the Quilt Auction will benefit the group's scholarship fund which was established to assist women majoring in education in their junior year at NIU.

Over the years, Alpha Chapter has awarded over 40 scholarships for a total of more than \$35,000. Applications for the annual scholarship of \$2,000 are available through NIU.



Alpha Chapter members Louise Lowe and Marilyn Berg hold up the Postage Stamp quilt, one of five to be auctioned on Oct. 12 at the Oak Crest Arts and Crafts festival.

Delta Kappa Gamma is a professional society of women educators; Alpha Chapter members are residents of DeKalb, Lee, and Ogle Counties and teach in or are re-

tired from area school districts and early education programs, as well as NIU.

Nancy Babb, who was a member of Alpha Chapter for more than 40

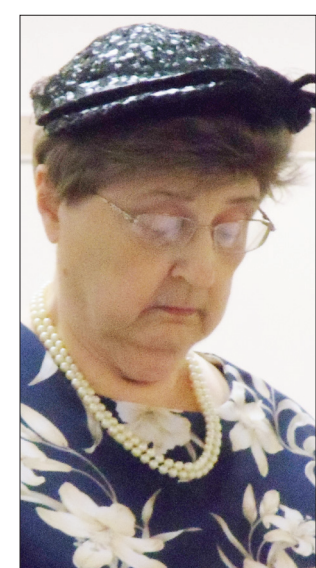
years, worked at Central School in the Rochelle Elementary District for 36 years, and was a passionate supporter of women educators. She was committed to her

students' success and continued as a Library Aide after her retirement from teaching.

She held many leadership positions in Alpha Chapter, as well as in her Illinois Education Association local, the National Education Association, and she participated in conventions, meetings, and workshops.

Babb was an active member of Rochelle United Methodist Church and the Rochelle Historical Society. She was also a participant in Vince Carney Community Theater, reading the part of Eleanor Roosevelt in the production of "FDR: A Prescription for Depression."

With her passing in 2016, she left a generous bequest for the Alpha Chapter scholarship fund, as well as these select quilts, which will be auctioned at the Oak Crest Arts and Crafts Fest on Oct. 12.



Nancy Babb reading the part of Eleanor Roosevelt for "FDR: A Prescription for Depression." Babb, a member of Alpha Chapter for more than 40 years, was also a staple in the Rochelle community. With her passing in 2016, she left a generous bequest for the Alpha Chapter scholarship fund, as well as select quilts, which will be auctioned at the festival.

## Esmond church planning annual bazaar

**ESMOND** — The Esmond United Methodist Church in Esmond will be holding its 8th annual Fall Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The kitchen will be serving coffee, coffee cake and cinnamon rolls. Chili and chicken noodle soup will be offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be crafts, home baked goods. There will also be several outside vendors, including: Designs by Danelle, Scentsy, Taste-fully Simple, Thirty-One and USBorne Books.



### New member induction



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Ron Egland (center) was recently inducted into Kiwanis Golden K by club president Al Hann (left) and sponsoring member Pal Colwill (right). Anyone interested in joining Kiwanis is invited to attend one of the club's breakfast meetings as a guest. Kiwanis raises money through fundraisers to sponsor several youth programs, such as Key Club (high school), Builders Club (Creston, Kings and Rochelle Middle School) plus various sports activities.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## An interesting military history

BY ANDREW HEISERMAN  
STAFF WRITER

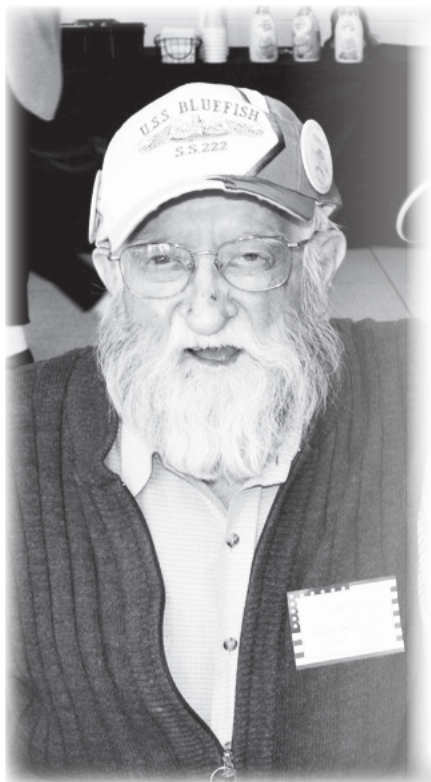
**L**ONGTIME Rochelle native Jim Moorehead recently celebrated his 99th birthday, and the Paw Paw native has many vivid memories of an interesting military history.

Moorehead his wife, Marnie, and their son moved to Rockford where Jim worked at Woodward Governor making diesel engines for submarines in the war. While working there, the Navy started to send soldiers to the factory for a training course to learn how to work on these engines so they would be prepared when out in the Pacific Theater.

Moorehead was the main trainer and he often formed a bond with the soldiers going off to serve.

"They would come from the submarine school in New London, Connecticut for a week or 10 days and take a course on the governor part of the diesel engines," Moorehead explained. "I got acquainted with a lot of the guys then, and in my opinion, they were good people and I liked them."

As an employee at Woodward Governor and the father of a small child, Moorehead was exemption from the draft during World War



"I have had a good life and a good family and I have enjoyed it all."

Jim Moorehead

II, but after teaching so many of the young men going off to serve, he felt the need to enlist in the service. Marnie was supportive of his decision and Moorehead's sister moved in to help take care of his child while he was gone.

At the age of 24 Moorehead signed up for the submarine service, a branch of the Navy. There were two specific reasons that drew him to the submarine service over any other branch in the military.

"The entire submarine service was all volunteer, if you were on the submarine it was because you wanted to be there. And you either came back alive and good or

you didn't come back at all, if you got shot down you went down with the ship," said Moorehead.

After enlisting Moorehead was assigned as a diesel mechanic to a submarine named The Bluefish 222. It was 310 feet long, included 81 men and would be sent out on missions for up to 50 days at a time.

According to Moorehead, the sub would be assigned a specific latitude and longitude radius to patrol. The unit would not leave its specific area and at the end of the mission, and the men knew there was a possibility of not returning.

"They lost a total of about 52 submarines

during my time in the service," he said.

At the time Moorehead enlisted in the service, the minimum term agreement was until the end of the war plus an extra six months afterwards before being sent back home. Once his time in the service was finished he returned home to his family in Rockford, which only had a population of about 60,000 at the time.

After spending some time in Rockford, he and his wife moved to Rochelle where he worked at a few different local businesses throughout the years. The first job that Moorehead had in Rochelle was as the manager of a small news

agency that was located downtown at the time.

"I managed what they called at the time a news agency for a friend of mine that wanted me to come down and help," Moorehead said. "I knew the guy, Nate Stone, and he wanted to retire."

After working at the news agency for a few years, Moorehead then worked at the local Del Monte plant in a division office before retiring to work for the Unger Funeral Home for about 40 years.

Marnie passed away this past year, just three days shy of their 79th anniversary, and a special service was held at the Unger Funeral Home to honor the love of his life.

When looking back on everything that Moorehead had done and accomplished in his life, he said he has had a happy life and would not have changed a thing.

"I have had a good life and a good family and I have enjoyed it all," said Moorehead.



A file photo of Jim Moorehead in is Naval uniform

### Feed the Hubs



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Township High School Football Parent Group invited Rochelle Community Hospital to provide a pregame meal for the Hubs football team last Thursday evening following practice. Players and coaches enjoyed chicken Parmesan, mostaccioli, green beans, garlic bread, cookies and brownies. Serving the meal were (on the far right) Jennifer Finkboner, RCH dietary cook and Ross Pullom, RCH food and nutrition manager along with Janet Stewart and Linette Feltes (both on the far left).

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Joel Colbert

**ROCHELLE** — Joel John Colbert, 86, of Rochelle, passed away Oct. 5, 2019 at St. Anthony's Hospital in Rockford of natural causes.

Joel was born April 13, 1933, in Iowa City, Iowa, the son of John and Delphine (Rummelhart) Colbert.

He attended Iowa City High there and later graduated from the University of Iowa physical education department. He also held a masters degree from Northern Illinois University.

Between high school and college, Joel enlisted and served from 1952-56 in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict, assigned to the Pacific atoll of Enewetak during nuclear testing operations. On June 25, 1955, Joel and Eleanor (Bobbie) Goettle were united in marriage in Iowa City and recently celebrated 64 years.

Joel began a teaching and coaching career at St. Joseph-Ogden in 1960, with moves to Galva and then Rochelle. Known primarily as a football coach, Joel also was a head coach in wrestling, basketball, baseball and track. In 1984, he was inducted into the Illinois High School Football Coaches

Association Hall-of-Fame. His love of sports also led to officiating baseball and basketball. Joel was also on a committee that helped initiate the IHSA football playoffs in 1974. Another quirk about him was being an area baseball scout for the Montreal Expos. In his younger days, he was an avid fast-pitch softball player, later transitioning into a golf enthusiast. While at college, he played one year on the Hawkeye football team.

Joel was a man of many interests and he took special pride in being a vociferous reader, crossword puzzle solver and a theatre devotee. He intently studied current events and was not shy about pontificating on them.

As a father, he made a point to expose his children to various viewpoints, philosophies and learning experiences. As an educator, he was a strict disciplinarian with a knack for relating to students of all backgrounds.

Growing up in a family of nine children with a single parent, Joel developed a heart for people in need and devoted much of his life to helping those less fortunate.

He was a member of St. Patrick's and the Presbyterian churches in Rochelle. After retiring from teaching at Rochelle, he was elected to the Ogle County Board.

Joel is survived by wife, Bobbie; their children, Jodi (Brett) Kemp, Stevensville, Montana, and children, Matt, Ryan and Lindsey, Andy (Kathy) Colbert of Oregon, and children, Blair and Jorie, and twin granddaughters, Alexandria and Liliya; Bo (Cindy) Colbert of Trinity, North Carolina, and children, Anthony and Mallory, Suzie Colbert of Arlington, Virginia, and Tony (Catherine) Colbert of Rock Springs, Wyoming, and children, Mia and Madi; his brother, Conrad (Joanne) Colbert and his dog, Gracie, who was constantly at his side.

Brothers, Donald, Clayton, Edward, David and sisters, Virginia, Mary Ellen and Geniveve, preceded him in death.

The visitation will be from 3 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 10 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth St., Rochelle. The memorial funeral will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 11 at the First Presbyterian Church, 1100 Calvin Road, Rochelle, with Pastor Doug Forsberg officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Joel's memory to the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library.

Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home.

Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Roberto T. Reyes

**ROCHELLE** — Roberto T. Reyes, 80, of Rochelle, passed away Monday, Oct. 7, 2019, at his home surrounded by his loving family. Roberto was born April 17, 1939 in Peñon Blanco, Durango, Mexico, the son of Wenceslao and Sara (Torres) Reyes. He married Juanita G. Gonzales on May 22, 1972.



and Kara Martinez; a great-granddaughter, Ivanna Belmonte, and a great-granddaughter on the way, Estela Belmonte; and many special brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, nephews, nieces, family and friends.

In addition to his parents, Roberto is preceded in death by a sister, Guadalupe T. Reyes, and an infant grandchild, Baby Reyes.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth St. in Rochelle.

Funeral Mass will be at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 236 Kelley Dr. in Rochelle with Father Ruben Herrera officiating. Interment will follow in St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery in Rochelle.

Please visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

## OPS: Commission discusses setbacks

From page 1

Local resident and business owner Russ Stevens was also present and provided some additional comment about his plan to add a marijuana dispensary at his current Hub City Shuttle business, located on the south side of Rochelle on IL Route 251 just south of the Fairways Golf Course.

"We are asking you folks to consider my current location in the Business 2 zone on the commercial highway," Stevens stated.

Commissioners began discussing the proximity of Stevens' building in relation to the nearest residence and also to Connolly Park near Gary Street and Cleveland Avenue.

A minimum setback distance of 200 feet from both was thrown out by commissioner Ryan Carson

which sparked some debate.

"Anything near a residential area I don't want it there," said commissioner Pal Colwill.

"Well, we've got a business owner who is already in the process of applying with the state for a dispensary and he's got a good current location, so I am in favor of a setback distance that doesn't automatically exclude that building," said commissioner Kurt Wolter. "Based on where the house sits behinds his business it's like 90 or 75 feet."

"I'm not comfortable with that," Carson stated, who then suggested both cultivation facilities and dispensary businesses both must be set back at least 200 feet from residential zoned areas, schools, daycare centers and public parks.

The motion passed in a 6-0 vote.

The State of Illinois is expected to award just three dispensary licenses in a nine-county northern Illinois region, but the city wants to have the ordinances in place in case a Rochelle based business is chosen.

Rochelle City Council will now consider the recommendation at one of its two October meetings.

### Sign variance

In other business, the commission also is recommending a sign setback variance for the new Benny's Market Mobil gas station and convenience store located at the intersection of Flagg Road and IL Route 251.

The state currently has a right of way in place off of IL Route 251 in the event the highway is converted to five lanes in that area.

Business owner Tim Hayden told the board he wants to place a sign in the right of way and agreed to relocate it in the future if the state should ever move forward with widening the highway.

Hayden stated that he expects the store to be open in the next few weeks, and the commission voted 6-0 to recommend the variance to Rochelle City Council.

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### LUNCH SPECIALS

THURSDAY, PHILLY STEAK SANDWICH AND FRENCH FRIES

FRIDAY, REUBEN AND FRENCH FRIES

MONDAY, BRAT AND MACARONI SALAD

TUESDAY, GRILLED CHICKEN SALAD

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Class reunion



(PHOTO SUBMITTED)

The 73rd Class Reunion from Mount Morris High School was held on Tuesday, Oct. 1 at White Pines. Pictured left to right are Bethel Avey Andrew of Rochelle, Jim Rosenbalm of Oregon, Marilyn Davidson Mueller of Mount Morris, Wayne Silvius of Ashton and Ted Incontro of Mount Morris.

## Davis Junction man arrested on Ogle County warrant charge

On Oct. 4 at 12:59 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Jason Douglas Raymond, of Davis Junction, on an Ogle County warrant. He posted \$300 bond. His court date is set for Oct. 23.

On Oct. 5 at 8:33 a.m., Rochelle police cited Michelle Brown, 30, of Rochelle, for failure to reduce speed. She Issued a promise to comply. Her court date is set for Nov. 8.

On Oct. 5 at 1:40 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Hayley, D. Christy, 36, of Rochelle, for driving while license suspended, driving with no insurance, and illegal transportation

of alcohol.

On Oct. 5 at 9:41 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Arsenio M. Ratliff, 28, of Rochelle, for battery. He posted I-bond. His court date is set for Nov. 15.

On Oct. 5 at 9:41 p.m., Rochelle police arrested Marquisha S. Perry, 28, of Rochelle for battery. She posted I-bond. Her court date is set for Nov. 15.

On Oct. 6 at 12:33 a.m., Rochelle police arrested Dominic Mireles, 37, of Rochelle, for criminal trespassing. He posted \$100 bond. His court date is set for Nov. 8.

On Oct. 6 at 9:44 a.m., Rochelle police cited Jose

Cisneros, 32, of Sterling, for speeding, 61 m.p.h. in a 40 m.p.h. zone. He issued a promise to comply. His court date is set for Nov. 8.

On Oct. 6 at 10:12 p.m., Rochelle police cited Kamren M. Nichols, 19, of Ashoton, for operating an uninsured vehicle. He posted I-bond. His court date is set for Nov. 15.

On Oct. 7 at 9 a.m., Rochelle police cited Bertha E. Versetto, 48, of Romeoville, for speeding. She issued a promise to comply. Her court date is set for Nov. 8.

On Oct. 7, Rochelle

police cited Natalia Hernandez, 27, of Rochelle, for speeding. She issued a promise to comply. Her court date is set for Nov. 8.

On Oct. 7 Rochelle police cited David L. Echelbarger, 28, of Rochelle, for a defective windshield. He issued a promise to comply. His court date is set for Nov. 8.

## Woman arrested for driving while license suspended

On Oct. 4 at approximately 2:33 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies performed a traffic stop at the intersection of Ridge Road and Edgewood Road. After investigation, deputies placed Samantha Perez, 21, of Dixon, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Perez was additionally issued a citation for illegal transportation of alcohol. Perez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond

On Oct. 4 at approximately 10:09 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies performed a traffic stop in the 11,000 block of North Kennedy Hill Road. After investigation, deputies placed Ryan Anderson, 35, of Byron, under arrest for no valid driver's license. Anderson was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Anderson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Oct. 5 at approximately 6:48 a.m. Ogle County deputies, along with Polo Fire Department, Polo EMS, and the Polo Police Department responded to a single vehicle accident at the intersection of Henry Road. and Freeport Road. After an investigation, it was learned that Shawn M. Jacobs, 27, of Mt. Carroll, was westbound on Henry Road when he failed to stop at the stop intersection. Jacobs entered the ditch and struck an embankment. Jacobs was transported to CGH Medical Center in Sterling. Jacobs was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Jacobs was also given a citation for disregarding a stop sign, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, expired registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Jacobs was released to CGH Medical Center for injuries sustained during the accident.

On Oct. 6 deputies conducted a

traffic stop at IL Route 26 and Lanark Road. After further investigation, Derek Devries was arrested for driving while license suspended. Devries was also issued a citation for loud exhaust. He was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released to correction staff where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Oct. 6 at approximately 8:30 p.m., deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 52 and Freeport Road. After further investigation, Saige Kaiser, 20, of Freeport, was placed under arrest for no valid driver's license. Kaiser was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

On Oct. 7 at approximately 4 p.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 4000 block of East IL Route 64 for a moving violation. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Lloyd Stephens, 52, of Elmhurst, for three counts of possession of a controlled substance. Stephens was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On Oct. 7 at 12:42 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a verbal domestic in the parking lot at JC's in Davis Junction. While in route, deputies were advised that the two subjects arguing has left the location in a vehicle. After further investigation, the vehicle was located at the intersection of Mable and Pacific in Davis Junction. The driver of the vehicle, Heather Giger, 27, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for driving without a valid driver's license, and possession of drug paraphernalia. The passenger was released with no charges and Giger was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was held in lieu of bond.

## KISH: Partnership agreement reached

From page 1

Current Kish student Anthony Castaldo is a 2019 graduate of Paw Paw High School, now consolidated with Indian Creek High School. Castaldo optimized his coursework while in high school and began his college career this semester with 50.5 credit hours. "I was fortunate enough to get these opportunities to earn college credit, and I encourage other people to take as many classes as they can," he stated. Castaldo saved three semesters of time towards his bachelor's and estimates his parents saved "thousands of dollars." He plans to transfer to NIU to study chemistry in Spring 2020.

Jason Harper, superintendent of Rochelle Township High School District 212, voiced enthusiasm about the new partnership as well.

"RTHS is excited about our growing partnership with Kishwaukee College because we believe these types of programs allow our students to be more ready to achieve their goals for after high school while keeping the costs of post-secondary education and training to a minimum. It is a win-win situation for our students and the community," Harper commented.

Superintendent of DeKalb Community Unit School District 428, Jamie Craven, spoke highly about the new partnership as well.

"The 2 Degrees in 3 Years program is an excellent opportunity for our students and all students in the

"RTHS is excited about our growing partnership with Kishwaukee College because we believe these types of programs allow our students to be more ready to achieve their goals for after high school..."

Jason Harper

Kishwaukee College footprint. This program encourages students to experience college coursework while at their respective high schools, earn college credit, and ultimately reduce the overall cost and time of earning an associate and bachelor's degree," Craven commented. "For several years districts in our region have collectively worked with Kishwaukee College to expand dual credit course offerings for students. This program expands on those efforts ultimately making the path to college more seamless and affordable."

For more information visit [www.kish.edu/2degreesin3years](http://www.kish.edu/2degreesin3years).

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# LOCAL VIEWS

## Guest column

## Losing mom

MY mother's breathing was ragged. I held her left hand with each labored gasp. My dad, her husband of almost 59 years, gripped her right. As she breathed slowly, shallowly, my dad cried out, "Save a place for me in heaven." Tears fell down the face of my sister, who sat at the foot of the bed. We watched 79 years of life and an 11-year battle with breast cancer come to an end. Our mother was gone. The pictures on the bedroom wall spoke to what was important to mom: family. Photos of each of her three children and their partners on their wedding days stood like sentinels overlooking her bed. The faces of her seven grandkids peered out from picture frames. A devoted husband looked on adoringly. Happy memories. I thought of my three daughters — all of whom were born during mom's long fight with cancer. Days before her death, they stood at their grandmother's bedside and sang "Jesus Loves Me." But what will they remember about their grandma? For me, June 2, 2013, always will be a day of sadness. I went out to eat with my wife this past week and saw a waitress wearing a pink ribbon for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. But I've yet to don a pink shirt, this month, in memory of my mother, Roberta Reeder. To be honest, sometimes I think all of the October pink ribbons, shirts and merchandise trivialize just how pernicious breast cancer really is. That said, I want my mother's legacy to live on. One good thing about

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is it gets us thinking about what we can do. Here are some thoughts: If you're a woman, schedule your next mammogram today. Give a cancer patient the most important thing that you can: you. Cook a meal. Sit by a bedside. Comfort a family member. There are lots of charities that help folks with breast cancer. Please donate or volunteer. Your help is needed. Folks from my hometown of Galesburg did all of those things for my family. It was most appreciated. A cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming. When Mom first received her terminal prognosis, the family was devastated. Shortly after she was told the cancer was beyond cure, we had a birthday party for my eldest daughter. Mom wept while she sang "Happy Birthday." Dad's voice cracked while saying grace. My wife, Joan, thought of her mother, who died of breast cancer a few weeks before our wedding. At times, during this long battle with cancer, I was at a loss to know what to say to my mom. The only thing that seemed just right was, "I love you." The chemotherapy left her bald. Sores developed on her feet. The cancer sapped her energy. Nausea haunted her for years. It was not an easy life. But it was one she endured without complaining. Some folks call that courage. I call it character. Despite her difficulties, mom always had a smile for her family. When folks ask what I remember most, that's it. I love you, Mom.

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



Scott Reeder

## Letters to the Editor

## Appreciate support at recent Tobler scholarship fundraiser

**Dear Editor,**  
The Steve Tobler Scholarship Annual Golf Tournament would like to thank the Rochelle News-Leader with reporter Andrew Heiserman and WRHL's Jeff Leon for covering the event.  
In addition, we would like to thank our many generous sponsors: AG View Farm Services, Alfano's Pizza, Alderks Tires, Anderson Feed of Chana, Bee Designs, Chana Tap, Compeer Financial, Costa's Pizza of Byron, the Dobbeke sisters Kathy, Julie, Laurie, Cheryl, Margie, Angela, and brother Tim, Fat Cat Slots, Holcomb Bank, Jeff Messenger Services Inc., Kim Dewey Embroideries, KSB Hospital, Mark and Helen Atkinson of NC, OEM Architects of Belvidere, McCulloch family, Neil Tonkinson with

TNT Creations, Pulaski Tickets and Tours of Pulaski, NY, RTHS, St. Patrick's Church, Steve's sisters Willa, Carol, Susan, and Julie, the Tobler brothers Brian, Daniel, Jeffery, and Adam, the Tobler grands, Taylor, Alexis, Emma, Allie, Holden, and Lizzie, Todd Shabacker, Warner Bros. of Hollywood, and Zip's Auto body Inc.  
In addition to all our many sponsors, we would like to thank Dave with the Fairways Gold Club and Megan with Salt 251 for their expertise with helping us host this event. Thanks, too, to all our loyal golfers — may you all be inspired by Pat Creel's hole-in-one on the 18th-for next year.  
Welcomed on board for the evening meals were all our fine diners and bidders, that you all for coming. Thanks to the Kings

School faculty, staff, school board and community members for assisting in countless ways. Last but not least, a special thank you to Pam Tobler.  
The first Steve Tobler Scholarships were awarded by the Tobler family in May 2019, to Shelby Sanderson and Amanda Headon. These two deserving young women graduated from Kings School in 2015 and from Rochelle Township High School this year.  
Both graduates are preparing for careers in higher education. Shelby has plans to become a teacher and Amanda is pursuing a career in veterinary science.  
Sincereley,  
**Melissa Ost and Belinda Luxton**  
Co-chairs of the Steve Tobler Scholarship committee

## Thankful for Peanut Day support

**Dear Editor,**  
The Kiwanis Golden K Club of Rochelle would like to extend thanks to the Rochelle community for making the recent "Annual Peanut Days" an outstanding success.  
With your support we can continue our mission of providing student scholarships as well as funding many local youth activities.  
We would especially like to thank the City of Rochelle, Central Bank, Big R and Wal-Mart for allowing us to take collections at their places of business.

The following individuals and businesses provided additional monetary support: Mrs. Lydia McKibben, The firm of Fearer, Nye and Chadwick, Roy's Transfer, Central Bank, Calvin Jacobs, Schaefer State Farm Insurance, T-Byrd Lanes, Sam Graber Insurance, Dr. Chad Piller, Hayden Realty, Stillman Bank and Rochelle Travel Plaza (Petro).  
Thank you again for your continued support.

**Bill Paulin**  
Golden K Kiwanis Peanut day chairman

## VOICE ON THE STREET

### Question:

*Fall temperatures have finally hit the area. What are some of your favorite fall activities?*



**"Walking around shopping and using the Shop Kit app to get points to earn free gift cards."**

Ann Butz



**"Harvest season and I love going to Jonamac Apple Orchard."**

Doris Kennay



**"Football and going out hiking to look at the trees."**

Jeremy Tracey

## How to contact government officials

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

**IL Sen. Brian Stewart**  
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Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to (news@rochelle-news-leader.com

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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.







# STATE NEWS

## Illinois ranked least tax-friendly state

**P**ERSONAL finance publication Kiplinger has ranked all U.S. states to determine which is the most, and the least, tax-friendly, based on the tax burden placed on residents. According to the publication, Wyoming is the most tax-friendly. Illinois takes the bottom spot as least tax-friendly, primarily due to the property tax burden.

According to Kiplinger, Illinois averages \$2,048 in property taxes per \$100,000 of home value, compared to \$635 for Wyoming. Illinois wasn't the only Midwestern state to land in the 10 worst spots, as Wisconsin was ranked 4th least friendly, Ohio 8th, and Iowa 9th.

In fact, a summary by Kiplinger of Illinois' tax environment states:

"Illinois' economic woes are one reason why the Prairie State tops our list of the least tax-friendly states in the country. The state ranks #50 in the latest ranking of states' fiscal health by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, and residents

are paying the price with higher taxes.

The state's 4.95 percent flat income tax rate actually isn't that high when compared to other states, but other taxes are a doozy. For example, property taxes in Illinois are the second-highest in the nation. On a \$400,000 home in the state, the average annual property tax bill would be an eye-popping \$9,634.

Sales taxes are high, too. In some municipalities, combined state and local sales taxes exceed 10 percent. Most states exempt food and drugs from their sales tax, but that's not the case in Illinois."

For more information, visit <https://www.kiplinger.com/tool/taxes/T055-S001-kiplinger-tax-map/index.php>.

### Salary history law in effect

On Sept. 29 a new law took effect that bans

employers from asking applicants about their salary history. Proponents of the new law believe it will reduce the wage disparity for female and minority workers.

Under the new law, applicants will be allowed to volunteer salary history, but employers cannot use the information to make hiring decisions. Violations of the law could result in fines up to \$10,000.

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month

Throughout October, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology are working with local municipal agencies to raise awareness of cyber-security issues and to help educate people on how to stay safe online.

Security tips from the agencies include:

- Configure your computer securely.
- Use privacy and security settings in your software, email system, and web browsers.
- Regularly update your anti-virus software to identify and thwart



Sen. Brian Stewart

new strains of malicious software.

- Keep software, and operating systems updated. Install all software updates as soon as they are available. Using the "auto-update" setting is the best way to ensure timely updates.

- Use strong passwords.

- Cybercriminals use automated programs that will try every word in the dictionary in a few minutes. When creating a password, use at least 10 characters, with a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.

- Be cautious about links and attachments. Even communications you receive that appear to be from friends and family may contain links to malicious sites, so be careful when clicking on links in those messages. When in doubt, delete it.

For more information, visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/ready/Pages/default.aspx>.

**Heating help begins**  
The enrollment period

for the state's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) opened earlier this week. The program offers assistance with heating bills for households at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. That income level ranges from around \$1,500 per month for a single person to just over \$3,200 per month for a family of four.

On Oct. 1 enrollment opened for seniors ages 60 and older, as well as households that contain a member who is disabled, who receives a permanent disability benefit. On November 1 enrollment expands to households with children younger than six and homes where service has been or will soon be cut off. After December 1 all other qualifying households may apply. For more information, visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/communityservices/utilitybillassistance/>.

**Harvest could be tough**  
While most Illinois farmers are still waiting

to begin their harvest, the USDA has released slightly optimistic news in terms of the quality of the corn crop. So far, only 4 percent of the state's corn has been harvested compared to 45 percent at the same time in 2018.

In terms of crop quality, the USDA is now rating 47 percent of the state's corn as good or excellent, a slight bump from just 45 percent last week. Crop quality is still down significantly year-over-year however, as 80 percent of the corn crop was rated as good or excellent at the same point in 2018.

In August the USDA declared an agriculture disaster for all 102 Illinois counties in response to a request for federal aid from Gov. J.B. Pritzker, due to damage caused by heavy spring rains and historic flooding that delayed or stopped planting in many fields.

*If you have any additional thoughts or ideas, please visit my website at [www.senatorstewart.com](http://www.senatorstewart.com) and use the form to send me an e-mail.*



## Bank Teller Appreciation Week



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Front row: Anita Friedlund, Becky Myroth, Justina Merritt and Anna Corcoran



L-R: Caitlin Cheatham, Nichol Dossett and Monica Pemberton. Not included are Cindy Hayes and Jaelyn Kammes.



L-R: Sherry Simmons, Kim Duval, Araceli Flores, Ana Angeles and Marsha Thiem.  
Not pictured: Deana Clark, Marina Tague, and Stephenie Gittleson.



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*Not Pictured: Brooke Myroth*



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ning rushed 35 yards for another Rochelle touchdown to make it a 26-0 contest. Manning iced the victory with a 93-yard rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter before Bruns connected with Tourdot on the 2-point pass for Rochelle's final scoring play of the day.





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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Hayden**

**Inman**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Football*

**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**

*A: Seven years.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: The rush I get before and during each play.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: Biology because I have a lot of interest in the medical field.*

**Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?**

*A: Dan Marino because even though he didn't win a Super Bowl, he set several records.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role**

**model and why?**

*A: Tua Tagovailoa because he's able to stay humble and I long to be like him.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: To be a neurosurgeon so I can be able to help people.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**

*A: Bora Bora because of the nice weather and the beaches.*

**Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?**

*A: I enjoy being a part of the team and this school.*

**Daniel**

**Monfils**

*Year: Freshman*

*Sport: Football*



**Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?**

*A: About seven years.*

**Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?**

*A: I love the interactions you have throughout the season and meeting kids you've played in other sports.*

**Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?**

*A: Science because I love learning about the Earth.*

**Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?**

*A: Kyrie Irving because I love how he pushes himself to be better and provide for others.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?**

*A: My sister, Megan, because she constantly works hard and I want to have the same mindset as her.*

**Q: What is your dream job and why?**

*A: To be a mechanical engineer because I love to build things and I want to change the world.*

**Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?**

*A: Haiti because I was raised there when I was very young, then an earthquake happened and I was adopted by the Monfils family. I want to go back and see how things are.*



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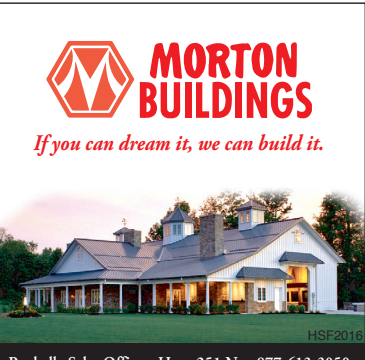
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# SPORTS

## Rochelle Junior Tackle

# Seventh-graders take second in Big 14 Conference

Junior Hubs finish 6-2-1 after championship loss against Rockton

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**BYRON** — One year removed from winning the Big 14 Conference as sixth-graders, the Rochelle Junior Tackle seventh-graders faced Rockton on Saturday looking to defend their title. The Junior Hubs fought hard but fell short, losing 16-6 to take second in the conference with an overall record of 6-2-1.

"I think the kids learned a lot about football this year and I hope they learned that going from sixth grade to seventh grade is a much different experience," head coach Chris Lewis said. "There are different rules and



(PHOTO BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

The Rochelle Junior Tackle seventh-graders fell against Rockton this past weekend to finish second in the Big 14 Conference with a 6-2-1 record. The seventh-graders are coached by Chris Lewis, Jeff Dickey, Cristian Perez, Mike Belmonte and Roman Martinez.

there are a lot more things that go into the game. I thought the kids improved a lot this year and they've matured as football play-

ers. I thought the kids learned a lot more about teamwork."

Rochelle scored first when Ethan Goodwin

rushed for a 15-yard touchdown about halfway into the second quarter. Rockton responded with a touchdown and a 2-point

conversion near the end of the second quarter to take the lead 8-6, which remained the score at the half. Both teams went

scoreless until Rockton added a touchdown and a 2-point play late in the fourth quarter to seal the game.

## Meridian Conference

(COURTESY PHOTO)



## Kings Comets win 2019 Meridian Conference Volleyball Championship

Cornerstone Christian Academy hosted the 2019 Meridian Conference Volleyball Championship this past Thursday, with Kings School finishing first to take home the title this season. The team includes Ty Horn, Katie Toczykowski, Matthew Lynn, Kendall Sachs, Payton Cesarone, Kitty Williams, Anna Toczykowski, Kallie Yianibas, Laila Maples, Ruth Nadig, Loretta Atkinson, Kendell Frankenberry and Kennedy Adamski. The team is coached by Carly Yianibas.

## RTHS Cross Country



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Senior Britney Baez and sophomores Sara Johnson and Josue Huerta (left to right) show off their awards after competing in the Pretzel Invitational at Freeport this past weekend.

# JV runners lead RTHS at Pretzel Invitational

Johnson awarded in fifth straight meet

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**FREEPORT** — The Rochelle cross country program brought home several goodies including two medals, one plaque and a large baked pretzel when the Hubs and Lady Hubs competed in the annual Pretzel Invitational hosted by Freeport High School on Saturday.

Sophomore Sara Johnson took fifth place in the junior varsity girls race with a time of 22:17 to earn a plaque and continue her award streak at five consecutive meets. Senior Britney Baez medaled in the varsity girls race, placing 15<sup>th</sup> with a time of 20:40.

Sophomore Josue Huerta led the Hubs on Saturday, taking seventh place with a time of 18:37 to medal

in the junior varsity boys competition. Senior Santi Cordoba (31<sup>st</sup> in 18:15) and junior Aiden Seldal (56<sup>th</sup> in 18:59) recorded Rochelle's top finishes in the varsity boys race.

"Once again, wet surfaces made for challenging conditions, but several team members stepped it up and produced great efforts," head coach Mark Zilis said.

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# SPORTS

## Rochelle Junior Tackle

# Eighth, sixth-graders finish fourth in conference

Junior Hub teams close with 6-3 records after consolation losses

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Junior Tackle eighth-graders took the field one final time on Sunday with an opportunity to win third place in the Big 14 Conference. The Junior Hubs found the end zone often, but they ultimately fell short, losing 38-26 against Stillman Valley to finish fourth in the conference with an overall record of 6-3.

"We had a really good group of kids who had positive attitudes," head coach Ben Manning said. "They worked really hard this season. The boys surprised me with their success and they learned as much as they could as we prepare them for the high school level."

The Rochelle Junior Tackle sixth-graders played the final youth football game of the 2019 season at Helms Park on Sunday. The Junior Hubs battled Rockton for third place in the Big 14 Conference, losing 26-0 to finish fourth in the conference with a record of 6-3.

"I thought the season went very well," head coach Ben Mershon said. "Our goal entering the season was to make the playoffs and we did that. We had a great group of kids and they improved from the first day of practice to the last day. They improved in every aspect of the game and they worked very hard for us."



(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

The Rochelle Junior Tackle eighth-graders (above) and sixth-graders (below) each fell in the consolation finals this past weekend to place fourth in the Big 14 Conference and finish the season with 6-3 records. The eighth-graders are coached by Ben Manning, Brad Metzger, Ryan Haedt, Chris Harley and Jason Fore. The sixth-graders are coached by Ben Mershon, Roman Villalobos and Ryan Pelan.

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**REAL ESTATE OFFERED AT 1:00 P.M.** This property has been in the Benson Family since the early 1960's, and is in the Township of Cortland, not the Town. It has City water but its own septic system. The property has 330 ft of frontage along Somonauk Road with 2 entrances and make up about 1.25 acres, improved with a 2,100 sq.ft. 2 story farmed home, and 1,325 sq.ft. Morton building for storage and workshop area. The house has 4 bedrooms with 2 1/2 baths. It is set up for a 2 unit, but is non-conforming. This property is surrounded by the town of Cortland on all sides, but remains for now in the Township of Cortland. Many possibilities here for improvement. This would make an ideal property for investment or income. **TERMS ON REAL ESTATE:** \$5,000 Down On Auction Day. Deed transfer And Title Commitment In Seller's Name Provided By Seller. Taxes Will Be Pro-Rated To Closing Date On Or Before November 12th 2019. Property Being Offered As-Is Without Any Contingency To Financing, Appraisal, Or Any Other Type Of Contingency. Announcements Made Day Of Sale Take Precedence Over All Other.

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