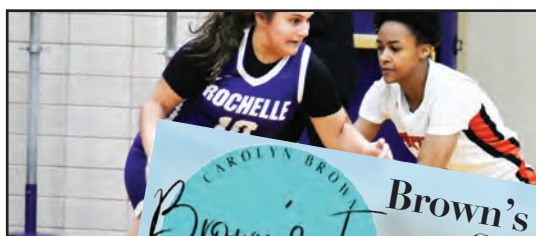


Boxing event at CSC scheduled for Feb. 24

PAGE 2



Lady Hubs tip off KSB Holiday Classic in Dixon

SEE SPORTS

ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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KNOW IT TODAY



Collecting for a good cause

Cain Millwork employees recently raised money for the Salvation Army as bell ringers. **Page 7**

WEATHER

SUNDAY
HIGH LOW
34 28

MONDAY
HIGH LOW
34 26

TUESDAY
HIGH LOW
38 26

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
36 29

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OBITUARIES

• DONALD B. CAMPBELL
• DENNIS GALE BERG
• WILLIAM (BILL) KIRCHHOFFER

See page 4

INSERTS

NONE

INSIDE

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8 52078 00112 6

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

A look back at some of the top Rochelle News-Leader stories of the past year

January

Wednesday, Jan. 11

ROCHELLE

Little Hubs Learning Center at 1010 N. 15th St. opened and saw its first day of operation on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Rochelle had been without a daycare since 2020 when Kishwaukee Family YMCA Child Care Center closed at the same location. The new daycare is owned by Ron and Joni Spartz and their daughter, Kristin Spartz Barlow, runs it as director.

The family and staff members worked for the past four months to open the facility and had to get it back in working order. Barlow said the work involved anywhere from 5-15 hours a day cleaning, fixing things, visits with DCFS and the state fire marshal and parent tours and signups.

"It was nonstop work for about four months," Barlow said. "We'd be here sometimes until midnight. The day before we opened we were here until 11 p.m. just making sure everything was ready to go. Knowing that we were

finally done with that phase and stress was great. And it's been great knowing we're here for the community and all these parents can go back to work and school. That's the best part.

They have a safe place for their children to go and we're here to provide it."

After the last daycare center closed, the City of Rochelle took on preliminary work in hopes of help-

ing to bring a daycare back to town. It put out a survey to residents that came back with overwhelming results in favor of a daycare with 72 percent of respondents saying they're in need

of a daycare and 71 percent saying their children would be likely to attend a daycare if it opened in town.

See page 8



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Little Hubs Learning Center at 1010 N. 15th St. in Rochelle opened and saw its first day of operation on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

City takes first preliminary step towards IDOT reconstruction of Illinois Route 251 north

City Manager Fiegenschuh: Current timeline for work is 2027 or later

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE—At its Dec. 11 meeting, the Rochelle City Council took its first preliminary step toward the future reconstruction and widening of Illinois Route 251 North through Rochelle by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The city entered into an engineering/surveying services agreement with Peralte Clark Engineering for \$36,201 for Rochelle Municipal Utilities subsurface utility investigation and potential conflicts along Illinois Route 251. IDOT has also contracted with Peralte Clark Engineering for various design phases of the project. The improvements are being developed and engineered by IDOT and PCE and will extend 900 feet south of Illinois Route 38 to approximately 600 feet north of Flagg Road. The city will first identify potential conflicts that will arise with RMU water, sewer

and electric infrastructure during the work. Appropriate adjustments and/or complete relocations will be resolved prior to

the reconstruction. Roadway design plans will be finalized in 2024. City Engineer Sam Tesreau wanted to get ahead of the

game on the project and resolve potential issues ahead of time.

The city has been speaking with IDOT

about the project and the deteriorating state of the roadway for over 19 years.

See ROUTE page 5



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its Dec. 11 meeting, the Rochelle City Council took its first preliminary step toward the future reconstruction and widening of Illinois Route 251 North through Rochelle by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

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LOCAL NEWS

Fight or Flight Classic debuts Feb. 24 at Chicagoland Skydiving Center Amateur boxing to take center stage at international skydiving destination in Rochelle

ROCHELLE — Blending an international skydiving destination with amateur boxing, the inaugural Fight or Flight Classic is set to debut Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Chicagoland Skydiving Center airplane hangar in Rochelle. Sanctioned by USA Boxing, the Fight or Flight Classic includes a full slate of bouts with competitors from around the Midwest, music, food and beverages for sale, ringside tables, prizes and more.

Produced and sponsored by Jimmy Goodman, USA Boxing Illinois Association vice president and director of the Rockford Patriots Boxing Club,

and Plus Seven Company, doors are scheduled to open at 5 p.m. when music, food and beverage sales, and entertainment begins. Boxing action gets started at 6 p.m. while the main card is set to begin around 7:30 p.m. Featured bouts will be announced in the coming weeks.

“We’re very excited to host this event at the Chicagoland Skydiving Center in Rochelle,” Goodman said. “It’s a great venue and everyone in attendance is going to have a great time!”

Tickets are on sale at www.FightOrFlightClassic.com. Ticket options include General Admission for \$25, Standard

Ringside Tables of Eight (8) for \$300, and Premium Ringside Tables of Eight (8) for \$500 (includes all you can drink domestic keg beer, pop or water). In addition, food and drinks will be available for purchase from Flight Deck Bar & Grill, the global inspired pub and caterer at Chicagoland Skydiving Center.

Visit www.FightOrFlightClassic.com for more information or inquiries. Special thanks to Fight or Flight Classic gold partner Rock Valley Credit Union, which serves approximately 13,500 members out of its Loves Park, Machesney Park and Rochelle locations.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Blending an international skydiving destination with amateur boxing, the inaugural Fight or Flight Classic is set to debut Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Chicagoland Skydiving Center airplane hangar in Rochelle.

Stacie Kemp appointed president & CEO of Sinnissippi Centers

DIXON — Behavioral healthcare leader Stacie Kemp, MSW, LCSW, has been named president & CEO of Sinnissippi Centers, a community-based behavioral healthcare center that provides quality care to Illinois residents of Carroll, Lee, Ogle, Whiteside and Stephenson Counties.

Since September of 2023, Kemp has been acting as Sinnissippi’s interim president & CEO. Previously, she served as vice president and chief operating officer and was part of a leadership team that guided the organization’s growth from an \$8 million to a \$22 million agency in eight years.

Kemp’s career in the nonprofit sector spans 25 years in behavioral health

and social services. Born and raised in Carroll County, she feels passionate about serving the needs of individuals and communities in northwest Illinois.

Larry Prindaville, chairman of Sinnissippi’s Board of Directors, states, “Following a nationwide search, Sinnissippi’s Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the best and most qualified candidate to become the agency’s next president & CEO was already on board and effectively leading the organization. We are confident that under Stacie’s continued leadership, Sinnissippi’s trajectory of excellence will continue to mark the agency as a behavioral health resource of choice for many thousands of individuals

and families throughout the area.”

Early in her career, Kemp was a clinician at Sinnissippi Centers’ Mt. Carroll office and rejoined the agency in 2015 as vice president and chief clinical officer. Prior to returning to Sinnissippi, Kemp served in various social service leadership roles in the Milwaukee area, including as director of performance and quality improvement and IT business collaboration for Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

“I am honored to be selected by the board as the next president & CEO for Sinnissippi Centers,” Kemp said.

See KEMP page 3

We would like to wish a Happy and Safe New Year to the entire community and thank them for their continued support each year.

MON - THU: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
FRI: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
SAT: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
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The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients: Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.

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- IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:
In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest, Colonial Flower Shoppe and Hub City Senior Center
In Oregon at: Merlin's
In Dixon at: Shining Star
In Mendota at: The Mendota Reporter/Amboy News office
- BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2024 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

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LOCAL NEWS

OCSWMD releases holiday information

OREGON — Thanksgiving has just passed and the holiday season has officially arrived, so the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) has tips and suggestions for waste reduction and recycling during the holiday season and beyond.

Typical holiday seasons see a dramatic increase in residential waste generation, and 2023 is shaping up to be very similar. With additional purchases, food preparation, entertaining, gift wraps, and packaging, it is no wonder that residents produce more waste this time of year.

While planning meals this season, plan portions accordingly by checking what you already have at home and by purchasing just what is required for your needs. Utilize reusable shopping bags, if possible, when shopping and have a plan to use leftovers in a timely fashion. If you have a backyard compost pile, use it for those fruit and veggie trimmings, eggshells, coffee grounds, and other plant-based wastes from your kitchen.

Be sure to utilize reusable plates, silverware, cups, napkins, and tablecloths. Avoid disposable options when setting the table this holiday season.

For gift-giving consider gift cards or gift certificates, especially from your local restaurants and shops, or consider the gift of an experience such as a day at the spa or a weekend experience or trip of some kind. These sorts of gifts will eliminate packaging that will need to be disposed of later and can create special memories for those on the receiving end. Also consider sending an electronic greeting card or something through social media to family and friends

to avoid paper use and the waste of an old greeting card, and avoid wrapping paper if possible, by using re-usable gift bags.

With more and more shopping being done online, try to have your items shipped together if possible to avoid excess packaging. Flatten cardboard boxes for pick-up if you have recycling service. Plastic bags and wrap are not generally recyclable, but can be dropped off at the OCSWMD at 909 Pines Road in Oregon and some local retailers will also accept them for recycling.

If you have curb-side pick-up of recyclables, please remember to recycle right by only placing what is accepted into your bins. Items such as newspapers, magazines, junk mail, flattened cardboard and paperboard boxes, beverage cartons, greeting cards, non-foil gift wrap, aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic containers #1-5 and #7 are all accepted in your curb-side recycling service. Items such as Styrofoam, plastic bags and bubble packaging, pizza boxes, plastic utensils and straws, and other trash are not recyclable and diminish overall recycling efforts when mixed in with recyclables.

There are two county drop off recycling stations as well, with one in Oregon on Pines Road at the Farm Bureau lot and in Byron at the Forest Preserve maintenance lot. The above guidelines also apply for these drop off locations for your recyclables. Please do not leave items on the deck or parking lots as these hosts have been gracious enough to allow the use of their property for community recycling.

The next Ogle County residential electronic recycling drop-off event will

be until Jan. 26, 2024, by permit only, at the County Annex building at 909 Pines Road in Oregon. Register for this event by calling at 815-732-4020 or email the OCSWMD at solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov.

However, if you have old holiday light strands that need to be recycled there are drop-off bins at the Ogle County Court House, the County Annex building, fire stations in Rochelle, Byron, Stillman Valley, and Mt. Morris, and village halls in Davis Junction, Polo, Creston, and Forreston. Please only holiday light strands and extension cords; no decorations, garland, metal stands, or other electronics. Remove light strands from packaging and no plastic bags are accepted.

The annual Christmas tree recycling program will continue as well for 2023-2024. The drop-off points remain the same with drop-offs in Byron, Forreston, Leaf River, Monroe Center, Oregon, Polo, and Rochelle. Local FFA groups will also be collecting trees at the curb in and around Oregon, Byron, Polo, and Forreston on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024. Please have bare trees out at the curb by 8 a.m. that day for pick up. Contact the OCSWMD for specific program locations. The drop-off program starts Dec. 26. Artificial trees, garland, wreaths, metal stands or other decorations are not accepted. Please remove trees from bags as well.

Please contact the OCSWMD at 815-732-4020, go to www.ogle-county.org, via email at solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov, or visit on Facebook for options and ideas for recycling, waste-reduction, composting, household hazardous waste, scrap metal and appliances, electronics, prescription drug take-backs, and much more.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



New Rochelle firefighters graduate from academy
On Friday, Dec. 1, the Rochelle Fire Department's three newest firefighters Javier Salinas, Jon Plaza and Trey Lodico graduated from the Romeoville Basic Operations Fire Fighter Academy. The City of Rochelle and RFD congratulated the trio. Plaza received the Recruit Leadership award.

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Wreaths Across America ceremonies held at local cemeteries
Wreaths Across America ceremonies were held at five local cemeteries on Dec. 16 & 17. Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows is shown speaking at the ceremony at St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery. He spoke of the purpose of Wreaths Across America to "Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom." Next, wreaths were presented for each branch of service by a veteran or family member of a veteran. The ceremony concluded with a benediction by Father Jesus Dominguez, salutes by the Knights of Columbus and the Ogle-Lee Honor Guard and the playing of TAPS. A total of over 750 wreaths were placed at the ceremonies which also included Woodlawn Cemetery in Creston, Daysville Cemetery in Oregon, and Lawnridge & Trinity Cemeteries in Rochelle.

KEMP: Sinnissippi Centers in Dixon appoints new president and CEO

From page 2

"I feel very passionate about being a strong community partner and about making sure the behavioral health needs of our communities are addressed, and I also feel strongly about equally supporting the employees of Sinnissippi and being a quality employer in northwest Illinois."

In addition to her leadership roles at Sinnissippi, Kemp has been serving on the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association (CBHA) Board for the last six years, including as its chair, and was recently elected to co-chair the Public Policy Committee, which guides the CBHA legislative and advocacy direction for behavioral health in the state of Illinois.

Kemp is active in her community through the Girl Scouts and as a former board member of the Dixon Family YMCA. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Knox College and a master of social work degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

She will assume her responsibilities as president & CEO of Sinnissippi Centers on Jan. 1, 2024.

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LOCAL NEWS

ROUTE: Fiegenschuh discusses future plans for Illinois 251 in Rochelle

From page 1

“It was very exciting to see a preliminary step on this project be approved by the council,” City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said. “Sam thought it would make sense for us to use the same engineering firm as the state. It streamlines communication and makes sure that we’re all on the same page. We’ve been meeting with the state about the route since COVID-19. To know that they’ve hired an engineering firm is very exciting. It’s exciting that we’re moving forward on locating utilities for it.”

In recent years, the city began meeting with IDOT quarterly about the project to make sure it was a priority for the state. The city has also utilized a lobbying firm to attempt to move up the project’s timeline.

“I think IDOT does the best it can with the resources it has,” Fiegenschuh said. “I’ve found their staff to be very easy to work with. They have a lot of state routes to maintain. Ours is just one. It’s very important to us and they know that. That’s why they’re working hard to get this project going. We do everything we can to advocate on behalf of the 251 project. I can say with 100-percent certainty that they know and understand the importance of this project.”

Fiegenschuh stressed that the actual reconstruction of the stretch of road is still years off, estimating a current timeline of 2027 or later. The next three years will involve the complete redesign of the intersection, right-of-way property acquisition, and the holding of public meetings.

“Everybody wants to tear this road up and fix it,” Fiegenschuh said. “I don’t think people understand how difficult that’s going to be. We’ll make sure the public is aware of what’s going on and that will be a big job. We’d like to see the timeline move up because the condition of the road warrants it. But the project is going to be a lot of work for three years.”

Fiegenschuh said the city has concerns about whether or not the stretch of road will last three more years and that public officials will continue to lobby for the project to be moved up.

In a recent year that saw snowfall and ice, city street department crews were on Illinois Route 251 north breaking up ice so water could drain off the road, and they witnessed pieces of the road falling off of it, Fiegenschuh said.

“We took pictures and informed IDOT,” Fiegenschuh said. “IDOT knows the condition it’s in. We’ve had conversations on what we can do to try to get them to move quicker because of the condition of the road. We’ve done a lot of pothole patching and things because of our maintenance agreement with them for the road. We’ve handled things because we can get it done quicker and it takes care of our business owners. It’s been very frustrating. But it’s only going to move as quickly as IDOT can, whether people like it or not. We’re just operating within those confines. We need to be partners with the state and show them where we’re coming from and relay the importance of projects and have a positive working relationship with them. We do and we will continue to do so.”

Rochelle Area

CHURCH DIRECTORY

- Ashton Bible Church**, corner of Main and Paddock in Ashton. Pastor Farrel Stauffer, church phone is (815)453-2190, church website www.ashtonbible.org. Sunday School for all ages 9:00-10:00am, Morning Worship 10:15am, Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm.
- The Bridge Church**, Pastor Greg Duncan, 11038 E. IL Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068. Phone: 815-562-7750. Sunday School: 9:00 am; Sunday Service: 10:00 am; Nursery & Children’s ministry during am service; Bible Study Tuesday 10:00 am and Wednesday 7:00 pm. Web: thebridgechurchrochelle.com Email: thebridgechurchrochelle@gmail.com
- Calvary Lighthouse Church, Assemblies of God**, Senior Pastor, Dr. James Horvath. 14409 Hemstock Rd., Rochelle. Sunday Morning: Sunday Worship & Children’s Church 10:00 A.M., Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M. – Adult Teaching, Missionettes & Royal Rangers Childrens Classes, Nursery available for all services. HE-Brews Cafe is open before and after services. For further information, please call the CLC office at 815-562-7701, or email us at staff@calvarylighthouse.com
- Calvary Lutheran Church, LCMC** - “To Know Christ and to Proclaim Christ in Word and Deed” -19 Perry Road, Lee, IL 60530 (the intersection of Perry Road and W. County Line Road). Rev. Martha Uecker Nelson, Pastor. Coffee Hour starts at 9:00 a.m., Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Bible Study are at 9:15 a.m. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. and is broadcast live on Facebook. Go to our website is at www.Calvarychurchlee.org and click on the link there. A Grief Support Group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call or text (815) 824-2825 or email CalvaryLeeIL@gmail.com with questions or for more information. Also check us out at www.facebook.com/Calvary-Lutheran-Church.
- Rochelle Church of Christ**, Keeping Christ at the center in the Hub City. We meet Sundays at 9:00am for Bible Study and 10:00am for worship. We also have a Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00pm. 206 Erickson Rd, Rochelle, IL 61068. You can call us at (815) 562-6572 or visit us on the web at rochellechurch.com. We also have a radio program Sundays just after 8am on WRHL 1060AM. Minister Dominic Venuso.
- Creston United Methodist Church and Steward United Methodist Church** - Rev. Ilhan You, Creston: 126 West South Street, P.O. Box 209, Creston, Illinois 60113. Sunday morning worship 9:00am. Coffee fellowship at 10:15am. Steward: 507 Main Street, P.O. Box 80, Steward, IL 60553. Adult Sunday School, 10:00am. Sunday morning worship and Children’s Sunday School 11:00am. Contact the church office at 847-730-4370 for more information. facebook.com/crestonumcil facebook.com/stewardilumc
- Elim Reformed Church**, 140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068. Phone: 815-562-6811. Email goelimchurch@gmail.com Website www.goelimchurch.org Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 Rev. Marv Jacobs
- Faith Lutheran Church** – (14206 E. Flagg Rd.) – “Making Christ Known Through Lives of Faith.” In-person worship is available each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. or online at “Faith Lutheran Social” on YouTube. Worship resources are also available on our Facebook page - ‘Faith Lutheran Church ELCA.’ You may also e-mail Pastor Joy Alsop at Pastor@faithlcrochelle.org for more information. All are welcome to join us!
- First Baptist Church of Rochelle, First Baptist Church of Rochelle** invites you to experience our practical Bible services which have nurseries provided in every service along with a wide range of children’s and teen ministries. Sunday School is at 9:30 am with regular church services at 10:30 am and 1:00 pm. Wednesday Family Night starts at 6:30 pm with AWANA for the 5 yr. olds thru 6th grade. The Omega Teen Ministry also starts at 6:30 pm for 7th – 12th grades and the Adult Bible Study at 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church is located 6 blocks west of Hwy 251 at the corner of Woolf Ct. and 8th Ave. in Rochelle. Call 562-4168 for more information . Listen at 8:30 am Sunday mornings on WRHL 1060 AM for the Sunday morning “Bible Message.” www.firstbaptistrochelle.org
- First General Baptist Church**, 500 S. 12th St, Rochelle. Phone: 815-562-5221. Email: fgbcrchelle@gmail.com. Website: www.fgbcrchelle.org. Facebook: www.facebook.com/fgbcrchelle. Pastor: Rev. Angelo Bonacquisti. **Sunday worship services:** 8:30 am, 11:15 am and 6:00 pm. **Sunday school:** 10:00 am. We’d be honored to have you join us as we worship JESUS and continue to grow in truth and love for God and each other. A nursery, children’s church, youth group and small groups are available. If you need a ride please contact our church bus driver, John, at (815) 262-4275 by 8:30 am on Sunday. “For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9
- First Presbyterian Church** – An Amazing Place for Amazing Grace- Rev. Doug Forsberg, Senior Pastor. 1100 Calvin Road, Rochelle. Email: info@placeforgace.com. Sunday morning worship 9:00am and 10:30am. In person or streamed online. On our Website and Facebook Live. www.placeforgace.com/ www.facebook.com/placeforgace
- Grace Fellowship Church** — Pastor Jeff Ardissonne, 2128 Il Route 38, Ashton, 815-453-7464. Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 9:45 a.m. www.graceisforyou.com
- Harvest Baptist Church** 241 Scott Ave. (Hillcrest). Rev. Duane Boehm, pastor. Email duane712@hotmail.com, cell 815-757-3427. Visit us on Facebook! Service times: Sunday morning worship with Children’s Church at 10 am. Wednesday night worship at 7 pm.
- Immanuel Lutheran Church** Missouri Synod 16060 E. Lindenwood Road, Lindenwood, IL 61049. Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock. Church Phone 393-4500. Church Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Christian Education Hour at 10:30 a.m.
- Living Water Community Church** 405 N. Main St, Downtown Rochelle. Phone 815-561-6249, Website: www.lwccr.com, Like us on Facebook. We are Non-Denominational, Christ Centered, Casual dress, Christ Centered Live Band Worship. Mike Vogeler - Outreach and Seven C’s Pastor, Chris Bender- Teaching Pastor and Doug Bunger - Missions and Children’s Pastor. Sunday Worship Service- 10:00am. Nursery/Toddlers Ages 0-5 available during the service in the Splash building. Swim- Grades 1st-5th worship with the adults then break out for age appropriate teaching. Youth groups, Small groups, Life Groups and Workshops meet throughout the year for Bible teaching. 7C’s Mission- serves the community physically & spiritually each month from 1135 Lincoln Hwy, providing lightly used clothing, Hygiene items, a light lunch and Elder Prayer open the second Saturday from 10am-2pm and the 4th Thursday from 4pm to 7:00pm and by appointment.. 
- New Hope Fellowship (Church of God - Anderson, IN)**, 1501 10th Ave., Rochelle, IL 61068. Service: Sunday at 9 a.m. 10:30 a.m., (815)561-8400, www.NHFchurch.net Pastor: Dan Sergeant and Pastor Nick Tornabene. (Classes for children through age fifth grade during service.)
- Rochelle United Methodist Church welcomes everyone to their worship service, and practices openness for all activities including communion. Worship is at 9:00 am. Sunday school for children begins around 9:15, following the Children’s Time in worship.** A fellowship time with food and space for conversation occurs in Hicks Hall every week following the worship service. We celebrate communion with an open table on the first Sunday of every month, and on other appropriate occasions. Youth group is on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30. Our youth program includes service projects, discussion topics, Bible Study, and lots of fun and fellowship together. Some of our activities include packing meals at Feed My Starving Children, helping at Rochelle Christian Food Pantry and 7C’s, working with animals at Barn on Baseline, Mystery trips (Destination Unknown!), and Interactive experiences on Dating boundaries, refugees, and homelessness. Youth group is for grades 6-12 and friends are always welcome. Recorded services are available on our YouTube channel and our website at www.rochelleumc.com. Our services are on the radio (93.5 FM) on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/rochelleumc. **Our pastor is the Rev. Dr. Katherine Thomas Paisley.** Our address is 709 Fourth Ave. (815) 562-2164. Email is admin@rochelleumc.com. At Rochelle United Methodist Church, everyone is welcome and loved!
- St. Patrick Catholic Church** Rev. Jesus Dominguez; Deacon Fermin Garcia; Deacon George Schramm; 244 Kelley Dr. (Corner of Kelley & Caron Rd.), PO Box 329, Rochelle, IL 61068. **Office Hours:** 9:00 AM- 4PM Monday-Thursday, Phone: 815-562-2370. **Mass times:** 8:00 AM Monday-Thursday, Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 PM English, 7PM Spanish, Sunday Mass 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM in English and 11:00 AM in Spanish. **Confessions:** Monday 8:30AM & 6:30PM, Tuesday 8:30AM, Saturday 8:30am & 4:00-4:45 PM Or by appointment. **Religious Education:** Deacon George Schramm, Director of Religious Education. 903 Caron Road, Rochelle, IL 61068, 815-561-0079; Website: stpatricksrochelle.com Email: stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org Facebook.com/StPatrickRochelle
- St. Paul Lutheran Church** “Building Relationships in Christ, Now and Forever!” Steven Hall, Principal, Parish Nurse-Marcia Schnorr. 1415 Tenth Ave., Rochelle. Church Office-562-2744. Worship times: 6:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Sunday. Our service is broadcast over WRHL 1060AM at 10:00 a.m. Sunday. Sunday School 10:15-11:15 a.m. Call 562-6323 for more information about the school.



LOCAL VIEWS

Ron Kern: Climate-smart farming practices

OVER the next five years, millions of dollars could be funneled into efforts to help farmers rotate their crops, preserve their soil, improve how their animals are fed and, along the way, significantly reduce the 10% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions that come from agriculture.

If, that is, the 2023 Farm Bill actually gets passed and if, unlike last time around, it includes significant funding for climate-smart farming practices.

Both are big ifs. Even before the actual text of the proposed Farm Bill is released, some in Congress are pushing to shift money away from conservation and climate change and instead make already high payments for rice, peanuts and cotton even higher.

It's also not clear if the Farm Bill, the now 90-year-old piece

of legislation that is the basis for U.S. agricultural policy and which must be re-upped every five years—will be passed this year in the face of Congressional dysfunction, a possible government shutdown and an upcoming presidential election.

Started in 1933 during the depths of the Depression as a way to support farmers, the Farm Bill has become the single largest piece of federal legislation that supports the livelihoods of farmers, ranchers and dairymen across the county.

It assists farmers with risks, provides payments for many crops—primarily corn, soy, wheat, and rice—and funds efforts to protect farm soil and water. A significant portion of the funding, about 80%, goes to low-income families to buy food through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known as SNAP.

What the next Farm Bill might include isn't yet known. Both the House and Senate committees on agriculture are working on versions but neither have been released and aren't likely to be until the House and Senate are ready to move.

Agriculture accounts for about 10% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. That makes the Farm Bill, the United States' main food and farming legislation, a potentially critical part of the fight against climate change.

On a positive note, changes to the Farm Bill could help agriculture go from something that produces a significant amount of greenhouse gasses to something that's an important part

of the solution.

There's already strong evidence for land management techniques farmers can use to produce fewer emissions and keep carbon in the soil, including practices that improve soil health, reduce erosion and improve water quality. But given the razor-thin margins they operate under, it takes federal support to help the nation's food growers make the shift.

Some of those techniques include:

Planting cover crops and using crop rotation to keep soils healthy so they hold more carbon.

Timed, targeted fertilizer use to reduce nitrogen emissions into waterways and the atmosphere.

Researching feeding regimes and additives to keep livestock from pro-

ducing as much methane in their burps.

Some of these practices are already becoming popular with farmers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has programs to support them, funded in part by \$18 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act.

On average, there are about twice as many farmers who want conservation assistance from USDA than there is funding available for. We have strong demand for these programs. Farmers understand the benefits and that they're investing in their farms and farmland.

To get every American farmer involved will require more money but it will be money well spent, say advocates. As other sectors of the economy become more carbon neutral, agriculture's portion of emissions could grow to as high as 30% by 2050 according to some calculations, said Scott

Faber, vice president for government affairs with the nonprofit Environmental Working Group.

Avoiding that also makes farming part of the national climate solution.

We can sequester tons of carbon in the soil. It takes time but it's a key solution to lowering carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The nice thing is that it's a win-win—it improves the soil and helps us adapt to climate change.

Poetry

And with Christmas soon upon us I leave you with this...

I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.
I made it some pajamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first - it wet the bed!
-Shel Silverstein

Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.



Ron Kern

Joyce Meyer: Love one another

OVER the years, I've made it a priority to study the topic of love in the Word of God. Because when we know how much God loves us, it melts away our insecurities, gives us confidence, and helps us to love ourselves. We can then give God's love away to other people.

In fact, I've discovered the best way (and the only way) to have a happy, powerful life is to get our minds off ourselves and do something for someone else. Helping people—being a blessing and adding value to other people's lives—is what it means to walk in love and follow the example of Jesus.

Ephesians 5:2 (AMPC) says, "Walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a slain offering and sacrifice to God..."

The New Living Translation says it this way: "Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a

sacrifice for us...."

Jesus—our perfect and holy Savior—gave His life for us, took all of our sin upon Himself, and shed His blood so we could have a personal relationship with Him and become the righteousness of God. That was His gift to us. Then, once we experience the gift of salvation, our gift to God is how we live our lives.

Jesus says in John 13:34 (AMPC), "I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another."

It's so simple! If we will learn how to follow this one commandment, everything else in our lives will fall into place.

In Luke Chapter 10, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan to demonstrate what it means to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself. In verses 30-37, we read that a man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho when he "fell among robbers, who stripped him of his clothes

and belongings and beat him and went their way, [unconcernedly] leaving him half dead..." (AMPC).

A priest and a Levite both passed by him and neither stopped to help. Verse 33 says, "But a certain Samaritan, as he traveled along, came down to where he was; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity and sympathy [for him]" (AMPC).

He dressed his wounds and took him to an inn where he could get the care he needed. He paid the innkeeper and told him, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I [myself] will repay you when I return" (v. 35, AMPC).

There are a few things I want you to notice here. First, the Samaritan was traveling the road and was probably going somewhere he needed to be; he had a plan but he was willing to stop and help

this man even if it meant his plan was interrupted.

Also, he gave his best effort to make sure the man had good care and then paid for him to get it. He was obviously willing to pay whatever it was going to cost because he told the innkeeper, "Whatever more you spend, I [myself] will repay you when I return." So, he was planning to come back and make sure everything the man needed was covered.

Jesus is showing us in this story what real love looks like. Sometimes, to truly love others, it's going to cost us something. But you can be assured of one thing: Whenever you give of yourself for someone else, Jesus says you are doing it for Him, and you will always be rewarded (see Matthew 25:40).

First Corinthians 13 lists the characteristics of God's love. It says love is:

Patient and kind
Never envious, boast-

ful, or inflated with pride
Not rude
Does not insist on its own rights or its own way
Not self-seeking, touchy, or resentful
Takes no account of the evil done to it
Rejoices when right and truth prevail
Bears up under anything that comes
Ever ready to believe the best of every person
Its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances
Love never fails!

It's not always easy to resist being selfish, however, 1 John 4:4 says that the Spirit of God in us is greater than our enemy. It's important to understand that God is not expecting you to be perfect in your love walk or to do it alone. He knows you can't do it without His help! What He wants is for you to simply seek Him through prayer and by studying His Word... and lean on Him for the grace to do what He's asking you to do each day.

I can tell you there's no greater way to live. Today, I have more joy

and excitement in my life than ever before, and it comes from letting God love me, then reaching out to love other people. And the more I put my mind to blessing others, the more God provides for me in unexpected ways!

Do you want to sow powerful seeds for your own breakthroughs in life? Would you like to experience more of God's supernatural joy? Do you want to be like Jesus? You can, and it all goes back to that one simple command: "Love one another."

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 140 books, including BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND and OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM (Faith- Words). She hosts the Enjoying Everyday Life radio and TV programs, which air on hundreds of stations worldwide. For more information, visit www.joycemeyer.org.



Joyce Meyer

How to contact government officials

U.S. Con. Darin LaHood
1424 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6201

IL Sen. Win Stoller
Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-1942

IL Rep. Bradley Fritts
Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0535

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

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

** Denotes Chairman/President*

Rochelle City Council
*John Bearrows jbearrows@rochelleil.us
Kathryn Shaw-Dickey kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us
Bil Hayes bhayes@rochelleil.us
Rosaelia Arteaga rarteaga@rochelleil.us
Dan McDermott dmodermott@rochelleil.us
Tom McDermott tmodermott@rochelleil.us
Benjamin Valdivieso bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us

Rochelle Elementary School Board
*Trisha Vaughn tv Vaughn@d231.rochelle.net
Dave Casey dcasey@d231.rochelle.net
Steve Builta sbuilta@d231.rochelle.net
Ashley Jackson ajackson@d231.rochelle.net
Stephanie White swhite@d231.rochelle.net
Javier Zepeda jzepeda@d231.rochelle.net
Jennifer Thompson jthompson@d231.rochelle.net

Rochelle Township High School Board
*Tom Huddleston tom.huddleston@rthsd212.org
Bill Ravnaas bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org
Jeff Tilton jeff.tilton@rthsd212.org
Bobby Chadwick bobby.chadwick@rthsd212.org
Brent Ohlinger brent.ohlinger@rthsd212.org
Laurie Pillen laurie.pillen@rthsd212.org
Joel Thompson joel.thompson@rthsd212.org

Flagg-Rochelle Park Board
Brent Carmichael bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org
John Dobbs jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Dale Wells dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org
*Tim Hayden thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Jodie Hart jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Joe Lenkaitis jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Kristi Gonzales kgonzales@rochelleparkdistrict.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 3
Austin Gillis agillis@oglecounty.org
Dan Miller dmiller@oglecounty.org
Joseph Simms jsimms@oglecounty.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 4
Jackie Ramsey jramsey@oglecounty.org
Skip Kenney skenney@oglecounty.org
David Williams dwilliams@oglecounty.org

Creston Village Board
*Tom Byro tommyb_47@yahoo.com
Greg Hopkins ghopkins522@comcast.net
Steve Katzman skatzman@essex1.com
Mike Kerns ac.kerns@comcast.net
Curt Ward caward92@comcast.net
Mark Hibshman
Reid Elliot
Jennifer Payton

Hillcrest Village Board
*Richard Rhoads rrhoads@hillcrestil.us
Pam Pittman ppittman@hillcrestil.us
Dan Potter dpotter@hillcrestil.us
Tim Ball tbball@hillcrestil.us
Jose Huerta jhuerta@hillcrestil.us
Eileen Braski ebraski@hillcrestil.us
Joe Thompson jthompson@hillcrestil.us

Flagg Township
Sue Messer flaggtwp@rochelle.net
Joanna Patrick flaggtwpcerk@rochelle.net
Susan Rothenberger assessor@rochelle.net
Scott Seebach scottseebach@gmail.com

Board of Trustees
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Flagg-Rochelle Library
*Jaqueline Dickow dickow@comcast.net
Teresa Haggstad haggstads@comcast.net
Michael Scanlan scanlan@comcast.net
Lanning Nicoloff nicoloff118@comcast.net
Sheri Klindera alwayslefty2@gmail.com
Susan Sevedge nit1prl22@yahoo.com
Darci Waltrip doobs12@comcast.net

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



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On Thursdays during the holiday season, employees of Cain Millwork worked in shifts to raise money for the Salvation Army all day long outside of Walmart and Walgreens in Rochelle.

Cain Millwork employees raise money for Salvation Army as bell ringers

‘It does a good service for our community’

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Thursdays during the holiday season, employees of Cain Millwork worked in shifts to raise money for the Salvation Army all day long outside of Walmart and Walgreens in Rochelle. Kiwanis Golden K organizes the bell ringing, and Cain Millwork got

involved to give back to the community with bell ringers in shorter supply in recent years, Larry Wing of Kiwanis Golden K said. “They change shifts every hour with two new people coming in,” Wing said. “It helps out lately because we’ve had less people to fill those slots. Cain takes care of all the scheduling itself on Thursday. They go out there and

they just love it. They ring and everybody has a good time and it does a good service for our community.” Wing said Dec. 21 that the Salvation Army bell ringing had already raised about \$10,000 for the year in Rochelle, and Cain Millwork’s help has yielded about \$1,000 every week. “It helps the Salvation Army,” Wing said. “They were good to us when we

had the tornado go through here. 80 percent of that money raised here comes back to us. That’s going to be a phenomenal amount of money this year. It gets put to good use through our local Methodist Church here, which oversees the funds. Last year we had families impacted by three fires in town that were able to get help from those funds. That’s what it’s all about.”

THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

7034 S. Klondike Road | Rochelle, IL 61068 | 815-561-9074

KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries

If you would like to volunteer with us, please email us at volunteer@kitchentablerochelle.org

**All menus are subject to change. If you would like to check before coming out, please call us at 815-561-9074

January 7 – NO SUNDAY BRUNCH

www.KitchenTableRochelle.org

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 31
Jamey & Nicole King (anniversary)
Ruth Allen
Hayleigh Jones

Jan. 1
Dave Jones

Jan. 3
Justin Sandoval

Jan. 5
Alaina Eubankz
Grace Yates
Sandra Ramirez

Jan. 6
Carson Johnson
Debbie Bonacquisti

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



Dec. 5 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25

Dec. 6 - Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, \$25

Dec. 7 - Heather Hensley, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 8 - Eric Van Hise, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 9 - Velimir Kuzmanovski, Rockford, \$25

Dec. 10 - Emily Harness, DeKalb, \$50

Dec. 11 - Tim Duval, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 12 - Sara Hall, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 13 - Clay and Becky Fraley, Kings, \$25

Dec. 14 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25

Dec. 15 - Liquor N Wine, \$25

Dec. 16 - Marge Charboneau, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 17 - Scott and Alana Hill, Thomson, \$50

Dec. 18 - Christian Neale, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 19 - Zekelman Employee, \$25

Dec. 20 - Gabriela Ortiz, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 21 - From the Heart, \$25

Dec. 22 - Vickie Eschenbaum, Spring Valley, \$25

Dec. 23 - Sherry Morris, Amboy, \$25

Dec. 24 - Rochelle Chamber, \$50

Dec. 25 - Mark Bucey, Byron, \$1,000

Dec. 26 - Joe Kearns, Ashton, \$25

Dec. 27 - Steve Barron, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 28 - Kathy Wayman, Oregon, \$25

Dec. 29 - NICE Center, Lee, \$25

Dec. 30 - From the Heart, \$25

Dec. 31 - Rochelle Chamber, \$50



Coffee Break

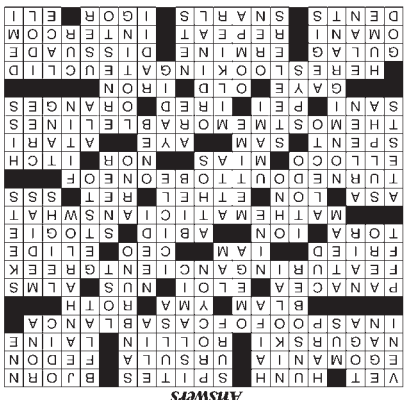
MAGIC MAZE

X O L I F C Z W T Q N K I F C
Z W U R P M J H E C Z X U S Q
H N L J G Y E C Z X H V K T R
A P N S L J T H Y E C C C A Y
W T W S U P E R B O W L A V T
A R S C P G A G E S O R B E N
I L K E O T A I U B G E T C P
I B Z X I T W R U S I N U S R
P O M L O F T Y A D I L O H L
J I I R G I E O R A N G E D B
A M Y E C N E D N E P E D N I

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: 50TH STATE.

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|---------|------------|
| Citrus | Holiday | Orange | Sugar |
| Cotton | Independence | Outback | Sun |
| Fiesta | Liberty | Peach | Super Bowl |
| Gator | Military | Rose | |

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YEAR IN REVIEW



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

In January 2023, the Rochelle VFW Post 3878's Queen of Hearts contest recently saw an unprecedented full 54-week run and the jackpot at the last drawing was \$77,980. The winner drawn Dec. 27 after 54 weeks was Lisa Kresser, who was not present and received 60 percent of the pot. On Jan. 31, State Sen. Win Stoller (R, 37th District) visited Rochelle for the first time since recent redistricting made the Hub City part of his constituency.

From page 1

The Spartz family saw talk online about the need for daycare in Rochelle and Barlow brought up the idea of purchasing the building and opening one. She's worked on opening four other daycares under previous employers. Little Hubs Learning Center is a for-profit organization.

Jan. 11
ROCHELLE — The Rochelle VFW Post 3878's Queen of Hearts contest recently saw an unprecedented full 54-week run and the jackpot at the last drawing was \$77,980.

The Queen of Hearts drawing involves 54 cards hidden under a covering to be revealed one card per week until the Queen of Hearts is drawn. There are 52 playing deck cards with the 2 jokers hidden.

The winner drawn Dec. 27 after 54 weeks was Lisa Kresser, who was not present and received 60 percent of the pot. The remaining 40 percent was split between the post and local non-profit organizations. As the pot got larger and larger, the post saw more entries, attention and attendance from players, especially on Tuesday nights.

"It's really unprecedented," Post Commander Joe Drought said. "We've never seen it go that far and nobody that I know of has seen any other post that's gone the full distance. It's never gotten this big before. It got a phenomenal response. We use this as a fundraiser and it helps out with the bar. We've seen an uptick in our lunch sales and revenue. It's been a really good thing for the post to be able to do this. It's certainly helped



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Jan. 27, a ribbon cutting was held for Essential Infusions Plus for its new location at 604 N. Main St. in Rochelle. The wellness business offers services including men's hormone therapy, medically-managed weight loss, anti-aging peptides, regenerative joint therapy, vitamin IV infusions and injections and botox.

out with paying the bills and being able to do more in the community."

The VFW Post Board of Directors voted to distribute its \$15,600 portion of the jackpot evenly to the following organizations: HOPE of Ogle County, the Rochelle Police Department K-9 Program, Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, Pegasus Special Riders and Village of Progress.

February
Wednesday, Feb. 1
ROCHELLE — On Friday, a ribbon cutting was held for Essential Infusions Plus for its new location at 604 N. Main St. in Rochelle. The wellness business offers

services including men's hormone therapy, medically-managed weight loss, anti-aging peptides, regenerative joint therapy, vitamin IV infusions and injections and botox.

The event Friday saw Essential Infusions Plus welcomed by representatives from the City of Rochelle and Rochelle Chamber of Commerce. The business's owner, Angie McGough, is a local nurse practitioner and said she saw the benefits of infusions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're happy to be here," McGough said. "I was born and raised in Rochelle a block away from here. We're just really excited to be able to bring

alternative health and wellness to the community and offer something that you can't typically get anywhere. We want to keep people out of the hospital and away from my other job. I saw the success and a lot of benefits of infusions. Initially during COVID-19, it was people turning around and not even going into the hospital when they were really ill with COVID-19. I've added a lot of things and I keep learning every day. I pray we're a blessing to this community."

Sunday, Feb. 5
ROCHELLE — On Tuesday, State Sen. Win Stoller (R, 37th District) visited Rochelle for the

first time since recent redistricting made the Hub City part of his constituency.

Stoller is a lifelong resident of Germantown Hills near Peoria. He's served as state senator since 2021. Stoller's trip to Rochelle included lunch with officials from the City of Rochelle and Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, a visit with local business Panoptic Solutions, a tour of Kishwaukee College and meetings with local media.

About 60 percent of the new 37th District is new ground for Stoller.

"I want to get up here and meet everybody and get to know people and

help them get to know me as well," Stoller said. "The purpose of being here today is to get to know Rochelle. In the past, I've met with Mayor John Bearrows, [City Economic Development Director] Jason Anderson and others. Now, we need to get out and get to know more people."

Wednesday, Feb. 8
ROCHELLE — From the Heart hosted its 15th annual gala and auction at Flight Deck Bar & Grill and raised \$80,000 for eight area nonprofits. From the Heart President and Founder Dave Eckhardt said.

See page 9

Established 1853

Wishing you all the best for the New Year.

City of Rochelle

Established 1861

Serving Rochelle for six generations

Unger-Horner Funeral Home & Cremation Service

www.ungerhorner.com
 400 N. 6th St. Rochelle
 (815) 562-4534

Established 1874

Rochelle Township High School

1401 Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL 61068
 815-562-4161
<https://www.rochelleschools.org/o/rths>

Rochelle Elementary District

Central Elementary ~ Lincoln Elementary
 Tilton Elementary ~ Rochelle Middle School

<https://www.rochelleschools.org/o/d231>

YEAR IN REVIEW



At the Feb. 13 meeting of the Rochelle City Council, Mayor John Bearrows and Rochelle Fire Chief Dave Sawlsville presented a Good News award to RFD Lt. Jeremy Good for his actions on an EMS call that helped to save the life of an infant. On Feb. 17, a ribbon cutting was held for The Blackstone Bar & Grill, a new bar and restaurant with a wine and steakhouse menu at 406 Cherry Ave. in Rochelle. The business is owned by Shane Erdman and Jim Withers.



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

From page 8

The Rochelle nonprofit set a goal of \$80,000 for the night in hopes of donating \$10,000 each to the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, HOPE of Ogle County, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, Pegasus Special Riders, Hub City Senior Center, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA and FOCUS House. Last year, the event raised just over \$68,000.

"It was a terrific night," Eckhardt said. "There were 300 people, the most we've ever had, and we had 37 tables, which was also a record. The room was busy all night long with a great crowd and the weather cooperated. We did tremendous. We hit \$80,000, which was our goal. It's a real testament to the support of the community and it gets better and better each year."

Wednesday, Feb. 15
ROCHELLE — At Monday's meeting of the Rochelle City Council, Mayor John Bearrows

and Rochelle Fire Chief Dave Sawlsville presented a Good News award to RFD Lt. Jeremy Good for his actions on an EMS call that helped to save the life of an infant.

On Jan. 27, RFD and the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District were dispatched to a report of an infant not breathing and turning blue at a rural Rochelle address. Sawlsville said Ogle County Sheriff's Office Deputy Kyle White was in the area patrolling and he heard the call and was the first to respond. Upon his arrival, he found that the cause of the infant's problem was an obstructed airway. White started working to clear the airway of the child.

Sawlsville said within 2-3 minutes, RFD and OLFPD arrived on scene with paramedics led by Good.

"First responders arrived on scene and assumed care of the infant," Sawlsville said. "Working as a team within minutes, they were able to secure an airway, restore



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle Community Hospital Chaplain Judy Williams retired in February after 39 years in her position.

the infant's breathing and heartbeat and place an IV for potential medications. Upon arrival to Rochelle Community Hospital, the infant was breathing on its own and had a strong pulse. Upon hearing he

was in line for this award, Lt. Good wanted to emphasize that it was strong teamwork, drawing on solid relationships from all three departments that brought about such a positive result."

Sunday, Feb. 19
ROCHELLE — Central Elementary School Special Education Teacher Melissa Deutsch was recently named a recipient of the Award of Spe-

cial Recognition in the teacher category as part of the Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel annual educator recognition program.

See page 10

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2024

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Flagg Township Museum

The Flagg Township Museum was founded by the historical society in 1971 & celebrated 52 years in 2023. The Flagg Township Historical Society was created in 1968, marking 55 years in service. The City & Town Hall Building was built in 1884 and is now 139 years old which is home to The Flagg Township Museum today.



YEAR IN REVIEW



On March 10, the Community of Opportunity Hiring Expo was held at Rochelle Township High School for jobseekers including students and members of the public. Rochelle Community Hospital Chief Executive Officer Gregg Olson has announced his retirement from the hospital. His last day will be March 31.

From page 9

Deutsch is in her 24th year teaching in Rochelle Community School District #231. She spent her first 20 years at Rochelle Middle School, where she mainly taught self-contained and co-taught English language

arts to students with the need for special education services. She was moved to Central School three years ago to support the special education program and teach academics and social emotional skills to students with individual needs.

Deutsch said that upon hearing the news of her award, she felt “very proud and excited.” She was recognized by a peer that believes that what she does in the classroom is a benefit for all students.

“Typically, I see a smaller population of students than most of my peers,” Deutsch said. “I feel like I make connections that are lasting with those small groups as well as a positive impact on their learning goals. In addition, I have co-taught with multiple

teachers and I feel like I have made those same connections and impacts. I know that the person who recognized me for this award is someone whom I have worked with and sees those qualities in what I do and what I’ve done for our students.”

Wednesday, Feb. 22

ROCHELLE — On Friday, a ribbon cutting was held for The Blackstone Bar & Grill, a new bar and restaurant with a wine and steakhouse menu at 406 Cherry Ave. in Rochelle. The business is owned by Shane Erdman and Jim Withers. Erdman also owns The End Zone Sports Bar across the street.

The Blackstone Bar & Grill was welcomed Tuesday by members of the City of Rochelle, Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, community members and State Rep. Brad Fritts. Erdman thanked the community for its support.

“The community has been 100 percent behind me,” Erdman said. “The businesses, the chamber,



One of the casualties of the March 31 storm that hit the area was a 100-year-old tree at Memorial Park honoring those that died serving their country in World War I, Flagg Township Museum Historian Tom McDermott said.

the city, our customers and everybody I grew up with. It wouldn’t be possible for a business to be successful if it wasn’t for everyone here and all of our customers committing and coming in and being a part of it. I want to thank all of you for making this a success. It wouldn’t be a success if it wasn’t for you guys. Thank you.”

Sunday, Feb. 26

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital Chaplain Judy Williams is retiring this month after 39 years in her position.

Williams has spent her time at the hospital supporting and giving spiritual guidance to RCH staff, patients and their families. She lends a friendly ear when someone wants to talk or is going through a tough health or personal situation.

“From minor things to major things at a hospital, people have emotions about them,” Williams said. “It’s about showing people that what they’re going through is important and trying to give them some love from Christ in all of that. It blesses me to be able to do it, and I hope I could give

some hope and comfort to them.”

Williams would typically spend her time as chaplain coming into the hospital each morning and checking to see what sort of patients the hospital had that day and if there was someone who was going to potentially pass away or just found out about a disheartening diagnosis. She would go and see patients that told staff that they wanted to see the chaplain.

Williams’ job as chaplain required her to be available at all times and she occasionally received a call in the middle of the night to come into the hospital. She believes that half, if not more, of her work involved being there for and talking with RCH staff members.

“This is a stressful place,” Williams said. “Sometimes it’s staff members stopping by and giving them a little encouragement. Sometimes it’s praying with them and sometimes it’s just letting them talk. People need to talk to be able to continue to function and I like to think I was a safe place and people could share things with me and be able to keep doing their

good, every-day job.”

March

Wednesday, March 1

ROCHELLE — K9 Odie is the newest member of the Rochelle Police Department and was recently paired with his new handler, Officer Trevor Owen.

K9 Axel, Odie’s predecessor, retired last year and his handler, Officer Ryan Beery, was promoted to sergeant. Owen began a local fundraising campaign to pay for startup and ongoing costs of a new K9. Owen picked up the dog Feb. 17 and he and Odie recently embarked on a six-week training course in Michigan.

“Once we’re done with that, we’ll be certified nationally,” Owen said. “And then once we’re back on the road, it’ll be back into the rhythm for me and getting Odie used to the car, regular patrol and hopefully being able to utilize him to his full extent as far as traffic stops, school searches and community events. It will be getting him acclimated along with myself. It’ll take some time, but I think he’ll adjust pretty well.”

Wednesday, March 15

ROCHELLE — On

Friday, the Community of Opportunity Hiring Expo was held at Rochelle Township High School for jobseekers including students and members of the public.

The event was sponsored by the City of Rochelle, Office of Mayor John Bearrows, Kishwaukee College, RTHS, Rochelle Foods - Hormel, Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, Ralfie’s BBQ and 102.3 The Coyote & Superhits 93.5. Those partners have teamed up to host a handful of job fairs since the COVID-19 pandemic and other issues resulted in a workforce shortage both locally and nationwide.

The day started with RTHS juniors and seniors coming through the expo that was attended by 40 commercial, retail, industrial and service employers. City Industrial Development Manager Peggy Friday said “hundreds” of students had a chance to connect with local employers.

See page 11

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YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 10

“Some were looking for jobs and some were just browsing and making connections,” Friday said. “It’s a good exercise for them because when they get closer to graduation they’ll be looking for summer employment, seasonal work or more. This is a great place to start. The businesses here range from heavy manufacturing down to our service organizations. There’s something here for everybody.”

March 15
ROCHELLE — At its Monday meeting, the Rochelle City Council recognized the retirement of Rochelle Police Chief Eric Higby and saw new Interim Chief Pete Pavia sworn in.

Higby retired officially Tuesday after 27 years with RPD. He was chief since 2009. Pavia was most recently RPD’s school resource officer at Rochelle Township High School and has over 25 years of law enforcement experience at various levels of leadership.

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh thanked Higby for his service.

“Eric was one of the first people to welcome me when I came on staff and I think he’s been a great member of the team and he really showed a lot of leadership and dedication during the pandemic,” Fiegenschuh said. “He kept the ship going forward. Eric, I really appreciate everything you’ve done. I wish you the best in your retirement. We want to celebrate your 27 years. Not very many people work in law enforcement that long anymore, so you’re a dedicated individual and the profession is losing a great person.”

Wednesday, March 29
ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital Chief Executive Officer Gregg Olson has announced his retirement from the hospital. His last day will be March 31.

Olson has served as RCH’s CEO since January 2020. He was also the organization’s CEO from 1999 to 2007. He was CEO of another institution in Wisconsin in the years in between. Olson has had a 42-year career in the medical field. Olson told the News-Leader March 15 that it has not been made clear to him who his successor will be at RCH.

“I wish the best for this hospital,” Olson said. “We have a lot of talent here with our staff. That’s what I’m going to miss the most, is our staff. Whether it’s our general staff or physicians and providers, I’ll miss

them all. That’s going to be hard for me. I have a lot of good relationships here. I am going to miss these people dearly. They give absolute quality care, they’re great at what they do and this hospital is a true asset for the community.”

April
Wednesday, April 12
ROCHELLE — One of the casualties of the March 31 storm that hit the area was a 100-year-old tree at Memorial Park honoring those that died serving their country in World War I, Flagg Township Museum Historian Tom McDermott said.

The tree was uprooted completely and was found the morning of April 1. Near the upturned roots, the plaque commemorating it that reads “This tree planted in memory of Rochelle World War dead” still stood.

Upon hearing of the loss of the tree, McDermott and his granddaughter, Kathryn Challand, went to inspect it and took pictures and notes for the museum.

The pair took cuttings from the tree in hopes that they’ll grow roots and be able to be planted again in a couple of years. The Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District is planning to plant another tree in the spot that housed the WWI tree at Memorial Park. McDermott said Park District Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger has promised him space in the park system for replanting if the tree can be saved through the cuttings.

Sunday, April 30
ROCHELLE — At a special meeting Thursday, the Rochelle City Council approved a collective bargaining agreement with the International Association of Firefighters Local 3445 that will see six more full-time firefighter/paramedics added to the Rochelle Fire Department.

The agreement will run from May 1 until April 30, 2027. The fire department personnel voted to ratify the agreement 8-1. The city will hire three firefighter/paramedics before the end of 2024 and three more by Jan. 1, 2026.

“I feel like this is about as good of a compromise as we’re going to get,” RFD Chief Dave Sawlsville said. “There has been a lot of spirited debate among our firefighters. There are probably firefighters that aren’t 100 percent happy, but that’s how you know you have the best agreement to have, when some are happy, and some are not. If everybody was unhappy or if everybody was happy, you’d think you probably missed something.”

RFD has seen record call

numbers in recent years and a shortage of paid on-call firefighters, which it uses to supplement its staffing. The department handles both fire and EMS calls. Once full-time staff is engaged with a call, RFD relies on paid on-call staff to report to the station to handle additional calls.

May
Wednesday, May 17
OREGON — On Friday, May 12, a grand re-opening and ribbon cutting event was held at Pegasus Special Riders in Oregon following the structure completion of its arena.

The facilities at Pegasus Special Riders sustained storm damage twice last year, halting its operations. The nonprofit, located at 6668 S. Carthage Road near Oregon, has been operating since 1997. It’s a therapeutic riding program for children and adults with special needs. Volunteers perform all of the required duties, such as working with the riders, caring for the horses and facilities, raising funds and providing the necessary administrative support.

The damage on Aug. 28, 2022 included the facility’s loafing shed for its horses and severe damage to a storage building. Back on March 5, 2022, a windstorm severely damaged the main arena building. High winds tore off about 120 feet of canopy, twisted the steel frame and the large front door was blown off and landed inside of the arena.

Pegasus Special Riders has been unable to perform any rides since the storm damage and was dealing with pandemic restrictions before that. The nonprofit worked on cleanup, construction and dealt with insurance providers over the past year. The damage in March was over \$300,000.

“This has taken a long time,” PSR Board President Donna Fellows said. “We still have a lot to do. We’re moving forward because we now have a covered arena again and an outdoor arena to have lessons if the weather is nice. We don’t have all the electric work done or any water yet. Electric is what we’re waiting for, so we can have water, fans and lights. Other than that, the building is good to go. We thought we’d be further along, but here we are.”

Sunday, May 28
ROCHELLE — When Rochelle Township High School Counselor Laurie Pillen started in her position 38 years ago, the school had no honors or AP classes. The Kishwaukee Education Consortium dual-credit program was just getting started. RTHS didn’t have

summer school (250-300 students now take a class each summer). Students’ social and emotional health was not a focus the way it is now.

Pillen will retire at the end of the fiscal year. While education, curriculum, and even the school itself has changed during her time at RTHS, her love for her work has not.

“The joy of counseling, no matter when it was, has been, ‘You never know what somebody wants when they walk in the door,’” Pillen said. “It could be to change their schedule, to talk about college, or something going on in their personal lives. It could be anything. That’s one of the best parts of doing it. Because you can’t get bored. Because you never know what’s coming and what the day is going to hold. Some days it’s a lot of laughter and some days it’s a lot of tears.”

June
Sunday, June 4
ROCHELLE — For a number of years, Rochelle Township High School students, staff, administration, families and community members would start their day by reading RTHS Special Projects Director Vicki Snyder Chura’s daily announcements on happenings at the school.

On Thursday, May 25, she sent out her final announcements. Snyder Chura will be officially retiring from RTHS at the end of the school’s fiscal year after 37.5 years. She closed her final announcements by saying she looks forward to subscribing in retirement.

“It’s been an absolute pleasure to showcase the successes of students and staff over the years,” Snyder Chura said. “I’ve been here all hours of the day and night and weekends. There are always teachers here. So many hours of planning and preparation and grading go into it. It’s been an honor to try to show people that. To watch kids try and fail and then succeed and gain confidence, it’s almost like watching a flower open.”

Sunday, June 25
OREGON — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Ogle County Board unanimously approved an ordinance amending the number of authorized patrol deputies for the Ogle County Sheriff’s Office from 20 to 23 to allow for a full-time drug interdiction unit.

Sixty-one percent funding of salary and benefits for the three additional deputy sheriff positions has been obtained for three years through the federal COPS grant, with county matching funds of 39 per-

cent obtained through the salary budgeted line and a one-time payment of \$80,000 from the opioid lawsuit monies received by the county. The total cost of the expansion will be \$621,602, and the county share of that will be about \$55,000 a year.

At the end of the three-year grant, the additional three patrol deputy positions will be reevaluated by both the sheriff and the county board for permanent staffing of those positions. The ordinance approved Tuesday said there is a “critical need” for a full-time drug interdiction unit in the county and the work has been being done on a part-time basis.

Off-duty sheriff’s deputies attended Tuesday’s meeting to support the change.

“There’s definitely a need within the county to resume this type of interdiction work,” VanVickle said. “The men and women who are doing it now are doing it on an overtime basis. They work full-time and most of them are working nights. They show up to court in the morning and do drug work in the afternoon. It’s something that has been needed and something that was very successful in the past and I fully expect for this to continue.”

Wednesday, June 28
ROCHELLE — On Wednesday, June 21, the Rochelle Fire Department visited Focus House to help its students with their egg drop science project.

During Focus House’s summer school, students had been working on a project to create a contraption to keep an egg from breaking at different heights of 40 feet, 75 feet and 105 feet. RFD helped students

put their designs to the test with its ladder truck, raising it higher and higher while firefighters dropped students’ eggs.

“Summer is pretty different around here,” Focus House Teacher Scott Stevens said. “We try to do more projects-based learning. I think the kids appreciate it and it’s engaging for the teachers and for the students. Basically our aim was to be outside of the classroom as much as possible this semester and definitely be hands-on with everything. I think we’ve been in school for two weeks now and we’ve been outside doing experiments for most of the days.”

Students started off the science project a week and a half before Wednesday, and spent time working on it intermittently every other day along with other projects. Students started with a trial run without research. Youth then adjusted their models and created a 2.0 model. They were assigned a total budget and each piece of material they used in their contraptions was assigned a value. After RFD made all of the drops on Wednesday, two eggs broke and four remained intact of the six that were dropped.

“We were hoping to show them the value of being able to look into things and they looked at other people’s experiments,” Stevens said. “It makes the summer and the school days go by fast, being able to have projects like this. And people from the community coming out and supporting the things that we’re doing out here really helps with the energy here.”

The July through December portion of the News-Leader’s Year in Review will appear in the Wednesday, Jan. 3 edition.

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HUB NEWS January 2024

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| Jan. 6 | Speech Meet – TBD | | |
| Jan. 8 | Teacher Institute – No School | | RHTS Board Meeting – 5:30PM |
| Jan. 9 | First Day of Second Semester | | |
| Jan. 11 | Last Day for students to change schedules – See your counselor in the Counseling Center to make changes | Jan. 18 | FLEX Schedule Release – 2:15PM - Teachers available to students for extra help |
| | FLEX Schedule Release – 2:15 PM- Teachers available to students for extra help | Jan. 19 & 20 | Speech Meet at Downer Grove South |
| Jan. 13 | Speech Meet Conference at Morris | Jan. 25 | FLEX Schedule Release – 2:15PM- Teachers available to students for extra help |
| Jan. 15 | Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School | Jan. 26 | OCEC Basketball Game – 11:15AM |
| | | Jan. 27 | Speech Meet at Rockford Jefferson |

December Recognitions @ RTHS



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| | | | | |
| Emily Lovett | Alexander McBride | Emily Montelongo | Aiden Ramsey | Kendall Sachs |
| | | | | |
| Alexavier Villatoro | Danica Ward | Cale Workman | Caleb Wyssbrod | Elin Zheng |



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SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 2023

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



MEET THE LADY HUBS

Q&As with freshmen from the Rochelle Lady Hub basketball program.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Girls Basketball

Girls score back-to-back wins

Rochelle defeats Rockford East and Freeport at Dixon KSB Holiday Classic

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

DIXON — Defense and rebounding allowed the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team to win the fourth quarter and secure a hard-fought victory against Freeport on Thursday, when the purple and white faced the Pretzels during the 45th Annual Dixon KSB Holiday Classic.

The Lady Hubs held Freeport to just six fourth-quarter points on two made field goals. With its defense providing the pressure in the half-court area, Rochelle saw multiple girls sink key shots late in the game, enabling the Lady Hubs to hold off the Pretzels 59-51. It was the second victory of the day for Rochelle (7-10, 0-3 Interstate 8), who beat Rockford East in the morning.

“Any day where we can win two games is a great day,” head coach Jon Gehm said. “I thought we shot the lights out against Rockford East in the morning. We came out and we pressured them right away. We shot the ball well and we were ready to play... This game was gritty at times and we felt that it could be tight all of the way through, but we

did a nice job of finishing.”

Freeport’s KK Walker-Castle sparked the Pretzel offense in the first quarter, where she scored eight of her 13 points and drilled two open triples from beyond the arc. On the other end of the floor, senior Alivia Henkel fueled the Lady Hubs with four close-range baskets, while seniors Megan Seebach and Loretta Atkinson each nailed 3-point shots for the Lady Hub offense.

Rochelle’s 1-2-2 zone defense struggled early, as the Pretzels held a 20-17 lead after the first quarter. A switch to man-to-man defense turned the tables for the Lady Hubs, who limited Freeport to nine second-quarter points and utilized a size advantage down low to sneak ahead 30-29 at halftime. Junior Kendyl Darby sank a pair of low-post shots for four of her eight points in the game, while senior Kara Martinez converted two field goals including a long 3-pointer.

“We gave up 20 points in the first quarter and we know that’s unacceptable,” Gehm said. “We weren’t playing well in our 1-2-2, so we switched to man and we told the girls that our goal was to hold them to 10 points or less in every

quarter. We did that in the second and fourth quarters. Our rebounding was much better and we did a better job of finishing the play. We were securing the defensive rebounds and getting the ball out to the outlet and getting into our offense.”

Both teams traded blows during the third quarter, where Walker-Castle made her third triple of the game and Taylor Griffin found her rhythm with a pair of field goals and a 3-point from the corner for the Pretzels. Rochelle answered every Freeport basket with a basket of their own, however, as Martinez continued to attack with a mid-range conversion and a 3-pointer to lead the charge. The Lady Hubs also drew plenty of contact, reaching the free-throw line four times.

Despite Henkel missing most of the fourth quarter with four fouls, Rochelle leaned on its defense to secure the victory Thursday afternoon. With players like sophomore Jaydin Dickey guarding hard on the perimeter and junior Abby Metzger closing out possessions with defensive rebounds down low, Rochelle slowly grew its lead, which reached as high as nine points over the final



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Kara Martinez drives against Freeport’s Aaliyah Martin during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball game against the Pretzels on Thursday.

minutes. Henkel finished with 17 points and Martinez followed with 10 points in the win.

“Alivia was out with four fouls so we had to manage without her for a while,” Gehm said. “We had different girls step up. Loretta made big shots and Kara did a nice job of handling the point for us. Jaydin made some big plays and she’s been making big plays ever

since we called her up to the varsity team. We took care of the ball when we needed to and Kendyl did a nice job for us down low. She also played some nice defense and that’s what we needed.”

Rockford East

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team dominated Rockford East on Thursday morning, winning 73-23 in its second

game of the 45th Annual Dixon KSB Holiday Classic. Senior Alivia Henkel led the Lady Hubs with 19 points, while junior Payton Cesarone drilled four 3-pointers to finish with 12 points.

Senior Loretta Atkinson totaled nine points and two made triples, while junior Kendyl Darby and sophomore Jaydin Dickey each had five points.

RTHS Boys Basketball

Rockford Christian survives high-scoring battle with Rochelle

Five Hubs reach double figures in 88-86 loss to Royal Lions on Wednesday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MARENGO — Head coach Tim Thompson wasn’t surprised that the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team’s Wednesday game against Rockford Christian was a high-scoring affair.

Four years removed from a triple-overtime battle where the Hubs outlasted the Royal Lions 91-88, Rochelle and Rockford Christian needed only four quarters to reach a similar scoring total on Wednesday, when the two teams squared off in the final round of pool play at the 73rd Annual E.C. Nichols Holiday Classic. Despite five players reaching double figures for the Hubs, Rochelle fell a few points short in the end, with Rockford Christian emerging victorious 88-86.

“Everytime that coach [Isaiah] Johnson and I get together, it’s a game like this,” Thompson said. “We both want to play up and down and I thought we had the advantage inside with our size, but they had the advantage with their perimeter play and shooting. It was one of those games where Rockford Christian, who hadn’t played in about 14 days, left it out there for us and they gave us opportunities to win, but we weren’t able to capitalize on those opportunities.”

Junior Carson Lewis drilled a team-high five 3-pointers for the Hubs (4-9, 0-5 Interstate 8), who remained tied with Rockford Christian 23-23 after a fast-paced first quarter. Lewis drained two triples early in the first quarter, while freshman forward Brody Bruns was the featured option down low, where the 6-foot-5 lefty put home four layups for eight of his 19 points in the game.

Lewis knocked down two more 3-pointers in the second quarter, where junior Elijah Harley caught fire from the field for the Hubs, sinking a pair of elbow triples and leading Rochelle in transition with a trio of layups. Harley finished with 18 points for the Hubs, who trailed 48-45 at halftime due to an explosive effort from Rockford Christian guards Elijah Daugherty and Christian Cummings, who combined for 59 points and 29 first-half points on Wednesday.

“I think we’re doing a better job of sharing the basketball and giving touches to guys who are playing hot at the time,” Thompson said. “We want to be playing in the high 70s and low 80s and the only way we can do that is if we have multiple guys in double figures who are sharing the ball.”

See HUBS page 3

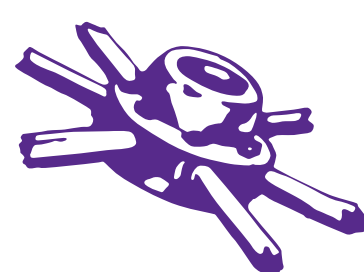


(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Jack Tracey is guarded by Rockford Christian’s Jaden Williams during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against the Royal Lions on Wednesday.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Ashley
Christy**

*Year: Freshman
Sport: Basketball*

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

A: Three years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: I enjoy being competitive.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?

A: English because I enjoy writing about the books I read.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?

A: I would say Hailey Van Lith because she started from a low spot and is a great player now.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: Hailey Van Lith because watching her play makes me want

to do better and push myself more to be as good as her one day.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: A lawyer because I enjoy making my point and trying until I succeed.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?

A: Rio because it's a beautiful place and watching the movie Rio growing up is a big part of it.

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

A: I enjoy being able to even out the "student" and "athlete" parts and say I am responsible for my own choices.

**Dylan
Etes**

*Year: Freshman
Sport: Basketball*



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

A: Six years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: How competitive everyone gets.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?

A: My favorite subject is Ag because it's very fun and the teacher is very funny.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?

A: Caitlin Clark because she's somebody who inspires me to be a better basketball player.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My biggest role model is my brother; he's taught me to not care about what other think and to do

what I love.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: My dream job is to be a K9 officer because I would be able to work with my favorite animal while helping/saving others.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?

A: Bora Bora because of the tropical environment and the beautiful coral reefs.

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

A: I enjoy meeting so many new people through sports. Some of the people I'm friends with now are people I wouldn't have the courage to talk to if it weren't for sports.

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SPORTS

HUBS: Rochelle falls in high-scoring game against Rockford Christian

From page 1

"I was pleased with that and I was pleased with our effort this morning. We gave a really good team a good game, but we have to turn the page. We've had a lot of games this year where we've had leads or been in it to win it, but we haven't found a way to win."

Rochelle remained in the game after the third quarter, where senior Jack Tracey effectively drove to the basket for four layups to score eight of his 14 points in the game. Another senior took charge for the Hubs in the fourth quarter, as 6-foot-5 guard Eli Luxton soared over the Rockford Christian interior defense for four close-range field goals and a trio of free throws.

While the Hubs remained in the mix, even tying the score midway through the fourth quarter after trailing 69-65 after three quarters, the Rochelle defense had few answers for Rockford Christian's lead guard Daugherty, who scored a game-high

36 points and used his athleticism off the dribble to beat the Hubs to the rim several times. Cummings, who finished with 23 points on Wednesday, was also effective at attacking the basket and hitting key slots late in the game.

"They have two lights-out players and they can do everything they want," Thompson said. "They can put the ball on the floor and they can hit tough shots from deep. They shoot the ball really well and they make a lot of their free throws. It wasn't for a lack of effort on our part, but anyone who guards those guys this year is going to see the same kind of thing. That wasn't why we lost the game. We made turnovers in key situations and we didn't know what was going on late."

Luxton and Lewis each finished with 17 points for the Hubs, who will conclude the tournament with consolation-round games on Thursday and Friday before returning home against Sandwich on Jan. 5.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Elijah Harley is guarded by Rockford Christian's Elijah Daugherty during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against the Royal Lions on Wednesday.



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CIAL CIRCUIT OGLE
COUNTY, ILLINOIS**
IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF))
GREGORY G. GROE-
NEWOLD, Deceased.
) NO. 2023PR80

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of GREGORY G. GROENEWOLD, of Forreston, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 26, 2023, to DAWN GROENEWOLD, whose address is 101 West Willow St., Forreston, IL 61030, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than July 1, 2024, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for DAWN GROENEWOLD, Executor of the Estate of GREGORY G. GROENEWOLD, deceased No. 0104 (Dec. 31, 2023, Jan. 7 and 14, 2024)

**NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE FIF-
TEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT LEE
COUNTY, ILLINOIS**
IN THE MATTER
OF THE ESTATE
OF GERALD W.
STRYKER, Deceased.
NO. 2023PR53

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of GERALD W. STRYKER, of Lee, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 27, 2023, to COURTNEY STRYKER, whose address is 207 N. Illini St., Shabbona, IL 60550, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than July 1, 2024, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for COURTNEY STRYKER, Administrator of the Estate of GERALD W. STRYKER, deceased No. 0105 (Dec 31, 2023, Jan. 7 and 14, 2024)

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