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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3, 2024

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

The January through June Year in Review appeared in the Sunday, Dec. 31 edition of the Rochelle News-Leader.

July
Sunday, July 2

ROCHELLE — On Friday, June 23, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Chicagoland Skydiving Center's new rooftop solar array.

Speakers at the event included CSC CEO/President Doug Smith, Mayor John Bearrows and Verde Solutions Founder/CEO Christopher Gersch. The solar array includes 382 48-watt panel modules and covers both the CSC hangar and office building.

Over the 30-year lifespan of the solar array, CSC will produce 6,230,045 kWh of electricity which will save it over \$750,000 in energy costs based on the value of the dollar in 2023. That's equivalent to 6.2 million gallons of gasoline, 55,366 metric tons of CO₂, 62 million pounds of coal, and 915,418 tree seedlings grown for 10 years.

Smith said bringing the



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Friday, June 23, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Chicagoland Skydiving Center's new rooftop solar array.

solar array to fruition was "a long process" and its completion is something CSC is proud of. It is the first solar-powered skydiving operation on the planet, he said.

"We have a 20,000 square-

foot facility out in farm fields and I wanted to give it a shot," Smith said. "There were a lot of hurdles on the commercial side. There's never been a commercial solar project in this town.

The city was really a partner in this whole thing and I do thank them for everything they did. Verde Solutions, our contractor, made it super simple. It's a point of pride for me that we're doing

what we're doing and we're already seeing the results of it on the savings side. Our consumption is way down and we're saving money."

See page 8

City signs engineering agreement to expand solar field at wastewater treatment plant

Expansion will double existing footprint, current field saves city \$30,000 per year

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its Dec. 11 meeting, the Rochelle City Council approved an engineering agreement with Keith Engineering Design for \$115,070 for an expansion of the solar plant at the Rochelle Municipal Utilities wastewater treatment plant.

The solar plant was originally constructed in 2014 at a cost of around \$1 million with a \$500,000 grant and was designed with the ability to double the existing footprint. Part of the design process for the second half will include pursuing grant opportunities to offset capital costs.

RMU Superintendent of Water/Water Reclamation Adam Lanning the most recent cost estimate he saw for construction of the new portion was about \$1.5 million for construction. He said there are "quite a few" incentives and grant opportunities for solar projects through the state.

"We haven't gotten into searching for grants yet," Lanning said. "Before construction ever gets approved, we'll demonstrate

to the council on how long it will take for the solar panels to pay back the cost of the project through power savings."

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh has a desire for the city to shave the amount of power that RMU has to purchase off

the market, which additional solar panels will help with.

See SOLAR page 2



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its Dec. 11 meeting, the Rochelle City Council approved an engineering agreement with Keith Engineering Design for \$115,070 for an expansion of the solar plant at the Rochelle Municipal Utilities wastewater treatment plant.

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Plaza residents make cards

Resident of the Howard Johnson Plaza in Oregon recently made Christmas cards. **Page 7**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
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THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
31 22

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
34 21

SATURDAY
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OBITUARIES

• BRIAN DANIEL YOUNG

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INSERTS

• MENARDS
• FARM & FLEET

INSIDE

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LOCAL NEWS

SOLAR: City approves agreement for expansion at treatment plant

From page 1

The wastewater treatment plant solar field currently has about a one-acre footprint. The solar field currently saves RMU about \$30,000 per year in power costs.

“It’s been essentially maintenance free,” Lanning said, “I think we’ve had to replace three or four inverters since I’ve been here that were under warranty. We haven’t had much snow over the past few years so that hasn’t been an issue. Snow cover will block the production of them. I’ve been pretty happy with it. The numbers have been adding up to what it was designed for. They’re doing what they were meant to do.”

Design work and grant applications for the solar expansion will take place in 2024. Lanning said construction most likely will start until 2025 due to components for it being at least a year away from delivery. Once construction starts, the work would take 3-5 months. Completion is slated for before the end of 2025.

Following the expansion’s construction, the solar panels will be able to cover the wastewater treatment plant’s peak power demand.

“The wastewater treatment plant peaks at about 6600 kilowatts,” Lanning said. “With the current 180 kilowatts and the new panels being twice as efficient with the same footprint, it’s going to be close to on average shaving off the peak demand of the wastewater treatment plant, which is



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The wastewater treatment plant solar field currently has about a one-acre footprint. The solar field currently saves RMU about \$30,000 per year in power costs. Following the expansion’s construction, the solar panels will be able to cover the wastewater treatment plant’s peak power demand.

typically half of the bill. It could shave a lot of dollars and cents off of the bill.”

Fiegenschuh said the city wants to increase its renewable energy portfolio. The city and RMU have discussed a community solar project where businesses and residents

could buy into a solar panel field to help pay to fund it in exchange for a credit or special rate on their RMU bills.

Other potential solar panels in the city in the future could be at city-owned facilities such as its new building at 1030

S. 7th St. or at City Hall.

“Any future facilities work, we should be looking at having some solar component to help shed some of that load,” Fiegenschuh said. “But it’s not always sunny, so we still have to maintain our distribution system and

not everybody can be completely off the grid with renewables. We still need a good source of base load generation to power the city. I think we need to incorporate more renewables and we’ve seen more applications for residential solar, which we

allow on our system now. We’ve had some conversations with some of our large-scale commercial and industrial customers about solar and shedding some of their load. We’ve had lots of conversations about solar and we’ll continue to do so.”

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LOCAL NEWS

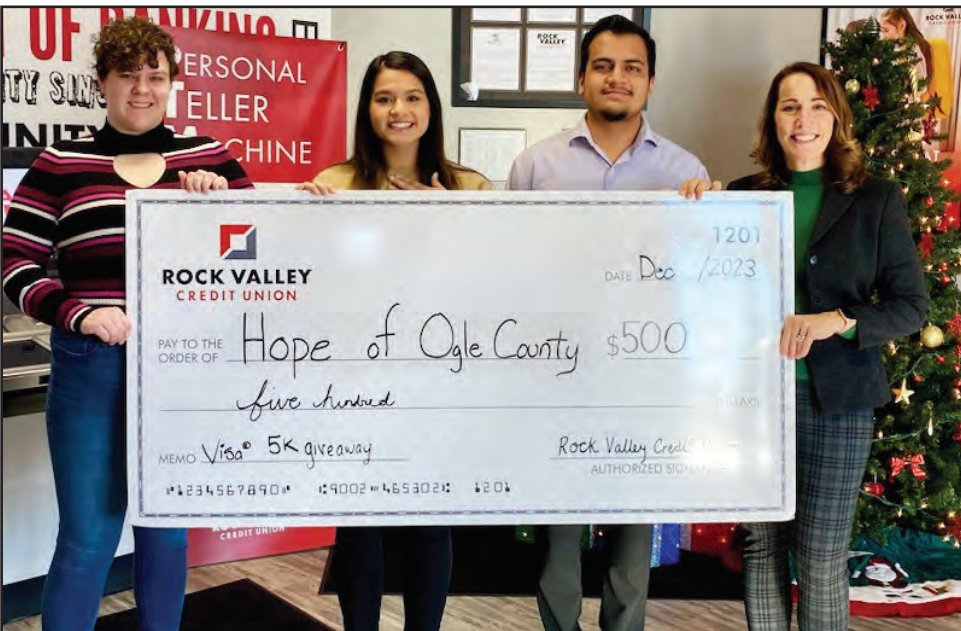
(COURTESY PHOTOS)



The Rochelle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently presented a donation to HOPE of Ogle Ogle County. Pictured are Marissa Belmonte (HOPE staff), Debby Katzman (DAR) and Bailey Stover (HOPE staff).



Oregon Women's Club representatives present a donation to HOPE of Ogle County.



Rock Valley Credit Union employees present a donation to HOPE of Ogle County Executive Director Ruth Carter.

HOPE of Ogle County receives holiday season support

ROCHELLE — HOPE of Ogle County is so very grateful for the community support they have received this holiday season. It received generous donations to assist survivors of domestic abuse and their children including turkey donations, gas cards, comfort and toiletry items for survivors staying in shelter, as

well as folks who adopted families and individuals for the holidays.

"The employees at HOPE are so touched that so many giving and caring folks support our clients and help spread the word about our services," Ruth Carter, HOPE of Ogle County executive director, said. "Generous donations provided by individuals,

service clubs, businesses and family groups, from the smaller donations to larger and ongoing donations, keep our services to survivors moving forward and warm the hearts of our employees. Thank you to the many who support peace, kindness and a safe home for all. Have a safe and peaceful holiday season."

Kish College to offer seven short-term training programs in spring 2024

MALTA — The Kishwaukee College Continuing Education department will offer seven short-term training programs during the spring 2024 semester. Kish short-term programs provide students with the skills and training needed to meet local workforce demands. The programs range from 11-20 weeks, allowing students to immediately start a career or build upon their skills with additional training.

Spring 2024 classes are available in online, in-person and hybrid formats. Participants will need access to a computer and the internet to participate in programs with an online component. Some programs include an externship/clinical.

The short-term training programs offered in spring 2024 are:

Appliance Repair Technician: Jan. 22-April 24 (in-person)

Appliance repair technicians are skilled professionals trained to assist clients with household appliance installation, troubleshooting and repairs. In-person instruction is from 5:30-9 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at Kishwaukee College.

Dental Assistant: Jan. 22-April 19 (online lecture/in-person practice)

Dental assistants are health care professionals

who work closely with dentists and dental hygienists to provide quality preventive and corrective dental care and administrative support in dental offices. In-person practice will be conducted from 6-9 p.m. on three Tuesdays in a local dental office.

Pharmacy Technician: Jan. 22-May 3 (online)

Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists with dispensing prescription medication while performing various other duties in a pharmacy setting. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding is available to those who qualify.

Phlebotomy Technician: Jan. 22-April 5 (in-person)

Phlebotomists are health care professionals trained to collect, transport, handle, and process blood and other specimens for laboratory analysis using venipuncture and micro-collection techniques. Instruction and in-person practice is from 10 a.m.-noon on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at Kishwaukee College. A clinical experience will be offered in a local hospital from March 18-April 5.

Real Estate Broker Pre-License: Jan. 23-April 4 (online)

Real estate brokers perform many duties in real estate transactions, including marketing homes,

establishing escrow accounts, and working to ensure transactions are fair and legal. Online instruction takes place from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Sterile Processing Technician: Jan. 22-April 26 (online)

Sterile processing technicians support patient care services in a health care facility. Technicians are responsible for decontaminating, cleaning, processing, assembling, sterilizing, storing and distributing the medical devices and supplies needed in patient care, especially during surgery. Online instruction is delivered in an asynchronous format.

Veterinary Assistant: Jan. 22-June 14 (online lecture/in-person practice)

Veterinary assistants are trained to assist veterinarians and veterinary technicians with medical procedures on sick and injured animals. Online/live lectures take place from 6:30-9 p.m. on Tuesdays, and in-person labs are from 5-8 p.m. on Thursdays at Ashton Animal Clinic in Ashton. A clinical experience will be offered at a local animal hospital from May 20-June 14.

To learn more or register for Kishwaukee College Short-Term programs, visit kish.edu/shortterm.

NIU receives \$158,531 grant for workplace mental health and suicide prevention training

DEKALB — Northern Illinois University received \$158,531 in U.S. Department of Labor funding to promote workplace safety, health training and education.

With this grant, employees without high amounts of funding can receive free mental health and suicide prevention training. This will be targeted towards small businesses, as well as at-risk and hard-to-reach workers in the general and construction industries.

The upcoming courses will be administered by OSHA-Authorized Outreach Trainer John Newquist, who states, "I am so glad that NIU received this grant because it is an area that nobody tends to talk about. It affects everyone from the employee themselves down to their family and friends. We hope to provide everyone

the necessary tools to help handle tough issues and skills to overall improve mental health."

This is the sixth year that NIU has received the Susan Harwood Federal Safety and Health Training Grant and is offering free courses through its Continuing and Professional Education Unit, in partnership with the National Safety Education Center, also housed at NIU. Training topics include the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of mental health stressors.

Pettee Borissova, an NIU alumna and director of NIU Continuing and Professional Education, strongly believes it is imperative to support and educate our region's employees on mental health.

"As a double NIU alumna and now a university employee, my journey has instilled in me a deep connection to our com-

munity," Borissova says. "Our targeted training aims at empowering employers and employees in new businesses, as well as those with limited access to occupational safety and health training. The focus on mental health stressors underscores our commitment to well-being and empowerment. Through a blend of classroom-based and virtual instruction, we strive to make this training accessible to all, contributing to the resilience and success of businesses in our community."

The training will be two-hour to four-hour long sessions in a balanced blend of classroom-based instruction in the NIU CPE's state-of-the-art classrooms and will begin in 2024. Virtual and face-to-face training will be available, along with on-site delivery.

See NIU page 4

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LOCAL NEWS

ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ROCHELLE — On Dec. 28, Rochelle Police cited Eshonda D. Brooks, 38, DeKalb, for operating an uninsured vehicle. She posted a promise to comply.

On Dec. 28, Rochelle Police arrested Christopher M. Holland, 26, Rockford, on two outstanding Ogle County warrants. He was transferred. On Dec. 28 at 12:09 a.m. Hector L. Flores, 34, of Rockford was arrested for driving while license suspended. He was released on a notice to appear with a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 28 at 1:09 p.m. Christina M. Pelayo, 46, of Rochelle was arrested for criminal trespass to property. She was released on a notice to appear with a Jan. 26 Ogle County court date.

On Dec. 28 at 9:31 p.m. Nexae Nonato, 21, of Rochelle was arrested for no valid driver's license. He was released on a notice to appear with a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 29 at 4:43 a.m. Jonathan Bryant, 21, of Rochelle was arrested for public indecency. He was released on a notice to appear with a Jan. 26 Ogle County court date.

On Dec. 29 at 11:08 a.m. William L. Bumgarner, 72, of Rochelle was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 29 at 8:44 a.m. Matthew L. Hurst, 39, of Rochelle was arrested on two outstanding Ogle County warrants and transferred.

On Dec. 29 at 12:23 p.m. Dealon J. Williams, 45, of Rochelle was arrested for motor vehicle theft and transferred.

On Dec. 29 at 12:57 p.m. Megan L. Miller, 30,

of Rochelle was cited for cell phone use. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 29 at 12:34 p.m. Brett R. Melton, 55, of Rochelle was cited for failure to wear a seatbelt. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 29 at 10:52 a.m. Donald G. Easters, 65, of Compton was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 29 at 11:06 a.m. Courtney B. Quilhot, 26, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 51 miles per hour in a 35 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 29 at 10:29 a.m. Jennifer A. Heal, 40, of Rochelle was cited for failure to wear a seatbelt. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 29 at 9:28 a.m. Cynthia Munoz Colin, 41, of Rochelle was cited for failure to wear a seatbelt. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 29 at 9:04 a.m. Timothy B. Huber, 28, of Rochelle was cited for failure to wear a seatbelt. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 29 at 1:53 p.m. Anna M. Hodges, 49, of Yuma, Arizona was cited for illegal cell phone use. She signed a promise to comply and was given a

Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 29 at 11:56 p.m. Angelo M. Oquendo, 22, of Chicago was arrested on an outstanding LaSalle County warrant and transferred.

On Dec. 30 at 3:16 p.m. Michael T. Daniel Jr., 23, of Dixon was cited for no valid registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Jan. 19 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 30 at 3:59 p.m. a 17-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a stop sign. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Jan. 19 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 31 at 10:33 p.m. Debra M. Argetsinger, 68, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 52 miles per hour in a 35 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Jan. 19 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 31 at 2:50 p.m. Trevor M. Highfill, 34, of Chicago was cited for speeding 55 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Jan. 19 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 31 at 8:41 p.m. a 17-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was cited for speeding. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Dec. 31 at 7:18 p.m. Luis M. Esquivel, 29, of Delvan, Wisconsin was arrested for driving while license suspended and an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred. He was given a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 1 at 1:25 a.m. Roman Saldana-Sotelo, 52, of Belvidere was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant, and for two counts of driving under the influence. He paid \$1,346 and was released with a Feb. 2 Rochelle court date. Saldana-Sotelo was also cited for no rear registration light.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

OBITUARIES

Brian Daniel Young

ROCHELLE — Brian Daniel Young was born on March 9, 1970 in Rochelle, Illinois. He passed away on December 30, 2023 after a very sudden decline in his health. Brian was only 53 years of age.

Brian is survived by his parents, Jeannette and Richard Young; siblings: Scott (Tonya) Young and Angie Lint; niece, Nicole (Kyle) Maxwell; nephew, Zachary Young; great nieces and nephew: Kendall, Maci and Easton; his dog, Jolene and many loyal friends and extended family members. Brian was predeceased by his brother, Greg Young.

Brian was the kindest soul you have ever met. Many called him the gentle giant, and you were lucky to have ever known him. He would do anything for anyone. He helped his oldest brother with grocery shopping, he housed his middle brother when he was in need, he helped his sister move many times, he helped his parents with running errands or just visiting with them.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

OREGON — On Dec. 29 at 1:37 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at South 7th Street and Lakeview Drive in Rochelle. After an investigation, Israel Ibarra, 35, from Rockford was arrested for no valid driver's license. Ibarra was released from the scene on a notice to appear.

On Dec. 29 at approximately 8:19 a.m., Jessica Hernandez, 24, of Rochelle, was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Hernandez posted bond and was released with no further court dates.

On Dec. 29 at approximately 1:50 p.m., William Eckles, 41, of Dixon, was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Eckles posted bond and was released with no further court dates.

On Dec. 29 at 9:22

He was a quiet guy who loved dogs. He had dogs his entire life. He enjoyed drawing, listening to The Grateful Dead, playing pool and riding motorcycles. He had many tattoos. One that stands out is the Chinese symbol for "to be different". He was always his authentic self. He worked for many years at Northern Illinois University and was looking forward to retiring from there in a few years.

Brian was resilient. Brian has had leg/foot circulation issues for years and has lost toes and parts of his feet, but he would take a day or two to process that and then figure out what he needed to live a regular life. In 2022, Brian lost his house to a house fire and lost everything he owned except for the clothes on his body and his beloved dog, Jolene. He grieved that loss for a few days and then got on with living. He found an apartment and again moved on with his life. In mid-2023, Brian be-



came paralyzed from the chest down due to transverse myelitis. Again, he took a very short time to process that and he was actively working on gaining strength so that someday he could live in an apartment without help. He didn't complain, he just kept on moving forward. Brian was a calm soul. He loved his family, friends and any animal that needed his help. He will be missed by many.

There will be a visitation from 5:00 - 8:00 P.M., Thursday, January 4, 2024 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. Cremation care will be provided after the visitation. Burial will be at a later date at Woodlawn Cemetery in Creston, IL. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

Zacatzi-Toniz was issued a notice to appear court date and was left in the care of hospital staff.

On Dec. 30 at 1:15 a.m. deputies responded to the area of 4,000 East Walden Road for a one-vehicle crash. The vehicle, a white Chevrolet Silverado, appeared to be traveling east on Walden Road when it left the roadway, becoming airborne, striking a tree, and finally coming to a rest on a pile of wood. After a brief investigation, Steven Meyers, 24, of Rockford, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Meyers was transported to the Ogle County Jail, booked and released with a notice to appear. Meyers was additionally charged with a concealed carry weapon violation, improper lane usage, and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

On Dec. 30 at approximately 1:44 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 9,000 block of north Pecatonica Road. After an investigation, Brandon T. Wilken, 31, of Rockton, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Wilken was also cited for improper lane usage. Wilken was transported to the Ogle County Jail before being released on a notice to appear.

NIU: University receives mental health grant funding

From page 3

Employees from all geographic areas will be welcome. Training will be delivered in English.

The Construction Safety Council, located in Hillside, IL, was also amongst the recipients of the 2023 grant. The Construction Safety Council partners with Northern Illinois University to create the National Safety Education Center, an OSHA Training Institute Education Center. They received \$120,165 to offer free excavation/trenching courses in English and Spanish. Their training courses will be focused on mitigating the risks accompanying excavation and trenching operations.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA)

Department of Labor announced the award in a press release on September 19, 2023, stating that "The U.S. Department of Labor today announced that its Occupational Safety and Health Administration has awarded approximately \$12.7 million in grants to 100 non-profit organizations across the nation to support education and training to help workers and employers recognize serious workplace hazards, employ injury prevention and understand workers' rights and employers' responsibilities under federal law."

These grants are provided to help make the nation's workplaces safer and honor the legacy of Dr. Harwood and her assistance in creating federal standards in occupational safety.

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ASHTON NEWS



Ashton-Franklin Center fifth-graders commemorate Boston Tea Party

(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Ashton-Franklin Center School District fifth grade classes recently learned about the Boston Tea Party in social studies. Dec. 16 commemorated the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. Students and teachers celebrated with a tea party in the cafeteria.

LCFB members engage in policy process, recognized for outstanding programming

AMBOY—Lee County Farm Bureau members recently participated in Illinois Farm Bureau's traditional grassroots process during the organization's 109th annual meeting, bringing forth new policies on farmland preservation and addressing rural healthcare. Lee CFB was also recognized for its outstanding programming.

Members gathered at the Palmer House in Chicago, Dec. 2-4, to conduct annual business, introduce new policy and celebrate the year's successes. In total, IFB's 329 voting delegates adopted more than 20 new policies on a variety of topics, including farmland preservation, rural healthcare, energy and pipelines.

"Lee County Farm Bureau members remain engaged in our statewide agricultural policy development process and were pleased to see all four of our submitted proposals adopted by the voting delegates," said Adam Henkel, Lee CFB president. "This grassroots process allows our members to have a voice on issues that matter. We are thankful to our members who take time from their busy schedules to discuss and vote on policies that will ultimately guide our organization."

Delegates advanced a proposal made by Lee County, which supports reducing the required acreage to be enrolled in an agricultural area. Current state statute requires at least 350 acres of contiguous land for populations under 600,000 and 100 acres for denser populations over 600,000. The policy adds language to existing IFB policy supporting farmland

preservation. Delegates emphasized enrollment in ag areas is a voluntary commitment and would still need to be approved by a local county board.

Additionally, delegates approved two other Lee County submittals addressing rural healthcare, changing IFB policy to support all specialties, not just family physicians, as well as supporting capital investment into rural and "tweener" hospitals. These are hospitals with more than 25 beds, making them too large to be considered a Critical Access Hospital but with fewer than 275 beds, the threshold for being considered a rural referral center.

Other policy highlights include:

A new policy to support the use of Argonne National Laboratory's Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Technologies (GREET) model for carbon intensity scoring for agricultural biofuel feedstocks.

Delegates supported policy that safety regulations include adding a distinctive odor to carbon dioxide, utilize enhanced leak detection and automatic shutoffs, provide notification of emergency services if leaks are detected, and training and equipment donations for first responders in pipeline areas.

IFB delegates also expressed their concern regarding eminent domain and decided to support legislation that would prohibit its use for carbon dioxide pipelines.

Delegates also adopted a new policy on food waste and resource recovery, focusing on composting, compost facilities and



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Adam Henkel, Lee County Farm Bureau president and Brian Duncan, newly-elected Illinois Farm Bureau president.

food scraps. The policy supports tax deductions or credits for food donors to offset the costs associated with food donation, incentives for farmers to donate surplus crops, clarification from Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on food safety donation regulations for pre-cooked and pre-packaged food items, updating U.S. Department of Agriculture's definition of composting to entice more purchasers of compost, streamlining the permitting process for compost facilities, and support for minimizing regulatory constraints for on-farm composted materials, urban food scrap collections, and processing facilities.

The language of these approved policies will be forwarded to American

Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) for consideration during its upcoming annual meeting.

"The grassroots policy development process is fundamental to IFB," said IFB President Brian Duncan. "This unique process allows members to discuss and debate issues, then vote on what policy they feel is best for the organization. The actions taken show that our organization's process continues to work and reflects the opinions of a majority of IFB members."

Lee CFB was also honored during the annual meeting with three County Awards of Excellence (CAE): the New Horizon Award, the New Horizon Award Multi-County and the Liberty Bell Award.

Counties compete for

awards with other counties of similar membership size. Awards were evaluated under the CAE program, which recognizes CFBs for program excellence, encourages and assists CFBs in setting goals and priorities, inspires and promotes innovative programming to meet member needs, promotes programming in key areas and provides a resource to counties for the purpose of developing new programs. CAE recognized programs carried out between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug. 31, 2023.

The New Horizon Award is awarded to county Farm Bureaus that encourage new and innovative programs. The Liberty Bell Award recognizes outstanding efforts on issues of public policy

impacting state and local Farm Bureau organizational priorities.

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization directed by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB has a total membership of more than 364,452 and a farmer membership of 75,959. IFB represents three out of four Illinois farmers.

Learn more about Illinois agriculture at www.ilfb.org. Connect with Illinois Farm Bureau on Facebook: Illinois Farm Bureau | Facebook. Follow IFB on Instagram @ilfarmbureau or on X @ILFarmBureau.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Ron Kern: New Year's resolutions

2023 is now in the rearview mirror. I'm looking forward to 2024 because for some reason, with no scientific basis, I believe the number 24 to be my lucky number. In 365 more days I'll be able to tell you if that proves true or not. If not, then I'll have to pick a new number. Most likely something under 30, because at my age I don't want to stretch my luck. So as we head off into the future I quote from a Bob Seger song..."There I go, turn the page." And so I guess it is tradition after these 67 of my years on earth to again contemplate my New Year's resolution. Notice I said resolution, not resolutions plural. I've

finally decided that I feel bad enough after breaking the first one, there's no need to keep piling onto my misery. But this year I'm not going it alone. I decided to see what other folks were promising and try to differentiate one I could accommodate. So here's the list I've compiled. Who knows, maybe you will find one that works for you. I will drink one less cup of coffee... a year. I will not waste my money on a gym membership. I will eat more candy. I will go to the gym every month, and watch other people exercise. I will attend a health lecture and take a bag of chips to eat during the

break. I will step on the scale and give myself a high-five no matter what the numbers say. I will eat chocolate every day for the health benefits. I will run every day from my bed to the refrigerator before breakfast. I will buy stupid things that make me happy. I will start checking daring and dangerous things off my bucket list. I will get a tattoo I will regret. I will shave my head on one side. I will dye my hair a crazy color. I will go to a rock

climbing facility and watch other people fall. I will not go skydiving. I will audition for a reality show that I have no interest in. I'll make all of my friends set New Year's resolutions and hold them to it. I resolve to be just a little bit nicer to people who do exactly what I want. My New Year's resolution is to stop hanging with people who ask me about my New Year's resolution. Buy new clothes big enough to account for next year's holidays. My New Year's resolutions are to stop making lists, be more confident,

and learn to count. Keep smoking so I don't gain weight. My Ggal for 2024 is to accomplish the goals of 2023 which I should have done in 2022 because I promised them in 2021 and planned them in 2020. Most common New Year's resolution: Get in shape. I choose round shape. I have only one New Year's Resolution, which is to break my New Year's Resolution. Lose weight by hiding it somewhere you'll never find it. My new year's resolution is 1080 pixels. Check my work e-mail account at least once this year. Learn to play a musical instrument – the

bagpipes! To be more decisive... perhaps. Learn how to annoy more people in more ways in the New Year. Add dd more color to my diet – at least one bag of Skittles or M&Ms a day should do the trick. I resolve to stop sending e-mails to myself. I resolve to work with neglected children — my own. I resolve to chat with my spouse live instead of on Facebook. I resolve to read either "War and Peace" or "Green Eggs and Ham" The one about annoying other people is very appealing! Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.



Ron Kern

Consider this: Fact and fiction

HOW do we tell fact from fiction? I suggest we start with how we tell right from wrong. With common sense. Yet the way some statements are phrased, this can be quite a winding road to get to our goal. So, at times, we need some other sources. One I use quite often is Politifact. <https://www.politifact.com>. This internet site will let you know if a statement or comment is found to be false, mostly false, half true, mostly true or true. It will also explain how they came to this determination either by supplying short statements for you to read if your time is short, or by explaining their reasoning in full. If the statement or comment is blatantly not true, it is found to be "pants on fire." Get the buckets out. Take, for instance, a recent statement made on a Facebook post. Politifact has it listed as

"stated on Dec. 17, 2023 in a Facebook post" and the statement was "Elon Musk invented an energy-saving device that could "cut electricity bills by 80%." If we think about this, common sense tells us we would be seeing this on every site on the internet and channel on television. Since we are not, we would expect Politico to say this one is "pants on fire." They did. Former President Donald Trump made a statement recently at one of his rallies. Politifact has it listed as "stated on Dec. 16, 2023 in a rally in New Hampshire" and the statement "They want to make our Army tanks all electric." In this statement, first thing I look for is who is "they." In context, he may have meant the government but in a statement this controversial, it should be made explicit. In any event, Politifact lists this as false. My common sense told me this also.

As for President Joe Biden, he made a statement in remarks at the White House. Politifact has it listed as "stated on Nov. 27, 2023 in remarks at the White House." and the statement was "Republicans' "plan would cut Social Security benefits. ... Average benefit cut would be 13%." I really did not know whether this statement was true or not since I do know that the Republican Party wants to cut Social Security. Politifact has this statement as speculative but plausible. So, they have this one listed as mostly false. Senator Ron Johnson (R – Wisconsin) recently made a statement on "X." Politifact has it listed as "stated on Nov. 10, 2023, in X, formerly "Twitter:" and the statement was "In order to be a poll worker on the conservative side, you have

to register through the Republican Party of Wisconsin." Since I am also a poll worker, although not in Wisconsin, I knew this was true but should have been elaborated on to make it clearer. This is also true on the liberal side. Politifact has this one listed as mostly true. Senator Johnson also made a recent statement in a TV interview. It is listed as "stated on Dec. 11, 2023, in TV interview" and the statement was "Democrats have also used alternate slates of electors "repeatedly in all kinds of different states." Since this has never been true, Politifact has this one listed as false. Nikki Haley, Republican candidate for the presidency, recently held an event in Derry, New Hampshire. You may have watched this or were able to see some of it through snippets on

TV or the internet. On Politifact, it is listed as "stated on Nov. 28, 2023 in an event in Derry, New Hampshire." and the statement was "China had the largest naval fleet in the world. They had 370 ships. They'll have 400 ships in two years. We won't even have 350 ships in two decades." The ship counts are accurate. However, there are different military capabilities of each ship which still gives the United States an edge over China. This one is listed on Politifact as half true. I could go on and on with listings on the Politifact site, but you could also look these up if you have a smart phone or computer. Suffice it to say that there is help when you are determining whom you may want to vote for and whether what they are saying is true or false. Without this type of help, we are floundering in a very dangerous sea. Regular waves will pull

you back and then may fling you forward but you end up not knowing if you are truly getting anywhere. Then you must watch closely for those rogue waves. Those will bury you. We all feel that we are gifted with common sense. Yet this is a learned wisdom. I feel it is something I learned in school when I was young and with the interaction with my peers growing up. This is not saying that as children we lie, but we might fib just a bit. So, in our dealings with others of our age, we had to learn this commonsense thing to be able to prevent being made fun of. This is why it's so important to have communication with others. To have friends to play with when growing up. This gives us our base of believability towards future development. Can we ever overcome this bombardment of falsehoods and lies? With a little help, you bet!



Reed Harris

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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.

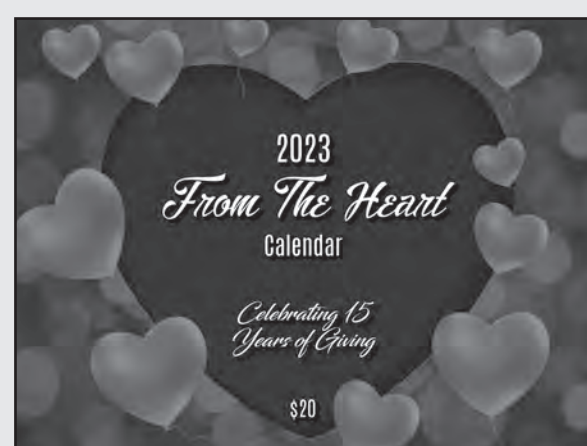
(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Residents of Howard Johnston Plaza in Oregon made over 100 Christmas cards for others. Cards were painted, drawn, stamped, colored, collaged and even had embossed tinfoil added to them. Residents Leslie Ballard, Dawn Feary, Annette Cobel, Gina Fahls, Hope Huffstader, Kathe Wilson, Kristie Knaak, and aides Lisa and Melissa created one-of-a-kind cards. Receiving cards for Oregon Rehab and Living are Pam Morris and Aspen Goza. Kathy Groenhagen accepted the cards for Serenity Hospice patients in the area.

Jan. 1	Jan. 5	Jan. 6
Dave Jones	Alaina Eubankz	Carson Johnson
	Grace Yates	Debbie Bonacquisti
Jan. 3	Sandra Ramirez	
Justin Sandoval		

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



King Crossword

ACROSS

-

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: L equals M

XTLFU MCWX OBU LMFSPBLOW
OLR GBMVOVWI ZM QPLSTLZ OS
LTZQS, T CMPWR FOWW SQU
VURSTDU GBUIUBX.

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

Weekly SUDOKU

[illegible]

Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

Since owls are nocturnal and probably go hunting at night, I would call them bedtime preys.

Cryptologic
answer

YEAR IN REVIEW



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On Sunday, June 25, a house dedication and blessing was hosted by Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County for its latest completed build at 110 S. 9th St. Ashlie Minton, a mother of four, was chosen as the homeowner and helped build the home along with volunteers and her family. Rochelle Community Hospital opened its XCEL Orthopedics clinic in Sycamore at 2670 DeKalb Ave. in July. In a June 28 press release, Rochelle Community Hospital named Karen Tracy its new chief executive officer. The move took effect July 1. Tracy succeeded Gregg Olson, who retired in March after two tenures as CEO at the hospital for a total of 12 years.

From page 1

Sunday, July 2
ROCHELLE — On Sunday, June 25, a house dedication and blessing was hosted by Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County for its latest completed build at 110 S. 9th St. Ashlie Minton, a mother of four, was chosen as the homeowner and helped build the home along with volunteers and her family.

The new home is the county organization's 13th overall and third build in Rochelle. Work on the site began in early October.

"In November, we stood here at our groundbreaking and hoped to get the basement covered and closed in before a bad winter came," Habitat Board President Gail Tuttle said. "Instead, we got a deck in, the walls up and the roof on and God was great in giving us great weather so we could get that done. This allowed the interior work to continue throughout the winter and lo and behold, we stand here on June 25 dedicating the house finished. This house can be lived in today."

Wednesday, July 19
SYCAMORE — Rochelle Community Hospital recently opened its XCEL Orthopedics clinic in Sycamore at 2670 DeKalb Ave.

The clinic and Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Gadini Delisca offer a full range of orthopedic services for patients as young as 2-3 years old up to geriatric patients including fracture care and total joint replacement, particularly hips, knees and shoulder replacements, sports medicine programs including care for ACL injuries, rotator cuff tears, sprains and strains, and hand procedures including for trigger finger/carpal tunnel problems.

Delisca currently sees patients at the Rochelle and Sycamore clinics. On June 14, RCH representatives

held a ribbon cutting event for the location in conjunction with the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce.

"We're still very much building and working hard to get community trust and really showcasing what we have to offer," Delisca said. "We're very pleased with the location and being in Sycamore. Now we're just working on putting in the work."

Sunday, July 23
ROCHELLE — In a June 28 press release, Rochelle Community Hospital named Karen Tracy its new chief executive officer. The move took effect July 1. Tracy succeeds Gregg Olson, who retired in March after two tenures as CEO at the hospital for a total of 12 years.

Tracy has worked at RCH for 31 years, starting as a nurse. She's been a

member of the administrative team for 20 years and has been second in command to the CEO for the past 10 years.

"I'm very humbled and very honored to have this responsibility," Tracy said. "I've worked so closely with so many good CEOs and always respected them and their positions. I know so many people here and I have such good relationships with the doctors and I've received a lot of well wishes from folks that I've just gotten to know and people that have worked with me. I feel very inspired to do a good job for them."

August
Wednesday, Aug. 9
ROCHELLE — At its July 24 meeting, the Rochelle City Council saw the appointment and swearing in of Pete Pavia as full-fledged Rochelle

Police Department Chief. Pavia had served as interim chief of the department since March following the retirement of Chief Eric Higby.

Pavia has over 25 years of law enforcement experience at various levels of leadership including as a school resource officer, field training officer, detective, first-line supervisor and acting chief. He holds a degree in criminal justice and is currently completing his master's degree in business administration and organizational leadership. He's a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

"Pete and his team have accomplished so much since March," City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said at the July 24 meeting. "He's overseen the hiring of five additional full-time police

officers. He's instituted a community resource officer program, worked to extend the SRO program at the high school and has ensured delayed equipment and capital purchases have proceeded. He's committed himself to learning about and embracing our organization and community. I have 110 percent faith in Pete's leadership capabilities and I know he's the right person for this job."

Sunday, Aug. 20
MT. MORRIS — Rochelle sculptors Mark and Danica Rogers again entered the U.S. National Straw Sculpting Competition in Mt. Morris, held Aug. 11-27 this year.

The father-daughter sculpting duo have a history of competing locally in both straw and snow competitions. They've entered the Mt. Morris

competition for a number of years and entered snow sculpting competitions in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and Rockford this past winter.

The Rogers' entry this summer is none other than Oscar the Grouch from Sesame Street. He stands 10 feet tall with the lid of his garbage can open.

"It went together pretty much as planned," Mark said. "When we're sculpting we try to get it to a point and then see logistically what our options are and then we go from there. We don't start with 100 percent of a plan, but we have an idea where we're going. And then once we start building it, we see if our ideas are going to work or if we have to change or modify it. It went well and as expected."

See page 9

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YEAR IN REVIEW



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its July 24 meeting, the Rochelle City Council saw the appointment and swearing in of Pete Pavia as full-fledged Rochelle Police Department Chief. Pavia had served as interim chief of the department since March following the retirement of Chief Eric Higby. Rochelle sculptors Mark and Danica Rogers again entered the U.S. National Straw Sculpting Competition in Mt. Morris, held Aug. 11-27 this year. The Rochelle Police Department recently established and completed training for its Community Service Officer (CSO) program, RPD Chief Pete Pavia said Aug. 23.

From page 8

Mark and Danica landed on the idea of Oscar the Grouch due to a "time crunch" situation. They had toyed with the idea of sculpting a Medusa bust, but resolved that it would be too complicated for the limited time they had.

"We were just spit balling and throwing out options and Danica came up with Oscar the Grouch and we felt we had the time for it and that it wouldn't put too much strain on the other things we've got going on in life," Mark said. "And it's cute. He's a cute character."

Sunday, Aug. 27
OREGON — On Aug. 17, a meeting was held by the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation, where the newly-established organization officially announced that it is open for business.

The OCEDC is incorporated as a not-for-profit, representing all of Ogle County, its communities, employers and citizens. The OCEDC's vision

statement is "Ogle County, Illinois: An economic destination for growth and prosperity." Since 2019, more than a dozen communities, utility companies, state and regional economic agencies have come together to make the OCEDC a reality.

The OCEDC is made up of various officials from municipalities and the county. New officers elected at the July 20 meeting are Randy Schoon - president (Polo), Darin DeHaan - vice president (Oregon), Paula Diehl - secretary (Mt. Morris) and John Rickard - treasurer (Byron). Each officer represents a community that has pledged startup funds for the new organization. Ogle County and the City of Rochelle have also pledged.

"The key message is that Ogle County as a whole is now coming together for this effort," DeHaan said. "I think it's something we've always needed. The foundation is in place and I think we're going to see some good things happening for all of our communities."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

September
Sunday, Sept. 3
ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Police Department recently established and completed training for its Community Service Officer (CSO) program, RPD Chief Pete Pavia said

Aug. 23.

The department has hired two CSOs for the program. Pavia said the idea came about as RPD has dealt with staffing shortages due to a number of retirements and ongoing hiring during the past year. Pavia worked in a depart-

ment that utilized CSOs in the past and said he's seen them be beneficial.

CSOs are non-sworn, civilian personnel. They will take care of tasks that RPD officers have been performing that be done by non-sworn personnel such as taking squad cars

for maintenance, lost pet calls, debris in roadways, traffic control, non-injury accident reports, lockouts, taking reports to the state's attorney's office, and taking evidence to the crime lab.

See page 10

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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



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

In September, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Barrio Agave, a new Mexican restaurant at 1310 N. 7th St. In late September, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Rochelle Fire Department and Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District's new joint training facility at 920 S. Main St. A grand opening ceremony was held by the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District for Memorial Park's new playground, which includes the park district's first fully-adapted playground piece, the inclusive whirl, which is able to be used by people of all abilities. The inclusive whirl was donated in memory of the late Beau Sullivan of Rochelle.

From page 9

"Essentially, the CSOs are here to alleviate the full-time officers when they're busy," Pavia said. "It's just all of those things that normally would tie an officer up. They're here for five days a week. I love the program. It's just taken off. Everyone is noticing them now on the street. It's a great program."

Wednesday, Sept. 6 ROCHELLE — On Aug. 22, Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery announced the opening of the Rochelle Recovery Center at 242 May Mart Drive in Rochelle.

Those recovering from alcoholism and drug addiction can call 779-707-0151 for information about meetings at the location and in the area. A new Narcotics Anonymous meeting will be held at the location on Mondays at 7 p.m. A Big Book study will be held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the location. The Big Book

Compendium is a recovery program.

Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery is a recovery community based out of Dixon. For the past three years, it has covered Lee, Whiteside and Ogle counties and recently started coverage of addiction needs in DeKalb County.

"Our organization believes that a big component of recovery is reconnecting with a positive community," SVVOR Executive Director Gerald Lott said. "We do a lot of taking people to treatment. And then when those people come back, their problems are still there. Three years ago we set out to build a connection with that community. Every month we do a newsletter to let people in the community know what other people in recovery are doing in the area. We do monthly social events that are free of charge. We've taken people bowling and ax throwing and hiking. We've had sober dances. We support getting meet-



ings going. Our goal is to not support any one path to recovery. It's not AA or NA or Celebrate Recovery or yoga. We want to lift the entire harbor of recovery. In doing so, all boats rise."

Wednesday, Sept. 20 ROCHELLE — On Friday, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for Barrio Agave, a new Mexican restaurant at 1310 N. 7th St. The restaurant officially opened Friday and is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays.

Barrio Agave Owner Jennifer Gonzalez said Friday that she and her family are from Rochelle and they have been working for the past year to open the restaurant's doors.

"I'd like to thank our friends and family who have been helping us along the way," Gonzalez said. "We've been working extremely hard for the past year. There have been a lot of challenges, but we worked through it and collaborated together. I'm happy we're here."

Gonzalez thanked the City of Rochelle as well for its support over the past year.

"I think it's just a reflection of what a great community Rochelle is: Supportive, encouraging, motivating and loving," Gonzalez said. "I could say so much more. We grew up here in Rochelle and after high school we moved to Arizona and got to explore different types of food which is something we're incorporating here today in our menu. Growing up we moved around a lot. We lived in California and I lived in Chicago for a time for school. We put all of our experiences together and we're happy to share it with you all. I hope you enjoy it. I hope you all love it."

October Sunday, Oct. 1 ROCHELLE — On Wednesday, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Rochelle Fire Department and Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District's new joint training facility at 920 S. Main St.

Construction of the facility has and will consist of four phases. The first phase was land acquisition. The South Main Street site was donated to the city by Rochelle Main Street, LLC after officials had searched for sites across months. The

second phase will consist of grading, construction of water retention, two concrete pads, an asphalt parking lot, two metal training structures specifically designed for live fire, and landscaping. The planning for phases one and two are complete and construction is set to begin in the next few days, RFD Chief Dave Sawlsville said Wednesday.

The future third phase will include the construction of a third concrete pad and the erecting of a four-story metal training structure to simulate a multi-story commercial or residential building that is also designed and built for live fire. Phase four will be construction of a brick & mortar building to house a classroom, reserve engines and breakout rooms for training.

"The path to today involved hours and hours of planning, conversation, cooperation and collaboration," Sawlsville said. "I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who played a part in that process. Thanks to all of you for taking time to celebrate not only our progress, but the relationships that helped get us here."

Sunday, Oct. 8 ROCHELLE — On Wednesday evening, a grand opening ceremony was held by the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District for Memorial Park's new playground, which includes the park district's first fully-adapted playground piece, the inclusive whirl, which is able to be used by people of all abilities.

The inclusive whirl was donated in memory of the late Beau Sullivan of Rochelle. His family and friends attended Wednesday's event and cut the ribbon for the piece and playground.

"These are just things that we don't think about everyday as walking people or able people," Beau's mother, Rhonda Sullivan, said. "When Beau was born and we realized he was going to have some disabilities and was going to be in a wheelchair, there were things that we thought of that we never would've thought of before. This was a big thing for us. There weren't really any parks we could go to where Beau had something where he could be involved."

See page 11

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YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 10

“This is just something we always really wished for. Something we always wished Beau had. We avoided parks. He would have loved this. He would have been excited. He probably would not have been able to wait to get on here back in his younger days.”

The donation for the inclusive whirl was made by Grant Manning and the Fat Cat Slots ownership group from proceeds raised by the business’s golf outing.

Wednesday, Oct. 11
ROCHELLE — On Friday, a ribbon cutting was held for Audyn Boutique, a new women’s shopping experience downtown at 413 4th Ave. in Rochelle. The shop offers clothing, handbags, jewelry and more.

The business is owned by David and Stephanie Hulthen and their daughter, Audrey. The family also runs a boutique shop in Shabbona as well as a mobile boutique trailer for markets. Shopping can also be done online.

“From 1998-2002 I worked in Rochelle as a music teacher,” Stephanie said. “I have some roots here and we always pass by here and shop here. My daughter saw this space was available and thought it would be great to have. On Sept. 1 we signed the lease and here we are. Audrey will be running it. It’s a family thing. All of us working together. We were here until after 1 a.m. last night getting it ready. We’re just excited to be a part of Rochelle. Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming and we’re so thankful.”

David Hulthen said the boutique business began about two and a half years ago and has grown since.

“We decided it might be something a little different and Audrey was kind of the spearhead behind that side of things,” David said. “And then the year after that we went out into a market and set up an area and it worked out really well. We bought a mobile trailer for those markets. We’ve had that for 1.5 years and do it during the summers. That’s been growing the business and we got to this. So we’ll see where we go from here.”

Sunday, Oct. 22
MALTA — On Tuesday, an open house and ribbon cutting were held for Kishwaukee College’s new welding lab on campus.

The event included a welcome by Kish College President Dr. Laurie Borowicz and remarks by College Board of Trustees President Bob Johnson, Dean of Office of Instruction Chase

Budziak, Enbridge Community Ambassador Jerry Smith and Kish Welding Program Student Donovan James.

Borowicz said that welding has been a staple of the college’s offerings for a long time, but it was previously done in “a very small space.”

“This new space is an example of how a college evolves,” Borowicz said. “And how when the needs change, we change. We used to have auto collision in here, and the industry changed. We no longer needed this space and it turned out to be the perfect opportunity to expand a program that could use expansion like welding. It’s a need for our community and businesses.”

Welding is one of Kish’s career & technical education program offerings. Johnson said the new welding lab project took “quite a while” due to the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain problems. The new lab is four times larger than the previous lab.

Sunday, Oct. 29
KINGS — On Oct. 24, the committee that put together a reunion of Kings School alumni presented a donation of nearly \$4,000 worth of classroom materials and funds to current teachers at Kings Elementary School.

The Kings School alumni picnic was held Aug. 27 and celebrated over 140 years of educating students. It was open to all current and former Kings School students or staff and their families. The event was held at the school and included food, memories and memorabilia from the school’s history. Over 300 people attended and a donation account for the event was set up at Holcomb Bank. Leftover funds were planned to go to current Kings teachers and students, and that donation was given Oct. 24.

“It started with an idea last fall,” Reunion Committee Member Dawn Hayenga Somers said. “Somebody said, ‘You know, we should get together.’ It was going to be just a few of us. To be quite honest, my brother turned 80 in March and I looked at him and thought that there’s a lot of older people who aren’t going to be around a whole lot longer that went to school at Kings and it’s time we get them together. I’m into history and I’m writing up the history of White Rock and I’ve been writing the history of the school. It goes back almost 145 years. It was time we did something before we’re too old to do anything. We started meeting in February

and we met monthly and the little seed of an idea grew into 300 people showing up. We had over \$6,000 in donations. By the time we got everything for the reunion paid for, we had almost \$4,000 left.”

November
Wednesday, Nov. 8
ROCHELLE — On Friday, a ribbon cutting event was held for Ralfie’s BBQ and Catering’s new downtown building, The 302 at 410 Cherry Ave.

The business, owned by Ralf and Tricia Herrera, has been in operation since 2009. What started on a small scale of selling kebabs and pork chops became catering a few small weddings a year to now offering full-service catering and serving at 35-40 weddings and more per year. The business outgrew its previous kitchen space and will now have a place to cook, get orders to customers and host gatherings, events and meetings.

“Thank you everyone for coming,” Tricia Herrera said. “This is a big day for us. This is a long time coming. It’s probably five years in the making. It’s just a great day of celebration for us.”

The 302 name is in honor of the house number of the home Tricia grew up in. The business’s LLC name is the Herrera BBQ Company in honor of Ralf’s parents, who have both passed away. When the decision came to name the brick and mortar location, the couple chose to honor Tricia’s late parents with The 302 name.

“Our friends and family do everything for us,” Tricia Herrera said. “They jump in when we need an extra grill man. They haul a trailer when we need it. My sister rolls thousands of silverware for me. Our friends and family just step up for us and refer us to their friends and family. Everything about it is great and we can’t thank you guys enough.”

Wednesday, Nov. 15
ROCHELLE — On Oct. 26, Dr. Diane McNeilly of Rochelle passed away at age 79. She left behind a legacy of impacts made in the area on public service, education and recreation.

McNeilly moved to Rochelle in 1966 with a bachelor’s degree in physical education. She started working at Kishwaukee College as women’s athletic director in 1969 and spent her entire teaching career there, eventually becoming vice president of instruction. She earned her doctorate in education from Northern Illinois University in 1984.

McNeilly and her sec-

ond husband, Dr. Norman Jenkins, worked together at Kish until they both retired in 2000. They were recognized for their achievements in education in 2019 when Northern Illinois University presented them with the John C. Roberts Community Service Award.

Outside of her professional life, McNeilly had decades of involvement in the Rochelle community through a number of governing boards, nonprofits and civic organizations. She had a passion for sports and recreation, which led to her involvement in Spring Lake Pool, founding the Rochelle Rays Swim Club and serving as a Flagg-Rochelle Park District Commissioner.

McNeilly also served on the Rochelle Township High School District Board of Education, the City of Rochelle’s Planning & Zoning Commission and the Downtown Rochelle Association.

Sunday, Nov. 19
ROCHELLE — On Nov. 9, the City of Rochelle hosted a bilingual program at Salt 251 for residents on how to start a small business.

The Hispanic Community Business Expo featured presentations by a number of community stakeholders on the process of starting a business. The event started as an idea by City Councilwoman Rosaelia Arteaga.

“I wanted to do this because since I’ve been on city council, there have been a lot of people that have reached out and asked me things about opening a business,” Arteaga said. “And I don’t always have all the answers. I want people to have those answers from the people that know.”

Sunday, Nov. 19
ROCHELLE — On Monday, the fourth and final Small Business Bingo fundraiser event was held at the hangar at Chicago-Land Skydiving Center and raised \$3,760 for The Kitchen Table, Event Organizer and AP Massage Therapy Owner Ashley Patrick said.

The events have taken place in the community over the past two months. Small Business Bingo includes prizes donated by local small businesses with 100 percent of proceeds benefiting a nonprofit, this time being The Kitchen Table. The cost was \$15 per person for 10 rounds of bingo. A cash bar and food options were available for purchase. Just over 250 people attended, Patrick said.

“I think it went really well and I’m really happy with how we finished out

the series of the four fundraisers,” Patrick said. “We had almost as good of a turnout as last time, so I feel like we finished out really strong with attendance and having people interested in and excited about all of these events and continued to build off of each one.”

Monday’s event also included a canned food drive for The Kitchen Table to help with its holiday meals, and Patrick said several boxes were filled by the drive. Kris Wexell from 102.3 The Coyote was the event’s guest bingo caller and provided Small Business Bingo with its grand prize, which was tickets to see Hootie and the Blowfish with Collective Soul and Edwin McCain.

The previous three Small Business Bingo events benefited Shining Star Children’s Advocacy Center, HOPE of Ogle County, and Foundation for Focus House. All four events raised \$18,548 in total. Patrick said additional sponsorships were sold for bingo cards and supplies, and Flight Deck Bar & Grill sponsored the use of the CSC hangar for the final two events, bringing the grand total raised to \$21,448.

Sunday, Nov. 26
ROCHELLE — On Nov. 17, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the future site of Willis Senior Lofts at 410 Willis Ave. in Rochelle.

The event was hosted by the developer of Willis Senior Lofts, Lincoln Avenue Communities (LAC). The development will include 60 units of affordable housing for lower-income seniors in Rochelle who are facing a shortage of affordable homes.

Speakers included Ro-

chelle Mayor John Bearrows, U.S. 16th District Rep. Darin LaHood, LAC Senior Vice President for Development Russell Condas, LAC Vice President & Regional Project Partner Hume An, and Linda Brace, assistant director of client services, Illinois Housing Development Authority.

“Within the building, residents will be able to enjoy a double-volume community room that opens up to an outdoor patio, a theater room, fitness center, shared laundry room and an indoor dog washing room,” An said. “The development grounds will also have a walking path, raised community garden, and bicycle parking for everyone to enjoy. Our goal in designing this community was to deliver homes for our residents indistinguishable from, if not better than, the other rental options in the surrounding area. When you join us for the spring 2025 grand opening, I hope you’ll agree with us.”

December
Wednesday, Dec. 13
ROCHELLE — On Thursday, the Community Action Network (CAN) hosted its annual Shopping Trip event for area families in need at the First Presbyterian Church.

Through donations, the annual Christmas Children’s Shopping Trip saw 226 children referred by local schools, churches and nonprofit agencies attend and receive basic clothing items and more. Children and local volunteer shoppers were shuttled by the Lee-Ogle Transportation System to Walmart with \$75 gift cards for each of them. Shoppers were given lists of needs and sizes for each child, and kids picked out a toy as well.

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LOCAL NEWS

Ag in the Classroom book grant allows Kings students to ‘plant’ underwear

KINGS - Ms. Tammy Greene of Kings School received a book grant on soil from the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom program, the IAA Foundation, and the Illinois Farm Bureau. Her fourth-grade class will be learning about soil throughout the year.

The mission of the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) program is to bring accurate and authentic agricultural information to students in grades PreK-12 across Illinois.

“Each year, our teacher grant program is very competitive, and our judging panel is amazed at the unique programs teachers use to infuse agriculture into their curriculum. Our grant recipients are ready to jump into units of study highlighting agriculture.

We see 2023-2024 as a prime opportunity for teachers to infuse their curriculum with agriculture,” Kevin Daugherty, director of the Illinois Center for Agricultural Engagement and IAITC, said.

Ms. Greene’s class started the year “planting” underwear. This is a fun, hands-on activity where students can understand what makes soil healthy by burying pairs of cotton underwear and watching them decompose over time.

They recently dug up their underwear to see much of it was missing due to the many organisms in the soil.

Susan Moore, director of the IAA Foundation, added, “We take pride in providing resources so teachers can continue

engaging and inspiring students. These grants are a meaningful way for the IAA Foundation to partner with like-minded organizations to fulfill our mission to support the future of agriculture through education.”

Partner organizations of IAITC include Illinois Farm Bureau, Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE), University of Illinois Extension, Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Corn Growers, Illinois Pork Producers, Illinois Soybean Association, Midwest Dairy Association, Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In addition, annual donors include agribusiness partners and event participants with an



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Students in Ms. Greene’s fourth-grade class learn about soil and decomposition during the “Soil Your Undies” learning activity.

interest in supporting the future of agriculture. For information on how individuals can contribute, visit www.iaafoundation.org. For information on

IAITC, visit www.agin-theclassroom.org.

Ag in the Classroom is offered through the University of Illinois Extension in partnership

with Ogle County Farm Bureau, Carroll County Farm Bureau, Ogle County Soil & Water, and Carroll County Soil & Water.



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SPORTS



GIRLS GRAPPLE AT OTHS

The Rochelle Lady Hub wrestlers traveled for a tournament in Ottawa on Thursday.

See page 3 for more details

RTHS Wrestling

Hubs battle at The Flavin

Rochelle opens tournament with wins over Hinsdale Central and West Aurora

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

DEKALB — The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team traveled to DeKalb for the first day of the 2023 Don Flavin Invitational, which features some of the elite Class 2A and Class 3A wrestling programs in the state. Rochelle wrestled three dual matches Friday morning, defeating Hinsdale Central and West Aurora to finish fifth out of eight schools in the Dan Cliffe Bracket.

The Hubs opened the tournament with a close battle against Barrington, falling 44-34 to move into the consolation side of the bracket. Rochelle recovered nicely, however, beating Hinsdale Central 52-25 before taking down West Aurora 46-32 to finish fifth in the bracket. The Hubs (18-3, 3-0 Interstate 8) will return on Saturday morning to wrestle three more dual matches.

Barrington

Rochelle's dual against the Broncos began with the 157-pound bout, where Barrington's Silas Oberholzer scored the first points of the match with a fall over junior Matthew Lynn. Rochelle bounced back with a win in the 165-pound bout, which junior Grant Gensler

claimed for the Hubs with a 17-0 technical fall over Liam Tierney. Sophomore Roman Villalobos followed with a second-period fall over Marino Benardi in the 175-pound bout, giving Rochelle an 11-6 lead.

Barrington claimed the next two matches, with Ayden Salley earning a fall over freshman Cooper Holmgren in the 190-pound bout and Raphael Abano earning a fall over freshman Rafael Herrera in the 215-pound bout. Junior Kaiden Morris brought Rochelle back with a first-period fall over Jack Kavanaugh to win the 285-pound bout and make the score 18-17.

Barrington's Kaleb Pratt scored a 16-1 technical fall over sophomore Freddie Hernandez in the 106-pound bout to keep the Broncos in the lead. The Hubs answered with a string of three consecutive wins, which started when sophomore Keagan Albers notched a 15-0 technical fall over Jonah Glazov in the 113-pound bout. Senior Tommy Tourdot and junior Xavier Villalobos followed with falls over Ryan Dorn and Jimmy Whitaker in the 120-pound and 126-pound bouts.

Barrington took the final four matches to come from behind and clinch



Junior Grant Gensler controls Barrington's Liam Tierney during the opening day of the annual Don Flavin Invitational at DeKalb High School on Friday.

the dual win. Daniel Blake's fall over sophomore Deegan Schabacker in the 132-pound bout and Brennan O'Donnell's 9-3 decision over freshman Josh Lassiter cut the Rochelle lead to 34-32. In a pivotal match, Barrington's Brady Wright erased a 7-1 deficit and recorded a fall over sophomore Brenden Voight to win the 144-pound bout in overtime. Barrington's Augusto Rhenzo sealed the

dual win for the Broncos with a fall over freshman Angel Hernandez in the 150-pound bout.

Hinsdale Central

Junior Grant Gensler opened Rochelle's dual against the Red Devils with a first-period fall over Warren Howard in the 165-pound bout. Hinsdale Central took the next four matches,

taking the lead after Zach Kruse's 2-0 decision over sophomore Roman Villalobos in the 175-pound bout and Aiden Galekas's fall over freshman Cooper Holmgren in the 190-pound bout. Hinsdale Central's Corbin Camp and Marko Ivanisevic followed with falls over freshman Rafael Herrera and junior Kaiden Morris in the 215-pound and 285-pound bouts to put the Red Devils up 21-6.

Rochelle received several forfeits from Hinsdale Central, with sophomores Freddie Hernandez (106), Tony Milburn (120) and Deegan Schabacker (132) as well as juniors Xavier Villalobos (132) and Matthew Lynn (157), senior Tommy Tourdot (126) and freshman Angel Hernandez (150) earning free victories from the Red Devils.

See HUBS page 3

RTHS Boys Bowling

Rochelle takes eighth at Dixon Toughman Tournament

Powell rolls team-high 662 series to place sixth in high series individual ranks

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

DIXON — The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team finished eighth out of 19 teams in the annual Dixon Toughman Tournament at Plum Hollow Lanes on Friday afternoon. Rochelle (9-6, 5-3 Interstate 8) scored 2,755 in the three-game opening round and ended the tournament with a final total of 6,335 after 18 baker games. The Hubs will return home on Thursday, Jan. 4 for a home match against Geneseo.

Sophomore Andrew Powell finished sixth in the individual high series rankings for the event, shooting a team-leading 662 series with scores of 245, 201 and 216. Senior Sam Tracey added a 576 series with a high score of 212, while sophomore Levi Waddle followed with a 568 series and a high score of 207. Junior Logan Frye recorded a 531 series and a high score of 207.

Rochelle went 10-8 over the 18 rounds of baker bowling. The Hubs defeated teams from Dakota, Dixon, Oregon, Abington, Moline, Harlem, Rock Island and South Beloit in the baker rounds. Rochelle totaled 3,580 in the baker portion of the event.



The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team took eighth out of 19 teams in the annual Dixon Toughman Tournament on Friday. Above from left to right are Andrew Powell, Caleb Mortensen, Levi Waddle, Sam Tracey, Logan Frye and Declan McGee.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



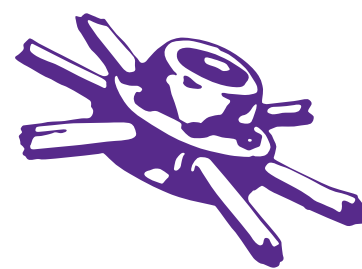
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HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Vivian
Novak**

*Year: Freshman
Sport: Basketball*

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

A: I have been playing since third grade, so about seven years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: I enjoy that it's a game where anything can happen.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?

A: My favorite subject is history because I like learning about ancient civilizations.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?

A: My favorite athlete is Caitlin Clark because she's really good and she inspires me to work harder.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My biggest role model is my dad because he teaches me things and he gives me advice.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: To be an exotic veterinarian at a zoo because I love animals.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?

A: My dream vacation would be a trip to Greece because it's a beautiful country.

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

A: I enjoy being able to get out of class early for games.

**Jasmine
Walsh**

*Year: Freshman
Sport: Basketball*



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

A: This is my fifth year.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: I enjoy being able to connect with my teammates and support each other.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?

A: English is my favorite school subject because there's no wrong way to show uniqueness in writing.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My mother because she's the

most hard working person I know.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: To be a singer because I love music and I've always wanted to sing ever since I was younger.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?

A: Spain because I want to go to some part of Europe to experience the culture.

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

A: Being able to feel more connected to students and teachers.

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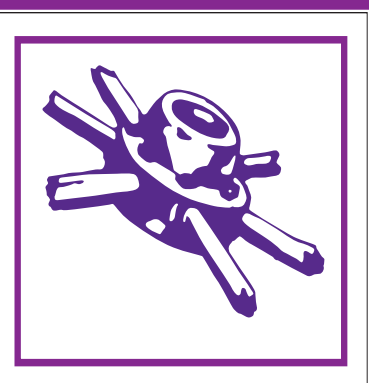
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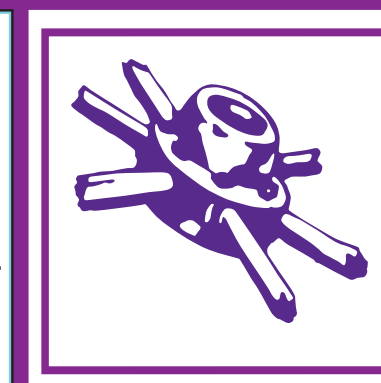
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SPORTS

RTHS Wrestling



Sophomore Cammyla Macias (left) and junior Dempsey Atkinson (right) each medaled with top-4 finishes in the tournament. Macias placed third in her bracket with a 3-1 record over four bouts, while Atkinson finished fourth in her bracket with a 2-2 record over four bouts.

Lady Hub athletes medal at Ottawa Girls Invitational

Macias takes third and Atkinson finishes fourth in Thursday tournament

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

OTTAWA — The Rochelle Lady Hub wrestlers competed in the annual Ottawa Girls Invitational on Thursday. Sophomore Cammyla Macias and junior Dempsey Atkinson each medaled with top-4 finishes in the tournament.

Macias placed third in her bracket with a 3-1 record over four bouts, while Atkinson finished fourth in her bracket with a 2-2 record over four bouts.

Macias began the tournament with a first-round victory against Ottawa's Emma Yawn, compiling two takedowns and five near falls before earning a

second-period fall. Macias continued her hot streak with a second-round win by fall over Oak Park-River Forest wrestler Ana Banuelos.

Macias fell against Lemont's Molly O'Connor in the semifinal round, taking a scoreless first period into the second period, where O'Connor eventu-

ally won by fall. Macias finished the tournament on a high note, concluding her day with a win in the third-place bout, where she overcame a reversal and a near fall to defeat Naperville Central's Ellen Purl by fall.

Atkinson recorded back-to-back victories to begin her tournament.

Atkinson totaled three takedowns and three near falls before scoring a third-period fall over Freeport's NaJeyah Wallace in the first round. Atkinson followed with three more takedowns and four more near falls during her second-round 17-2 technical fall over Rock Falls wrestler Elisa

Russell.

Atkinson fell in the semifinal round, conceding a first-period fall against Moline's Maryam Ndiaye. Atkinson battled Plainfield South's Teagan Aurich in the third-place bout, taking a 1-0 deficit into the third period, where Atkinson eventually fell in a 6-1 decision for Aurich.

HUBS: Rochelle wins two duals in first day at Don Flavin Invitational

From page 1

Both teams split the last two head-to-head matches, with Sammy Murante scoring 9-1 major decision over sophomore Keagan Albers in the 113-pound bout for the Red Devils and sophomore Brenden Voight earning a 9-1 major decision over Barsum Ravanasa in the 144-pound bout for the Hubs.

Aurora's Alex Lopez earning a fall over freshman Cooper Holmgren in the 190-pound bout and junior Kaiden Morris responding with a fall over Alfonso Aguilar in the 215-pound bout. West Aurora's Noah Chacon received a forfeit for the 285-pound bout, tying the match at 12-12.

Sophomores Freddie Hernandez and Keagan Albers took forfeits for the Hubs in the 106-pound and 113-pound bouts. The Hubs added two more wins after senior Tommy Tourdot's first-period fall over Kaden Wyland in the 120-pound bout and junior Xavier Villalobos's 9-1 major decision over Aiden Massaro in the 126-pound

bout. West Aurora's Evan Matkovich made the score 34-16 after a 9-0 major decision over sophomore Deegan Schabacker in the 132-pound bout.

The Blackhawks followed with a win in the 138-pound bout, where Jack Platt scored a 14-0 major decision against sophomore Frank Nasca. The Hubs answered with a win in the 144-pound bout, where sophomore Brenden Voight notched a first-period fall over Emilio Ayala.

West Aurora's Dominic Serio and Dayne Serio claimed the 150-pound and 157-pound bouts for the Blackhawks, finishing with falls over freshman



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Roman Villalobos holds off Barrington's Marino Benardi during the first round of the Don Flavin Invitational on Friday morning.

Angel Hernandez and junior Matthew Lynn. Rochelle concluded the dual

match against the Blackhawks with a win in the 165-pound bout, where ju-

nior Grant Gensler worked for a second-period fall against Manny Chavez.

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Local retailers not only take responsibility for the product they sold, they will often fix it or replace it – no questions asked. Appliances, furniture, computers and electronics sometimes have glitches. Would you rather box yours up, send it to who knows where, and wait six to eight weeks, or just go back to the nice guy that helped you when you bought it?



Keeping it local encourages community growth. By

choosing to do business locally, you help maintain Rochelle's diversity, charm and appeal; which attracts new community members.



One word: Jobs. When you do business of any kind in Rochelle, it creates and maintains jobs for others in our area. A healthy employment rate is the cornerstone of all economies.

How can you help the economy recover? Start at home.

Classified Marketplace

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101
LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on December 14, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Ogle County Clerk's Office setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:
B-Rad Sounds
2313 N. IL Route 251
Kings, IL 61068
Dated December 14, 2023
Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk
No. 1224
(Dec. 20 and 27, 2023 and Jan. 3, 2024)

**NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT OGLE
COUNTY, ILLINOIS**
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF))
PHILIP J. BAUSONE, Deceased.) NO. 2023-PR-78

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of PHILIP J. BAUSONE, of Oregon, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 7, 2023, to ALLENA VEGE, whose address is 10040 Cummings St., Huntley, IL 60142, 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 June 18, 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 ALLENA VEGE, Independent Administrator of the Estate of PHILIP J. BAUSONE, deceased No. 1226
(Dec. 20 and 27, 2023 and Jan. 3, 2024)

101
LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

105
BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITIES

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

113
FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers
Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

119
ANNOUNCEMENTS

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance."

127
SERVICES AND
REPAIRS

FURMAN'S Lawn Care and Tree Work. Mowing, bushes, spring clean up, weeding and much more. Call Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please leave a message will return call ASAP. Fully insured, in business since 1999. Servicing Rochelle and surrounding areas.

201
DOMESTIC/CHILD
CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

203
HELP WANTED

Help Wanted, full time live in housekeeper to help with cleaning, laundry, cooking and helping with my 54 year-old daughter. Room and board included with pay options. 779-251-0161(RNL01032024)

301
ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY:
Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

ANTIQUES WANTED:
I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

307
MISCELLANEOUS
FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper
-\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

Grass Hay \$5 per Bale, Small Bales average 60 lbs, 200 Available. Hay has been kept off of the ground & in a dry loft since cutting. Bruce 815-234-3099 (RNL01032024)

405
HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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307
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ON THE FARM

How rising food demand is affecting farming

THE population is growing and so is its demand for food to fuel those extra bodies. Harvard Business Review reports the global population has quadrupled over the last century. It's predicted that, by 2050, the population will exceed nine billion people.

The world is not able to feed all of its inhabitants, according to Penn State. There are more than one billion people who are estimated to lack sufficient food, and two billion who do not receive adequate nutrition. Researchers from the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota concluded that, to feed the world by 2030, yields on maize, rice, wheat, and soybeans will have to rise by 60 to 110 percent. At the start of 2023, projections show them only increasing by 45 to 60 percent. There are a few reasons why food supply may not meet up with demand.

• **Climate change:** Climate change is predicted to cause issues to crop yields, especially in portions of

the world where the population is growing the fastest. For example, a recent NASA study published in the journal *Nature* predicts that high greenhouse gas emissions may cause corn output to decline as early as 2030, but wheat output would increase. Farmers may need to roll with the punches and shift operations to cope with the environmental changes.

• **Decreased commercial farming interest:** Fewer people are working in farming. Land prices for expansion, new government mandates and regulations, and the impact of immigration and trade policies have made farming less attractive than it once was. Fewer commercial operations result in a diminished food commodity output.

• **Consumer waste:** Food loss and waste (FLW) is a widespread issue, posing a challenge to food security. The World Bank estimates 30 percent of all food across the globe is wasted, amounting to 1.3 billion tons of food per year. The average global household



wastes 74 kg of food each year, according to the United Nations Environment Programme's 2021 Food Waste Index. Food waste is an issue that needs a solution as the world looks for ways to feed an expanding population in the decades to come.

In order to improve output, farmers have to make some changes. These can include investment in tools and technologies that enable farmers to apply nutrients more precisely and at lower cost, advises the Environmental Defense Fund. Seeds that need less

water and fewer nutrients, as well as new fertilizers that are less likely to be lost to air and water, are some additional ideas. Farmers also may want to employ green practices, such as hydroponics and drip irrigation, if they haven't already, to improve effi-

ciency and cut costs. The public also may need to petition their lawmakers to make it easier for farm workers arriving on working visas to man the fields.

Food demand continues to rise, and it has become challenging for agricultural operations to keep up.

Crop yields remain volatile this year

HARVEST seasons vary depending on the crop that was planted, but late summer and fall are busy times of year for farmers. And since the pandemic began, farmers have been working overtime to ensure that their goods make it to market on time.

The agricultural sector is affected by a number of variables, including the weather and pests. The

pandemic is yet another of those variables, and consumers may want to know how the many factors that affect the agricultural sector could affect what is and isn't in the grocery store in the months to come.

A variety of factors have affected the availability of wheat-based products. Earlier this year, exceptional drought levels in the midwest — areas with high production of wheat

products — coupled with concern about spring rainfall amounts being enough for summer crops to thrive may continue to adversely affect the availability of breads, pastas and other items made from wheat.

Things are not looking better regarding imported wheat. The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, where wheat crops are grown in abundance, is impacting the

global wheat market. Russia, the United States, Canada, France, and Ukraine were the world's top wheat exporters in 2020, according to Statista. The United Nations reported that 30 to 40 percent of the fall 2022 harvest in Ukraine is at risk, as farmers have been unable to plant crops. This could result in a potential loss of 19 to 34 million tons of exported wheat this year.

The abundance of spring rain in the Pacific Northwest, as well as areas of Minnesota and Canada, contributed to an expected above-average crop of grass seed. However, the upper midwest crop was forecasted to be a week to two weeks late due to cooler than average tem-

peratures.

Despite an abundance, the Oregon Grass Seed Bargaining Association expected that growers will ask for higher prices on seed throughout 2022 for perennial ryegrass and tall fescue due to greater input costs and land rent increases, among other factors.

Later planting dates of corn across the United States corn belt has led to stalled development of the crop in 2022. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Crop Watch anticipated near-average levels of corn on irrigated fields. Across rainfed locations, predictions are more uncertain due to weather throughout July and August (which had yet to be documented

at press time). While most sites are expected to see near-average corn crops, a high probability of below-average yield may occur in Iowa, southwest Nebraska and southern Kansas. Above-average yield may occur in northwest Missouri and south-central Illinois. Despite more normalized yields, operating costs have climbed, including the costs of nitrogen fertilizer used in corn production, so store prices of corn, corn oil and other corn products may remain high.

The agricultural sector continues to make strides to provide products people need. However, various factors have affected the cost and availability of a number of products.

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