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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24, 2024

Discussion held on development tools for Caron Ridge Shopping Center

Expenditures for future Illinois Route 38 substation made

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council held discussion on a potential agreement with Teska Associates Inc. for consulting services to establish an Eastern Gateway tax increment financing (TIF) district and/or a business development district to aid in the development of the Caron Ridge Shopping Center, the former site of the Sullivan's Foods grocery store.

The space has been vacant for a number of years. At its Feb. 12 meeting, the city will consider an agreement with Teska Associates Inc. for \$20,000 to assist with the creation of the economic development tools that are commonly used to develop areas that have been vacant for years. If the city approves the agreement, Teska Associates Inc. would do a study and the council would decide on which tool to use, or both.

The city already has three TIF districts, which the council expressed satisfaction with at Monday's meeting. TIF districts grow funds after development is seen in an area based on the difference



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council held discussion on a potential agreement with Teska Associates Inc. for consulting services to establish an Eastern Gateway tax increment financing (TIF) district and/or a business development district to aid in the development of the Caron Ridge Shopping Center, the former site of the Sullivan's Foods grocery store.

in improved value. That money is then used to incentivize developers. The city has not had experience in the past with a business development district, which sees development funds raised by an increase in sales tax, specifically only in the district it's located. A sales tax increase at the site of the Caron Ridge Shopping Center would be in .25-percent increments up to one percent. In order for a business develop-

ment district and sales tax increase, the eventual business that fills the space would have to ask for it.

"The TIF districts we have had have worked very well," Mayor John Bearrows said. "We don't have much experience with the business district concept. I don't want to be a part of adding more taxes. The TIF district is a proven concept."

Substation

The council unani-

mously approved two expenditures for its upcoming electrical substation project off Illinois Route 38.

The council first approved the purchase of switchgear in the amount of \$2.672 million from avail/AZZ. Only one bid was received, Rochelle Municipal Utilities Superintendent of Electric Operations Blake Toliver said.

See CITY page 8



Fire teams respond to smoke in greenhouse

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

HILLCREST — Area fire departments responded to a report of smoke at a greenhouse facility in Hillcrest on Friday evening, Rochelle Fire Department Lt. Jason Underwood said Saturday.

Rochelle Fire received a call at 5:34 p.m. Friday for a structure fire at NuEra Hillcrest, LLC at 16280 E. Twombly Road. NuEra Hillcrest is a cannabis growing facility. The first fire crews arrived at 5:42 p.m. and saw no flames showing from outside the building. Crews were then alerted to a single greenhouse full of smoke.

"We entered that greenhouse and smoke filled the room to the floor," Underwood said. "We didn't see fire or flames and the temperatures were at 130-140 degrees and not very high."

See FIRE page 2

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KNOW IT TODAY



Kish graduates recognized

Kishwaukee College held its fall commencement ceremony in December. Page 3

WEATHER

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FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
37 32	36 30

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OBITUARIES

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INSERTS

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INSIDE

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8 52078 00112 6

From the Heart's 2024 Cash Calendar winners drawn

16th annual From the Heart Gala is Feb. 3 to benefit area nonprofits

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Thursday at the Ogle County community room in Rochelle, the 2024 winners of the From the Heart Cash Calendar were drawn by members of the organization's board and representatives from nonprofits that From the Heart raises money for. Winners can be found in the Rochelle News-Leader and online at fromtheheartrochelle.org.

The 16th annual From the Heart Gala & Auction will be held Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at the hangar at Flight Deck Bar & Grill in Rochelle. Get your tickets at fromtheheart-rochelle.org. Proceeds raised at the event will equally benefit the eight area nonprofits that From the Heart works with: the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, HOPE of Ogle County, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, Pegasus Special Riders,



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Thursday at the Ogle County community room in Rochelle, the 2024 winners of the From the Heart Cash Calendar were drawn by members of the organization's board and representatives from nonprofits that From the Heart raises money for.

Hub City Senior Center, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA and FOCUS House.

Last year's event raised \$80,000, and saw records

of 300 people in attendance and 36 tables. This year's event will include dinner, games, prizes and silent and live auction items. Representatives

from each nonprofit will speak at the event about their causes.

"Year after year, our event has been successful because of the generosity

of our community," From the Heart President and Founder Dave Eckhardt said.

See HEART page 8

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LOCAL NEWS

FIRE: Area departments respond to NuEra cannabis facility

From page 1

It was tough to see. We worked with the facility to get an exhaust fan turned on. Once we were certain there wasn't a big fire, we used the exhaust fan and more fans and over 30 minutes we cleared the smoke out and we could tell the fire was extinguished."

Underwood said the greenhouse impacted by the smoke did not have any plants in it at the time of the fire. The cause and source of the fire are still under investigation and the smell and color of the smoke indicated plastic burning. The structure did not sustain damage.

Responding departments were Rochelle Fire, the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District stations of Hillcrest, Flagg Center, Creston and Steward, Lynn-Scott-Rock Fire, Stillman Fire, DeKalb Fire, Shabbona Fire and Malta Fire. Fire crews cleared the scene at 8:18 p.m.

"A building filled with black smoke typically means a big fire," Underwood said. "It just didn't in this case. We had a lot of response due to the details of the call and our box alarm and mutual aid protocols. There were no injuries."

Underwood said the monetary amount of damage to the facility is un-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Area fire departments responded to a report of smoke at a greenhouse facility in Hillcrest on Friday evening, Rochelle Fire Department Lt. Jason Underwood said Saturday.

clear, and that there was "slight smoke spread" to at least one more greenhouse that had plants in it.

With a number of greenhouse facilities like NuEra in Rochelle Fire's

coverage area, Underwood said fire crews have toured those facilities in the past to get familiar with the layouts and technologies in place in case of incidents like Friday's.

"It's invaluable to have that information and familiarity," Underwood said. "Just like it's invaluable to have the assistance of personnel at the facility. It's a modern green-

house with controlled temperature, circulation and lighting. It's about knowing the materials that are in a facility and what happens when they burn. That preparation

helped us last night. It was a relief that it was mostly smoke and not a big fire. We're always happy when things work out that way and there's no structural damage."



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LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Hector Z. Amador

ROCHELLE — Hector Z. Amador, 78, of Rochelle, IL passed away on January 21, 2024 in Rochelle, IL. Hector was born on February 11, 1945 in Mexico to Augustine and Amelia (Tolentino) Amador.

Hector moved from Mexico at the age of 10 to Texas, and he eventually migrated up to Rochelle. He worked at Del Monte for 36 years. He enjoyed fishing, barbecuing and watching Westerns. He was a family man and always helped his family and friends when they needed it.

Hector is survived by

4 children, Hector (Balandren) Amador of San Antonio, TX, Cindy Amador of Rochelle, IL, Sylvia Larsen of Rochelle, IL and Steve Amador of Rochelle, IL; 4 grandchildren, Sarah, Noah, Anthony and Rachel; 3 great grandchildren, Via, Hazel and Zela; 1 sister, Elizabeth Amador; As well as a special friend, Samuel Anaya of Rochelle.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Beatriz.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 from 4:00 – 8:00 P.M. at Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home, 704 N. 6th



St. Rochelle, IL 61068. A funeral service will be held same day with a time to be determined. Arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home. Check in for updated service times and online condolences may be made at www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com

ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ROCHELLE — On Jan. 19 at 12:46 p.m. Hannah E. Fulara, 29, of Ogle County was cited for speeding 57 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 16 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 20 at 3:52 p.m. Fiorella Belfiore, 34, of Rochelle was cited for improper backing on roadway. She signed a promise to comply and was given a March 1 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 20 at 1:49 p.m. Philip J. Horvath, 20, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 63 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a Feb. 16 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 21 at 1:27 p.m. Peggy Mattis, 73, of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a stop sign. She signed a promise to comply and was given a March 1 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 21 at 1:52 p.m. Michelle Ruelas, 28, of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a stop sign. She signed a promise to comply and was given a March 1 Rochelle court date.

On Jan. 21 at 4:09 p.m. Doni Swick, 50, of Sycamore was cited for speeding 62 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 1 Rochelle court date.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

OREGON — On Jan. 20 at approximately 5:08 a.m. deputies responded to a car in the ditch at the intersection of Eagle Point Road and Wilson Mill Road. After investigation, deputies placed Michael Geary, 30, of Polo under arrest for aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol and driving under the influence of alcohol. Geary was additionally issued citations for no valid license, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, disobeying a stop sign, and improper lane usage. Geary was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was later released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Jan. 20 at approximately 10:51 a.m. deputies responded to the 5,400 block of Beltline Road in Rockford to meet with two subjects who were involved in a domestic battery that had occurred earlier in the day at a residence in the 10,000 block of East Illinois Route 72. After investigation, deputies placed Blake Cohoon, 39, of Stillman Valley, under arrest for domestic battery. Cohoon was additionally charged with possession of a controlled substance (schedule two

pill) class four felony. Cohoon was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance in front of a judge.

On Jan. 21 at approximately 10:37 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 300 block of West Third Street in Leaf River. After an investigation, Madisyn E. Bradford, 22, of Cordova Tennessee, was placed under arrest for driving on a suspended license. Bradford was additionally cited for improper lane usage, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and operating a vehicle with suspended registration. Bradford was released from the scene with a notice to appear. All subjects are presumed innocent.

On Jan. 21 at approximately 3 a.m. the Ogle County Sheriff's Office received a report of a driving complaint in the area of Lowell Park Road and Pines Road. After searching the area, deputies located Anna Bender, 29, of Polo, in the driver's seat of a 2017 silver Chevrolet Traverse in the 7,000 block of West Pines Road. After conducting an investigation, Bender was placed under arrest for driving

under the influence. Bender was transported to KSB Hospital where she was treated for injuries and issued a notice to appear.

On Jan. 22 at approximately 9:28 a.m. Munoz Perez Omar, 34, of Rockford turned himself in on an outstanding failure to appear county warrant. Munoz Perez appeared in court, posted bond and was Released. Munoz Perez will return to court on Jan. 29.

On Jan. 22 at around 3:13 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the 4,000 block of North White Rock Road for the report of a suspicious person requesting a ride. While checking the area deputies located a subject matching the description attempting to get a white Chevy truck out of the ditch. Deputies made contact with the driver, Juan Olguin, 41, of Rochelle, who after a brief investigation was arrested for driving while license suspended. Olguin was additionally cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. Olguin was released with a notice to appear court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Kishwaukee College holds Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremony

MALTA — Kishwaukee College held its Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 16, in the gymnasium, with 102 students attending to commemorate their achievements.

The ceremony recognized graduates who earned Associate Degrees, Certificates of Completion, Short-Term Training credentials, and Illinois High School Diploma credentials. Overall, 257 students completed a program or certificate requirement for the Fall 2023 semester.

Britney Calin, who graduated with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Hospitality and an Associate in Arts degree, served as the Stu-

dent Speaker during the ceremony. Calin offered advice on how to handle life's obstacles without feeling overwhelmed.

"We're all here today to celebrate our success. Let's remember this day. I recommend to all of you that you take life one day at a time. Enjoy the ups. Have patience with the downs. Because if you push through life too quickly, you will be missing out on some of the best memories," Calin said.

Along with Calin, students heard remarks from Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College; Bob Johnson, Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees chair; Barbara Leach, vice pres-

ident of instruction; and Kyra Rider, associate professor of mathematics. Rider, speaking on behalf of the Kish faculty, celebrated the graduates' accomplishments while wishing them well in their next steps.

"It amazes me that you can complete the rigors of college while working full-time or multiple jobs, taking care of family members, and dealing with financial and emotional burdens. You are incredible. And I hope this achievement brings you joy and future success," Rider said. "I hope during your time at Kish, you were able to grow and make new friendships. I know you have a strong education."



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Kishwaukee College graduates pose for a photo at the College's Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 16.

The ceremony was livestreamed on Kish's

social media channels and website. To view the

ceremony, visit kish.edu/commencement.

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Rochelle's Millotte served

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Rochelle resident Arch Millotte served in the United States Air Force for 20 years from 1951-1971.

After receiving his draft notice in 1951 at the beginning of the Korean War, Millotte had his choice of branches due to his degree in science at Northwestern University. He chose the Air Force, and his next 20 years consisted of serving at nine different Air Force bases in the U.S. and a deployment to Japan.

"After I got my commission in 1953, I had a good friend that was a school teacher and I found out that my salary was very close to his," Millotte said. "I had the chance to get out of the Air Force in 1953. But I chose to stay in for 20 years. I enjoyed my duties. I was a college graduate with a science degree and got great assignments in the military. I just enjoyed it and I thought it was the best course for my career."

Millotte's service began at Sampson Air Force Base in Geneva, New York for basic training for 14 weeks. After that, his first assignment was at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, where he went through 22 weeks of electronic fundamentals training. From there, his field of concentration was early-warning radar. Due to a backlog, he was asked to choose another career field, and chose control tower operator training. After that, Millotte went to Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring, Texas as a tower operator in 1952.

In 1953, Millotte decided he wanted to become an officer, and was appointed to officer candidate school for six months at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Upon receiving his commission, he went back to Keesler AFB and as a second lieutenant, and was able to get into the training program on early-warning radar sets. Upon completion of that, Millotte got his first-and-only overseas assignment to Japan in 1954.

In Japan, Millotte was a sight radar maintenance officer on a little island off the southern part of Nagasaki for two years. At that time, the U.S. Air Force was training the Japanese Air Force to take over the radar sight in time,

"My deployment to Japan was very interesting," Millotte said. "I lucked out by going to the chain of islands off of Nagasaki. The site that the radar sight was on was an extinct volcano. It was very interesting and a beautiful island. It was like a small paradise. I enjoyed my time there. We installed new radar while I was there."

After his time in Japan, Millotte came back to the United States and the Air Force base in Little Rock, Arkansas and was assigned as a synthetic training devices officer. He worked with equipment used to help train pilots and crews. That site had an altitude chamber, a B-47 flight simulator, a seat ejection trainer, a gunner trainer, bomb navigation trainer and a gas chamber. Millotte also had another duty to help train for any sort of a nuclear attack on domestic soil.

Millotte's next assignment in 1960 was at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska as an Atlas Missile maintenance officer. He did that for about a year and graduated to becoming a job control officer that



Rochelle resident Arch Millotte served in the United States Air Force for 20 years from 1951-1971. Millotte had his choice of branches due to his degree in science at Northwestern University.

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In 1962, Millotte transferred to Shreveport, Louisiana to Second Air Force at Barksdale Air Force Base as a maintenance staff officer for the missile program. After a couple of years there, he decided to leave the maintenance field to go into operations. His first assignment in that capacity was at the Grand Forks, North Dakota Air Force base as an operations officer in the Minuteman Missile program. There, he was commander of a Minuteman combat crew and did that for several years.

Millotte then started to near the end of his 20-year career and held the rank of a major. His final assignment was at Egland Air Force Base in the western Florida panhandle, the largest Air Force base in the U.S. He was sent to one of its satellite bases at Hurlburt Field.

"We had an island in the gulf that had the launcher for the Bomarc Missile," Millotte said. "Missiles they had there were no longer used in the Air Force because they were fuel-type missiles and they had gone to solid propellant. They were for shooting down aircraft that came into our country. Since they were obsolete, we

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20 years in U.S. Air Force



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Arch Millotte served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years from 1951-1971. After receiving his draft notice in 1951 at the beginning of the Korean War, he chose the Air Force, and his next 20 years consisted of serving at nine different Air Force bases across the country.

used them as a drone and they made an ideal target for gunnery training. The aircraft would come and use them as a target to shoot them down. That was very interesting and challenging."

Millotte retired in 1971 as a major in the USAF and returned to Rochelle, where he was born and raised, to look after his parents. Now 94, Millotte has spent the years since being active in community organizations including Kiwanis Golden K, the Rochelle Garden Club, church, the Rochelle VFW Post, the American Legion, the Moose, and the Military Officers Association of America.

He also worked as a scalemaster at Del Monte for 18 years and taught one of his military hobbies, the card game of bridge, at Kishwaukee College and the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District. He also established a bridge club in Rochelle.

"I've held every rank in the Rochelle American Legion," Millotte said. "I was on the committee for the Veterans War Memorial at Lawnridge Cemetery. When I was in the military, I always left my mark through some sort of donation or work I did. In Rochelle, I

decided to leave my mark here. If you look across from the former Hub Theater, you'll see a light pole dedicated to Arch Millotte and family. My family had a long history in the Rochelle business community."

Of all his duties in the military, Millotte said the most unique things he worked on were preparing for a potential nuclear attack on domestic soil and working with the Bomarc missile. He enjoyed working at different Air Force bases across the country.

"The longest I ever stayed was four years at Grand Forks," Millotte said. "You see your good friends that you make at an air base leave and you have to make new friends. That was never a problem for me, being a people person. Bridge helped me meet people. I really enjoyed all my work in the service and I visited a lot of bases. I only had one overseas tour and was never in harm's way. It was very interesting work."

Honoring Our American Hero is a series that will print bi-monthly in the News-Leader. If you know an American Hero you would like to have featured, contact Jeff Helfrich at jhelfrich@rochellenews-leader.com or call 815-561-2151.

"After I got my commission in 1953, I had a good friend that was a school teacher and I found out that my salary was very close to his. I had the chance to get out of the Air Force in 1953. But I chose to stay in for 20 years. I enjoyed my duties... I just enjoyed it and I thought it was the best course for my career."

Arch Millotte

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LOCAL VIEWS

Worried about the teacher shortage? Invest in your leaders

The “State of Our Educator Pipeline 2023” report by Advance Illinois underscores the challenges in Illinois’ education system and the urgent need to address the teacher shortage comprehensively. While recruiting more teachers is important, addressing teacher attrition, responsible for 90% of the demand, requires a deeper examination of root causes and strategies to retain high-quality educators. Teachers often leave

due to poor working conditions and inadequate support from school leaders. Competent school leaders can create a positive work environment, vital for addressing the teacher shortage. Investing in capable school leaders is vital to addressing the teacher shortage and establishing the necessary conditions for retaining high-quality educators, while effective district leaders play a

key role in empowering principals.



Lisa Hood

Extensive research pinpoints four critical skills of effective school leaders: interpersonal skills fostering a positive school climate, instructional skills prioritizing teacher support, collaboration skills promoting teamwork and professional growth, and organizational skills for efficient management. Diverse leadership has

benefits, including increased teacher diversity and better outcomes for students of color.

We urge the Illinois State Board of Education to prioritize:

Funding the Aspire Fellowship program to support leadership candidates and recruit educators of color.

Supporting another cohort of the New Principal Recruitment grant for Arab, Indian, and

Asian educators of color and under-resourced districts lacking staff with Principal Endorsements.

Restoring state funding for New Principal Mentoring.

Maintaining state funding for New Superintendent Mentoring.

Allocating district capacity-building grants to assist districts in implementing programs centered on the school

leadership pipeline.

Illinois must make a significant commitment to establishing a statewide system for preparing and developing effective leaders, crucial for retaining high-quality teachers who can meet students’ learning needs and drive organizational and instructional improvements.

Erika Hunt is director, lead hub; and Lisa Hood is research and evaluation director, lead hub, at Regional Office of Education #17 in Bloomington.



Erika Hunt

We are not enemies, but friends

THERE’S a hunger in America for civility. I hear it again and again from people who follow this column. They mourn its decline because they understand a crucial fact: Democracy dies when civility disappears.

We can be both free and safe only if each of us exercises the self-restraint and tolerance that characterize civility. Without it, we end up with a government that replaces personal responsibility with rules imposed from above. The loss of civility is the first step on the path to dictatorship.

It’s crucial, then, to know exactly what that word, “civility,” means. Dictionary definitions that speak of courtesy and politeness, as if it were just a matter of following the rules of etiquette, fail to reach into its core. Real civility flows from the inside out.

It arises from “a fundamental respect for

human dignity especially for those we don’t really like...and with whom we strongly disagree,” in the words of Alexandra Hudson in the Feb. 12, 2020 Washington Examiner. It’s “the necessary social glue that binds us together in times of adversity,” times when events conspire to pull us apart.

Abraham Lincoln’s “fierce civility” was essential to his greatness as a leader in war and peace, according to Jeremy J. Lloyd in the February 2020 National Review. It enabled him to earn the respect and admiration of a “team-of-rivals” cabinet, and to hold the nation together in its darkest hour. It was behind his respectful treatment of his opponents in the North, as well as his generosity toward the people of the South.

Perhaps it’s too much to ask for us to follow Lincoln’s example. It is, after all, the opposite of the

pride and combativeness that popular culture celebrates. Civility requires us to be humble, to listen to our opponents and try to understand them; to admit that we may be wrong in some respects; to resist the temptation to engage in personal attacks; to avoid loaded words that push peoples’ emotional buttons.

It’s hard to imagine a modern leader like Lincoln, and easy to find those who are his opposite. Donald Trump and his imitators on the right are too obvious to need any explanation. Many of us, though, don’t see the incivility that comes from the other side.

Disrespect and mockery are the stock-in-trade of late-night talk shows and Saturday Night Live comedy skits. Politicians speak disdainfully about “deplorables” or “MAGA

Republicans.” Cancel culture provides the ugly spectacle of conservatives, or even moderates, being shouted down, silenced, or shamed on college campuses.

I was surprised to find, when searching the internet for this article, that writers opposed to civility were uniformly liberal. Their reasons boil down to the proposition that uncivil behavior is needed in order to overcome oppression from the rich and powerful.

This argument confuses civility with meek pleading. Abraham Lincoln was clear and forceful about exactly where he stood. But he was an effective force for change because he never forgot that his opponents, no matter how dislikable, were entitled to respect as human beings.

Uncivil speech and ac-



Lowell Harp

tions fail to persuade anyone other than those who already agree, because people sense its lack of good will, and therefore resist it. Donald Trump’s boorish and insensitive behavior has cost him dearly. It’s why he’s never succeeded in earning the support of a majority of Americans, in spite of the popular appeal of many of his policies.

Liberals, on the other hand, only harden Mr. Trump’s standing among his supporters when they respond to him in kind. People in the middle, who might otherwise be persuaded, merely look on in disgust at the ugliness on both sides.

Incivility thrives nevertheless, perhaps because it’s like an addiction. It feels so very good to mock, ridicule, or otherwise disrespect those we oppose and fear. Each time we do it, it becomes more likely that we’ll do it again.

There’s unfortunately

no 12-step program, as in Alcoholics Anonymous, for incivility. We can, however, find a way forward in Mr. Lloyd’s description of Abraham Lincoln—”humble, kind, self-deprecating, not easily intimidated, principled, non-reactionary, magnanimous, and peacemaking.”

We can hope to live up to that ideal if, as Lincoln urged, we listen to “the better angels of our nature.” We can, with their guidance, forcefully but respectfully stand up for our beliefs while declaring to all of our fellow Americans, as Lincoln did on the eve of war:

“We are not enemies, but friends.”

Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who served school districts in Ogle County. His column runs monthly in The Ogle County Life. For previous articles, you can follow him on Facebook at <http://fb.me/lowellharp>.

Rochelle News Leader — New political letter policy

THE Rochelle News-Leader is implementing a new political letter policy.

We will now be accepting election letters endorsing or advocating for or against a ballot measure, party or candidate as paid advertising announcement. The fee is \$25 minimum for a

200-word letter and 10 cents a word for additional words over 250. Like other letters to the editor, the writer’s name, address and phone number are required. Phone numbers and exact addresses are not published. We have the right to reject letters which don’t meet publishing standards and will determine if the

letter qualifies as a paid endorsement. Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page.

Most newspapers that have adopted this approach cite one main reason: Political campaigns for years have used newspaper opinion pages for what amounts to free

advertising. As these letter-writing campaigns become more widespread and sophisticated - some campaigns even pay people to write letters to the editor - newspapers are flooded with requests to publish them, especially in the run-up to elections.

Will we still publish letters complaining about the county board or

school board? Yes. But if you want others to vote for or against a candidate, or for or against an issue on the ballot, you will need to pay a fee. Not a large fee - \$25 for up to 200 words.

Some key dates to keep in mind for political endorsement letters:

The primary election is Tuesday, March 19,

2024. The last batch of letters that endorse candidates for this election will be printed in the Wednesday, March 13, 2024 issue of The Rochelle News-Leader must be received by noon on Monday, March 11, 2024.

To submit a letter, email Managing Editor Jeff Helfrich at jhelfrich@rochellenews-leader.com.

How to contact government officials

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

IL Sen. Win Stoller
Stratton Office Bldg
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IL Rep. Bradley Fritts
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Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to news@rochellenews-leader.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

RCH Auxiliary offers 2024 scholarships

An application form can be found on the hospital's Facebook page or website at www.rochellehospital.com/pressreleases/. Applications must be returned to Michelle LaPage, RCH Auxiliary Scholarship Chairman, at the hospital by Friday, March 8.

2, 2024. Contact Steve Korth at rochelle.post403@gmail.com, 815-766-0208 or the Illinois Department of the American Legion for an essay contest packet.

Lindenwood: Jack Richolson,² Agricultural Studies.
Rochelle: Morgan Rae Schabacker,⁴ Agricultural Business.

point average while carrying at least 12 letter-graded credits in a given semester.

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

Jan. 29
Navelia Ramirez

King Crossword

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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.

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
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Answer

Answers

The guy working out at the gym wouldn't take the time to talk to people. He had too many pressing concerns.

LOCAL NEWS

HEART: Annual gala scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 3 in Rochelle

From page 1

“The generosity is constant and we live in such a great community that does support people, events and everything we do. We have a lot of different sports items that will be auctioned off this year. We have a lot of games and prizes. We have over 100 silent auction items. It will be a fun night. We’ve already sold 30 tables and we sold 29 before we even sent invitations out.”

Eckhardt said planning for the gala is a year-round process by From the Heart board members, nonprofit representatives and volunteers from the community. The gala and organization have seen growth over 16 years.

Eckhardt started From the Heart when he was on the boards of several local nonprofits and wanted to bring something together to help them all.

“I wanted to find a better way to raise money for them because the organizations couldn’t do it on their own,” Eckhardt said. “It takes all of us to put an event like the gala on to raise \$80,000 to get \$10,000 for each of them. When we started out, we raised \$30,000 and we had two groups and Rotary as the recipients. It’s grown so much. It’s incredible where it’s gone. We’re now our own certified nonprofit. Nobody in their wildest dreams ever saw it growing like this.”

The goal for the 16th annual From the Heart Gala in 2024 is to again raise \$80,000 like its 2023 event did. Eckhardt said From the Heart calendar sales reached 3,000 in 2024 and the funds that come from that allow the annual gala to happen.

“The calendar sales are an incredible part of our event every year,” Eckhardt said. “Getting to 3,000 just shows the support of the community and everything that everybody does. It’s just incredible. The calendars are the reason we get to where we get. The work done on the calendars and the people that buy them just shows the incredible support of the community. They’re supporting the eight groups that are part of our event. They know their money is going to a good cause.”

From the Heart Board Member Sarah Flanagan said that calendar sales and the gala are all about the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, HOPE of Ogle County, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, Pegasus Special Riders, Hub City Senior Center, Shining Star Children’s Advocacy Center, CASA and FOCUS House.

“We’re grateful that we live in a community that likes to support our eight member nonprofit organizations that are doing wonderful things for our community,” Flanagan said. “We want to make sure they can keep doing those things.”



(PHOTO COURTESY OF LIFEWORKS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO)

The 16th annual From the Heart Gala & Auction will be held Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at the hangar at Flight Deck Bar & Grill in Rochelle.

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RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

PRESCOTT BROTHERS

CITY: Council approves substation expenditures

From page 1

The lead time on the switchgear is 77 weeks due to supply chain shortages. The bid was over the engineer’s estimate of \$1.8 million for the contract.

Toliver said electric utility materials continue to increase in price, and said he doesn’t anticipate those prices will come down in the near future. The Illinois Route 38 will expand and improve the city and RMU’s electric system.

The council then approved the purchase of a transformer for the substation for \$2.047 million from WEG with a lead time of 56 weeks. The city did receive a lower bid of \$1.561 million with a 60-week lead time from Virginia for the transformer, but Toliver advised the council to select the WEG bid due to reliability concerns with Virginia and familiarity with WEG. Toliver said the orders will be made as soon as possible due to long lead times.

Security

The council unanimously approved the purchase of an access control system from Becktech for \$81,492 for its buildings. The quote from Becktech was the only one city staff was able to procure. Due to upgrades at its 333 Lincoln Highway and 1030. S. 7th St. buildings, the city desired to have the access control system work take place during those renovations.

City employees will be given access to buildings via radios, phones and key cards and employee access will be tracked. The access to all main entrances will also include a camera and intercom system for staff to monitor when customers or members of the public are requesting access to the building.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The council unanimously approved two expenditures for its upcoming electrical substation project off Illinois Route 38.

University of Iowa 2023 fall semester dean’s list honorees announced

IOWA CITY, Iowa — More than 7,900 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa were named to the dean’s list for the 2023 fall semester. Dean’s list status was earned by 1,810 first year undergraduates during the 2023 fall semester at Iowa, 1,773 second year students, 1,940 third year students, and 2,458 fourth year students.

Local honorees include: Josephine Lundquist of Rochelle. College: College of Nursing; Program of study: Nursing; Classification: undergraduate - second year.

Sofia Lenkaitis of Rochelle. College: College of Nursing; Program of study: Nursing; Classification: undergraduate - third year.

Madison Ost of Iowa City, Iowa. College: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Program of study: Exercise Science; Classification: undergraduate - third year.

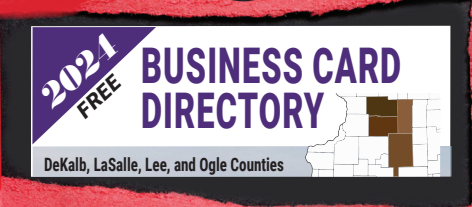
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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24, 2024

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



RWC'S DIDI DUELISTS

The Rochelle Wrestling Club traveled for the 2024 Didi Duals on Saturday.

See page 3 for more details

RTHS Wrestling



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub wrestling team celebrated its Interstate 8 Conference title after defeating Kaneland 60-12 at home on Thursday evening. Rochelle also held its Senior Night ceremony before the match, with nine seniors receiving recognition. It's the second consecutive season that Rochelle has won the Interstate 8 crown.

Back-to-back titles

RTHS dominates Kaneland 60-12 to clinch second straight Interstate 8 crown

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Senior Night was one of many celebrations that the Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team enjoyed on Thursday, when the purple and white hosted Kaneland needing one more dual win in the conference to secure its second consecutive Interstate 8 championship.

In addition to the wrestling program honoring its

nine senior members, several student-athletes on the team took part in a staged gender reveal wrestling match for assistant coach Nelson Baker, who's expecting his first child with his wife Mara. The positive energy in the gymnasium set the tone for a dominant wrestling performance from the Hubs, who struck down the Knights 60-12 and clinched the Interstate 8 Conference crown for the second straight season.

"We have conversations as a team about what our legacy is going to be and we've talked about needing to perform at the right time," head coach Alphonso Vruno said. "We want to prove not only to ourselves, but to the Rochelle community and the wrestling community, that Rochelle is a force to be reckoned with. We're really excited about winning the conference title and we competed really strongly against teams in

our conference. It means a lot to me and the kids."

Rochelle (21-6, 5-0 Interstate 8) will have two dual matches remaining in the regular season before hosting an IHSA 2A Individual Regional at home on Saturday, Feb. 3. The Hubs will face Freeport at home on Wednesday before traveling to battle the Princeton Tigers on Thursday. Eleven of the 14 Hub wrestlers in the varsity lineup earned wins in the match with

Kaneland.

"We're going to stay the course and our kids are improving every day," Vruno said. "We're working on things our kids are good at and we're spending time on niche positions where only a few seconds could change the whole outcome of the match. We're really breaking things down and we're really excited for the end of the season where we can work more as individuals."

Nine seniors were

honored in a prematch ceremony on Thursday. Those seniors included four-year varsity wrestlers Tommy Tourdot and Brock Metzger, who recorded his 100th career win during the dual. Additional seniors honored included Riley Damask, Mateo Hughes, Frank Decena and Abel Huerta as well as Lauren Basilio, Olivia Dreska and Jaclyn Seyller.

See TITLE page 2

RTHS Cheerleading

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Rochelle Township High School varsity team takes third at Interstate 8 Conference Championship

The Rochelle Township High School varsity cheerleading team took third out of six schools in the Interstate 8 Conference meet at Morris on Wednesday evening. The JV cheerleading team also took third. The varsity team includes Kami Damask, Jasmyynn Lipscomb, Abbey Jarvis, Elena Daugherty, Zoe White, Ayla Walker, Ryelee Bogle (bottom row), Kayla Ortega, Trent Kreider, Cambrey Rodeghero, Maycie Powell, Elyse Manning and Alexis Huerta (top row). The team is coached by Trish Rodeghero.

The Rochelle Hub wrestling team celebrated Senior Night on Thursday, with nine seniors earning recognition in a ceremony before the team's match against Kamask. Above from left to right are Tommy Tourdot, Abel Huerta, Mateo Hughes, Lauren Basilio, Olivia Dreska, Jaclyn Seyller, Frank Decena, Brock Metzger and Riley Danaland.

TITLE: Rochelle wins Interstate 8 championship on Senior Night

From page 1

“Tommy and Brock are really special to our program and their freshman year was the COVID season when we wrestled during the summer,” Bruno said. “Brock played baseball and then came out to wrestle during the summer. That’s where their leadership started. They’re always looking to help out. They add a lot to our culture and we’re going

to miss them. It's going to be really tough to replace leaders like that. It was a really special night for our program."

The dual against the Knights began with the 285-pound bout, where junior Kaiden Morris recorded two takedowns and a first-period fall over Levi Hurst. Kaneland answered with three points after Angelina Gochis scored a 10-7 decision over sophomore Freddie Her-

nandez in the 106-pound bout. Sophomore Colten Manning stepped into the varsity lineup and earned a big win for the Hubs, using just 12 seconds to pin Russell Blickem to claim the 113-pound bout.

Kaneland's Kamron Scholl held off senior Tommy Tourdot for a 5-2 decision in the 120-pound bout to make the score 12-6 in favor of the Hubs, who won the 126-pound bout after junior Xavier Vil-

lalobos secured a second-period fall over Alex Gochis. Sophomore Deegan Schabacker and freshman Josh Lassiter followed with back-to-back falls for the Hubs, beating John Havron and Will Lindgren to take the 132-pound and 138-pound bout victories.

Rochelle extended its lead after freshman Angel Hernandez recorded two takedowns and a near fall during his 8-3 decision over Wyatt Yackle in the

144-pound bout. Sophomore Brenden Voight kept the Hubs rolling with a first-period fall over Kyle Rogers in the 150-pound bout. Trailing 39-6 in the dual, Kaneland stopped the bleeding with a win in the 157-pound bout, where Mason Kelly notched a second-period fall over Rochelle freshman Alex Pellicer.

Junior Grant Gensler started a streak of four wins to close the dual, totaling

three near falls and three takedowns in his 17-1 technical fall over Caden Vanik in the 165-pound bout. Sophomore Roman Villalobos followed with a 12-1 major decision over Apollo Gochis in the 175-pound bout and senior Brock Metzger swiped a first-period fall over Rogan O'Neil in the 190-pound bout. Senior Frank Decena's fall over Garrett Herst in the 215-pound bout sealed the match.

RTHS Girls Basketball

Lady Hubs fall to Morris for second time this season

Callahan's 28-point and 21-rebound outing lifts Redskins over Rochelle 58-42

BY RUSSELL HODGES

SPORTS EDITOR

MORRIS — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team closed out its Interstate 8 Conference

home-and-home series against Morris on Friday evening. Senior Alivia Henkel led the Lady Hubs with 11 points, four steals and four rebounds as the Redskins won 58-

42. Rochelle (10-14, 1-6 Interstate 8) will return home to face Ottawa on Tuesday evening.

Junior Kendyl Darby finished with eight points and two rebounds, while

senior Loretta Atkinson totaled six points and three steals on the Rochelle side. Sophomore Jaydin Dickey compiled six points, two rebounds and two steals for the

Lady Hubs, who fell behind 29-14 after the first quarter but fought back in the second quarter to make the score 38-26 at halftime.

Landrie Callahan

spearheaded the charge for Morris, totaling a game-high 28 points while adding 21 rebounds including 12 offensive rebounds to end the evening with a double-double.

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SPORTS

Rochelle Wrestling Club

Junior Hubs take home trophy from Didi Duals

RWC athletes team up to wrestle four dual matches at St. Viator on Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS — The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent a team of athletes to the 2024 Didi Duals at St. Viator High School on Saturday. The Junior Hubs wrestled in four dual matches and took home a Copper Division trophy from the tournament, which featured teams from wrestling clubs around the state. Rochelle scored 95 total points across its four dual matches Saturday.

RWC started the tournament with a 64-21 loss against Force Elite (South Chicago). Winners from the Rochelle side included Dominic Escatel with a 7-2 decision over Brody Swoboda in the 85-pound bout as well as Chase Marruffo with a fall over Logan Miano in the 90-pound bout, Xander Gonzales with a forfeit in the 125-pound bout and Wells Millard with a fall over Jake Mirocha in the 54-pound bout.

RWC battled Mustang Wrestling Club in the second round and fell just short by a score of

40-35. Winners included Nehemiah Andronic with a fall over Cole Ortman in the 70-pound bout, Gwen Good with a forfeit in the 73-pound bout, Dominic Escatel with a 2-0 decision over William Perek in the 85-pound bout, Chase Marruffo with a fall over Anthony Bansley in the 90-pound bout, Eoghan Good with a fall over Liam Stichter in the 46-pound bout, Wells Millard with a fall over Caden McNerney in the 54-pound bout and Elias Andronic with a 17-5 major decision over Jimmy Klockowski in the 59-pound bout.

Rochelle's third match was a 72-6 loss to SJO Spartan Youth Wrestling Club. Winners include Tate Bigelow with a 4-2 decision over Jase Spain in the 74-pound bout and Wells Millard with a 5-3 decision over Liam Butts in the 54-pound bout.

RWC concluded the tournament with a 49-33 loss to Red Raiders Wrestling Club in the Copper Division. Winners included Tate Bigelow with a forfeit in the 73-pound bout, Dominic Escatel with a fall over Alex Mar-



The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent a team of athletes to the 2024 Didi Duals at St. Viator on Saturday. The Junior Hubs wrestled in four dual matches and took home a Copper Division trophy from the tournament.

timez in the 85-pound bout, Chase Marruffo with a forfeit in the 90-pound bout,

Eoghan Good with a 15-0 technical fall over Michael Bensko in the 46-pound

bout, Wells Millard with a fall over Lincoln Pado-

lina in the 54-pound bout and Elliot Huff with a fall over Julio Martinez in the 67-pound bout.

RTHS Boys Basketball

Moore leads Hubs to Interstate 8 win over Morris

Four Rochelle players reach double figures in Saturday loss against Streator

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MORRIS — Junior Cayden Moore scored a team-high 18 points to lead the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team during Friday's Interstate 8 Conference game against Morris. Freshman Brody Bruns added 14 points and 11 rebounds for a double-double as the Hubs topped the Redskins 73-56 to split

the conference home-and-home series.

Senior Jack Tracey finished with eight points, four rebounds, three assists and two steals for the Hubs (8-13, 2-5 Interstate 8), who outscored Morris 46-25 during the first and third quarters to seal the conference victory. Senior Eli Luxton recorded eight points, six rebounds and two steals, while junior Elijah Harley added nine

points and four rebounds.

Sophomore Van Gerber contributed nine points for the Hubs on Friday. Rochelle dominated most of the statistical categories, outpacing the Redskins 23-7 in second chance points and 12-8 in transition points. The Hubs also outrebounded Morris 23-8 on the offensive end and 19-14 on the defensive end. Rochelle went 15-for-19 from the free-throw line

in the win.

Streator

Four members of the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball team reached double figures on Saturday, when the boys engaged in a high-scoring nonconference battle against the Streator Bulldogs. Senior Eli Luxton led the Hubs with 20 points and six rebounds, while junior Elijah Harley added 17

points and four assists as Rochelle fell 91-77.

Junior Carson Lewis recorded 14 points and four steals for the Hubs (8-14, 2-6 Interstate 8), who will face Rock Falls on the road Wednesday evening. Freshman Brody Bruns totaled 10 points and eight rebounds for the Hubs, who shot 50 percent from the field and scored 50 points in the paint during Saturday's nonconference

contest.

The Bulldogs attempted 25 free throws and made 19 against the Hubs, who attempted only eight free throws while sinking just four. Streator outrebounded Rochelle 37-27 and held a 15-8 advantage in second chance points. The Bulldogs also drew 22 personal fouls against the Hubs, who finished just 5-for-20 from the 3-point line in the loss.

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ASHTON NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Ashton-Franklin Center JV Academic Team sees success in Pecatonica

On Jan. 18 the Ashton-Franklin Center junior varsity academic team traveled to Pecatonica to participate in a 16-school tournament. For the second year in a row, AFC was the top team in their pool and second overall. The Raiders will continue competition the week of Jan. 22-26 with matches against Eastland and Amboy.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

On Monday, Jan. 15 at approximately 3:05 p.m., the Lee County Sheriff's Office was notified that a train from Union Pacific Railroad had struck a tractor-trailer that was blocking the railway on Willow Road at Track Road just east of Franklin Grove.

Minor injuries after train vs. tractor trailer accident east of Franklin Grove

FRANKLIN GROVE — On Monday, Jan. 15 at approximately 3:05 p.m., the Lee County Sheriff's Office was notified that a train from Union Pacific Railroad had struck a tractor-trailer that was blocking the railway on Willow Road at Track Road just east of Franklin Grove.

Responding deputies were informed that the driver of the tractor-trailer had possibly jumped out of the cab of the semi prior to being struck by the train. Upon arrival, deputies met with the driver of the semi, who was identified as Carlos Rivera Rodriguez, 35, of Mexico. Mr. Rodriguez is a driver for Olvera Freight, and he recently left Crest Foods with a load of Hamburger Helper products. The tractor-trailer was heading south on Willow Road when it apparently became hung up at the crossing and was struck by the eastbound train.

The snowy weather conditions appeared to be a factor as to how the tractor-trailer was stuck. Mr. Rodriguez was transported to KSB Hospital by Franklin Grove Ambulance for evaluation of minor injuries. Dabney Services was contacted for removal of the tractor-trailer and the product that was spread out across the scene. It took several hours for personnel to clear the scene.

Extension releases event schedule for coming months

LEE COUNTY — The local University of Illinois Extension Offices recently released their events schedule for the coming months:

African Violets | Big and Small Gardening, Feb 6 | 6 p.m.-Winfred Knox Library, Franklin Grove

Wouldn't it be terrific for all ages to learn more about gardening? The Lee County Master Gardeners have started their gardening series again, "Big and Small Gardening." This series will be held at the Winfred Knox Library in Franklin Grove the first Tuesday of each month, with alternating months offering a youth program at 4 PM or an adult program at 6 PM. Join the Master Gardeners for an adult lesson on Feb 6 to learn the care and propagation techniques for African Violets. One may register for these programs by calling the library at 815-456-2823.

Kids & K-9's, Feb. 10-Aug. 10 | 11 p.m. and 1 p.m. - Granny Rose K-9

Enrichment Center, Dixon

This is a survey class that will introduce you to all facets of training including obedience, rally, agility, and showmanship. It is also designed to help your dog become a more integral part of your family. Open to youth ages 8-18 beginning Saturday, Feb. 10 and running select Saturdays through August. Beginners will take place at 11 a.m. with advanced classes following at 1pm. The fee will be free for 4-H members and \$20 for non-4-H members. Register online at go.illinois.edu/kidsk9

Wits Fitness, Monthly Workshop, Feb. 12, March 11 | 1-2:30 p.m. KSB Town Square Center, Dixon

Experience a monthly journey with Kara Schweitzer, an educator from University of Illinois Extension, as she leads participants through interactive activities crafted to stimulate the brain and enhance cognitive function and memory. We will be offering this program at the Edward Murphy Room at KSB Town Square, 101 W. Second St.; new participants are welcome to join at any time.

Insects to Know: Spotted Lanternfly and Periodical Cicadas | Four Seasons Gardening, Feb. 13 | 1:30 p.m., online

In spring 2024, a large brood of periodical cicadas are set to emerge in Northern Illinois, making it a big year for insects! Learn about the biology of these insects and what their arrival means for gardeners and farmers. Four Seasons Gardening sessions led by Extension's horticulture experts are free to attend, and registration is required at go.illinois.edu/FourSeasons. Insects to Know will be offered at 1:30 p.m. online on Feb. 13.

Rain Garden Essentials: Design, Build, Plant | Four Seasons Gardening, March 5 | 1:30 p.m., online

Gain insights into the principles of rain garden construction and design, ensuring that your garden not only enhances the beauty of your space, but also contributes to the health of the environment. Four Seasons Gardening sessions led by Extension's horticulture experts are free to attend, and registration is required at go.illinois.edu/FourSeasons. Rain Garden Essentials will be offered at 1:30p.m. online on March 5.

Bottle Terrariums, March 9 | 9:30-11 a.m., Sauk Valley Community College

Explore the enclosed world of bottle terrariums, self-contained plant environments within glass. Join us to explore terrariums, their needs, and how to create a bottle version of a terrarium to take home with you. If students would like to turn a specific bottle into a terrarium, please bring it; otherwise, one will be provided. This class would be for an individual or a great family activity. Supplies are included. (Ages 10 & Up)

Register online at go.illinois.edu/CommunityEdSVCC

Ready Set Grow... Gardening Workshop, March 23 | 8 a.m. - noon, Loveland Community House, Dixon

Join the Master Gardeners of Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties for this one-day event offering participants information about horticulture, backyard gardening, pest control and more. Registration is online at go.illinois.edu/readysetwork.

Mindful Mechanics, March 18, 25, April 1, 8 | 5-6 p.m., Sauk Valley Community College

Through 4-H Mindful Mechanics, teens age 13-19 are encouraged to build positive relationships by expressing care, concern, and gratitude for others, build beliefs in themselves, practice self-discipline, self-control, and self-reflection, and serve others. The overall program aims to promote mindful practices that lead to improvements in managing one's goals, developing a sense of self, time management, stress management, and emotional regulations. Supplies are included. Register online at go.illinois.edu/CommunityEdSVCC

Bullet Journaling, April 3 | 5-6 p.m., Sauk Valley Community College

While our lives may be constantly on the move, and the convenience of having so much at our fingertips in digital form, there is a great deal of benefit to putting pen to paper. The benefits of bullet journaling can help organize life tasks, thoughts, and feelings, help identify stressors, help process emotions and intrusive or avoidant thoughts, gain insight and confidence, and promote empathy. Not only does bullet journaling allow for recording goals, achievements, thoughts, and reflections, but it can do so in a creative way! This class is for ages 12-19 and supplies are included. Register online at go.illinois.edu/CommunityEdSVCC

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Flagg Township will receive sealed bids for a project entitled Flagg Township Office Accessibility Improvements Project until 11:00 o'clock A.M. local time on the 9th day of February 2024, at the Flagg Township Office located at 303 Illinois Route 38, Rochelle, Illinois 61068. Immediately following said time all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the same address.

The proposed work for which Flagg Township is soliciting bids consists of, but is not limited to, the following: the removal of existing concrete ramps, stairs and walkways and removal of existing entrance door, installation of new concrete ramps, stairs and walkways and installation of new entrance door with auto-matic door opener, along with other associated work.

The Bid and Contract Documents, including Drawings, Specifications, Project Requirements and form of contract, are on file at the office of the Project Engineer, Willett, Hofmann & Associates, Inc., 809 East 2nd Street, Dixon, Illinois 61021 and at the Flagg Township Office, 303 Illinois Route 38, Rochelle, Illinois 61068. Bid and Contract Documents may be obtained after January 24, 2024. Copies of the Bidding Documents shall be obtained electronically in PDF format from the Willett, Hofmann & Associates, Inc. website at www.WillettHofmann.com. Bidders shall click on "Bid Login" on the homepage of the website and follow instructions. The eBidDoc# (project number) is 8931378 for this project. Contract Documents can be down-loaded in PDF format from the website by depositing Twenty Two Dollars (\$22.00) by credit card. A bid security in an amount equal to not less than five percent (5%) of the total base bid shall be submitted with each bid. Bids may be held by Flagg Township for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the opening of bids for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of bidders, prior to awarding the Contract.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference has been set for January 29, 2024, at 11:00 AM at the Project Site located at 303 Illinois Route 38, Rochelle, Illinois 61068. Attention is called to the fact that not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the Contract Documents must be paid on this project, and all Contractors must insure employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Flagg Township is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Flagg Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding and also reserves the right to reject any non-responsive bid and/or non-responsible bid.

BY ORDER OF FLAGG TOWNSHIP
Date: January 24, 2024
No. 0122
(Jan. 24, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLI- NOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:)
MARJORIE E. COL-)
LINS, Deceased.)
Case No. 2023PR67
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of MARJORIE E. COLLINS of Polo, Ogle County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 2nd 2023 to JEFFREY COLLINS whose address is 16994 West Canada Road, Polo, IL 61064, and whose attorney is DAVID D. TESS of Tess, Crull & Arnquist, LLC, P.O. Box 68, Rochelle, Ogle County, Illinois 61068. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this claim notice 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 ten (10) days after it has been filed. Witness, January 15, 2024
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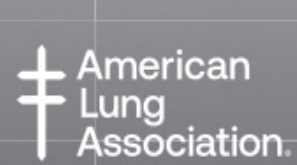
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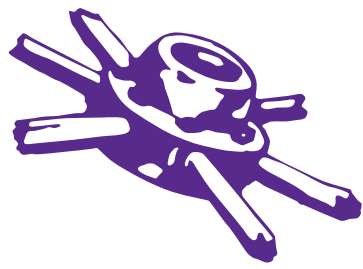
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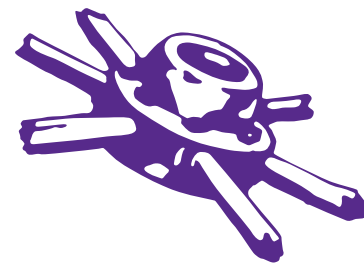
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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent nine athletes to the 2024 Hononegah Kids Classic. Above are Joshua Hernandez, Benjamin Morris, Elias Andronic, Amos Andronic, Nehemiah Andronic, Teddy Millard, Wells Millard, Zander Griner and Andrew Eyster.

Junior Hubs earn honors at Hononegah Kids Classic

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCKTON — The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent nine athletes to the 2024 Hononegah Kids Classic on Sunday. Five athletes brought home first-place finishes, while three more secured second-place finishes and one earned a fourth-place finish in the wrestling tournament.

Amos Andronic won the 6 & Under Tots A-1 Division with a 2-0 record. Andronic received a forfeit from Hononegah's Adrian Montiel and clinched the title with a fall over Sycamore's Cillin Musil.

Elias Andronic won the 7 & 8 Bantams C-5 Division with a 3-0 record, securing a fall over Belvidere's Carter Staver along with a 2-0 sudden victory over Stillman Valley's Benson Grugel. Andronic clinched the title with a third-round fall over Hononegah's Huxlee Kudlacik.

Nehemiah Andronic won the 7 & 8 Bantams E-2 Division with a 3-0 record. Andronic earned three consecutive falls over Stillman Valley's Owen Collins as well as Dakota's John Pieper and Hononegah's

Quinn Lane.

Benjamin Morris won the 11 & 12 Novices K-4 Division with a 2-0 record, notching falls over Oregon's Theo Kalscheur and Hononegah's Lorenzo Villareal.

Andrew Eyster won the 13 & 14 Seniors L-5 Division with a 3-0 record. Eyster totaled three straight falls over Oregon's Graham Gammon, Hononegah's Drew Broege and Oregon's Devin Wethal.

Wells Millard took second in the 7 & 8 Bantams C-4 Division with a 2-1 record, earning two falls against Belvidere's Thorin Anderson and Hononegah's Weston Geddes.

Teddy Millard took second in the 11 & 12 Novices I-5 Division with a 2-1 record, scoring a 8-4 decision over Hononegah's Owen Lovejoy and a 15-0 technical fall over Oregon's Julian Kersten.

Joshua Hernandez took second in the 11 & 12 Novices J-6 Division with a 2-1 record, notching a 5-4 decision over Hononegah's Colin Schrader and a fall over Rockford's Jayden Conell-Wilson.

Zander Griner finished fourth in the 13 & 14 Seniors L-6 Division.

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