



# ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21, 2024



Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:



257 W. Stephanie Drive 815-758-8998

Vol. 104 • No. 86

\$1.25

## Weidmann passes away at age 77

'Carol trained us and taught us how to be that person...'

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — On Jan. 29, Carol Weidmann of Rochelle passed away at age 77. She leaves behind a legacy of education and theater work in the local community.

After growing up in Chicago and the suburbs and obtaining her master's degree from Western Illinois University in English education in theater arts, Weidmann taught at Western's campus primary school for several years. She then moved to town to work at Rochelle Township High School as an English teacher and director of theater.

In her time at RTHS, Weidmann was selected to direct the Illinois High School Theater Festival All-State Performance and was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Secondary Education by the Illinois Theater Association.

Weidmann was one of the founding members of the Vince Carney Community Theatre organization in Rochelle.



On Jan. 29, Carol Weidmann of Rochelle passed away at age 77. She leaves behind a legacy of education and theater work in the local community.

See **WEIDMANN** pg 2

## Teachers recognized by ISBE's Those Who Excel program

Lumzy, Siebrasse, Anderson and Hill recognized for impact on students

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Public School Districts recently announced that four of their teachers have been recognized as part of the "Those Who Excel" teacher recognition program through the Illinois State Board of Education.

The four teachers honored this year are: Elementary District Language & Culture Coordinator Kimberly Lumzy, Stepping Stones Preschool Special Education Teacher Tiffany Siebrasse, Rochelle Middle School Physical Education Teacher Karen Anderson, and Rochelle Township High School Calculus Teacher Tim Hill.

The "Those Who Excel" program acknowledges educators who have excelled in their craft as an educator and made a positive impact on the school community as a whole through their ongoing efforts on behalf of students.

### Lumzy

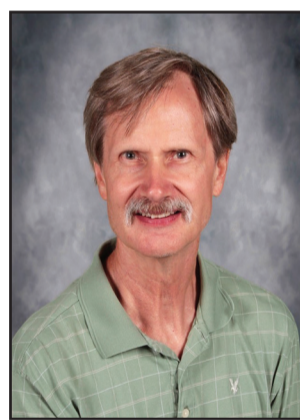
Lumzy has been recognized by ISBE for Excellence in Education. She works across the entire elementary school district as language & culture coordinator.



The four teachers honored this year are: Elementary District Language & Culture Coordinator Kimberly Lumzy, Stepping Stones Preschool Special Education Teacher Tiffany Siebrasse, Rochelle Middle School Physical Education Teacher Karen Anderson, and Rochelle Township High School Calculus Teacher Tim Hill.

"Mrs. Lumzy's continual efforts on behalf of the students and teachers in Rochelle District #231 is inspiring," Central School Principal Justin Adolph said. "She is committed to providing the best educational experience for our students in the Dual Language Immersion program all while continuing to support the experience of our students in the monolingual program."

Lumzy's daily duties take her to all the buildings within the district. Whether it is a play-based learning project for the district's youngest learners at Lincoln Elementary School or the continued rollout of the



Dual Language Immersion program at the upper grade levels, Mrs. Lumzy is there to support and lead.

"Mrs. Lumzy's job responsibilities are far and wide, but put simply, she is there to do whatever needs to be done to support our students," Celeste Canfield, district director of language services, said.

### Siebrasse

Siebrasse, known to her students as Ms. Tiffany, is a high-needs special education teacher who has worked in the district's preschool program for many years.

"In the world of tiny triumphs and big chal-



lenges, Ms. Tiffany is an outstanding preschool special education teacher," Stepping Stones Preschool Director Yazmin Nambo said. "With genuine care and expertise, she navigates the unique needs of each child, creating a supportive space where every small step forward is celebrated, fostering growth, and building a foundation for future success."

Ms. Tiffany embraces a multidisciplinary approach to education. She offers not only lessons in ABCs or 123s, but a nurturing presence that fosters emotional growth. She is a gentle guide, a patient listener, and a source of



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

comfort in moments of separation anxiety. Her days are filled with wiping away tears, bandaging imaginary boo-boos and celebrating every small achievement. Through her caring presence and steady support, she ensures that her students flourish not only academically but also emotionally.

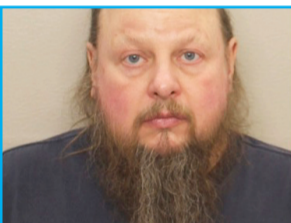
From being one of the first teachers to arrive in the morning to greet Hub students to staying late to help other staff members as needed, Ms. Tiffany always goes above and beyond in her role as a teacher.

See **ISBE** page 5

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KNOW IT TODAY



### Oregon man found guilty

An Oregon man was found guilty of six counts of criminal sexual assault.  
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### WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
58 38	56 38
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
44 31	42 27

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### OBITUARIES

- RAY NEAL COCKRUM
- FLORENCE HARROLLE

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- LIFELINE

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# LOCAL NEWS

## WEIDMANN: Longtime RTHS teacher and theater director passes away

**From page 1**

The original group desired a community theater organization in the area other than for kids in high school. Weidmann directed VCCT's first production on the floor of the Central Elementary School gymnasium, VCCT Board Member Dianne Jenner said.

"My daughter was in grade school at the time and I took her to see the show," Jenner said. "My daughter wanted to join it, and I said sure. We both joined. My daughter was in their next show. From then on, it was just a fun thing I enjoyed doing. I did theater in high school. A lot of it was backstage work, sometimes it was on stage. Carol was always there. She wasn't always directing, but she was the expert we always went to if we had a question. I was thinking the other day about working with her over the years. When we were on stage, we were always trying to pretend to be someone else. But Carol trained us and taught us how to be that person. That was her talent. We all loved her for it."

Weidmann's dream for VCCT, besides giving the community art and theater it didn't have, was developing a home for the organization, Jenner said. She got to see that dream realized in August 2021, when VCCT held its first show at the Lincoln Arts Center, the renovated former Lincoln Elementary School building.

Before the Lincoln Arts Center, VCCT performed all over town in gymnasiums, taverns, and the now-torn down Hickory Grove facility. The organization worked through COVID-19 to get its new home into performing shape.

"Thank goodness Carol was healthy enough to see it," Jenner said. "She was there when it was finished after COVID-19 and we could actually perform in a theater of our own. She got to see it. That just makes my heart feel so good, that she was around when we opened it. She directed 'Our Town' as her last show. She always loved that show and people came out and watched it and loved it. She performed in 'Four Old Breads' at the first show in the Lincoln Arts Center. Carol, Jane Prunty, myself and Sally Sawicki performed in that as the oldest members of VCCT. It absolutely broke our hearts when we heard that Carol was ill. She'll be in our hearts forever."

Jenner said that in her experiences with Weidmann, she would spend time doing things like helping actors change costumes backstage as much as she spent time directing.

"She was willing to do everything to get a production up," Jenner said, "She was a dedicated theater person. When she was directing, we'd have a good time, but Carol was all business. She knew what she wanted and she worked us until she got it. But it wasn't in a way that turned us off. We enjoyed her expertise. That's just the kind of person she was. She could laugh and have a good time with us just as well as she could be a hard-nosed director. She did what she had to do and always got it done well."



(COURTESY PHOTO)

In her time at RTHS, Carol Weidmann was selected to direct the Illinois High School Theater Festival All-State Performance and was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Secondary Education by the Illinois Theater Association.

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## Oregon man found guilty of six counts of criminal sexual assault

**OREGON**—In a Feb. 16 press release, Ogle County State's Attorney Mike Rock announced that on Feb. 16, James S. Clevenger III, 61, of Oregon, was found guilty of six counts of criminal sexual assault and one count of domestic battery by the Honorable Judge John B. Roe after a bench trial.

In June of 2021, the Oregon Police Department investigated a domestic battery complaint made by a minor female against the defendant. The investigation revealed that the defendant had also sexually assaulted the same minor in 2021.

The case was reviewed by the Ogle County State's Attorney's Office and charges were authorized.

A post-trial status date was set for March 13 at 3 p.m.



James S. Clevenger III

## Five from Rochelle make Bradley University fall 2023 dean's list

**PEORIA** — Nearly 1,850 students were named to Bradley University's dean's list for fall 2023. To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

Local students named to the list from Rochelle included Kaylee Brown, Jace Whitehead, Sophia Rocha, Isabella Nauman, and Paul Swartz.

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# ASHTON NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



## Eaton-Anderson, Freeman named AFC Raiders of the Week

Rylie Eaton-Anderson (cheerleading) and Claire Freeman (basketball) were recently named the Ashton-Franklin Center High School Raiders of the Week on Feb. 15. “These two ladies demonstrated exceptional citizenship, kindness, and responsibility,” a district Facebook post said. “Rylie has been in cheer, and Claire has been in volleyball and now basketball. While we are proud of their accomplishments in athletics and activities, the character of these two ladies is where their lights truly shine. They consistently lead by example and can always be seen with a smile on their faces! Congratulations, Rylie and Claire!” The weekly award is made possible by sponsors Rev on 38, New Creations Constructions, Mimini’s General Store, Ralphie & LuLu’s, Hueber Feeds, The Huddle Café, tmg designs and the AFC Athletic Boosters.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



## Stone, Schwarz named AFC Raiders of the Week

Lauren Stone (academic bowl) and Alexis Schwarz (girls basketball) were recently named the Ashton-Franklin Center High School Raiders of the Week. “Lauren has been absolutely rocking Academic Bowl!” a district Facebook post said. “She is consistent, a fantastic team player, and a great positive voice for everyone on the team. Alexis has been dominant on the basketball court the past few weeks. She is the definition of hustle and grit, and if there is a loose ball you can bet she’s diving for it. We are so proud of both of these ladies and the way they carry themselves both at school and beyond.” The weekly award is made possible by sponsors Rev on 38, New Creations Constructions, Mimini’s General Store, Ralphie & LuLu’s, Hueber Feeds, The Huddle Café, tmg designs and the AFC Athletic Boosters.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



## Viall places sixth at Section 2 FFA Event

At the Illinois Meats Series at Eickman’s Processing on Saturday, Feb. 3, Ashton-Franklin Center High School’s Kate Viall placed sixth in the Section 2 FFA Meats Judging Career Development Event. She also placed eighth in placings and 10th in questions for the series.



## AFC Junior High Spelling Bee winners named

The Ashton-Franklin Center School District recently congratulated all of its Junior High Spelling Bee participants. The 2024 AFC Junior High Spelling Bee winner was Kara W. Seth was the runner up in the Spelling Bee. Kara will move on to the Regional Spelling Bee in Dixon on Feb. 22.

## Lee County Sheriff’s Office announces Super Bowl weekend enforcement results

**LEE COUNTY** – The LeeCounty Sheriff’sOffice today announced it made one driving under the influence arrest and issued seven seat belt citations during the recent Super Bowl enforcement campaign. Deputies also issued three speeding citations, five distracted driving citations, two driving while license suspended citations, seven citations for other moving violations and one criminal arrest.

The Super Bowl weekend “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” and “Click It or Ticket” enforcement effort ran from Friday, Feb. 10, through the early morning hours of Monday, Feb. 13. The goal was to keep impaired drivers off the roads and ensure more people buckle up and follow all traffic safety laws. “Motorists should understand that we are serious about cracking down on

impaired drivers and seat belt and other traffic safety law violators. We do it to save lives,” Chief Deputy Ranken said. The recent law enforcement campaign was made possible by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of the statewide “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” and “Click It or Ticket” campaigns.

# COMMUNITY MATTERS



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# LOCAL NEWS

## OBITUARIES

### Ray Neal Cockrum

**SILER CITY, N.C.** — Ray Neal Cockrum, 88, of Siler City, went home to be with his Lord and savior on Sunday, February 11th, 2024.

He was born in Mississippi County, AR, on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1935, to Albert Lee Cockrum and Addie Keel Cockrum. He is preceded in death by his parents; five brothers, Loren Cockrum of California, George W. Cockrum of Oregon, Hubert Cockrum of Oregon, Ted Cockrum of Oklahoma, and Joe Cockrum of California; six sisters, Geraldine Jackson of Arkansas, Bessie Phillips of Arkansas, Reba Evans of Arkansas, Phyllis Neinhaus of Washington State, Wilma Stinnett of California, and Eula Lam-

bert of Illinois.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Rebecca Bunker Cockrum; two sons, Danny Ray Cockrum of Chrisney, IN and James P. Cockrum of Siler City; two daughters, Wanda Young of Rockport, IN, and Carol Caldwell of Grandview, IN. He is also survived by numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Ray loved and enjoyed the simple things, loved his family, making candles, and camping and traveling. He was a very humble man and had a lot of love and respect for his mother-in-law, Laura Bunker. Ray worked for various textile mills including Caron International Yarn in Rochelle,



IL, London, KY, and Siler City, NC. Ray also served in the United States Army.

A memorial graveside will be held at a later date in Rochelle, Illinois. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Western Chatham Food Bank, PO Box 254, Siler City, NC 27344. Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is serving the Cockrum family. On-line Condolences may be made at [www.smithbucknerfh.com](http://www.smithbucknerfh.com)

### Florence Harrolle

**ISABELLA, M.O.**

— A viewing for Florene Harrolle, 86, of Isabella, MO was held February 19, 2024, at Clinkingbeard Funeral Home in Gainesville, MO. Florene passed away February 15 at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, MO. Florene was born January 29, 1938, in Squires, MO, and was the youngest of 11 siblings. She married her husband of 71 years, Richard (Dick) Harrolle, on January 9, 1953. Along

with her husband, she is survived by two children: Marie Klass of Theodosia, MO and Rich Harrolle of Isabella; four grandchildren: Chad and wife Angie Harrolle, Tanya (Harrolle) Cox and husband Neil, Dustin Harrolle and wife Heather, and Chet Harrolle; and 11 great grandchildren. She is also survived by one sister, Frances Wilhite, of Boise, ID and many nieces and nephews. Florene was a homemaker most of her



years in Rochelle but was also employed at Rochelle Printing and later worked alongside her husband, Dick at Maple Lanes in Rochelle for several years. She will be greatly missed.

## ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**ROCHELLE** — On Feb. 14, James E. Reints, 87, of Rochelle was cited for improper lane usage. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 15 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 15, Sabrina C. Rinn, 29, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. She paid \$376 and was released.

On Feb. 15 at 9:05 p.m. a 17-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was arrested for

aggravated battery and transferred.

On Feb. 16 at 12:13 p.m. Brian E. Young, 50, of Chana was cited for no valid registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 15 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 16 at 4:03 p.m. Eloy Cervantes, 42, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 72 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply

and was given a March 15 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 16 at 4:51 p.m. Robert J. McCrory, 52, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 60 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a March 15 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 17 at 8:52 a.m. Leonardo R. Montalvo Jr., 26, of Creston was arrested for no valid driver's license and cited for speeding 63 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. He was released on a notice to appear with a March 15 Rochelle court date.

Join us for a Celebration of Life Gathering for Chris Hildreth at Holiday Inn Express, Rochelle on Saturday, March 2 from 5-8 P.M.

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(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The park district received three other bids for the work and the Martin bid was the lowest. Other bids were \$195,700, \$248,596 and \$252,585. The work will start immediately and be finished by the end of May, Park District Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger said.

### PARK: Ohlinger discusses growing REC Center swipe numbers

From page 1

"The intent is for it to have early seeding for it to be able to be used later in the summer and fall for Rochelle Junior Tackle as best we can," Ohlinger said.

The awarded bid does include alternate numbers for the removal of more fencing from the interior part of the park if the park district decides to go in that direction.

#### Grant

The Helms Field track removal is part of a larger project the park district is moving towards at Helms Park as it is changed to more of a park district use. The grounds were acquired by the park district in 2002 after they were no longer utilized by Rochelle Township High School. The park district's capital committee recently met and talked about larger changes to Helms Park.

Public meetings have been held recently on the project to solicit feedback. The park district circulated a survey locally on what the community would like to see at the site, which received around 700 responses.

The concept plan for the site includes the football, baseball and softball fields remaining with continued enhancements, a fitness

area on the southern corner of the property near The REC Center, a multi-sport court with a rubber surface for soccer, volleyball and basketball, a universal play space, a skate park on the northeast corner of the property, tennis courts and pickleball courts, a pavilion and restrooms, new parking, batting cages, a walking path and green space. The plans are not yet finalized.

The park district recently submitted an Open Space Lands Acquisition Development (OSLAD) grant application for the project for matching funds of \$600,000, but was notified recently that it will not be receiving those funds. Ohlinger has said in the past that the grant funds would impact the project's scope, size, and timeline, but the park district wasn't counting on the funds for the project and would be able to do it without them.

Board President Tim Hayden asked the board Monday to think about priorities and spending for the project after the news of the grant status. In recent years, the park district utilized OSLAD grant funding for its Spring Lake renovation project.

"The board needs to give some thought to what we're going to spend at Helms as an overall budget and

what's most important, as we're not going to have the same matching dollars that we had at Spring Lake," Hayden said. "While a bunch of the stuff that we're talking about doing still needs to be done, we need to then maybe decipher through a few of the 'wants' and balance those things out. That will be a topic and think about bringing some feedback on what you think is most important."

#### Numbers

In 2022, The REC Center saw about 99,800 swipes of members and drop-in users. That number in 2023 increased to about 111,000, Ohlinger said.

"That doesn't include our programs, travel basketball games and practices, Rotary meetings, any fitness classes or swim lessons," Ohlinger said. "That's just member and drop-in usage. That number would be doubled or tripled if you include everything that we do in this building. It was a busy year for us."

In a report presented to the board on Monday, Ohlinger also said that the busiest hours during the week at The REC for member usage are from 7-9 a.m. and from 3-5 p.m.

The REC currently has about 370 fitness-only members and had about 288 last year at this time.

## ROCHELLE News-Leader

211 IL Route 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068  
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USPS (467-820) ISSN (1075-2811)  
Published every Wednesday and Sunday by Rochelle Newspapers Inc. at 211 E. State Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068. Periodical postage paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Rochelle News-Leader, P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068. Subscription rates are \$139.99 per year by mail in Ogle County. Outside county rate is \$149.99 per year. No mail delivery in newspaper-carrier serviced areas. The circulation department is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are a carrier subscriber and your paper does not arrive, contact Kelly White at 561-2112.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ISBE: Four Rochelle school teachers honored by state board of education

**From page 1**

She is an active member of the school community and has demonstrated her dedication to students' success regardless of what challenges are thrown their way. She possesses a unique talent for connecting with students and collaborating with other professionals, making everyone feel valued and heard.

**Anderson**

Mrs. Karen Anderson is a sixth grade physical education teacher. She has dedicated over 30 years of experience primarily in Rochelle District #231. "Mrs. Anderson has dedicated herself to fostering a love of physical education and the wellness of her students," Rochelle Middle School Principal Jordan Young said. "Her classes are a welcoming blend of physical education activities that are fun and engaging for her students. What sets Mrs. Anderson apart is her genuine advocacy for the wellbeing of not only her students but all students at Rochelle Middle School. Whether it is creating modified activities or offering extra support and words of encouragement, her dedication to the equity of her students is commendable."

Anderson is not only a PE teacher at RMS, but also gives her time and leadership to various committees that guide the school. One particular area that she excels is her advocacy for the social emotional wellbeing of the students. Karen serves on the advisory planning committee that creates social emotional lessons based on students' needs. She is a leader in sharing ideas, creating lessons and sharing with all staff for the benefit of all students.

"One of Mrs. Anderson's most outstanding qualities is her dedication to putting students first," Rochelle Middle School Assistant Principal Katie Smith said. "She creates a safe and inclusive environment in her classroom, where every student feels valued, respected and motivated to learn. Her compassionate approach to education fosters a love for learning among her students."

Anderson's leadership extends to mentoring student teachers and practicum students quite often. She serves as a physical education chairperson for the district and has led the physical education department in the switch to standards-based grading. She also serves on various committees in the building to help guide continual growth. Kar-



**The "Those Who Excel" program acknowledges educators who have excelled in their craft as an educator and made a positive impact on the school community as a whole through their ongoing efforts on behalf of students.**

en possesses that unique ability to create a positive and inclusive environment where students feel valued and encouraged.

**Hill**

RTHS's Hill has been recognized by Those Who Excel Awards with the Award of Meritorious Service, which acknowledges educators who have connected with their school community and made a positive impact. Hill has taught at RTHS for 16 years.

"Tim is an exemplary educator whose dedication to his students and his commitment to excellent education are truly remarkable," RTHS Principal Dr. Chris Lewis said. "He goes above and beyond to provide additional support and resources to ensure every student reaches their full potential. His willingness to hold extra tutoring sessions, provide comprehensive study materials, and offer online personalized guidance has positively impacted countless students' achievements."

Hill has successfully guided numerous students to some of the country's most prestigious universities, including Cornell, University of Illinois, Northwestern, Stanford, United States Air Force Academy, CalTech, MIT, Washington University, Notre Dame, University of Chicago, and Embury-Riddle Aeronautical University. Many of these students have returned to express how well-prepared they felt for these elite institutions, attributing their success to Mr. Hill's guidance and his rigorous AP calculus classes.

Beyond elite math students, a major aspect of Mr. Hill's impact on students and RTHS is that he not only pushes the most gifted math students, but he also connects with those students who struggle to master college-level math skills and content. Regardless of where students fit, students know Mr. Hill will be there for them day or night.

## Flagg Township Museum hosting Freedom of Faith exhibit reception

**ROCHELLE** — As part of our plan for the year at the museum we'll be celebrating birthdays all year long. In February and March we celebrate the 233<sup>rd</sup> birthday of the Bill of Rights, with an exhibit in our Cabinet of Curiosities,

Freedom of Faith, Places of Worship in Rochelle. The Bill of Rights is the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution, spelling out Americans' rights in relation to their government. It guarantees civil rights and liberties to the individual

— like freedom of speech, press, and religion, protecting the right to religious beliefs and practices. The Freedom of Faith, Places of Worship in Rochelle exhibit recognizes many of our places of worship, some that date back

to the 1850s. A reception with refreshments will be held on Feb. 24 from 1-4 p.m. at the museum. We hope to celebrate many birthdays during 2023 including Rochelle banks, schools, and people.

If you have information or artifacts or stories about any of these topics give us a call (815 562-3040), email (hubhistory@gmail.com), or come visit. The museum is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The mission of the Flagg

Township Historical Society and Museum is to stimulate interest in Flagg Township history through education, research, collection and preservation of information for the benefit of the public of today and in the future.

## Affordable health screenings coming to Rochelle

**ROCHELLE** — Residents living in and around the Rochelle area can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Calvary Lighthouse Church will host this community event on March 5. The site is located at 14409

E. Hemstock Road in Rochelle. Screenings can check for: The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health. HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels. Diabetes risk. Kidney and thyroid function, and more.

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available. Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com). Pre-registration is required.

## Llanas promoted to staff engineer

**ROCHELLE** — Fehr Graham, a leading Midwest engineering and environmental firm, announced the promotion of Mack Llanas to staff engineer. Llanas, a former Fehr Graham intern, joined the firm full-time in 2022. He specializes in local

roadway, site design, industrial rail and public utility designs. His role has shifted from a task-based position to comprehensive project management. He takes ownership of projects and works closely with project managers for guidance. Llanas, who

works in the firm's Rochelle office, also serves as a mentor for engineering and CAD technicians, helping foster their professional development. Llanas graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Tennessee-Martin.

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# LOCAL VIEWS

## Lucille May Cratty: Rochelle's rose of no man's land

“It’s the one red rose the soldier knows, It’s the work of the Master’s hand; Mid the War’s great curse, Stands the Red Cross Nurse, She’s the rose of “No Man’s Land”.

By Jack Caddigan and James Brennan

Lucille was born in Rochelle in 1892 and attended school in the three-story brick school at Fifth Avenue and Sixth Street. The school housed all grades from elementary through high school. It was 1910 when Lucille was a featured soloist at the school’s Thanksgiving Festival and graduated from Rochelle High School. For Lucille this was only the beginning of her education. By 1913 she was enrolled at Augustana Training School for Nurses. During her time at Augustana she was struck with Typhoid Fever, which slowed her down, but could not stop her from graduating with honors. Her first position was at the Sangatuck Health Resort

in Michigan. After a short time at Sangatuck, Lucille returned home to Rochelle and joined Dr. Chandler’s staff at Lincoln Hospital on Woolf Court. Rochelle was once again home for Lucille, but world events would soon change her life.

World War I had been going on since 1914. It was in 1917 the United States entered the battle. It was 1917 when 25-year-old Lucille May Cratty decided that she too needed to join the fight. She would not fight the Germans but a formidable foe, death itself. As a surgically-trained nurse her skills were greatly needed so Lucille enlisted as an American Red Cross nurse. Initial training included a short service in a military hospital stateside to familiarize the nurses with the types of injuries they would see on a daily basis including shrapnel wounds, burns, amputations, gun-shot injuries, Mustard, Phosgene, and Chlorine gas. Each injury presented its own unique

way to take the life of another soldier. After only two months Lucille was deemed ready to go overseas, to France, and begin her battle to save lives of “her splendid men in uniform.”

Nursing had changed from the Civil War to WWI, but not as much as one would have hoped. The use of anesthesia made surgeries much easier. Aseptic (sterile) procedures reduced infection. Sadly the improvements in medicine were met with advances in weaponry. Artillery was more accurate, rifles had three to 10 cartridge magazines, and the use of machine guns was common. The newest advance in warfare was the use of toxic gasses.

Let’s try to walk with Lucille on a normal day behind the front lines. Each day the nurses would walk through the medical tent checking on patients from the day before.

Wounds were inspected, bandages changed, and medications were given. Some days Lucille would be the receiving nurse. Alerts sound announcing the arrival of wounded and the trucks and ambulances would start to arrive. Maybe the driver was Ernest Hemmingway or Walt Disney, whom were two of the many Red Cross ambulance drivers during WWI. As the patients were unloaded the first task for the nurse was to triage the wounded. At the age of 25 Lucille would have to decide if the young soldier before her would survive with minimal or no care, was immediate care

needed for survival, or was the young man unlikely to live. The first group waited, the second was rushed to further care, and the last group was made as comfortable as possible and left to await death. Who lived and who did not was only the beginning



Tom McDermott

for Lucille. The second step in patient care was debridement, the cleaning of the wound. This involved more than simply pouring water on the wound. The nurse must remove any dirt (and there was a lot of dirt) or foreign material from the wound. Next, any tissue that could not be saved had to be cut away at which time the nurse would enter the wound and clean it with Sodium Hypochlorite. Now the patient was ready for surgery. When the nurse finished with one patient they began on the next, one after another, until all wounded were treated. On other days Lucille would have been the surgical nurse. Her duty was to assist the surgeon as they operated on the wounded. Nurses aided the surgeons as they dug out shrapnel and bullets, amputated limbs, and fought to save each injured warrior that entered their care. Lucille stayed in France into 1919, for 18 months she shared the pain and

suffering of the soldiers fighting in the trenches. In a letter home she said, “Having done all in our power for our splendid men in uniform, we were, all of us, happy when the summons came for us to embark home.” Lucille returned to the United States and took a brief break from nursing before enlisting with the Marines as a nurse and began working with returning soldiers at the San Francisco Marine Hospital. Sadly, Lucille’s health began to fail, and she found herself on the receiving end of the care she used to give. It was November 14, 1920 when Lucille May Cratty passed at the age of 28. It was almost as if her mission on earth ended with the war. She had been put on this earth to ease the pain and suffering of her “splendid men in uniform.” Once that was done, she could find peace. Tom McDermott is a Flagg Township Museum historian and Rochelle city councilman.

## Yin, yang and the immigration crisis

Americans believe two things about immigration. One is that a nation must be able to guard its borders from unwanted outsiders. The other is that immigrants are good for the country and should be encouraged to come here. A Pew Research Center poll published in September of 2022 reflects the tension between those sentiments. Solid majorities of participants supported increased border security as well as deportations of immigrants who are here illegally. But they also gave strong support for pro-immigrant policies, including procedures to enable illegal immigrants and their children to legally remain in the U.S. Maybe the Senate’s aborted bipartisan national security and border bill would have helped resolve that apparent in-

consistency. We’ll never know, in the wake of the Republicans’ 11th-hour change of heart. The bill would have put in place two things that they’ve long demanded—tighter restrictions on immigration and increased funding for enforcement. Meanwhile, Border Patrol encounters with undocumented immigrants continue to skyrocket. William A. Galston, in the Jan. 31, 2024 Wall Street Journal, reports that they’ve risen from fewer than half a million in 2020 to more than five times that many in 2023, and promise to go higher still in 2024. Migrants know that border officials are overwhelmed, and they’re taking advantage of it. Congress must somehow overcome its usual paralysis if we’re to get a grip on this crisis, but simply tightening up on restrictions and enforcement won’t likely

solve it. Forbes Magazine contributor Stuart Anderson (forbes.com, May, 8, 2023) cites research covering 100 years of Border Patrol apprehensions. It shows that when immigration rates went down it was because of conditions in people’s home countries instead of enforcement in the U.S. Illegal crossings have persisted in spite of dramatic increases in spending on enforcement. The American Immigration Council’s website reveals their scope: almost double the number of border agents from 2003 to 2019; nearly triple the number of agents devoted to internal enforcement and deportation in that same period; and an annual budget that has grown more than tenfold since 1993. Illegal immigration’s

stubborn resistance to these efforts is an example of what was famously demonstrated during the Prohibition era of the 1920s — when people can’t get what they want legally, they’ll find ways to get it anyway. Restrictive immigration laws have likewise tended to increase illegal immigration, and all the ills that go with it. The ancient Chinese coined a term for situations like this — yin and yang. It’s a choice between two things that are opposite and yet at the same time tied so closely together that you can’t have one without the other. The wise course is to find the right balance between them instead of striving for only one or the other. That means, in the case of immigration, a balance between the

yang of rejection and the yin of acceptance — between enforcement of border laws on the one hand, and, on the other, pro-immigrant policies that encourage voluntary obedience to the law. Opening the door for more immigrants to enter legally could help provide that balance, and soften the harmful side effects that come from enforcement. Gateways through official ports of entry would lessen the pressures on our overwhelmed ICE and Border Patrol agents. They could then monitor and regulate new arrivals instead of chasing them in our southwestern deserts. Massive numbers of immigrants can arouse deeply-ingrained fears of being overwhelmed and replaced by outsiders, but America has absorbed large numbers of immigrants in the past. The Migration Policy Institute’s

website reveals that the proportion of immigrants living in the United States today is about the same as it was between 1860 and 1930 — around 13 percent. The Irish, Italians and eastern Europeans who surged into the country at that time aroused the same misgivings that many us feel today. Their descendants are now an unquestioned part of our society and politics. It’ll take patience for the inevitable bumps along the way, and a willingness to give yin and yang each its due, to repeat that success story with today’s immigrants. Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who served school districts in Ogle County. His column runs periodically in The Ogle County Life. For previous articles, you can follow him on Facebook at <http://fb.me/lowellharp>.



Lowell Harp

### How to contact government officials

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20515  
(202) 225-6201

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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](mailto: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 PHOTO)



## THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

**February 29 – (Thursday) – Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Salad, Bosco Sticks**

**KIDS MENU: Chicken Nuggets w/Fries OR Hot Dogs with Chips**

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

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**March 6**  
**Nicole King**

# King Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
				18				19		20		
21	22	23					24					
25				26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
			41			42		43		44		
45	46						47					
48				49		50				51	52	53
54				55						56		
57				58						59		

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## by Linda Thistle

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

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: **Q** equals **F**

ZX'E HDKTJ QBAZM!

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

Answer

[illegible]

Solution time: 22 mins.

time. 2

**CryptoQuip**  
answer

Why do car mechanics  
always seem to drink  
coffee at work? Because  
it's break fluid!



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# SPORTS



**GIRLS FALL TO BOYLAN**

The Rochelle Lady Hub basketball team's season ended with a loss to Boylan.

See page 3 for more details

RTHS Wrestling

# Hubs shine at state

Morris takes second, Villalobos finishes fifth to lead matmen in Champaign

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

CHAMPAIGN — Junior Kaiden Morris had his moment under the lights as wrestling fans from all over Illinois united at the State Farm Center for the IHSA State Championships on Saturday.

Morris was one of the many state finalists who circled the floor during the traditional Grand March that begins each championship session. The Rochelle 215-pounder then took part in the face off at the center of the mat, where he met opponent Michael Calcagno from Elmhurst IC Catholic for a brief shake of hands. Roughly two hours after the ceremony, Morris was in his finals singlet ready to enter the ring for a chance to win his first-ever state wrestling title.

“That was an awesome experience and I’m glad I was able to be a part of that,” Morris said. “I’m glad that I worked hard enough to earn that experience. My goal is to be back next year.”

Morris finished second in the 215-pound weight class, conceding a second-period fall to the now two-time state champion Calcagno. Although Morris didn’t come away with a state title, the junior did make history as Rochelle’s first state finalist in two years and the program’s third state finalist in seven years. It’s also the first state medal for Morris, who qualified for the tournament as a sophomore and won an IWCOA Fresh-Soph State Championship title as a freshman.

“I look at this as a stepping stone for next year,” Morris said. “This isn’t where it ends for me and I know I can work harder. There’s so much more for me to learn and I’m looking forward to putting my head down so I can start working again. I want to win a state championship.”

Morris (41-4) began his run to the state finals on Thursday, when the standout junior recorded back-to-back falls against Mt. Vernon’s Jhymear Smith-Henson and Tinley Park’s Sebastian Sander-son to reach the semifinals. Morris showed minimal difficulties on Friday, when he scored two take-downs and two near falls to earn an 11-5 decision over Jacksonville’s Oliver Cooley.

“My confidence going into my matches has improved,” Morris said. “I know I can beat the opponent across from me.



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team sent four athletes to the IHSA State Championships at the State Farm Center in Champaign over the weekend. Junior Kaiden Morris (above) took second in the 215-pound weight class, while junior Xavier Villalobos (below) finished fifth in the 126-pound weight class. Senior Brock Metzger and junior Grant Gensler also represented Rochelle in the state tournament.



See STATE page 2

# SPORTS



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)  
The Rochelle Hub varsity wrestling team sent four athletes to the IHSA State Championships in Champaign over the weekend. Above from left to right are senior Brock Metzger and juniors Grant Gensler, Kaiden Morris and Xavier Villalobos. Gensler (below at left) and Metzger (below at right) can be seen below.

## STATE: Four Rochelle wrestlers compete in Champaign

**From page 1**

“I know that I’ve trained and prepared hard enough to do this. My offense has also improved and I’m scoring more points instead of settling for tight matches.”

Morris was one of four Hubs wrestling in the state tournament in Champaign. Junior Xavier Villalobos (43-3) medaled in fifth place at the 126-pound weight class, winning three of his five bouts over the weekend. Villalobos reached the championship semifinals after a first-round fall over Mahomet-Seymour’s Justus Vruno and a 3-2 decision over Deerfield senior Luke Reddy, who Villalobos took down in the final seconds of the third period in the quarterfinal round.

“This is the toughest tournament in the state,” Villalobos said. “We’re competing against the best wrestlers in the state and it feels good to get a medal and to get back onto the podium. My confidence has grown a lot and I’ve learned how to let things go and not get in my head too much. I achieved so much as a freshman and I was in my own head too much last year. I’ve learned to let it fly and wrestle like I have nothing to lose. I have to thank my family, my coaches and God because He’s been there for me through every step, both mentally and physically.”

After two tough losses including a 14-4 major decision against Triad’s Colby Crouch and a 1-0 decision against Civic Memorial’s Caleb Scott, Villalobos finished his tournament strong on Saturday, scoring a 6-2 decision over Providence Catholic’s Tommy Banas. Villalobos becomes Rochelle’s first two-time state medalist since Alex Harvey (2017 and 2018) and Rochelle’s first three-time state qualifier since his older brother Eddie Villalobos (2017, 2018 and 2019).

“[Eddie] has pushed me to where I’m at right now and it’s an awesome feeling to make it down here three times,” Villalobos said. “I’ve always wanted to be as good as my brother and I’ve always wanted to accomplish the goals he accomplished... I’ve been preaching since my

freshman year that I want to come down and win a state bracket. I want to come back and dominate the state tournament and represent Rochelle, both individually and as a team.”

Senior Brock Metzger (35-8) wrestled in the 190-pound weight class for the Hubs, finishing 1-2 over three bouts in the tournament. Metzger’s victory came during the first consolation round on Friday, when the senior scored the decisive takedown to secure a 5-3 sudden victory against Hinsdale South’s Alec Miller. Metzger concludes his high school wrestling career as a two-time state qualifier and a three-time sectional qualifier with over 100 bout victories on his resume.

“It’s always been my dream to come down here and compete at the state meet,” Metzger said. “I grew up watching kids like my cousin Ehren [Metzger], Eddie Villalobos and Alex Harvey. I looked up to them and I wanted to be just like them. I felt like I became more mature and I realized how much hard work it takes to become a great athlete. We have a great wrestling community and we all love being with each other. It’s been an amazing experience to have.”

Junior Grant Gensler (37-8) rounded out Rochelle’s foursome of state qualifying wrestlers. Gensler competed in the 165-pound weight class, conceding two tough losses despite pushing through

an injury. Now a two-time state qualifier and a three-time sectional qualifier, Gensler said his goals for next season include returning to Champaign and finishing on the podium.

“It’s been a great experience coming here and I feel like we’re putting Rochelle wrestling on the map,” Gensler said. “It didn’t do exactly how I wanted it to, but I was glad to be down here. I felt like I grew a lot from working with coach [Alphonso] Vruno in the wrestling room and we drilled a lot. He taught me a lot of new stuff and I really progressed as a wrestler this year. I definitely want to be down here again next year. I want to win more matches and hopefully place.”





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# SPORTS

## RTHS Girls Basketball

### Rochelle's season ends in IHSA 3A Regional Semifinals

Sixth-seeded Lady Hubs suffer 68-26 loss to second-seeded Rockford Boylan

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team saw its season come to a close during Monday night's IHSA 3A Rochelle Regional Semifinal game against Rockford Boylan.

Kaylee Harter drained three first-quarter 3-pointers for the Titans, who scored the first 22 points of the game and held the Lady Hubs without a point or a made field goal in the first quarter. The scoreless opening quarter was too much for Rochelle to overcome, as the sixth-seeded Lady Hubs fell to the second-seeded Titans 68-26. Boylan will advance to the championship game on Friday night, while the Lady Hubs conclude their 2023-24 season with a 13-18 overall record.

"We saw tremendous growth this season," head coach Jon Gehm said. "From the beginning, I thought this team had talent and we had to learn how to win... These seniors really showed a lot of resiliency and it was a great first year for our program. The seniors were a huge part of it."

Junior forward Kendyl Darby snapped the roughly nine-minute long scoring drought for the Lady Hubs, putting home a low-post basket for the team's first points of the game early in the second quarter. But Rochelle had few answers for Boylan's 6-foot-2 forward Lily Esparza, who took over the second quarter with five low-post field goals and finished the game with 21 points to lead all scorers. The Denver recruit Esparza propelled the Titans to a 38-7 halftime lead over Rochelle.

"I told the girls after the game, especially our sophomores and juniors, that we have to learn to hate the feeling of losing," Gehm said. "We have to



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity basketball team fell against Rockford Boylan this past Monday. Above, junior Kendyl Darby (left) looks to move around Boylan's Lily Esparza and senior Megan Seebach (right) drives around Boylan's Kaylee Harter.

carry that with us into the offseason and use that as motivation, whether we're working out in open gyms or in camp during the summer. I think the girls took that to heart and I think the future is bright for Rochelle girls basketball."

Despite trailing by over 30 points at halftime, the Lady Hubs didn't back down, outscoring Boylan 16-14 during the third quarter even though the Titans still had their starters on the floor. Senior guard Loretta Atkinson fueled the Lady Hub offense in the third quarter, drilling a trio of

3-pointers for all nine of her points in the game. Junior forward Abby Metzger also scored four of her six points in the second half, putting home a pair of low-post shots around the basket.

"Our girls were fighting,"

Gehm said. "We told the girls at halftime that they might lose the game, but they couldn't go out without a fight. The girls took that to heart and I can't say enough about how Loretta finished the season. There

were points earlier in the season where she wasn't getting much playing time and she could've hung her head, but she didn't and she fought back. We needed her in some big games at the end of the season and she was

able to step up." Darby finished with five points and senior guard Megan Seebach sank a second-quarter 3-pointer for three points in the loss. Senior guard Kara Martinez chipped in two points.

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# SPORTS

## RTHS Boys Basketball

# Hubs fall in regular season finale against Byron

Rochelle concedes sixth straight loss after 87-65 defeat on Thursday evening

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Byron senior Ryan Tucker has enjoyed a stellar season on the hardwood. The stand-out guard has eclipsed multiple school records, setting a new mark for 3-pointers made in a career and breaking a nearly 70-year-old career scoring record set by Marvin Dennis in 1956.

Tucker added to his decorated senior season on Thursday, scoring a team-high 41 points as the Tigers capped off a tremendous 2023-24 regular season with an 87-65 road win over Rochelle. Fresh off clinching the Big Northern Conference crown, Byron (25-2, 8-1 BNC) heads into the postseason having won each of its last four games. The Tigers will gear up for the IHSA 2A Genoa-Kingston Regional as the No. 1 seed, with their first game scheduled for Wednesday.

"We wanted to have a good finish to our season and we knew that, as long as we came out here and played as a team, we'd be alright," Tucker said. "My teammates trusted me tonight and it felt good to put the ball in the hoop. My senior season is something I was thinking about all summer after we were beaten in the regional championship last season. It all leads back to my teammates because they're pushing me everyday and they make things easier out here."

Rochelle (10-21, 3-7 Interstate 8) had no answer for Tucker, who drained a game-high 15 field goals including 12 in the first half, where the 6-foot-3 senior guard nailed six

3-pointers. Byron drilled open shots and created transition scoring chances on the defensive end of the floor, generating deflections and forcing errant passes that led to turnovers and easy layups.

"This was a good team for us to play because [Rochelle] can score the basketball," Byron head coach Matt Huels said. "The two teams we could see in the regional, Marian Central Catholic or Johnsbury, can both score the basketball. We have to be able to contest shooters, which Rochelle has plenty of, and we have to be able to dictate the pace of the game. We've done that over the last four or five games. This team's extremely talented and they can go a long way."

The Tigers took control of the game right away, scoring 13 unanswered points with Tucker leading the charge to start the first quarter. Despite efforts from junior guard Cayden Moore and freshman forward Brody Bruns, who each put home a trio of baskets in the opening quarter, Rochelle was unable to muster enough defensive stops to keep pace with the Tigers, who held a 35-18 lead after the first quarter and ballooned their lead to 60-34 at the halftime buzzer.

"Brody's been a pleasant surprise for us all season long and we've continued to ask for more and more out of him," Rochelle head coach Tim Thompson said. "He's been a varsity player the entire year and he's been fantastic. I wouldn't doubt if he's an All-Conference player this year."

Although Tucker stole the show for the Tigers of-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Austin Raleigh is guarded by Byron's Ryan Tucker during the Rochelle Hub varsity basketball game against the Tigers on Thursday.

fensively, Byron finished with eight players in the scoring column. Sophomores Caden Considine and Cason Newton totaled 11 points and 10 points, respectively, as the Tigers forced a running clock with an 83-49 lead after three quarters. Rochelle will enter the postseason on a six-game losing streak, but the Hubs can snap their skid with a win in the IHSA 3A Boylan Regional, where the No. 5 Hubs will face No. 3 Woodstock.

"I think the kids are beaten down right now and we need a good day off to watch some film and

get our bodies healthy," Thompson said. "We need four good days of practice and then prepare the best way we can and take away what [Woodstock] is good at... 0-0 is the mindset that we have to live by right now and Woodstock is coming with 20 wins this year... I think the last few games have been discouraging for our kids, but we have to get as healthy as we can."

Byron, meanwhile, will be seeking its first regional championship since the 2017-18 season, when the Tigers finished 24-7 under former head coach Tom

Schmidt. Byron entered Thursday's game against the Hubs ranked No. 7 in Class 2A by the Associated Press. The Tigers have just two losses, one of which is to No. 2 ranked Beecher, who's 30-0.

"I think our kids can go a long way," Huels said. "It will be about executing down the stretch and getting stops when we need them. They have all the talent in the world, but they'll need to earn their way through. We've been able to guard in a lot of different ways. We played some zone and we pressed tonight, but sometimes

we'll play man-to-man. We can run a variety of defenses and we can score in different ways. Ryan had 41 tonight, but Jack [Hiveley] can carry us, Cason can carry us and Carson [Buser] can carry us, which makes us a very difficult team to guard."

Bruns led the Hubs with a 17-point, 15-rebound double-double on Thursday, while Moore finished with 10 points and junior guard Carson Lewis totaled nine points on three 3-pointers. Senior guard Eli Luxton chipped in nine points and nine rebounds for the Hubs in the loss.

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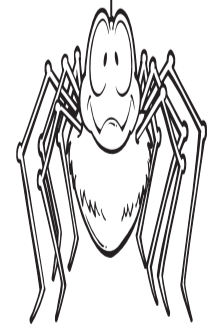
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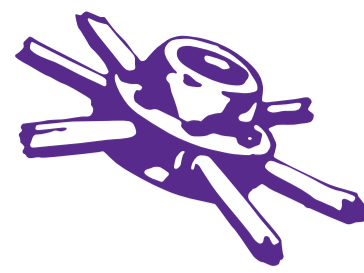
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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



**Amor  
Lara**

*Year: Freshman  
Sport: Wrestling*

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

*A: One year.*

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

*A: Being around friends and traveling to other schools for competitions.*

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

*A: PE because it's all effort based and it's fun with all the people.*

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

*A: Austin DeSanto because he wrestled at Iowa with a 102-23 record over five years.*

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

*A: My parents and my coaches*

*because my parents raised me and my coaches have taught me everything about wrestling.*

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

*A: To be a pilot because traveling and flying are fun and it sounds like an interesting career.*

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

*A: Mexico City because I've already visited and I enjoyed walking around and seeing everything.*

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

*A: It helps maintain my grades and it's fun to interact with the community.*

**Jayden  
Pelayo**

*Year: Freshman  
Sport: Wrestling*



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

*A: This is my first year.*

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

*A: How hard the sport is and how much it changes someone.*

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

*A: Biology because of how interesting and cool it is.*

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

*A: Michael Jordan.*

**Q: Who is your biggest role**

**model and why?**

*A: My dad because of how he pushes me to do more.*

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

*A: To be a firefighter.*

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

*A: Going to Mexico to see my family.*

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

*A: The atmosphere of the home gym.*

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