

ROCHELLE News-Leader

WEEKEND EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

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Vol. 104 • No. 89

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KNOW IT TODAY



Perrin receives IPA award

RTHS Assistant Principal Dr. David Perrin earned recognition from the IPA.
Page 2

WEATHER

SUNDAY	MONDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
70 46	70 46
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
57 37	53 32

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:
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OBITUARIES

• BARBARA ARLENE DETIG

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• VOTER GUIDE

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Ribbon cutting held for K&K Creative Links

New business offers custom-fit permanent jewelry

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Monday, a ribbon cutting and grand opening event was held for K&K Creative Links, a new business that offers custom-fit permanent jewelry such as bracelets, necklaces and anklets. K&K Creative Links resides inside The Cypress House at 718 10th Ave. in Rochelle and does private parties as well.

Owner Catherine Kuehl said that opening her own business has been a goal of her's for quite some time.

"It's something that's customized to the customer and they can have it however they want," Kuehl said. "It's a more affordable price than actually going to a jeweler. It's all gold-filled or sterling silver. You can dedicate it to your kids, family, pets or loved ones. Or just something that you like. It gets welded on, so it stays on until you decide to take it off. We seem to be a pretty big hit around Rochelle and I'm pretty proud of that."

The ribbon cutting was hosted by the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce and speakers included Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera, Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows, and State Rep. Bradley Fritts. Herrera opened the event by welcoming Kuehl and K&K Creative Links to the chamber and thanked



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Monday, a ribbon cutting and grand opening event was held for K&K Creative Links, a new business that offers custom-fit permanent jewelry such as bracelets, necklaces and anklets.

her and Krista Stewart, who owns The Cypress House, for their work on collaborating with other local small businesses.

"This is something that's a passion and dream for you," Herrera said. "You started out as home-based and doing parties, and always knew you wanted to be in a space somewhere to get a little bit more exposure and kind of show everybody. Permanent jewelry is on fire right now. You can't go on social media without seeing it, and that's great that you're capitalizing on that in this beautiful space here in Rochelle. We know when you open a business you can open it anywhere. And we're always very grateful and thankful when businesses choose to do it here in Rochelle. We're

excited to have you and see how this can grow and more collaborations and partnerships."

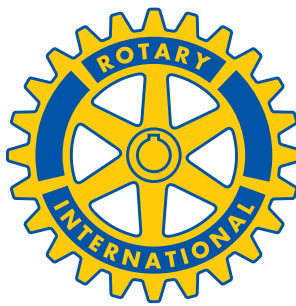
Bearrows spoke about businesses growing from a home-based format into having their own spaces and offered the city's support.

"You have to remember as you move forward that we're all in this together, the chamber, the city and the small businesses," Bearrows said. "We like to do whatever we can do to help our small businesses to survive and thrive. Through the pandemic, it became very apparent how the city feels about helping our small businesses. As we all know, getting any business to come to Illinois in today's world is a bit of a challenge. We're very proud of our local business-

es. We don't worry about what goes on elsewhere, but we want to see Rochelle thrive."

Fritts' remarks included the importance of small businesses to the community.

"Oftentimes we talk about businesses moving out of Illinois," Fritts said. "When we talk about fostering new business, a lot of times we talk about big corporations that are going to bring in hundreds or thousands of jobs. What I think we often forget is that America is truly run by people like you. Small business owners. People that start a mom and pop thing in their backyard and all of the sudden turn it into a thriving community business. And that's what you're doing. I wish you the best of luck. Congratulations."



Pease, Charnock leading Rochelle Rotary Club

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Michelle Pease (president) and Lance Charnock (president-elect) currently serve in leadership positions of the Rochelle Rotary Club.

The club's 2023-2024 officers also include Immediate Past President Adam Heal, Secretary Sarah Flanagan, Treasurer Chuck Watkins, and Member at Large Greg Folmar. Committee chairs are Jeni Hardin (public relations), Josh Carney (service), Emily Anaya (foundation) and Jeff Fiegenschuh (club administration).

Leadership positions within Rotary take effect July 1 each year. That is when Pease will swear in Charnock as president. The City of Rochelle community development director said she's enjoyed her time in the office so far.

"I have been with Rotary since I started with the city about 11 years ago," Pease said.

See ROTARY page 3

Internationally-known standup comic Andy Beningo to perform at Lincoln Arts Center

Comedian has performed in all 50 states, 3,500 performances worldwide

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Internationally-known standup comic Andy Beningo will perform at the Lincoln Arts Center at 108 S. Main St. in Rochelle on Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m.

Beningo has performed in all 50 states and has over 3,500 career performances worldwide under his belt. He is known for his clean and "every man" style and has performed for Fortune 500 companies, on cruise lines, and in some of the top comedy clubs in the country. Beningo has been named one of the 40 Best Up and Coming Comedians in the country, as well as "Best Comedian" by both the Detroit Metro Times and Detroit Hour magazine.

See BENINGO pg 9



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Internationally-known standup comic Andy Beningo will perform at the Lincoln Arts Center at 108 S. Main St. in Rochelle on Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m.

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Chris Willis
Ray & Barb Reineck
Kathy Marchesi
Ed & Jan Kissick
Emily & Nic Anaya
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Brent & Jackie Ohlinger
Brent Baker
Kara & Zach Prewett
Amy & Casey Kilduff
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Pauline Brass
Nathaniel Brass
Yvonne Brass
Joe & Donna Drought

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Karen & Spencer Hayden
Dave & Jean Tess
Mike Schabacker
Mark Gale
Dana Cox
Sam Thomas
Judy & Wayne Williams
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Kelsey Kersten
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Dorothy Vargen
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Sandy Beitel
Brad Auken
Ryan Considine
Vito Lozzo
Jamie & Leslie Messer
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Jeremy & Lisa Good
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Stanley Asp - board member
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Treasurer Tiffany O'Brien
State's Attorney Mike & Margaret Rock
Mayor John & Dina Bearrows
Winnebago Sheriff Gary Caruana
Former Congressman Don Manzullo
Illinois Senator Andrew Chesney
Illinois State Representative John Cabello

"Everyone matters to Chad and that is
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Bob Thompson, Thompson Law, PC

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LOCAL NEWS

RTHS's Perrin recognized as IPA assistant principal for the year for region

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School District #212 recently announced that RTHS Assistant Principal Dr. David J. Perrin has been recognized as the Illinois Principal Association (IPA) Assistant Principal of the Year for the state's Northwest Region.

Dr. Perrin will represent Rochelle's region as the IPA chooses a state Assistant Principal of the Year from all the regional principal winners. There are 13 total regional winners from the state of Illinois.

Regarding the recognition of Assistant Principal of the Year, Dr. Perrin said, "I am humbled and grateful for this acknowledgment. RTHS has been an exceptional place to work, and I appreciate the opportunity to make a positive impact on our students."

Dr. Perrin has played a

pivotal role in spearheading the district's mentor program, instructional coaching, and teacher professional development programs, noted Rochelle Township High School District #212 Principal Dr. Chris Lewis.

"With a significant number of retirements in the past seven years, Dr. Perrin has been instrumental in providing support, especially to our new teachers," Lewis said.

"Our district is immensely proud that Dr. David J. Perrin received the IPA Assistant Principal of the Year recognition. Dr. Perrin's dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to our students' success have positively impacted Rochelle Township High School. His passion for excellence is truly commendable, and we are fortunate to have him working tirelessly for the best outcomes for our



Dr. David Perrin

students," Tom Huddleston, president, RTHS School Board, said.

Dr. Perrin has been an assistant principal at RTHS District #212 for the last seven years. He has worked a total of 30 years at RTHS. He was an English teacher before becoming the assistant principal.

Dr. Perrin will retire at the end of this school year with 33 years of education experience.

Mt. Morris man arrested on attempted first degree murder charge

MT. MORRIS — A Mt. Morris man was recently arrested for charges including attempted first degree murder, an Ogle County Sheriff's Office press release on Feb. 28 said.

On Feb. 14 at approximately 3:40 a.m. deputies and the Mt. Morris Police Department responded to a disturbance at the Mt. Morris Estates Trailer Park in rural Mt. Morris. Malachi M. Voight, 18, of Mt. Morris was actively engaged in an altercation with two members of the household, the release said. As a result, the Mt.

Morris Ambulance transported two senior citizens to KSB Hospital in Dixon for serious injuries. Voight was also transported to KSB Hospital by Oregon Ambulance. Pursuant to the investigation, a warrant was subsequently issued for Voight for attempted first degree murder (class X felony), two counts of aggravated domestic battery (class two felony), and two counts of aggravated battery to a senior citizen (class two felony). On Feb. 27, Voight was released from KSB Hospital and taken into custody by Ogle



Malachi M. Voight

County Sheriff's deputies. Voight is being confined at the Ogle County Jail without bond.

All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

Rochelle Community Hospital, NIFB to host mobile market food pantry March 14

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital will host the Northern Illinois Food Bank for a mo-

bile market food pantry on Thursday, March 14 from 4-5:30 p.m. NIFB's mobile pantry distributes food in

high-need areas. Food is free so neighbors can thrive. Please bring bags or boxes in which to package your food. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

RCH and NIFB's food pantry will be located at the hospital at 900 N. 2nd St. in Rochelle. RCH and NIFB will also host mobile market food pantry events in the summer on Thursday, June 6 and Thursday, Aug. 8 at the same time and place.

White Rock Cemetery spring cleanup is March 16

KINGS — The annual spring clean-up at White Rock Cemetery will take place Saturday, March 16. Any winter decorations not removed by then will be disposed of.

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LOCAL NEWS

ROTARY: Charnock to take over as new club president on July 1

From page 1

"Being president now is just about taking a turn representing the local club and volunteering my time. The mission for Rotary is pretty close to what I believe in: Being able to give back to the community. It was just a nice way to be able to take a turn at the presidency and learn a little bit and give a little bit more back and learn more from the leadership role."

Rotary's yearly work includes helping From the Heart with its cash calendars and gala to raise money for area nonprofits, volunteering and fundraising in the community, and donating its monthly collections to various nonprofits. The club recently hosted a fundraiser for the Community Action Network with a night out at Salt 251 and raised over \$3,000 for the CAN Christmas Shopping Trip.

Pease said that after stepping into the role of president, she got a true appreciation for how much goes into the club with meetings, its international components, and philanthropy. She said that on top of all that, the club is a "great" networking opportunity.

"We have people from all kinds of businesses in the community and connecting with them can help you professionally and personally," Pease said. "It's a nice way to connect with different businesses, entities, and nonprofits. That's been huge for me. And it helps with my job. People ask about things going on with businesses or



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Michelle Pease (president) and Lance Charnock (president-elect) currently serve in leadership positions of the Rochelle Rotary Club. Leadership positions within Rotary take effect July 1 each year. That is when Pease will swear in Charnock as president. The City of Rochelle community development director said she's enjoyed her time in the office so far.

buildings or something that the city is doing. People being able to connect with me as a city employee is really important. That's why I'm here and that's why I have a job. To connect with my community. This position has allowed me to be very approachable. People have questions and I'm here every Tuesday. It's been good for myself and my job with the city."

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, Charnock was looking for a way to channel

some goodwill and find a place to volunteer and donate his time back to the community he grew up in. He called serving on the Rotary board "a great experience" and said his time with the club has filled the void he felt in recent years. He's looking forward to leading the club as president.

"I think it's important for people to get involved in their community," Charnock said. "You get what you give. Somebody taking an hour or two out of their week to volunteer for a good cause, whether

it's at a nonprofit or doing something like cleaning up the community, I think channeling that good energy will bring it back to you tenfold. I encourage anybody that has that extra time to volunteer and do what they can to help the community."

The Rochelle Rotary Club is seeking members and those interested can message the club on Facebook or attend one of its meetings, which take place each Tuesday at noon at Salt 251 in the ballroom. Meetings include lunch, a program,

club updates and fellowship with members.

Pease said the club met via Zoom during the pandemic, which brought difficulties for those meetings and getting attendance and new members when in-person meetings started up again. She and Charnock said they're hoping to see new members join to provide ideas on fundraising or to volunteer, even if it's a business or nonprofit joining as a member and sending a different employee each week.

"Our numbers seemed

like they dwindled down, but people are starting to come back now," Pease said. "I would love to be able to have a larger group and just connect more people together. We're always welcoming anybody who wants to be a part of it. Even if they just want to come and have lunch and see what it's about, we would welcome that. We're a pretty welcoming group. We have fun. If you want to have a free lunch, have some fun, and network with people, Rotary is the place."

RTHS online auction runs March 1-8

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School is going to be auctioning off some old equipment and supplies online through the Rochelle Schools website.

The auction site will be

open from Friday, March 1 at 8 a.m. through Friday, March 8 at 3 p.m. Once the auction is complete, bids will be tabulated and winners will be notified on Monday, March 11. Winning bidders must pay

by cash or check and will be given details on how to make arrangements to pick up purchased items the week of March 11-15.

The link to the auction site is <https://bit.ly/RochelleSchoolsAuction>.

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LENDER

LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Barbara Arlene Detig

LINDENWOOD — Barbara Arlene Detig, 87, passed away peacefully Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at her home in Lindenwood, Illinois. Barb was born on May 23, 1936 to Enno and Ruth (Finan) Fischer in White Rock Township, IL. On October 8, 1955, she married James A. Detig in Rochelle, IL.

Prior to retiring, Barb worked at Ogle County Mutual Insurance. After that, she worked at State Farm under Don Taylor and then for Terri Schaffer.

Barb enjoyed playing cards and was in several card clubs over the years. She and Jim enjoyed going dancing on a regular basis for many years. More than anything, she enjoyed the time she spent with her children and grandchildren. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Rochelle.

Barb is survived by her husband of 68 years, Jim of Lindenwood; four children: Michael Detig of Rochelle, Nancy (Mike) Reed of Rochelle, IL, Susan Detig Gilbert of Redmond, WA and Mary Detig of Lindenwood; brother, David (Diane) Fischer of Rockford, IL; six grandchildren: Erin (Cameron) Modjeski, Joel (Whitney) Detig, Katie (Eric) Paulsen, Allison (Justin Durancik) Reed, Jacklyn (Michael) Mlejnek and Emily (Shane Kilduff) Gilbert; four great grandchildren: Callan Modjeski, Cormac Modjeski, Emerson Durancik, Dylan Detig with two more on the way; and Norna (Todd Seaworth) Detig and Eric and Hannah Seaworth.

In addition to her parents, Barb was preceded in death by her son, Mark Detig; great-grandson, Ellis Modjeski; two sisters: Frances Reints and Mary Ellen Rahn and two brothers: Kenneth and John Fischer. The family wishes to thank nurses, Rachael and Dawn, and special friends, Kathy



and Steve Korth for their support and care.

The visitation will be from 4:00 - 7:00 P.M., Monday, March 4, 2024 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle. The funeral mass will be held at 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, March 5 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 236 Kelley Drive, Rochelle with Father Jesus Dominguez officiating. The burial will follow the service at Lindenwood Cemetery in Lindenwood, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Barb's memory to Serenity Hospice and Home. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ROCHELLE — On Feb. 27 at 6:54 a.m. Robert Thompson, 55, of Sterling was cited for speeding 50 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 5 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 27 at 4:18 p.m. Maria Beltran, 63, of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 5 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 27 at 8:14 a.m. Thomas W. Dettman, 44, of Rochelle was arrested for child pornography and transferred.

On Feb. 27 at 1:17 p.m. Ivan J. Price Jr., 19,

of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a stop sign and operating an uninsured vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 5 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 27 at 4:18 p.m. Maria Beltran, 63, of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 5 Rochelle court date.

On Feb. 27 at 8:14 a.m. Thomas W. Dettman, 44, of Rochelle was arrested for child pornography and transferred.



On Feb. 28 at 2:23 p.m. Dominic G. Larson, 28, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On Feb. 29 at 3:12 p.m. Geoffrey R. Carter, 41, of Rochelle was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 5 Rochelle court date.

On March 1 at 12:23 a.m. Janet Hernandez, 28, of Davis Junction was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. She signed a promise to comply and was given an April 5 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

OREGON — On Feb. 22 at approximately 3:09 p.m. deputies responded to the intersection of North Illinois Route 2 and Ashelford Drive in Byron for the report of a two-vehicle accident. After a further investigation, deputies learned that Taylor Winstead, 24 of Dixon, failed to reduce speed to avoid an accident and rear ended the vehicle attempting to turn onto Ashelford from Illinois Route 2. Both parties were cleared on medical refusals by Byron EMS and Winstead was cited for failure to reduce speed. The Ogle County Sheriff's Office was assisted by Byron EMS and the Byron Police Department.

On Feb. 23, deputies arrested Montana Chesko, 21, of Rochelle on an outstanding warrant for aggravated battery to a nurse. Chesko appeared in court and was arrested on a failure to appear warrant. Chesko posted bond and does not have to return to court.

On Feb. 23 at 10 a.m., the Ogle County Sheriff's Office investigated a battery complaint involving a 15-year-old male, from Monroe Center, and a juvenile female victim. After the investigation, the male was taken into limited custody for battery and released to his guardian.

On Feb. 23 at 6:02 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of North River Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Joseph Roth, 48, of Byron, for driving while license suspended. Roth was released with a notice to appear.

On Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 6,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. As a result, Rachael A. Smith, 38 of Rockford, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine. Smith was additionally issued citations for expired registration, suspended registration/non insured, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Smith was transported to the Ogle County Jail,

where she was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Feb. 24 at approximately 10:25 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of South Illinois Route 251. After an investigation, deputies arrested Arturo E. Morales-Jiminez, 47, of Rockford, for driving unlicensed. Morales-Jiminez was transported to the Ogle County Jail and, after processing, was released with a notice to appear in court.

On Feb. 24 at 10:29 p.m. deputies, with the assistance of Oregon Police Department, conducted a traffic stop in the 4,000 block of North Illinois Route 2 to investigate a domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation, Damian Rodden, 23, of Oregon, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Rodden was released with a notice to appear in court.

On Feb. 24 at 1:12 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on North Illinois Route 251 at the intersection with East Lindenwood Road. As a result, deputies arrested Anna E Ramsby-Thrower, 42, of Freeport for driving on a suspended license. Ramsby-Thrower was additionally issued citations for expired registration, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Ramsby-Thrower was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On Feb. 25, deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of Kishwaukee Road. After investigation, deputies placed Elizabeth Blascak, 35, of Cherry Valley, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Blascak was released on a notice to appear at the scene and given a future court date.

On Feb. 26, deputies arrested Mark Rowe, 38, of Polo at the Ogle County Courthouse. He was arrested on an outstanding failure to appear warrant for manufacturing/delivery cannabis/30-500 grams. Rowe was unable to post the \$4,628 bond and appeared in court where his bond was reduced to \$525. Rowe posted bond, was released, and will return to court on

March 25 at 9 a.m.

On Feb. 26 at approximately 10:45 a.m. deputies arrested Corey Kelchner, 39, of Steward when he turned himself into the Ogle County Jail. He was arrested an outstanding failure to appear warrant for possession of a firearm with a revoked FOID card. Kelchner was unable to post the \$4,661 bond and appeared in court where his bond was reduced to \$300. Kelchner posted bond, was released, and will return to court on March 25 at 9 a.m.

On Feb. 26 at approximately 10:50 a.m. deputies arrested Martha Vargas, 30, of Aurora at the Ogle County Courthouse. She was arrested on an outstanding failure to appear warrant (\$2,676 bond) and a second warrant (no bond), both for driving under the influence of alcohol. Vargas appeared in court where her bond was set at \$500. If she is unable to post bond, she will remain in custody until her court date on Feb. 28 at 3 p.m.

On Feb. 26 at approximately 3:30 p.m. deputies arrested Thomas Minton, 41, of Freeport at the Ogle County Courthouse. He was arrested on an outstanding warrant for driving while license suspended. Minton was unable to post the \$15,000 (10 percent) bond and was scheduled to appear in court on Feb. 27 at 1 p.m.

On Feb. 26 at approximately 10:28 p.m. deputies responded to the 8,000 block of North Kilbuck Road in response to the report of a suspicious vehicle. After investigation, Jose M. Martinez, 28, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while license revoked, aggravated driving while under the influence of alcohol, and two counts of unlawful use of a weapon as a felon. Martinez was also cited for improper lane usage, failure to reduce speed, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Martinez was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was held, awaiting an appearance before a judge.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the

Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

LOCAL NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Retiring Ogle County Fair Board members recognized for service

At the Feb. 19 Ogle County Fair Board meeting, two retiring members were recognized for their years of service on the board. Denny Alderks served on the board for 27 years and Rita Dauphin served for 25 years. The board wanted to thank both Denny and Rita for the many hours of dedicated volunteer service they provided to help build our fair. Both received a plaque and lifetime passes for the fair.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ashton Bible Church, corner of Main and Paddock in Ashton. Pastor Farrel Stauffer, church phone is (815)453-2190, church website www.ashtonbible.org. Sunday School for all ages 9:00-10:00am, Morning Worship 10:15am, Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 6:30-8:00pm.

The Bridge Church, Pastor Greg Duncan, 11038 E. IL Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068. Phone: 815-562-7750. Sunday School: 9:00 am; Sunday Service: 10:00 am; Nursery & Children's ministry during am service; Bible Study Tuesday 10:00 am and Wednesday 7:00 pm. Web: thebridgechurchrochelle.com Email: thebridgechurchrochelle@gmail.com

Calvary Lighthouse Church, Assemblies of God, Senior Pastor, Dr. James Horvath. 14409 Hemstock Rd., Rochelle. Sunday Morning: Sunday Worship & Children's Church 10:00 A.M., Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M. – Adult Teaching, Missionettes & Royal Rangers Childrens Classes, Nursery available for all services. HE-Brews Cafe is open before and after services. For further information, please call the CLC office at 815-562-7701, or email us at staff@calvarylighthouse.com

Rochelle Church of Christ, Keeping Christ at the center in the Hub City. We meet Sundays at 9:00am for Bible Study and 10:00am for worship. We also have a Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00pm. 206 Erickson Rd, Rochelle, IL 61068. You can call us at (815) 562-6572 or visit us on the web at rochellechurch.com. We also have a radio program Sundays just after 8am on WRHL 1060AM. Minister Dominic Venuso.

Creston United Methodist Church and Steward United Methodist Church - Rev. Ilhan You, Creston: 126 West South Street, P.O. Box 209, Creston, Illinois 60113. Sunday morning worship 9:00am. Coffee fellowship at 10:15am. Steward: 507 Main Street, P.O. Box 80, Steward, IL 60553. Adult Sunday School, 10:00am. Sunday morning worship and Children's Sunday School 11:00am. Contact the church office at 847-730-4370 for more information. facebook.com/crestonumcil facebook.com/stewardilumc

Elim Reformed Church, 140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068. Phone: 815-562-6811. Email goelimchurch@gmail.com Website www.goelimchurch.org Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 Rev. Marv Jacobs

Faith Lutheran Church – (14206 E. Flagg Rd.) – “Making Christ Known Through Lives of Faith.” In-person worship is available each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. or online at “Faith Lutheran Social” on YouTube. Worship resources are also available on our Facebook page - ‘Faith Lutheran Church ELCA.’ You may also e-mail Pastor Joy Alsop at Pastor@faithlrochelle.org for more information. All are welcome to join us!

First General Baptist Church, 500 S. 12th St, Rochelle. Phone: 815-562-5221. Email: fgbcrochelle@gmail.com. Website: www.fgbcrochelle.org. Facebook: www.facebook.com/fgbcrochelle. Pastor: Rev. Angelo Bonacquisti. **Sunday worship services:** 8:30 am, 11:15 am and 6:00 pm. **Sunday school:** 10:00 am. We'd be honored to have you join us as we worship JESUS and continue to grow in truth and love for God and each other. A nursery, children's church, youth group and small groups are available. If you need a ride please contact our church bus driver, John, at (815) 262-4275 by 8:30 am on Sunday. “For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

First Presbyterian Church – An Amazing Place for Amazing Grace- Rev. Doug Forsberg, Senior Pastor. 1100 Calvin Road, Rochelle. Email: info@placeforgrace.com. Sunday morning worship 9:00am and 10:30am. In person or streamed online. On our Website and Facebook Live. www.placeforgrace.com/ www.facebook.com/placeforgrace

Grace Fellowship Church — Pastor Jeff Ardisson, 2128 Il Route 38, Ashton, 815-453-7464. Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 9:45 a.m. www.graceisforyou.com

Harvest Baptist Church 241 Scott Ave. (Hillcrest). Rev. Duane Boehm, pastor. Email duane712@hotmail.com, cell 815-757-3427. Visit us on Facebook! Service times: Sunday morning worship with Children's Church at 10 am. Wednesday night worship at 7 pm.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 16060 E. Lindenwood Road, Lindenwood, IL 61049. Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock. Church Phone 393-4500. Church Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Christian Education Hour at 10:30 a.m.

Living Water Community Church 405 N. Main St, Downtown Rochelle. Phone 815-561-6249, Website: www.lwccr.com, Like us on Facebook. We are Non-Denominational, Christ Centered, Casual dress, Christ Centered Live Band Worship. Mike Vogeler - Outreach and Seven C's Pastor, Chris Bender- Teaching Pastor and Doug Bunker - Missions and Children's Pastor. Sunday Worship Service- 10:00am. Nursery/Toddlers Ages 0-5 available during the service in the Splash building. Swim- Grades 1st-5th worship with the adults then break out for age appropriate teaching. Youth groups, Small groups, Life Groups and Workshops meet throughout the year for Bible teaching. 7C's Mission- serves the community physically & spiritually each month from 1135 Lincoln Hwy, providing lightly used clothing, Hygiene items, a light lunch and Elder Prayer open the second Saturday from 10am-2pm and the 4th Thursday from 4pm to 7:00pm and by appointment.. [f](https://facebook.com/lwccr)

New Hope Fellowship (Church of God - Anderson, IN), 1501 10th Ave., Rochelle, IL 61068. Service: Sunday at 9 a.m. 10:30 a.m., (815)561-8400, www.NHFchurch.net Pastor: Dan Sergeant and Pastor Nick Tornabene. (Classes for children through age fifth grade during service.)

Rochelle United Methodist Church welcomes everyone to their worship service, and practices openness for all activities including communion. Worship is at 9:00 am. Sunday school for children begins around 9:15, following the Children's Time in worship. A fellowship time with food and space for conversation occurs in Hicks Hall every week following the worship service. We celebrate communion with an open table on the first Sunday of every month, and on other appropriate occasions. Youth group is on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30. Our youth program includes service projects, discussion topics, Bible Study, and lots of fun and fellowship together. Some of our activities include packing meals at Feed My Starving Children, helping at Rochelle Christian Food Pantry and 7C's, working with animals at Barn on Baseline, Mystery trips (Destination Unknown!), and Interactive experiences on Dating boundaries, refugees, and homelessness. Youth group is for grades 6-12 and friends are always welcome. Recorded services are available on our YouTube channel and our website at www.rochelleumc.com. Our services are on the radio (93.5 FM) on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/rochelleumc. **Our pastor is the Rev. Dr. Katherine Thomas Paisley.** Our address is 709 Fourth Ave. (815) 562-2164. Email is admin@rochelleumc.com. At Rochelle United Methodist Church, everyone is welcome and loved!

St. Patrick Catholic Church Rev. Jesus Dominguez; Deacon Fermin Garcia; Deacon George Schramm; 244 Kelley Dr. (Corner of Kelley & Caron Rd.), PO Box 329, Rochelle, IL 61068. **Office Hours:** 9:00 AM- 4PM Monday-Thursday, Phone: 815-562-2370. **Mass times:** 8:00 AM Monday-Thursday, Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 PM English, 7PM Spanish, Sunday Mass 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM in English and 11:00 AM in Spanish. **Confessions:** Monday 8:30AM & 6:30PM, Tuesday 8:30AM, Saturday 8:30am & 4:00-4:45 PM Or by appointment. **Religious Education:** Deacon George Schramm, Director of Religious Education. 903 Caron Road, Rochelle, IL 61068, 815-561-0079; Website: stpatricksrochelle.com Email: stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org Facebook.com/StPatrickRochelle

St. Paul Lutheran Church “Building Relationships in Christ, Now and Forever!” Steven Hall, Principal, Parish Nurse-Marcia Schnorr. 1415 Tenth Ave., Rochelle. Church Office-562-2744. Worship times: 6:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Sunday. Our service is broadcast over WRHL 1060AM at 10:00 a.m. Sunday. Sunday School 10:15-11:15 a.m. Call 562-6323 for more information about the school.



LOCAL VIEWS

Consider this: NATO member contributions

WHEN you hear a statement like, “No I would not protect you. In fact, I would encourage them to do whatever the hell they want. You gotta pay. You gotta pay your bills.”, what is the first thing you think of? That some store owner has not paid their periodic “bill” for their protection to the Mafia (if it still exists)? How about the IRS saying that you are required to pay your taxes? Or did you wonder about who is “them” in this statement before anything else?

No matter how you look at this, it is a scary statement. Who knows what the Mafia would do if you did not pay? Would it be a physical act of violence to cause pain and suffering? The IRS may garnish wages and/or do other things, but at least you know it is not physical, though it could be painful. And, if you are willing, they will collaborate with you. As far as the “them,” if it isn’t the Mafia or IRS, who could it be?

There is another thing

PAID LETTER

DEAR editor, I was initially supporting Christie Cox for coroner simply because I’ve known her for many years and always found her to be

that you might hear in this statement which is even more concerning. It is very plain that the person making this type of statement is worried about one simple thing. Money. In the hierarchy of this statement, money comes first, and the rest is a distant second. It should be more important to collaborate with a person on a structure to pay bills, than to worry about whether they pay for the protection. Why? In a very roundabout way, the protection includes the person making the statement.

As far as the store owner is concerned, if he doesn’t pay, it appears that he may never be able to. If someone else takes over the store, they may be more of a problem to the Mafia than the previous owner. The Mafia loses both ways. With the IRS, if the customer can’t pay, no money goes into the coffer. There are many companies that will help people that owe money to the IRS. In the long run, however, it seems that the IRS gets less than the original customer would have paid. The IRS loses

both ways. Of course, the statement I have been referring to was the statement made by Former President Trump about the possibility of our NATO allies failing to make their contributions to NATO as they pledged to. The statement, as reported at the beginning of this article, was quoted from New York Times web site at nytimes.com. But this statement is confusing. There are small contributions made to NATO each year for funding budgets and programs which equals 0.3% of the members’ defense spending. In 2023 this equated to about \$3.6 billion, a small amount of the total program.

As for the rest of the assets that would be available when NATO countries go to war, these are not in a fund or any other available account. NATO members pledge that they will spend 2% per year of their GDP on their individual countries’ defense spending. This is to ensure

that when needed, each country can supply the defense equipment and forces needed to fight a war. You can find out more at the web site NATO.int.

According to forces.net, a British site that keeps up with military forces and deployment in the world, NATO had 11 countries in 2023 that spent more than 2% of their GDP. The country that made the largest purchases as a percentage of GDP in 2023 was Poland. I have not heard of any other countries worried about members’ defense fund spending, so why would this be a game stopper to world defense?

Why do we think other countries are silent? I would imagine that it’s because it’s nobody else’s business outside of NATO membership. Also, a statement like that undermines NATO as a whole. But the most important reason is that what happens to any one country in NATO, happens to us all. We must deal with any

negative occurrences before they happen if we can. These types of statements just bolster Putin in his position against Ukraine and his desires for more conquests. Are other autocrats or dictators taking these words into account in some way?

It is clear to me in this statement that Former President Trump does not know how NATO works, or doesn’t want to. And, as I look back at other statements, it appears that he has always shown us who he is. When discussing others, some of the time it seems he is talking about himself. The most recent example of this is the following:

“The sudden death of Alexei Navalny has made me more and more aware of what is happening in our Country,” Trump posted on Truth Social. “It is a slow, steady progression, with CROOKED, Radical Left Politicians, Prosecutors, and Judges leading us down a path to destruction.” Posted by Zeeshan Aleem, MSNBC Opinion Writer/Editor on MSNBC.com.

What he seems to mean

in the second part of this quote is that he is the one leading America down the path to destruction. The “Radical Left” is really the “Radical Right” in his mind. He has always done this in his talks, comments and statements. He tells you flat out how he feels, what he thinks, and where he stands. Yet just about everything he says appears to be a statement about himself disguised as if it is about someone or something else. Could this have resulted in the phrases “false truths” or “alternate facts”?

According to an article on thehill.com by Dr. Fiona Hill, Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institute “Since when have we been assassinating our opposition candidates in this country? Since when has the president of the United States been wanting to take out political opponents through poisoning or through imprisoning them in, basically the equivalent of Arctic penal colonies?” she continued. “What President Trump is doing is degrading the United States.”

Enough said!

Letter to the Editor: Vote for Christie Cox

DEAR editor, I was initially supporting Christie Cox for coroner simply because I’ve known her for many years and always found her to be

a person of integrity. I recently sat down with Christie to discuss some of my concerns about the coroner’s office, namely that their budget has doubled since I left office in

2018 and, even beyond that growth, they were significantly over their original budget several of those years. I came away from that meeting confident that Christie shares

my philosophy of needing to be fiscally conservative while maintaining great service to her constituents. When she is elected, she will run the office like a business, taking a hard

look at office practices and spending to eliminate any waste and enhance productivity. Ogle County needs and deserves this kind of conservative leadership. I hope everyone will join

me in voting for Christie Cox for Ogle County coroner on March 19!

John Coffman
Former Ogle County treasurer (2000-2018)

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
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-1942

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.

COMMUNITY

TOPS to host open house on March 18

ROCHELLE – TOPS Club Inc.® (Take Off Pounds SensiblySM), the nonprofit weight-loss support organization, will hold an open house on Monday, March 18 at 5 p.m. at Hub City Senior Center, located at 401 Cherry Ave., Rochelle. The open house is free and open to the public and lasts about an hour.

Founded more than 70

years ago, TOPS is the only nonprofit, noncommercial weight-loss organization of its kind. TOPS offers an individual approach to weight loss and overall wellness, with thousands of chapters in the U.S. and Canada. Members learn about nutrition, portion control, meal planning, exercise and more at weekly meetings. Consistent group

support, health education and recognition are all key components to successful weight management.

Visitors to a TOPS chapter are welcome to attend their first meeting free of charge. TOPS is open to men, women and children, ages seven and older. (No child care is provided at meetings.) New TOPS members may choose one of

three discounted packages. Annual renewal dues are \$37 in the U.S. Chapters charge nominal fees to cover operating costs — usually \$5 per month or less in the U.S. For more details about the Open House, contact Cathy Scarbrough at 815-593-0054 or to find a local chapter in a neighboring community, visit www.tops.org or call (800) 932-8677.

IFB Rural Nurse Pracitioner Scholarship accepting applications

BLOOMINGTON — The Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for nurse practitioner scholarships. This year, a total of 15 scholarships, each worth \$4,000, will be granted.

This scholarship program, which has been running for 32 years, aims

to encourage and develop a strong pool of rural health practitioners to address primary healthcare needs in rural areas of Illinois. Recipients of the scholarships are required to practice for two years in an approved rural area within the state.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be Illinois residents and either accepted or

enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program as Registered Nurses. The funding for this program is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP).

Applications can be obtained from county Farm Bureaus® across the state, the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Pro-

gram website at RIMSAP.com, or by contacting Donna Gallivan, the Program Manager, at Illinois Farm Bureau, 1701 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701. The deadline for applications is May 1.

For further information, please feel free to reach out to Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350 or via email at dgallivan@iflb.org.

Redington among graduates at UW-Eau Claire

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire awarded

648 degrees from both campuses in December 2023. Local students who

received degrees and their fields of study are:

Rochelle: Ben Red-

ington, Bachelor of Science, Education and Human Sciences.

Free coin appraisal at Rochelle Moose on March 10

ROCHELLE — The semi-annual coin appraisal at the Rochelle Moose will

be held on Sunday, March 10 starting at 1 p.m. John Gruben and Dave Scha-

backer will be on hand to evaluate your coins. They even evaluate foreign coins

and domestic bank notes. This is a free coin appraisal open to the public.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March 5 Briggs Bridgeman	March 13 Veronica Lopez	March 22 Wakely Peterman	Conant (anniversary) Shaun Rosenbach Liz Danekas
March 6 Nicole King	March 16 Christy Oleson	March 23 Kristi Gonzales	
March 8 Chaz Conant	March 19 John Overstreet	March 24 John Wooten Lanie McPhearson	March 26 LeeAnn Komadina Kim Dougherty Bernie & Anna Sexton (anniversary)
March 9 Minia Waters	March 20 Jesse Lopez Rachelle Phillips	March 25 Chaz & Kathy	

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



Coffee Break

MAGIC MAZE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: LARGE BIRD OF PREY

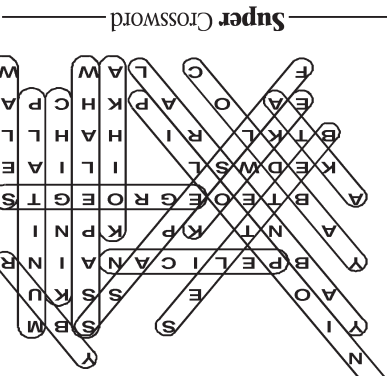
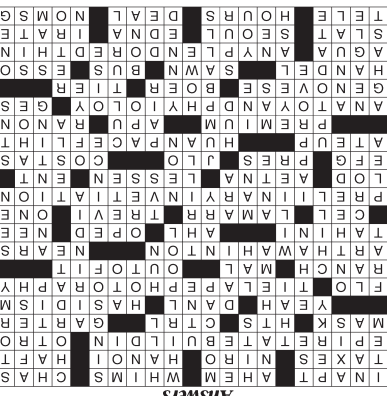
Akhiok
Atka
Bettles
Chignik

Cold Bay
Ekwok
False Pass
Larsen Bay

Pelican
Pilot Point
Platinum
Ruby

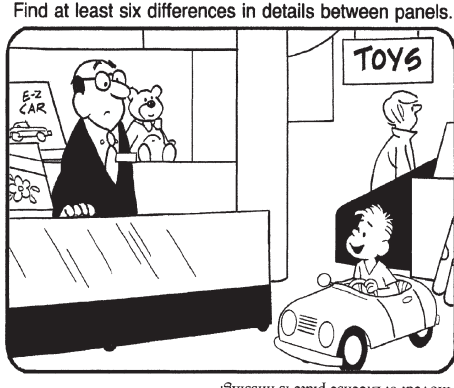
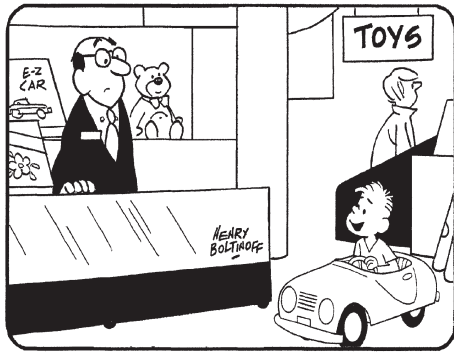
St. George
Wales
Whale Pass

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTOFF



Differences: 1. Car door is different. 2. Rear tire is missing. 3. Side mirror is added to car. 4. Teddy bear is moved. 5. Nametag is moved. 6. License plate is missing.

Super Crossword

ADDITIVE-FREE

ACROSS

- 1 Not suitable
 6 "Sorry to intrude..."
 10 Capricious ideas
 15 Cartoonist Addams, informally
 19 Payments to the IRS
 20 Oscar winner Robert De —
 21 Capital of Vietnam
 22 Sword handle
 23 Fifth Avenue skyscraper
 26 Other, in Acapulco
 27 Identity hider
 28 Altitudes: Abbr.
 29 — C (PC copy command)
 30 What a groom may toss
 32 "Uh-huh"
 34 Pioneer Boone, informally
 35 Orthodox Jewish movement
 37 Rapper — Rida

40 Technique

- for viewing a slow process quickly
 43 Cattle farm
 45 Prefix with nourished
 46 In a daze
 47 First first lady of the U.S.
 51 Gets close to
 55 Sesame seed paste
 56 Pucksters' org. with the Calder Cup
 57 Newspaper think piece
 60 Born as
 61 Toon sheet
 62 Hedy of "Ecstasy"
 66 Rome's — Fountain
 67 Dollar bill
 68 Advance inquiry into a crime, e.g.
 72 Israeli city close to Ben Gurion Airport
 73 Big name in life insurance
 74 Decrease
 75 Doc for the neck up
 76 D-H linkup
 77 FDR or HST

78 Former "Idol"

- judge
 79 Bob of play-by-play
 82 Wolfed down
 84 Launching of people into orbit
 88 Insurance payment
 92 "The Simpsons" shopkeeper
 93 Was overlong
 94 Dual-focus course about bodily structures
 100 Some kitchen appliances, for short
 101 From a northwest Italian port
 102 Certain South African
 103 Arena level
 105 "Hallelujah Chorus" composer
 106 Rough — wood
 107 City vehicle
 108 Gas brand
 112 Water, in Acapulco
 113 What love is, per a Four Aces #1 tune, with "a"
 118 Crate piece

119 Capital of

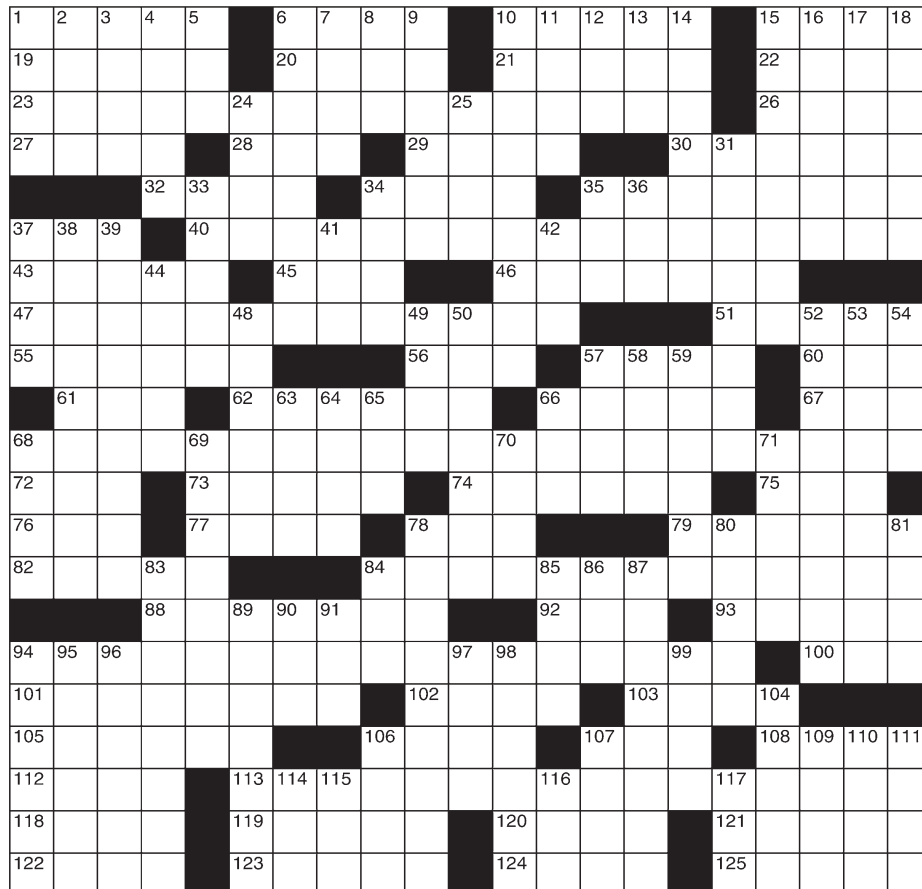
- South Korea
 120 Actress Best
 121 Really mad
 122 The "T" of 66-Down
 123 Day divisions in New Delhi
 124 Bargain
 125 Restaurant notice that's applicable to this puzzle's seven longest answers?
 DOWN
 1 Bit of news
 2 Wine valley
 3 Allies' rival
 4 Sprightly
 5 Mao — tung
 6 Object of hate
 7 Thwacks
 8 Before
 9 Woman's quaint headpiece
 10 Jacuzzi, e.g.
 11 Recital venue
 12 Not Rep. or Dem.
 13 Mimi's "me"
 14 Celebrates with a tune
 15 Animal with a backbone
 16 Relative of a shout-out
 17 Anew

18 Tempestuous

- 24 Spicy cuisine
 25 — Reader (magazine)
 31 Carrier based in New Delhi
 33 Hawke of film
 34 Salvador of surreal art
 35 Spicy
 36 From — Z
 37 Sig Nu, e.g.
 38 Video game tomb raider
 39 Teetering
 41 — di-dah
 42 Attila follower
 44 Refrigerate
 48 More artful
 49 — a soul
 50 "— in Manila" (Ali-Frazier fight)
 52 Consecrating
 53 Nevada airport
 54 In view
 57 Mining finds
 58 Sampras of the court
 59 Show plainly
 63 Poker cost
 64 Supplies with personnel
 65 Coach
 66 LG or RCA products
 68 Petition
 69 "Thumbs-up!"

70 Gas in signs

- 71 Gasless car
 78 Tipoffs in hoops, e.g.
 80 Christie's "A Pocket Full —"
 81 Depots: Abbr.
 83 Not old-fashioned
 84 Cabinet dept. since 1965
 85 Twosome
 86 Abbr. on military mail
 87 Societal
 89 It might have mascara on it
 90 Pas' mates
 91 Opal ending
 94 Horror-struck
 95 All-Star pitcher Denny
 96 Yearly
 97 Gordie of hockey
 98 Itched (for)
 99 Seine feeder
 104 Trendy again
 106 Stimulate
 107 — fide
 109 Phony
 110 Creates a lap for short
 114 Prefix with pagan
 115 Part of TTYL
 116 HST follower
 117 Loud noise



LOCAL NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Rochelle Township High School FFA members pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora

To wrap up National FFA Week, some of the Rochelle FFA members attended a packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora. The group was able to pack 853 meal packs at their station alone.



AREA FISH FRY GUIDE

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Cole Slaw
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encounter

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LOCAL NEWS

BENINGO: Renowned comedian performing at Lincoln Arts Center on March 8

From page 1

Tickets are \$25 and are available online at vccrochelle.org or at the door. An “Afterglow” option for the night will also be offered for \$5 extra for up to 30 people where attendees can meet Beningo and enjoy a hot cocoa bar and cookies.

Beningo, a Michigan native, has friends and family in Illinois that he wanted to go out to see. He found the Lincoln Arts Center when reaching out to venues to perform at.

“It was actually kind of random,” Beningo said. “I came across the site and spoke with them and they seemed like great people. I fell in love with the venue after looking at it online. I talked to them about potentially doing a fundraiser or something and it fit in perfectly with what they were looking to do. With my show being a cleaner one, it was a good fit. We’re really looking forward to the show.”

The Lincoln Arts Center is the renovated former home of Lincoln Elementary School, and is known to the community now as the home of the Vince Carney Community Theater. VCCT is one of the groups that rents the space, and the LAC has formed a committee of volunteers dedicated to bringing a variety of entertainment to Rochelle and maintaining and improving the facility. The LAC has a number of spaces for the community to rent, including the theater, a meeting room, or the lobby.

LAC Committee Member Jessica Morris said she’s excited for a per-

former of Beningo’s caliber to come to the venue.

“Having someone like Andy come to town really sets the tone for the opportunities that the community can look forward to at the Lincoln Arts Center,” Morris said. “It’s Friday night, you deserve a night out without traveling out of town. Grab dinner at your favorite local restaurant, then hop on over to the Lincoln Arts Center for some belly laughs!”

As a child, Beningo was always a fan of standup comedy, most notably comics like Steve Martin and Robin Williams. He overcame his shyness and an apprehension towards speaking in front of people and started doing open mics when he was in college. During that time he met other comics that took him on the road for performances.

“It’s kind of snowballed over the last 20 years,” Beningo said. “I’ve gotten to do some TV things. One of the things I’m most proud of is the fact that I’ve performed in all 50 states, which was sort of a bucket list thing. Any time you can make people laugh and make them forget about their problems, I want to do it. I think that’s such a fun thing, to give people a nice night out. I’ve really been enjoying my job as a comedian.”

Beningo’s act centers around his wife and kids and his time as a middle school teacher. His “clean” style caters to all ages and doesn’t include any sexual or political content. Beningo’s style is rooted in the comedians he enjoyed growing up that enjoy universal humor.

“I loved Jerry Seinfeld, Ray Romano and Jim Gaffigan,” Beningo said. “It wasn’t really a conscious choice to write clean or censor myself. The things I talk about are kind of universal or just things that I think are funny. You talk about your wife or kids, I feel like people can relate to it. To me, there’s nothing better than getting a laugh and having people point to each other because they’ve seen a similar situation in their own lives. I think if you can get that element of relatability, it helps you connect with the audience even more.”

Beningo called 2024 “the perfect time” to be a comedian due to the availability of a wide array of mediums, and comedy clubs filling up again with people looking for a night out after the COVID-19 pandemic took place in recent years. He’s enjoyed seeing more comedy shows pop up across the country with so many different comedians with different perspectives and voices.

Beningo grew up in a small town, and back then, being a comedian seemed like a pipe dream to him. In Michigan, he took comedy classes from and opened for Bert “Chili” Challis, who was a writer for The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Challis helped him develop ideas and what to talk about on stage, and took him on the road. Andy called Challis “instrumental” in his start in comedy, and also thanked well-known comedian, actor and TV personality Frank Caliendo for his encouragement and help with his career. Beningo



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Andy Beningo, a Michigan native, has friends and family in Illinois that he wanted to go out to see. He found the Lincoln Arts Center when reaching out to venues to perform at.

toured with Caliendo for 10 years.

Performing at the Gotham Comedy Club in New York City is one of Beningo’s most memorable career moments.

“Coming from a small town, it was pretty intimi-

dating going to New York and on top of that trying to entertain New Yorkers,” Beningo said. “Getting to do that was incredible. I perform on a lot of cruise ships, which is kind of cool. I’ve gotten to bounce around Europe a little bit

in England, Ireland and France. I’ve gotten to not only see the U.S., but other parts of the world. It’s been crazy. I consider myself very lucky. I’ve worked really hard, but it’s been really nice to get these opportunities.”



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American Hero
page March 13th!

ROCHELLE
News-Leader

**TOURNAMENT
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MARCH 20!

COLLEGE
HOOPS

SPORTS



LADY HUBS AWARDED
The Rochelle Lady Hub basketball team held its awards banquet on Monday.
See page 3 for more details

RTHS Wrestling

Atkinson medals at state

Lady Hub makes history with fifth-place finish at IHSA State Championships

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

BLOOMINGTON — A familiar face stood between Rochelle Lady Hub wrestler Dempsey Atkinson and a historic feat during the IHSA State Championships on Saturday afternoon.

Atkinson found herself at the beginning of the consolation side of the bracket after a first-round loss against previously undefeated Goreville standout Alivia Ming on Friday. But the junior was undeterred and recovered with back-to-back victories on the consolation side, securing two consecutive falls over Round Lake's Raven Burnett and Macomb's Kelly Ladd later that day.

The victories moved Atkinson into the consolation quarterfinals, where she needed a win over Rock Island's Sanaa Hampton in order to secure a top-6 podium finish and clinch a state medal for the first time in her career. Atkinson and Hampton have wrestled multiple times over the last two seasons, but their most recent meeting was during the IHSA Geneseo Sectional earlier this month, where Hampton defeated Atkinson by fall in the third-place consolation match.

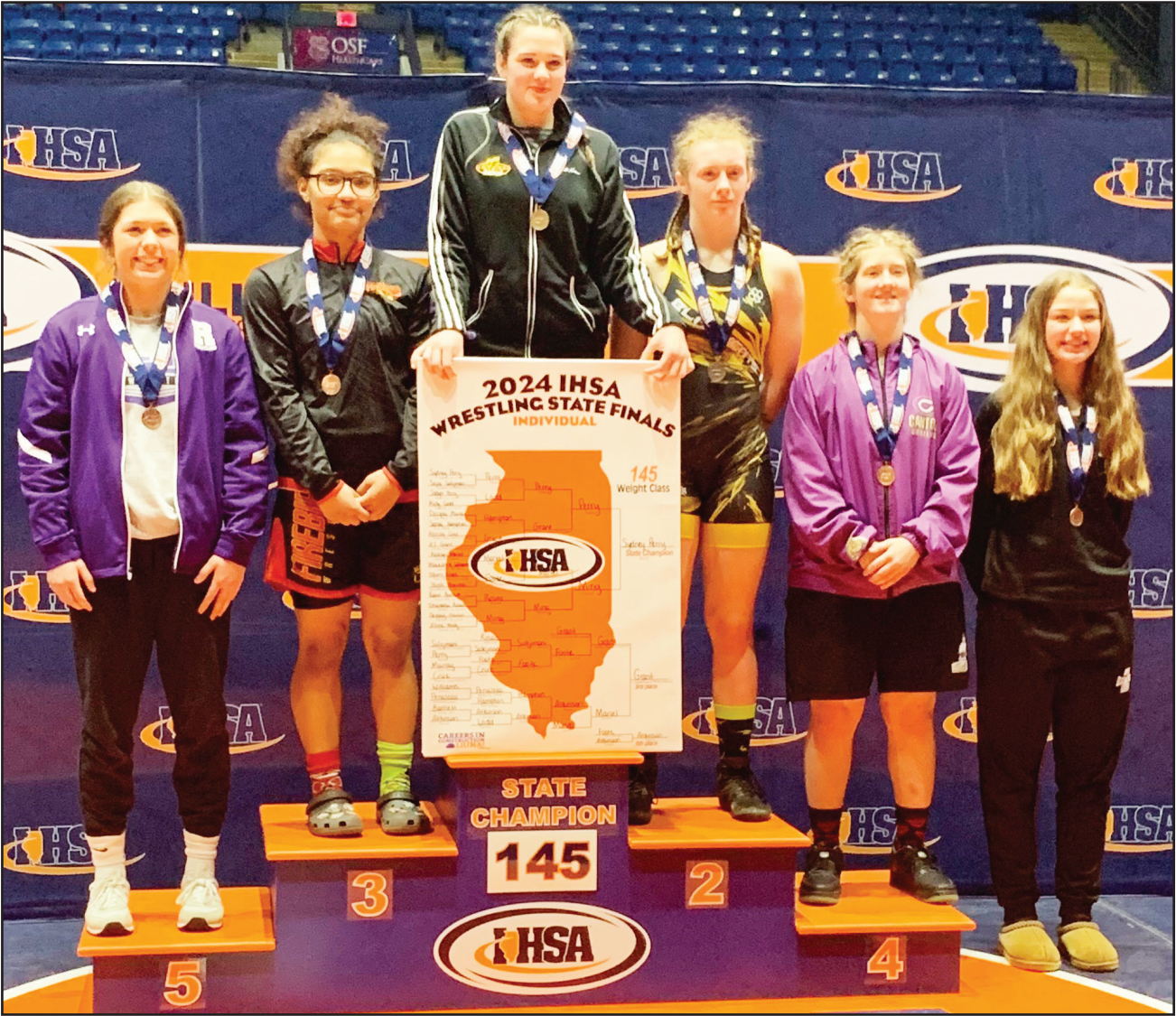
The Rochelle standout earned her revenge on Saturday, however, overcoming a Hampton takedown in the first period and taking a 5-2 lead into the second period behind a reversal

and a three-point near fall. Hampton elected for the neutral position in the second period, but it wasn't enough to knock down the determined Atkinson, who turned a takedown into a fall with six seconds left in the second period to clinch the first podium finish for a female in RTHS history.

"I knew she was very strong and I knew she was a very good wrestler," Atkinson said. "I knew she was looking to throw a headlock and I had to work my defense during the match. I needed to have the mindset that I knew I could beat her, even though it wouldn't be easy. It feels really great and I love to be a great role model for young wrestlers, boys and girls. I want to represent Rochelle well and that's what I did when I wrestled at the state tournament this weekend."

The state tournament was a full slate of action for Atkinson (21-7), who wrestled six matches in the 145-pound weight class at Bloomington's Grossinger Motors Arena between Friday and Saturday. The junior faced off against Canton's Katelyn Marvel in the consolation semifinals, scoring one takedown and a last-second reversal but falling just short in a 7-5 decision.

"The experience was awesome," Atkinson said. "I didn't wrestle as well as I thought I could've when I went to state last season, but this season was completely different. I wrestled really



Junior Dempsey Atkinson medaled in fifth place at the IHSA State Championships in Bloomington over the weekend. Atkinson concluded her season with a 21-7 record.

hard and I didn't give up any points that I shouldn't have. My stamina really helped me because I thought the girls I wrestled got tired quickly and that was my time to attack. I threw a couple of headlocks and I threw a couple of fireman's carries. Those were my two main attacks."

Atkinson finished the tournament and concluded her junior season on a high note, however, with the Lady Hub grappler scoring a first-period takedown and fall over Zion-Benton's Naomi Foote (39-11) in the fifth-place bout Saturday afternoon. Now a two-time state qualifier, Atkinson said

her goals for next season are to qualify for the state meet and earn a state medal once again.

"It's a real confidence booster because I never thought over the last few years that this would be an achievable goal," Atkinson said. "I achieved my goals this year and next year, I can

possibly work my way up and maybe become a state champion, which would be awesome. I want to focus on the bottom and get out of the bottom position faster so I can get more reversals. I think I've come a long way in neutral and on top, but I want to keep working on all three positions."

RTHS Football

Hart reflects on five-year career at North Central

Rochelle alum appears in fourth NCAA Division III National Championship

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

FORMER Rochelle student-athlete James Hart has reached the highest level in NCAA Division III college football, helping the North Central College Cardinals to three national championship appearances as well as two national championship victories, including a 28-21 win over Mount Union to claim the 2022 championship, during his first four years with the program.

But Hart was forced to miss the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic that sidelined collegiate programs across the state. Because the season was canceled, Hart received an extra year of athletic eligibility from the NCAA. With that eligibility in his pocket, Hart had a decision to make last spring: Whether or not he would run it back with the Cardinals one more time.

"After we won the national championship, I thought that would be it and I wasn't sure if there

was anything else I wanted to do," Hart said. "I took a few months off and I learned pretty quickly that being a student-athlete is something special. After thinking about that and as I started to miss that time with my teammates, I thought why not come back and play the game I love for another year, especially with how successful we've been and the chance to go back to back."

The decision proved to be a career-altering one for Hart, who stayed on campus last summer and worked as hard as he could to get into playing shape for the 2023 season. Although Hart arrived for fall camp as a second-stringer on the defensive line, the former Hub football standout worked his way into the starting lineup and earned arguably the biggest role of his career. Hart started all 15 games at the defensive tackle position, recording a career-high 41 total tackles.

"It was always my goal to be a starter in college," Hart said.



Former Rochelle student-athlete James Hart started all 15 games for the North Central College football team during the 2023 season, recording 41 tackles and three passes defended at the defensive tackle position. Hart helped lead North Central to a 14-1 record and a CCIW Conference Championship in 2023.

See HART page 2

SPORTS

HART: RTHS alum leads North Central to Division III title game

From page 1

"I knew I had work to do after sitting out for a few months, but I worked really hard over the summer and I was able to use our gym and our football field to get into really good shape. I wasn't surprised to start on the second string, which wasn't a surprise because I didn't do spring practices, but I was able to work hard and be consistent and show that I can be a contributor at the highest level. I earned a starting spot in camp pretty quickly and I was able to keep my play up and really grow as a leader."

Hart's fifth season was a career best in several statistical categories. The Rochelle Township High School alum recorded a career-high 22 solo tackles along with 2.5 tackles for loss, 0.5 sacks and three passes defended, all of which were career bests. The 6-foot, 288-pounder totaled a season-best six tackles during North Cen-

tral College's 59-6 win over Elmhurst College on Sept. 23 as well as the team's 49-3 win against Washington University-St. Louis on Oct. 21.

"We had a lot of guys leave last year and a few other guys, including myself, were able to start for the first time and really take charge," Hart said. "I was in the best shape of my life and I was able to play full football games and get through full practices without having to be rotated a lot. My ability to get through tough games was important because this was the most playing time I ever had. I really grew mentally, particularly from playing in fourth quarters and finding ways to get the job done. Having that role for the first time was an adjustment, so my biggest step forward was being able to step up and perform in an elevated role that I hadn't had before."

The Cardinals dominated the CCIW Conference once again, winning the conference title for the

third consecutive season. North Central cruised through the postseason as well, eliminating three top-5 ranked programs including Trinity University, Wisconsin-La Crosse and Wartburg College. The Cardinals carried a 14-0 record into the 2023 NCAA Division III National Championship in Salem, Virginia, where they fell just short in a 38-37 loss against Cortland.

"This was definitely the most fun I ever had," Hart said. "I'll always remember going 14-1, winning the CCIW again and playing against Wheaton College, our rival. I had never played in that game before to that magnitude and it was one of the most surreal experiences of my life. That game was a war from start to finish and I had to dig pretty deep to get through that game, but the feeling was unmatched when we won. We played three top teams in a row before we got to the national championship. This season showed that North

"I never flinched and I gave everything I had. I have no regrets about my football career in high school or college and I gave the game everything I had."

James Hart

Central can still compete, even though we lost a lot of guys to graduation, and we can continue to prove doubters wrong."

Hart concludes his five-year playing career at North Central with 54 total tackles in 37 games played. The RTHS alum, who earned Academic All-CCIW honors after both the 2022 and 2023 seasons, completed his bachelor's degree in sport management last spring and is currently studying for his master's degree in business administration. Hart said he hopes to pursue a career in professional sports after completing his two-year master's degree program.

"Five years is a long time and I feel like a different person from who I

was as a freshman on the scout team," Hart said. "It's hard to take all of that in during the moment, but it's surreal looking back and knowing that I was a part of four national appearances in a row and three conference championships. I witnessed North Central get to the top of Division III and I feel like these last five years gave me the opportunity to grow as a person... I'm blessed to have earned my degree and to have been a part of such a successful program where I met my best friends."

The Cardinals lost only three games in Hart's five seasons with the team. His impact on and off the field can be traced back to his days as a starting offensive and defensive lineman at

RTHS, where he earned All-Conference honors and helped lead the Hubs to the playoffs as a senior.

"Playing football about working hard and when I came into Rochelle as a freshman, I had to work really hard to earn a starting role as a junior and contribute both ways as a senior," Hart said. "I never felt that I was extremely athletic or extremely talented and I had to work really hard to gain my success. That prepared me for college because I had to work really hard and it took me five years to become a starter. I never flinched and I gave everything I had. I have no regrets about my football career in high school or college and I gave the game everything I had."

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SPORTS

RTHS Girls Basketball

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Lady Hubs earn RTHS and Interstate 8 awards

The Rochelle Lady Hub basketball team held its awards banquet on Monday evening. Ten student-athletes including Kennedy Adamski, Erin Murphy, Kylie Smith (Honorable Mention), Jaydin Dickey, Sydney Tabor, Megan Seebach (Honorable Mention), Abby Metzger, Kara Martinez (Honorable Mention), Emma Kennay and Alivia Henkel earned Academic All-Conference honors from the Interstate 8 (above). Sydney Tabor was the Defensive Award winner, while Megan Seebach won the Coach's Award, Loretta Atkinson won the Most Improved Player Award and Alivia Henkel won both the Toughness Award and the Most Valuable Player Award (bottom left). Kara Martinez (Honorable Mention) and Alivia Henkel each earned All-Conference honors (bottom right).



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SPORTS

St. Paul Lutheran School

(COURTESY PHOTO)



St. Paul Crusader fifth and sixth-grade boys basketball team takes home St. Paul Tournament title

The St. Paul Lutheran School fifth and sixth-grade boys basketball team won the St. Paul Tournament over the weekend, finishing 3-0 over three games. The team defeated Aurora St. Paul 32-9 before beating Batavia Immanuel 29-14 and Dundee Immanuel 40-24 to clinch the tournament championship. Pictured above from left to right are Caden Hatfield, Noah Hayden, Jimmy Chadwick, Riley Heal, Jack Olson, Ivan Olson (front row), Owen Smardo, Noah Osborne, Reed Rowley, Charlie Chadwick, Jackson Hartnett, Ty Vongsiri, Austin Sarver and Gavin Smith (back row). The team is coached by Ryan Haedt and Craig Reineck.

DeKalb County Swim Team

Rochelle swimmers advance to district and state championships

ROCHELLE — Five talented swimmers from Rochelle have achieved an impressive feat by qualifying for the district and state championships through the DeKalb County Swim Team.

Sydney Burke (District and State 2024 Qualifier for 50 yard fly 34:17, 100 yard freestyle 1:06.25, 200 yard freestyle 2:28.27, and 500 yard freestyle 6:50.60), Taylor Burke (District and State 2024 Qualifier for 50 yard breast 47:44 and 200 yard IM 3:26.89), Clara Lofthouse (District and State 2024 Qualifier for 500 yard freestyle 6:52), Josie Slattengren (District and State 2024 Qualifier for 500 yard freestyle 6:12 and 1650 yard 21:52) and Grace Williams (District 2024 Qualifier for 200 yard freestyle 2:58.06) have demonstrated their

exceptional skill and dedication in the pool.

These young girl athletes (ages 10-13 years) have worked tirelessly to earn their spots in the upcoming championships. Their commitment to training and their passion for swimming have propelled them to this remarkable achievement.

The love of water and competition sparked through the Rochelle Community Park District, Rochelle Rays Swim Team years ago. It was through this organization that the girls were able to discover their true potential in the water. The hunger for competition led them to continue their love for swimming through all four seasons at the DeKalb County Swim Team.

The Rochelle community is proud to have such talented swimmers representing their

town. Sydney, with her remarkable technique and determination, has proven herself as a force to be reckoned with in the swimming world. Taylor's relentless pursuit of excellence has paid off, securing her a spot in the championships.

Clara's exceptional speed and agility have earned her a well-deserved place among the qualifiers. Josie's impressive endurance and strong work ethic have led her to this momentous accomplishment. And Grace's smooth, graceful strokes and unwavering focus have set her apart from the competition.

The district (March 1-3) and state (March 8-10) championships will be a true test of these swimmers' abilities and will provide them with an opportunity to showcase their talent on



(PHOTO BY LIFEWORKS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO)

Sydney Burke, Taylor Burke, Clara Lofthouse, Josie Slattengren and Grace Williams have achieved an impressive feat by qualifying for the district and state championships through the DeKalb County Swim Team.

a larger stage. The entire Rochelle community will be cheering them on as they represent their town with pride.

We wish Sydney, Taylor, Clara, Josie, and Grace the best of luck in the upcoming weeks. May they continue

to make their community proud and achieve great success in their swimming careers

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NOTICE SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF ROCHELLE ROCHELLE, IL WELL NO. 8 WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

General Notice
City of Rochelle (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
WELL NO. 8 WATER TREATMENT FACILITY 22-263

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the office of City Clerk, City of Rochelle, located at 420 N. Sixth Street, Rochelle, IL 61068, until March 14, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:
This project will include the construction of a new chemical treatment and filtration building. The treatment will include a horizontal pressure filter, pre and post chlorination, fluoride, and polyphosphate equipment. The proposed building will also have dedicated space for future Hydrous Manganese Oxide treatment equipment. [insert project description]

Obtaining the Bidding Documents
Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:
www.fehrgraham.com

Upon accessing the website, Bidders will see a drop down titled Connect. Select, "Obtain Bidding Documents" in that drop down. Clicking this link will take Bidders directly to the Quest Network Service and will display all projects available for bid through Fehr Graham. On this page, projects ads will be listed in the left-hand column with project numbers assigned by Quest displayed. Potential Bidders can enter the Quest project number 8596938 in the field provided to view the full ad for the City of Rochelle WELL NO. 8 WATER TREATMENT FACILITY project and download a complete set of bidding documents from this page for a non-refundable fee of \$25.00. Please contact Quest-CDN.com at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

Pre-bid Conference
A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on February 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at City of Rochelle, 420 N. Sixth Street, Rochelle, IL 61068. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.

Instructions to Bidders
For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and con-

tract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Instructions

"Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in part by a loan from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA). Neither the State of Illinois nor any of its departments, agencies or employees is or will be a party to this invitation for bids or any resulting contract. The procurement will be subject to regulations contained in the Procedures for issuing Loans from the Public Water Supply Loan Program (35IAC Part 662), the Davis-Bacon Act (40 USC 276a through 276a-5) as defined by the United States Department of Labor, the Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570), Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-1), and the federal "Build-America; Buy-America Act" requirements contained in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58. The "Use of American Iron and Steel" requirements as contained in Section 436 of H.R. 3547, The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.

This procurement is also subject to the loan recipient's policy regarding the increased use of disadvantaged business enterprises. The loan recipient's policy requires all bidders to undertake specified affirmative efforts at least sixteen (16) days prior to bid opening. The policy is contained in the specifications. Bidders are also required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in 41 CFR 60-4."

This Advertisement is issued by:
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By: Adam Lanning
Title: Water & Water Reclamation Superintendent
Date: December 13, 2023
No. 0133
(Jan. 28, 2024 and March 3, 2024)

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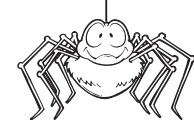
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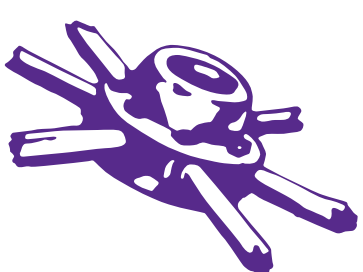
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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Andrew Eyster shows off his first-place medal from the IKWF Byron Regional on Sunday. Eyster was one of six champions from the Rochelle Wrestling Club and one of 13 individuals who advanced to the IKWF Rochelle Sectional.

Junior Hubs battle at IKWF Byron Regional

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

BYRON—The Rochelle Wrestling Club battled in the IKWF North Regional at Byron High School on Sunday, with six individuals bringing home division titles during the tournament. Thirteen individuals advanced to the IKWF North Sectional at Rochelle on Saturday, March 2.

Ty Johnson finished first in the Tots 40-42 Division with a 2-0 record. Johnson scored back-to-back falls over Belvidere's Tanner Brockman and Rockford's Henry Flodin to claim the division crown. Nehemiah Andronic finished first in the Bantam 70 Division with a 3-0 record, earning a fall over Hononegah's Emmett Ripotella before notching a 15-0 technical fall over Dakota's Brody Miller and a 4-2 decision over Belvidere's Jackson Moreno in the finals.

Teddy Millard finished first in the Novice 74 Division with a 2-0 record, securing consecutive falls over Hononegah's Owen Lovejoy and Alber Athletics wrestler Jacob Wagner. Benjamin Morris finished first in the Novice 154 Division with a 2-0 record, locking down back-to-back falls over North Boone's Adrian Galarza and Harvard's Colton Moreno. Andrew Eyster finished first in the Senior 154 Division with a 2-0 record, scoring a 9-6 decision over Stockton's Chance VenHuizen and a fall over Xtreme Wrestling

Club's Riley Boyer. AJ Milan won the Senior 103 Division.

Amos Andronic took second in the Tots 32-38 Division with a 1-1 record, notching a 13-4 major decision over Stillman Valley's Soiyi Gorseger. Wells Millard took second in the Bantam 55 Division with a 2-1 record, earning a fall over Hawk Wrestling's Weston Smith and a 12-0 major decision over Belvidere's Knox Ferry. Elias Andronic took second in the Bantam 58 Division with a 2-1 record, scoring a 13-3 major decision over Hononegah's Huxlee Kudlacik and a fall over Stillman Valley Wrestling Club's Braunsen Cuchiara-Bunk during the semifinal round.

Dominic Escatel placed third in the Intermediate 84 Division with a 3-1 record, receiving a forfeit from Stillman Valley's Hunter Jarrett before earning a fall over Harvard's Samuel Brehm and a 12-0 major decision over DuPec's Owen Hoffman. Zander Griner placed third in the Senior 165 Division and Jaxyn Manna finished fourth in the Tots 42-44 Division. Colt Hensley finished fourth in the Intermediate 122 Division and Joshua Hernandez finished fourth in the Novice 100 Division with a 2-2 record, defeating Rochelle's Landon Leigh by fall and receiving a forfeit.

Eoghan Good took sixth in the Bantam 49 Division. Rounding out the Rochelle lineup in the regional tournament were Cheyanne McBride, Landon Leigh and Freddie McBride.

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