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Vol. 104 • No. 92

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024

Ordinances for RMU billing changes approved Planer purchase for street department approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved two changes to its Rochelle Municipal Utilities billing policies.

The first was the adoption of a water leak credit policy. Water leaks impact both RMU's system and customers that may incur additional costs as a result of undetected leaks on their properties. RMU's new policy includes a provision for offering credits to customers that promptly report and address leaks at their service address.

If a residential customer experiences a water leak, the customer may apply for a water leak credit. In order to qualify for a water leak credit, the customer must fill out a form and provide documentation, have a new water meter installed that complies with the city's automated leak alert system, be enrolled to receive leak alerts on the RMU customer portal, and provide proof that the leak has been repaired.

Credits will be issued



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved two changes to its Rochelle Municipal Utilities billing policies.

based upon the customer's average monthly usage. The city will credit 100 percent of the water and water reclamation charges above the user's monthly average. A maximum of two months will be considered for purposes of the credit. Accounts are only eligible for one credit every five years.

All water leak credits must be signed off on by the superintendent of water/water reclamation and city manager before being applied to a customer's

account. The city manager may also approve credits on a case-by-case basis including situations involving extenuating circumstances or unmet qualifications.

The council also approved an amendment to its Person Responsible for Charges policy. The wording will now say "Anyone residing at the premises, or named on the lease for the premises shall be considered a consumer". The RMU billing office sees many scenarios where

multiple tenants reside at a residence and are listed on the same lease. The clarification will assist the billing office in ensuring that customers cannot avoid paying for utility services despite being a consumer of the utilities.

Planer

The council unanimously approved a resolution to purchase a new cold planer for its street department for \$41,890.

See COUNCIL page 2



RTHS hiring expo held Thursday

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Thursday, the Rochelle Township High School Career Fair and Public Hiring Expo was held at RTHS. The event featured 35 local employers including industry, commercial, retail, banks and credit unions, healthcare, daycare, service organizations, national brands, and small businesses.

The student career fair was held for RTHS juniors and seniors from 10:30-11:30 a.m. following a brief assembly. The event was aimed at discovering, accessing, engaging, and building a network of talented young people, regardless of their ability to join a company at the point of contact.

See EXPO page 3

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Liquor 'N' Wine donates to RACF

Liquor 'N' Wine of Rochelle is continuing its partnership with the Rochelle Area Community Foundation. Page 4

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
HIGH 66 LOW 44

THURSDAY
HIGH 56 LOW 44

FRIDAY
HIGH 47 LOW 36

SATURDAY
HIGH 56 LOW 33

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OBITUARIES

• MARILYN ANN BONNEAU

See page 4

INSERTS

NONE

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At its Jan. 22 meeting, the Rochelle City Council approved its first large expenditures for its new Rochelle Municipal Utilities electrical substation project on the west side of town on Illinois Route 38. Shown above is the Ritchie Road substation.

project will cost north of \$20 million.

"We're still at the 18-month timeframe before the substation is constructed and finished," Toliver said. "Right now I'd say the project

is 15 percent complete, with the engineering work that's been done and the acquisition of the transformer and the switchgear."

Toliver called the entire planning process for the

new substation "difficult" due to lead times and prices along with changing easement language for poles because taller ones will have to be put in. Other hurdles will include conductor

work, sizing, and working with ComEd due to a future expansion at the Twombly Road substation.

See SUBSTATION page 10



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Mayor John Bearrows and City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh will host a State of the Community address at City Hall on Tuesday, March 19 at 2 p.m.

COUNCIL: State of the City set for March 19

From page 1

The planer will be used for preparing road surfaces before sealcoating by removing displacements and deteriorated sections of pavement. The city's current planer model is 17 years old and smaller than the new model.

The council also

waived competitive bidding to carry out the purchase, which Street Department Superintendent Tim Isley said was due to the specificity of the piece of equipment. The new model will improve efficiency for the department due to its larger size and ability to leave milled materials to the left or

right of trenches.

SOTC

Mayor John Bearrows and City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh will host a State of the Community address at City Hall on Tuesday, March 19 at 2 p.m. The address will also be live streamed on Facebook.

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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

From noon to 2 p.m., the event was opened to jobseekers from the general public and local employers were able to recruit and hire for emerging jobs in the area. Sponsors of the event included the City of Rochelle, the Office of Mayor John Bearrows, Kishwaukee College, RTHS, Rochelle Foods – Hormel, Ralfie's BBQ, and the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce.

EXPO: City of Rochelle and RTHS partner for annual hiring event

From page 1

From noon to 2 p.m., the event was opened to jobseekers from the general public and local employers were able to recruit and hire for emerging jobs in the area. Sponsors of the event included the City of Rochelle, the Office of Mayor John Bearrows, Kishwaukee College, RTHS, Rochelle Foods – Hormel, Ralfie's BBQ, and the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce.

City Industrial Development Manager Peggy Friday said the event went "great" Thursday and that it's a good opportunity to keep local talent in the area and expose them to the jobs Rochelle has.

The public hiring expo event began in recent years after a workforce shortage was seen post COVID-19 and it melded well with the yearly RTHS career fair, causing the events to be combined. Friday said the workforce need is still seen in the community, but is not as serious as in the past and the landscape has changed since the pandemic.

"COVID-19 changed everything," Friday said.

"I've talked to some employers and it seems a lot of the public is looking for remote work. That wasn't an option several years ago. Most of our businesses are hands-on and people can't work remotely. The first time we did this was after COVID-19 ended and after unemployment benefits expired. We had hundreds of people come through and it was probably one of the most successful job fairs in the region. Now that there's remote work and older people reentering the workforce, we don't see the huge need that there once was. A lot of our businesses like to come here because they can create a waitlist, so if positions open they've already made contacts for recruiting."

Kish Associate Vice President of College Relations LaCretia Konan said the college works as an active partner with different communities in its district on projects like the career fair and hiring expo. She said she hears from chamber member businesses "a lot" that they need people to hire. The event works to show students and the public what jobs are available in Rochelle.

"We have Kishwaukee College and Northern Illinois University here if they're thinking about college," Konan said. "We have employers here if they're thinking about going right to the workforce. It's just making connections. With regards to our community members that come through here, they're looking for work. We want to be able to connect them with available employment."

Rochelle Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Tricia Herrera said she enjoyed aspects of the event such as high school students learning how to meet with employers and members of the public having the chance to meet with prospective employers one-on-one in person.

Herrera praised the city, Kish, RTHS and the businesses for their work on the public hiring expo in recent years during the workforce shortage following the pandemic. She said she hears from chamber member businesses "a lot" that they need people to hire. The event works to show students and the public what jobs are available in Rochelle.

"This hiring expo was a great and positive thing coming out of the pandemic," Herrera said. "There were a lot of jobs open and a lot of people looking for jobs. And there still are. A lot of times we think we may not be showcasing what our businesses do enough. There's different aspects, especially when a student is coming through here, where we can ask what someone is looking to do and find a niche that is in what they want to do. Sometimes you drive by industries or businesses and wonder what they do or think that everyone who works there

does the same thing. There's hundreds of positions within our industries all doing different things."

The RTHS career fair brought participating students out of the classroom to participate, but Friday said the event was still "all about education" for them.

"Some of them don't know what they want to do after high school," Friday said. "This is a good opportunity to try things. To look at internships and job shadowing opportunities. With the kids, it's all about education and letting them know that there are really good jobs here and they

don't have to leave town to get them. Most of them can't wait to leave their parents and go far away. But it's really important that the community matters. We had a panel of high schoolers and students from Kishwaukee College come in and talk to us about what they expect in the workforce. Many of them said community is important to them and they want to stay here where they can still interact with their families. The trends are kind of changing on what young people are looking for. They need to know that those assets are here so they can take advantage of them."

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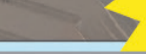
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LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Marilyn Ann Bonneau

ROCHELLE — Marilyn Ann Bonneau, 96, passed away Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at Manor Court in Rochelle, IL. Services

ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ROCHELLE — On March 7 at approximately 7:50 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 106 for obstructed registration and an equipment violation. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Jericka Latiker, 31, of Peoria, for driving while license suspended. Latiker was released on a notice to appear and shall appear in court at a later date. Deputies were assisted by the Illinois State Police. On March 11 at 3:13 a.m. Vincent P. Kuczynski, 24, of Rochelle was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 5 Rochelle court date. On March 11 at 7:29 a.m. Craig A. Baker, 36, of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a stop sign and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given an April 5 Rochelle court date. On March 11 at 11:36 a.m. Veronica A. Philips, 54, of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. She signed a promise

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

OREGON — On March 8 at approximately 2:21 p.m. deputies arrested Harley Beck, 22, of Mendota when she turned herself into the Ogle County Jail. She was arrested on an outstanding warrant for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Beck will return to court on April 5 at 9 a.m. On March 9 at 9:20 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 8,000 block of North Adeline Road. As a result, Shawn M. Remrey, 31, of Mount Carroll was arrested for driver's license expired greater than one year. Remrey was additionally issued citations for operation of a motor vehicle with suspended registration and operation of an uninsured motor vehicle. Remrey was released on a notice to appear with a future court date. On March 9 at 2:06 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 5,000 block of North Illinois Route 26. As a result, Cody S. Meier, 35, of Forreston was arrested for driver's license expired greater than one year. Meier was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured motor vehicle, and given a verbal warning for speeding. Meier was released on a notice to appear with a future court date. On March 9 at approximately 12:20 a.m. deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident in the 2,000 block of East Water Road. After a brief investigation, deputies placed Renae A. Stevens, 52, of Byron, under arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol. Stevens was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date. On March 10 at around 1:03 a.m. deputies were dispatched to the 3,800 block of South Daysville Road, Oregon for the report of physical altercation. After a brief investigation, Vincente Estrada-Martinez, 42, of Chicago, was arrested for aggravated battery. The victim was transported to a local hospital for their injuries by Oregon EMS. Estrada-Martinez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending an appearance before a judge. On March 11 at approximately 7:30 a.m. deputies arrested Juan Olguin, 42, of Rochelle when he turned himself into the Ogle County Jail. He was arrested on an outstanding warrant for driving while license suspended/revoked. Olguin appeared in court and was released on a recognizance bond. Olguin will return to court on May 13 at 9 a.m. On March 11 at approximately 11:45 a.m. deputies arrested Kelly Yocum, 55, of Oregon at the Ogle County Courthouse. She was arrested for contempt of court. Yocum served 48 hours. On March 11 at 5:25 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1,000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation deputies placed Scott Roberts, 40, of Oregon, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Roberts was additionally issued a citation for improper display of registration. Roberts was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date. On March 12 at approximately 5:15 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on a 2013 Chevrolet Equinox in the 2,000 block of East Flagg Road. After conducting an investigation, Lindsey Eddinger, 32, of Rockford, was placed under arrest and issued citations for driving while license suspended, disregarding an official traffic control device, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Eddinger was released on a notice to appear with a future court date. All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

are pending with the Unger-Horner Funeral Home.

to comply and was given an April 5 Rochelle court date. On March 11 at 9:47 a.m. Rebecca P. Schott, 21, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant. She paid \$1,500 and was released with an April 3 Ogle County court date. On March 11 at 8:32 p.m. a 17-year-old juvenile of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County and transferred. All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Liquor 'N' Wine has continued its commitment to the Rochelle Area Community Foundation (RACF) with its second donation towards a multi-year pledged aimed at supporting the RACF Endowment Fund, which supports the overall well-being of the community.

Liquor 'N' Wine continues support of RACF through multi-year pledge

ROCHELLE — Liquor 'N' Wine has continued its commitment to the Rochelle Area Community Foundation (RACF) with its second donation towards a multi-year pledged aimed at supporting the RACF Endowment Fund, which supports the overall well-being of the community. As a part of its ongoing commitment to the community, Liquor 'N' Wine has pledged \$2,500 over 10 years to the Rochelle Area Community Foundation. This substantial donation

reflects Liquor 'N' Wine's dedication to making a positive impact in the Rochelle community. "This partnership aims to strengthen RACF's ability to create lasting change and enhance the quality of life for those who are served through our nonprofit partners," Emily Anaya, RACF executive director, said. "We are sincerely grateful for partnerships like Liquor 'N' Wine who are committed to the betterment of our community. This multi-year pledge enables

us to expand and grow our largest unrestricted endowment fund therefore allowing RACF the opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. I invite other businesses in the region to join us in our efforts in making the Rochelle area a great place to live and work." If you want to know more about ways in which you or your organization can partner with the RACF, please call 815-561-3600 or email at director@rochellefoundation.org.

Illinois State Police Troop 1 announces monthly activity for February

STERLING — Illinois State Police Troop 1 Captain Joseph Blanchette has announced enforcement figures and activity for February. Illinois State Police Troop 1 Troopers issued 1,312 citations, 1,837 written warnings and made 29 criminal arrests during the month

of February. Troopers issued 411 citations for speeding, 39 citations for distracted driving violations and 97 citations for occupant restraint violations. Troopers investigated 48 traffic crashes, assisted 277 motorists, and conducted 540 commercial motor vehicle inspections, of which 61 were placed out-of-service for safety reasons. There were 21 arrests for driving under the influence.

Troop 1, which encompasses Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago counties, investigated no fatal traffic crashes in February.

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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.
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LOCAL VIEWS

Flanagan: Marching into Spring Break

SPRING is coming soon! At the library, we are Marching into Spring Break week! Spring Break is a great time to come into the library and get your library card renewed, updated or replaced so you are all ready for summer. Summer will be here before you know it and we have a lot of fun activities planned.

Our theme for this Summer will be, "Read, Renew, Repeat." Be thinking about all of the fun titles you are wanting to read. We will have cool

programs and many fun activities planned to keep you reading throughout the summer months. We want to make sure that you keep your reading skills in top shape so that when you return to school you are ready to read at the next level. Here are just a few reasons why it is so important to keep reading over Spring Break and Summer Break.

"Young people experience learning losses when they don't engage in educational activities during the summer. Research spanning 100

years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer. Libraries are part of the solution.

To succeed in school and life, children and young adults need ongoing opportunities to learn and practice essential skills. Summer Reading Club reminds kids that reading is for fun—as well as for

learning.

There's so much to see, so much to do at your library! There's no better place to take your kids. The library is a place to learn, read, and have fun... a place the whole family can enjoy. In fact, more than 82 million children attend library programs every year.

Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more



Sarah Flanagan

likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning." (iread-program.org/resources/prevent-summer-slide)

We have a variety of programs scheduled for your Spring Break at the Library.

Saturday, March 23 noon-2 p.m. - Dungeons & Dragons Club

Monday, March 25 6 p.m. - Mindfulness & Meditation Workshop

Tuesday, March 26 4 p.m. - Books with Friends

Wednesday, March 27 10:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. - Story Time

Wednesday, March 27 11:30 a.m. - Macramé for Kids

Wednesday, March 27 6 p.m. - Adult Chair Yoga

Thursday, March 28 5-7 p.m. - Family Game Night

Come to the library and see what we have to offer. Checkout our digital platforms, try a new program or explore a new author. Let us be your Spring Break destination. The library is your place to be during Spring Break. See you soon!

Sarah Flanagan is the director of the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library.

Garceau: Have a sober St. Patrick's Day

You can have fun on St. Patrick's Day and maintain sobriety. Yet, do not feel pressured to do this, as sobriety is a different process for everyone. Whether you overcame alcoholism, chose to abstain from alcohol, or are newly sober, it's a unique process.

Being sober does not mean avoiding the fun. It simply means you are in control and in a state of mind to make responsible choices without the influence of alcohol. Fortunately, there are some practical tips you can use to make this possible.

Sobriety has personal

and societal benefits. Along with sobriety significantly improving your health, it has a substantial societal benefit. Being sober on St. Patrick's Day removes any chance of driving while impaired. Unfortunately, there is an increased risk of impaired driving on days that promote heavy alcohol use.

Survey data in Illinois have shown the self-reported rate of alcohol-impaired driving is 475 driving incidents per 1,000 population. This rate is much higher than the rate of individuals arrested for DUIs in the state,

which may suggest most impaired driving goes undetected.

Wherever you go on St. Patrick's Day, whether at a bar, pub, restaurant, or community gathering, there are likely slogans like "Eat, drink, and be Irish, You can't drink all day if you don't start in the morning, or Let's get ready to stumble. It's a day of drinking, eating, dancing, and celebrating.

Staying sober can be a challenge, depending on

the approaches you take. Consider some of the following pointers.

Remind yourself why you are sober, and don't do it alone. You can still have fun and celebrate but do it with other sober people. Everyone has their reasons why they stopped drinking; remind yourself of those reasons and hold yourself accountable.

Know your triggers; it doesn't matter if you are a recovering addict or have removed alcohol

from your life. Be cautious around possible triggers that pose a challenge. Most people in this situation choose to skip the bar and find something fun to do or go to a sober celebration.

Keep a non-alcoholic drink or mocktail in your hand. People will not bother you to ask if you want a drink if you already have something to sip on, like a mocktail. This also leads to planning how to say no. You will encounter social pressure if you go to a bar on St. Patrick's Day. It's unavoidable. It's wise to practice ways to refuse alcohol.

Finally, if all else fails, take a walk outside if you feel overwhelmed. The most straightforward solutions are usually the best. Remove yourself from any situation you know will lead to relapse. This is also why it's essential to be with a sober friend or loved one; there is accountability and someone to lean on.

Marie Garceau has been working in the field of substance use and addiction recovery for over a decade. She works at DRS and primarily focuses on reaching out to the community and spreading awareness.

PAID LETTER

Letter: Endorsement for Horner

DEAR editor, I am endorsing Chad Horner for Ogle County coroner.

We both graduated from Worsham College of Mortuary Science in

1995. I have professionally known Chad for close to three decades and am pleased to have Chad serve alongside me on the Advocacy Committee with the Illinois Funeral Directors Association.

I know Chad to always show exemplary integrity, compassion and leadership in the profession making him an ideal fit for the office of Ogle County coroner. Chad values continuing education and

being up to date on the best practices, a trait that has allowed him to provide a stellar quality of care to the families he serves.

Chad's dedication and history working as a local funeral director in his

community and serving Ogle County for more than 30 years shows his devotion and steadfast commitment to the county, and Ogle County should be proud to have him as their 2024 Ogle County

coroner.

Vote March 19 for Chad Horner.

Matthew Baskerville,
2023-2024 president,
Illinois Funeral Directors Association

PAID LETTER

Letter: Horner for coroner

DEAR editor, We are writing this letter in enthusiastic support of Chad Horner's candidacy for coroner. We have had the pleasure of knowing Chad for over 30 years and have come to know him as an exceptional individual with unwavering dedication, humility, and compassion.

Chad's commitment

to serving his community is truly commendable. Throughout our interactions, we have witnessed his genuine desire to make a positive difference in the lives of those around him. His approachability, empathy, and willingness to listen make him an ideal candidate for the role of coroner.

Chad's leadership style is characterized by his

selflessness and dedication to serving others. He leads by example, always putting the needs of the community first and ensuring that every individual is treated with the utmost respect and dignity. Recently, a family in the community lost their young child, and we watched how Chad took such a difficult situation and brought such a peace to the situation. He gave the

family hope in such a dark time. His ability to connect with people from all walks of life and provide them with comfort and support during difficult times is a testament to his compassionate nature. The people of Ogle County need and deserve a compassionate professional like Chad Horner as their elected coroner.

I have no doubt that

Chad will excel in the role of coroner, bringing integrity, professionalism, and a genuine desire to serve the citizens of Ogle County. His strong moral character, coupled with his dedication to upholding the highest standards of care and professionalism, make him the ideal candidate for this important position.

It is with great confidence that I endorse Chad

Horner for coroner. Chad and the Horner family have been serving the county and surrounding area for over 150 years. I wholeheartedly believe that he will continue this tradition and serve with distinction, making a positive impact on the lives of those he encounters as coroner.

Tim and Jami Bruns,
Rochelle

How to contact government officials

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

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

IL Rep. Bradley Fritts
Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
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Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to news@rochelle-news-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.



Hardin's Army service includ

'There are so many things that I never would ha

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

CRESTON — Jeni Hardin of Creston served in the United States Army from 1999-2001. Her service included being stationed in Germany and Kosovo.

Hardin underwent basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina and advanced individual training at Fort Lee in Virginia. Overseas, she was stationed at Fliegerhorst Kaserne in Hanau, Germany and did a tour in Kosovo.

"I wasn't always the best student so once I graduated high school, I tried working and going to college but I needed something more," Hardin said. "My family has a long history of military veterans and so I went in to talk to a recruiter and decided it was time for me to do something since I had no direction for my future."

Hardin worked in the military as an automated logistics specialist, which involved tech supply for Blackhawk helicopters. When crew chiefs/mechanics needed parts for repairs on helicopters, they came to her.

While stationed in Germany, Hardin met her husband, Jason, who was in the Army as a Blackhawk helicopter crew chief/door gunner. The Hardins grew up an hour from each other, but never met prior to being stationed in Germany. They married in Denmark.

"He came to me when he needed parts for his aircraft," Hardin said. "I must have done very well with that job because we ended up dating, married, and with kids all within a short time frame! Our oldest son was also born in Germany while we were stationed there."

Other unique experiences from Hardin's service include flying in a Blackhawk helicopter.

"I also enjoyed training and being in the field," Hardin said. "Shooting a gun was the highlight of my Army time.

I had never fired a gun before this and so being handed an M16 rifle and being trained to shoot was something I will never forget. Throwing a grenade, going through the gas chamber, marching miles in combat boots with a heavy rucksack...there are so many things that I never would have done or experienced without being a soldier."

Despite her family's military service history, Hardin never thought she would be a soldier prior to serving. She's found pride since in being a veteran and the wife of a veteran. It's given her an appreciation for veterans that came before her and those currently serving, because she understands the choice to serve isn't an easy one to make.

Hardin was honorably discharged from the Army when she became pregnant with she and Jason's first son. She became a stay at home mom while Jason finished his service. She now works as the executive director of Foundation for Focus House, where she raises money for the youth that receive services at the Rochelle program for at-risk juveniles.

Hardin is active in veteran organizations and events in the area.

"My dad is a member of Warrior Brotherhood which is a group of veterans who help other veterans in need," Hardin said. "I was involved with the Sycamore VFW for many years helping out with fundraisers and taking part in ceremonies. I have put together many Veteran History Project filmings where I have gotten to listen to and record stories of fellow veterans (which then are archived at the Library of Congress), and I just recently made the decision to join the Rochelle VFW in hopes I can keep my connection to veterans active."

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



Jeni Hardin of Creston served in the United States Army from 1999-2001. She received basic training at Fort Lee in Virginia. Overseas, she was stationed in Germany and Kosovo.



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"I was involved with the Sycamore VFW for many years helping out with fundraisers and taking part in ceremonies. I have put together many Veteran History Project filmings where I have gotten to listen to and record stories of fellow veterans (which then are archived at the Library of Congress), and I just recently made the decision to join the Rochelle VFW in hopes I can keep my connection to veterans active."

To all who have put their lives on the line in defense of the flag, Thank You.

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American Hero

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(COURTESY PHOTOS)

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Jeni Hardin

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past & present.*

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Central Bank's Wells graduates from Future Leaders Alliance

The Illinois Bankers Association is a full-service trade association dedicated to creating a positive business climate that benefits the entire banking industry and the communities they serve. Founded in 1891, the IBA brings together state and national banks and savings banks of all sizes in Illinois. Collectively, the Illinois banking industry employs more than 105,000 people in over 4,300 offices across the state.

Wells is a life-long resident of the area, graduating from Rochelle Township High School. He currently serves as treasurer on the Rochelle Park District Board and is actively involved in many other community events. According to Wells, "The Future Leaders Alliance program through Illinois Bankers' Association is an excellent program that helps bankers improve leadership

dean's list, students must earn a GPA of 3.50 or better during the semester, based on 4.0 for straight As.

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



54 Canine greet- ing	8 Perfect place	31 Covert agent
55 Summit	9 Game show	36 Seem
56 Ogler's look	aid	37 Taunting
57 "— -haw!" (cowgirl's cry)	10 Astronaut	laugh
58 Monopoly	Armstrong	38 Secondary
card	11 Sciences'	route
	partner	41 Concerning
	19 AMA member	42 Bargain
	21 Hearing thing	43 Perry's cre- ator
	24 Drenched	44 Noncommittal
DOWN	25 Ostrich's kin	answer
1 Detail, briefly	26 Palmist's pre- diction	46 Pleasing
2 Bell sound	28 Neither mate	47 Salinger girl
3 — Major	29 Hit song by	48 Marsh plant
4 Ceremony	OneRepublic	51 Tram load
5 Not enlarged or reduced	30 Calendar	
6 Tennis feat	abbr.	
7 "Ironsides" star		

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Solution time: 25 mins.

Cryptocurrency

answer

Those amenities that make a pastor's life more pleasant, I like to call them preacher comforts.

ASHTON NEWS



The Ashton-Franklin Center Scholastic Bowl team wrapped up its season on March 9 competing in the Warren Sectional. AFC became regional champions with a 360-340 victory against Dakota. It was an exciting championship match that was not decided until overtime.

AFC scholastic bowl team wraps up season at sectional

Victory over Dakota results in first regional championship in school history

ASHTON — The Ashton-Franklin Center Scholastic Bowl team wrapped up its season on March 9 competing in the Warren Sectional. The Raiders faced some tough competition with losses to Riverdale and Winnebago, but they got to end the day on a high note with a 290-260 win against Morrison. “Every member of the team answered at least one toss up question and we could not be more proud of our students for advancing to sectionals for the first time in school history!” a district Facebook post

said. “AFC ends their season with an outstanding record of 31-11. We would also like to give special recognition to our seniors Lauren Stone and Ethan Vogeler for their dedication to the program over these past four years!”

Regional
Congratulations to the AFC Academic Team for becoming regional champions with a 360-340 victory against Dakota. It was an exciting championship match that was not decided until overtime. The Raiders have

turned around their luck this season as they won a lot of matches by one question (as opposed to last season where they lost a lot of matches by one question). Some of the team highlights for the season include: only losing one match in the Riverdale Early Season Tournament, placing third in the NUIC Conference Tournament, placing second in the Masonic Bowl Tournament and of course winning the Amboy Regional. This is by far the most successful season that AFC has seen since Sean



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Waters has been coaching and after regionals they improved their record to 30-9. Some of the individual achievements include having three players pass the 1,000 point mark (Ethan, Lauren and Ayden). After regionals two of these three players (Lauren and Ayden) achieved 1000 or more points in a single season. After the regional matches, Ayden set the school record both for most points in a single season (1,530) and for most career varsity points (2,315). Ayden is only a

junior so it will be exciting to see him continue his success next season. The varsity team members are: Seniors - Lauren Stone and Ethan Vogeler, Junior - Ayden Willstead, Sophomore - Colin Stone, and Freshmen - Oliver James and Kate Viall. The Raiders will continue play this Saturday in the Warren Sectional with matches against Winnebago, Riverdale, and Morrison. While the JV Scholastic Bowl Team did not compete in nearly as many matches as the Varsity team, they had a

very successful season as well. The JV team ended the year with a record of 14-2 and their season was highlighted by their performance in the Pecatonica JV tournament. This is the second year in a row that the JV team won their pool and was second place overall in this 16 team tournament. The JV team members are: Sophomores - Andera Aldridge, Ben Gleissner, Dominic Mullins, Payton Murrery, Jacob Warrenfeltz, and Austin Waters and Freshman - Leah O'Brien.



Future AFC FFA members participate in FFA Week Coloring Contest

The AFC School District recently thanked all of its future FFA members who participated in the FFA Week Coloring Contest. The FFA officers picked their favorites. The district congratulated winners: Naveah (sixth grade), Jett (fifth grade), Raegan (fifth grade), Addy (fourth grade), Noah (fourth grade), Abel (third grade), Jackson (third grade), Lukas (second grade), Lincoln (second grade) Georgia (first grade), Oaklyn (first grade), Ireland (kindergarten) and Liam (kindergarten).



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

AFC FFA participates in Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event

On Feb. 28, the Ashton-Franklin Center FFA participated in the Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event hosted at Rochelle Township High School. They identified cuts of poultry, placed rings of chickens, identified egg abnormalities and graded eggs. The AFC team received third place overall. Noah Lester won seventh place individual, Otto Horner won eighth place individual and Willie Schaneberg won 10th-place individual.

LCSO launches St. Patrick's Day enforcement campaign

DIXON — St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner, and many Illinoisans will be celebrating with parades and parties featuring green beer and cocktails. To remind motorists of the dangers of drunk driving and to help keep our streets safe, the Lee County Sheriff's Office is teaming up with the Illinois State Police and Illinois Department of Transportation for a

stepped-up traffic safety campaign. “Because St. Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday this year, we anticipate that alcohol consumption will increase both that day and throughout the weekend,” Chief Deputy Derek Ranken said. “We ask everyone to celebrate responsibly, starting with a plan for a sober ride home before you leave the house.” St. Patrick's Day can

be a dangerous one on America's roads due to increased alcohol consumption and drunk driving. There were 272 lives lost in drunk-driving crashes over the St. Patrick's Day holiday between 2017 and 2021. In addition to looking for alcohol- and cannabis-impaired drivers, the Lee County Sheriff's Office will be stepping up seat belt enforcement, particularly at night when

seat belt usage rates are lowest. Speeding, distracted driving and all traffic laws will be strictly enforced. Whether you're attending a party, hosting friends or going out to a bar, keep safety at the forefront of your day and night. When it's time to leave, make sure your designated driver is sober. Remember that walking impaired can also be dangerous, so

designate a sober friend to walk home with you. Designated drivers: Be alert for impaired walkers who may not obey street signs. Other important tips: Drunk or high, it doesn't matter. It is never okay to drive impaired. Designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely. If you see an impaired

driver on the road, contact law enforcement. Have a friend who is about to drive impaired? Take the keys away and plan to get your friend home safely. Always buckle up! The St. Patrick's Day enforcement campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and administered by IDOT.

COMMUNITY MATTERS



We  **LIBRARIES**

Mills and Petrie Memorial Library

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Bar/Restaurant
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Community Building
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beveragefamilyfh.com

Insurance
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Mills and Petrie Memorial Building

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LOCAL NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Livingston named Rotary Student of the Month

The Rochelle Rotary Club recently presented its first-ever Rochelle Rotary Service Above Self: Student of the Month award to Julia Livingston of Rochelle Township High School. Livingston was chosen because of her many hours given back to our community including volunteering at the The REC Center, giving her time to help fellow RTHS students in need, helping out at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library, and more. Pictured left to right: Chuck Watkins (Rotary treasurer), Dr. Chris Lewis (principal), Jeni Hardin (Focus House), Michelle Pease (City of Rochelle and Rotary president), Julia Livingston, Sarah Flanagan (Rochelle Library and Rotary secretary), Emily Anaya (Rochelle Area Community Foundation), Staci Harvey (RTHS career counselor) and Lance Charnock (AFS Group).

2024 NIU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Opponent	Date	Time
WESTERN ILLINOIS	AUGUST 31 ST	
@ NOTRE DAME	SEPTEMBER 7 TH	
BUFFALO	SEPTEMBER 21 ST	
@ NC STATE	SEPTEMBER 28 TH	
UMASS	OCTOBER 5 TH	
@ BOWLING GREEN	OCTOBER 12 TH	
TOLEDO	OCTOBER 19 TH	HOMECOMING
@ BALL STATE	OCTOBER 26 TH	
@ WESTERN MICHIGAN	NOVEMBER 6 TH	
AKRON	NOVEMBER 13 TH	
@ MIAMI (OH)	NOVEMBER 19 TH	
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	NOVEMBER 30 TH	

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SUBSTATION: Toliver, Fiegenschuh discuss current phase of electrical project

From page 1

Toliver said he was disappointed with the small number of bids the city received for the switchgear and transformer purchases and called 2024 an “unprecedented time” for lead times and availability of equipment.

“To see only 1-2 bids was very disheartening,” Toliver said. “These companies used to love working with the smaller utilities and now it’s getting harder and harder to procure these items. We’re seeing it with other things too like bucket trucks with long lead times. We’re going to the council and asking to purchase items that we won’t even have for two, three and sometimes five years. But it’s the only way to get these things purchased, by doing it now. The most challenging part of this entire process has been the lead times and costs. It’s hard to go in front of the council with something that came in over the engineer’s estimate. We try to get numbers as tight as possible to stay in line with our budget, but at the end of the day, you have to go with whatever’s presented to you. When you only get one bid for a set of switchgear, that’s what you have to go with. Because without it, the project doesn’t

“We have to provide power to our customers and ensure that we have a reliable system for our major industrial customers.”

Jeff Fiegenschuh

move forward.”

In May 2022, the city completed a \$13.8 million electrical substation project at 1630 Ritchie Court. That project was worked on through COVID-19 and ran into delays and supply chain issues as well.

“That substation we just built, I’d bet if we did it five years before the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost would have been 70 percent of what we paid,” City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said. “But what are you going to do? We have to provide power to our customers and ensure that we have a reliable system for our major industrial customers. We have an obligation as a utility owner to make these expenditures.”

The basis for the new substation on Illinois Route 38 is to free up two power feeders that are currently tied up to feed one customer. The new substation will alleviate that congestion and make it to where RMU can serve residential customers more reliably.

After completion, RMU

will be able to backfeed power to areas in an outage. The substation will also allow for more possible industrial growth.

Toliver said that the current process of planning for the new substation is made easier by just having gone through the process for the Ritchie Road substation project. RMU built a layout that works at its last substation and knows what will be most convenient for linemen and the utility.

Fiegenschuh called the fact that RMU will build two substations in five years “amazing” and said he hasn’t seen anything like it in his career. Toliver spoke about RMU’s recent growth.

“It is absolutely not a common thing to build two new substations in a 4-5-year span,” Toliver said. “From 1971 when we tied to ComEd, to 1998 when we built the Twombly Road substation, there were no major infrastructure upgrades with substations or anything. Rochelle has progressively grown in a 30-year time-frame substantially.”

Ogle County Sheriff’s Office launches St. Patrick’s Day enforcement campaign

OREGON — St. Patrick’s Day is just around the corner, and many Illinoisans will be celebrating with parades and parties featuring green beer and cocktails. To remind motorists of the dangers of drunk driving and to help keep our streets safe, the Ogle County Sheriff’s Office is teaming up with the Illinois State Police and Illinois Department of Transportation for a stepped-up traffic safety campaign. “Because St. Patrick’s Day falls on a Sunday this year, we anticipate that alcohol consumption will increase both that day and throughout the weekend,” Sheriff Brian VanVickle said. “We ask everyone to celebrate responsibly, starting with a plan for a sober ride home before you leave the house.” St. Patrick’s Day can be a

dangerous one on America’s roads due to increased alcohol consumption and drunk driving. There were 272 lives lost in drunk-driving crashes over the St. Patrick’s Day holiday between 2017 and 2021. In addition to looking for alcohol-and-cannabis-impaired drivers, the Ogle County Sheriff’s Office will be stepping up seat belt enforcement, particularly at night when seat belt usage rates are lowest. Speeding, distracted driving and all traffic laws will be strictly enforced.

Whether you’re attending a party, hosting friends or going out to a bar, keep safety at the forefront of your day and night. When it’s time to leave, make sure your designated driver is sober. Remember that walking impaired can also be dangerous, so

designate a sober friend to walk home with you. Designated drivers: Be alert for impaired walkers who may not obey street signs.

Other important tips:

Drunk or high, it doesn’t matter. It is never okay to drive impaired. Designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride service to get home safely.

If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact law enforcement.

Have a friend who is about to drive impaired? Take the keys away and plan to get your friend home safely.

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The St. Patrick’s Day enforcement campaign is funded by federal traffic safety funds from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and administered by IDOT.

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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



MORRIS MEDALS AT STATE

Benjamin Morris medaled in seventh place at the IKWF State Championships.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Baseball

Hubs return to the diamond

Rochelle to tee off 2024 season with road game against Freeport on Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team leaned on its offense during the 2023 season, when the purple and white finished with a 10-19 overall record and a 4-10 record in the Interstate 8 Conference. Although the Hubs will field a young roster at the varsity level this spring, head coach Jarrod Reynolds is optimistic about the returning and incoming talent.

“I think we have a good group of players this year,” Reynolds said. “We are young, but we have some talented players. Obviously, I’d like to win as many games as possible and win a regional, but I want us to play hard each and every game and I want to get a little bit better each day. I believe that teams earn the opportunity to win based on the quality of their practices.”

Rochelle returns for the 2024 season eyeing its first winning season in five years. The Hubs held their first practice on Monday and the team will have about three weeks to prepare for its first game

of the season against Freeport on Saturday, March 16. Rochelle will hold its first home game against Genoa-Kingston on Monday, March 18 and the Hubs will tee off the Interstate 8 slate on Monday, April 8, when Rochelle begins a three-game set with Sycamore.

“I was really proud of the team last year,” Reynolds said. “I thought that the kids practiced hard and they played hard on a daily basis. They had great attitudes and they were an enjoyable group to be around. They did a great job of holding each other accountable in a positive way. We were much improved on defense last year and we did a better job of limiting strikeouts. Overall, I want us to be a team that other teams don’t like to play because we play so hard.”

Senior right-hander Brock Metzger and left-hander Dylan Whaley are two returning varsity players who could see leading roles on the pitcher’s mound and around the diamond this spring. Rochelle will be counting on junior players, including returning varsity player and right-handed pitcher



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Brock Metzger will be a key returning player for the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team this season. The Hubs will begin the 2024 season with a game against Freeport on Saturday, March 16.

Brandyn Metzger, to fill out the batting order and take on starting roles in the field. The Hubs are returning to the diamond seeking their first regional title since the 2014 season.

“I think it starts with pitching,” Reynolds said. “We are expecting Dylan to step up and throw some big innings for us. Brock is returning as a key pitcher and hitter. We will need

some of our juniors to take on key roles for us. I want us to get better each and every day. I want to play clean baseball, limit free bases, hit the ball hard, run the bases aggressively and

intelligently, make quality pitches, and catch the baseball. I want this year to be a good experience for the kids. I want them to be great teammates and support each other.”

RTHS Girls Soccer

Lady Hubs back on the field for start of 2024 season

Rochelle returns three I-8 honorees including First Team winners Lara, Flores

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team returned to the field earlier this week for the start of the 2024 season. Rochelle returns multiple varsity starters from last season and the Lady Hubs are seeking to improve on their 7-10 overall record from the 2023 campaign.

Rochelle will kick off the 2024 season with a nonconference road match against Harlem on Thursday, March 14. The Lady Hubs will begin the Interstate 8 Conference slate with a road match against Sycamore on Wednesday, March 27. Rochelle went 3-3 in the Interstate 8 last season under head coach Brad Male, who cited team chemistry as a strength of his roster.

“I think last year team chemistry started to play a bigger part towards the end of the season, as more of the team got comfortable in playing new positions and different roles on attacking and defending,” Male said. “Our main goal is to promote a strong team bond and help our less experienced players gain confidence in themselves. I always look to our seniors for leadership.”

Among the notable returning players for the Lady Hubs is junior midfielder/forward and two-time In-

“Our main goal is to promote a strong team bond and help our less experienced players gain confidence in themselves...”

Brad Male

terstate 8 honoree Makayla Lara, who has compiled 46 goals and 10 assists over the last two seasons and was an Interstate 8 First Team honoree last season. Junior defender Betty Flores also returns after earning Interstate 8 First Team recognition for the Lady Hubs last season.

Moreover, Rochelle welcomes back senior goalkeeper and four-year starter Danica Ward as well as senior forward Kara Martinez, who was an Interstate 8 Honorable Mention in 2023. Junior midfielder Emma Kennay is another Lady Hub who will have a prominent role this spring.

“We have a lot of new faces this year, as about half of our team consists of freshmen,” Male said. “Our main focus is working on our conditioning



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Kara Martinez returns for the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team after earning an All-Conference Honorable Mention in the Interstate 8 last season. Rochelle will face Harlem on the road Thursday, March 14.

and building a strong team bond. I think with Kara and Danica returning, they both could fill leadership roles. Makayla, Emma and Betty

have also helped the team in the offseason and I look to them to help continue helping out.”

Rochelle lost six seniors

from the 2023 roster including two-time Interstate 8 Honorable Mention and starting center back Kailey Harris. The Lady Hubs will

also look to fill holes in the midfield and on defense after losing starting midfielder Mavi Avila and starting defender Abby Tarvestad.

SPORTS

Rochelle Wrestling Club

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Morris medals at 2024 IKWF Senior/Novice State Championships

The Rochelle Wrestling Club sent two athletes to the 2024 IKWF Senior/Novice State Championships at the BMO Center in Rockford over the weekend. Benjamin Morris medaled in seventh place at the Novice 154 Division, while Teddy Millard competed in the Novice 74 Division. Morris went 3-2 over five matches at the state tournament, winning all three of his matches by fall. Morris received a first-round bye before notching a second-round fall over Demolition Wrestling Club's Noah Rouskey. After a loss in the quarterfinals, Morris rebounded with falls over BTS-Chicago/Avondale's Jack Wahtola and DC Wrestling Club's Ashton Hardin to finish seventh. Millard wrestled two matches in the state tournament, finishing 0-2.



RTHS Boys Bowling

Seniors lead Hubs to 10 wins in 2023-24 season

All-Conference honorees Powell and Frye headline players eligible to return

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team turned in a double-digit winning season this winter, finishing second in the Interstate 8 Conference for the season and qualifying three bowlers for All-Conference recognition. With three senior bowlers set to depart from the program after the 2023-24 school year, head coach Jim Lyles will look to his returning players as the team looks to continue its winning way into the 2024-25 school year and beyond.

Rochelle finished with a 10-7 overall record and a 5-3 record in the Interstate 8 this season. The Hubs took third at the Interstate 8 tournament and seventh at the IHSA Freeport Regional, with sophomore Andrew Powell advancing to the IHSA Jefferson Sectional in Rockford.

Now a two-time sectional qualifier, Powell was one of two bowlers who took home First-Team All-Conference honors this winter. The two-hander will be a cornerstone for the Hubs next year.

"I thought we had a good season," Lyles said. "We needed some work throughout the season, but overall I thought we had a successful season. We were in almost all of our matches, even the ones we lost and I'm happy with that. I think we'll be in a really good spot next year."

Junior Logan Frye, another First-Team All-Conference honoree, will be eligible to return next season along with sophomore Levi Waddle, who was a regular varsity starter for the Hubs this season. Rochelle will lose three seniors from the varsity lineup including Sam Tracey, who was a two-year starter

and an All-Conference Honorable Mention this season. Christian Thorne and Jonathan Alanis are two more senior starters who the Hubs will need to replace next winter.

"I think we have a bright future," Lyles said. "Our attitudes were a lot better this year than they were last year. Our kids didn't get down on themselves nearly as much and they kept an even keel. I'll be looking for more leadership from the three varsity bowlers that we'll have coming back next year. We'll also have new kids who will be bowling varsity. I'd like to see us be more vocal as well. The top tournament teams are always cheering and I'd like to see us do that."

Sophomore bowlers Caleb Mortensen and Declan McGee are two underclassmen who could step into varsity roles for the Hubs next winter. Both Mortensen and McGee



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Sam Tracey is one of three starters who will depart from the Rochelle Hub varsity bowling team after the 2023-24 season.

earned spot starts for the varsity team during the 2023-24 season. Fresh-

man bowlers Luke Norris and Bryson Stewart are two newcomers to the

Rochelle team who could also see larger roles next season.

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INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION PUBLICATION NOTICE TO: Creditors and Claimants
Unknown Heirs and Legatees*

1. Notice is given of the death of Maria Krpan, who died on October 27, 2023 a resident of DeKalb, Illinois.
2. The Representative for the estate and his/her address is: Martin T. Krpan, 1501 Daniel Ct., Sycamore, IL 60178
3. The attorney for the estate and his/her address is: Kelly J. Robar, Esq., PO Box 415, Sycamore, IL 60178
4. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before September 13, 2024. **Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 133 W. State St., Sycamore, IL 60178, or with the Representative, or both. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.***
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7. Within 6 months after the effective date of the original Order Admitting the Will to Probate, you may file a petition with the Court to contest the validity of the Will as provided under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1).
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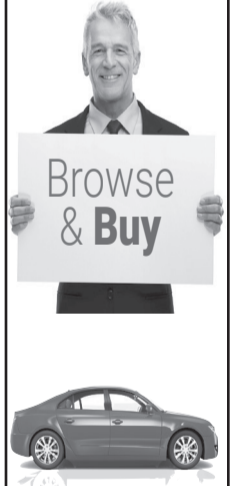
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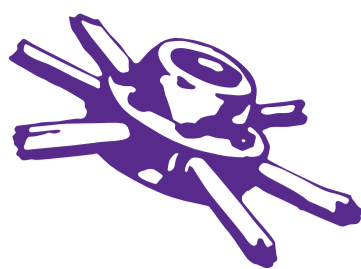
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Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?

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Q: Who is your biggest role

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Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: Either a robotic engineer or a mechanical engineer because I would love to work with machines or robots.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?

A: Mexico City because I want to explore the city part of Mexico.

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

A: I like how I can not only work to become an engineer, but also play my favorite sport after school.

Maya

Esparza

Year: Freshman

Sport: Softball



friend. He grew up without a lot and worked hard to give my sisters and I everything, even when things were challenging or stressful. That's why I look up to him.

Q: What is your dream job and why?

A: To be an endocrinologist because I would love to help people with the same diagnosis as me.

Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?

A: Australia because it seems like a beautiful place to go.

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

A: Five years.

Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?

A: I enjoy the new group of girls you meet.

Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?

A: Biology because I like learning about viruses and doing hands-on things. Also, my teacher Mr. Thompson makes biology so fun.

Q: Who is your biggest role model and why?

A: My dad because he's my best

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