

# Kisner served with U.S. Army in Vietnam

PAGES 4-5



# Lady Hubs take third place at Byron tourney

SEE SPORTS

# ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM



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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

## Ribbon cutting held for Rochelle Intermodal Transload Center and Regenified Ltd. partnership

Regenified corn is transloaded in Rochelle and bound for California

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Monday, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the City of Rochelle's Rochelle Intermodal Transload Center to inaugurate the process of transloading locally-grown regenified corn.

Officials in attendance included representatives from Regenified Ltd., Diestel Ranch of Sonora, California; Thoren Farms of Stockton, Illinois; the Burlington Junction Railway and the city. The event marked the beginning of moving regenified corn from the midwest to the west coast.

"The City of Rochelle is known as the transportation 'hub' because we have built the transportation infrastructure to meet the logistical needs of agriculture and industries in our region," Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows said.

When the Union Pacific Railroad closed its Global III intermodal operations in 2019, the city sprang into action to build the Rochelle Intermodal Transload Center so rail access was readily available, and businesses would not have to incur



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On Monday, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the City of Rochelle's Rochelle Intermodal Transload Center to inaugurate the process of transloading locally-grown regenified corn.

the expense and lost time of moving freight through Chicago, Bearrows said.

Thoren Farms in Stockton is the first certified regenified farm in Illinois to utilize the RITC. Greg Thoren of Thoren Farms said, "This facility in Rochelle makes it possible for us to feed turkeys in California with our locally grown regenified corn. We are thankful that such a facility as this exists in our backyard."

Kevin Mershon, marketing manager for the Burlington Junction Railway, was on hand to oversee the transloading process. Mershon commented during the ceremony, "This facility is designed to move just about anything that needs to move by rail. Being located in the center of the corn and soybean fields here in the

midwest, we can move the food supply to feed the world, right from here, in Rochelle."

The corn will be used to feed over one million turkeys that are shipped across the U.S. Diestel Family Ranch, a fourth-generation turkey ranch, has sourced 740 tons of certified regenified corn for its regenerative, pasture-raised turkey program.

By sourcing feed ingredients directly from certified farmers, Diestel is multiplying the impact of its regenerative efforts, creating an entire supply chain committed to common goals and offering consumers regenerative products that support the planet and the future of farming.

"This is a huge milestone in our industry as we know

our future depends on the way we farm," Jason Diestel, fourth-generation family farmer, said. "We know all too well that everything starts in the soil which is why we are beyond thrilled to be sourcing regeneratively grown corn, leading the way for regenerative agriculture in poultry."

On Monday, the first four semi-truck loads of regenified corn arrived at the RITC and transloading began. The RITC is a transit center built to serve as a vital link for local farmers to export their products globally. It offers direct access to Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe railways, and the City of Rochelle Railroad has streamlined the process of moving agricultural products to national and international markets efficiently.



## Art show held at local schools

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — An Art Show was held during the open house and book fair night at all three Rochelle elementary schools on Thursday and featured a total of over 1,000 student art works, Rochelle District 231 Art Teacher Cassie Inman said.

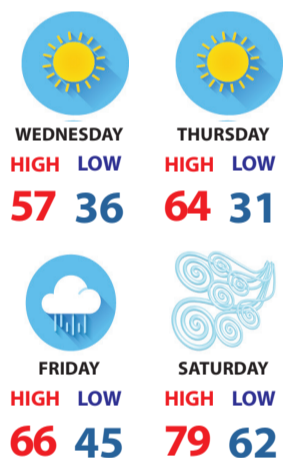
At Lincoln, Central and Tilton Elementary Schools, each building had an art installation inclusive of most or all of the students within the schools. Inman has been with the district for 20 years, and said art teachers have been presenting student work since before she was hired. For the fourth time, the art show included a glow show, using fluorescent materials and a black light.

See ART page 8

## AFC Prom Court announced

Ashton-Franklin Center High School announced its Prom Court nominees. See Section 2

## WEATHER



Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:



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## OBITUARIES

• DEAN B. SMITH  
• JESSIE QUARLES  
• ROBERT HELMS

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• FARM & FLEET

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## Potential downtown stage and bathroom structure discussed

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council heard a presentation on and discussed future downtown work that will take place as a result of receipt of a \$1.151 million grant, including a potential new stage, bathrooms and storage structure in the former gazebo area.

The work with money

from the Rebuild Illinois Downtown & Main Street Capital Grant program will also include parking lot restoration and the construction of two new parking lots. The demolition of the vacant old bank drive-thru on the corner of Lincoln Highway and Lincoln Avenue and the corner of Washington and 2nd Avenue will be the location of the new lots. Seven existing lots will be reconstructed and repaired.

The city's grant application originally called for a new public restroom structure with two separate restrooms. Following the loss of the gazebo downtown due to weather over the winter, the city shifted its plan to the stage, storage and restrooms structure in that area to serve as a gathering space.

Other potential aspects of the structure would include a future conces-

sions space, built-in bench seating, drinking and pet fountains, and a fireplace. The stage was covered in plans shown Monday. There would be men's, women's and a family restroom. The new structure would be located in the now most-northern parking lot in the gazebo area. The plan is for maintenance of the facility to be done by city staff. The city has had discussions with local organizations to

run and book the facility, which is planned to be about 1,700 square feet.

"I envision this a place where we could have things like concerts and food trucks during the week for a few hours in the summertime," Mayor John Bearrows said. "People can go there and just gather. It's another way to draw people to the downtown area."

See CITY page 2

## Rochelle Township High School names 2024 Prom Court nominees

ROCHELLE — Prom week is underway at Rochelle Township High School and 2024 Prom Court nominees were recently named.

Senior candidates for Prom Queen include Ella Alfano (daughter of Dani and Chris Alfano), Anna Toczylowski (daughter of James and Jodie Toczylowski), Emily Montelongo (daughter of Adrian and Shannon Montelongo), Elise Horner (daughter of Chad and Dionne Horner), and Alivia Henkel (daughter of Geri-Dee & Timothy Hayden and Alan & Amy Henkel). Senior candidates for Prom King



Prom week is underway at Rochelle Township High School and 2024 Prom Court nominees were recently named.

are Wyatt Brandt (son of Anne and Tony Brandt), Irving Escalante (son of Yajaria Turcios), Jack Lodico (son of Kurt and Rhonda Lodico), Parker Lenkaitis (son of Joe and Eva Lenkaitis), and Eli

Luxton (son of Krissy and Thad Luxton).

Junior candidates for Prom Princess are Taelynn Rodeghero (daughter of Trisha Rodeghero), Emma Kennay (daughter of Sheri and Jeremy Ken-

nay), Payton Cesarone (daughter of Mia Ramsey and John Cesarone), and Abby Metzger (daughter of Tommy and Amy Metzger). Junior candidates for Prom Prince are Colton Czekala (son of

Tony and Debbie Czekala), Trent Kreider (son of Corey and Susie Kreider), Grant Gensler (son of Jim and Missy Gensler), and Khalil Winston (son of Rashad Epting and Kalynn Winston).

(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

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# LOCAL NEWS

## CITY: Council issues proclamations and award at Monday meeting

From page 1

The downtown project as a whole also includes major electrical service improvements including placing all electric lines underground. At Monday's meeting, the council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the retention of BHMGE Engineers to design that work. That aspect of the project will be funded through downtown and southern gateway TIF bonds. The project will start at Lincoln Manor and end at 4th Avenue. The goal of the project is to place all existing overhead facilities underground as well as

upgrade any services that are in need along the way. The expenditure for the retention of services was \$110,300.

### Sidewalks

The council unanimously approved a bid from AA Construction Concrete, Inc. for \$658,649.55 for its yearly sidewalk/pedestrian path improvements. The council received four bids for the work. The AA Construction Concrete bid was the lowest bid and seven percent lower than the estimated cost of the project.

The city's sidewalk improvement program is funded by its utility tax fund. Since its inception,

over 1.1 million square feet of sidewalk and/or other pedestrian paths, concrete curb and gutter, and hundreds of accessibility ramps have been improved through replacement and/or new construction.

On Monday, approval was also given to City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh to negotiate further change order work not to exceed \$44,000 for other improvements and upgrades to sidewalks and streets adjacent to this project if necessary with favorable prices. The work is expected to be substantially completed by the end of September.

"Being in other communities and seeing the

condition of their sidewalks, we're very blessed to have the utility tax fund," Fiegenschuh said. "Thanks to the mayor and council for supporting that and to our staff for continuing to promote the sidewalk replacement program."

### Proclamations

Bearrows read a proclamation at the meeting in honor of National Lineman Appreciation Day April 18 and presented it to RMU linemen. Bearrows also read a proclamation in honor of Arbor Day April 26 and presented it to Public Works Director Tim Isley. Bearrows also read a proclamation in honor

of Motorcycle Awareness Month in May.

### Award

Fiegenschuh recognized Chris Cardott and Jessica Rogers of the city's finance department for their recent


receipt of a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. The city has received the recognition for nine years in a row.



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Mayor John Bearrows read a proclamation at the meeting in honor of National Lineman Appreciation Day April 18 and presented it to RMU linemen. Bearrows also read a proclamation in honor of Arbor Day April 26 and presented it to Public Works Director Tim Isley. Bearrows also read a proclamation in honor of Motorcycle Awareness Month in May. City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh recognized Chris Cardott and Jessica Rogers of the city's finance department for their recent receipt of a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.


### Happy Birthday Doug!



**Friends & Family**  
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Please come help him celebrate  
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Emailed photos\* can be sent to [cackland@rochellenews-leader.com](mailto:cackland@rochellenews-leader.com).

**Deadline is 2:00PM on Wednesday, May 15.**

**This special feature will be published on Wednesday, May 22, 2024.**

Photos may be picked up at the Rochelle News-Leader office after the May 22nd publication date or we can mail back to you in a self-addressed stamped envelope.

\*Make sure emailed photos are at least 200dpi.

## ENTRY FORM

GRADUATE'S FIRST/LAST NAME

15-WORD MESSAGE (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY):

Person submitting photo:

NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

Photos may be picked up after May 22, 2024. Entries must be received by 2:00pm on Wednesday, May 15, 2024.  
Mail a high quality, scannable photo and payment (\$10) along with this completed form to:  
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# LOCAL NEWS

## OBITUARIES

### Dean B. Smith

**GRANDVIEW, Ind.** — Dean B. Smith, age 63, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 17th, 2024 at home after a long illness. Dean was born November 26th, 1960 in Joliet, IL. He is the son of Robert B. Smith and Earlene E. (Banner) DeJaynes. He met his loving wife, Carol Caldwell, in 1999. Dean's family meant the world to him and he loved them with all his heart! He enjoyed going fishing, talking on his amateur radio, working on his tractor and visiting with family and friends. He is survived

by his wife Carol Caldwell of Grandview, IN.; children Elizabeth Ethridge of Scottsville, KY, Joshua Smith, Adam Caldwell of Rockford, IL. and Landyn Caldwell of Grandview, IN.; grandchildren Alyssa, Abby and Cordell; great grandchildren Natalya and Kathryn; siblings Dale (Cindy) Smith, Preston (Peni) Smith, Mark Smith, Janet (Randy) Johnson, Roberta (Mark) Hoyt; loving mother-in-law JoAnn Young; and many nieces and nephews. Dean was preceded in death by his mother, father and sister



Renee (Smith) Holder. A private burial will be held at a later date. Arrangements were made by Simply Cremations. Condolences can be sent to: Carol Caldwell, 3672 E. County Rd 550N, Grandview, IN. 47615

### Jessie Quarles

**ROGERS, Ark.** — Jessie Quarles, 80, formerly of Rochelle, passed away on Friday, April 20, 2024 at the Jamestown Nursing and Rehab Center in Rogers, Arkansas. He was born on February 2, 1944 in St. Louis, MO, the son of Lorenzo and Maggie (Littlefield) Quarles. Jessie proudly served in the US Army. He married Chong "Angie" "Angel" Kim on December 7, 1966 in Seoul, South Korea. Jessie worked as an over-the-road long haul truck driver. He is preceded in death by his parents,

his wife, Angie on June 6, 2011 and sister-in-law, Peggy Quarles.

Survived by his brother, Jerry Quarles of Pea Ridge, AR; sister, Shirley Marino of Cincinnati, OH; good friend, Bill Hahn of Rochelle and four nephews: Mike Quarles of Dallas, TX, Justin Quarles of Sacramento, CA, Jeremy Quarles of Lowell, AR and Frank Marino, Jr. of Cincinnati, OH.

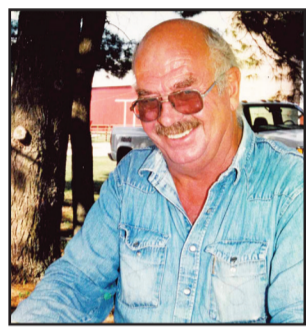
Graveside funeral with military services provided by the Eastern Lee/Ogle Honor Guard will be held at 4:00 P.M. on



Thursday, April 25, 2024 at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Creston, IL with Judy Williams officiating. The Unger-Horner Funeral Home is assisting with all arrangements. Guest book at [www.UngerHorner.com](http://www.UngerHorner.com).

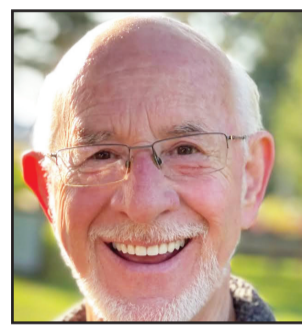
### Celebration of Life for Pierce is Saturday

**ROCHELLE** — A Celebration of Life will be held for Lewis Blanford "Blan" Pierce, Jr. on Saturday, April 27 from noon to 4 p.m. at Luna (formerly Salt) at 531 S. 7th St., Rochelle. Pierce passed away March 19 at age 85.



### Robert Helms

On April 23 2024, Robert Lawrence Helms peacefully passed away, enveloped by the warmth of his devoted family. Services to honor Bob's life are being thoughtfully arranged by Finch Funeral Home in Dekalb, Illinois. For further details regarding the services, please visit Finch Funeral Home's



website: [finchfuneralhome.dekalb.com](http://finchfuneralhome.dekalb.com)

### ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**ROCHELLE** — On April 19 at 9:56 a.m. Dylan C. Cobb, 25, of Cortland was cited for expired registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 10 Rochelle court date.

On April 19 at 11:47 p.m. Scott I. Nelson, 52, of Chana was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and possession of a firearm without a FOID

card. He was released on a notice to appear with a May 17 Ogle County court date.

On April 20 at 1:55 a.m. Jorge I. Cansino, 34, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license revoked and possession of a controlled substance. He was released on a notice to appear with a May 17 Ogle County court date.

See POLICE page 8

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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.



# Rochelle's Kisner served in

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — John Kisner of Rochelle served in the United States Army in the Vietnam War in The 196th Infantry Brigade.

Kisner was drafted in 1967. He went to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for basic training, before going to Fort Polk in Louisiana for advanced individual training. From there, Kisner went to Oakland, California and shipped out to Vietnam, where he was for a year.

Upon his return to the U.S., Kisner went to Fort Carson, Colorado for the rest of his service. He reached the rank of sergeant upon his discharge from the Army.

"I was 21 when I got drafted," Kisner said, "It was 1967. I met a woman, and she and I decided to get married. On Dec. 2, I asked her to marry me. A week later, I got my notice to go into the service. We had to get married earlier than we planned. It threw a wrench into my marriage a bit. She was pregnant with my son. I never saw my son until six months after he was born. But until this day, he and I are very close, along with my daughter, too. Things still worked out with my draft notice and my service."

Kisner, now 77, grew up in Rochelle and has lived here all his life with the exception of his time in the service and five years living in Arizona. In his civilian life, he worked at Caron Spinning, Swift, Del Monte and at Rochelle Foods locally before retirement.

"At first, I didn't think my military service helped me with the rest of my life," Kisner said. "But now I see that it has."

Kisner deals with post-traumatic stress disorder and flashbacks from his time in Vietnam. He doesn't often discuss his time there in detail. Dealing with his PTSD has become easier over the years due to a support system of family and friends. Along with his children, Kisner has seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Kisner served good friends in Vietnam from across the U.S. that he kept in touch with after his service. The experience abroad gave him a new appreciation for home.

"Going to a country like Vietnam was really exciting," Kisner said. "You got to see how the people lived and compare it to how you live. You saw what they lived in. It was a lot different than what we have. We have nice houses a lot of the time. They don't. They lived mostly in shacks. It made me appreciate what I came home to. There wasn't running water or toilets."

Around the time of his service and afterwards, Kisner saw America's response to the Vietnam War and how that unrest resulted in how veterans of the war were treated.

"It was terrible, the things we were called," Kisner said. "It was a tough feeling. Now when you see people coming back from serving, they're well taken care of and well-liked. It was different then. I had a guy out in New Jersey that I served with. My son and I went to Missouri for a 196th light infantry reunion. My friend from New Jersey and I talked at that and he told me he delivered mail. He went to one lady's house to deliver mail and he told her he was in Vietnam. She asked him not to be the one to deliver her mail anymore."

In the years since the Vietnam War, veterans of it have come to be more appreciated. Kisner takes pride in his service, and wears a Vietnam veteran hat and jacket often when he goes out.

"I've seen a lot of Vietnam veterans I know have people come up to them and say, 'Welcome home,'" Kisner said. "And I do the same thing. I was over in Dixon once and ran into somebody that served. I thanked him for his service. He saw my hat I had on. I always wear a Vietnam hat. He said, 'I see you were in the service, too. You had it rough. I have it rough too, but not as much as you did.' That made me feel happy. Times have changed. I can wear a hat and jacket now out in public that show where I served. I'm proud of what I did."

Kisner is a lifetime member of Rochelle VFW Post 3878 and a member of Rochelle Moose Lodge 903. He got involved with the VFW shortly after his service. He enjoys spending time at both clubs.

"I have a lot of respect for other veterans' service," Kisner said. "I have people that go to our service clubs here in town that I consider to be like brothers. Especially



John Kisner of Rochelle served in the United States Army in Louisiana for advanced individual training. From there, K

those that were in Vietnam too. It's been good for me to meet veterans with similar experiences. And we don't really even talk about Vietnam. I don't like to talk about it. I'd really only tell my kids about it. I just talk about the rest of my life with other veterans. But it's nice to

"Going to a country like Vietnam v see how the people lived and con what they lived in. It was a lot diff have nice houses a lot of the time shacks. It made me appreciate wh running water or toilets."

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# American Hero

## U.S. Army during Vietnam



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

in the Vietnam War in The 196th Infantry Brigade. Kisner was drafted in 1967. He went to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for basic training, before going to Fort Polk in Kisner went to Oakland, California and shipped out to Vietnam, where he was for a year.

know we have the same experiences.”

Kisner thanked his support system for being there during his service and in the years that followed. His parents and three sisters supported him then, as his children and grandchildren do now.

“When I was in Vietnam, every three months, we’d have a stand down party,” Kisner said. “We’d have a band there. We had some good captains. While I have a lot of hard memories from that time, there are some good ones.”

*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](mailto:jhelfrich@rochellenews-leader.com) or call 815-561-2151.*

was really exciting. You got to compare it to how you live. You saw different than what we have. We . They don’t. They lived mostly in at I came home to. There wasn’t

John Kisner



**IN HONOR OF EVERY HERO  
THAT HAS SERVED OR IS  
CURRENTLY SERVING IN  
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Those Currently Serving  
Our Country**

# LOCAL VIEWS

## Harris: Consider this — Child labor

**S**ELECTED excerpts from the Washington Post article “America is divided over major efforts to rewrite child labor laws”, updated on April 5. This article can be found at: [www.washingtonpost.com/business/2024/03/31/us-child-labor-laws-state-bills/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2024/03/31/us-child-labor-laws-state-bills/)

In general, here is what they say about federal laws. “Federal law forbids all minors from working in jobs deemed hazardous, including those in manufacturing, roofing, meatpacking and demolition. Fourteen- and 15-year-olds are not allowed to work past 7 p.m. on school nights or 9 p.m. on weekends.” This has been the law of the land for quite some time. In various states, however, some businesses have been pushing the envelope on these rules and states are beginning to revise their individual laws. Here are some excerpts

concerning what some states are doing:

“A Florida-based lobbying group, the Foundation for Government Accountability, which has fought to promote conservative interests such as restricting access to anti-poverty programs, drafted or lobbied for recent bills to strip child labor protections in at least six states.

Among them is Indiana’s new law enacted in March, repealing all work-hour restrictions for 16- and 17-year-olds, who previously couldn’t work past 10 p.m. or before 6 a.m. on school days. The law also extends legal work hours for 14 and 15-year-olds.

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) signed into law changes that allow 16 and 17-year-olds to work seven days in a row. It also removes all hour restrictions for teens in online school or home school, effectively permitting them

to work overnight shifts.

An Iowa law signed last year by Gov. Kim Reynolds (R) allows minors in that state to work in jobs previously deemed too hazardous, including in industrial laundries, light manufacturing, demolition, roofing and excavation, but not slaughterhouses. Separately, West Virginia enacted a law this month that allows 16 and 17-year-olds to work some roofing jobs as part of an apprenticeship program.

Meanwhile, Alabama, West Virginia, Missouri and Georgia are considering bills this year that would eliminate work permit requirements for minors, verifying age or parental or school permission to work. Most states require these permits. Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) signed a similar bill

into law last year.

I do not write this article to provide my opinion of these laws, but to give you information and let you decide. So let’s talk about what the reasoning may be for them. Let’s start with a sentence from the same Washington Post article that says; “Labor experts attribute the spike in child labor violations — which, a Post analysis shows, have tripled in 10 years — to a tight labor market that has prompted employers to hire more teens, as well as migrant children arriving from Latin America.” This appears to be the driving factor for change.

So, why would you want to change the child labor laws and not want to put more Americans, who are unemployed, back to work? And if the economy is so bad, like many think, where are all

these jobs coming from? Maybe these jobs are low wage jobs that employers do not want to pay living wages for. This way they can skirt higher wages if they can get children to work extra hours at even more dangerous jobs that normally get high pay.

Another interesting note is that there are many migrant children working at these jobs now. I thought that many of us were against migration into this country and wanted to close our borders to it? Is this why, in the long run, an immigration bill never gets passed? Because we can use certain immigrants to do the work our own people won’t do? Although, migrants and immigrants have two different definitions, I feel that those people in America that make moves to work and make their lives better, do not do so to work these types of jobs. Or maybe that is why the recent heavy push towards

closing our borders. We don’t want immigrants to do those jobs our own children could do.

Hopefully, the laws are not being changed to allow us to put our children to work so that we have extra cash to spend. More likely, it is to have that extra cash to pay bills. However, are either of these reasons enough to put our children to work for more hours or at more dangerous jobs?

Could it be that putting more work on our children is just one of the many reasons that some people are so ready to dump our democracy? It would definitely be easier to change or eliminate our laws if we had a different form of government. Maybe many think that laws restrict our freedoms. But, is this true? I believe that most of our laws are enacted to protect our freedoms. So that businesses, individuals, and, yes, even our governing bodies don’t take them away.



Reed Harris

## Workers Memorial Day a reminder that more needs to be done to protect workers

**J**AY Larson’s co-workers stepped in for his mail route in Rockford earlier this month when Jay’s final deliveries ended in unspeakable tragedy.

On March 27, Jay was senselessly murdered, the victim of a horrendous attack while on his mail route in which he was stabbed and run over by a vehicle — one of four victims of a 22-year-old man now behind bars and facing charges. But his colleagues refuse to let that day define his career and life.

Members of the National Association of Letter Carriers #245 came together in early April to honor Jay Larson, driving his postal route in his honor and watching as blue balloons rose from mailboxes and candles burned at a memorial

for his legacy. They noted he served Rockford residents and businesses for 25 years, never took a sick day, and always pitched in to help others — on his route, and with others’ routes.

“Delivering mail was not just a job for Jay, it was a means by which he used to take care of his fellow citizens through caring smiles, thoughtful conversation, kind gestures, and the occasional giving furry friends a treat. Jay was truly a gentle giant, loved by his family, friends, and so many in the Rockford community,” read his obituary.

Lawrence Steward, president of the letter carriers union and a fellow carrier, remembered Larson made “everyone feel like you were the most important person in the world at the time that

you had him in your life.”

On this Workers Memorial Day, stories like Larson’s are a sad reminder of the challenges facing working people on the job.

Mail carriers point to the attack on Larson as motivation for legislation in Congress to better protect carriers with more federal prosecutors to send a clear message: Harm a postal worker, and you will pay a heavy price. The National Association of Letter Carriers, in its push for stronger federal legislation, highlighted the more than 2,000 crimes have been committed against letter carriers just since 2020. Robberies of letter carriers topped 643 nationally last year — an increase of nearly 30

percent — with injuries resulting from those robberies doubling.

More than 50 years after the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) made a promise to every worker that they had the right to a safe job, Workers Memorial Day is a time to honor devastating losses of dedicated workers like Jay Larson and recognize their loss as evidence that we have more work to do to achieve those safety goals.

Mother Jones once said, “We mourn for the dead and fight like hell for the living.” Workers Memorial Day is a time to redouble our efforts to fight for those left behind. Attacks like those on Larson are thankfully rare. Hun-

dreds of others die from work related injuries and the lack of robust mental health support that help to prevent aimless killings like the ones committed in Rockford. Thousands of others are injured each year from workplace dangers that could and should be prevented, often upending a career or resulting in long-term health impacts.

Workplace hazards too often go unregulated or under-regulated. When violations are found, the penalties are too soft. Some employers avoid responsibility by contracting out unsafe work. Workers step up to protest and are met with discipline — punishments that are unfair and sometimes include firing.

Together, workers in unions can negotiate good, safe jobs and working conditions through collective bargaining. While large business interests look for ways to roll back the safety and health protections we fight for and to block new efforts to make work safer, Workers’ Memorial Day is a reminder that we cannot accept workplace fatalities or injuries as the status quo. Workers go to work to earn a living, not to have their lives upended.

On this Workers Memorial Day, we stand united behind the memory of Jay Larson and all other Illinoisans who have died in our workplaces and recommit to ensuring others’ lives will not be placed in the same jeopardy. Each workday should end where everyone makes it home safely.

*Tim Drea is president and Pat Devaney is secretary-treasurer of Illinois AFL-CIO in Springfield.*



Tim Drea

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:news@rochellenews-leader.com)). The News-Leader reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.

# COMMUNITY

## First Annual Red, White, and Blue Tour set for last weekend in April

**ROCHELLE** — The Illinois Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association has the First Annual Red, White, and Blue Tour of the Lincoln Highway across Illinois set for Friday, April 26 to Sunday, April 28. This self-guided tour features museums and places of interest to see related to President Abraham Lincoln and the nation's first improved coast-to-coast road, the Lincoln Highway. The list of museums and interactive map of the Lincoln Highway, including points of interest, powered by Google Maps

is here: [illinoislincolnhighwayassociation.org/first-annual-red-white-blue-tour/](http://illinoislincolnhighwayassociation.org/first-annual-red-white-blue-tour/). The self-guided tour can be taken on other weekends, too, throughout the spring, summer and fall. One special event taking place during the Red, White, and Blue Tour will be at the Flagg Township Museum in Rochelle. There will be a 1928 Concrete Marker Dedication on Saturday, April 27 at 11 a.m. In 1928, the Lincoln Highway Association organized the placement of over 2,400 concrete markers, and turned to another or-

ganization found in every state to place the markers, with plenty of volunteers prepared to help, the Boy Scouts. In September of 1928, Boy Scouts all along the Lincoln Highway from New York to California dug deep holes and lifted the markers into place. The Flagg Township Museum recently received a generous donation of a 1928 concrete marker and it will be dedicated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, at 518 4th Ave., Rochelle, IL 61068. Please see: [flaggtownshipmuseumrochelle.org](http://flaggtownshipmuseumrochelle.org) for more information.

Other upcoming events on the Lincoln Highway in Illinois include the 12th Annual Lincoln Highway Car Show in Franklin Grove on May 11 and an epic trip across the United States by the very special 10 millionth Model T, Sea to Sea in a Model T, in Illinois on June 6 and June 7. For more information about upcoming events along the Lincoln Highway in Illinois for 2024, please visit here: [illinoislincolnhighwayassociation.org/meetings-events/](http://illinoislincolnhighwayassociation.org/meetings-events/) or e-mail: [illinoislincolnhighwayassoc@gmail.com](mailto:illinoislincolnhighwayassoc@gmail.com).

## Lane closures at Perryville Road bridge began April 22

**DIXON** — The Illinois Department of Transportation announced April 22 that weather permitting, there will be overnight lane closures on Interstate 39 at the Perryville Road bridge in Cherry Valley from Monday, April 22, through Thursday, May 2. The closures are needed for workers to paint the bridge. The closures will begin at 7 p.m. each night and end at 5 a.m. the following morning. No work will

take place Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28. One lane in each direction will be closed during the project, which is scheduled to be completed at 5 a.m. Friday, May 3. Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions

and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices and be alert for workers and equipment. Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,000 miles of highway and nearly 10 million square feet of bridge deck as part of the Rebuild Illinois capital program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of trans-

portation. Accomplishments through Year Four of Rebuild Illinois included approximately \$12.1 billion of improvements statewide on 5,339 miles of highway, 533 bridges and 762 additional safety improvements. For IDOT District 2 updates, follow us on X at @IDOTDistrict2 or view area construction details on IDOT's traveler information map on [GettingAroundIllinois.com](http://GettingAroundIllinois.com).

### THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

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If you would like to volunteer with us, please email us at [kitchentablerochelle@gmail.com](mailto:kitchentablerochelle@gmail.com)

April 25 - (Thursday) – Chicken Licken Bowls with Biscuits and Honey

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

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

[www.KitchenTableRochelle.org](http://www.KitchenTableRochelle.org)

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April 24 Jose Tlapa Lainie Arnold	April 26 Evan Jones	April 30 Nora Bridgeman Oakley Gonzales	May 1 Jamey King
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Call 815-561-2151 to submit names for birthdays and anniversaries



- Mar. 29 - Mark Boehm, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 30 - Chad Horner, Rochelle, \$25
- Mar. 31 - Greg Duffy, Dixon, \$300
- Apr. 1 - Mark Nink, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 2 - Mike and Gabrielle Nachman, Madison, WI, \$25
- Apr. 3 - Leslie Mann, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 4 - Carol Pretzer, Lindenwood, \$25
- Apr. 5 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 6 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
- Apr. 7 - Ryan Thomas, Chana, \$50
- Apr. 8 - Marilyn Yu, DeKalb, \$25
- Apr. 9 - Dennis Neal, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 10 - The Kitchen Table, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 11 - Kaya Fulgencio, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 12 - RACF, \$25
- Apr. 13 - Marshall Basler, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 14 - Teresa Haggstad, Rochelle, \$50
- Apr. 15 - SALT 251, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 16 - Gabriela Ortiz, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 17 - RACF, \$25
- Apr. 18 - RACF, \$25
- Apr. 19 - Priscilla Patterson, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 20 - Lois Delhotal, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 21 - Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, \$50
- Apr. 22 - RACF, \$25
- Apr. 23 - Kathy Mitchusson, Byron, \$25
- Apr. 24 - Patricia Cuchiara, Rochelle, \$25



## Coffee Break

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 "House" actor Omar
- 5 Nick and Nora's dog
- 9 Mountain pass
- 12 Mend socks
- 13 "— to differ!"
- 14 Flamenco cheer
- 15 Marmaduke, for one
- 17 Allow
- 18 Realm
- 19 Protuberances
- 21 French article
- 22 Filled fully
- 24 Gear teeth
- 27 Understood
- 28 Hoodwink
- 31 Scary cry
- 32 Flying saucer
- 33 Perch
- 34 Attempt
- 36 Knock
- 37 School support orgs.
- 38 Object (to)
- 40 Battery size
- 41 Ibsen's Gabler
- 43 Golfer Sorenstam
- 47 Land in la mer
- 48 Bruce Springsteen hit
- 51 JFK regulator
- 52 "Her" actress Rooney

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54				55					56			

- 53 Taj Mahal site
- 54 Unwell
- 55 Melville mariner
- 56 Detergent
- DOWN
- 1 Rim
- 2 Italian cheese, for short
- 3 Ready, as for surgery
- 4 Slowpokes
- 5 Staffer
- 6 Govt. loan agcy.
- 7 Toe count
- 8 Representative
- 9 Pricey powder
- 10 Sheltered
- 11 Favorites
- 16 Three, in Rome
- 20 British ref. work
- 22 To date
- 23 Perched on
- 24 "NCIS" ainer
- 25 Sound of delight
- 26 Bargain
- 27 Mentor
- 29 Zadora of "Hairspray"
- 30 Roswell visitors
- 35 Slugger Williams
- 37 Bamboo eaters
- 39 Molten rock
- 40 Some
- 41 LP player
- 42 Israeli airline
- 43 Basra resident
- 44 Shakespeare villain
- 45 Actress Sedgwick
- 46 Pronto
- 49 — -di-dah
- 50 Mouths (Lat.)

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: P equals W

Q N Q D O V C P X M C X G X C X R K X  
P N C Z G Y O O X F P Y L T V C L Y K O X W  
V M N D L L T X P N C O F ' W S V C Y N D W  
X S Y O W : P Y K Z X F - Q X F Y V .

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Answers

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

Answers

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

Popular web reference work filled with articles about the world's various evils: Wicked-pedia.

CryptoQuip answer

# LOCAL NEWS

## ART: Rochelle elementary schools host show this past Thursday

From page 1

Installation art is an artistic genre of three-dimensional works that are often site-specific and designed to transform the perception of a space. Generally, the term is applied to interior spaces, whereas exterior interventions are often called public art, land art or art intervention; however, the boundaries between these terms overlap.

"It's not just important, it's necessary," Inman said of showcasing students' work. "Displaying their work gives them joy and teaches confidence. The fact that they get to share their

artwork with family and friends gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment." Inman called art and music programs "vital" to student success and said they improve focus, engage students, and reduce stress. Arts support students in developing social management through project-based learning which fosters collaboration, communication skills, and opportunities to resolve conflict, she said.

Inman thanked the community for its support of the art show.

"Art is meant to be seen!" Inman said. "It is always wonderful when the community shows up to support

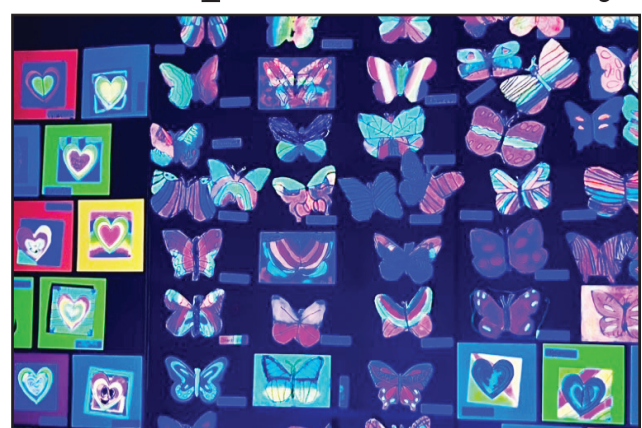


An Art Show was held during the open house and book fair night at all three Rochelle elementary schools on Thursday and featured a total of over 1,000 student art works, District 231 Art Teacher Cassie Inman said.

young artists. It is so important to have these opportunities for positivity outside of academic success."

The longtime elementary

district art teacher said that artwork on now-common screens in the education environment can't replace old-fashioned art works.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

"Digital art is important and a wonderful skill to pursue," Inman said. "However, putting pencil to paper and creating things without

screens allows for more creativity and the mind to relax. It's also fun! I love to see the different ways students interpret a project."

## POLICE: Rochelle officers issue citations and arrests

From page 3

On April 19 at 2:24 p.m. Maria C. Martinez, 52, of DeKalb was cited for speeding. She signed a promise to comply and was given a May 10 Rochelle court date.

On April 19 at 2:58 p.m. Ronald O. Brucki, 73, of Rochelle was cited for expired registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 10 Rochelle court date.

On April 19 at 4:49 p.m.

Marion K. Kupp, 31, of DeKalb was cited for expired registration and speeding. She signed a promise to comply and was given a May 10 Rochelle court date.

On April 20 at 1:29 p.m. Justin Q. Curry, 28, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license suspended. He was released on a notice to appear with a May 24 Rochelle court date.

On April 20 at 1:15 p.m. Austin D. Wilson, 29, of Byron was cited for speeding 50 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 24 Rochelle court date.

On April 20 at 9:35 a.m. Michael D. Holland, 55, of Rochelle was cited for expired registration, speeding 53 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone, and driving an uninsured vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 24 Rochelle court date.

On April 20 at 3:15 p.m. Richard D. Garden, 76, of

Malta was cited for expired registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 24 Rochelle court date.

On April 20 at 2:24 p.m. Frederick LeFlore, 61, of Rockford was cited for speeding 71 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 24 Rochelle court date.

On April 20 at 1:11 p.m. Nancy K. Hollenbeck, 58, of Lindenwood was cited for expired registration. She signed a promise to comply and was given a May 24 Rochelle court date.

On April 20 at 1:57 p.m. James P. Kasmar, 32, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On April 20 at 1:28 p.m. Alejandra V. Betancourt, 36, of Rockford was cited for speeding. She signed a promise to comply and was given a May 10 Ogle County court date.

On April 20 at 4:25 p.m.

Evan J. Johnson, 24, of Machesney Park was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 10 Ogle County court date.

On April 20 at 10:42 p.m. Jordan C. Hopkins, 31, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding DeKalb County warrant and transferred.

On April 20 at 10:42 p.m. Mauricio Morales, 32, of Sycamore was arrested for driving while license suspended and possession of cannabis (felony). He was released on a notice to appear with a May 24 Ogle County court date.

On April 21 at 8:29 a.m. Joshua A. Nambo, 33, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 65 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 24 Rochelle court date.

On April 21 at 8:45 a.m. Jessica L. Milan, 30, of Rochelle was cited for expired registration. She signed a promise to comply and was

given a May 24 Rochelle court date.

On April 21 at 3:04 p.m. William S. Elliott, 66, of Malta was cited for speeding 65 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 24 Rochelle court date.

On April 21 at 4:20 p.m. Shelley R. Lawson, 60, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 60 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a May 24 Rochelle court date.

On April 21 at 4:31 p.m. Juan Escutia Hueramo, 35, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 61 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 24 Rochelle court date.

On April 22 at 12:25 p.m. James G. Strenge, 56, of Rochelle was arrested on two outstanding Ogle County warrants and transferred.

All individuals are innocent until proven guilty.

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# SPORTS



**GRECO STATE CHAMPS**

Three Rochelle wrestlers brought home Illinois Greco-Roman State titles.

See page 8 for more details

## RTHS Girls Soccer



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team won two matches during the Byron Girls Soccer Tournament on Saturday. The Lady Hubs fell to LaSalle-Peru before beating Rockford Christian Life and Rock Island to take third place with a 2-1 record in the tournament. The two wins were Rochelle's first wins of the season.

# Rochelle scores two victories

Lady Hubs defeat Christian Life, Rock Island to take third at Byron tourney

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**BYRON** — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team gained a new sense of confidence after scoring its first two wins of the season and finishing third at the Byron Tournament on Saturday.

Rochelle overcame an opening-round loss against LaSalle-Peru, defeating

both Christian Life and Rock Island to conclude the tournament in third place. The Lady Hubs (2-1, 0-6 Interstate 8) edged Christian Life 2-1 during their second match of the tournament, with senior Sydney Thorne and junior Emma Kennay each scoring goals on assists from junior Makayla Lara.

"I think these two wins will really build our confi-

dence up," Thorne said. "I thought we communicated a lot more and our teamwork skills have improved, especially on the front line. We were connecting on more of our passes and we've started to connect more as a team because we've been spending so much time together. Confidence helps all of us and we know now that we can win, even with a lot of new

players, who know they can win now too."

Rochelle clinched its third-place finish with a 3-0 shutout over Rock Island during its third and final game of the tournament. Three different players scored goals including freshman forward Taylor Olsen, who earned her first career varsity goal during the match against LaSalle-Peru. Thorne gave the

Lady Hubs a 2-0 advantage with her second goal of the tournament before junior defender Betty Flores scored late in the match to help Rochelle preserve its shutout.

"It was really satisfying and uplifting because it's been a hard season," Flores said. "I think our performance was a stepping stone for more victories in the future. We handled the

ball more and we were getting rid of the ball quickly. We possessed the ball more and our confidence was what really brought us together. We have a lot of new girls on the team, but we don't want them to feel intimidated. We all came together equally and I thought we played as a team."

See SOCCER page 2

## RTHS Baseball

# Hubs handed Interstate 8 loss from Morris

Rochelle concedes conference sweep against Kaneland after 8-0 defeat Friday

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Juniors Breydan Andrews and Brandyn Metzger each recorded base hits, while senior Brock Metzger tossed three shutout innings on Monday evening, when the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team opened an Interstate 8 Conference series against the Morris Redskins.

A scoreless game turned south in the middle innings for the Hubs, who conceded two runs in the top of the fourth inning before an eight-run rally from Morris in the top of the fifth inning sealed a 10-0 defeat for the Rochelle side. The Hubs (4-11, 0-7 Interstate 8) will continue their series against the Redskins with a road game on Wednesday and a home game on Thursday.

Morris blew the game open with an eight-run effort in the top of the fifth inning, where the Redskins recorded four base hits while drawing five walks. The frame included an RBI double from Griffin Zweeres as well as an RBI single from Baftiri and a two-run single from Jack Wheeler. Brett Bounds also drew a bases-loaded walk to bring a run home for the Redskins.

Cody DeFavero sealed the Morris win with a two-run single in the team's second-to-last at-bat of the frame. DeFavero threw all five innings for the Redskins, striking out 11 batters with no walks.

## Kaneland

A winless start to the Interstate 8 Conference schedule continued Friday evening, when the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team concluded its three-game series against Kaneland with an 8-0 shutout loss to the Knights. Rochelle (4-10, 0-6 Interstate 8) will resume conference play on Monday evening, when the Hubs will start their series against Morris.

Zach Konrad belted a solo home run in the bot-



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Brock Metzger fires a pitch during the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball game against Morris on Monday evening.

tom of the first inning to give Kaneland a 1-0 lead. The Knights surged ahead in the bottom of the third inning, tallying five runs on two hits including a two-

run double from Parker Violet. Tom Thill scored on an error and Matthew Brunscheen laced an RBI single in the bottom of the sixth inning to put Kane-

land ahead 8-0.

Rochelle was held to four hits in the loss on Friday. Junior Ethan Goodwin doubled in the top of the third inning, while junior

Carson Lewis singled in the top of the fourth inning. Senior Brock Metzger and sophomore Brode Metzger singled over the fifth and sixth innings for the Hubs.

# SPORTS

RTHS Track & Field

## Rochelle teams race at Rocket Invitational

Hubs finish second and Lady Hubs take sixth in 12-team meet Friday evening

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCK FALLS**—The Rochelle Hub and Lady Hub track and field teams raced in the Rocket Invitational at Rock Falls on Friday evening. The Hubs took second out of 12 schools with 104 points, while the Lady Hubs finished sixth out of eight schools with 58 points. Both teams will return to action with a head-to-head coed meet at Stillman Valley on Monday evening.

**Hubs**  
Rochelle won three of the field events on Friday evening. Junior Colton Czekala claimed the shot put with a mark of 14.23 meters, while junior Jack Tilton won the high jump with a clearance of 1.85 meters and sophomore Andrew Nuyen won the pole vault with a clearance of 3.98 meters. Senior Nathan Sergeant took second in the triple jump with a mark of 12.29 meters and

senior Landon Mickley finished third in the discus throw with a mark of 40.40 meters.  
The Hubs recorded top-4 finishes in each of the five boys relays. Rochelle won the 400-meter throwers relay (Isaac Lopez, Colton Czekala, Storm Devers and Jacob Ost) with a time of 51.22 seconds and the Hubs took second in the 800-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Reece Harris, Irving Escalante and Caleb Wyssbrod) with a time of 1:36.70. Rochelle finished third in both the 1600-meter relay (Irving Escalante, Pedro Rosales, Jackson Smith and Caleb Wyssbrod) with a time of 3:38.16 and the 3200-meter relay (Irving Escalante, Pedro Rosales, Elijah Mayen and Caleb Wyssbrod) with a time of 8:50.06. The Hubs took fourth in the 400-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Reece Harris, Aaron DeClerck and Andrew Nuyen) with a time

of 45.49 seconds.  
Senior Caleb Wyssbrod and sophomore Caden Goodwin led the Hubs in the sprints, with Wyssbrod taking third in the 100-meter dash in 12.05 seconds and Goodwin finishing fourth in the 200-meter dash in 23.96 seconds. Senior Luis Hernandez was Rochelle's leading distance runner, taking sixth in the 3200-meter run with a time of 11:03.78 and seventh in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:03.20. Sophomore Wyatt Worthington finished fourth in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 17.82 seconds and eighth in the 300-meter hurdles in 46.00 seconds. Sophomore Declan McGee finished sixth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:15.12.  
**Lady Hubs**  
Junior Dempsey Atkinson scored Rochelle's lone field event win, claiming the high jump with a clearance of 1.52

meters. Senior Kyra Bivins finished second in the discus throw with a mark of 31.50 meters, while junior Erin Murphy took fourth in the shot put with a heave of 9.73 meters. Sophomore Kyrie Cragin finished second in the pole vault with a clearance of 1.98 meters and freshman Elyse Manning took fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 9.02 meters.  
Sophomores Annaliese Koziol and Rose Luxton were the leading distance runners, with Koziol taking fourth in the 3200-meter run in 13:24.90 and Luxton finishing fourth in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:50.52. Junior Alex Neece took sixth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 30.51 seconds and freshman Elyse Manning finished eighth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 14.21 seconds. Sophomore Mary Chadwick took eighth in the 800-meter run in 2:54.39. Rochelle's best relay



finish was in the 400-meter throwers relay (Kyra Bivins, Sawyer Stockton, Mary Chadwick and Abygail Losoya), where the Lady Hubs took second in 1:01.87. Rochelle finished fourth in the 3200-meter relay (Mary Chadwick, Brisa Zepeda, Bridgett Ramirez and Carmela Bright) with a time of 12:01.20 and fifth in the 1600-meter relay (Kylie Smith, Arline Villanueva, Carmela Bright and Rose Luxton) with a time of

4:52.25. The Lady Hubs took fifth in the 800-meter relay (Valerie Saldana, Zoe White, Reese Kissack and Katie Toczylowski) with a time of 2:01.90 and sixth in the 400-meter relay (Valerie Saldana, Zoe White, Reese Kissack and Katie Toczylowski) with a time of 56.82 seconds. In the 1600-meter mixed relay (Jasmine Walsh, Aaron DeClerck, Andrew Nuyen and Kyrie Cragin), Rochelle won with a time of 4:14.18.

## SOCCER: Rochelle finishes third at Byron tournament

From page 1

Olsen's goal against LaSalle-Peru came on an

assist from sophomore Evileth Mendez. The goal allowed Rochelle to avoid the shutout in a 4-1 loss

to the Cavaliers to start the tournament. The wins over Christian Life and Rock Island enabled the Lady Hubs to snap an 11-match losing streak. Rochelle will look to continue its winning ways dur-

ing Monday's road match at Kaneland.  
"We've had trouble with our chemistry since the start of the season because we lost a lot of good starters and we had a lot of incoming freshmen,"

Lara said. "They're a big part of our team now and I thought we played more as a team over the weekend. Knowing our positions and knowing how each person plays has improved our chemistry and we're seeing

that on both offense and defense. It's a huge confidence booster for everyone because all of the losing earlier in the season was letting everyone down, but those two wins brought us back up."

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### RTHS Boys Tennis

## Hubs fall in road match at DeKalb

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

DEKALB — Senior Parker Lenkaitis and sophomore Mark Green secured the Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team's lone doubles point during Monday's nonconference match at DeKalb.

Lenkaitis and Green played a tight opening set and showed dominance in the second set of their No. 1 doubles match against the Barbs, winning 7-6(2), 6-0 to score Rochelle's lone point in the team's 4-1 loss to DeKalb. The Hubs (3-5, 1-3 Interstate 8) conceded both singles matches, with senior Jimmy Chavez taking four games in a 2-6, 2-6 loss at the No. 1 singles court while sophomore Philip Winters claimed one game in a 1-6, 0-6 loss at No. 2 singles.

Senior Alex McBride and sophomore Caleb Mortensen nearly scored a two-set victory at the No. 2 doubles court, falling just short in a 6-7(6), 4-6 loss. Seniors Austin Raleigh and Eli Luxton went three sets at the No. 3 doubles court, falling 6-1, 6-7(4), 8-10 in a hard-fought battle.

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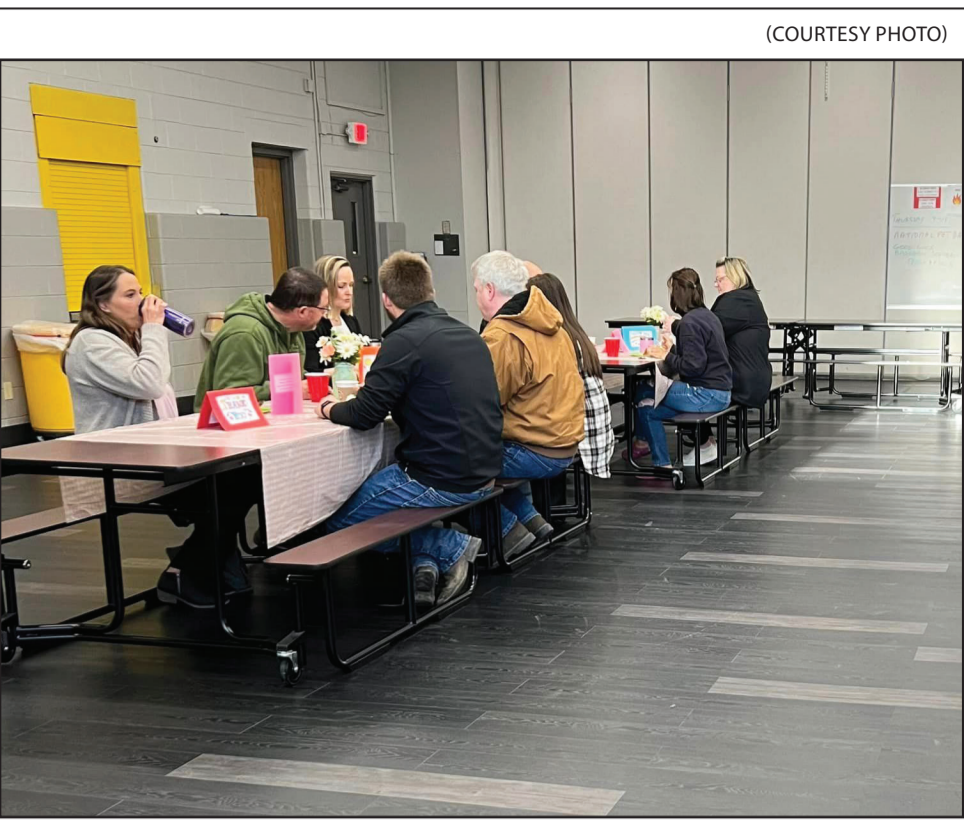
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The Rochelle News-Leader

# ASHTON NEWS



**AFC hosts Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast**

As part of National Volunteer Month, the Ashton-Franklin Center School District hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast April 12. It celebrated the many different volunteers from the community (fire/EMS personnel) and district (board members, PTC members, PTC event volunteers, classroom party volunteers, FFA alumni officers). These volunteers have given countless hours of service to the AFC community and we wanted to express our gratitude for all they have done for our students and community!" a district Facebook post said. AFC will be celebrating Volunteer Month throughout April! It is selling "We rise by lifting others" shirts and the proceeds will be donated to The Kitchen Table. You can order through this link: <https://forms.gle/Vhqvs2yttgaoEAgA>. The following week begins AFC's canned food drive to support the Ashton Care Pantry.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



**AFC FFA members compete at judging event**

Ashton-Franklin Center FFA members Xavier Kloss, LaHelah Cunningham, and Corey Heinrich participated in the Section 2 FFA Livestock and Dairy Judging Career Development Event on April 15. Corey was the 10th place individual in dairy judging and the team placed seventh in dairy and ninth in livestock.

## AFC baseball team earns wins

**AFC baseball team defeats Milledgeville**

The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity baseball team took down Milledgeville 13-7 on Tuesday, April 9. Aaron Lester went 3-for-3 with three runs, while Nolan Rueff recorded three RBIs and Chase Hayes-Near went 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs. Caleb Thomas scored three runs and pitched six innings for the Raiders, striking out two batters and earning the win.

**AFC baseball falls against Hinckley-Big Rock**

The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity baseball team split its doubleheader against Polo on Saturday, April 20. The Raiders won the first game 6-1 behind two hits from Ben Rockwood, Nolan Rueff and Logan O'Brien. Caleb Thomas threw all seven innings, striking out seven batters and allowing just one earned run to record the victory on the pitcher's mound.

Ashton-Franklin Center fell 7-3 in the second game. Aaron Lester went 2-for-3 with one RBI, while Ben Rockwood added two RBIs. Lester pitched six innings with five strikeouts.



**Cochrane, Viall serve as FFA voting delegates**

Ashton-Franklin Center FFA members Leah Cochrane and Kate Viall served as the voting delegates at the Section 2 FFA Officer Elections. They helped to choose the six members from the schools in our area to represent the membership and promote FFA. Section 2 consists of Amboy, Ashton-Franklin Center, Byron, Chadwick-Milledgeville, Fulton, LaMoille, Morrison, Oregon, Polo, Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico, Rochelle, Sterling and Stillman Valley.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



**AFCHS names 2024 Prom Court**

Ashton-Franklin Center High School recently named its 2024 Prom Court: Zayne Becker, Alex Butcher, Mylique Davidson, Mitchell McPheron, Ethan Vogeler, Taylor Jahn, Bri Gonnerman, Katrina Underhille, Madison Holbrook, and Zoe Willcutt (not pictured). King and Queen will be crowned at the Grand March and Coronation on April 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the new gym.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



**AFC FFA participates in FFA quiz bowl**

Ashton-Franklin Center FFA members Ari Power and Kate Viall participated in the Section 2 FFA Quiz Bowl held April 10 in Oregon. The team placed second.

## COMMUNITY MATTERS

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Mon-Thu 1pm-6:30pm | Sat 10am-1pm | Closed Fri & Sun

Call 815-973-8397 or [millsandpetrierentals@gmail.com](mailto:millsandpetrierentals@gmail.com) to rent the gym, Legion room, entry hall and/or commercial kitchen

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Mills and Petrie Memorial Library  
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815-453-2241  
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**Village of Ashton**  
LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

810 Main Street | PO Box 186  
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(815) 453-5019 - fax

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[libertyvillageofrochelle.com](http://libertyvillageofrochelle.com)

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501 6th Ave.  
 815.562.4443  
[ahlberglaw.net](http://ahlberglaw.net)

##### Hewitt & Wagner - Attorneys at Law

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 815.562.2704  
[hewitt-wagner.com](http://hewitt-wagner.com)

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[hubcityseniorcenter.com](http://hubcityseniorcenter.com)

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 815.562.4189  
[therochellechamber.com](http://therochellechamber.com)

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[www.rmu.net](http://www.rmu.net)

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815.562.6872 | 815.453.2441  
beveragefamilyfh.com

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### Rochelle Community Hospital

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countryfinancial.com/joshmessenger  
josh.messenger@countryfinancial.com

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bwrochelle.com

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# PRIME TIME

## Tips to find a home health aide

A desire to live independently seems to be part of human nature. Though that desire may continue to burn as individuals approach retirement age, unforeseen circumstances like medical issues or the death of a partner may result in a need to work with a professional caregiver.

Home health aides (HHAs) can help aging individuals or those with certain physical or cognitive limitations live full lives without requiring them to move into assisted living facilities or seek alternative housing arrangements. HHAs provide a host of services, and individuals living in well-populated areas may have no shortage of options as they seek to hire a professional to help themselves or a loved one with the tasks of daily life. Individuals or families beginning their search for a home health aide can keep these tips in mind.

- Identify the services required. The Family Caregiver Alliance® notes there are several main areas to assess when identifying which services individuals may need help with. Personal care consists of bathing, eating, dressing, toileting, and grooming. Household care involves cooking, cleaning, laundry, and shopping. HHAs who provide medical care may help clients manage medications, provide physical therapy and help



clients get to their doctor's appointments. Companionship is a component of emotional care, which also may entail engaging clients in meaningful activities and conversation. Identifying the services required can help individuals and their families zero in on the professionals who can help them.

- Seek recommendations from trusted doctors and confidantes. An individual who needs daily assistance at home can ask

this or her physician for recommendations (family members can ask as well). Physicians undoubtedly have had previous patients who have benefited from the services of HHAs, so they can likely recommend local professionals. Trusted confidantes, such as neighbors, relatives and friends, who have been in similar situations, or have family members who have required HHAs, also can be an invaluable resource.

- Contact a local agency.

The FCA notes that contacting a local Home Care Agency is a formal way to find an HHA for yourself or a loved one. Various agencies are likely in operation within a reasonable distance of a person's home, though the FCA notes far fewer agencies serve rural areas. Contacting a local Home Care Agency can put individuals and their families in contact with professionals who can help match people with particular needs with HHAs who

specialize in such care or have extensive experience providing a range of home care services.

- Look into a direct-hire group. AARP® notes that direct-hire agencies maintain networks of independent caregivers and facilitate connections between those professionals and individuals and families seeking help. When working with a direct-hire group, inquire about their fees and ask if they can share any information

regarding how to pay independent contactors who can be found through their agencies. It's also important to ask if direct-hire groups formally vet professionals that can be found through them or if individuals and families must conduct their own background checks.

Individuals who need some assistance with daily living can employ various strategies to find home health aides who can provide such services.

## The role of a home health aide

CAREGIVERS come from all walks of life. Doctors and nurses may be the frontline medical providers people encounter most frequently, but there are plenty of others who do their part to maintain the well-being of individuals, including home health aides.

Home health aides, sometimes called personal care aides, are brought in to assist a person with activities of daily life. An HHA typically helps a person who may need some assistance with tasks they cannot perform due to illness or disability. HHAs may work in a person's home, in a group home or in another care facility.

AARP says home health aides are considered health care paraprofessionals and must meet established training

requirements, which vary by location.

HHAs may perform various duties, including:

- assistance with personal care, such as dressing, toileting, feeding, and moving from bed to chair, etc.
- checking vital signs
- monitoring a client
- light housekeeping
- meal planning and cooking
- picking up prescriptions
- companionship

HHAs typically will not provide skilled nursing care and may not be able to offer recommendations on treatment or medications.

Individuals can find the services of HHAs who may work independently or are placed through agencies. Sometimes a doctor or hospital will have connections to HHA services and can make



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www.LSSI.org

referrals. It can be useful to interview several potential HHAs to find one who will fit with the needs and personality of the person requiring

assistance. A good HHA will be compassionate, patient and flexible. As illness or injury also can affect a person's mood, HHAs must be able to ad-

just if a client is reluctant to receive help or is depressed or anxious from his or her limitations.

Home health aides serve vital roles in the health care community by providing care and companionship to those who can no longer live independently.

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF ROCHELLE ROCHELLE, IL WELL NO. 8 WATER TREATMENT FACILITY RE-BID General Notice

City of Rochelle (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:  
**WELL NO. 8 WATER TREATMENT FACILITY RE-BID 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 May 6, 2024, at 1:00 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.**

### Obtaining the Bidding Documents

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:  
[www.fehrgraham.com](http://www.fehrgraham.com)  
Upon accessing the website, Bidders will see a drop down titled Connect. Select, "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 9062337 in the field provided to view the full ad for the City of Rochelle WELL NO. 8 WATER TREATMENT FACILITY RE-BID project and download a complete set of bidding documents from this page for a non-refundable fee of \$25.00. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto: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.

### Instructions to Bidders

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract 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:

Owner: City of Rochelle  
By: Adam Lanning  
Title: Water & Water Reclamation Superintendent  
Date: April 02, 2024  
No. 0419  
(April 24, 2024)

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

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## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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## 113 FINANCIAL

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## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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

## 301 ANTIQUES

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

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

## 305 GARAGE SALES

MOVING SALE. 506 John St. Steward, IL, Thursday - Friday 8 am - 5pm, Saturday, 8am - 2pm all items marked half off. Over 40 years of treasures, kitchen items, small furniture, gardening tools, lots of adult clothing, books, some Harley stuff and a 2007 Ultra Glide Screaming Eagle Harley Davidson. (042424RNL)

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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Rochelle wrestlers Kaiden Morris and Roman Villalobos (above at left) each earned first-place finishes during the 2024 Illinois Greco-Roman State Championships. Elias Andronic (right) also brought home a first-place finish in the tournament.

## Rochelle trio takes home Illinois Greco-Roman State Championships

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**OAKFOREST**—Three Rochelle wrestlers stood atop their respective divisions during the 2024 Illinois Greco-Roman State Championships at Oak Forest High School on Saturday afternoon.

Kaiden Morris went undefeated to win the Junior 215 Division crown with a 5-0 record. Morris, who was the IHSA 2A state runner-up at 220 during the winter, opened the tournament with a clean 10-0 technical fall over Edwardsville's Dominic Dykstra. After a second-round bye, Morris strung together three straight wins via technical fall, defeating BTS-Chicago/Oak Park's Eric Harris 8-0, Patton Trained's Chason Daly 9-0 and Illinois wrestler Xavier Mohead 9-0.

"It felt good to get out there and throw some guys around," Morris said. "I expected to win and I'm glad I was able to get it done. I knew what to do in certain situations and that came from training and practicing with my coaches. The mental side of wrestling is where I've improved the most from last year because I feel like I go into each match and I wrestle with more confidence."

Morris took down Izzy Style's Asher Sheldon via fall to win the division championship. The state championship qualifies Morris for the 2024 USA Wrestling Freestyle & Greco-Roman Nationals, which will be held in Fargo, North Dakota from July 12-20, 2024. It's also the second state title in greco-roman wrestling for Morris, who finished second last year and first two years ago.

"During my sophomore year, I didn't feel like I could compete against guys who I thought were bigger and better than me," Morris said. "This year, I have the mind set that I'm just as big and just as good as these guys, so I wrestle like it. It does a lot for my confidence and the end goal for me is Fargo, so to be the best greco wrestler in the state is a confidence builder for Fargo."

Roman Villalobos also earned a state championship, finishing 4-0 over four bouts

in the 16U 190 Division to also qualify for the national tournament in Fargo. Villalobos scored an 11-2 win over El Paso Gridley's Benjamin Buis before notching an 8-0 victory over Thunderbird Wrestling's Colton Zvonar. After holding off Harvey Twisters wrestler Adrian Esparza for a 9-6 decision, Villalobos sealed the state title with an 8-0 technical fall over Frankfort's Logan Biggs.

"There's better competition at the older age groups, so winning was a more fun experience," said Villalobos, who won a greco-roman state title at the 14U level as an eighth-grader. "I've been training hard in practice and getting more repetitions with the moves I've been working on. I think I've improved on the mental side of wrestling and knowing that I can put all of my moves together is a big confidence booster. I want to compete at the highest level I can."

Rounding out the trio of champions from Rochelle was 6-year-old Elias Andronic, who won the 8U 56 Division with an 8-0 technical fall over Barrington Broncos Wrestling Club's Emmett Gellings. Knox Ferry took second in the 10U 56 Division after one bout, while Nehemiah Andronic also took second in the 10U 71 Division with a 2-1 record, scoring 8-0 technical falls over Hurricanes wrestler Zach Caputo and Callan Wrestling Academy's Keegan Cumbee.

"It feels good to win my first greco-roman state title and also my first state title in any style," Andronic said. "I feel happy and proud of myself. I like that wrestling pushes me to work hard at everything and I have a lot of fun doing it too. I always try to sit in the front while my coaches are showing the moves to get a better view so that I can use the moves the right way."

Among the third-place finishes from the Rochelle area were Ava Barber (8U 70 Division), Rowen Villalobos (10U 84 Division), Teddy Millard (12U 74 Division) and Jacksyn Windham (14U 187 Division). Fourth-place finishes included Jackson Moreno (10U 71 Division), Conrad Barber (10U 77 Division) and Brenden Voight (16U 157 Division).

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