

Crystal served with U.S. Army from 1978-82

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Hub baseball team wins on Senior Night

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

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Local taxing bodies working to potentially offer incentive program to combat home shortage

'I'd like to see this program ready to come before the boards in 60 days'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Local taxing bodies have had recent conversations about a potential incentive program to help with a shortage of homes in the area, Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows said April 17.

The taxing bodies include the City of Rochelle, the Rochelle Elementary School District, Rochelle Township High School District, the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District, the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District, Flagg Township and Kishwaukee College. Bearrows said two meetings have been held thus far on the concept and a third is planned to clarify the mechanics of the potential program, who is qualified for it and how it will be handled internally by the taxing bodies.

The potential program would be a five-year plan and 20 percent of tax rebate each year for new construction. There would also be incentive for buyers of existing homes in Rochelle, such as a freeze in



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Local taxing bodies have had recent conversations about a potential incentive program to help with a shortage of homes in the area, Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows said April 17.

property tax rates for five years. Incentives could also include discounted use of local amenities like Fairways Golf Course and The REC Center, which are owned by taxing bodies, for participants.

Bearrows said he feels strongly about the home shortage in the area and wants to incentivize home builders and purchasers to do those things in Rochelle. "We should create some type of incentive to make

them want to live here versus any other town in the area," Bearrows said. "Our job is to be good stewards of the community, not just the tax money. We have to lay out a roadmap of how we can promote growth

and development on the residential side, which will ultimately positively impact our schools, tax base, and equalized assessed value (EAV)."

See **SHORTAGE** pg 2

Cinco de Mayo Rochelle festival held Saturday

'I like seeing all the happy faces, that's the most enjoyable part for me'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Saturday, the Cinco de Mayo Rochelle festival was held in the downtown area. The event, presented by Rochelle's Hispanic Community Association, was free to enter and featured live music, dancing, children's activities, Ballet Folklorico, a petting zoo, craft vendors, food vendors, DJ Sanchez Mix and a Quince Pageant.

The event saw sunny skies before braving a brief storm in the afternoon. Event Organizer and Rochelle City Councilwoman Rosaelia Arteaga said she was encouraged by the amount of people that came out for the start of the event and those that braved the storm and spent time at the festival afterwards.

"Seeing people stick it out during the storm and come back after it cleared up was amazing," Arteaga said. "After things cleared up, I watched everybody come back. The show went on. Watching the vendors and families continue even after the rain and having it be a success was exciting."

Arteaga said the event



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Saturday, the Cinco de Mayo Rochelle festival was held in the downtown area. The event, presented by Rochelle's Hispanic Community Association, was free to enter and featured live music, dancing, children's activities, Ballet Folklorico, a petting zoo, craft vendors, food vendors, DJ Sanchez Mix and a Quince Pageant.

saw a large number of food and craft vendors, which may require more space in future years. The festival featured music from Chicago and various information booths from community organizations.

The event being free is

one of Arteaga's favorite aspects of it.

"We don't want to ever change the free admission aspect," Arteaga said. "People can bring a picnic if they want to and come and enjoy everything. I like seeing

all the happy faces, that's the most enjoyable part for me. I liked seeing all of the kids at the petting zoo. I just wanted to have a minute to look at everybody and have a snapshot. People are talking and eating and spending time

with family and friends. Seeing people come out and enjoy it is fulfilling for me. Everyone comes together and has a good time."

See **CINCO DE MAYO** page 2

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KNOW IT TODAY



AFCES students visit nursing home

Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School students recently visited a local nursing home. **Page 8**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
75 53	58 47
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
61 42	60 47

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:



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LOCAL NEWS



The event saw sunny skies before braving a brief storm in the afternoon. Event Organizer and Rochelle City Councilwoman Rosaelia Arteaga said she was encouraged by the amount of people that came out for the start of the event and those that braved the storm and spent time at the festival afterwards.

CINCO DE MAYO: Annual celebration held in downtown area on Saturday

From page 1

Arteaga said she spoke with a number of vendors that sold out during the Cinco de Mayo event, even with the storm. The event has been held in some form in Rochelle

for over 10 years, and Cinco de Mayo events are starting to become more common in surrounding towns, she said.

"It's exciting to have so much interest from vendors," Arteaga said. "I've wanted it to grow. I want

everyone to enjoy that experience and sell out of what they were selling. People want to come and with that we'll need more space and new ideas."

The Cinco De Mayo Rochelle event takes "months of work" to put

on, Arteaga said, including booking performers and working with vendors. Planning for next year's Cinco de Mayo event is already underway and the organization's La Fiesta Hispana event will take place in the fall on Sept.

14. "I think Rochelle has always been inviting of different cultures and celebrations," Arteaga said. "I think our Hispanic population feels comfortable and safe. I think people are feeling more confident

in attending and being involved as vendors and in our business community and to be involved in other events. It's feeling welcomed and a part of the community. We want everybody involved and together."

(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)



SHORTAGE: Bearrows discusses potential action to improve housing

From page 1

The plan will be made public once it is finalized, Bearrows said. He'd like to see the program ready to come before the taxing bodies' boards within 60 days. The concept has been discussed for "well over two years," he said.

Bearrows said each of the taxing bodies have

been supportive of the thought process and proposal.

"For all of our taxing bodies, no one would ever take in less revenue than they are earning today," Bearrows said. "If you are talking about new construction, the farmland that could be developed or areas that could be buildable, they're receiving a

base tax rate today. This program would never take any tax money away. What I prefer to think of is, this is a way that we as good stewards and elected officials can make a commitment to the longevity, growth and promotion of our local community. As we bring more residents in, our EAV goes up and hopefully our tax rate can go down. We want to bring new people in and do it in a way that's a benefit to existing residents."

Bearrows said the closure of May Elementary School in recent years due to declining enrollment numbers was "very discouraging" from his perspective and is one of the reasons he'd like to see the home incentive program move forward.

"That's not the sign of a community that's growing," Bearrows said. "We need to do something that's proactive to make our community grow and we can reopen that school and get the numbers up for our school districts and with new construction have our young people stay

here. Currently, there's no housing to allow for that. It's very limited. My hope is this program will help correct that problem."

If it goes forward, Bearrows expects the housing incentive program to start with a small portion of lots and developments, due to conversations he's had with developers. That wouldn't make for a large burden on taxing bodies when they cut checks back to homeowners or the buyers of a new home for their portion of property taxes.

From Jan. 1, 2023 to about a month ago, the city saw two building permits for residential. Bearrows said his hope once the program and "several other ancillary programs" are put into place, that there would be around 12 new homes per year.

"If 50 percent of those are local folks that build a new house because of the incentives, that opens up existing homes for new owners," Bearrows said. "Let's say a home has an established value and someone's been there a long time and the tax bill

is \$3,500 a year, when that home sells, maybe the tax bill based on current rates could become \$5,500 a year. Instead of having that rate go up, we could potentially freeze that rate for a five-year period for the existing home. There's an incentive for someone to build a new house, and also an incentive for someone to move here and buy an existing home from another area. They'll have a huge benefit for five years. It gives us something to offer that no other community is offering. In today's world, it's all about incentivizing. That's the mindset we have to have and we have to market our community as a great place to live. It is, but we have to give a little extra."

When asked about potential areas in town that could lend themselves well to new homes, Bearrows mentioned land north and west of 20th Street, on Veterans Parkway, and in the Lake Lida area.

The city works to incentivize employers to bring their businesses to Rochelle, and Bearrows

said he wants to make sure having available housing for those businesses' employees goes hand in hand with that to bring their spending and families to town as well to help with sales tax and school enrollment numbers.

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh stressed the importance of a multi-pronged approach to housing and focusing on apartment and multi-family housing, along with single-family.

"It's an issue nationwide," Fiegenschuh said. "Locally, one of the things we can do to try to offset the increase in interest rates and housing costs is to provide a rebate on taxes. And nobody is losing anything. If there's a piece of vacant ground and someone comes in and builds a \$350,000 house on that, why not rebate those taxes back? Because you're not losing anything. You're getting nothing now. But after that five years, then you get that full tax benefit and you have another person living and shopping in your community."

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LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Michael John Vanderpool

ROCHELLE — Michael John Vanderpool, age 82 passed away on Sunday, May 5, 2024 in the presence of his family and the loving hands of Serenity Hospice and his Lord and Savior. He was born on January 10, 1942, the son of Carroll and Ruth (Hayes) Vanderpool. Growing up Michael worked on the family farm and was credited with making the straightest rows of anyone.

Michael always took pride in whatever he was involved in, including working 40 years as a Fork Lift Operator at Del Monte, where he retired. He also loved fast cars and bought many new cars in his life-

time, including his pride and joy, a 1971 Pontiac Judge. Michael also enjoyed Nascar, Wrestling, and had a fantastic album collection, including some of his favorites, Johnny Cash and, of course, Elvis. He loved spending time with his family, rarely missing a family gathering, especially if there was going to be "The Famous" Chicken & Noodles prepared by his sister Carol. That was his favorite!

Michael is survived by a son, Steven Otten; brother, Richard (Claudia) Vanderpool; sister, Carol Anne Capes, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and 2



sisters. Per his wishes, there will be no public services. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Serenity Hospice and Home, 1658 IL-2, Oregon, IL 61061. Burial at Whiterock Cemetery. Unger Horner Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Guest book at www.UngerHorner.com

Webster Street in Oregon. As a result, Michael A Onley-Carr, 30, of Winnebago, was arrested for driving while license suspended. Onley-Carr was additionally issued a citation for operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended. Onley-Carr was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On May 4 at approximately 8:51 p.m. deputies performed a traffic stop in the 16,000 block of East Ritchie Road. Through the course of the investigation, it was determined that the driver, Eduardo Valerio-Ibarra, 45, of Rockford, was driving under the influence of alcohol. Valerio-Ibarra was arrested for driving under the influence. Valerio-Ibarra was also issued a citation for no tail lights. Valerio-Ibarra was released with a notice to appear.

On May 6 at approximately 10:15 a.m. deputies arrested Luis Sian Arroyo, 23, of Cliffside Park, New Jersey at the Ogle County Courthouse. He was arrested on an outstanding warrant for speeding. There was no bond on the warrant. Sian Arroyo appeared in court, was released, and will appear in court again on June 12 at 9 a.m.

Gene Benton Endthoff

GALESBURG — Gene Benton Endthoff, 91, of Galesburg, Illinois, died at 8:08 p.m. Thursday, May 2, 2024 at Seminary Manor, Galesburg.

Gene was born December 16, 1932 in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, the son of Gene Benton and Clara (Haas) Endthoff. Gene married Betty Lou Hill on June 17, 1951 in Rochelle, Illinois. He went on to serve in the US Army from January 6, 1953 until he was honorably discharged on January 5, 1955, attaining the rank of Sergeant. Gene worked as a building official for Rochelle, Illinois for many years and later as a building official for Odessa, Texas. He last worked as the Director of Codes for the National Fire Sprinkler Association, retiring in 2005.

Gene is survived by one daughter, Susan Hite

of Galesburg; one son, Dan (Laura) Endthoff of Galesburg; and seven grandchildren. Gene is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 71 years, Betty on September 12, 2022; two sons, Thomas Gene in 1958 and Robb Gene on December 20, 2017; and one sister.

Having a mind for design and construction, Gene enjoyed building many different things from homes to model trains. He was passionate about fire sprinklers saving lives and retrofitted two of his homes with fire sprinklers. Always having enjoyed watching trains, Galesburg proved a great fit. He loved history and studied World War II extensively. Gene also enjoyed reading and later listening to book by his favorite author Louis L'Amour.



Cremation will be accorded. Graveside services will be 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 11, 2024 at Lawnridge Cemetery, Rochelle, Illinois. Arrangements have been entrusted to Watson Thomas Funeral Home and Crematory, Galesburg. Memorial contributions may be directed to Wounded Warriors or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Online expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.watsonthomas.com.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

OREGON — On May 3 at approximately 7:49 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop within the 110-mile marker of Interstate 39 northbound. After an investigation, deputies placed Malayiah R. Stewart, 20, of Rockford, under arrest for driving while license suspended. Stewart was released from the scene with a notice to appear in court.

On May 3 at approximately 7:36 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 64 and Daysville Road. After further investigation, Juan Gutierrez-Ordaz, 42, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Gutierrez-Ordaz was also cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle, suspended registration, and expired registration. Gutierrez-Ordaz was released on a notice to appear.

On May 3 at 9:41 p.m. deputies checked a vehicle in the area of East Illinois Route 38 and Thorpe Road that was parked at a rest area. After a brief investigation, Joshua Seaton, 29, of Rochelle, was placed under arrest for aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol and driving while license suspended. Seaton was released with a notice

to appear court date.

On May 3 at approximately 5:27 p.m. deputies, with assistance from the Polo Fire and EMS, responded to the intersection of US 52 and Freeport Road for a reported two-vehicle crash with no injuries. Upon investigation, it was determined that the driver of a yellow pickup truck, Benjamin Horn, 25, of Brooklyn, Wisconsin, was traveling northbound and made a complete stop at US 52 & Freeport Road before proceeding through the intersection. At that time, a vehicle traveling westbound on US 52 driven by Samuel Decrane, 27, of Dixon, struck the vehicle in the intersection, causing both vehicles to leave the roadway, coming to a rest in the ditch. Horn was issued a citation for failure to yield.

On May 4 at 9:34 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the 300 block of Errett Road in Hillcrest for a report of a domestic disturbance. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Noe G. Rosas, 32, of Hillcrest, for domestic battery. Rosas was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held pending a court appearance before a judge.

On May 4 at 6:15 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop at South 4th Street and

son-Carrell, 18, of Rochelle was arrested for domestic battery and transferred.

On May 3 at 6:44 p.m. Jennifer N. Smith, 42, of Rochelle was arrested for aggravated retail theft and criminal trespass to property. She was released on a notice to appear with a May 24 Ogle County court date.

On May 4 at 1:52 a.m. Ryan J. Whitaker, 31, of Creston was arrested for possession of controlled substance. He was released on a notice to appear with a May 24 Ogle County court date.

On May 4 at 3:05 a.m. Jaden L. Joseph, 20, of Franklin Grove was arrested for two counts of felony possession of a controlled substance and possession of ammunition without a FOID card. He was released on a notice to appear with a June 7 Ogle County court date.

On May 4 at 1:02 p.m. Kimberly M. Hall, 57, of Paw Paw was arrested for retail theft. She was released on a notice to appear with a May 24 Ogle County court date.

On May 4 at 4:06 p.m. Rodrigo E. Villa-Alvarado, 20, of Hanover Park was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 4 at 9:59 p.m. Christian M. Rivas, 36, of Rochelle was cited for illegal transportation of alcohol-passenger. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 5 at 11:13 a.m. Hilario Rodriguez, 53, of Ingleside was cited for

speeding 62 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 5 at 1:07 p.m. Karson A. Manukas, 25, of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a stop sign. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 5 at 1:35 p.m. Marcelino Arreola, 71, 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 June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 5 at 2:36 p.m. Ivan Garcia Leyva, 24, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 65 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 5 at 11:14 p.m. Joshua M. Holton, 29, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Illinois Department of Corrections warrant and transferred.

On May 6 at 2:57 a.m. Anthony P. Boudreau, 65, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On May 5 at 5:16 p.m. Maria P. Fernandez, 49, of Belvidere was cited for speeding. She signed a promise to comply and was given a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 6 at 12:13 p.m. Jonna B. Shaw of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

All individuals are innocent until proven guilty.

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Rochelle's Crystal served in the

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Theresa Crystal of Rochelle served in the United States Army from 1978-1982.

After enlisting right out of high school, Crystal did her basic training in South Carolina at Fort Jackson. She then spent time at Fort Meade in Maryland, before spending two years at the 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany. Crystal finished up her service at Fort Belvoir in Virginia and was honorably discharged in 1982 as an E-5 sergeant, the highest rank she could achieve in four years.

"I came from an inner-city family with limited means," Crystal said. "My reason for joining the military was to get my education paid for and the experience. Traveling to Europe was something I wanted to do. I knew there were Army stations over there. And I was able to travel all over Europe."

While stationed at the 97th General Hospital in Germany, Crystal worked in personnel management for the Army. She worked out of the headquarters office and was involved in guiding those interested in promotions, and wrote awards and commendations.

"If people were wounded or had done something heroic, the commanding officer would write an outline for me and I'd write an essay out of it," Crystal said. "I wrote the incident into a narrative that would be read to families and headquarters at celebrations for awards."

Crystal has used that experience in her current career as a teacher at Rochelle Middle School, where she's been for 22 years. She tells her students how their skills learned in school could be put to work in a number of ways, including in the military.

Crystal was raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota and was one of five kids. Her father and brother both served in the military as well.

"My parents asked me what I was going to do when I turned 18," Crystal said. "There's nothing wrong with becoming an independent adult and the military is one way to do that. It's a benefit to your life. The good thing about the military is you learn how to have grit and deal with things in life. It makes you strong. I knew the military would do that for me. That's something I've carried through my entire life. I don't know

that I could have made it through college successfully and as well as I did without my military experience. The military gave me so many things."

Crystal chose the Army because of the chance to end up in Europe. She tested well and was able to achieve her goal of office work in Europe. Prior to that in her basic training, she learned combat and self-defense, and learned weapons skills.

Crystal stood four-foot-10 and weighed 90 pounds when she enlisted in the military, which concerned her parents. She didn't meet the height or weight requirements for the Army, and was able to get waivers for both, which isn't common. And after those hurdles, she still had to make it through basic training.

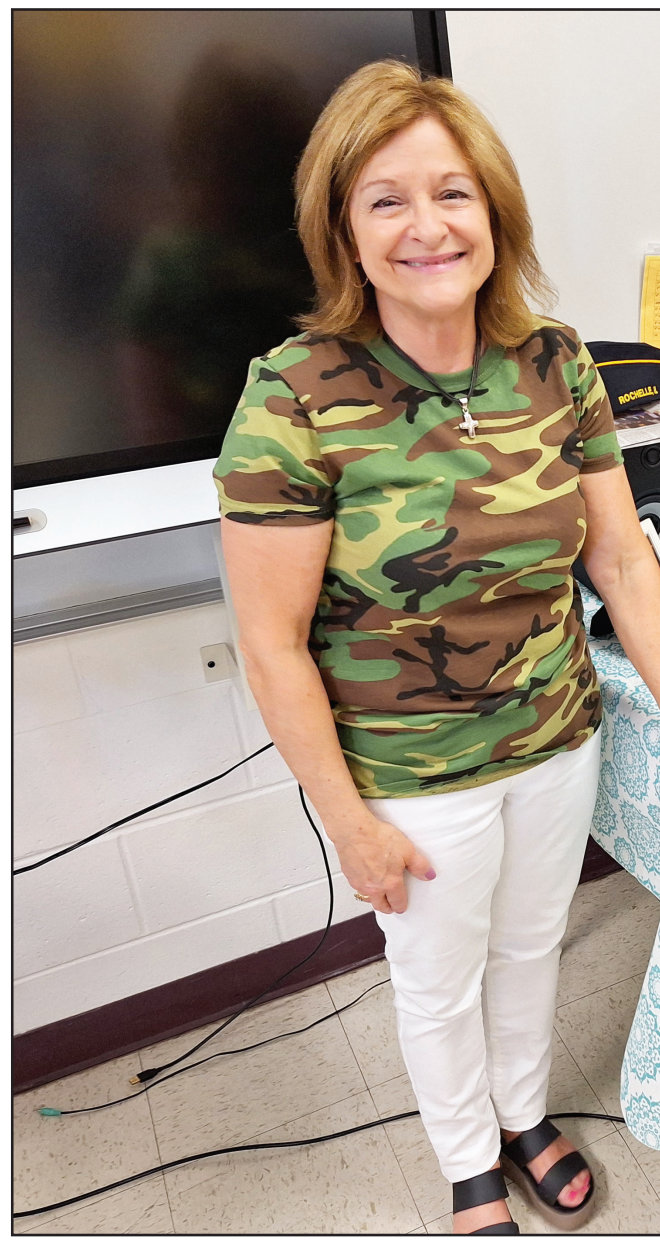
"And I did make it," Crystal said. "You have to be a qualified soldier. The drill sergeants saw I had a hard time doing things like reaching ropes and I was assigned a partner to help with things like that. God's grace is always with us. Looking back, I see how God's hand has always been in my life. I was very blessed to have help along the way. I was a scrawny little kid and I had no muscle. I gained 20 pounds in eight weeks after joining the military. I became strong and agile and I learned self defense. I used that in a few situations as a young single woman. I've stayed fit all my life. I still get up at 4 a.m. and exercise faithfully. It's been 40 years now. I'm still fit, happy, energetic and grateful for where I started."

After her service, Crystal spent time in the Kansas City area where she went to college and attained a business degree with her Army education benefits. After having children, she got her education degree as well and is currently finishing up her second master's degree.

"The state was giving out grants to veterans for education," Crystal said. "I took advantage of that. I'm going to retire next year. It's fun dealing with teenagers. I enjoy teaching and making a difference. I'm a really strict teacher, but it works when you see the results in kids."

Crystal's travel in Europe during her service included stops in Germany of Munich and Heidelberg. She also traveled to Switzerland, Holland and France. She saw sights of Oktoberfest in Munich and The Louvre Museum and the Mona Lisa in France. Her time in Europe inspired her to learn more about history.

Crystal also got the opportunity to learn about the inner



Theresa Crystal of Rochelle served in the United States Army before spending two years at the 97th General Hospital in

workings of the military. When stationed in Virginia, she was near Washington D.C. and the Pentagon.

"I saw the political side of the military," Crystal said. "And I got to see the historic sites up and down the east coast. I wasn't the best student when I learned these things for the first time. The things I saw in my time in the military deepened my love and understanding of our own country. I learned a lot about the military and its background and what it takes to protect our country. There's no place like home. Even though Europe is beautiful, there's no place like America. We have the freedom to be whatever we want, and that's not true everywhere."

The military gave Crystal skills for the rest of her life, namely discipline, which she now instills in her students at RMS.

"I learned to do the little things before getting to the big things," Crystal said. "I'm a math teacher, so I use that in my classes. You have to learn how to deal with fractions before you can solve equations. It's the little things and life builds on itself. You may think you can skip the little stuff, but you can't."

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.

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and future



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American Hero

The U.S. Army from 1978-1982



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Army from 1978-1982. After enlisting right out of high school, Crystal did her basic training in South Carolina at Fort Jackson. She then spent time at Fort Meade in Maryland, in Frankfurt, Germany.

"There's nothing wrong with becoming an independent adult and the military is one way to do that. It's a benefit to your life. The good thing about the military is you learn how to have grit and deal with things in life. It makes you strong. I knew the military would do that for me..."

Theresa Crystal



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Service Men & Women,
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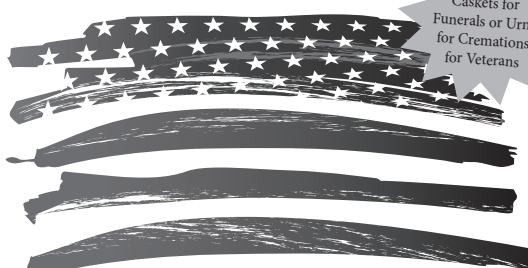
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LOCAL VIEWS

Fiegenschuh: May the 4th be with you!

2024 is off to a great start in Rochelle. Our team at the city is overseeing many projects and initiatives are transforming 2024 into one of our most productive years during my tenure. During the last city council meeting, our staff presented the proposed concepts for the downtown improvements being funded in part through a State of Illinois downtown improvement grant and alternate revenue bonds. The project includes a downtown gathering facility that will allow for outdoor events, resur-

facing of parking lots, redevelopment of blighted properties, new sidewalks and undergrounding of utilities. A huge thank you to the committee of staff and council members worked to develop and bring this great project to fruition.

The Community Development department created an arts committee made up of residents and business owners to help create more public art in our downtown and other public spaces. This group of dedicated individuals has brought a lot of great ideas to our attention. One

of our first areas of focus will be the empty lot on 4th Avenue next to Midwest-ern Clothing Company.

Our utility departments continue making major investments in infrastructure. The planned improvements include the design work for a new substation on the west end of Rochelle on Illinois Route 38, the construction of a new 138Kv line that will tie all RMU substations together to reduce outages, the design and beginning

construction of a new iron removal water treatment plant at Caron Road, continued updates to the Wastewater Treatment

Plant and cleaning and repainting of the water tower located on Illinois Route 251 at the overpass.

Our Public Works and engineering departments have numerous storm sewer and street improvement projects planned this year including the reconstruction and signalization of the 20th Street and Flagg

Road intersection, bridge improvements at 7th Avenue and Kyte Creek, rebuilding numerous alleys throughout the town and the cap and closure of Unit 1 at the Rochelle Landfill.

Finally, with pending retirements in 2024 our team is implementing several departmental consolidations. These changes will improve our core service delivery, employee safety and provide a better return on investment to our taxpayers and rate payers. I believe in our team at the city and am proud to serve with everyone. Thank you to

our entire staff. Rochelle is served by a group of dedicated people who work to put the community first and deliver services impartially.

"Do or do not, there is no try." -Yoda

"Your focus determines your reality" -Qui-Gon Jinn

"It's every citizen's duty to challenge their leaders, to keep them honest and hold them accountable if they're not." -Ahsoka Tano

Jeffrey A. Fiegenschuh, ICMA-CM, MPA, is the city manager of the City of Rochelle.

Reed Harris: Consider this - Pregnancy rates

FIRST, let's look at some statistics. United States pregnancy rates declined between 2010 and 2019. They continue to decline in this current decade. It has been a trend at least since 1991 according to the CDC. Below are statistics provided by the CDC for the decade mentioned. They are from the site: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2023/20230412.htm.

Report findings: The total estimated number of pregnancies declined by 9% from 6,069,000 pregnancies in 2010 to 5,507,000 in 2019.

The overall pregnancy rate (per 1,000 women aged 15-44) was 97.3 in 2010 and 85.6 in 2019, a 12% decline.

Unintended pregnancy rates declined by 15%, from 42.1 (per 1,000 women aged 15-44) in 2010 to 35.7 in 2019.

From 2010-2019, the percentage of pregnancies ending in live birth and of those ending in loss each increased 3%, while pregnancies ending in abortion declined 17%.

Overall pregnancy rates and unintended pregnancy

rates for teens ages 15-19 declined by more than half (52%) from 2010-2019.

Unintended pregnancy rates declined from 2010 to 2019 by 23% among Hispanic women, 17% among non-Hispanic women of races other than Black or White, 12% among Black, non-Hispanic women, and 11% among White, non-Hispanic women.

I found this information as I was trying to determine why so many politicians and Supreme Court judges were against Roe vs. Wade and why it was overturned. Also, why did it take so many conservative judges to get it overturned? There has been a push towards the elimination of Roe vs. Wade for many years, but it was not overturned until the scales were dramatically tipped in that court.

I realize that most religious people have been against this ruling for many years and I understand why. It is obvious, however, that the citizens that were and are for Roe vs. Wade far outweigh those that are not. Those that are for it, I believe, have many reasons why. Many states that decided

to change their own laws because of this ruling have changed the fundamental rights of women. Some states have eliminated the right of women to do anything to prevent them having a baby, having a healthy baby, and even the right to live so they may have a healthy baby. Can the latter be seen as a matter of an eye for an eye, i.e. mother's life for the baby's, even if the baby may be born unhealthy?

So I looked at these statistics and wondered if there was a reason for this negativity against Roe vs. Wade that may be found in them. When you look at them overall, there may be just that. Of course, this is only my opinion and you, the reader, may have another, but it is worth pondering over. Could the birth rate, continuing to decline, be a cause of the ruling? Maybe some are worried that a declining birth rate is bad for the country? Would the decline offset the mix of ethnicity in this country? Maybe it's just better to have a rising birth rate.

Yet, if this is the answer

to all the turmoil, wouldn't we then be considering laws that are opposite to but indeed similar to China's former laws? They made laws to prevent women from having too many babies and, in addition, too many of a particular gender. Here, aren't we making laws to force women to have babies? I really don't believe this but why then are they making these laws. It can't be because they want to control women or make sure they stay home and out of the work force? And it can't be a religious issue because religion should stay out of politics, right?

If it's not a control issue or one of worry over declining birth rates, or even one of religious belief, then what is it? That is a question to which each of us has to make a decision. Not making a decision is actually making one which leaves us the status quo. Right now, that's not going well in my viewpoint.

So, if we decide to leave everything as is, what do we need to do and what else needs happen? We

need to get ourselves and the government involved in taking care of the babies after they are born. Make sure they have food, a good home, health, and education. Of course, this is something we should have already done since so many children are starving today or living on the streets. We do try to feed them in school, but even these laws are sometimes challenged as handouts. Of course, all of it is trying to make sure children have nourishment.

We also try to help families by giving them extra money to buy food. This, again, is looked at as a handout by some. Maybe this is true since some do try to take advantage of our programs, but should we eliminate these programs because of this? Should we not try to fix these programs instead? Shouldn't we try to help those children we are imposing these conditions on? Maybe even provide institutional help for those babies that need it? Would we help those families that have lost mothers due to these imposed conditions?

It looks to me like by forcing laws impinging on

our rights, government is getting bigger, not smaller. Are we not looking for a government that helps its citizens with those situations that affect us all? Are we not against government that removes our individual freedoms? People want to call the first scenario a socialist activity, but is it really? Can we each build our own road, eliminate, on our own, companies that pollute, provide our own fire department, our own police force? Can we build our own safe cars, invest our money and keep it personally safe, fly in our own safe air space? These are federal, state, and local government duties we have asked them to do. These are not for me or you but for us.

In the second scenario, do we not see these types of restrictions as dictatorial, autocratic, or even tyrannical? Do we want to give in to any of these? Would we be naive not to think that the next step in this process is the elimination of all birth control methods?

In my next article we'll discuss a man's position with these ever-changing rules and laws.

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
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Darci Waltrip doobs12@comcast.net

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

COMMUNITY

Ogle Sheriff's Office announces distracted driving enforcement results

OREGON — The Ogle County Sheriff's Office announced it issued 20 citations for hands-free law violations during April's Distracted Driving Awareness Month enforcement campaign. In total deputies issued 258 citations during the month that also included

18 citations for suspended or revoked drivers and 11 arrests for driving under the influence.

"Driver distraction is a persistent issue in Ogle County that often has life-altering consequences," Sheriff Brian VanVickle said. "Issuing a citation is a proven

way to get motorists to pay attention or pay the price. Distracted Driving Awareness Month may be over, but we will continue our efforts to stop motorists from engaging in this deadly behavior."

The Ogle County Sheriff's Office joined forces with the Illinois State

Police, local law enforcement and highway safety partners for this enforcement effort.

The Illinois distracted driving campaign was funded with federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Regional Transportation Committee Meeting is May 17

PRINCETON — The next Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Regional Transportation Committee Meeting for Region 3 (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle and Putnam Counties) will be held on Friday May 17 at 10 a.m. at BPART – 535 Elm Place, Princeton, IL

61356. Human service organizations with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged to attend, as well as anyone interested in public transit. If you would like further information, please contact via email: hstp@ncicg.org or call us at (815) 433-5830.

We will have reserved time slots available for

public comment via Zoom for anyone not able to attend the meeting in person between 10:15-10:30 a.m. If you would like to participate in public comment via Zoom during that time frame, please contact us at (815) 433-5830 to reserve your time slot.

HSTP identifies transportation needs and devel-

ops solutions to improve transportation services for the general public. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and veterans. For more information about NCICG, HSTP, or if special accommodations are needed, please contact Connor Schwinn at (815) 433-5830.

RTHS Class of 1984 seeking classmates

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Township High School Class of 1984 needs help finding the following classmates for its reunion on Sept. 21, 2024:

Robert Argetsinger, Tiffany Armesto Baker,

Mista Hamby Asbury, Dawn Austin, Peggy Bollman, Everett Bradley, Randy Conner, Susan Stoll Degelau, Lori Clemmens Funke, George Garza, Maria Gonzales, Kevin Goodrich, Karen Govig Savage, Greg Graber,

Janice Murphy Gunning, Michelle Gunning, Robert Hilliard, Alan Holmstrom, Charles Johnson, Michael Johnson, Joo Rhee Kim, Andy Koebler, Dean Mayberry, Kenneth McCulloch, Tracey McNeill, Kevin Mitchell, Timothy

Payton, Art Sandoval, Richard Snyder, Brian Taylor, John Wheeler, Vickie Huang Yussman, and Tammy Wilder Zoia.

If you have any information, please send to: rthsclassof84@gmail.com.



- 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
- Apr. 25 - Danielle Bettner, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 26 - Bruce Norkus, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 27 - RACF, \$25
- Apr. 28 - Darcie Mann, Rockton, \$50
- Apr. 29 - Don Horner, Rochelle, \$25
- Apr. 30 - Breanna Sturtz, Morrison, \$25
- May 1 - Heather Sharp, Roscoe, \$25
- May 2 - Grange Kissack, Rochelle, \$25
- May 3 - Kathy Butler, Princeton, \$25
- May 4 - RACF, \$25
- May 5 - Elisa Rubeck, Rochelle, \$50
- May 6 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
- May 7 - Hope Croegaert, Valparaiso, Indiana, \$25
- May 8 - Laura Cedillo Martinez, Rochelle, \$25

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May 8
Ashley Martinez

May 10
Dominic Lopez

May 12
Bill & Mary Baskins
(anniversary)

May 16
Kathy Conant

May 17
Krynn Hayward

May 18
Arianna Thompson

May 20
Darrell & Beth Bolhous
(anniversary)

May 21
Heather Floress
Heidi McPhearson
Brad & Kelly Arnold
(anniversary)

May 22
John Gonzales

May 24
Katie Sherburne
Dave & Mary Helfrich
(anniversary)

May 25
John & Kristi Gonzales
(anniversary)

May 29
Tristan Perkins
Kathy Marchesi

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

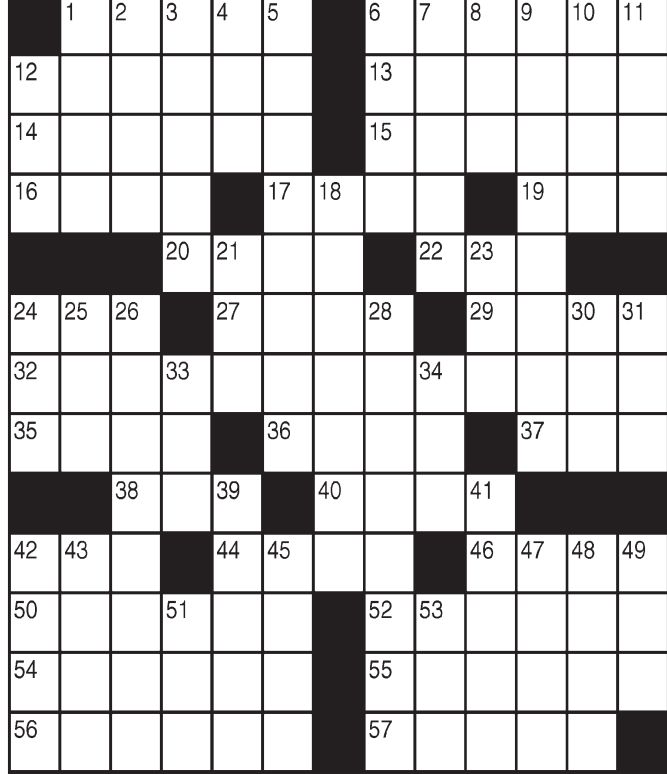


Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Volume-based
6 Outcome
12 Spud
13 Key in again
14 Chalkboard accessory
15 Vineyard harvest
16 Classic soda brand
17 "Excuse me ..."
19 Tolkien creature
20 First lady of scat
22 Lith., once
24 Six-pack muscles
27 "Carmen" solo
29 Staffer
32 Employer's directive
35 Hideaway
36 Couturier Christian
37 Science guru Bill
38 Small tablet
40 Iowa city
42 Top card
44 Hotel chain
46 "Casablanca" role
50 Tomorrow, in Tijuana
52 Witty retort
54 Billie Eilish hit song



- 55 Allow
56 Small maps
57 Indian yogurt dish
- 10 Serving customers
11 Try out
12 Stock holder
18 Hispaniola resident
21 Trail the pack
23 Cutting tool
24 100%
25 "Don't — stranger!"
26 Allowances
28 Perfume dispenser
30 Parched
31 Scrape (out)
33 Span. lady
34 Raw mineral
- 39 Dunkable treat
41 Egyptian peninsula
42 Both (Pref.)
43 "Misery" star James
45 Baseball legend Willie
47 Pride parade initialism
48 Actress Ward
49 "How — you?"
51 Mature
53 — jiffy

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3			8			1		
	7	9			2			6
	8			5			2	
2					4	5		
	9		5					3
		8		6			1	7
	6			4	1			2
		4	6			7		
1					9		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: T equals C

RVL TLULDP OKHIKB XDB
UDEACPW LHTUNDTVVAHI KENH
RVL WLDUPW TUNEB NO UWL
DHC XVLDR. LUIN, LUINR.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81

Answer

King Crossword

The cereal fungus was rapidly encroaching upon the yearly crops of rye and wheat. Ergo, ergot.

CryptoQuip
answer

ASHTON NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School students visit Franklin Grove Nursing Home

On April 30, Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School students from Mrs. Dimmig's third-grade class and Mrs. Wolf's fourth-grade class visited the Franklin Grove Nursing Home. They made Rice Krispie treats with the residents.

(COURTESY PHOTO)

(COURTESY PHOTO)



AFCHS artists participate in Amboy Art Show

Ashton-Franklin Center High School artists participated in the Amboy Art Show on April 19. Here are the results and ribbon winners including Ella Coffman-Best of Show 3D. Adriell Ortiz, second; Kate Viall, third; Nivea Noon, first, honorable mention; Ella Coffman, first, Best of Show 3D; Katara Paul, second; Leah O'Brien, second, honorable mention; Oliver James, first; Gracee Holmgren, third; Bri Gonnerman, honorable mention; Ethan Vogeler, third; Jacob Armstrong, second; Yarisca Lopez, honorable mention; Olivia Gould, second; Katrina Underhile, first, second, & second; Kaylee Nelson, honorable mention. All of their winning works will be on display Mat 8 at the AFCAFC High School Showcase.



Viall takes fourth in Leadership Development Event

On May 1, Ashton-Franklin Center High School's Kate Viall participated in the District 1 Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event. Ten first-year FFA members presented the FFA Creed to a panel of judges and answered questions about the Creed's purpose and their interpretations of its words. Kate received fourth place overall.

COMMUNITY MATTERS



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815-751-0510

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815-453-7461

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COMING SOON

COMMUNITY
UNITY
MAGAZINE!

SPORTS



I-8 JV CHAMPIONS

The Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team won the JV title at the I-8 meet.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Baseball

Hubs honor senior athletes

Metzger's walk-off RBI single clinches 2-1 win over Marengo on Senior Night

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team scored a memorable Senior Night win Friday evening, when the purple and white took on the Marengo Indians in nonconference play.

Trailing 1-0 entering the bottom of the seventh inning, Rochelle rallied for two runs on two hits including a walk-off RBI single from junior Brandyn Metzger, who laced a hard single up the middle to clinch a 2-1 come-from-behind victory over Marengo. The win snapped an eight-game losing streak for the Hubs (5-15, 0-11 Interstate 8), who honored their seven senior athletes, as well as their two senior team managers, in a pregame ceremony before the opening inning.

Rochelle's senior class includes Brandt Waters, Brock Metzger, Brady Schabacker, Chander Cunningham, Dylan Whaley, Braden Behrens and Braden Hunley as well as managers Kayla Ortega and Alexis Huerta. The Hubs will resume Interstate 8 Conference action with a three-game series against Ottawa next week. The first game will be played at home Monday.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team honored its senior players before Friday's game against Marengo. Above from left to right are Brandt Waters, Brady Schabacker, Braden Behrens, Dylan Whaley, Braden Hunley, Brock Metzger and Chandler Cunningham.

"Our seniors are a really good group of kids and they've worked hard," head coach Jarrod Reynolds said. "They've put the time in to make themselves better and that's really all I can ask for as a coach. I appreciate all of the effort they've put in over the last four years."

Rochelle's seventh-inning rally started with a lead-off single from sophomore Brode Metzger, who sent a hard grounder down the third-base line and into the outfield. Marengo then walked the next three batters, with Metzger scoring on a wild pitch to the backstop

that tied the game.

The Indians attempted to quell the momentum with a pitching change, but it was too little too late, as Brandyn Metzger took advantage of a hitter's count and smashed a hard ground passed the pitcher's mound that was stopped at second base, but

allowed the winning run to score.

"We played a very good team today and they didn't make a lot of mistakes," Reynolds said. "A walk-off is always a fun way to win and it was even more fun on Senior Night... Our pitchers have done a good job

of keeping us in ball games this year. We have stretches where we play four or five innings of good baseball, but we've struggled with the bats. We're hoping that we can get hot as the weather keeps warming up and anything can happen if we get on a roll."

RTHS Girls Soccer

Lady Hubs celebrate senior players against Dixon

Six senior members honored in post-match ceremony after 2-1 loss Thursday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team honored its six senior members on Thursday evening, when the purple and white faced off against the Dixon Duchesses.

In a hard fought match that featured a 30-minute lightning delay during the second half, Rochelle nearly pulled off a last-minute rally, with junior midfielder Emma Kennay scoring in the 76th minute to bring the Lady Hubs within one of the Duchesses, who held a 1-0 halftime advantage before adding a second goal midway through the second half. But the Lady Hubs fell just short in the end, conceding a 2-1 loss in their second-to-last home match of the season.

Rochelle (2-17, 0-10 Interstate 8) recognized six seniors including Haley Bozinovich, Dalila Garcia, Kara Martinez, Sydney Thorne, Danica Ward and manager Samantha Thorne in a post-match ceremony on Thursday evening. The Lady Hubs will host Oregon on Saturday before concluding the regular season with a road match at Pecatonica on Tuesday evening.

"It's always nice to



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team honored its six seniors after Thursday's match against Dixon. Above from left to right are Samantha Thorne, Haley Bozinovich, Dalila Garcia, Kara Martinez, Sydney Thorne and Danica Ward.

recognize our seniors and all of the work they've put in," head coach Brad Male said. "It's a bittersweet day, but the seniors have put in a lot of effort this year and we're hoping that we can win one or two matches. I think we're continuing to

improve on the defensive line and we played tough in," head coach Brad Male said. "It's a bittersweet day, but the seniors have put in a lot of effort this year and we're hoping that we can win one or two matches. I think we're continuing to

Dixon possessed the

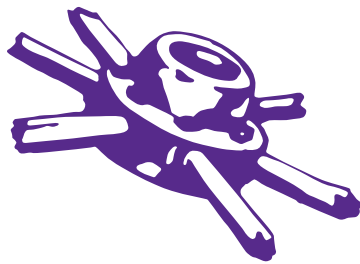
ball in the Rochelle zone for most of the match. The Duchesses struck first during the 25th minute, when a flurry of Dixon players invaded the Rochelle penalty area and placed multiple shots on goal before one rolled into the back of the

net. Injuries mounted for the Lady Hubs throughout the match, as junior defenders Betty Flores and Anahi Cervantes both departed during the first half and Flores didn't return for the remainder of the match.

Despite the injuries,

Rochelle fought to keep the Duchesses within striking distance. The 1-0 match continued into the 55th minute, when the lightning delay forced both teams off the field.

See SOCCER page 6



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

The Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team competed in the Interstate 8 Conference Championships on Friday afternoon, scoring 155 points to take home the title at the JV level. Junior Dempsey Atkinson (below) won the varsity high jump competition.

Lady Hubs win JV title at Interstate 8 Championships

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

LASALLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub track and field team competed in the Interstate 8 Conference Championships on Friday afternoon, with the purple and white scoring 155 points to take home the title at the JV level. The Lady Hubs scored 30 points at the varsity level to finish sixth overall. The IHSA 2A Rochelle Sectional will be held on Wednesday, May 8 at RTHS.

Junior Varsity

Rochelle won all four relay events at Friday's Interstate 8 meet. The Lady Hubs took the 3200-meter relay (Rose Luxton, Mary Chadwick, Brisa Zepeda and Kylie Smith) with a time of 11:36.03 and the 1600-meter relay (Kyrie Cragin, Carmela Bright, Jasmine Walsh and Mary Chadwick) with a time of 4:42.57. Rochelle won the 800-meter relay (Valerie Saldana, Katie Toczykowski, Reese Kissack and Paris Washington) with a time of 2:00.37 and the 400-meter relay (Valerie Saldana, Katie Toczykowski, Ryelee Bogle and Elyse Manning) in 54.16 seconds.

Freshman Elyse Manning won the triple jump with a distance of 9.92 meters and sophomore Rose Luxton took second in the long jump with a distance of 4.55 meters. Sophomore Samantha Overton finished fifth in the pole vault with a clearance of 1.88 meters and sophomore Carmela Bright finished fifth in the high jump with a clearance of 1.25 meters. Sophomore Mary Chadwick took sixth in the discus throw to a mark of 21.19 meters and sophomore Aliyah Bonilla took eighth in the shot put with a mark of 7.48 meters.

Sophomore Rose Luxton finished first in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:49.51 and second in the 1600-meter run with a time of 6:16.95. Sophomore Annaliese Koziol won the 3200-meter run with a time of 13:26.23 and sophomore Kyrie Cragin won the 400-meter dash in 1:04.40.

Freshman Elyse Manning won the 100-meter dash with a time of 13.69 seconds before



taking second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 29.14 seconds. Freshman Jasmine Walsh won the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 54.19 seconds and sophomore Samantha Overton took seventh in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 21.99 seconds.

Varsity

Junior Dempsey Atkinson secured Rochelle's lone conference title, winning the high jump with a clearance of 1.50 meters. Junior Erin Murphy finished second in the shot put with a heave of 9.99 meters and senior Kyra Bivins finished fifth in the discus throw with a mark of 28.78 meters. Senior Kennedy Adamski took fifth in the triple jump with a mark of 9.23 meters.

Rochelle finished fourth in the 400-meter relay (Elena Daugherty, Abygail Losoya, Emy Cacique and Reese Kissack) with a time of 58.20 seconds. Senior Kylie Smith took fifth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:10.25 and junior Alex Neece took sixth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 29.81 seconds. Junior Brisa Zepeda finished seventh in the 800-meter run with a time of 3:03.84 and freshman Viv Worthington finished eighth in the 1600-meter run in 6:54.53. Sophomore Ryelee Bogle took eighth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 14.22 seconds.

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SPORTS

RTHS Softball Late rally lifts Indian Creek over Lady Hubs Rochelle scores five runs over first two innings during 7-6 loss to Timberwolves

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball team scored five runs over the first two innings as the girls looked to take their nonconference game against Indian Creek on Friday.

Freshman third baseman Camryn Metzger sent a two-run single into left field during the bottom of the first inning, allowing the Lady Hubs to take a 2-0 lead over the Timberwolves, who rallied for seven runs over the fifth and sixth innings to outlast Rochelle 7-6.

Metzger went 2-for-4 and scored two runs for the Lady Hubs (4-13, 0-8 Interstate 8), while senior catcher Ella Alfano went 2-for-3 with two singles along with one RBI and two runs scored in the loss Friday evening.

Rochelle took a 5-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning, where senior Kendell Frankenberry reached on an infield single before a series of Indian Creek errors allowed two runs to score. Alfano capped off the three-run frame with an RBI single that plated senior Savannah Nasca.

Freshman pitcher Emma Heller fired four scoreless frames to open the game and finished with 10 strikeouts for the Lady Hubs, who saw their lead cut to 5-3 after a three-run homer from Indian Creek third baseman Emily Frazier, who sent a soaring blast over the left-field fence in the top of the fifth inning. The Timberwolves followed with four runs on two singles and a series of Rochelle fielding errors in the top of the sixth inning to jump ahead of the Lady Hubs 7-5.

Rochelle earned one run back in the bottom of the sixth inning, where Alfano drew a lead-off walk and Metzger belted a double to move Alfano to third base. Alfano scored on a passed ball, but with Metzger at third base, a strikeout and a double-play flyout ended the Rochelle frame. The Lady Hubs made a run in the bottom of the seventh inning, where freshman first baseman Briel Metzger sent a one-out triple into right field. But with the tying run at third base once again, Rochelle was unable to cash in, with a flyout to right field and a groundout ending the game.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)
Freshman Briel Metzger catches a ball at first base during the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball game against Indian Creek on Friday.

RTHS Boys Track Hubs head to Beloit for Northern Illinois Invitational Nuyen wins pole vault competition as Rochelle teams combine for fifth place

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

BELOIT — The Rochelle Hub track and field team traveled to Beloit College for the Northern Illinois Invitational on Friday evening, with the varsity boys scoring 26 points to finish ninth out of 13 schools while the fresh-soph boys scored 37 points to take fourth out of 12 schools.

Rochelle will return to action at the Interstate 8 Conference Championships on Friday, May 10 at Morris High School.

Varsity

Sophomore Andrew Nuyen won the lone field event title for the Hubs, taking the pole vault with a clearance of 4.47 meters. Junior Jack Tilton finished second in the high jump with a clearance of 1.80 meters, while senior Landon Mickley placed fourth in the shot put with a heave of 14.38 meters. Sophomore Caden Goodwin took seventh in the triple jump, hitting 11.86 meters.

Sophomore Wyatt Worthington finished eighth in the 110-meter

hurdles with a time of 16.88 seconds and 11th in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 44.16 seconds. Senior Luis Hernandez took ninth in the 3200-meter run with a time of 11:04.53 and 14th in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:04.03. Sophomore Reece Harris finished 14th in the 100-meter dash in 11.89 seconds and junior Virgil O'Dell finished 16th in the 200-meter dash in 24.83 seconds. Senior Bruno Fernandez placed 18th in the 400-meter dash with a time of 56.76 seconds.

Rochelle finished sixth in the 3200-meter relay (Irving Escalante, Pedro Rosales, Elijah Mayen and Caleb Wyssbrod) with a time of 8:41.72 and the 1600-meter relay (Pedro Rosales, Irving Escalante, Jackson Smith and Caleb Wyssbrod) with a time of 3:36.15. The Hubs took eighth in the 400-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Reece Harris, Aaron DeClerck and Andrew Nuyen) with a time of 45.33 seconds and ninth in the 800-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Reece Harris, Virgil O'Dell and Caleb

Wyssbrod) with a time of 1:34.05.

F/S

Sophomore Jonathan Bearrows took second in the long jump with a distance of 5.60 meters and sophomore Wyatt Worthington took second in the pole vault with a clearance of 3.10 meters. Freshman Justin DeClerck finished fourth in the high jump with a clearance of 1.60 meters and sophomore Zachary Dreska finished 11th and 12th in discus and shot put.

Freshman Hunter

Bivins took third in both the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 18.50 seconds and the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 45.96 seconds. Sophomore Declan McGee finished eighth in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:07.14 and sophomore Elijah Mayen finished fourth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:13.79. Sophomore Caden Goodwin took third in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.71 seconds and sophomore Reece Harris took second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.69 seconds.

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SPORTS

Rochelle Little League

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)



Rochelle Little League holds 2024 Opening Day celebration at Floyd J. Tilton Park on Saturday morning

Rochelle Little League hosted its 2024 Opening Day celebration at Floyd J. Tilton Park on Saturday. The annual celebration included appearances from the Rochelle VFW and Mayor John Bearrows, who gave a brief speech during the event. Members of the Major League and Minor League baseball and softball teams recited the Little League Pledge and Rochelle Little League presented the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District with the Spencer Sanderson Award for its service. Ryan Greifenkemp led a group prayer and Kevin Behrens performed the national anthem with his electric guitar. The ceremonial first pitches were thrown by Rochelle Fire Chief Dave Sawlsville and Olivia Buck. Players and coaches lined up around the infield during the celebration, which concluded with the annual T-shirt toss.

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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.

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RTHS Boys Tennis

Hubs concede road loss at Princeton

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

PRINCETON — The Rochelle Hub varsity tennis team continued nonconference action with a road match against Princeton on Friday evening. The Hubs took one match to three sets, but Rochelle was unable to secure any of the five points in the match, falling to the Tigers 5-0. The Hubs (5-9, 1-4 Interstate 8) will return to action against Mendota at home Monday evening.

Princeton took both singles points on Friday evening. Senior Jimmy Chavez battled in the second set of the No. 1 singles match against Tyson Phillips, falling just short in a

2-6, 4-6 loss. Sophomore Philip Winters took two games in a 0-6, 2-6 loss to Chase Sims at the No. 2 court.

Senior Parker Lenkaitis and sophomore Mark Green went into a third set against Ben Anderson and Michael Ellis at the No. 1 doubles court, claiming the second set but conceding the tie-breaking third set in a 3-6, 6-2, 8-10 loss. Senior Alex McBride and sophomore Caleb Mortensen were swept in a 0-6, 0-6 loss against Asa Gartin and Jackson Mason at the No. 2 doubles court, while senior Eli Luxton and freshman Sam Sergeant fell 1-6, 2-6 against Josh Orwig and Landon Davis at the No. 3 doubles court.

SOCCKER: Rochelle hosts Dixon for Senior Night match

From page 1

Action resumed around 30 minutes later, with Dixon scoring on a close-range shot in the 66th minute that floated over the head of the Rochelle goalkeeper Ward and into the net.

The Lady Hubs found late life in the 76th minute, when a long-range shot on goal from junior midfielder Makayla Lara deflected off the hands of the Dixon goalkeeper and rolled directly to Kennay, who booted the ball into the net for Rochelle's first goal of the match. But the Lady Hubs were unable to find an equalizer, as Dixon

continued pressuring in the final minutes.

Oregon

The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity soccer team played its final home match of the season on Saturday morning, when the purple and white hosted Oregon in nonconference play.

Junior forward Jeanette Valle scored Rochelle's lone goal, finding the net during the first half as the Hawks defeated the Lady Hubs 8-1. Rochelle (2-18, 0-10 Interstate 8) will conclude the regular season with a road match against Pecatonica on Tuesday evening.

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SPORTS

RTHS Bass Fishing

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



Rochelle Township High School bass fishing team takes eighth at IHSA Shabbona Lake Sectional

The Rochelle Township High School bass fishing team competed in the IHSA Sectional at Shabbona Lake on Thursday afternoon, finishing eighth out of 12 schools with a final total of 2.28 pounds. The team includes Sydney Carmichael, Caleb Esterday, Macenzie Glosser, Alivia Henkel, Abby Metzger and Sydney Tabor.

Forge Wrestling Club

Locals shine at 2024 Illinois Freestyle State Championships

Andronic brothers take home state titles, Villalobos secures runner-up finish

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

DEKALB—The Forge Wrestling Club sent 16 athletes to the 2024 Illinois Freestyle State Championships over the weekend, with two athletes taking home state titles in the tournament.

Elias Andronic finished first in the Boys 8U 56 Division with a 3-0 record. Andronic opened the tournament with a 16-6 technical fall over RTC Wrestling's Jaxson Cajigas before notching a fall over Relentless Training Center's Nico Poeta. Andronic clinched the championship with a 14-3 technical fall against Frankfort Gladiator Wrestling's Trecyn Holba in the third round.

Nehemiah Andronic finished first in the 10U 67 Division with a 4-0 record. Andronic started the tournament with falls over Lockport's Aiden Samanich and Maine Eagles wrestler Logan Gallegos. Andronic followed the falls with a 12-2 technical fall over Hurricane Wrestling's Noah

Caputo and Tinley Park Bulldogs wrestler Jaxon Scott to clinch the championship.

Roman Villalobos took second in the 16U 190 Division with a 4-1 record. Villalobos recorded a 10-0 technical fall over Sycamore's Adam Carrick and a 12-0 technical fall over Rock Island's Rowan Stockwell to begin the tournament. After a 12-2 technical fall over R13 Wrestling's Drew Silzer and a 10-0 technical fall over Harvey Twisters wrestler Adrian Esparza, Villalobos battled Alber Athletics wrestler Oliver McPeck for the title, falling just short in an 18-15 decision.

Wells Millard finished third in the 10U 59 Division with a 2-1 record, scoring 10-0 technical falls over Mat Rat Wrestling's Alexander Todd and SOT-C's Mackson Talley. Jackson Moreno finished third in the 10U 71 Division with a 2-1 record, notching a 10-0 technical fall over Glen Ellyn's Bodhi Raitano and a 16-5 technical fall over Fox Lake Wrestling's Mason



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Nehemiah Andronic (left), Elias Andronic (middle) and Roman Villalobos (right) all earned medalist honors during the 2024 Illinois Freestyle State Championships in DeKalb over the weekend. The Andronic brothers finished first in their respective divisions, while Villalobos took second in his division.

Potts.

Ava Barber finished third in the Girls 10U 67 Division and Teddy Millard took fourth in the 12U 74 Division with a 3-3 record, scoring a fall over Callan Wrestling's Kamdyn Sullivan as well as a 10-0 technical fall over Lion's

Den's Scott Kilmer and an 18-12 decision over Rock Island's Daiton Reed.

Kaiden Morris went 3-2 in the Junior 215 Division, recording a 15-2 technical fall over Tavfik Ibragimov as well as a 10-0 technical fall over Old School Wrestling's Dylan Cerny and

an 11-0 technical fall over Daniel Martinez. Will Julian went 2-2 over four bouts in the 16U 150 Division, scoring a 13-12 decision against Jon Martin Jr. and a 14-4 technical fall over St. Charles Wrestling's Benjamin Nitsch.

Brenden Voight went 4-2 in the 16U 157 Division, notching a fall over The Wrestling Academy's Samuel Cushman as well as a forfeit from Mauricio Perez, a 14-6 decision over Patton Trained's Josiah Williams and a 16-5 technical fall over Thunderbird Wrestling's Ethan Harvey. Joshua Lassiter went 1-2 in the 16U 150 Division, earning a 14-2 technical fall over Karl Bep.

Freddie Hernandez went 2-2 in the 16U 113 Division,

scoring a 10-0 technical fall over ISI Wrestling's Evan Hamilton and a 15-4 technical fall over Lion's Den's Nathan Fisher. Jacksyn Windham went 2-2 in the 14U 187 Division, recording a win over Demolition Wrestling Club's Timotheus Conner and a 12-0 technical fall over Alpha Wrestling's Xander Luangphakdy.

Jackson Norris went 1-2 in the Junior 126 Division, earning a forfeit from Maxwell Neal. Hadley Losoya went 2-2 in the 16U 132 Division, recording a 10-0 technical fall over Izzy Style's Kevin Hamilton as well as a 6-0 decision over Suplex Wrestling's Aibar Aitkaliuly.

Conrad Barber competed in the 10U 77 Division.

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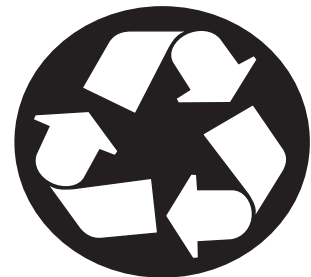
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