



ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

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Neale presented
with RCH award

RCH recently presented its
Pillar of Excellence Award to
Tina Neale.
Page 2

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
73 49	73 47
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
76 55	81 54



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OBITUARIES

• JOHNNIE SUE
ORLIKOWSKI

See page 4

INSERTS

• FARM & FLEET
• POLICE WEEK

INSIDE

Local News.....2, 3, 5
Obituaries.....4
Opinion.....6
Community.....7



Council presents Lifesaving Awards

Rochelle Police Department presents yearly awards

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At Monday's Rochelle City Council meeting, Life Saving Awards were presented to Rochelle Police Department School Resource Officer Jim Jakymiw and Rochelle Fire Department firefighter/paramedics. Those from RFD honored Monday were Lt. Jason Underwood and Firefighter/Paramedics Ben Johnson, Zech VanVickle, Brian Edwards, and Javier Salinas.

On Feb. 1 earlier this year, Jakymiw and RFD responded to a medical emergency at Rochelle Township High School.

See AWARDS page 3



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At Monday's Rochelle City Council meeting, Life Saving Awards were presented to Rochelle Police Department School Resource Officer Jim Jakymiw and Rochelle Fire Department firefighter/paramedics.

RCH marks Stroke Awareness Month in May

'... the patients are getting the best possible chance'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — May is Stroke Awareness Month. Rochelle Community Hospital has been designated as an Acute Stroke-Ready Hospital for several years and strives to see good outcomes for area patients that suffer strokes, RCH Emergency Services Manager Janis Astle said.

Being an Acute Stroke-Ready Hospital requires that the hospital have a stroke coordinator to promote best practices and perform quality audits. It also requires having specialized education for nurses and support staff to improve recognition, care, documentation and an organized team response. Emergency department nurses do annual education

on how to do specialized exams to assess patients for possible stroke.

"We use the FAST acronym for a quick assessment in triage," Astle said. "This assessment includes a check for facial symptoms such as drooping, arm symptoms such as weakness, and speech symptoms such as slurred speech or inability to speak or inability to understand speech. The 'T'

stands for time, meaning that time is of the essence. That's a very simple pre-hospital assessment that families and patients can do immediately. If the patient can't speak and notices a facial droop, for example, that's a sign of a potential stroke. The nurses' assessment education is much more detailed."

See RCH page 2



Well 8 measures approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its meeting Monday, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved four items related to improvements for Rochelle Municipal Utilities' Well 8.

Design has been completed for an iron filter plant construction project for Well 8. The council unanimously approved an ordinance Monday to borrow \$10 million in funds from the Illinois EPA to pay for the costs of the project.

The city also awarded the bid for the project on Monday to Larson and Larson Construction for \$6.7 million. That bid was the lowest of three. The IEPA loan the city received for the project includes a cap of \$3.4 million in principal forgiveness.

See CITY page 4

From the Heart adds Community Action Network

CAN joins list of nonprofits that From the Heart raises money for

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The From the Heart Board recently announced the addition of Community Action Network (CAN) to the list of area nonprofit organizations it raises money for each year.

CAN serves area youth with an annual Christmas shopping trip along with providing gym shoes, backpacks and winter coats throughout the year. CAN joins the Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Pegasus Special Riders, The Hub City Senior Center, HOPE of Ogle County, the Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA and Foundation for Focus House as a From the Heart recipient.

From the Heart raises money each year through its cash calendar sales and annual gala. The 2024 gala raised a record \$90,000 and \$11,250 checks were presented to each benefiting nonprofit. The list of nonprofits has grown over



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The From the Heart Board recently announced the addition of Community Action Network (CAN) to the list of area nonprofit organizations it raises money for each year.

the years and CAN was previously a From the Heart beneficiary.

"Now that we've gotten ourselves to a point where

we're raising more funds each year and reaching a place we never thought we'd be in, we needed to look at expanding," From

the Heart President and Founder Dave Eckhardt said. "Because it was part of the original From the Heart group and because

of the success of our event, we felt we could add another group back in.

See CAN page 5

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LOCAL NEWS

RCH reveals new employee recognition award, names Neale first recipient

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Hospital recently announced the revealing of its new employee recognition award as well as its first recipient. The first quarter recipient of the RCH Pillar of Excellence Award was presented to Christina (Tina) Neale, RN, of the Medical/Surgical department.

“Tina has gone above and beyond in demonstrating her commitment and leadership with her EPIC trainer role. She defines professionalism and teamwork by always advocating and helping her staff. Tina is a true asset to RCH with her communication and ownership of precepting. She takes her job as a nurse very seriously and wants nothing but the best care for her patients. Congratulations,

Tina! And thank you for constant contribution to the betterment of RCH staff and its care,” read Tina’s nomination.

This quarterly award recognizes employees who display positive behaviors and characteristics as defined in RCH’s Dare to Soar standards, values and mission. Employees receiving the award demonstrate these behaviors and characteristics on a consistent basis. Selection for the award recognizes these employees for their outstanding commitment and demonstration of concern, respect, and professionalism.

To read Christina’s nomination and to learn more about RCH’s Pillar of Excellence’s Award, go to the RCH Facebook page or visit RochelleHospital.com.



(COURTESY PHOTO) The first quarter recipient of the RCH Pillar of Excellence Award was presented to Christina (Tina) Neale, RN, of the Medical/Surgical department.

Rochelle’s Quinonez recognized by SIU Board of Trustees

SPRINGFIELD — The Southern Illinois University System Board of Trustees and the Student Advisory Committee for the SIU System (SACSS) honored outstanding students with the 2024 SIU System Distinguished Student Service Award. Eight students from SIU campuses in Carbondale, Edwardsville and Springfield were recently honored at the SIU board meeting that was held in Carbondale on April 11.

Among the honorees was Julissa Quinonez of Rochelle and the SIU School of Dental Medicine.

Julissa is pursuing a doctoral degree in dental medicine at the SIUE

campus in Alton. She is a highly-involved student who serves as a member of the American Dental Education Association, American Student Dental Association (ASDA), American Association for Women Dentists, and Xi Psi Phi Dental Fraternity. She has been able to use these leadership positions to advocate for women in dentistry and promote overall social justice initiatives in oral health. Julissa received the 2024 National ASDA Legislative Liaison of the Year Award, the 2023 Illinois State Dental Society Foundation Scholarship Award and the SIU School of Dental Medicine Dean’s Schol-

arship Award. She has also volunteered in many community service events including Give Kids a Smile and Veterans’ Care Day.

“SIU is proud to have so many wonderfully accomplished students who are not only making a major impact on campus but also in the greater communities,” said SIU System President Dan Mahony.

The SACSS advises SIU administrators on student-related issues that are pertinent at the system level. It also serves as a vehicle to discuss matters impacting the campuses, share ideas and projects, find solutions to problems, and work together on vital

student concerns.

“This committee works very hard to be a voice for their fellow students and to recognize the outstanding work their peers are doing at SIU,” said Dr. Gireesh Gupchup, SIU VP of Academic Innovation, Planning and Partnerships.

With the 2024 SIU System Distinguished Student Service Award, the SACSS received applications from across the system and selected one undergraduate student and one graduate student each from SIU Edwardsville and SIU Carbondale, as well as one student from the SIU schools of medicine, law, pharmacy and dental medicine.



Julissa Quinonez

RCH: Hospital recognizes May as Stroke Awareness Month

From page 1

“It allows nurses to more precisely give a score to a patient based on their symptoms, so we can tell how severe the stroke might be and sometimes even where it might be located.”

RCH has a dedicated process in place for stroke patients. When they come by ambulance, advance notice is received by the hospital and the patient is taken directly by EMS personnel to the CT scanner when arriving on scene to assess the brain condition of the patient. Blood is also drawn from the patient immediately after the CT is performed. Having the patient arrive by ambulance gives the patient a head start.

Strokes are generally caused by a blood clot

blocking off blood flow to a certain area of the brain. There are medications and procedures that can clear that blood clot to get blood flowing again.

“Every minute that you don’t have blood going to a certain area of your brain, those brain cells can die,” Astle said. “Time is of the essence because we want to open that blood vessel back up and get the blood flowing again. We can administer medication that breaks the clot up. There is also a procedure that allows a physician and support team to remove the clot. Our emergency department can administer the medications when needed. We also facilitate transfer of some patients to hospitals with a higher level of stroke care, often Saint Anthony Medical Center in

Rockford.”

RCH has seen improvements in time markers related to stroke patients. In 2022 at RCH, 52 percent of stroke patients received a CT scan within 10 minutes. In 2023, that number was up to 78.9 percent. In 2022, RCH got CT scan results of stroke patients within 45 minutes 76 percent of the time. In 2023, that number was 91.1 percent. In 2022, blood test results for stroke patients were back within 45 minutes 57.1 percent of the time. In 2023, that number was 76.5 percent. Astle credits the ED physicians, nurses, and techs, along with the team response of support departments such as lab and radiology with helping RCH to achieve these impressive improvements.

Astle said those improvements tell her that patients are getting the best possible chance for as much recovery as possible.

“If patients come to us with facial drooping and arm weakness for exam-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

May is Stroke Awareness Month. Rochelle Community Hospital has been designated as an Acute Stroke-Ready Hospital for several years and strives to see good outcomes for area patients that suffer strokes, RCH Emergency Services Manager Janis Astle said.

ple, the sooner they get to our ED, the sooner we can diagnose, stabilize and transfer them,” Astle said. “That is their best hope to have functional return. That might mean the difference in them being able to dress and feed themselves or to walk or speak or read to their grandkids. When you put it on an individual level, the faster we can do our part, the better chance they have of having a recovery that makes their lives as close

to what it was pre-stroke as possible.”

Astle stressed the importance of residents calling 911 if they are experiencing stroke symptoms and said being transported by ambulance lends itself far better to recovery than patients driving themselves or having a family member drive them. Putting off going to a hospital when suffering from stroke symptoms can be disastrous due to the time-sensitive nature of treatment, she said. Damage from strokes can be permanent if they are not addressed as quickly as possible. She recommends that patients err on the side of caution when they are experiencing symptoms, and call 911 to get transported to RCH quickly. Even if they’re not sure the symptoms they’re having are due to a stroke, it’s better to get to the ED to get expert medical assessment and care as soon as possible.

While care for RCH stroke patients typically culminates at a larger hospital with stroke specialists, Astle said RCH has heard word of positive outcomes for many of the stroke patients it has helped over the years. “We’ve seen stroke pa-

tients come in here with acute symptoms, and we find out later on that they’ve had a good outcome,” Astle said. “Patients will send us a thank you note or cookies. Because we’re the small town and community that we are, word often gets back to us. We hear about someone getting discharged from another hospital that’s doing great. We love to hear these good stories.”

Astle said that local patients that suffer from strokes having access to RCH for care is “a gift” and that their chances of a good outcome would be lower if they had to travel by vehicle or ambulance all the way to a Rockford hospital instead.

“Having a place that’s right here in our own community allows the treatment to start sooner,” Astle said. “Rockford is a 35-minute drive. If RCH wasn’t here, the process wouldn’t even start until they get there. EMS can provide some care and starts the notification process to the next set of caregivers. The ED provides the next layer of care, and we’re great at diagnosing and stabilizing patients, getting them to the specialist they need, and getting them there quickly.”



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LOCAL NEWS

RTHS's Rincon earns honorable mention in 16th Congressional District Art Competition

PEORIA – On Saturday, Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-16) hosted his art show reception and announced the winners of the 2024 16th Congressional District Art Competition. The 16th Congressional District Art Competition is an annual opportunity to showcase artistic high schoolers in central and northern Illinois. Rochelle Township High School's Denia Rincon earned an honorable mention recognition for her piece "Motor Garden." The 2024 16th Congressional District Art Competition was the ninth annual hosted by Rep. LaHood and the art show took place

at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. Participants were judged anonymously by a volunteer panel and award winners were chosen by a cumulative vote. There were 125 pieces of art submitted from 16 schools throughout the 16th District. "It was great to see so much energy and enthusiasm from students and teachers in this year's art competition, enabling students to express themselves through art," stated Rep. LaHood. "Congratulations to all of our award recipients this year, particularly to our first-place winner Maira Khan from Dunlap High School whose piece



On Saturday, Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-16) hosted his art show reception and announced the winners of the 2024 16th Congressional District Art Competition.

'Port of View' will be displayed in the halls of our nation's Capital Building in Washington D.C." The 16 District Congressional Art Show is still ongoing at the Peoria Riverfront Museum where you can view all of the pieces until April 28 during normal museum business hours.



RPD presented yearly awards to three other members of the department on Monday. The Dispatcher of the Year award was presented to Alison Owen. The DUI Enforcement Officer of the Year award was presented to Sgt. Jim Gilliam, and the Traffic Enforcement Officer of the Year award was presented to K9 Officer Trevor Owen and his partner, K9 Odie.

AWARDS: Rochelle Police Department honors staff members Monday evening

From page 1 They were recognized Monday for providing life-saving efforts during that incident. The student that first responders helped at RTHS on Feb. 1 came to Monday's council meeting and thanked them with a card and presented Jakymiw with a painting she made him. RPD also presented yearly awards to three other members of the department on Monday. The Dispatcher of the Year award was presented to Alison Owen. The DUI Enforcement Officer of the Year award was presented to K9 Officer Trevor Owen and his partner, K9 Odie.

Men's Breakfast at First Presbyterian Church scheduled for May 18

ROCHELLE — It's that time again for our monthly men's breakfast, always on the third Saturday of the month, at First Presbyterian Church, 1100 Calvin Road, Rochelle. We want to thank Ms. Tomlinson for her excellent presentation in April on the Rochelle Recovery Center, here in Rochelle at 242 May Mart Dr. If you know anyone who is struggling with any addiction, or any problem, please refer them to her. I'm excited to have our very own mayor, John Bearrows, as our speaker on Saturday. He will talk about his vision of happenings in our town. Come join us for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. with the program at 8 a.m. Bring a friend and find out more about what's going on in Rochelle! We promise that you will have plenty of time to make your 9 a.m. tee off time.

RMS's Prestegaard named IPA Teacher Leadership Award recipient for region

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Community Consolidated District #231 recently announced that Rochelle Middle School Science Teacher Ms. Kathy Prestegaard has been recognized as the recipient of the Illinois Principal Association (IPA)'s "Teacher Leadership Award" for the state's Northwest Region. Ms. Prestegaard will represent Rochelle's region as the IPA chooses a state Elementary Teacher Leader of the Year from all of the regional winners. On the recognition, Mrs. Prestegaard said, "I am honored to receive the Prin-

icipal's Leadership Award. I am grateful to have the privilege of being a teacher in the Rochelle Elementary School District over the past 18 years. I really enjoy working with my fellow staff and students of our wonderful school district." "We're thrilled for Ms. Prestegaard and her family as she is honored with this recognition. Throughout her almost two decades at Rochelle, Ms. Prestegaard has left a lasting impression on numerous students and staff members," RMS Principal Jordan Young said. "Kathy demonstrates exceptional dedication,

thoughtfulness, and enthusiasm in her interactions with children and families. She consistently extends a helping hand and prioritizes the well-being of all students." Ms. Prestegaard has been a teacher at Rochelle Community Consolidated District #231 for the past 18 years at RMS. Ms. Prestegaard has taught various levels and is a leader in the science department. Ms. Prestegaard is always willing to help with sporting events and leads the mentoring program for new teachers in addition to her classroom teaching duties.

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July 21	IL Concealed Carry Permit Renewal 1:30pm-4:30pm

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LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Johnnie Sue Orlikowski

ROCHELLE — Johnnie Sue Orlikowski, 70, of Rochelle, IL, formerly of Crossville, TN, passed away Sunday, May 12, 2024, at SwedishAmerican Hospital in Rockford, IL. Sue was born September 21, 1953 in Rockwood, TN, the daughter of John Henry and Betty Jane (Reed) Harris. She married Dennis Orlikowski on October 22, 2001 in Sycamore, IL.

Sue worked at the Sunrise Family Restaurant in Rochelle. She loved the outdoors, especially gardening, watching the birds, and sitting on the back porch in the summer. She was described as sassy and feisty, a woman who would always have a

smile on her face and truly enjoyed her life. She was very social and up to do anything with anyone. She enjoyed listening to music, especially country music.

Sue is survived by her husband, Dennis; three daughters: Carol (Jesse) Nicholas, Hiley Argueta, and Heather Loyd; three grandchildren: McKenzie Doerr, Lucas Bruce, and Hunter Oros; a sister, Lois (Don) Leonard; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Sue is preceded in death by two brothers: Michael and Ron Harris; a step-brother, Tim Parker; and a step-sister, Lisa Parker.

Visitation will be from



3:00 to 5:00 P.M., Saturday, May 18, 2024 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St. in Rochelle.

The funeral service will follow the visitation at 5:00 P.M. at the funeral home with Chaplain Judy Williams officiating. Cremation care will follow the funeral service. Please visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

ROCHELLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ROCHELLE — On May 9 at 8:01 a.m. Belen Belmonte 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 June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 9 at 4:17 p.m. Brittany J. Fullmer, 28, of Lee was cited for speeding 58 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 9 at 10:27 p.m. Omar Leandro Jimenez, 24, of Rochelle was cited for suspended registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 9 at 10:36 p.m. Juan Arriaga, 35, of Rochelle was arrested for no valid driver's license and cited for suspended registration. He was released on a notice to appear with a June 7 Rochelle court

date. On May 10 at 12:54 p.m. Goldie K. Johnson-Kirsky, 30, of Rochelle was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On May 10 at 9:34 p.m. Kristopher M. Mockovak, 23, homeless, was arrested for reporting false 911 and obstructing identification. He was released on a notice to appear with a June 7 Ogle County court date.

On May 11 at 9:57 p.m. Juan J. Gaytan Lobato, 28, of Hillside was arrested for driving with no valid identification. He was released on a notice to appear with a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 12 at 12:37 p.m. Robert Gibbons, 64, of Rochelle was arrested for battery. He was released on a notice to appear with a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 12 at 9:05 a.m. David Smith, 18, of Malta was cited for operating an

uninsured motor vehicle and speeding 67 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 12 at 1:43 p.m. Courtney Bullock, 34, of Steward was arrested for driver's license expired more than a year and cite for expired registration. She was released on a notice to appear with a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 12 at 10:38 a.m. Andrew Torres, 25, of Rochelle was cited for unpaid registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 12 at 11:30 a.m. Tiffany Hammond, 42, of Rochelle was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended. She signed a promise to comply and was given a June 7 Rochelle court date.

On May 12 at 10:08 a.m. Roberto Chavez Osornio, 30, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 72 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.



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Mayor John Bearrows read a proclamation in honor of Municipal Clerks Week May 5-11 and presented it to City Clerk Rosemary Huéramo and Deputy Clerks Rosie Belmonte, Brittany Olszewski and Jenny Thompson. Bearrows also read a proclamation in honor of National Police Week May 12-18 and presented it to Rochelle Police Department officers. Finally, Bearrows marked National Public Works Week from May 19-25 with a proclamation and presented it to Street Department Superintendent Tim Isley and RMU Superintendent of Water/Water Reclamation Adam Lanning.

CITY: Proclamations issued Monday evening

From page 1

The project is slated to start this coming August and be completed by December 2025.

Road work

The council unanimously approved a joint funding agreement for federal-funded construction work on Creston and Caron Roads.

The project will cost nearly \$1.3 million. After federal participation, the

city's portion will be approximately \$312,000.

The project is over two miles in length. Work will be done on Creston Road from Interstate 39 to Caron Road. The work on Caron Road will run from Creston Road north to 7th Avenue. Both roadways are in need of work due to increases in truck traffic.

Bidding will likely take place in June and construction will begin by the end of August.

Transformers

The council unanimously approved an ordinance to allow the RMU electric department to purchase transformers for no more than \$525,000. RMU has been operating on its reserve supply of transformers in hopes that the purchasing market for new transformers would level out after high prices and long lead times have been seen.

RMU Superintendent of Electric Operations Blake Toliver said Monday that the market does not seem to be returning to normal and RMU will be purchasing a number of different-sized transformers to meet its needs.

Bucket truck

The council unanimously approved a resolution for the purchase of one Altec AT40-G Bucket Truck through Enterprise Fleet Management for \$168,649.16 for the city's street department.

The street department is currently in possession

of two aging bucket trucks that have become difficult to keep maintained and safety certified. Both of those trucks will be traded in for the new truck. The city had previously budgeted \$90,000 for a new bucket truck that will be put towards the purchase as well.

RACF

The council heard a presentation by Rochelle Area Community Foundation Executive Director Emily Anaya to mark the kickoff of the city's payroll deduction program that it does yearly to benefit RACF. City employees donated \$34,185 last year and have donated a total of \$117,795 since the start of the program.

Proclamations

Mayor Bearrows read a proclamation in honor of Municipal Clerks Week May 5-11 and presented it to City Clerk Rosemary Huéramo and Deputy Clerks Rosie Belmonte, Brittany Olszewski and Jenny Thompson.

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Thank you to my family and friends who have done so many kind and thoughtful things for us after my fall. For all the flowers, food and cards, thank you for everything. Thanks to the Compton and Paw Paw EMTs who came to my rescue. Your excellent care and concern will never be forgotten. You are the best. How wonderfully blessed I know I am.

Lois Kettley

LOCAL NEWS

RTHS holds 2024 Honors Night, students recognized for academic achievement

ROCHELLE — On May 6, Rochelle Township High School held its annual honors night recognizing students for academic achievement and presenting over \$175,000 in local scholarships.

Individual scholarship recipients included:

Class of 1964: Jimmy Chavez. Class of 1953: Aiden Ramsey. Sandra Colwill Memorial: Abel Huerta. Dr. C.E. Motlong Memorial: Emily Montelongo. Pearl Motlong Memorial: Faith Adams. William Parsons Memorial: Alivia Henkel. Marguerite Thomas Scholarship: Addison Stewart. Willard Gieske Memorial: Makenzie Liezert. Virginia Ravnaas Memorial: Luis Hernandez. Richards Family/Math-Science: Parker Lenkaitis. Richards Family/Vocational: Danica Ward. Richards Family/Vocational: Lauren Basilio. Christopher Heisner Memorial: Caleb Wyssbrod. Tom Carmichael Memorial: Jessica Nguyen. Ward and Mabel Miller Memorial: Alexavier Villatoro. Ward and Mabel Miller Memorial: Anna-leigh McKinney. Mr. and Mrs. Willard Klewin: Haley Bozinovich. Keith Wehner Memorial: Hazel Nieves. Steve Tobler Memorial: Kennedy Adamski. Kendell Frankenberry and Kendall Sachs. Prabhakar Family: Kara Martinez. Rochelle Alumni Association General Scholarships: Kennedy Adamski, Evelyn Ugalde, Bailey Vonkel, Danica Ward, Abel Huerta, Brock Metzger. Leonard Carmichael Community Service: Danica Ward. Rochelle Township High School Education Association: Katie Burdin. Tyler Smith Memorial: Soraide Moraguez and Brock Metzger. Curtis Clegg Memorial: Evelyn Gonzalez. John Havens Memorial/Kiwanis Golden K: Max Ju-

lian, Annaleigh McKinney, Jessica Nguyen, Samantha Thorne, Sydney Thorne, Abel Huerta, Dalila Garcia. Charles Engel Rochelle Rotary: Alivia Henkel. Ed Fenwick Memorial: Evelyn Ugalde, Abel Huerta, Alivia Henkel. Rochelle Lions Club: Dylan Whaley, Evelyn Ugalde. Olivia Heitter Memorial: Alivia Henkel, Brock Metzger, Kara Martinez. Rochelle Hospital Auxiliary: Kennedy Underwood, Alexavier Villatoro. Rochelle Junior Tackle: Brock Metzger and Emily Montelongo. Constellation Corporation-Byron Station: Emily Lovett. Rochelle Masonic Lodge: Abel Huerta, Annaleigh McKinney and Yandier Rincon. Rochelle Fire Department: Alexis Huerta. Class of 1972: William Wise. Richard Barth Memorial: Aiden Ramsey and Kyra Bivins. Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists: Kendall Sachs. Alice Powers: Jessica Nguyen. ELLOS: Xitlaly Suarez-Garcia. BPAC: Fernando Rocha. Hispanic Community Foundation: Jessica Marin and Soraide Moraguez. Central Bank: Alexis Huerta and Xitlaly Suarez-Garcia. First State Bank: Kara Martinez. Resource Bank: Parker Lenkaitis. Rochelle Chamber of Commerce: Alexis Huerta. Rochelle News Leader Scholar Athlete: Parker Lenkaitis and Alivia Henkel. Rochelle Athletic Booster Club: Kennedy Adamski, Alivia Henkel, Danica Ward, Abel Huerta, Brock Metzger. Floyd J. Tilton VFW, Post 3878: Abel Huerta and Kendell Frankenberry. Auxiliary to the Floyd J. Tilton VFW: Danica Ward and Jimmy Chavez. Rogene Fraley Memorial/Auxiliary to the VFW: Kendell Frankenberry. William E. Eickman Memorial: Kayla



(COURTESY PHOTO)

On May 6, Rochelle Township High School held its annual honors night recognizing students for academic achievement and presenting over \$175,000 in local scholarships.

Ortega. Debby Van Dyke Memorial: Cale Workman. RTHS Agriculture Foundation: Lauren Basilio. FFA Alumni: Megan Seebach. Golden K Art Camp Scholarship: Denia Rincon. Denise H. Moore Memorial: Annaleigh McKinney. Rochelle Wrestling Club: Tommy Tourdot and Brock Metzger. Jane Reineck Memorial: Annaleigh McKinney and Katie Burdin. Francis Schumacher Jr. Memorial: Tommy Tourdot. Rock River Chapter - ISPE: Parker Lenkaitis. Dement Township: Mateo Hughes, Sydney Thorne and Danica Ward. Robert F. Van Cura Memorial: Megan Seebach and Dalila Garcia. Chris Roberts: Parker Lenkaitis. Kishwaukee College Academic Achievement Scholars: Molly Boehm, Katie Burdin, Elise Horner, Alexis Huerta, Kylie Smith, Jessica Marin, Kendall Sachs, Danica Ward. Kishwaukee Dual Credit Scholars: Danica Ward, Abel Huerta, Kendall Sachs, Diego Salazar, Jessica Marin, Alexis Huerta, Christopher Rittschof, Makayla Fore, Elise Horner, Evelyn Gonzalez, Kylie Smith, Anna-

leigh McKinney, Rachel Cook, Alexavier Villatoro, Madison Aylsworth, Xitlaly Suarez-Garcia, Jesus Herrera, Kennedy Adamski, Maximus Julian, Allison Dickey, Jackson Brunner-Lodico, Kara Martinez, Molly Boehm, Jenna Tesinsky, Emily Burgholzer, Edson Castorena, Braden Behrens, Jaclyn Seyller, Katie Burdin, Caleb Wyssbrod, Dakota Bushland, Soraide Moraguez, Loretta Atkinson, Olivia Dreska, Frank Decena. Kishwaukee Foundation Scholarships: Bud and Kay Stocking. Rochelle Rotary Service Above Self Endowment: Danica Ward and Molly Boehm. OC Creative Scholarship: Jessica Marin. Emma Anderson Scholarship: Kara Martinez and Alexis Huerta.

Students were also recognized for receiving institutional scholarships and other scholarships. Those students included: Faith Adams, Kennedy Adamski, Kyra Bivins, Haley Bozinovich, Kate Burdin, Jimmy Chavez, Connor David, Storm Devers, Alivia Henkel, Omar Hueramo, Mateo Hughes, Parker Lenkaitis, Jack Lodico, Emily Lovett, Kara Martinez, Al-

exander McBride, Jessica Nguyen, Hazel Nieves, Megan Seebach, Addison Stewart, Kennedy Underwood, Alexavier Villatoro and Bailey Vondergathen.

For the total group listed above the institutional scholarship presented to RTHS students by their respective institutions exceeded the \$1,075,000 mark!

Awards which were given out at Honors Night included:

President's Education Awards: Kyra Bivins, Pigeon Burgholzer, Jimmy Chavez, Connor David, Alivia Henkel, Mateo Hughes, Parker Lenkaitis, Alexander McBride, Aiden Ramsey, Kennedy Underwood, Danica Ward, Cale Workman, Caleb Wyssbrod, Elin Zheng.

Illinois State Scholars: Kyra Bivins, Pigeon Burgholzer, Jimmy Chavez, Alivia Henkel, Parker Lenkaitis, Emily Lovett, Alexander McBride, Emily Montelongo, Aiden Ramsey, Kendall Sachs, Alexavier Villatoro, Danica Ward, Cale Workman, Caleb Wyssbrod, Elin Zheng.

Principal's Leadership Award: Jimmy Chavez.

SAR Good Citizen: Aiden Ramsey. DAR Good Citizen: Alivia Henkel. ICTM Student of the Year Award: Aiden Ramsey. ISTA Student of the Year Award: Parker Lenkaitis.

National Technical Honors Society: Cash Budde, Katie Burdin, Sydney Carmichael, Luis Hernandez, Abel Huerta, Jessica Marin, Rebecca Norris, Jaclyn Seyller, Samantha Thorne, Sydney Thorne, Bailey Vondergathen, Danica Ward, Brisa Zepeda, and Riley Zimmerman.

The Silver Service Program honors those students who volunteer their time in service-based ways. The Silver Service Honor Cord is presented to any senior who volunteered in excess of 350 hours while in high school. Those students who attained their cord included: Faith Adams, Alexis Huerta, Jaclyn Seyller, Allison Dickey, Parker Lenkaitis, Christian Thorne, Kendell Frankenberry, Kayla Ortega, Anna Toczyłowski, Alivia Henkel, Aiden Ramsey, and Danica Ward.

Congratulations to all the students who were recognized for their achievements.

CAN: Volunteer organization becomes new From the Heart member

From page 1

And everybody on our board and all of our current nonprofits were all for it. It's a great cause. We're just pleased that we have the ability to bring CAN back in. Without the success of From the Heart and the generosity of all of the people in our community, we'd never be where we are today. We never dreamed we'd get to

\$90,000. Our goal for next year is \$100,000."

CAN President Michelle Pease said her organization is "extremely grateful" to be a new recipient of From the Heart. The annual CAN Christmas Shopping Trip brings in children in need in the community and provides backpacks, coats, shoes, toys, dinner and time with Santa Claus.

"Our work touches the lives of a lot of kids," Pease

said. "That night is a whole production. We like to take the kids that are a little less fortunate in the community shopping that night and make them feel special. Our work is all things that directly benefit children."

Eckhardt said From the Heart is excited to add another group to its recipient list and to be able to touch more lives in the community with the funds it raises.

CAN Treasurer Mike

Dale said a donation like From the Heart makes yearly would make up half of CAN's current operating budget.

"It's huge," Dale said. "This money will help to serve more kids and it will help us get them more with rising prices at the store when they go shopping. And we've talked about potentially doing other programs for families and kids around town, so that

would be more support for that too."

Pat Burch is involved with both CAN and From the Heart. She said the new funding will allow CAN to possibly raise its gift card amount for each child's shopping trip above \$75, which it has been set at for about the past 10 years.

"The cards have been for \$75 each for a long time and we haven't raised that amount," Burch said.

"We send out letters for donations for them and we'd have cards left over each year. This year we're starting from scratch and have no leftover cards. This is our opportunity based on how much money we have to raise the dollar amount of each card. \$75 doesn't go as far now as it did 10 years ago when we started doing that number for each card. We're up to 250 kids each year for the shopping trip."

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LOCAL VIEWS

Crime, morals, and the case against common sense

WE Americans are practical. We cast a suspicious eye on theories. We rely on common sense — self-evident ideas that nearly everyone shares. But common sense used to tell us that the earth stands still and the sun revolves around it. Deep in our primitive cores, we all still believe it, no matter what science tells us. Our brains are, thanks to the whims of evolution, vulnerable to this common-sense illusion, and to many others. One of them is the belief that people are less moral than they used to be. Researchers Adam Mastrolanni and Daniel T. Gilbert, in an article at Columbia University's Nature website, reviewed studies, covering over 12 million people in 60 nations over a period of 70 years, regarding this idea. Well over 80 percent of the participants, in America as

well as in the other countries, reported, year after year, that moral standards were deteriorating. But the authors provided evidence to the contrary from their own research, based on how participants felt about people in their personal worlds, as opposed to society in the abstract. And they cited studies showing a significant decrease in "extremely immoral behavior" over the years. These findings are consistent with a review that I conducted and reported on in 2009 while I was a school psychologist, as well as an article I wrote for this column in 2016. Each revealed improved moral behavior in children and in society in general, including sharp declines in teenage crime, sexual activity, and consumption of alcohol and other drugs. They're also compatible

with the wealth of data cited in Steven Pinker's book, "The Better Angels of Our Nature." It reveals humankind's brutal past, and its evolution through the ages toward a kinder and less violent society, a story of moral progress that continues today. The belief in rising crime is another example of the way common sense can deceive us. John Gramlich, at the Pew Research Center, reported on April 4 that "In 23 of 27 Gallup surveys conducted since 1993, at least 60 percent of U.S. adults have said there is more crime nationally than there was the year before..." But he also revealed that violent crime reported to the police fell by 49 percent in those years, according to the FBI. Annual surveys by the Bureau

of Justice Statistics, asking people if they had been a victim of a crime during the previous six months, dropped even more sharply, falling by 71 percent. There was an uptick during the pandemic, but the data available so far suggest that crime resumed its downward trend last year. Life in most places in modern America is, contrary to the widely held impression, probably safer than ever. Common-sense illusions like declining morals and rising crime arise from mental limitations that we all share, regardless of social class, education, or political ideology. Psychologist Daniel Kahneman conducted extensive research on this topic. His book, "Thinking, Fast and Slow," revealed that our brains rely heavily

on the information that's the most readily available and that has the greatest emotional impact. They preserve precious energy by avoiding whenever possible the hard work of logically analyzing all the facts. The media play a critical role by emphasizing simple stories and sensational events. Mr. Mastrolanni and Mr. Gilbert cite research regarding two additional mental glitches that can result in unrealistic images of past and present morality and crime rates. One is the normal tendency to remember or imagine the good things from the past, and to forget or discount the bad. The other is our instinctive focus, encouraged by the media, on bad news about the present. It would be arrogant and foolish for any of us to claim to be free of these mental errors. It should be no surprise that common

sense, handicapped as it is by our all-too-human brains, can present a distorted view of morality, crime, and other important issues. There is a remedy for this predicament, although it's out of favor among many in this age of populism, and its distrust of experts and expertise. It's science and its methods of discovery and proof. Common sense has a role to play when the consequences for error are small, or when we don't have time to investigate things thoroughly. For the rest, we need science and the fact-centered, logical, self-doubting state of mind that it represents. Lowell Harp is a retired school psychologist who served school districts in Ogle County. His column runs monthly in The Ogle County Life. For previous articles, you can follow him on Facebook at <http://fb.me/lowellharp>.



Lowell Harp

Net farm income expectations for 2024

THE USDA released the first insights into net farm income expectations for 2024. The report anticipates a decrease from 2023's forecast of \$155 billion to \$116 billion — a drop of nearly \$40 billion, or 25.5%, and the largest recorded year-to-year dollar decrease in net farm income. The decline marks the second consecutive drop since record-high farm income levels in 2022 (\$185.5 billion). When adjusted for inflation, net farm income, a broad measure of farm profitability, is expected to decrease 27%, or \$43 billion, from 2023. If realized, 2024 net farm income would be below the 20-year average (2003-2022) in inflation-adjusted dollars. A \$21 billion expected drop in cash receipts for agricultural goods and a \$17 billion expected increase in production expenses explain 95% of the forecast decline. Direct government payments are estimated to decrease by \$1.9 billion, or 16%, between 2023 and 2024 to slightly over \$10 billion and about nine percent of net farm income. This marks the fourth consecutive annual decrease in government payments for producers since the peak of

the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and would represent the lowest values since 2014, even without adjusting for inflation. Pandemic era programs that contributed to as much as 48 percent of net farm income in 2020 no longer contribute to farmers' cash flow. Commodity insurance indemnities, included for comparison to disaster programs, are forecast down slightly in 2024, moving from \$21.77 billion to \$20.78 billion but remaining well above the prior 10-year average of \$12.72 billion. The number of crop insurance programs has increased and along with it the total value of liabilities across sold crop insurance policies. Increased participation and difficult weather have resulted in higher-than-average indemnity payments the past several years. Cash receipts for crop and livestock sales are expected to move from \$507 billion in 2023 to \$486 billion in 2024 for a loss of \$21 billion (four percent). The forecast decline in crop receipts explains nearly 80% of this difference, signaling a weaker incoming year for row crop prices. Receipts for all crops are forecast to drop to \$16.7 billion (six

percent). Corn receipts are forecast down \$11.3 billion (14%) and are responsible for much of the expected crop receipts decline. Corn futures prices have recently dropped to a three-year low on expectations of high global supplies. Soybean receipts are expected down \$6 billion (10%), hay receipts down \$800 million (8.3 percent) and wheat and vegetable and melon receipts .5 percent or less. Heavily traded grain commodities face strong supply dynamics that have weakened price outlooks for the year, substantially contributing to the \$16.7 billion expected difference between 2023 and 2024. Cash receipts for livestock are also forecast down between 2023 and 2024, though not to the same magnitude as crops. Total animal product receipts are expected to decrease \$4.6 billion (1.9%) from \$244 billion to \$239 billion. After several years of gains, receipts for cattle and calves are expected down \$1.6 billion (1.6%) — the largest drop among the livestock categories. With the smallest cattle inventories in the U.S. in 73 years, prices for beef will likely be strong but largely offset by limited production. Turkey producers are expected to

face a rough year, according to these numbers. Cash receipts for turkeys are expected down \$1.4 billion (21%). Growing flocks less impacted by avian influenza and weaker-than-expected consumer demand may explain this grim outlook. Similarly, cash receipts for chicken eggs are expected down \$1.7 billion (12%) for likely similar reasons. Receipts for dairy products and milk are expected down \$900 million (2%) primarily linked to lower expected prices. Growing inventories of cold stored cheeses and larger supplies globally create downward pressures against strengthening Class prices. Broilers and hogs are the only categories expected to see increases, up \$700 million and \$300 million respectively. Though any positive number is welcome, hog producers faced record losses in 2023 that will not be substantially offset by a \$300 million across industry gain. Behind a drop in cash receipts, the most significant contributor to an expected farm income drop is attributable to higher production expenses, estimated to increase four percent over 2023 for a total of \$455 billion across the farm economy. This marks the sixth

consecutive year of production expense increases and fourth consecutive year production expenses hit a new record high. Production expenses are expected up across almost all categories. The largest percent increases between 2023 and 2024 are expected between marketing, storage and transportation (up 12%), the cost of labor (up 7.5%) and the cost of pesticides (up 7.2%). After a year of declines for fertilizer, USDA expects a 4.3% increase between 2023 and 2024 (from \$30.4 billion to \$31.7 billion) though still quite a bit lower from the \$36.8 billion spent in 2022. Even with improving inflationary conditions, interest expenses are expected up \$230 million (about one percent), meaning relief around the cost of capital and servicing that capital is not expected for much of 2024. The Federal Reserve has held the federal funds effective rate at 5.33% since August 2023 with indications that lower rates could be many months away. This dynamic is reflected in USDA's estimations that interest expenses will increase for farmers and ranchers. The only main expense category forecast to decrease is fuels and oils, expected to drop

over seven percent (\$1.21 billion) across the farm economy as fuel prices continue to recede from record levels in 2022. USDA's most recent estimates for 2024 net farm income provide a very early forecast of the farm financial picture. For 2024, USDA anticipates a decrease in net farm income, moving from \$155 billion in 2023 to \$116 billion in 2024, a decrease of 25.5%. Much of the forecasted decline in 2024 net farm income is tied to lower crop and livestock cash receipts and continued increases in production costs. It is important to highlight the early nature of this forecast. With an early expectation of significant revenue declines, though, it becomes all the more important for producers to have clarity on rules that impact their businesses' ability to operate and for producers to have access to comprehensive risk management options. "Bowed by the weight of centuries he leans upon his hoe and gazes on the ground, the emptiness of ages in his face, and on his back the burden of the world." -Edwin Markham Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.

How to contact government officials

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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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.

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Creston Road closure to begin on May 15

other temporary traffic control devices within or in advance of the work zone. The city appreciates residents' patience during the project.

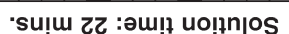
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SPORTS

Rochelle Rampage

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Rochelle Rampage 9U team wins Home Runs For Mom Mother's Day Tournament in Sterling

The Rochelle Rampage 9U baseball team went 3-0 to win the 2024 Home Runs For Mom Mother's Day Tournament in Sterling on Saturday. The team defeated Warriors 9U 12-4 before beating Byron SMOKE 11-4 and J-Hawks 12-4. The team includes Grey Engelbarts, Elliot Huff, Cooper Harris, Noah Carter, Patrick Shaw, Bryce Adolph, Connor Isley, Cyrus Sullivan, Jackson Wolf, Paul Martinez Jr. and Benny Branscum. The team is coached by Jamie Harris, Jason Carter and Justin Adolph.

RTHS Boys Track

Hubs take third at Interstate 8 Conference meet

Rochelle scheduled to compete in IHSA 2A Sycamore Sectional on Thursday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MORRIS — The Rochelle Hub track and field team competed in the Interstate 8 Conference meet on Friday evening, with the varsity boys scoring 78 points and taking third out of six schools while the fresh-soph boys finished fifth out of six schools with 50 points scored.

Rochelle will head east for the IHSA 2A Sycamore Sectional on Thursday

evening.

Sophomore Reece Harris led the Hubs in the sprinting events on Friday evening, finishing fifth in both the 100-meter dash with a PR time of 11.66 seconds and the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.82 seconds. Senior Luis Hernandez and sophomore Declan McGee led Rochelle in the distance events, with Hernandez taking seventh in the 3200-meter run behind a season-best time of 10:37.54 and McGee taking

fifth in the 1600-meter run with a PR time of 4:55.85.

Sophomore Wyatt Worthington and freshman Hunter Bivins were Rochelle's leading hurdlers, as Worthington finished fifth in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.92 seconds and Bivins finished fourth in the 300-meter hurdles with a PR time of 44.45 seconds. In the middle-distance events, sophomore Elijah Mayen placed sixth in the 800-meter run with a PR time of 2:12.07 and

freshman Pedro Rosales placed fifth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 54.42 seconds.

Senior Landon Mickley led the throwers for Rochelle, finishing second in the shot put with a mark of 14.36 meters and eighth in the discus with a mark of 39.30 meters. Senior Nathan Sergeant was the leader in the sand, taking fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 12.13 meters and fifth in the long jump with a distance of 5.67

meters. Junior Jack Tilton took second in the high jump with a height of 6 feet 3 inches (1.91 meters) and sophomore Andrew Nuyen took second in the pole vault with a clearance of 13 feet 6 inches (4.12 meters).

The Hubs took second in the 3200-meter relay (Irving Escalante, Pedro Rosales, Elijah Mayen and Caleb Wyssbrod) with a time of 8:32.30 and third in the 800-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Reece Harris, Virgil O'Dell and

Caleb Wyssbrod) with a time of 1:34.86. Rochelle finished fourth in both the 1600-meter relay (Pedro Rosales, Irving Escalante, Jackson Smith and Caleb Wyssbrod) with a time of 3:42.52 and the 400-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Reece Harris, Hunter Bivins and Aaron DeClerck) with a time of 45.39 seconds.

For additional results including fresh-soph times and marks, read the full story online at www.rochellenews-leader.com.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE JUDGE OF THE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF))
DEBORAH ANN JAEGER, Deceased.)
NO. 2023-PR-63
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DEBORAH ANN JAEGER, of Lindenwood, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 22, 2024, to RITA GORSUCH, whose address is 2528 Red Rock Ct., Kokomo, IN 46902, and whose attorneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than November 8, 2024, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for BRIAN JAEGER, Executor of the Estate of DEBORAH ANN JAEGER, deceased
No. 0507
(May 8, 15, and 22, 2024)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS CITY OF ROCHELLE ROCHELLE, IL INTERSECTION OF FLAGG ROAD AND 20TH STREET

Sealed proposals for the project described below will be received at the office of City Clerk, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle IL 61068 until 10:00 AM on 05/30/24. Sealed proposals will be opened and read publicly at the office of City Clerk, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle IL 61068 until 10:00 AM on 05/30/24.

Description of Work
Location:
Intersection of Flagg Road and 20th Street
Project Length:
1,340'

Proposed Improvement:
This project consists of utility relocations and lighting improvements in advance of an intersection widening project (Section No. 22-00344-00-WR) planed under a separate contract.

The work includes installation of underground conduit, cables, concrete foundations, utility poles, electrical services, traffic control, landscaping restoration, and installation of lighting units furnished by Rochelle Municipal Utilities.

1. Plans and proposal forms will be available in the office of:

Plans and proposal forms shall be obtained electronically in PDF format from Willett, Hofmann & Associates, Inc. website at www.willetthofmann.com. Contractors shall click on "Bid Login" on the homepage of the website and follow the instructions. The Project Manual PDF can be downloaded from the website by depositing a non-refundable twenty-two dollars (@22.00) by credit card. The eBid-Doc # is 9105964.

2. ☐ Prequalification if checked, the 2 apparent as read low bidders must file within 24 hours after the letting an "Affidavit of Availability" (Form BC 57) in triplicate, showing all uncompleted contracts awarded to them and all low bids pending award for Federal, State, County, Municipal and private work. One original shall be filed with the Awarding Authority and two original with the

IDOT District Office.

3. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive technicalities and to reject any or all proposals as provided in BLRS Special Provision for Bidding Requirements and Conditions for Contract Proposals.

4. The following BLR Forms shall be returned by the bidder to Awarding Authority:

- a. Local Public Agency Formal Contract Proposal (BLR 12200)
- b. Schedule of Prices (BLR 12201)
- c. Proposal Bid Bond (BLR 12230) (if applicable)
- d. Apprenticeship or Training Program Certification (BLR 12325) (do not use for project with Federal funds.)
- e. Affidavit of Illinois Business Office (BLR 12326) (do not use for project with Federal funds)

5. The quantities appearing in the bid schedule are approximate and are prepared for the comparison of bids. Payment to the Contractor will be made only for the actual quantities of work performed and accepted or materials furnished according to the contract. The scheduled quantities of work to be done and materials to be furnished may be increased, decreased or omitted as hereinafter provided.

6. Submission of a bid shall be conclusive assurance and warranty the bidder has examined the plans and understands all requirements for the performance of work. The bidder will be responsible for all errors in the proposal resulting from failure or neglect to conduct an in depth examination. The Awarding Authority will, in no case, be responsible for any costs, expenses, losses or changes in anticipated profits resulting from such failure or neglect of the bidder.

7. The bidder shall take no advantage of any error omission in the proposal and advertised contract.

8. If a special envelope is supplied by the Awarding Authority, each proposal should be submitted in that envelope furnished by the Awarding Agency and the black spaces on the envelope shall be filled in correctly to clearly indicate its contents. When sent by mail, the sealed proposal shall be addressed to the Awarding Authority at the address and in care of the official in whose office the bids are to be received. All proposals shall be filed prior to the time and at the place specified in the Notice to Bidders. Proposals received after the time specified will be returned to the bidder unopened.

9. Permission will be given to a bidder to withdraw a proposal if the bidder makes the request in writing or in person before the time for opening proposals. No. 0511 (May 12 and 15, 2024)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCES FOR WHITE ROCK TOWNSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE White Rock Township Board of White Rock Township, Ogle County, Illinois will conduct a public hearing at our regular meeting, regarding the proposed Town and Road budgets and appropriations ordinances for the fiscal year commencing April 1st, 2024 and ending March 31st 2025, at the White Rock Township Town Hall, June 12th at 6:00 PM. Public inspection of all fund budgets is avail-

able by appointment. Appointments can be arranged by calling The White Rock Township Clerk, Dennis Probasco at 815-985-4952.

Dennis Probasco
Clerk, White Rock Township
No. 0515
(May 15, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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.

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

"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."

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

117 INSTRUCTION

Will tutor for Elementary Math & English this summer. Call 815-440-6184. (ALL05292024)

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

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305 GARAGE SALES

ROCHELLE - Garage Sale. 1050 Pickwick Drive. Friday 5/17 9-5 & Saturday 5/18 9-5. Household items, Precious Moments, Tools

& More. Rain Dates 5/24 & 5/25. (RNL05152024)

ROCHELLE - Garage Sale. 315 N. 10th Street. Fri 5/17 9-5 & Sat 5/18 9-5. Rain or Shine. Clothing, Toys, Games, Kitchen Items, Collectibles, Office Supplies, Holiday Decorations, Cake Pans, Lawn Furniture, Tools, Aquarium Supplies, Wedding Decor, Household Items, 100 piece Nativity Set & More. (RNL05152024)

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper - \$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

509 HOUSE FOR RENT

House for Rent - Rochelle. 3 Bedrooms, Garage, Large Country Lot. \$950 Rent plus Deposit. References Required. Call 815-761-9568. (ALL05152024)

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Ogle County Housing Authority is opening the waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. This program is a rental assistance program that assists extremely low income and very low-income families with their rent in the private market.

Applications will be available online beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 9:00 am CST. Applications can be accessed at <https://www.waitlistcheck.com/IL3114>.

Applications will be placed in this list according to preference, date, and time. Applicants already on waiting lists for other housing programs must apply separately for this program.

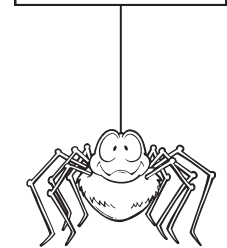
Ogle County Housing Authority will accept applications as a reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities at their office, located at 1001 Pines Road, Suite A, Oregon Illinois 61061 from 9:00am – 3:00 pm CST. Please call 815-732-1301 with any questions.

No. 0505
(May 8, 15, 22, 29, and June 5, 2024)

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Love, Mom & Dad

In Honor of Memorial Day

The Rochelle News-Leader will publish memorials of those who are gone but not forgotten. This is a wonderful way to remember those dear to us, and share memories.

Tributes include your choice of verse from the right, and an optional photo if submitted.

To remember your loved one in this special way, send this form, a photo and \$15.00 per listing.

Deadline is Wed., May 22nd at 3 p.m.

Fill out the form below and drop off or mail to:
Rochelle News-Leader, (Gone, But Not Forgotten), 211 Hwy. 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068

Please Publish My Tribute In The Special Memorial Day Section On May 26, 2024

Name Of Deceased: _____ Verse Number: _____

Relationship To Me: _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____ Passing Date: ____/____/____

Additional Information _____

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Deadline is Wed., May 22 at 3 p.m.

05152024

SPORTS

Rochelle 11U Baseball

(COURTESY PHOTO)



Rochelle Rampage 11U and Rochelle 561 Sluggers 11U teams square off on Saturday afternoon

The Rochelle Rampage 11U and Rochelle 561 Sluggers 11U baseball teams held a home doubleheader at Floyd J. Tilton Park on Saturday afternoon. The Rampage took both games over the 561 Sluggers, winning the opening game 15-8 before taking the second game 17-12. Players for the 561 Sluggers included Bentley Etes, Bennett Law, Brayson Bouland, Brecken Bruns, Cody Cox, Garrett Miller, Paul Olszewski, Gwen Good, Landon Johnson, Remy Hunley, Roberto Bugarin and Rafael Betancourt. Players for the Rampage included Noah Hayden, Devin Hansen, Eli Thompson, Dominic Escatel, Chase Brown, Beau Perrine, Riley Heal, Gavin Smith, Grange Kissack and Brycen Williams. The 561 Sluggers are coached by Scott Etes, Manny Lopez and John Cox. The Rampage are coached by Tim Hayden, Adam Heal and Mike Thompson.

BASEBALL: Hubs take one during road doubleheader at Dixon

From page 12

Andrews drove home Rochelle's first run of the game in the top of the second inning, sending a lineout to the shortstop.

The Hubs surged ahead after tallying four runs on six hits in the top of the third inning, where junior Carson Lewis and senior Chandler Cunningham each smacked RBI singles before senior Braden Behrens plated an-

other runner on a fielder's choice grounder. Andrews capped off the four-run frame with an RBI single up the middle, which gave Rochelle a 5-3 advantage.

Andrews extended the Hub lead in the top of the sixth inning, driving home two runners with a deep sacrifice fly to right field. Dixon answered with one run on one walk and one error on Rochelle in the bottom of the seventh inning, but an out on an

attempted steal ended the game.

Senior Brock Metzger earned the win on the pitcher's mound, throwing five innings while striking out five batters. Junior Brandyn Metzger fired the final two innings of relief to preserve the win.

Game 2

Brady Lawrence slapped an RBI single to give Dixon a 1-0 lead

in the bottom of the first inning in the second game of the doubleheader. Rochelle blew the game open in the top of the second inning, however, scoring six runs on two singles, three walks, one hit batter and one Dixon error. Junior Elijah Harley and senior Chandler Cunningham each drew bases-loaded walks for RBIs, while junior Breydan Andrews continued a strong day at the dish with an RBI single

to right field.

Cunningham delivered a sacrifice fly in the top of the third inning to give Rochelle a 7-1 lead over the Dukes. The Hubs added another run in the top of the fourth inning, where sophomore Brode Metzger reached base on a fielder's choice before eventually scoring on a Dixon error.

The Dukes erased their seven-run deficit in the bottom of the fourth in-

ning, however, tallying three runs on one hit and one Rochelle error before exploding for five runs on three singles and three walks in the top of the fifth inning. Quade Richards capped off the rally for the Dukes, sending an RBI single into left field that gave Dixon a one-run advantage, which held for the remainder of the game. Cunningham pitched four innings with three strikeouts for the Hubs.

SOFTBALL: Rochelle celebrates Senior Day with home doubleheader

From page 12

Game 2

Reese Polk singled and scored on a passed ball to give Ashton-Franklin Center a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. After an 0-for-5 outing in the first game of the doubleheader, senior Ella

Alfano broke out in the second game, smacking a two-run triple in the top of the second inning that sparked a three-run frame for the Lady Hubs. Freshman Camryn Metzger delivered an RBI single in the next at-bat, allowing Alfano to trot home and put Rochelle ahead 3-1.

Both teams tallied one run in the third inning, with Polk tripling and scoring for the Raiders and freshman Dylan Etes walking and scoring on an error for the Lady Hubs. Ashton-Franklin Center took control of the game in the bottom of the fourth inning, rallying

for six runs on three hits including an RBI double from Natalee VanNatta and a two-run single from Alexis Settles.

Trailing 8-4, Rochelle fought back in the top of the fifth inning, scoring three runs on four hits including RBI singles from Alfano and fresh-

man Phelosity Lopez. Freshman Jaclynn Lira singled and scored on a passed ball in the top of the sixth inning, where the Lady Hubs tallied two runs and took the lead after senior Kendell Frankenberry smacked a two-out RBI single.

Freshmen Emma Hell-

er and Briel Metzger again combined to do the pitching, with Heller throwing four innings and striking out eight batters while Metzger added two strikeouts in three innings. The Lady Hubs struck out three Raiders over the final two innings to preserve the win.

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HUB SPOTLIGHT

Chavez looking to continue career at Lake Forest College

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

JIMMY Chavez's motivation to continue playing tennis can be best summarized in one sentence.

“One day, I'm going to be the greatest player in the world,” he said this past week, when he and other members of the Rochelle Hub tennis team took the court for a Friday afternoon practice.

Chavez recently showcased his talents during the Interstate 8 Conference tournament on Saturday, where he medaled in third place at No. 1 singles. A four-year member of the tennis team with his last two seasons coming at the varsity level, Chavez has no intentions of quitting the sport anytime soon. In fact, Chavez said he plans to attend Lake Forest College, where he hopes to compete for a spot on the men's tennis team after graduating from high school.

“The first time I stepped foot on campus, I knew I'd be going there,” Chavez said. “The energy on campus and the looks of the campus were awesome. It's not too far away from my family and I think I'm going to be a great fit there because I really clicked with the people there. They were so nice and it reminded me of home. I feel like it's a place where I can really thrive.”

A multi-sport athlete throughout his time at Rochelle Township High School, Chavez competed with both the football and wrestling teams before eventually focusing on tennis as his primary sport as an upperclassman. While Chavez may not be the most physically imposing athlete on the court, his mental toughness and maturity have shined through for the Hubs, who won the Interstate 8 Conference title last season, marking their first conference title since 1949.

“I'm not looking for easy matches,” Chavez said. “I want to see what I can do when I'm playing to the best of my abilities... I can't say I've grown a lot physically, but I've grown a lot mentally. Whenever I lost a tough tennis match as a kid, I would cry or start hitting myself, and that showed up a lot during my freshman year because I didn't like losing. What I've learned is that losing is an opportunity to learn and to think about how I can get better the next time I play.”

Chavez has played both singles and doubles during his four years of tennis at RTHS, scoring over 20 varsity wins over the course of his junior and senior seasons. It makes sense that Chavez has gravitated toward playing tennis, as his father competed in Mexico many years ago and his two older sisters were high school tennis players. One of his older sisters, Jovanna, went on to spend four years with the women's tennis team at Illinois College in Jacksonville.

“My family has always been a tennis family,” Chavez said. “I was in Little League during middle school and I fell in



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Rochelle senior Jimmy Chavez medaled in third place at No. 1 singles during the Interstate 8 Conference tournament. Chavez will be attending Lake Forest College, where he hopes to compete for a spot on the men's tennis team, after graduating from RTHS.

love with baseball. I thought I would play baseball in high school, but my parents asked me to try tennis for one year and I've fallen in love with it. Football and wrestling helped me work on my conditioning and I knew that if I could play the hardest sports at RTHS, then tennis would be a breeze. Leaving football and wrestling behind was sad, but I knew that if I wanted to become the best tennis player I could be, then that required making sacrifices.”

Chavez's time with the high school program is nearing its conclusion, as he and the Hubs are currently gearing up for the IHSA 1A Rochelle Sectional later this week. Both an All-Conference and an Academic All-Conference honoree in the Interstate 8 last season, Chavez will be looking to finish his senior season strong before setting his sights on trying out at Lake Forest College, where he intends to study biochemistry in hopes of pursuing a career in the STEM field.

“The football coaches at RTHS always talked to us about getting 1 percent better every day,” Chavez said. “I think where my mentality has improved the most is that when I lose, I can get 2 percent better. When I won earlier in my career, I felt like I was on top of the world, but when I win now, I know that I still have to put in the work because there's another player out there who can beat me. I need to get better everyday so I can continue to beat more players.”

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ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 1 • PAGE 12

SPORTS



11U TEAMS PLAY BALL

The Rochelle Rampage and 561 Sluggers 11U baseball teams faced off Saturday.

See page 10 for more details

RTHS Softball

Seniors honored as Rochelle hosts AFC

Lady Hubs recognize four seniors before splitting doubleheader on Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Each of the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball team's four seniors found meaningful ways to contribute on Saturday afternoon, when the purple and white celebrated their Senior Day with a nonconference doubleheader against Ashton-Franklin Center.

While the Lady Hubs dropped the opener in heartbreaking fashion, with the Raiders scoring three runs in the top of the ninth inning to win 6-4 in extras, Rochelle fought back in the finale, tallying five runs over the last three frames to beat Ashton-Franklin Center 9-8 and snap an 11-game losing streak. The four seniors honored in a pregame ceremony Saturday morning include Ella Alfano, Macy Belmonte, Kendell Frankenberry and Savannah Nasca.

"Ella has given four solid years behind the plate," head coach Deanna Jacobs said. "She has been a huge piece of our game, between catching, hitting and helping younger players. Macy has stepped into the manager position since she was unable to play. She has been working hard at rehab and we are excited about the opportunity to

see her play next year at Waubensee [Community College]. Kendell and Savannah have played outfield at the varsity level the last two years and they have worked hard on their hitting and keeping the team's morale up."

Rochelle (5-16, 0-10 Interstate 8) will host Plano on Monday before continuing nonconference play with a road game against Dixon on Tuesday evening. The Lady Hubs conclude the regular season with a nonconference home matchup against Streator on Thursday evening.

Game 1

Ashton-Franklin Center took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning, where Nadia Near hit a two-out single and scored on an RBI triple from Kylie Mershon. Senior Kendell Frankenberry tied the game in the bottom of the second inning, reaching on an RBI infield single that allowed freshman Dylan Etes to cross home plate. Frankenberry went 2-for-3 in the game for Rochelle.

Freshmen Emma Heller and Briel Metzger combined to pitch all nine innings for the Lady Hubs, with Heller striking out eight batters and walking only one in six frames while Metzger added three



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Lady Hub softball team honored its four seniors before Saturday's doubleheader against AFC. Above from left to right are Macy Belmonte, Savannah Nasca, Ella Alfano and Kendell Frankenberry.

frames and limited the Raiders to two runs. An RBI single from Leah O'Brien capped off a two-run inning in the top of the sixth for the Raiders, who held a 3-1 lead before

freshman Jaclynn Lir tied the score with a clutch two-run double in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Rochelle put seven runners on base over the final three innings, but

the Lady Hubs were only able to score one run in the bottom of the ninth, where sophomore Madigan Williams drew a bases-loaded walk. Ashton-Franklin Center tallied three runs in

the top of the ninth inning, where Brianna Gonnerman gave the Raiders a 6-3 lead with a two-run single up the middle.

See **SOFTBALL** pg 10

RTHS Baseball

Four-run frame highlights home loss to Ottawa

Rochelle splits nonconference doubleheader at Dixon on Saturday afternoon

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — A four-run rally in the bottom of the sixth inning was the highlight of the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team's Interstate 8 Conference series finale against Ottawa on Friday.

Senior Brock Metzger homered and recorded three RBIs for the Hubs, who fell to the Pirates 18-5 and conceded a conference sweep with the loss. Rochelle (5-18, 0-14 Interstate 8) will travel for a nonconference doubleheader against Dixon on Saturday before closing out its regular season with a nonconference road game against DeKalb on Wednesday evening.

Ottawa took a 4-0 lead in the top of the first inning, where Adam Swanson and Garrett Shymanski each belted RBI doubles and Jack Henson sent a two-run homer over the left-field fence. Rochelle tallied one run in the bottom of the first inning, scoring after sophomore Brode Metzger reached on a dropped third strike and crossed home plate on an Ottawa error.

Harry Carretto reached on a hit-by-pitch before scoring on an error to put the Pirates ahead 5-1 in

the top of the second inning. Ottawa extended its lead with five runs on four hits in the top of the third inning, where Jace Veith slapped an RBI single and Swanson added a two-run single. Swanson's hot day at the dish continued in the top of the fourth inning, where he crushed a grand slam over the right-field fence to cap off a seven-RBI performance. Cam Loomis added a solo homer in the five-run fourth frame for the Pirates, who took an 18-1 lead over the Hubs after tallying three runs on three singles and a sacrifice fly in the top of the sixth inning.

Metzger's three-run homer capped off a four-run sixth inning for the Hubs, who plated their second run of the game after junior Ryan Senne walked and scored on an Ottawa error.

Dixon

The Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team split its nonconference doubleheader Saturday afternoon, when the purple and white traveled west to take on the Dixon Dukes.

Junior Breydan Andrews collected four RBIs to lead the Hubs over Dixon 7-4 in the first of the two-game series on Saturday.



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Braden Behrens fires a pitch for the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team during Friday's Interstate 8 Conference series finale against Ottawa.

Rochelle looked primed for a sweep after scoring six runs in the second inning of the second game, but the Dukes rallied for eight runs across the final two frames

to hand the Hubs a 9-8 loss. Rochelle (6-19, 0-14 Interstate 8) will conclude its conference schedule with the resumption of a rain-delayed game at

LaSalle-Peru on Tuesday.

Game 1

Dixon held a 3-0 lead after James Leslie delivered an RBI single and Ari

Selmani followed with a two-run double to right-center in the bottom of the first inning.

See **BASEBALL** pg 10