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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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earn trophies

The Rochelle 561 Sluggers
11U baseball team earned
first and second-place
tournament finishes in
recent weeks. **Pages 8-9**

WEATHER

SUNDAY	MONDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
75 53	72 52
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
74 49	78 57

Today's RNL issue
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OBITUARIES

NONE

INSERTS

- RUNNINGS
- MENARDS
- SUMMER SIZZLER

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RPD takes part in 2024 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois '... it's one of the strongest relationships we have'

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Wednesday morning, the Rochelle Police Department took part in its annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to raise money for Special Olympics Illinois.

Officers and department employees and their family members took part in the run that stretched from Illinois Route 38 to Lincoln Avenue along Lincoln Highway. RPD has taken part in the Torch Run since the early 1990s. RPD also raised money for Special Olympics Illinois through its Cop on a Rooftop fundraiser event last month at Dunkin Donuts, and it has had one of its most successful fundraising years, RPD Rochelle Township High School Resource Officer Jim Jakymiw said.

"We do this every year because it raises awareness and money," RPD Detective Sgt. John Kaltenbach said. "It's a great benefit and it gives us a chance to get out in the community and do something positive. The



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

On Wednesday morning, the Rochelle Police Department took part in its annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to raise money for Special Olympics Illinois.

Torch Run is mostly officers and our families. We have a lot of new officers getting involved."

The Torch Run was the last for Kaltenbach, who will be retiring next month after 20 years with the department. Over that span, he estimates he's only missed one or two Torch Runs. Officers and participants wore bandannas and white shorts Wednesday in

honor of Kaltenbach's last Torch Run.

Kaltenbach said being out in the community with activities like the Torch Run and Cop on a Rooftop helps residents to associate faces and names with the department.

"Especially with all of our new officers, it's good to get out in the community more so we can make relationships," Kaltenbach

said. "We need to do more of it. Getting to know people on a personal level is important. That's how we solve crimes sometimes, is by knowing the public. We're not on the street all the time, but the community is. If someone knows us, they're more likely to tell us about something they saw."

See RPD page 2



Sam Graber

Graber retires after 55 years

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Sam Graber, owner of Graber Financial Group at 409 4th Ave. and a former Rochelle Township High School history teacher and assistant basketball coach, recently retired from his work selling insurance in the community.

Graber, who will turn 82 this month, has lived and worked in Rochelle for the past 55 years. He grew up in Mineral Point, Wisconsin and attended college at Lakeland College (now University). After receiving his master's degree at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, a history professor there told him about a job opening at RTHS for a history teacher and assistant basketball coach position in 1969.

See GRABER page 3

Creston Village Board: Storm sewer project discussed Board votes to join Ogle County Economic Development Corporation

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village Board of Trustees heard an update from Village Engineer Kevin Bunge on a storm sewer project that the village is considering.

Bunge presented plans for the new storm sewer that is planned to run east and north from the culvert that runs under the train tracks on the north side of them. The northernmost part of the project will run to Cederholm Street. The work was suggested due to issues with stormwater overflow. The work will require the village to talk to property owners to get easements.

The plan presented by Bunge included 800 feet of 36-inch concrete pipe and six structures. He estimated the project could roughly cost \$180,000-200,000, and if cost is an issue, the village could downsize the project.

Bunge called the storm sewer project "the backbone for everything" as far as stormwater in the area. He doesn't anticipate



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution to join the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation at a \$1,000 per year membership level.

issues in acquiring easements from area property owners to install the pipe.

For the lowest possible cost, the project would be ideal to go out to bid for in January or February for work in the spring, Bunge said. The village board

took no action on the potential project on Tuesday.

OCEDC

The board unanimously approved a resolution to join the Ogle County Economic Development Corporation at a \$1,000

per year membership level.

The OCEDC is a newly-formed organization that represents all of Ogle County and aims to have a county-wide concerted economic development effort to see improvements

for all of its member municipalities and the county. The OCEDC is made up of member taxing bodies Ogle County, Polo, Oregon, Mt. Morris, Byron and Rochelle.

See CRESTON pg 5

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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Officers and department employees and their family members took part in the run that stretched from Illinois Route 38 to Lincoln Avenue along Lincoln Highway. RPD has taken part in the Torch Run since the early 1990s. RPD also raised money for Special Olympics Illinois through its Cop on a Rooftop fundraiser event last month at Dunkin' Donuts, and it has had one of its most successful fundraising years, RPD Rochelle Township High School Resource Officer Jim Jakymiw said.

RPD: Local officers participate in Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois

From page 1

RPD's next summer community event will be National Night Out on Aug. 6 at Atwood Park, which will consist of demonstrations, vendors and community organizations. The event is completely free to attendees. Jakymiw said that the event will have every department member in attendance and serves as a great opportunity to interact with the community.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest year-round fundraising movement benefiting Special Olympics Illinois. Since 1986, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has raised more than \$70 million while increasing awareness of Special Olympics Illinois athletes and their accomplishments.

"Special Olympics is a great cause and law enforcement has a great relationship with that organization," Detective Elvis Banerji said. "It's been going on for years and it's one of the strongest relationships we have."



Rochelle Police Department announces 'Click It or Ticket' campaign numbers

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Police Department announced June 4 it issued 16 citations during the Memorial Day "Click It or Ticket"

enforcement period. "Through the Memorial Day enforcement campaign, we helped make Illinois roads safer and spread the word that

seat belts save lives," Deputy Chief Phil Frankberry said.

During the enforcement period, the Rochelle Police Department

wrote one citation for seat belt violations and took the following additional actions: one felony arrest, two fugitives apprehended,

one suspended/revoked license, three uninsured motorists, five speeding citations, and three drug arrests.

The "Click It or Tick-

et" campaign is funded with federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Municipal Band announces summer concert schedule

ROCHELLE — The Municipal Band will be performing its first concert as part of the City of Rochelle-funded 2024 Municipal Band Concert Series on Wednesday, June 12 at the Atwood Park Band Shell at 7:30 p.m. Each concert you will hear a blend of marches, overtures, musicals, and soundtracks

of popular movies as well as traditional concert band literature. All of the concerts are listed below.

June 26 Wednesday concert 7:30 p.m. Atwood Park Band Shell.

July 5 Friday 4th of July Concert 7:30 p.m. Atwood Park Band Shell.

July 19 Wednesday Concert 7:30 p.m. Atwood Park Band Shell.

July 31 Wednesday Joint Youth Band/City Band 7 p.m. Atwood Park Band Shell - Final Concert.

As always mark your calendar every Wednesday evening to spend an evening at the park for an enjoyable blend of live music. This summer's special concerts include— June 19 - R. Wesley

Carr an RTHS alum and 2019 National Mandolin Champion. July 12 - The Vodka Boys, a local, popular, favorite Rock and Roll Band made up of RTHS alums.

July 24 - Enviro Completo Banda, also alums of RTHS. Los 3 Molcajetes food truck will be in the park for your evening dinner before and during

the concert.

Plans are also underway to have food trucks and other refreshments at the other two special concerts. St. Paul Lutheran School will provide refreshments at the July 31 final concert.

The Summer Youth Band under the direction of Mr. Paul Madere will be presenting their con-

cert at 7 p.m. on July 31 with the final city band concert following.

All concerts are free. Bring a lawn chair, invite a friend, and make it a family outing.

The Municipal Band is under the direction of Ron Duval, retired director of bands and Music Department chair at Rochelle Township High School.

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LOCAL NEWS

GRABER: Former teacher and insurance group owner reflects on 55-year career

From page 1

"I called here about it and came down here on the train with my wife for the interview," Graber said. "The train station here was still operating back in 1969. After we went back home, they called and offered me the job and we decided to take it."

Graber taught and coached at RTHS from 1969 until his retirement from teaching in 1984. He originally had plans to move on from Rochelle in hopes of becoming a head basketball coach, but opted to stay in the Rochelle community that welcomed him due to enjoying the city and his work at RTHS.

In 1969 while teaching at RTHS, Graber was recruited by a man named Ken Detweiler to start selling life insurance part-time.

"I didn't plan on getting back to him about it," Graber said. "But I went to a meeting because he asked me. He said it could be a life-changing experience for me and my family. And it was. My wife told me to give it a look. The rest is history. I sold insurance from 1969 on, after my retirement, until now. Mr. Detweiler was like a father figure to me. I never saw myself doing it, but I saw what it was and I got involved."

Later on, Graber inherited the insurance business from Detweiler, working in Rochelle and the surrounding counties. He mostly offered life insurance and fixed annuities. He was a staple of the downtown in his 4th Avenue space for over 20 years.

Graber called himself "blessed" over his 55-year career in the insurance business. He said he



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Sam Graber, owner of Graber Financial Group at 409 4th Ave. and a former Rochelle Township High School history teacher and assistant basketball coach, recently retired from his work selling insurance in the community. Graber, who will turn 82 this month, has lived and worked in Rochelle for the past 55 years

kept working for so long because he enjoyed the work and the people and meeting with families. Selling insurance was never his plan, with his original focuses being just teaching and coaching. The insurance business taught him perseverance.

"It was never a hard sell," Graber said. "I was pretty laid back. I got into insurance more and the business got bigger. I had the chance to recruit people and brought them in to work in my agency. I told potential clients I had an idea and people

were willing to listen and purchase it. I enjoyed it. I wanted to be honest, truthful and not push people. I would make appointments on Sunday nights when the whole family was home so I could meet everybody. And probably 80-90 percent said no, but you just persevered and kept doing it. And I saw those emotions when someone would pass away that had a policy. You couldn't bring back their loved one, but you could bring them a check. I never saw myself in this career, but it grew on me."

Graber and his wife, Sandi, became fixtures in the community over their 55 years in it. Sandi is a former minister at local churches around the area. Sam got involved in the Rochelle Rotary Club in the 1980s and is a member to this day.

"I've worked on a lot of Rotary fundraisers over the years and I'm a former president," Graber said. "It's an organization that gives and is very strong and supportive of different causes all over the world. I used to travel with my wife and I'd go

to Rotary meetings in different destinations. I just got involved in the community. We just fit in and said, 'This is going to be home.' I never saw myself living here for 55 years. My wife and I fell in love with Rochelle and raised our three sons here. I made a lot of good friends here."

Graber's son, Matt, said he and his brothers always took pride in their father's work ethic and knew what his work and being active in the community meant to him. He recalls his dad being

out after school selling policies, but said he still made it to as many of his children's sports games as he could.

Upon retirement, Graber thanked his family, clients, past coworkers and the community.

"I've had some great help over the years," Graber said. "I've been blessed. I couldn't have asked for a better career here. For our family, Rochelle turned out to be a blessing. It was the right place to be and we were fortunate to come here. I owe Rochelle an awful lot."

Kish College to offer short-term training programs in Summer 2024

MALTA — The Kishwaukee College Continuing Education department will offer five short-term training programs during the summer 2024 semester.

Kish short-term programs provide students

with the skills and training needed to meet local workforce demands. The programs range from 11-20 weeks, allowing students to immediately start a career or build upon their skills with additional training.

Summer 2024 classes are available in online, in-person and hybrid formats. Participants will need access to a computer and the internet to participate in programs with an online component. Some programs include

an externship/clinical. The short-term training programs offered in summer 2024 are:

Veterinary Assistant: July 23-Dec. 20 (online lecture/in-person practice)

Veterinary assistants

are trained to assist veterinarians and veterinary technicians with medical procedures on sick and injured animals. *Online lectures are from 7-10 p.m. on Tuesdays via Zoom, and in-person labs are from 5:30-8:30 p.m.*

on Thursdays at Ashton Animal Clinic in Ashton.

Summer 2024 registration opens Monday, April 1. To learn more or register for Kishwaukee College Short-Term programs, visit kish.edu/shortterm.

Kish College announces 2024 spring dean's list and part-time student honors list

MALTA — Kishwaukee College has announced the students named to the Spring 2024 Dean's List. To be eligible for Dean's List honors, a student must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours (at the 100/200 level) during an academic term at Kishwaukee College with a semester grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

The following Kishwaukee College students have been named to the official Spring 2024 Dean's List:

Chana — Forrest Gerber, John Jarrett.
Creston — Joseph O'Donnell.
Kings — Ava Lynn.

Lee — Jack Feltz, Emily Frazier, Lenna Hulthen.
Lindenwood — Kyler Dale.

Rochelle — Grace Barnes, Cheryl Bialas, Kyleigh Boehle, McKenna Erdman, Addison Friestad, Amanda Fry, Katrina Hada, Graciela Hernandez, Josue Huerta, Jaderi Ibarra, Andrew Johnson, Abigail Kessen, Ellie Kinn, Thomas Koziol, Logan Lidren, Lindsey Lidren, Aubry Liezert, McKenna Montes, Alissa Nambo, Damian Nava-Barrientos, Kelsey O'Brien, Troy Pape, Aolani Perez, Rachel Powell, Rylen Ramos, Aidan Rodriguez, Hailey Thompson, Francis Vow-

els, Aiyanna Washington, Marisa Whaley, Rowan Williams, Ahtziri Zepeda.

Steward — Landon DeLille, Allie Peterson.

Part-Time

Kishwaukee College has announced the students named to the Spring 2024 Part-Time Student Honors List. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have completed a minimum of six (but less than 12) semester hours of college-level courses at Kish with a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.

The following students have been named to the Kishwaukee College Spring 2024 Part-Time Student Honors List:

Chana — Jack Anderson, Samuel Merrick.

Creston — Everett Kaspar.

Esmond — Miriam Wagnaar.

Lee — Grant Goken, Jaden Haley.

Lindenwood — Erica Prange.

Rochelle — Dylan Benge, Julia Berry, Ju-

lian Blish, Alex Burnette, Tatnai Carcasses Suarez, Allison Cole, Ryan Corson, Brittney Duncan, Kyle Furman, Alison Gustafson, Benjamin Harvey, Parker Lenkaitis, Angel Lewis, Michele Lidren, Kyla Lyp, Catherine Macias, Jaime Martinez, Alexander McBride, Lizbeth Menez,

David Menez, Asia Miller, Carlos Morales, Ashley Reuter, Joshua Reyes, Justin Schubbe, Erick Sepulveda, Alexie Smith, Frank Tesinsky, Cierra Thomas, Alexander Torres, Arista Trosper-White, Humberto Valdez, Ariana Valencia Sanchez, Alexavier Villatoro, Asher Wiegartz, Cale Workman.

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LOCAL NEWS

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On June 5 at 8:32 p.m. deputies, with the assistance of Byron Police Department, conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 72 and Mill Road. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Derrick Pryor, 36, of DeKalb, for driving while license suspended. Pryor was released on a notice to appear court date of June 21 at 9 a.m. Pryor was additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and suspended registration.

On June 6 at approximately 10:53 a.m., Robbie Brown, 31 of Rockford, was arrested for an outstanding Ogle County warrant. Brown posted bond and was released with no further court dates.

On June 6 at approximately 11:53 a.m. deputies arrested Dilon Berg, 33, of Freeport. Berg was arrested on an outstanding warrant for failure to appear. Berg was unable to post bond and will appear in court on June 7 at 1 p.m.

ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

ROCHELLE — On June 4 at 8:13 a.m. Cristobal Raya Ochoa, 35, of DeKalb was cited for speeding 21-25 miles per hour over the speed limit. He was released on a notice to appear with a July 12 Rochelle court date.

On June 4 at 3:11 p.m. Flora Nava, 52, of Rochelle was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. She was released on a notice to appear with a July 12 Rochelle court date.

On June 6 at 12:32 a.m. Hector Deleon, 18, of Rochelle was arrested for no valid driver's license. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 12 Rochelle court date.

On June 5 at 7:46 p.m. Austine P. Xiong, 27, of Davis Junction was cited for no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 12 Rochelle court date.

On June 5 at 3:04 p.m. Lonnie G. Washington, 41, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 56 miles per hour in a 30 miles per

hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 12 Rochelle court date.

On June 5 at 3:16 p.m. Omar Cedillo, 42, of Mendota was cited for speeding 63 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 12 Rochelle court date.

On June 5 at 2:12 p.m. Stacie L. Williams, 42, 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 July 12 Rochelle court date.

On June 5 at 1:47 p.m. a 17-year-old juvenile 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 July 12 Rochelle court date.

On June 6 at 6:44 p.m. Tyrus J. Holland, 34, of Rochelle was arrested for possession of a controlled substance. He was released on a notice to appear with a June 25

additionally cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and suspended registration.

On June 7 at 12:59 p.m. deputies stopped a white 2005 Ford Five Hundred bearing California registration 8HWM686 for expired registration. While speaking to the sole occupant of the vehicle, Jahshawn H. Howard, 21, from Dixon, it was learned that his driver's license was suspended. Howard also had a valid Whiteside County warrant for failure to appear/driving while license suspended. Howard was taken into custody and transported to the Ogle County Jail. Howard was issued a warning for the expired registration and a citation for driving while license suspended.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Ogle County court date.

On June 6 at 11:04 p.m. Isaiah A. Marcoux, 22, of Rochelle was arrested for non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images and transferred.

On June 6 at 4:36 p.m. Bhavesh Chandrasekaran, 22, of DeKalb was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a July 12 Rochelle court date.

On June 7 at 2:24 a.m. Kaylie M. Sandoval-Smith, 23, of Rochelle was arrested for driving under the influence two and cited for no turn signal and disobeying a stop sign. She signed a promise to comply and was given a July 12 Rochelle court date. In the same incident, Christian M. Rivas, 36, of Rochelle was cited for open container-passenger and signed a promise to comply and was given a July 12 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

On Tuesday, O'Reilly Auto Parts in Rochelle hosted its yearly Customer Appreciation Day at its 144 May Mart Drive location. Staff at the location offered free lunch to customers.

O'Reilly Auto Parts hosts Customer Appreciation Day

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — On Tuesday, O'Reilly Auto Parts in Rochelle hosted its yearly Customer Appreciation Day at its 144 May Mart Drive location. Staff at the location offered free lunch to customers.

"We want to do it to show our thanks," Manager Brent Boubelik said. "Because customers can go anywhere, and when they choose us, we appreciate it. It helps business. We get to give back and people love it."

Boubelik said O'Reilly's sales staff gets an

opportunity to get to know customers better on Customer Appreciation Day and other staff members get to make connections as well.

"We love our regular customers," Boubelik said. "We've been able to build some great relationships."

Vacation Bible School in Lindenwood is June 29

LINDENWOOD — Immanuel Lutheran Church of Lindenwood will be offering free vacation Bible school (VBS) to children (ages 3 through sixth grade) on Saturday, June 29 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., followed by an optional cookout for the whole family.

This year's VBS theme is "Run the Race: Looking to Jesus!" (Hebrews 12:1-2). We will focus on how we look to Jesus as we run the race of this life, for He has already won the victory for us. In addition, this VBS will be complete with singing, playing games, crafts, and snack time.

For more information and to register, please go to our website Immanuel-lindenwood.org or check us out on facebook. We are located at 16060 E. Lindenwood Road, Lindenwood, IL 61049. Our email is office@immanuel-lindenwood.org and phone number 815-393-4500.

Local students named to spring 2024 Dean's List

DEKALB — Northern Illinois University recently announced its spring 2024 Dean's List students. To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering

Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Students from the area who achieved this honor include:

Monroe Center: Molly Irving, SPED-LB-SI with PEL, Rochelle Township High School. Rochelle: Brianna Baker, Psychology - B.A., Rochelle Township High School. Ethan Burgholzer, Software Development, Rochelle Township High School. Aaron Dennis, Electrical Engineering, Palmer High School. Arlette Garcia, Health Sciences-General, Rochelle Township High

School. Melanie Gonzalez, Political Sci - Politics -B.A., Rochelle Township High School. Caitlin Hensley, Statistics, Rochelle Township High School. Cole Hensley, Engineering Management, Rochelle Township High School. Benjamin Hickey, Engineering Management, Rochelle Township High School. Marlen Huera-mo, Art and Design Education, Rochelle Township High School. Ash-

ley Knight, HealthSci-Pre-Physical Therapy, Rochelle Township High School. Crue Larsen, Health Sciences-General, Rochelle Township High School. Ella McKinney, Communicative Disorders, Rochelle Township High School. Rachel Moran, ELED-General Elementary Educ, Streator Township High School. Luis Nambo, Political Sci - Politics -B.A., Rochelle Township High School. Noah

Norris, English - B.A., Rochelle Township High School. Seth Patterson, Nonprofit and NGO Studies, Rochelle Township High School. Gisselle Robles, Health Sciences-General, Rochelle Township High School. Alexis Thompson, Rehabilitation & Disability Se, Rochelle Township High School. Rockford: Sarah Dreska, Family Social Services, Rochelle Township High School.



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Newsroom Staff
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Tabor honored at Wisconsin-Green Bay

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay has made public the names of undergraduate students receiving semester honors for spring 2024 semester academic achievement. Students who

earn a 4.0 grade point average, which represents all "A" grades, receive highest honors. High honors go to students earning 3.99 to 3.75 grade point averages. Honors are given to students earning 3.74 to 3.5 grade point averages. All were full-time students in

Planning & Zoning Commission meeting canceled for July

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Planning and Zoning Commission will not meet on Monday, July 1 as regularly

scheduled. The next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 5 at 6 p.m.

Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the Rochelle Police, the Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

LOCAL NEWS

CRESTON: Kroupa speaks on ongoing construction of new library

From page 1

Last month, the board heard a presentation by OCEDC Executive Director Charlene Coulombe on the services her organization can offer the village. The OCEDC has the ability to post land and building sites on online marketplaces and networks that can be looked at by a wide variety of developers. Finding and applying for grants, working with local existing businesses, and attracting home developers are also skills Coulombe and the OCEDC can offer.

“I think this is something that we really need to get into,” Village President Tom Byro said. “We’ll see where it goes. If we don’t like it, we can get out.”

Library

Creston-Dement Library Board President Doug Kroupa spoke to the board at the meeting regarding the ongoing construction of the new library in the village.

The project broke ground March 15 at the corner of Main and Cedarholm Streets. A referendum passed in June

2022 that allowed the Creston-Dement Public Library District to issue \$2.2 million in bonds to build a new library building on the land that was donated years ago for just that purpose. The main reason for the desire for a new building is the library outgrowing its current space at 107 S. Main St.

Utility connection work has taken place recently on the project. Kroupa said Tuesday that the project is on schedule. The library board hopes for a fall 2025 opening

Subdivision

Village Attorney Russell Crull said during the meeting that a new development agreement is in the works with Hayden Real Estate, the new owner of the Creston Commons subdivision.

Hayden Real Estate closed on the ownership of the subdivision at the end of December. The village has hoped in recent years to see clean up, new homes and a new agreement with the subdivision’s ownership. Tim Hayden, owner of Hayden Real Estate, has attended recent village board meetings



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Creston Village Board of Trustees heard an update from Village Engineer Kevin Bunge on a storm sewer project that the village is considering.

and has detailed plans to start building homes in the subdivision.

“Hopefully we can get this done and get some houses built up there and get some things going,” Byro said.

Appropriations

Village Treasurer Penny Payton detailed the village’s proposed fiscal

year 2024 appropriations ordinance that will be up for approval at next month’s meeting.

The plan includes a total of \$1.102 million. The total in the plan for water expenses is \$403,900, and \$173,300 for sewer work. Line items include 75,000 for a new emergency generator at the water well house, and \$150,000

for new fire hydrants and water system valves.

IGA

The board unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement with Dement Township for the new website designer that the entities will split. The site will include information on other organizations in Creston and should be

up and running by July 1. The village’s current site is in need of an update due to its age.

The total cost of the website update, which will be split between the organizations, is \$3,795 for the first year and \$2,595 yearly. The Creston Park District may join in the agreement, website and the expenses in the future.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOCAL VIEWS

Chuck Roberts - Hybrid cars: The next rage

ELECTRIC vehicles (EVs) appear to be the next big bust. Cost, lack of charging stations, limited range, maintenance, etc., all weigh into the significant lack of EV sales at dealers. Many people don't want them. Chicago drivers stuck in a traffic jam during a snowstorm last year ended up with discharged EV batteries and had to be towed. Two years ago, the US government provided \$7.5 billion for a network of EV charging stations nationwide. To date, seven charging stations have been constructed. At this rate, the development of charging stations across the country will hamper the future use of EVs. For more information on EV problems, see the guest column in the Rochelle News-Leader, Sept. 6, 2023.

So, the next buzz is to get a hybrid vehicle. Hybrid vehicles (HEVs) have two different propulsion systems, an internal combustion engine (ICE) and an external combustion motor (ECM). A motor is an energy conversion device that accepts energy from an external power source that usually requires fuel combustion to generate the energy (the hybrid vehicle internal combustion engine or an external power generating plant). Some hybrid vehicles can charge batteries from an external source. Proponents of hybrid vehicles present the following: A typical HEV gets an average of about 46 miles per gallon combined highway/city. The typical gas-powered vehicle gets about 25 miles per gallon average highway/city driving. The money saved from reduced

gasoline usage depends on the per gallon cost. Proponents often assume rising gas prices, but if the opposition to the current administration is elected, the price per gallon may be reduced significantly, extending the economic payback period. Reduced fuel consumption compared to gas-powered vehicles contributes to cleaner air. HEVs are more expensive up front, but tax incentives, rebates and gas savings reduce the effective purchase price. There is a decreased dependency on fossil fuels. Regenerative braking lets the drive motor system feed electricity to the batteries during braking, recovering energy usually lost during braking, which is a reason for the increased

efficiency. There is quieter operation of the vehicle. Because of their increased popularity and the advertisement that they are more environmentally friendly, the resale value is claimed to be better than that of internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs). In some cities, carpool lanes allow HEVs even with one person in the vehicle. Opponents of hybrid vehicles put forth the following: HEVs have a higher cost due to their more complex technology and two different propulsion systems. Battery replacement is costly. Since HEVs are more complex than the average internal combustion vehicle, maintenance costs are high and often require specialized service centers. The bat-



Chuck Roberts

tery has a limited range. Most of the fuel savings come from in-town driving. On long highway trips, the internal combustion engine provides most of the power. The weight of an HEV is more than that of an ICEV, which affects acceleration, handling and increased tire wear. Tire particles from wear are a pollutant. The environmental benefits are offset by the environmental impact of the extraction and processing of rare earth metals required for the batteries and other components. Resale value is uncertain depending on battery life remaining and cost of gasoline. If you tow a snowmobile trailer, boat trailer, or small box trailer, forget it. The towing capacity is limited. When towing, the electric motor propulsion system is disengaged. Some HEVs operating on electricity

are very quiet, so manufacturers have added additional noise so that pedestrians can hear the HEVs coming. According to Forbes, HEVs cost approximately six percent more, on average, to insure than internal combustion engine vehicles. HEVs have advantages and disadvantages. Avoid relying on dealers or sales associates for advice on purchasing an HEV. Talking to an owner of an HEV is helpful, but sometimes, a person who bought an HEV lemon will not admit it. If you decide to purchase an HEV, good luck. If you are prone to virtue signaling because of the HEV's alleged environmental benefit, go for it. Undoubtedly, your virtuous friends will be delighted. At least for us people with ICEVs, gas stations will still be available.

Consider this: The state of the economy

ONE of the most identified concerns of Americans this year is the state of our economy. But is this really true when talking about the economy as a whole? The markets have risen with Biden as they did with Trump, however not at the same rate. Remember, however, Biden's term is not over yet. If we look at the unemployment rates, it was at 3.7 percent at the end of December 2023 and at 6.7 at the end of December 2020. Not really a bad accomplishment when looking at the rates during the beginning of COVID-19. But, the battle with COVID-19 went on and now, as of April 2024, the rate is 3.9. This data is provided by the US Department of Labor at www.bls.gov/charts/employment-situation/civilian-unemployment-rate.htm.

Now let's look at the labor market and the number of jobs reported. According to the site unemploymentdata.com/charts/historical-employment-data/, at the end of January 2017, the employment was at 143,376,000. At the end of 2020, 143,604,000 but was affected by COVID-19. The peak was in 2019 at 153,095,000. Currently, our employment is at 158,016,000 after fighting through the pandemic. A quick glance at the numbers since 2007 seems to show a steady progression even with a pandemic. The number between November 2023 and January 2024 dropped slightly, however have been moving up steadily since. GDP is the final statistic I will discuss here. The real GDP was 19,612,000,000 in 2017 and rose to 20,234,000,000 in 2020.

It had fallen from 2019 2.2% due to the pandemic. In 2023, the real GDP was 22,377,000,000 with one year to go before Biden's term is over. We seem to be doing very well when it comes to our Gross Domestic Product. These numbers are from the site www.thebalancemoney.com/us-gdp-by-year-3305543. I surely can't tell you how you should feel about this information. However, it definitely does not look as if the country is falling apart economically. With a pandemic in the middle of two presidencies, it is hard to tell the meaning of the data, so we have to look at what is our biggest concern. In this respect, I think most of the comments I have heard through the news or personally is that the cost

of products is too high. I would have to agree. But is this something a president in particular or the government in general can change? Usually, a good look at how businesses are profiting is through the GDP we just discussed. At the website I mentioned, the GDP in 2021 rose by 5.8%. This, of course, makes our country look good but since well over half of the GDP is made up of personal spending, this means we are spending a lot more for goods and services. Part of this, of course, is caused by our having more disposable income due to wages rising. But a lot of it does seem to be the high costs of goods. We have been told that during the pandemic, due to transportation expenses increasing for

many different reasons, goods and services began costing more. But now that the pandemic is over, isn't it time to reduce those costs? I see much more traffic on the roads, in the skies, and on the rails now, don't you? Wouldn't this mean that things are getting better? Shouldn't we expect to see our prices for essentials go down? There are other excuses for price increases, too. Wars in other countries supplying goods, embargoes, oil prices being manipulated by OPEC and by other governments, environmental effects such as the Panama Canal's low water tables, to name a few. Some of these are things we cannot change. Some are just annoying and a way to rip us off. So, when we worry that the economy is bad maybe we can look at a bigger picture not just prices. This is hard to

do, so if we worry most about prices let's think about why they are still so high. Will we have to have our government step in and start taxing windfall profits? This would help and may have to be done but doing so should not be affected by which party gets into office. So, why would corporations be keeping prices so high for so long? We are in a presidential election year so let's think about that. What does keeping prices high do under these circumstances? Biden has said he wants to tax corporations more so that they actually pay what they should. Trump has said he wants to give corporations additional tax breaks when he gets back into office. So, what do you think a corporation would do under these circumstances? Are they trying to nudge or force your vote a certain way? Are they succeeding?



Reed Harris

How to contact government officials

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

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

IL Rep. Bradley Fritts
Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0535

Have a letter you want to submit to us? Send it to news@rochellenews-leader.com

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

** Denotes Chairman/President*

Rochelle City Council	
*John Bearrows	jbearrows@rochelleil.us
Kathryn Shaw-Dickey	kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us
Bil Hayes	bhayes@rochelleil.us
Rosaelia Arteaga	rarteaga@rochelleil.us
Dan McDermott	dmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Tom McDermott	tmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Benjamin Valdivieso	bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us
Rochelle Elementary School Board	
*Trisha Vaughn	tv Vaughn@d231.rochelle.net
Dave Casey	dcasey@d231.rochelle.net
Steve Builta	sbuilt@d231.rochelle.net
Ashley Jackson	ajackson@d231.rochelle.net
Stephanie White	swhite@d231.rochelle.net
Javier Zepeda	jzepeda@d231.rochelle.net
Jennifer Thompson	jthompson@d231.rochelle.net
Rochelle Township High School Board	
*Tom Huddleston	tom.huddleston@rthsd212.org
Bill Ravnaas	bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org
Jeff Tilton	jeff.tilton@rthsd212.org
Bobby Chadwick	bobby.chadwick@rthsd212.org
Brent Ohlinger	brent.ohlinger@rthsd212.org
Laurie Pillen	laurie.pillen@rthsd212.org
Joel Thompson	joel.thompson@rthsd212.org

Flagg-Rochelle Park Board	
Brent Carmichael	bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org
John Dobbs	jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Dale Wells	dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org
*Tim Hayden	thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Jodie Hart	jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Joe Lenkaitis	jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Kristi Gonzales	kgonzales@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Ogle County Board Dist. 3	
Austin Gillis	agillis@oglecounty.org
Dan Miller	dmiller@oglecounty.org
Joseph Simms	jimms@oglecounty.org
Ogle County Board Dist. 4	
Jackie Ramsey	jramsey@oglecounty.org
Skip Kenney	skenney@oglecounty.org
David Williams	dwilliams@oglecounty.org
Creston Village Board	
*Tom Byro	tommyb_47@yahoo.com
Greg Hopkins	ghopkins522@comcast.net
Steve Katzman	skatzman@essex1.com
Mike Kerns	ac.kerns@comcast.net
Curt Ward	caward92@comcast.net
Mark Hibshman	
Reid Elliot	
Jennifer Payton	

Hillcrest Village Board	
*Richard Rhoads	rrhoads@hillcrestil.us
Pam Pittman	ppittman@hillcrestil.us
Dan Potter	dpotter@hillcrestil.us
Tim Ball	tbball@hillcrestil.us
Jose Huerta	jhuerta@hillcrestil.us
Eileen Braski	ebraski@hillcrestil.us
Joe Thompson	jthompson@hillcrestil.us
Flagg Township	
Sue Messer	flaggtwp@rochelle.net
Joanna Patrick	flaggtwpcerk@rochelle.net
Susan Rothenberger	assessor@rochelle.net
Scott Seebach	scottseebach@gmail.com
Board of Trustees	
Lance Noggle	noggle62@gmail.com
Eric Gruben	egruben@comcast.net
Susan Hager	susanhager303@comcast.net
Jim Kenney	jimk@rocketsupply.com
Flagg-Rochelle Library	
*Jaqueline Dickow	dickow@comcast.net
Teresa Haggstad	haggstads@comcast.net
Michael Scanlan	scanlan@comcast.net
Lanning Nicoloff	nicoloff118@comcast.net
Sheri Klindera	alwayslefty2@gmail.com
Susan Sevedge	nit1prl22@yahoo.com
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

Metzgers wins May 30 Chamber Lawn of the week

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce recently presented its Lawn of the Week award for the week of May 30 to Lee and Mary Metzger. They received a sign and a \$25 Rochelle ACE Hardware gift card, presented by Rochelle Ace Hardware Manager Jesse Lopez.

The chamber has partnered with Rochelle Ace Hardware to award gift cards to the winners.

The 2024 Lawn of the Week program has begun for the summer and will run through September. Nominate a neighbor/yard each week by submitting a name and address by emailing rochel-lechamber@gmail.com. “We are proud to recognize our residents that display community pride in Rochelle,” Chamber Executive Director Tricia Herrera said. “We love that this program gives us the chance to showcase the hard work and dedication they put in to making our city look great.”



The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce recently presented its Lawn of the Week award for the week of May 30 to Lee and Mary Metzger.

(COURTESY PHOTO)

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

June 9 Sammy Navejas	June 15 Brayden Moser	June 25 David & Courtney Jones (anniversary) Treavon Huff Teresa Baker Cruz Hord
June 10 Tanya Sage Eleanor Kulwicki	June 16 John & Carolyn Overstreet (anniversary)	June 27 Brittany Sullivan Gary & Rachelle Phillips (anniversary)
June 11 Emmalyn Eggenburg	June 17 Ellie Sherburne	June 28 Greg Danekas Grace Hook
June 12 Robby Lang	June 19 Eddie Villalobos	June 29 Derek Oleson
June 13 Chrissy Williams Jaelyn Gonzales	June 22 Isaac Bonilla Betty Armstrong	
June 14 Nicholas Oleson		

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



- May 14 - Matthew Robert Lynch, Rochelle, \$25
May 15 - Phil Nye, Rochelle, \$25
May 16 - From the Heart, \$25
May 17 - Stephanie Tepinski, Rochelle, \$25
May 18 - Focus House, \$25
May 19 - RACE, \$50
May 20 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
May 21 - From the Heart, \$25
May 22 - John LaPlumb, Rochelle, \$25
May 23 - From the Heart, \$25
May 24 - From the Heart, \$25
May 25 - Donna Durham, Rochelle, \$25
May 26 - Chris Cardott, Steward, \$50
May 27 - Scott and Alana Hill, Thomson, \$1,000
May 28 - From the Heart, \$25
May 29 - Steve Meiners, Rochelle, \$25
May 30 - Lucas Dobson, Davis Junction, \$25
May 31 - Jessica Rogers, Rochelle, \$25
June 1 - Maria Milan, Rochelle, \$25
June 2 - Lorita Bertland, Champaign, \$50
June 3 - Breanna Sturtz, Morrison, \$25
June 4 - Joe Peeling, Rochelle, \$25
June 5 - Heidi Rattanasavanh, Rochelle, \$25
June 6 - Pete Pavia, Rochelle, \$25
June 7 - Jace Whitehead, Rochelle, \$25
June 8 - Don Romes, Rochelle, \$25
June 9 - Lucas Kammerer, Dixon, \$50

QUEEN FOR THE CAUSE

DRAWINGS THURSDAYS 7 P.M. @ LUNA
FIRST DRAWING IS JUNE 13
CURRENT WEEKLY PRIZE: \$500
CURRENT JACKPOT: \$10,000



Coffee Break

MAGIC MAZE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: **Wile E. — and the Road Runner**

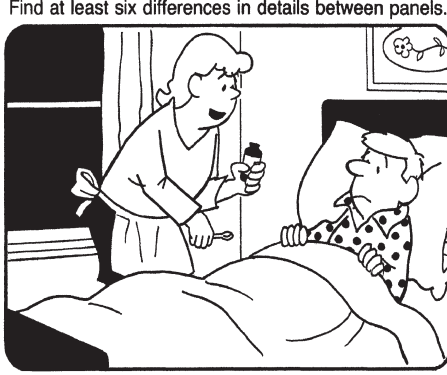
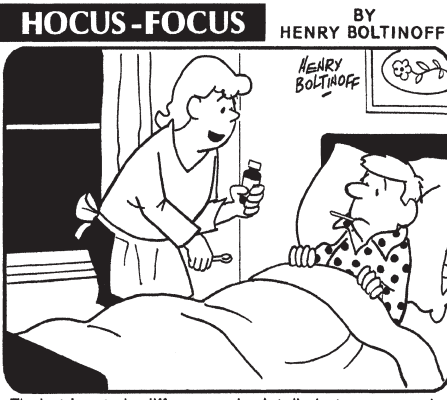
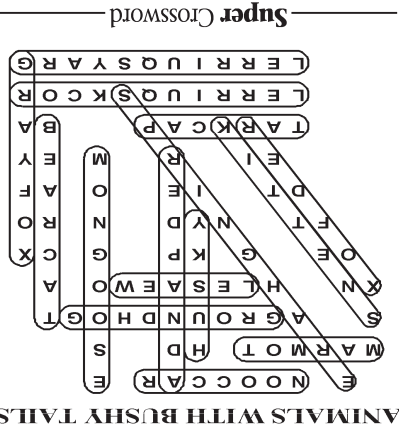
Bearcat
Gray fox
Gray squirrel
Groundhog

Husky
Kittens
Marmot
Mongoose

Pack rat
Raccoon
Red fox
Red panda

Rock squirrel
Springhare
Weasel

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Differences: 1. Thermometer is missing; 2. Apron bow is different; 3. Cap is missing from bottle; 4. Headboard is taller; 5. Fingers are moved; 6. Leaf is missing from flower.

Super Crossword

SUITABLE ACTIVITIES

ACROSS

- 1 Saudi, say
5 Raptors' gp.
8 In a stupor
13 GMC cross-over SUV model
19 Reduces the worth of
21 Lead-in to a bit of bad news
22 What ("I" and "I") are, for short
23 Capital of South Australia
24 Actress Dennis leaps?
26 Boxer Marciano begins?
28 — Canals
29 Thurman of film
30 Saloon
31 "I could — horse!"
33 Newspaper based in McLean, Va.
37 Racing driver Wallace does some hammering?
42 Singer Benatar replies?
44 This, in Lima
45 Dancer Charisse

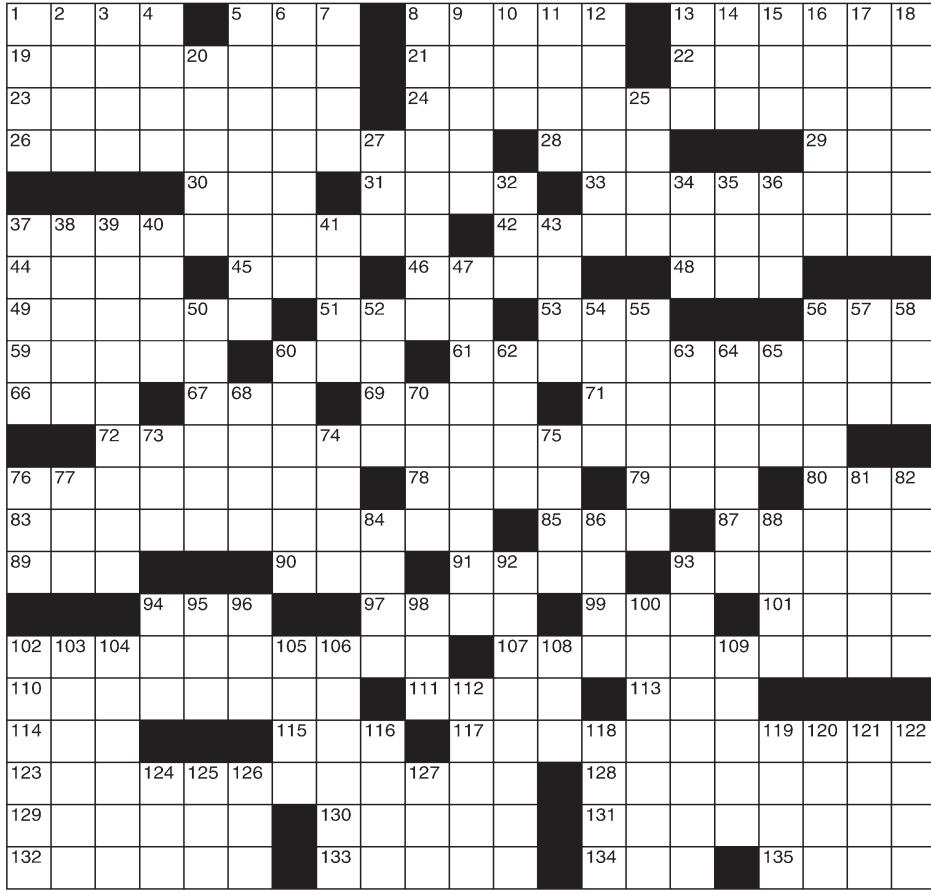
- 46 Waterproof canvas cover
48 — out an existence
49 Founder of Taoism
51 Hair removal brand
53 Gmail competitor
56 Teensy
59 Yosemite peak, in brief
60 "... — my brother"
61 Quarterback Bradshaw dries himself off?
66 Reindeer kin
67 Jurists' org.
69 Emmy winner Baldwin
71 Like whiteboards
72 Actor Slater goes on vacation?
76 Most thickset
78 Huge hero
79 Sink down for short
80 Free TV spot, for short
83 Comedian Buttons gains a lot of weight?
85 "True —!" ("Yep!")
87 Heroic tales
89 Ending for duct or infant

- 90 Lead-in to glottis or Pen
91 Stadium level
93 Employed for the purpose of
94 "Help us!"
97 Light in signs
99 "Son of," in 1-Across names
101 Russo of "Big Trouble"
102 Architect Gehry speaks?
107 Singer Aiken woos someone?
110 Helicopter or glider
111 Whittle down
113 Lovey
114 Tatty cloth
115 "ology" kin
117 Dancer Rogers loses control?
123 Singer Gayle plays tenpins?
128 Niagara River source
129 Oration of adulation
130 10th-century German king
131 Ester in plastics
132 Money in the form of coins
133 Reveals
134 JFK guess

- 135 Agenda unit
DOWN
1 Jewish month
2 Totally fix up
3 With, in Paris
4 Pitcher's goof
5 Pain in the neck
6 Accessory for a meal fit for a queen?
7 Far offshore
8 Mild aversion
9 Make — buck
10 Buddhist branch
11 Actor George of "CSI"
12 Dehydrate
13 iPhone extra
14 Freeway sight
15 Actress Meyers
16 Make bare
17 Filmmaker Bergman
18 Analyzes
20 Put away for the future
25 Slugger Sammy
27 Islam, e.g.: Abbr.
32 Fourth mo.
34 Meth- ending
35 "Bad boy!"
36 Have debts
37 Gen. at Gettysburg

- 38 "Heaven help —!"
39 Security ticker symbol
40 "Ciao!"
41 "... — baked a cake"
43 On — with care of yore
50 Ancient Greek city
52 Morales of "Rapa Nui"
54 Baseball's Hershiser
55 Greek harp player of yore
56 "Crawling" internet bot
57 Kay-em link
58 Ending for Peking
60 Pain in the neck
62 Cave effect
63 "Look what I just did!"
64 Missouri tribespeople
65 System
68 Jessica of "7th Heaven"
70 Reclined
73 Wheel center
74 Sporty auto roof
75 Ye — Shoppe
76 — Lankan
77 Phone no.

- 81 Deficient
82 Donkeys
84 Sow's sound
86 Opera song
88 Lima's land
92 Very troubled
93 Opened, as a wine bottle
94 — -cone
95 Approved
98 Sow's home
98 Psychic skill
100 From memory
102 Outrageous comedies
103 Rise on the hind legs
104 Sock pattern
105 Indigo dye
106 Sappho's Greek island
108 Writer Deighton
109 Opening
112 Shining
116 Closet pest
118 Pasty stuff
119 Classic soda brand
120 "I smell —!"
121 Fir relative
122 Appear
124 Part of SSN: Abbr.
125 — Fridays
126 Vote in favor
127 Global commerce gp.



SPORTS

Rochelle 561 Sluggers

11U baseball team takes second at Rockford Rumble

Rochelle collects two wins in tournament at MercyHealth Sportscore on June 2

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCKFORD — The Rochelle 561 Sluggers 11U baseball team went 2-1 over three games to take second place in the 2024 Rockford Rumble at the MercyHealth Sportscore on June 2.

Rochelle teed off the tournament with a 9-5 win over the Glen Ellyn Rebels. Brayson Bouland went 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs, while Brecken Bruns went 1-for-1 with two walks and two runs scored. Roberto Bugarin added one RBI to aid the 561 Slugger offense in the win.

Rochelle fell just short in its second game of the tournament, falling 9-8 against the Bison Outlaws Vegas 11U squad. Landon Johnson singled and scored two runs for the Rochelle side, while Brayson Bouland, Roberto Bugarin and Remy Hunley each added hits in the loss.

The 561 Sluggers finished the tournament strong, clinching second place with a 5-1 win over Greenfield Farms. Roberto Bugarin went 2-for-3 with one run and one RBI, while Landon Johnson scored two runs and drew two walks to aid the Rochelle offense.

Bentley Etes pitched six innings and struck out eight batters for the win, while Bennett Law closed out the game with three strikeouts over one inning of relief.



The Rochelle 561 Sluggers 11U baseball team went 2-1 over three games to take second in the 2024 Rockford Rumble. The team includes Bentley Etes, Brecken Bruns, Bennett Law, Brayson Bouland, Landon Johnson, Roberto Bugarin, Cody Cox, Gwen Good, Cooper Harris, Remy Hunley and Garrett Miller. The team is coached by Scott Etes, John Cox and Manny Lopez.

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SPORTS

Rochelle 561 Sluggers

11U baseball team wins Woodstock Spring Fling

Rochelle wins all five games over two-day span during tournament last month

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

WOODSTOCK —

The Rochelle 561 Sluggers 11U baseball team went 5-0 over five games to take home the championship during the 2024 Spring Fling in Woodstock from May 18-19.

Rochelle won each of its two games on Saturday, May 18. The 561 Sluggers started the event with a 15-1 win against the 11U Ironmen. Bennett Law led the offense with three RBIs, while Roberto Bugarin went 2-for-2 with two RBIs and Brayson Bouland went 2-for-3 with two RBIs. Rafael Betancourt added two RBIs for the 561 Sluggers, who finished with nine hits in the win.

Rochelle defeated the BGRA Bearcats White 11U team 13-2 to close out Saturday's action. Roberto Bugarin went 2-for-2 with a team-high three RBIs, while Bennett Law and Cody Cox each added two RBIs in the win. Brayson Bouland went 2-for-3 with three runs and two RBIs.

Rochelle won all three



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle 561 Sluggers 11U baseball team went 5-0 to win the 2024 Spring Fling in Woodstock from May 18-19. The team includes Bentley Etes, Brecken Bruns, Bennett Law, Brayson Bouland, Landon Johnson, Roberto Bugarin, Cody Cox, Garrett Miller, Gwen Good, Cooper Harris and Rafael Betancourt. The team is coached by Scott Etes, John Cox and Manny Lopez.

of its games on Sunday, May 19 to clinch the tournament crown. The 561 Sluggers began the day with a 17-2 thumping of the DeKalb Crush 11U team. Brecken Bruns

scored three runs, while Bennett Law went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and two RBIs. Bentley Etes, Landon Johnson, Roberto Bugarin, Cody Cox and Cooper Harris each scored

twice.

The 561 Sluggers took down the Genoa City Shockers 8-6 before sealing the championship with an 18-3 win over the JR Badgers. Bennett Law

went 1-for-3 with two RBIs against the Genoa City Shockers while Brecken Bruns, Cody Cox and Rafael Betancourt each chipped in RBIs. Brecken Bruns went 2-for-2 with

three runs and four RBIs to spearhead the charge in the championship game, while Bennett Law and Rafael Betancourt added two RBIs in the victory.

Rochelle Rampage

8U baseball team takes second at School's Out Slugfest

Rochelle brings home three wins during tournament in Mt. Morris last month

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MT. MORRIS — The Rochelle Rampage 8U baseball team went 3-1 over four games to finish in second place out of four teams at the 2024 School's Out Slugfest on Sunday, May 19.

Rochelle teed off the tournament with a 10-8 win over the Sycamore Gladiators 8U team. Grey Engelbarts went 3-for-3 with two RBIs, while Chase Countryman also went 3-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Wells Millard went 2-for-3 with two RBIs and Conrad Harper went 2-for-3 with one RBI. Bryce Adolph and Brekkon VanKirk each went 2-for-3

with two runs scored.

Rochelle continued tournament action with a 17-16 victory against the Oregon J-Hawks. The Rampage compiled 33 hits in the win, with five players including Bryce Adolph, Brekkon VanKirk, Wells Millard, Chase Countryman and Jed Harper finishing 4-for-4 in the win. Xander Gonzales went 3-for-3 with four RBIs, while Grey Engelbarts went 3-for-4 with three RBIs.

Rochelle dominated Sterling GW 16-1 to clinch its spot in the championship game. Bryce Adolph was a perfect 3-for-3 with three runs scored and two RBIs, while Chase Countryman went 2-for-2 with three RBIs. Brekkon VanKirk,

Wells Millard, Conrad Harper and Spencer Kulwicki all went 2-for-2 with two RBIs to help lead the Rampage offense in the victory.

Rochelle rematched with the Sycamore Gladiators for the championship, falling 17-10 to finish in second place. Wells Millard went 4-for-4 with three runs scored and four RBIs to lead the offense, while Xander Gonzales and Conrad Harper each went 4-for-4 with two RBIs. Grey Engelbarts went 4-for-4 with one RBI and three players including Jed Harper, Cyrus Sullivan and Spencer Kulwicki went 3-for-3. Rochelle finished the game with a tournament-best 34 hits.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

The Rochelle Rampage 8U baseball team went 3-1 over four games to finish second at the School's Out Slugfest in Mt. Morris. The team includes Bryce Adolph, Brekkon VanKirk, Wells Millard, Xander Gonzales, Chase Countryman, Conrad Harper, Jed Harper, Grey Engelbarts, Levi Hawkins, Cyrus Sullivan and Spencer Kulwicki. The coaches are Justin Adolph, Ethan Countryman and John Gonzales.

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HUB SPOTLIGHT

Whaley to play baseball at Waubensee Community College

BY RUSSELL HODGES
 SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Senior left-hander Dylan Whaley said his throwing arm felt stronger than it had felt all season when he prepared to take the mound for the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team during an Interstate 8 Conference game against Morris on April 24.

Whaley’s confidence was reflected in his early performance, as he struck out the side in the first inning and was cruising into the third inning. Motivated to showcase his talents against one of the top baseball teams in the conference, Whaley was well positioned for a strong outing on the mound, but everything changed when an ordinary pitch quickly became a devastating injury.

“I was feeling pretty confident going into the game,” Whaley said. “I was throwing the hardest I had thrown all season and I wasn’t feeling any pain... I felt a pop in my arm on one random pitch and when it happened, I knew it was something in my arm and it hurt pretty bad. I tried to throw one more pitch after, but it was ball four and it was a pretty bad pitch... I had to take myself out of the game and it was a pretty sad experience and I felt like I let my team down.”

Whaley was diagnosed with a torn UCL in his left arm and his senior season was immediately cut short. While it was a disappointing end to his high school career, Whaley has already started recovering from Tommy John surgery, which he underwent in early May. High school baseball will not be the end for Whaley, either, as the senior has signed to continue his academics and his baseball career at Waubensee Community College, where he intends to keep pitching.

“I chose Waubensee because I felt a special connection there right from the start,” Whaley said. “I felt like Waubensee would make me a better baseball player. When I visited the campus and met the coaches, I became more confident in my decision because they explained to me how I could become better, even though I had a pretty bad injury. They see my potential and I liked how the coaches explained their academic programs. I appreciated how much time the coaches spent with me, even after the injury, and the coaches staying with me has been a big plus.”

Whaley spent four years with the Rochelle Hub baseball program, with his junior and senior seasons coming at the varsity level. The left-hander ranked second on the team in innings (32) during his junior season, when he posted a 5.25 ERA with 29 strikeouts. Whaley threw 19.2 innings and struck out 21 batters during his injury-shortened



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Rochelle senior Dylan Whaley will be continuing his academics and his baseball career with Waubensee Community College next year.

senior season this spring. Whaley said he intends to complete two years at Waubensee before transferring to a four-year school.

“I know I’ll be surrounded by a lot of guys who’re better than me, but that’s only going to motivate me to get better,” Whaley said. “I know I’m going to do my best in rehab and I’m going to enter their system and work as hard as I can to compete at a high level... Rochelle helped me a lot and I learned valuable life lessons that guided me in the right direction. I’ve had a lot of great coaches over the years and I’ve worked on my own time to earn a lot of innings.”

Whaley’s future goals include pursuing an education in construction management and playing baseball at a four-year school. But for now, Whaley’s primary focus is on rehabbing his UCL injury, which will prevent him from playing baseball this summer. With an estimated recovery timeline of 10-to-12 months, Whaley said his goal is to return to the mound sometime during his freshman season at Waubensee. The senior also said he hopes to eventually become a starter.

“All of the guys at Rochelle were great and we had a big family bond,” Whaley said. “I thought I improved the most during my junior year, which was where I started getting into pitching more... I put on 20 pounds and I went from throwing 68 MPH during my junior year to around 83 MPH during my senior year. Coach [Jarrod] Reynolds definitely guided me in the right direction.”

“I chose Waubensee because I felt a special connection there right from the start. I felt like Waubensee would make me a better baseball player...”

Dylan Whaley

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

Rochelle Municipal Utilities, Ogle County, Illinois will receive sealed bids for: Power Plant Feeder Exit Upgrades Installation Purchase until 2:00 p.m. local time on July 9, 2024, at the City of Rochelle, 420 N 6th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068 The plans and specifications are on file with the said City of Rochelle for viewing purposes only. Copies of the documents may be acquired from BHMGE Engineers, Inc., 9735 Landmark Parkway Suite 110A, St. Louis, Missouri 63127, Consulting Engineers for the said Board. Please email Amy Wooldridge, AWooldridge@bhmg.com with request. Bids shall be received for the aforementioned items. A certified check or bank draft on a responsible, solvent bank, or a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and an acceptable surety company, payable to the City of Rochelle, John Bearrows, Mayor or Government Bonds or cash in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of bid, shall be submitted with each bid. The bid shall be marked to identify bid package contents, reference specification 3202 K001. The successful bidder will be required to: • Register as a bidder for this project. • Furnish in duplicate the following executed documents: - Non-Collusion Affidavit - Bid Form - Bid Bond, Certified Check or Money Order - And any other documents as required by the specifications. No bid shall be withdrawn after the opening of bids without the consent of the Utility for a period of sixty (60) days after the scheduled time of closing bids. The said Rochelle Municipal Utilities reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in bidding, and to determine and accept the bid most advantageous to the Utility. City of Rochelle, Illinois John Bearrows, Mayor Dated June 5, 2024 No. 0610 (June 9, 16 and 23, 2024)

John Bearrows, Mayor
Dated June 5, 2024
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INVITATION FOR BIDS

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SPORTS



WAUBONSEE BOUND

Senior Dylan Whaley will continue his baseball career at Waubonsee CC.

See page 10 for more details

RTHS Softball

Alfano earns All-Conference honors

Heller named Interstate 8 Honorable Mention for Lady Hubs in 2024 season

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity softball team will have a different look without senior catcher Ella Alfano anchoring the defense from behind the dish. A four-year varsity starter for the Lady Hubs, Alfano led Rochelle with a .271 batting average and 19 hits over 24 games during the 2024 season, where she recorded a team-best 15 singles and 13 RBIs.

Alfano was named an All-Conference First Team honoree in the Interstate 8 this season. It's the first career All-Conference First Team nod for Alfano, who earned Rochelle's High Batting Average award this season. The senior catcher threw out seven baserunners, picking off five, while finishing with Rochelle's best fielding percentage (.988) over 133.2 innings played.

"It's an honor because our conference has a lot of good softball players," said Alfano, who was an All-Conference Honorable Mention as a junior. "I think my hitting has improved

since the previous years. The infielders and I have worked hard to be able to throw girls out at the bases."

Alfano was one of four seniors who played varsity softball for the Lady Hubs, who went 5-19 during the 2024 season. With a roster that consisted of largely freshmen, Alfano was tasked with stepping into a leadership role. The senior led Rochelle in total bases and followed up a successful defensive campaign in 2023, when she threw out five runners over 115.1 innings.

"I had to take more of a leadership role this year because we were so young, but the girls were easy to work with because they always worked hard," Alfano said. "I enjoyed being with this team because we all knew each other for a long time and we all got along and they were always willing to work hard. I will miss the girls and our spring break trip to Jacksonville."

Freshman Emma Heller took home an All-Conference Honorable Mention from the Interstate 8 this season. Heller pitched a



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Ella Alfano received All-Conference First Team honors from the Interstate 8 for the 2024 season. Freshman Emma Heller received an Honorable Mention.

team-high 95.2 innings and struck out a team-best 116 batters in the circle. The games, recording 12 hits including three doubles, one triple and one home run while totaling 12 RBIs.

RTHS Baseball

Metzger receives Interstate 8 First Team honors

Freshman standout Bruns named All-Conference Honorable Mention in 2024

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Two members of the Rochelle Hub varsity baseball team earned All-Conference honors from the Interstate 8 for their efforts during the 2024 season. Senior Brock Metzger earned First-Team recognition and freshman Brody Bruns was named an Honorable Mention.

Metzger played all 29 games for the Hubs, recording a .265 batting average with a .371 on-base percentage. The senior pitcher and shortstop drew a team-high 12 walks and ranked second on the team with 22 hits. Metzger led the Hubs (7-22, 0-15 Interstate 8) with six doubles and 31 total bases while accounting for Rochelle's first and only home run during the 2024 season.

"I'm extremely happy and honored that I earned it," said Metzger, who earned All-Conference honors in both wrestling and football at RTHS. "I believe my pitching got a lot better. I struggled to pitch against good teams during my junior year, but I did a lot better against them this year. I believe I was a team leader and I tried to encourage my teammates to do the best they could."

Metzger pitched in nine games during the



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Brock Metzger received All-Conference First Team honors from the Interstate 8 for the 2024 season. Freshman Brody Bruns received an Honorable Mention.

2024 season, finishing second on the team with 30 innings thrown and 30 strikeouts. Metzger, who was named Rochelle's Most Valuable Player and was an Academic All-Conference Honorable

Mention in the Interstate 8 for the 2024 season, will be continuing his academics and his baseball career at Kishwaukee College.

"Being on the baseball team was so much fun," Metzger said. "My fa-

vorite moments included taking double-barrel batting practice where we could just stand up in the box and let the balls fly. I will miss playing with my brother [Brode] and enjoying time with all of

my teammates."

Bruns made an instant impact during his freshman season, recording a team-low 3.02 ERA over a team-high 44 innings pitched. The left-hander struck out a team-high 39

batters and collected three wins on the season. Bruns, who also played in all 29 games during the 2024 season, held a .263 batting average and a .356 on-base percentage with 20 hits, four doubles and six RBIs.