



# ROCHELLE News-Leader

MIDWEEK EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM



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Vol. 105 • No. 24

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

\$1.25

## Rochelle Book Hub to open for business July 20

‘It’s been really exciting to see the support from the community so far’

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle Book Hub will open Saturday, July 20. The new-to-town bookstore will be located inside Cypress House at 718 10th Ave.

Rochelle Book Hub Owner Jacklyn Mlejnek said she’s been interested in opening a bookstore in recent years and went to view the open space at Cypress House. She then put together a business plan and came to an agreement for the space about six weeks ago.

Rochelle Book Hub will be open 9-3 p.m. on Saturdays and from 11-4 p.m. on Sundays. Mlejnek said the business will only be open on weekends to start out. The main focus of the shop will be fiction books.

“That will be all genres of fiction, such as romance, thrillers, crime, fantasy, and sci-fi,” Mlejnek said. “Since it’s a smaller space I figured we’d mainly focus on fiction. It will be adult, young adult and it will have some children’s books. We’ll have some book accessories as well like coffee mugs, book-



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Rochelle Book Hub will open Saturday, July 20. The new-to-town bookstore will be located inside Cypress House at 718 10th Ave.**

marks and maybe t-shirts. In the future I’d like to hire someone so we could be open more hours. I hope to be able to order books for people. I can preorder books that aren’t out yet. I’ll have a local author spot and we’ll do events like book signings. We’ll eventually have a book

club and I hope to have a writing club.”

Mlejnek and Cypress House announced plans for the bookstore in recent weeks and she said she’s been happy to see support and excitement from the community since.

“There is nothing like this in Rochelle,” Mlejnek

said. “There’s no bookstore. There is only the library. If there are people like me, I like to have the book and own it and keep it to reread. People are really excited about it. I think that’s because there hasn’t been a bookstore in Rochelle before. I think it’s something that

Rochelle needs.”

Mlejnek has always had a love for books and reading.

“Reading is vital for everyone to get through life,” Mlejnek said. “Certain books touch us at certain points in our life.”

**See BOOK HUB pg 2**

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## KNOW IT TODAY



## Hot Dog Day held Saturday

The 37th Annual Rochelle News-Leader Hot Dog Day was held on Saturday, July 13. **Page 5**

## WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
78 61	75 55
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
77 54	79 58



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• LAWRENCE E. COX  
• DORIS FAE GRUBEN  
• DORENE KAY GOLT  
• WOODROW ‘WOODY’ CUPP SR.

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## Focus House baseball diamond restored

‘People hear that we need something, and they step right up’

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The baseball diamond at Focus House in Rochelle has been restored to playing shape in recent weeks after years in disrepair thanks to the efforts of community organizations and Focus House students, staff and foundation board members, Focus House Community Projects/Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator Jeni Hardin said.

The baseball field has been a longtime staple at Focus House, the Ogle County facility that provides a continuum of services for at-risk youth. In early 1994, the field was dedicated to Jane Roe. The field saw much use early on, but has been in disrepair for at least the past five years, Hardin said.

“It was used a lot in the past and then it wasn’t and it got overgrown,” Hardin said. “It wasn’t useful since then and it didn’t look good. Our Director Brenda Mason wanted to get it fixed up. I reached out to a handful of people with expertise on sports fields.” The project lasted about

a month. Eric at Ag View FS came out and sprayed the field to kill weeds. Clint of the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District came out to drag the field after the weeds died off. Macklin Incorporated

donated a truck load of ag lime for the project. Kevin McNamee and John Seper of LJ Fabricators donated materials and time to build Focus House its own drag to maintain the field in the future. Kiwanis Golden

K and Dennis Swinton donated two benches made from recycled bottle caps for the field to replace previous benches that were falling apart.

“The field looks beautiful now,” Hardin said.

“We’re super excited. We’re pretty active outside here in the summers and we like to play sports. It’s all completed now.”

**See FOCUS HOUSE pg 3**



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**The baseball diamond at Focus House in Rochelle has been restored to playing shape after years in disrepair thanks to the efforts of community organizations and Focus House students, staff and foundation board members, Focus House Community Projects/Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator Jeni Hardin said.**



# LOCAL NEWS

## Seebach's Sweet Corn open for 2024 season

'This year we have a pretty good yield. All the plants had really good ears of corn...'

**BY JEFF HELFRICH**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Seebach's Sweet Corn kicked off its 2024 season of sales at 11594 E. Kyte Road in Flagg Center last week. The Seebach family has grown and sold sweet corn at the location for over 40 years. The tradition of selling sweet corn was started by the late Jerry Seebach, and it has since been carried on by his sons, Jeff and Scott, their stepmother, Christy and other family members and seasonal help.

Seebach's Sweet Corn is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The stand can be reached by phone with questions about daily availability, which is recommended, especially for customers coming from out of town, at 815-213-5229. Available corn is left over at the stand after hours and can be purchased via a money drop box at the stand. If customers would like to buy more than four dozen ears, they're asked to call ahead. The stand takes cash or checks for payment.

"Things have gone pretty well so far this year," Jeff Seebach said. "We've gotten the rain and moisture we've needed. At times it was dry, but for the most part the soil has been staying pretty wet. The crop likes that and it grabs that moisture. It's been growing fast. I think a lot of other plants and vegetables have been growing fast too. Within the last week or two with the humidity, sun and rain, it just turned really fast."

Jeff Seebach said the first sweet corn crop of the season arrived about a week early this year. He doesn't recall the last time the crop was ready as early as July 10, but said his dad kept records of it being ready on July 11 or 12 in 2008.

Seebach's Sweet Corn plans to have sweet corn on hand to sell at least until around Labor Day. "I think it's going to be a very fast year," Jeff Seebach said July 12. "This is only our second day selling. Sales have been steady. We expect it to pick up this weekend. We don't advertise outside of our signs and a couple posts on Facebook. I think word will start getting around."

Last year, the Seebachs battled a dry growing season and saw lower-than-usual yields. The same can't be said for this year.

"This year we have a pretty good yield," Jeff Seebach said. "All the plants had really good ears of corn on them. Last year about every third plant had a decent ear on it. It's really good



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Seebach's Sweet Corn kicked off its 2024 season of sales at 11594 E. Kyte Road in Flagg Center last week. The Seebach family has grown and sold sweet corn at the location for over 40 years.**

this year. It was a struggle last year with demand and trying to meet it. I don't think we'll have that problem this year. I was happy to see the rain this year. The snow we got in the winter helped too. Having this wet of a summer has been good after the last few years have been dry."

Jeff Seebach thanked his family and seasonal helpers Andy Buskohl and Gage White for their work so far this season. After growing up helping with the sweet corn operation and doing it for so many years, it's started to seem less like work for him. He's learned tricks of the trade over the years and work includes picking by hand, spraying for Japanese beetles and installing an electric fence to keep animals out.

"We do a lot more manual work than other growers like us do," Jeff Seebach said. "It's rewarding to do this for another year. We like seeing the people come out and we like to provide a good product for them. It's the same with pumpkins in the fall. We enjoy seeing the people come out, and as long as they keep supporting us, we'll keep doing it."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Rochelle Book Hub will be open 9-3 p.m. on Saturdays and from 11-4 p.m. on Sundays. The business will only be open on weekends to start out. The main focus of the shop will be fiction books.**

## BOOK HUB: New-to-town bookstore opening July 20

**From page 1**

"When you're going through something, you can always find some comfort in a book. There's always something to help you through. It doesn't have to be a self-help book. It could be a fiction book that deals with problems you're having. That helps. I hope to bring that to the Rochelle community."

Mlejnek has spent her weekends and nights after work putting the shop together, including constructing bookshelves, ordering books and hosting a book buying event. She believes her business will mesh well with what Cypress House offers.

"I hope it becomes a spot that the community can come to for a spot to relax," Mlejnek said. "I will have chairs so people can come and read. They can grab a coffee or tea at The Cypress House and come back here or they can take a book out on the patio. In the winter they can sit in the greenhouse and read."

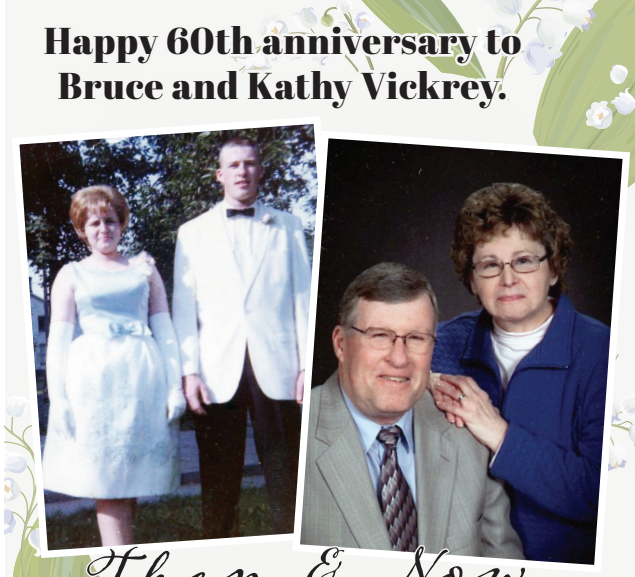
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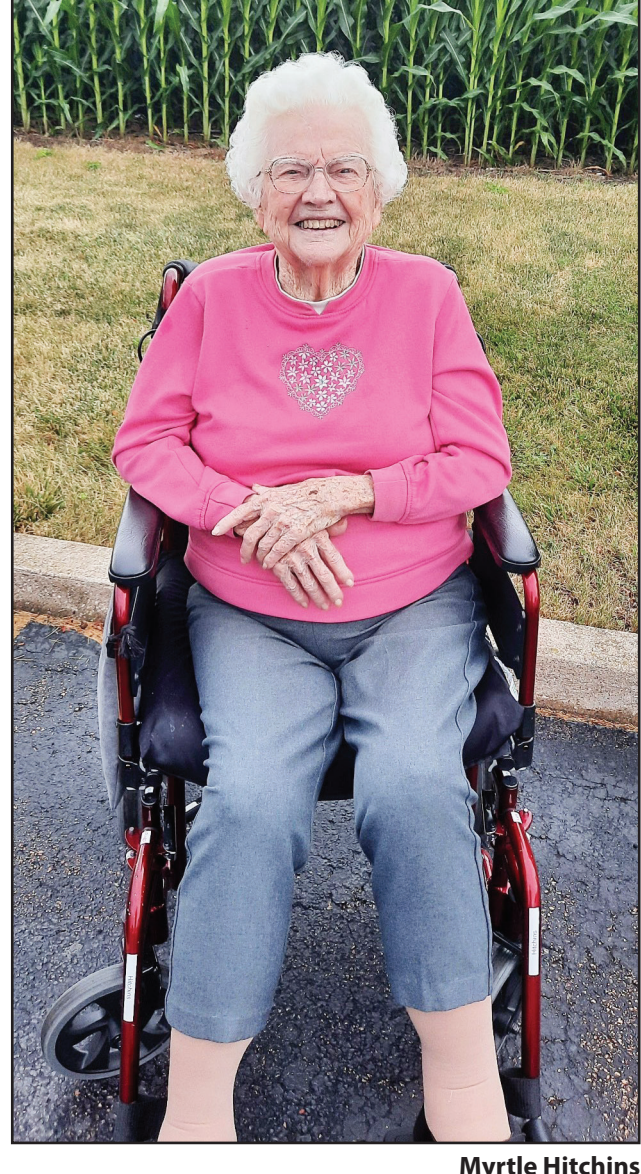
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## Happy 60th anniversary to Bruce and Kathy Vickrey.



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Help them celebrate with a card shower. Send wishes to 1078 Westview Drive Rochelle, IL 61068.



**Myrtle Hitchins**

## 98th Birthday Card Shower for Myrtle Hitchins

**PERU** — Myrtle Hitchins of Peru, formerly of rural Mendota and Bloomington, will be celebrating her 98th birthday on Tuesday, July 30, 2024. Myrtle Harriett Setchell was born July 30, 1926, in Mendota to her parents, Clifford and Ethel Setchell.

Myrtle married Joseph Wayne Hitchins of Mendota on April 2, 1949. They raised four children, Nancy Luke of Hoopeston; Stanley (Leslie) Hitchins of Bloomington; Joseph (Debbie) Hitchins of Eureka; and Gary (Cathy) Hitchins of Peru. Myrtle has 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Please share a birthday wish with Myrtle while her family is celebrating her 98th birthday in 2024.

Her mailing address is: Myrtle Hitchins  
Manor Court #105  
3230 Becker Drive  
Peru, IL 61354

## Van Hise graduates from UW-Platteville

**PLATTEVILLE, Wis.** — The University of Wisconsin-Platteville awarded diplomas to more than 700 undergraduate students for the spring of 2024.

Students from this area who graduated include: Rochelle's Katelyn Van Hise (Biology, UW-Platteville).



# LOCAL NEWS

## FOCUS HOUSE: Community unites to restore baseball diamond

From page 1

“The kids have already been out there playing. We plan to get it sprayed for weeds again and to get new bases. We’re hoping to get a softball game together with our staff, our foundation board, city officials, local businesses that helped us to get it done, and our students. We want to put together a fun event out there to thank everybody and have a ribbon cutting for our new field.”

Hardin said the Focus House students are excited by the field’s completion and they assisted with the moving of ag lime and cleaning up the weeds. They’ll be helping with the future upkeep of the field. “They were involved from start to finish,” Hardin said. “Our kids are very proud of it. This is a lot like the other volunteer projects they do in the community. It’s good for them to see something improve from start to finish. We recently helped the VFW with the flags for Memorial Day and kids got to see that from start to finish too. They feel proud when they get to be part of things like that.”

Hardin said Foundation for Focus House Board Vice President Russ Crull and Focus House Head Teacher Tony Wyatt led the charge to get the field cleaned up. It will be used for gym class for students every day possible for kickball, baseball and



The baseball field has been a longtime staple at Focus House, the Ogle County facility that provides a continuum of services for at-risk youth. In early 1994, the field was dedicated to Jane Roe. The field saw much use early on, but has been in disrepair for at least the past five years, Focus House Community Projects/Marketing and Volunteer Coordinator Jeni Hardin said.

softball. “It was a great project,” Hardin said. “I want everyone to know how much we appreciate them. It’s really neat to see. We have such great support from the community. People hear that we need something, and they step

right up. It came together so quickly. People donated their time and resources. We didn’t have to pay anything, and we have a brand new beautiful field. We’re just so appreciative of the community and wouldn’t be able to do a lot of what we do without it.”

Hardin said the community’s support of the project shows how much people in the area care about the students at Focus House and she and the facility’s staff want to make sure they know that. “The staff tries to instill in the students that people

in the community give back to help them,” Hardin said. “So that’s why we do volunteer projects to give back and repay them. Our kids enjoy volunteer work and every step of the way we try to show them why we do what we do. Because of the support

the community gives our program and our kids. We want our students to leave here knowing the importance of giving back. We don’t ask for much from the community, but when we do, people step up. And we appreciate it more than we can say.”

## CTA to play Mt. Morris July 19

**MT. MORRIS** — The Mt. Morris Jamboree is pleased to announce the return of Chicago Tribute Anthology to our Bandshell stage for a free two-hour concert on July 19 from 7-9 p.m.

In April of 1969, a new rock ‘n roll band burst onto the scene garnering nationwide attention. Born in the Midwest and infused with elements of jazz, blues, and Latin influences, the first album by “Chicago Transit Authority”, or CTA as they were commonly known, went double platinum. Such hits as Beginnings, Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?, and Question 67 & 68 propelled the band to popularity.

With a rock rhythm section led by the brilliant guitarist Terry Kath, a powerful horn section, and unique vocals, the band is now known simply as “Chicago” released their second album in January of 1970. Considered by

many to be the band’s breakout album, Chicago 2 would also go platinum with hits like: Make Me Smile; Colour My World; and 25 or 6 to 4.

Chicago became a dominant force in popular music during the 1970s, producing at least one new album each year. This period was marked by the release of classic songs like, Free, Saturday in the Park, Dialogue, Just You ‘n Me, Feelin’ Stronger Every Day, Call On Me, and Old Days, to name a few.

CTA brings to life the “Golden Age” of Chicago by meticulously recreating many of the great songs from the first 11 albums. Members include Tom Anderson, Paul Bata, Terry Geraci, Paul Mabin, Chuck Parrish, Reed Pauley, Dan Peters and John Springbrunn. Learn more about the band at <http://www.chicagotribute.net>. Enjoy CTA live and experience all of these classic songs just the way you

remember them!

Concessions for the evening will be provided by both the Mt. Morris Moose Lodge, who will be serving chicken strips, French fries, cheese fries, onion rings, cheese curds, pop and water, and the Oregon Lions Club, serving pork chop sandwiches, brats, pop and water. Just 4 Fun ice cream as well as Bill’s Famous Lemonade stand will be there too, all starting at 6 p.m.

Ewe and Me Acres will have a fresh produce stand with a variety of fruits, vegetables, baked goods, jams, jellies and dog treats on the campus along with other craft and plant vendors from 5-8 p.m.

On either side of the band shell, the Sandstone Encore Art Gallery will feature the Regional Showcase of Area Artists and the new location of the Mt. Morris Historical Museum in the newly renovated College Hall, will both be open during the concert.



### Storm damages house trailer in Flagg Center

On July 13 at 3:36 p.m. the Ogle County Sheriff’s Office responded to the 11,400 block of East Flagg Road in regards to a house trailer that had been overturned as a result of a fast-moving storm. The Sheriff’s Office was assisted by Rochelle Fire Department and Flagg Center Fire Department personnel. The occupant of the trailer was treated for minor injuries at the scene by Rochelle Fire Department personnel.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## OBITUARIES

### Mary Lou Henry

**ROCHELLE** — Mary Lou Henry, 92, passed away Saturday, June 29, 2024 at Manor Court in Rochelle, Illinois. Mary Lou was born on September 13, 1931, the daughter of John C. and Rosa G. (Brauer) Stein in Lee County, IL.

Mary Lou was a 1949 graduate of Ashton High School. On December 26, 1955, she married Paul Jerome Henry in Rochelle. They were married for 59 years until his passing in 2015. She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, a life member of the VFW Auxiliary and a member of the Rochelle Moose Lodge. Prior to retirement,

Mary Lou was employed as a secretary for the Del Monte Corp.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Paul, on May 30, 2015; her brother, Robert Stein and four sisters: Rogene Schade, Pauline O'Brien, Lois Binz and Shirley Young.

Mary Lou is survived by her two daughters: Debra (Scott) Sprague of Streamwood, IL and Denise (Rick) Budde of New Berlin, WI; three grandchildren: Lauren, Zachary (Morgan) and Alexis Sprague; sister, Joyce (Don) Gilbert of Kingwood, TX and brother, Duane (Linda) Stein of Rochelle, IL.



The visitation will be from 9:00 - 10:00 A.M., Saturday, July 20, 2024 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 236 Kelley Drive, Rochelle. The funeral service will follow at 10:00 A.M., Saturday with Father Jesus Dominguez officiating. Burial is at St. Patrick Cemetery in Rochelle. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Lawrence E. Cox

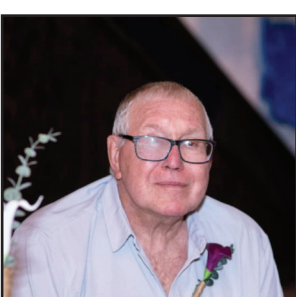
**CRESTON** — Lawrence E. Cox, 82, passed away Sunday, July 14, 2024 at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon, Illinois with his family by his side. Larry was born on May 5, 1942, the son of Clarence W. and Ethline (Colburn) Cox in Wynne, Arkansas. On June 24, 1960, he married Phyllis A. Bee in Creston, IL. Prior to retirement, he worked for the First National Bank of Omaha in the maintenance department. He also worked for Swift and Co. and Spaulding before working at the bank.

Larry loved spending time with his family, trap-

shooting, and hunting with his son, Jeff. He enjoyed racing stock cars and raising and training German Short-haired Pointers. During the last year, his favorite things to do were going on rides, watching people fish at Lake Sule and at the Oregon dam and watching the skydivers.

In addition to his parents, Larry is preceded in death by his sisters: Juanita Starnes and Helen Durham; his brother, Erval Colburn and his grandson, Trevor Cox.

Larry is survived by his wife of 64 years, Phyllis of Creston; three children: Jeff (Dana) Cox of Chana, IL, Debi (Brett) Carlson of



Chana, IL and Mary Ann (Jim) Burton of Kings, IL; ten grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

There will be a celebration of Larry's life at a later date. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home.

Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

## ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

**ROCHELLE** — On July 8 at 9:01 p.m. Wendy B. Bell, 54, of Creston was cited for expired registration. She signed a promise to comply and was given an Aug. 16 Rochelle court date.

On July 8 at 8:07 p.m.

Nicholas S. Adams, 42, of Rockford was cited for improper display of registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Aug. 16 Rochelle court date.

On July 10 at 1:32 a.m. Michael A. Flinchum, 27,

of Bolingbrook was cited for speeding 60 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour zone and expired registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Aug. 16 Rochelle court date.

On July 10 at 1:04 p.m. Justin R. Bertaud, 21, of Rochelle was cited for suspended registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Aug. 16 Rochelle court date.

On July 10 at 5 p.m. Abdikadir Said Ahmed, 36, of Chicago was cited for unsafe backing on a roadway. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Aug. 16 Rochelle court date.

On July 11 at 12:06 a.m. Trevor Browning, 24, of Lisle was cited for suspended registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Aug. 16 Rochelle court date.

On July 11 at 8:21 p.m. Victoria A. Johnson, 30, of Rochelle was cited for no valid registration. She signed a promise to comply and was given an Aug. 16 Rochelle court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

### Doris Fae Gruben

**ROCHELLE** — Doris Fae Gruben, 83, passed away Sunday, July 14, 2024 at her rural Rochelle home. Doris was born November 18, 1940 to Anise Elizabeth (Curtis) and Albert Adam Bosecker in Rockford, Illinois. Much of her childhood was on the family farm in rural Kings, Illinois followed by the family-run motel near the intersection of highways 64 and 51. Doris graduated from Rochelle Township High School and attended Rockford Business School before working in the office at Rochelle Township High School. Doris and Norman married on December 16, 1961 at the Kings Presbyterian Church.

Doris and Norman raised their three children on a grain and livestock farm in rural Kings. They were faith-filled and active members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Rochelle and Doris was active in 4-H leadership and several church ministries. Through her warmth and sincere caring for others, she enriched the lives of all those she met. She enjoyed restoring antique furniture, creating beautiful quilts, and encouraging others with thousands of hand-crafted greeting cards. Following retirement

from farming, Norman and Doris, traveled to Europe and Australia and delighted in being active in the lives of their children and nine grandchildren. Doris was a devoted and loving wife to her husband, Norman, working alongside him in all aspects of their farming operation and raising their family. She particularly enjoyed nurturing life, floral and fauna, especially baby animals from squirrels and raccoons to deer and ponies. She avidly cared for her family and the extended community through countless visits, meals, cards, and flowers. Doris shared an extra-special bond with her beloved twin, Delores.

In 2021, Doris was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was blessed with more healthy years following aggressive treatment. Doris passed away peacefully after several weeks of home hospice, surrounded by the care of her family. She was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her loving husband, Norman; sisters: Marjorie Hayes, Delores (Robert) Reints, and Bernice (Don) Fitzsimmons; son, Greg (Wendy) Gruben of Edgerton, WI; daughter, Lanette (Tim)



Schumacher of Sheboygan, WI; son, Kurt (Kathy) Gruben of Sheboygan, WI; grandchildren: Peter (Katelyn) Schumacher, Maggie Gruben, Karl (Ashley) Schumacher, Lydia Gruben, Anna Gruben, Dane Schumacher, Naomi Gruben, Natalie Gruben, Hans (Hannah) Gruben, and great-grandchild, Clara Schumacher.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 - 6:00 P.M., Thursday, July 18, 2024 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, IL. A funeral service will be held Friday, July 19th at 11:00 A.M. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1415 10th Avenue Rochelle. Burial will follow the service at Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle. Memorials may be made in Doris' memory to St. Paul Lutheran Church or Serenity Hospice and Home. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Dorene Kay Golt

**ROCHELLE** — Dorene Kay Golt, 64, passed away Sunday, July 14, 2024 at Javon Bea Medical Center in Rockford, Illinois. Dorene was born on April 14, 1960, the daughter of Kenneth D. and Mary (Rhodes) Johnson. On October 1, 1996, she married Michael B. Golt in Jamaica. Dorene enjoyed golfing and shooting pool with Mike.

Dorene is survived by

her husband, Mike; her mother, Mary Johnson; two brothers: Doug (Kelly) Johnson and Kyle (Lisa) Johnson all of Rochelle; several nieces and nephews and many friends. She was preceded in death by her father, Kenny Johnson on April 7, 2016.

A celebration of Dorene's life will be held at a later date. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home.



Burial will be at Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Woodrow 'Woody' Cupp Sr.

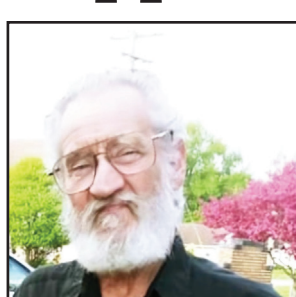
**STEWART** — Woodrow "Woody" Cupp Sr., 77, of Stewart, passed away Monday, July 15, 2024, at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford. He was born June 20, 1947 in Cubage, KY, the son of Jake and Cora (Wilder) Cupp.

Woody was a plumber for J.B. Plumbing for over 20 years. He was a longtime member of the Rochelle Moose Lodge, serving as governor three different times as well as running the Lightning game. Woody was always keeping busy. When not working, he could often be found doing odd jobs for friends and family. He loved to garden and always kept a big garden.

Woody is survived by a son, Woody Cupp Jr. of Stewart; daughter, Misty (Scott) Luxton of Sierra, Vista, AZ; six grandchildren, Seth (Becky) Cupp, Saydee Cupp, Jonathan (Makaela Chamness) Cupp, Destinee Law, Jessica Luxton, and Keyara Luxton; six great-grandchildren, Vanessa, Damian, Zane, Jayde, Justin, Everleigh, and one on the way; the mother of his children, Vicki Barnes of AZ; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Woody is preceded in death by six siblings, Roy, Joann, Cill, Loretta, Effie, and Elbert.

Visitation will be from



2:00 - 5:00 P.M., Sunday, July 21, 2024, at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th Street in Rochelle. Cremation care will be provided after the visitation.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Woody's memory may be directed to the family for a memorial to be established. Please visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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## ROCHELLE News-Leader

211 IL Route 38 East, Rochelle, IL 61068  
(815) 562-4171

USPS (467-820) ISSN (1075-2811)  
Published every Wednesday and Sunday by Rochelle News-papers Inc. at 211 E. State Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068.  
Periodical postage paid at Rochelle, IL 61068. Postmaster send address changes to the Rochelle News-Leader, P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068. Subscription rates are \$139.99 per year by mail in Ogle County. Outside county rate is \$149.99 per year. The circulation department is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For subscription information, contact Kelly White at 562-4171.

### IN-COUNTY REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION RATES

- \$139.99 for one year • \$79 for six months
- \$34.99 for three months • \$13.99 for one month

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# LOCAL NEWS

(PHOTOS BY CHRIS ACKLAND)



## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Rochelle News-Leader Hot Dog Day held Saturday

The Rochelle News-Leader's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Hot Dog Day was held Saturday. Free hot dogs were served at 14 locations including Walmart, A1 Hot Body Detailing, Beauty Bar, Prescott Brothers Ford, Royal Scoop, Ace Hardware, Jeff Perry Autos, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Rochelle VFW, Living Water Community Church, Silgan Containers, Hub City Car Wash, Kenny's Place and ALM Fine Cabinetry. The News-Leader would like to thank the participating businesses and those who make it happen each year. The hot dogs were donated by Rochelle Foods, the mustard and buns were donated by Walmart and ALDI, and the ketchup was donated by Del Monte Foods.

## OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**OREGON** — On July 9 at 11:11 a.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop on Straddle Creek Road just west of North Brookville Road (Carroll County), for an equipment violation that occurred in the 15,000 block of West White Eagle Road (Ogle County). As a result, deputies arrested Juan P. Anguiano, 44, of Clinton, Iowa for driving with no valid driver's license. Anguiano was additionally issued a citation for no muffler. Anguiano was released on scene with a notice to appear with a future court date.

On July 9 at 5:03 p.m. deputies responded to the 7,000 block of East Flagg Road and made contact with a male. The male was identified as Jessie Thornton, 33, of Dakota, who was placed under arrest for an outstanding Ogle County warrant (failure to appear possession of controlled substance), Stephenson County warrant (failure to appear domestic battery), and Rockford Police warrant (failure to appear driving under the influence of alcohol). Thornton was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.

On July 9 at approximately 10:20 p.m. deputies responded to the 100 Block of Merchant Street and made contact with a female. The female was identified as Pamela Guzman, 40, of Byron, who was placed under arrest for an Ogle County warrant for failure to appear. Guzman was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was held in lieu of bond.

On July 9 at approximately 11:43 p.m. deputies located a vehicle traveling in the oncoming lane of travel, just south of the intersection of Freeport Road and Milledgeville Road. Deputies attempted to stop the vehicle, which fled northbound at a high rate of speed. The vehicle finally came to a stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 26 and Prairie Dell Road. The driver of the vehicle, Courtney Nielsen, 24, of Sterling, was placed under arrest for aggravated fleeing to elude a peace officer and driving under the influence of alcohol. Nielsen was also cited for speeding, improper lane usage, and disobeying a stop sign. Nielsen was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she

was released on a notice to appear.

On July 10 at approximately 11:21 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 11,000 block of North Kennedy Hill Road.

After investigation, deputies placed Tamara Matthews, 56, of Overland Park, Kansas, under arrest for driving while license revoked and possession of a controlled substance (schedule IV pills) class-four felony. Matthews was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured vehicle. Matthews was transported to the Ogle County Jail where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On July 10 at approximately 10:55 p.m. deputies responded to the 200 block of West Roosevelt Street in Stillman Valley in response to a citizen complaint. After an investigation, Tiffany R Fabish, 39, of Stillman Valley, was placed under arrest for two Ogle County warrants. It was found that Fabish had a warrant for failure to appear for a traffic offense and a warrant for a probation violation. Fabish was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was

held in lieu of bond.

On July 10 at approximately 8:50 a.m. deputies arrested Estevan Munoz, 23, of Rochelle. Munoz was arrested on an outstanding Ogle County warrant for reckless driving. There was no bond set on the warrant and he appeared in court at 1 p.m. Munoz was released on a recognizance bond and will return to court on Sept. 9 at 9 a.m.

On July 12 at approximately 12:50 a.m. deputies responded to one-vehicle accident in the 1,900 block of West Lightsville Road. After investigation, deputies determined that a red Ford Focus driven by Bailey Miller, 24, of Leaf River, was traveling westbound in the 1,000 block of West Lightsville Road. Miller then struck a deer in the roadway before overturning at least once in the north ditch. Miller was checked out on scene by Leaf River EMS and was released on a refusal. Miller was placed under arrest for driving under the

influence of alcohol. Miller was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where she was released on a notice to appear and given a future court date.

On July 13 at 10:04 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the area of 100 E. Cedarholm St., Creston for the report of a pedestrian being struck by a passing vehicle. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Christian Stanbery, 22, of Creston, for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving while license suspended. Stanbery was transported to the Ogle County Jail to be processed where he was additionally charged with aggravated DUI. Stanbery was released on a notice to appear court date Aug. 7 at 9 a.m. The pedestrian refused EMS and had minor injuries. Stanbery was additionally cited for expired registration and operating uninsured motor vehicle.

On July 13 at approximately 12:10 a.m. deputies arrived at a residence in

the 12,000 block of West Haldane Road in response to a domestic battery in progress (multiple persons involved). After an initial investigation, deputies placed Michael J. Allen, 29, of Polo, under arrest for aggravated domestic battery and two counts of battery. Allen was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he is being held pending an appearance before a judge. Deputies were assisted on scene by the Polo Police Department.

On July 15 at approximately 8:30 a.m. deputies arrested Jessica Peterson, 39, of Mt. Morris, when she turned herself in to the Ogle County Jail. Peterson was arrested on an outstanding warrant for driving under the influence. There was no bond set on the warrant, and she appeared in court at 1 p.m. Peterson was issued a recognizance bond, was released, and will appear in court again on Aug. 12.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## Ogle-Lee RTA accepting scholarship applications

**OGLE COUNTY** — The Ogle-Lee Retired Teachers Association will award three \$500 scholarships this year. Two will be from the Ogle-Lee RTA, and one will be the Pamela J. Farris Scholarship.

The requirement for the Ogle-Lee Scholarship is that you are enrolled as a

junior or senior majoring in education at an accredited school and that your home is in Ogle or Lee County.

The Pamela J. Farris Scholarship requires that you be enrolled as a junior or senior majoring in elementary or middle school education at Northern Illinois University. No county

restrictions.

Applications are available at [ogleleerteaonline.weebly.com](http://ogleleerteaonline.weebly.com). Applications are due by Aug. 16 to Phil Bratta, 5631 Fair Oaks Drive, Davis Junction, IL 61020. The winners will be announced on Sept. 10. If you have questions, call 815-520-5312.

## Hansen named to Augustana College's spring semester Dean's List

**ROCK ISLAND** — Augustana College announced more than 1,100 students were named to the Dean's List for the 2023-2024 spring semester.

Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a four-point

scale for courses taken during the term.

The list included Jonathan Hansen, a Music Education major, of Lindenwood.

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS  
CARRY



# LOCAL VIEWS

## That punch-drunk, shell-shocked, bald-headed crazy Irishman

THIS is the story of a storyteller. Born on Nov. 1, 1891 in Ohio, Illinois, Bernard (Buck) Faley was a “character.” His parents, James and Susan, owned a meat market and young Buck worked in the family store. Buck was raised and educated in small communities. He had many loves in his life. He loved boxing, family, and his countries, yes, his countries. Buck’s grandparents, John and Bridget, were born in Ireland and Buck was Irish to his core. He was also proud of his family’s new home, America.

When war broke out Buck enlisted and fought with Company E of the 13th Infantry. His service to the country took Buck to France and placed him in several major battles. July 1918, and the Battle for Le Hamel, Somme was the first time that American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) went into a battle under the leadership of a non-American commander. With Australia in command, American, Australian, and British forces reclaimed the village of Le

Hamel. The battle was so well planned that it only lasted for 90 minutes, three minutes longer than had been planned. 20 AEF soldiers lost their lives as did 2,000 Germans with another 1,600 captured. August saw the Second Battle of Somme and Sept. 12-16 the Battle of Saint-Mihiel. Saint-Mihiel was the first major use of the U.S. Army Air Service and the first major use of George Patton and the tank corps under his command. The American Expeditionary Forces had been bloodied, tactics had been improved, Buck and his fellow warriors were ready for the “big one.” Sept. 26, 1918 began the Battle of Meuse-Argonne or Battle of the Argonne Forrest. Over the next 47 days 28,000 German, 26,277 American, and an unknown number of French troops perished. With Allied victory came the end of the war, Buck was headed home.

Boxing was one of Buck Faley’s great loves. From age 18 Buck was drawn to the ring. As the story goes Buck saw Billie

Papke (pro-boxer) receive \$5,000 for a fight. That made him think boxing was where the money was to be made. “I remember when I won a fight and received \$12 for it. A day’s pay then was \$2. That was a lot of money,” stated Buck. The most he was paid for a fight was \$100. “I then thought I was on the road to riches. It was \$50 for the fight and \$50 for the tickets I sold.” He was a boxing instructor in the Army, “I taught them boxing because the moves in boxing are the same as the bayonet moves. The right jab, the jab to the left are the same movements.” He claimed that he had fought 25 bouts and only lost three. Evidently those three losses were enough to send Buck on another path.

It was in 1920 that Buck married Mabel Modler and they honeymooned in Chicago. After a few days in Chicago the Faley’s headed back home and made a quick stop in Rochelle to stretch their legs.

In Buck’s words, “Driving through Rochelle I decided to stop and buy a paper. I came out of the store owning a grocery store.” “Phone Faley for Food” opened at 411 Cherry Ave. Buck bragged about both of his new ventures. Once



Tom McDermott

when asked about his bride, Mabel, Buck puffed out his chest and asserted, “We’ve been married 58 years and have only had one fight.” When he was asked what the fight was about, he laughed and said, “I don’t remember but it’s been going on for 58 years.” Frequently when speaking of his 11 years in the grocery business Buck would simply say, “The store was in debt when he took it over and he left it the same way.” He never mentioned how often he sold his goods on credit to ensure that no one went hungry during the depression. A story is told of a local woman that called the store and asked Buck if he could deliver potatoes to her home. The

delivery boy was out so Buck told the woman that the delivery would have to be after the delivery boy returned. The poor woman said that her husband was coming home soon and she needed the potatoes right away. Buck Faley told her to start the water boiling. A few minutes later Buck showed up with the potatoes, cleaned and peeled, and plopped them in the pan for her.

The grocery store failed and Buck moved on to his next venture. In 1933 Buck opened “Buck Faley’s Tavern” at 417 Cherry Ave. The tavern became known throughout the area as a safe place to have a drink and swap a story. “In the 40 years in the tavern business I never had a fight. If they wanted to lick me I just let them out the back door,” Faley said. “They could pound on the door all they wanted. They could call me all the Irish names they wanted until they ran out.” Former Police Chief Frank Danekas said, “If all the tavern owners were like Faley there would be no trouble.” Buck Faley, with the

American Legion Post 403, sponsored boxing events wherever he could find the room to set up a ring. St. Patrick School and Rochelle High School gymnasiums were common venues. In a pinch, smaller events could be held in the back room of almost any business. So many young pugilists like Sam Grube, George Smardo, William Smardo, Bill Hayes, Lester Keagy, Ross Miller, Bill Gaston, Bernard Stunkel, and so many more benefitted from his training.

Bernard (Buck) Faley passed in 1979 at the age of 88. In his more than 50 years in Rochelle he had seen the town grow from 3,000 to 8,000 people and did his best to touch the lives of all of them. When once asked what he would like to see on his tombstone, Buck smiled and replied, “THAT PUNCH DRUNK, SHELL SHOCKED, BALD HEADED, CRAZY IRISHMAN BUCK FALEY”.

Tom McDermott is a Flagg Township Museum historian and Rochelle city councilman.

## Science, Democracy, and Donald Trump

DONALD Trump probably won’t destroy American democracy if he’s re-elected. It’s been ailing for some time, but has deep roots. It will most likely take more than one presidential term to finish it off.

But he is, nevertheless, set to move us farther down that path. Mr. Trump and others like him have been hollowing out our system of government bit by bit for many years. They operate by exploiting a weakness that all democracies share.

Democracy is unnatural. It’s the child of the Scientific Revolution that arose only a few hundred years ago, bringing with it new and unnatural ways of thinking and acting. Mr. Trump’s enemy, boiled down to its core, is science.

Jonathan Sallet, writing for the Brookings Institution on March 8, 2017 at brookings.edu,

examined democracy’s connection to science. He argued that the American Revolution of 1776 was the product of “a chain reaction” that began with the appearance of modern science almost two centuries before.

David Wooton, in his book, “The Invention of Science,” provides some background for that claim. The Scientific Revolution, he says, caused the mental world of educated people to change, “more rapidly than at any time in previous history, and perhaps than at any time before the 20th century.”

The mental world before the Scientific Revolution would have been a comfortable one for Mr. Trump. It relied on religion and tradition. People judged the truth of a proposition by how well it fit into those frameworks.

There was no urge to test the idea that a goat’s blood will soften diamonds. And if the

Earth was the center of the universe, as the Church taught, Galileo’s telescope lied when it said otherwise. People accepted ideas if they were consistent with their basic beliefs, and there was no further need to prove them.

It had been that way since the beginning of history and before. Science replaced that ancient way of thinking with something new and unnatural — the scientific method. With that was born Mr. Trump’s most dangerous opponent, facts.

Mr. Wooton informs us that facts didn’t exist, either as a word or a concept, before science. They, and science itself, were only possible after the invention of the printing press, which allowed people to share and test observations about the real world. With the ar-

rival of science and facts, ideas had to conform to reality instead of the other way around.

The founders created our republic from within that new worldview. They believed that a political system had to conform to natural laws revealed by reasoning about the facts. Democracy is built on facts, and can’t survive without them.



Lowell Harp

Mr. Trump represents a return to an earlier way, rooted deep in human psychology. A proposition is true, in this pre-scientific mindset, if it conforms to deeply-held beliefs. The comedian Stephen Colbert called it “truthiness,” a reliance on opinions that come “from the gut” instead from facts.

Mr. Trump insists, for example, that immigrants are mostly criminals. Research studies, including

one published in July of 2023 (Ran Abramitzky and colleagues, nber.org) shows that they instead have a much lower crime rate than white Americans. Those results are — as with Galileo and his telescope — irrelevant or a lie when viewed through the lens of truthiness.

Mr. Trump is famous for his reliance on statements that have no basis in fact. Fact-checker Media Bias/Fact Check awards him the lowest possible rating “due to an extraordinary number of failed fact-checks and false claims.” Mr. Trump’s falsehoods are remarkable not just for their frequency but for their mind-boggling detachment from reality, as when he insisted years ago that President Obama wasn’t a citizen of the United States.

His failure to tell the truth isn’t merely a personal shortcoming, but instead an essential part of

his political strategy. The path to power for politicians like Mr. Trump runs through a return to a world in which there are no facts, but only propositions that are emotionally appealing. It’s a place in which democracy, the child of science, can’t exist.

The essence of the danger that Mr. Trump represents isn’t in his policies. We could always reverse them at the next election in a democracy. But democracy, with its free and fair elections, is irreversibly fused with science and its belief in the existence of facts.

Mr. Trump’s candidacy is, at its heart, a rejection of science — and of democracy itself.

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>.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

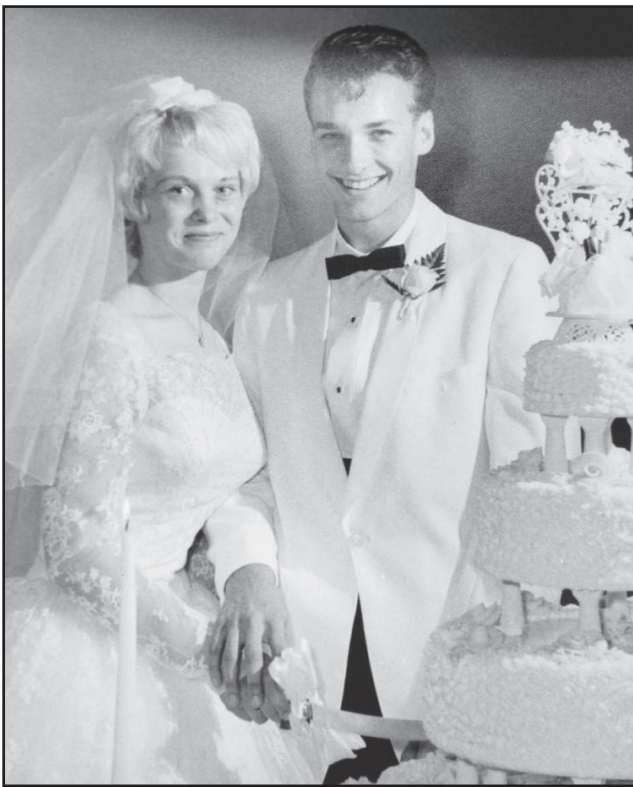


# COMMUNITY



## Pests to celebrate 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Paula & Dave Pest will be celebrating their 60th anniversary on July 18. They married at the Rochelle Lutheran Church in 1964. They have two children Stephanie Pest and David (Robin) Pest. The couple also enjoys four grandchildren. They continue to reside in Rochelle.



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

## St. John's ice cream social and talent show is July 21

CRESTON — St. John's Lutheran Church, 126 E. South St. in Creston, will host its annual ice cream social with homemade pies, sandwiches, and a talent show Sunday, July 21. The social runs from 5:30-7 p.m. with the talent show beginning at 7 p.m. You're invited for a great Sunday night of entertainment.

If there are any instrumentalists that would like to participate call 815-384-3720 ASAP.

### THE KITCHEN TABLE MENU

July 18 – (Thursday) – Spaghetti with Meatballs, Garlic Bread and Salad

July 25 – (Thursday) – Tamales Con Amor – Miranda Garcia – Two Tamales (Pork, Chicken or Cheese), Rice, Beans and a Cup of Elote

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

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

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

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

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

July 17 Carolyn Overstreet	July 21 Gavin Arnold	July 26 James Friestad
July 19 Eric & Katie Johnson (anniversary)	July 22 Kayla Peterman John & Deb Wooten (anniversary)	July 27 Pastor Angelo & Debbie Bonacquisti (anniversary) Brian & Kelly Smith (anniversary)
July 20 Courtney South Corey Lawrence Zack Lawrence Aaron Doering	July 24 Paige Komadina	July 30 Spencer Kulwicki

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



June 21 - From the Heart, \$25

June 22 - Sherrie Welles, Rochelle, \$25

June 23 - Megan Ryan, Glendale, Arizona, \$50

June 24 - Timothy Moreland, Rochelle, \$25

June 25 - Adeline Aubry, Whitefish Bay, WI, \$25

June 26 - Angela Wyckoff, Davis Junction, \$25

June 27 - RACF, \$25

June 28 - First State Bank, \$25

June 29 - Michael Fonfara, Rochelle, \$25

June 30 - Kyle Elliott, Lakeside, California, \$50

July 1 - Danielle Elston, Rochelle, \$25

July 2 - Marshall Basler, Rochelle, \$25

July 3 - Max Etheridge, Rochelle, \$25

July 4 - William Fawkes, Sterling, \$1,000

July 5 - Griffin Gabriel, Rochelle, \$25

July 6 - Charlie and Jennifer True, Rochelle, \$25

July 7 - Jill Schwartz, Rochelle, \$50

July 8 - Maplehurst Farms, Rochelle, \$25

July 9 - Jim and Lori Nalley, Rochelle, \$25

July 10 - Bill Saunders, Polo, \$25

July 11 - Mack Llanas, Rochelle, \$25

July 12 - From the Heart, \$25

July 13 - James Stuckey, Rochelle, \$25

July 14 - Focus House, \$50

July 15 - Carter McMorris, Princeton, \$25

July 16 - From the Heart, \$25

July 17 - Ben Heck, Chana, \$25

## QUEEN FOR THE CAUSE

DRAWINGS THURSDAYS 7 P.M. @ LUNA

CURRENT WEEKLY PRIZE: \$1,500

CURRENT JACKPOT: \$6,131



## Coffee Break

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

1 Ganges garments

6 Stern and Asimov

12 Raging rant

13 Seafood soup

14 Foolish talk

15 Guarantee

16 Faction

17 Overdue

19 Days of yore

20 Entryway

22 Bankroll

24 Billboards

27 Mooches

29 Plunks (down)

32 Wake-up calls

35 Gambling game

36 Poet Teasdale

37 Water tester

38 Tummy muscles

40 Iditarod terminus

42 Jazz lover

44 Ballet attire

46 Slightly

50 Loves to pieces

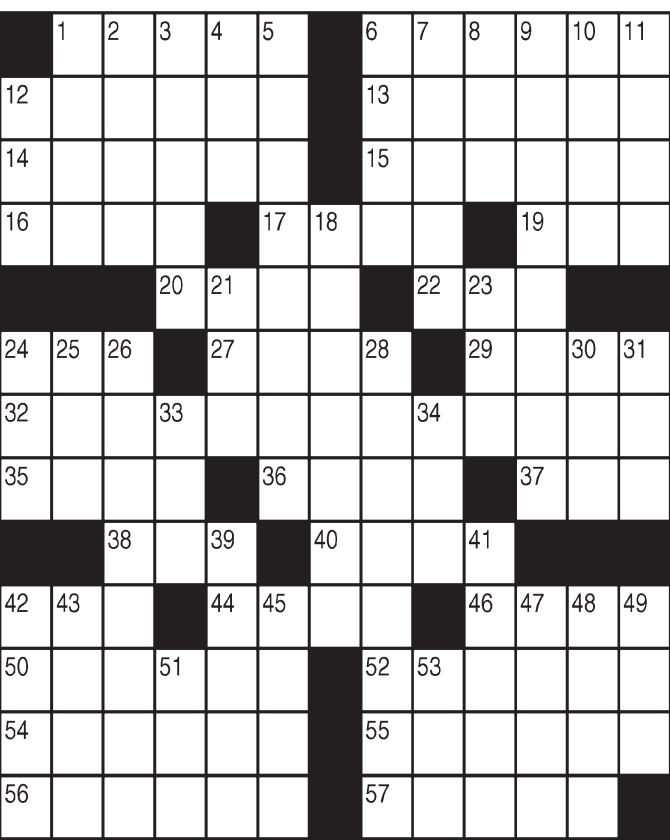
52 Cancel out

54 Some beers

55 Of France

56 Constitution writer

57 Upright



#### DOWN

1 iPhone voice	21 Kimono sash	39 Cubic meter
2 Desert-like	23 Chest-beating beast	41 Aerie builder
3 Carried on	24 Canine greeting	42 Young whale
4 Chemical suffix	25 Narc's org.	43 Purim's month
5 Traitors	26 Revolutionary War battle	45 Cold War initials
6 "Yeah, right"	28 Forage for food, say	47 Body powder
7 Tendon	30 Ring decision	48 Bickering
8 Ninny	31 Away from NNW	49 Calendar abbr.
9 Water conduit	33 High tennis shot	51 Sleep acronym
10 Ringle	34 Deli meat	53 Corn unit
11 Feeder filler		
12 Pro Bowl stats		
18 Marching insect		

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: N equals Y

CSZK SWNEXR SZ BZXLEXBD GD  
SIJS QDGJHD CIDDK IJLD XZ  
BJKJBESN SZ HZXR QZW SIEXRC.  
DVD VECII

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

CT	RE	ER	HS	HR	HL	FL	AM	ER	LA
IC	TL	GA	LS	RS	GV	AG	ES	OG	VA
TE	NE	GN	SE	HO	NO	AD	VO	AT	EA
AD	UT	UN	SA	AB	AB	CA	TS	TD	AD
TO	ME	ON	SA	AB	AB	CA	TS	TD	AD
TO	FA	RS	TS	VO	FA	RS	TS	VO	FA
KS	RE	AL	LI	TV	CK	MS	PU	TS	AD
LD	AM	DO	OO	DO	AM	DO	OO	DO	AM
RE	DR	AD	EL	EN	VE	LI	IS	OU	TR
CS	IS	AD	BI	OU	TR	IS	AD	BI	OU
SA	IS	AD	BI	OU	TR	IS	AD	BI	OU

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answer

King Crossword

CryptoQuip

Stop trying to convince me that female sheep have no capacity to long for things. I we wish!

Answer





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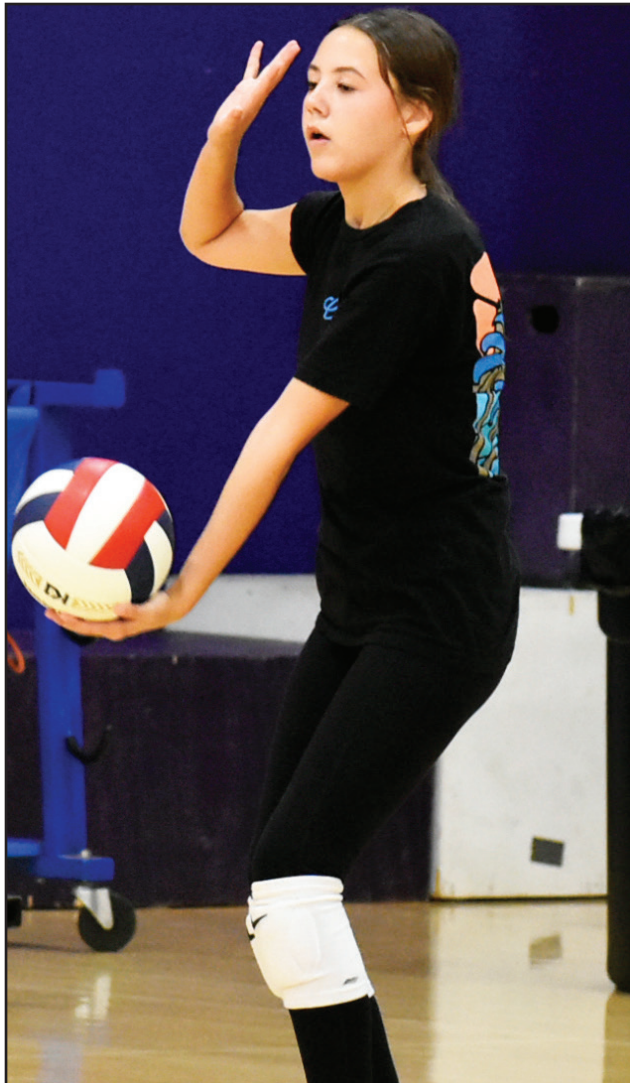




# SPORTS

## RTHS Volleyball

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)



**Rochelle Township High School holds annual youth camp for grade-school and middle-school players**  
 Rochelle Township High School held its annual youth summer camp for grade-schoolers and middle-schoolers this past Monday through Thursday. Campers worked on skills including serving, passing, setting, hitting, blocking, rotations and more. Campers who participated received tutelage from RTHS coaches and athletes.

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# SPORTS

## SOFTBALL: 10U All-Stars advance to state tournament

From page 1

Two walks led to a pair of runs for Rock Falls in the bottom of the second inning. An RBI groundout in the bottom of the third inning sparked a three-run frame for Rock Falls.

Trailing 7-6, Rock Falls evened the score with one run in the bottom of the fourth inning. Rochelle responded in the top of the fifth inning, where Natalie Isley ripped an RBI triple into right field before scoring on a steal of home to give the 10U All-Stars a 9-7 lead. A walk and a steal of home in the bottom of the fifth inning brought Rock Falls back within one run.

Rochelle sealed its win with a strong effort in the top of the sixth inning, where the team scored five runs to take a 14-8 lead. With the bases loaded in the bottom of the sixth inning, Natalie Isley struck out three straight Rock Falls hitters to clinch Rochelle's opening-round victory.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Rochelle Little League's 10U Softball All-Stars won all three of their games to take home the Illinois Little League District 19 Championship at Floyd J. Tilton Park in Rochelle this past week. The team includes Annalyce Harris, Brynn Stinnett, Chloe Streit, Gennelle Hernandez, Grace Olson, Isabel Jackson, Izabella King, Kate Keller, Lilyan Erickson, Madelynn McRoberts, Natalie Isley, Rose Elston, Rosie Bugarin and Zoey Harris. The team is coached by James Jackson, Shannon Bybee, Rudy Nambo and Adam Erickson.**

### Freeport

Rochelle's tournament run continued with a 12-10 win against Freeport on Tuesday evening. Natalie Isley pitched five innings for the 10U All-Stars, striking out 12 batters and allowing only three hits. Lilyan Erickson went 3-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs, while Isabel Jackson went 2-for-2 with three runs scored. Natalie Isley went 2-for-2 with one run and one RBI in the win.

Rochelle took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning, where Annalyce Harris scored one run and Isabel Jackson singled

before Lilyan Erickson laced a double to left field. Natalie Isley capped off the three-run frame with an RBI single to the shortstop that allowed Lilyan Erickson to score.

After Freeport scored one run in the bottom of the first inning, Annalyce Harris drew a bases-loaded walk for an RBI in the top of the second inning to give Rochelle a 4-1 lead. The 10U All-Stars added another run in the top of the third inning, where Lilyan Erickson belted an RBI double to right field to score Isabel Jackson,

who walked earlier in the frame.

Freeport tied the game at 5-5 after tallying two runs in the bottom of the third inning and two runs in the bottom of the fourth inning. Rochelle answered in the top of the fifth inning, rallying for four runs on three singles including RBI singles from Lilyan Erickson and Brynn Stinnett.

A grand slam in the bottom of the fifth inning enabled Freeport to once again tie the score at 9-9. Rochelle responded, however, scratching three runs

in the top of the sixth inning, where Izabella King smacked an RBI triple to center and Kate Keller followed with an RBI groundout. Rosie Bugarin scored on a steal of home after reaching on a hit-by-pitch for the third run. Freeport scored one run in the bottom of the sixth inning, but a strikeout ended the threat.

### Rock Falls 2

Rochelle sealed its district championship with a 15-0 win against Rock Falls on Friday evening. The 10U All-Stars blew

the game wide open after scoring 14 runs in the bottom of the first inning. Lilyan Erickson, Brynn Stinnett and Natalie Isley each went 2-for-2 in the game, while Annalyce Harris recorded four RBIs and two runs scored to lead the Rochelle offense.

Natalie Isley threw all three innings for the 10U All-Stars, striking out five batters without allowing a hit or a run. Rochelle's 14-run effort in the bottom of the first inning included four consecutive RBI singles from Lilyan Erickson, Brynn Stinnett,

Natalie Isley and Izabella King. Gennelle Hernandez gave Rochelle an 8-0 lead with an RBI single to second base, setting the stage for a grand slam from Annalyce Harris that cleared the bases and put Rochelle up 12-0.

Lilyan Erickson's RBI triple and Brynn Stinnett's second RBI single of the frame capped off Rochelle's 14-run outburst. The 10U All-Stars added one run in the bottom of the second inning, where Kate Keller scored on a steal of home after reaching base on a hit-by-pitch.

## BASEBALL: 12U All-Stars finish second at district tournament

From page 1

Teddy Millard and Jaxon Quinonez each pitched three innings and combined for eight strikeouts on the mound for the 12U All-Stars. Reed Dougherty went 2-for-3 with two singles and two RBIs to lead the Rochelle offense in the game.

Sterling surged ahead 3-0 after tallying three runs on one double, one single, two walks and a fielder's choice ground ball in the top of the first inning. Rochelle earned one run back in the bottom

of the second inning, where Garrett Miller scored on a passed ball after belting a one-out double earlier in the frame. A two-run double and a run-scoring single capped off a three-run frame for Sterling in the top of the third inning, putting Rochelle behind in the game 6-1.

Sterling exploded for eight runs on one double and six walks in the top of the fourth inning. Trailing 14-1, Rochelle responded with five runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, where Gavin Smith drew a bases-loaded walk and

Jaxon Quinonez slapped an RBI single to second base. Reed Dougherty reached on an error, allowing two runs to come home for the 12U All-Stars.

Roberto Bugarin's RBI groundout sparked a three-run effort from Rochelle in the bottom of the fifth inning, where Eli Thompson smacked an RBI single and Garrett Miller sent a sacrifice fly into center field to bring one run home and make the score 14-9 in favor of Sterling. Sterling sealed its win with five runs on two doubles and three singles in the top of

the sixth inning.

### Sterling 3

Rochelle battled Sterling in the winner-take-all championship game on Friday evening, falling 17-6 to finish the district tournament in second place. Eli Thompson pitched four innings and struck out five batters for the 12U All-Stars, while Jaxon Quinonez and Roberto Bugarin combined for three strikeouts. Jadon Exantus went 2-for-3 with two RBIs on offense.

An RBI double in the top of the first inning sparked

a two-run surge that gave Sterling a 1-0 lead over Rochelle. The 12U All-Stars answered in the bottom of the first inning, scoring after Kamden Kessen laced an RBI single into right field to drive home Gavin Smith, who went 2-for-3 in the game. A two-run single from Jadon Exantus, as well as an RBI single from Gavin Smith and a steal of home by Jaxon Olsen, allowed Rochelle to command a 5-2 lead over Sterling.

Sterling retook the lead 7-5 in the top of the third inning, scoring five runs on

a three-run, inside-the-park home run as well as an RBI double and a steal of home. Sterling added two runs on two singles and two walks in the top of the fourth inning. A two-run double, as well as an RBI triple and an RBI single, led to four more runs for Sterling in the top of the fifth inning.

Kamden Kessen's RBI groundout allowed Roberto Bugarin to come home and make the score 13-6 in the bottom of the fifth inning. Sterling clinched its win with four runs on two walks and two singles in the top of the sixth inning.



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# ASHTON NEWS

## Lee County deputies make arrests on burglary charges

**DIXON** —On July 10, Lee County deputies were dispatched to the area of US Route 30 and Walton Road in rural Dixon, for a burglary in progress. Two individuals wearing masks were observed running from a residence and into a black GMC Sierra pickup. The vehicle then left the residence and was seen traveling north towards the City of Dixon. A witness observed a passenger exit the vehicle just south of Dixon on Pump Factory Road. Dixon Police officers were in the area and located the black GMC Sierra. A traffic stop was conducted near Rock Island Road and

Atkinson Road, and the driver, identified as Michael E. Miller, was detained. A short time later, Lee County deputies located an individual walking west on Interstate 88 just outside of Dixon that matched the description of the passenger. As a result of the investigation, deputies arrested the two individuals on the following charges:

Michael E. Miller, 42, of Monmouth was charged with: residential burglary (class-one felony), theft (class-three felony), driving while license suspended (class A misdemeanor), criminal trespass to real property (class-B misde-

meanor) and operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended (business offense).

Miller is currently on felony probation from Whiteside County. He was charged on Jan. 10, 2024, with the offenses of burglary (class-two felony) and retail theft greater than \$300 (class-three felony) in Whiteside County Case Number 24CF31. On June 12, 2024, Miller pleaded guilty to felony retail theft and was placed on 24 months of probation.

Julian J. Belmonte, 30, of Monmouth was charged with: Residential burglary

(class-one felony), theft (class-three felony), possession of drug paraphernalia (class-A misdemeanor), and criminal trespass to real property (class-B misdemeanor).

Belmonte is currently on pretrial release conditions out of Warren County on charges of child pornography (class-three felony). The charges were filed on Feb. 16, 2024 in Warren County Case Number 24CF23. Additionally, Belmonte has pending charges of retail theft (class-A misdemeanor) that were filed on February 15, 2024, in Whiteside County Case Number 24CM44.



Michael E. Miller



Julian J. Belmonte

In accordance with provisions of Illinois SAFE-T Act, Miller and Belmonte were again released on pretrial conditions in Lee County Case Numbers of 24CF181 and 24CF182, respectively.

Citizens are reminded to call the Lee County Sheriff's Office at (815)

284-6631 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CAUGHT-U. Callers can remain anonymous and receive rewards of up to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

All charges are merely an allegation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

## Rep. Fritts hosts 2nd Annual School Supply Drive

**DIXON** — On July 10, State Rep. Brad Fritts (R-Dixon) announced that he will be hosting his second annual school supply drive for local students in need. The drive will be running from July 17-31.

"Right now, families across Illinois are struggling

to afford basic necessities like school supplies due to the increasing cost of living," Rep. Fritts said. "This is why I am hosting my second annual school supply drive for kids in need. Let's come together as a community to help our students succeed!" All supplies can be

dropped off at one of the following participating locations:

- Amboy Food and Liquor – 242 E. Main St., Amboy.
- Clinton Township Public Library – 110 S. Elm St., Waterman.
- County Financial – 351 Chicago Road, Paw Paw.

Dixon Main Street – 87 S. Hennepin Ave., Dixon.

- Extreme Image Salon – 207 W. Main St., Morrison.
- Franklin Grove Public Library – 112 S. Elm St., Franklin Grove.
- Mendota Chamber of Commerce – 800 Washington St., Mendota.

Olivers Corner Market – 748 N. Brinton Ave., Dixon.

- Rep. Fritts' District Office – 101 W. First St., Suite 501, Dixon.
- Rochelle Chamber of Commerce – 501 6th Ave., Rochelle.
- Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce – 211

Locust St., Sterling. Sauk Valley Community College – 173 Illinois Route 2, Dixon (Located inside West Mall and Dillon Mall). For more information about the School Supply Drive, including a list of requested supplies, visit RepFritts.com.

## Kish Early College Program students earn both high school diploma, college degree

**MALTA** — Three high school students walked across the stage to collect Associate in Science degrees during Kishwaukee College's Spring 2024 Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 18. For Emily Frazier and Theo Baird, it may have felt like déjà vu. The Indian Creek High School students received their high school diploma six days earlier. Calvin VanderSchee, a DeKalb High School student, received his Kish degree before earning his high school diploma just a week later.

The three students completed two years of college credits while in high school. Kish's new Early College Program helps other students do the same. The program allows high school juniors and seniors to work toward an associate degree by taking college courses at Kish or their high school.

"The Early College Program is an ambitious challenge for our district high school students. It is a great opportunity for students looking to get a head start on their college journey," said Colleen Tumminaro, Director of Dual Credit & K-12 Partnerships.

VanderSchee utilized Kish's Engineering, Math & Science Academy (EMSA) as he pursues a degree in mechanical engineering. He will transfer to Purdue Uni-

versity, where he plans to complete a bachelor's and master's degree.

"EMSA gave me college credit for courses that were not available at my high school. I also took dual enrollment courses to transfer to university. Community college tuition is substantially lower than university, so dual enrollment saved me time and money," VanderSchee said.

Frazier will transfer to Aurora University to pursue a degree in biology before transferring to medical school to become a sports medicine doctor.

"I decided to pursue dual credit classes at a young age. Going into my freshman year of high school, I knew I wanted to go into the medical field. I was unsure of what, but I knew it would take a lot of school. Dual credit and dual enrollment allowed me to take some classes early, giving me a head start on my long journey of school," Frazier said.

With careful planning, Early College Program students can balance their high school and college schedules to achieve their educational goals. VanderSchee took classes on the Kish campus, at his high school and online. Frazier completed her college credits at her high school and online.

"We are so proud to support our dual credit students and help meet their college needs. An invaluable benefit of tak-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Early College Program students Calvin VanderSchee, Emily Frazier and Theo Baird pose for a photo at Kishwaukee College's Spring 2024 Commencement. Each student earned an Associate in Arts degree from Kish while finishing their high school diploma.**

ing college-level courses while in high school is it helps students make the transition to higher education at their own pace," said Dr. Michelle Rothmeyer, Vice President of Student Services.

VanderSchee and Frazier said taking college courses in high school was challenging and rewarding and recommend the option to other motivated students.

"Even though the shift from a high school classroom to a college is hard, it was worth it. It taught me independence, re-

sponsibility and a good work ethic. I also believe this shift is worth taking in high school because it is a more supportive environment due to the small class sizes and extremely helpful instructors," VanderSchee said.

"If you like to be challenged and know you have a lot of school ahead, take the opportunity. You won't regret it, and you are setting yourself up for success," Frazier said.

The Early College Program is the newest of several options high school students can uti-

lize to start their college education at Kish. The College also provides dual credit, dual enrollment, career and technical education (CTE) courses, the Kishwaukee Education Consortium and more.

"The Kishwaukee College Early College Program offers many benefits to high school students. Data shows students are more likely to earn their post-secondary degree when they take college-level coursework while still in high school. The program helps students

reduce the time it takes to earn their college degree after high school, so while their peers are still in college, these students are out working in their chosen profession. And one of the biggest advantages is the money saved in the process," said Dr. Laurie Borowicz, President of Kishwaukee College.

To learn more about Kish's Early College program, visit [kish.edu/earlycollege](http://kish.edu/earlycollege). To learn more about all Kish high school opportunities, visit [kish.edu/creditsnhs](http://kish.edu/creditsnhs).

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**Mills and Petrie Memorial Library**  
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815-453-2213

### Real Estate

**Lori Patterson Real Estate**  
811 Main St., Ashton  
815-751-0510

### Schools

**Ashton-Franklin Center CUSD #275**  
611 Western Ave., Ashton  
815-453-7461

### Village Hall

**Village of Ashton**  
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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE**  
**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A COMBINED ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATING SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY TO DEFRAY ALL NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE OGLE-LEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, OGLE-LEE COUNTIES, ILLINOIS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2025, AND SPECIFYING THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH APPROPRIATIONS ARE MADE, AND THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR EACH OBJECT OR PURPOSE**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District.  
SECTION 1. That the following sums of money in the total amount of ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED ELEVEN THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$1,311,200.00) or as much thereof as may be authorized by law, be and the same are hereby appropriated for the corporate purposes of the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District as hereinafter specified for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2024, and ending April 30, 2025.

GENERAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSE	
Unemployment taxes	\$ -0-
Payroll taxes	6,500.00
Payroll expenses	70,000.00
Uniforms	7,500.00
Insurance	8,000.00
Utilities	11,500.00
Printing and publishing	2,500.00
Dues and subscriptions	3,500.00
Gas and oil	4,500.00
Maintenance Equipment	7,000.00
Maintenance Vehicles	14,000.00
Maintenance Buildings	15,000.00
Equipment Replacement	10,000.00
Community Relations/signs	3,000.00
Telephone	3,000.00
Software	4,000.00
Janitorial supplies	1,500.00
Office supplies	3,500.00
Medical services	7,500.00
Professional services	80,000.00
Travel	-0-
Training expenses	7,500.00
Capital purchases-apparatus	75,000.00
Capital purchases-equipment	159,000.00
Capital purchases-office equipment	6,000.00
Capital purchases-protective equipment	40,000.00
Capital Buildings	300,000.00
Capital purchases-real estate	10,000.00
Contingency	43,000.00
Principal & Interest-debt	100.00
Total general corporate expenditure	\$903,100.00

The foregoing appropriations are hereby appropriated from the general property tax for corporation purposes.

AMBULANCE SERVICE, ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSE	
Unemployment taxes	\$-0-
Payroll taxes	6,500.00
Payroll expenses	70,000.00
Uniforms	-0-
Insurance	-0-
Utilities	11,500.00
Printing and publishing	-0-
Dues and subscriptions	-0-
Gas and oil	4,500.00
Maintenance Equipment	7,000.00
Maintenance Vehicles	14,000.00
Maintenance Buildings	15,000.00
Equipment Replacement	10,000.00
Community Relations/signs	3,000.00
Telephone	3,000.00
Software	4,000.00
Janitorial supplies	-0-
Office supplies	-0-
Medical services	-0-
Professional services	80,000.00
Travel	-0-
Training expenses	7,500.00
Capital purchases-apparatus	75,000.00
Capital purchases-equipment	10,000.00
Capital purchases-office equipment	1,000.00

**NOTICE**  
TO: Oak Brook Bank As Trustee, TR 3331, Chicago Title Land Trust Company, as Successor Trustee to Oak Brook Bank, as Trustee, u/t/n 3331, Trust Dated: March 1, 2004, Chicago Title Land Trust Company, as Successor Trustee to Oak Brook Bank, as Trustee, u/t/n 3331, Trust Dated: March 1, 2004 RA: CT Corporation System, Christian Van; Christian Vann, Ogle County Clerk, Dr. Allen U. Van. MD; Occupant, 422 Cherry Avenue, 1st Floor and 2nd Floor, Rochelle, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2024TX17. FILED: May 31, 2024. TAKE NOTICE. County of Ogle. Date Premises Sold 11/3/2021. Certificate No. 2020-00174. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number N/A Warrant No. N/A Inst. No. N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS

BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at 422 Cherry Avenue, Rochelle, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No. 24-24-382-021. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 11/1/2024. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 11/1/2024. This matter is set for hearing

Capital purchases-protective equipment	
Capital Buildings	10,000.00
Capital purchases-real estate	-0-
Contingency	17,100.00
Principal & Interest-debt	-0-
Total ambulance expenditure	\$359,100.00

The foregoing appropriation is hereby appropriated from the proceeds of a special ambulance service tax, in addition to all other fire protection district taxes as provided by law.

TORT IMMUNITY INSURANCE FUND	
Tort immunity - Liability	\$20,000.00

The foregoing appropriation is hereby appropriated from the proceeds of special liability insurance tax, in addition to all other fire protection district taxes as provided by law.

ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDIT FUND	
Annual report and audit	\$8,000.00

The foregoing appropriation is hereby appropriated from the proceeds of a special annual report and audit tax, in addition to all other fire protection district taxes as provided by law.

ANNUAL WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND	
Workers compensation expense	\$21,000.00
The foregoing appropriation is hereby appropriated from the proceeds of a special annual workers compensation tax, in addition to all other fire protection district taxes as provided by law.	

SUMMARY	
General Corporate Expenditure	\$903,100.00
Ambulance Service Expenditure	359,100.00
Tort Immunity Insurance Fund	20,000.00
Annual Report and Audit Fund	8,000.00
Workers Compensation Fund	21,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,311,200.00

That the foregoing shall constitute the annual budget for the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2024, and ending April 30, 2025. As a part of the annual budget, it is stated:

- A. Statement of cash on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year: \$1,076,184.90
- B. Estimate of the cash expected to be received during the fiscal year from all sources: \$1,116,114.46
- C. Estimate of the expenditures contemplated for the fiscal year: \$1,311,200.00
- D. Statement of the estimated cash expected to be on hand at the end of the fiscal year: \$881,099.36
- E. Estimate of the amount of taxes to be received by the Fire District: \$621,814.46

SECTION 2. That all unexpended balances of any item or items or any general appropriation made in this ordinance be expended in making up any insufficiency in any item or items in the same general appropriation and for the same general purpose of any like appropriation made for this ordinance.

SECTION 3. That all unexpended balances from annual appropriations of previous years are hereby re-appropriated.

SECTION 4. That the validity of any item or section of this ordinance shall not affect the validity of the whole or any other part thereof.

SECTION 5. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with any of the provisions of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

PASSED: July 9, 2024

APPROVED: July 9, 2024

/s/ Lance Noggle

Lance Noggle

President of the Board of Trustees of the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District, Ogle-Lee Counties, Illinois.

/s/ Erik Petry

Erik Petry

Secretary Pro Tem of the Board of Trustees of the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District, Ogle-Lee Counties, Illinois.

No. 0719

(July 17, 2024)

in the Circuit Court of this county in the Ogle County Courthouse, 105 South 5th Street, Oregon, IL 61061, on 12/5/2024 at 9:00 AM in room 302. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 11/1/2024 by applying to the County Clerk of Ogle County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Oregon, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 105 S. 5th Street, Suite 104, Oregon, IL 61061. TELEPHONE: (815)-732-1110. Oakwood Real Estate LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: July 2, 2024. No. 0707 (July 3, 10 and 17, 2024)

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
On Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Creston-Dement Public Library District  
Notice is hereby given

to the Public that on August 20, 2024, at the hour of 6:30 P.M. at the Creston-Dement Public Library, 107 South Main Street, Creston, Illinois, a public hearing will be held on the annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Creston-Dement Public Library District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025. Any person interested in the budget and ordinance may be present at said time and place and may be heard regarding the budget and ordinance. The tentative budget is now on file with the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Creston-Dement Public Library District, at the Library office and may be reviewed upon request prior to said hearing by the Public. Dated July 17, 2024 Secretary, Board of Trustees Creston-Dement Public Library District 107 South Main Street Creston, IL 60113 (815) 384-3111 No. 0720 (July 17, 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.

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## 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.

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## HUB SPOTLIGHT

### Burdin finds new home at Rockford University

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

A second chance allowed former Rochelle student-athlete Nate Burdin to return to the baseball diamond at Rockford University after an elbow injury nearly derailed his collegiate career.

Burdin concluded his high school career at RTHS as an All-Conference First Team honoree in the Interstate 8, recording a 2.77 ERA with 39 strikeouts over 43 innings pitched during his senior season. Burdin, who also slashed .462/.514/.544 with 30 hits and eight stolen bases as a senior, decided that he would continue his academics and athletics at Rock Valley College.

Burdin's future quickly changed, however, after the former Hub left-hander suffered an injury to his elbow during a bullpen session this past fall. While Burdin avoided a torn UCL, which would've required Tommy John surgery, the injury sidelined him for a period of several months.

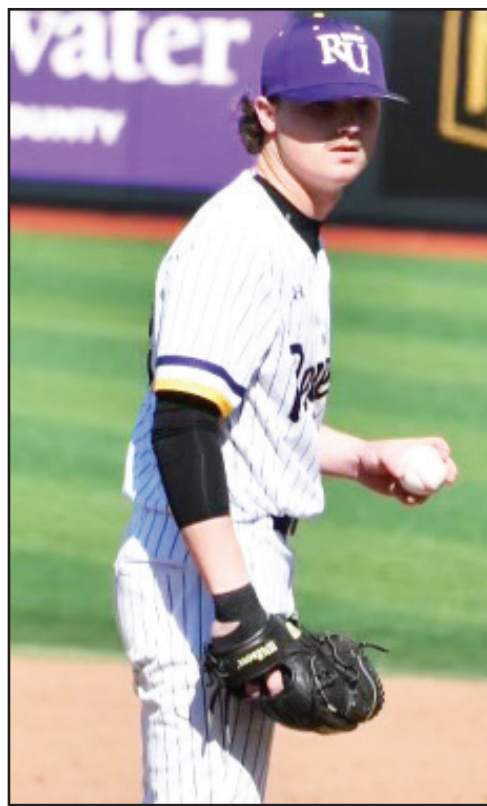
"I reached out to coach [Chad] Herren at RVC and he said I could hop on," Burdin said. "I went there in the fall and I hurt my elbow during a bullpen with the team. I decided with the medical staff that I could save my eligibility... I still wanted to compete, so I hopped on the golf team because one of my buddies who I played baseball with was on the team there. I played golf so I could have something to do while healing my arm so I could get back to the game I love."

After completing his first year at Rock Valley College, Burdin made his return to baseball with the Rockford Prospects and competed in the Metro Collegiate Summer League. It was during that summer when Burdin rekindled his relationship with Rockford University head baseball coach Bob Koopmann, who Burdin said recruited him heavily during his time at RTHS.

The relationship led to Burdin transferring and continuing his academics and athletics at Rockford University, where the RTHS alum not only played a full season, but took on a big role with the baseball team. On the mound, Burdin made nine appearances with eight starts, throwing 40 innings and striking out 28 batters with one complete game. Burdin, who also played left field for the Regents, recorded 21 hits and scored 11 runs over 91 at-bats.

"I came out and had a really hot start to the season," Burdin said. "I was pitching really well and I was near the top of the team in batting average... I like to play every single day and I don't like to sit, so it was nice to still be a two-way player, which is what I did in high school. It was a great experience this year. We had some great trips and our team is really young, so I think we have a chance to make it back to the conference tournament and go farther than we did this year."

Burdin went 4-3 on the mound during his first season at Rockford University. The former Hub made his pitching debut for the Regents during a nonconference game against Asbury University, which was played



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Former Rochelle student-athlete Nate Burdin transferred to Rockford University, where he made eight starts on the mound and logged 91 at-bats during the 2024 season.**

at the University of Kentucky's baseball facility. Among Burdin's highlights on the mound were a five-inning, eight-strikeout performance against Wisconsin Lutheran on April 9 and a six-inning, six-strikeout outing against Concordia Chicago on April 17.

"I thought I improved my command on the mound the most," Burdin said. "I was able to mix my pitches and get outs quickly. I was able to mentally push through the ups and downs of a 40-game season... The number one thing for me going into next season is to produce more at the plate, particularly during conference play. I want to get off to another good start during our out-of-conference trips and I want to continue finding ways to get wins on the mound."

Burdin, who's currently studying accounting at Rockford University, was named to the Athletic Director's Honor Roll in 2024 and is holding a 4.0 GPA. A two-time Academic All-Conference honoree during his junior and senior seasons with the RTHS football and baseball programs, Burdin said his goal is to graduate with a degree and become a certified public accountant.

"Something I learned at Rochelle, specifically with both sports I played, was that nothing is guaranteed and I have to work for everything I get," Burdin said. "Rochelle does a good job of making us earn our spots and pushing us to come in and work hard everyday. I learned to set my goals high and something that always helped me were the summer workouts. I had long days going from football in the mornings to baseball in the afternoons, but those days made me the player I was and if I can get through those days, I can take that drive into college ball."

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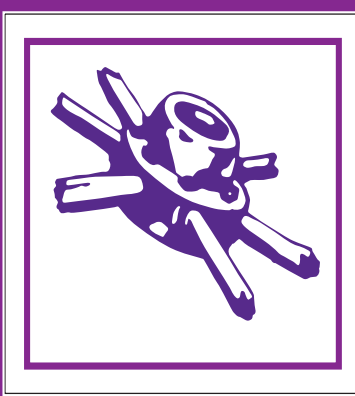
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