



# ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:



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## City moving towards TIF district ‘We want to... bring some new life into that space’

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — At its July 22 meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an ordinance to hold a future public hearing for the potential designation of a new tax increment financing (TIF) district at the Caron Ridge Shopping Center, the former site of Sullivan's Foods that has been vacant for seven years.

The new TIF district would be called the Eastern Gateway TIF. The city already has three TIF districts, which grow funds after development is seen in an area based on the difference in improved value. That money is then used to incentivize developers. The Eastern Gateway TIF district would include the entirety of the building Sullivan's used to be housed in, along with some vacant farm land near the truck stops in the city's eastern gateway.

"We want to address that vacancy and blight and bring some new life into that space," City Community Development Director Michelle Pease said. "And then it includes three parcels to the east, two long



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**At its July 22 meeting, the Rochelle City Council unanimously approved an ordinance to hold a future public hearing for the potential designation of a new tax increment financing (TIF) district at the Caron Ridge Shopping Center, the former site of Sullivan's Foods that has been vacant for seven years.**

strips of farmland and one smaller parcel that's contiguous with Road Ranger. That's to help that corridor develop where people come into our community. There's a lot of opportunities already there with hotels and restaurants and truck stops. This TIF will assist with developing that corridor coming into town."

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh called the city's already-existing TIF dis-

tricts "very successful". Its Northern Gateway TIF recently helped to attract projects including Benny's Corner Market and Break-thru Beverage.

TIF funds can be used for infrastructure and site development and improvement. They cannot be used to construct new buildings, but can be used to redevelop existing buildings. The funds can also be used to mitigate flooding issues, which have occurred in

the farmland areas in the eastern gateway that are included in the potential new TIF.

"I commend the mayor and council and our staff for being progressive and proactive," Fiegenschuh said. "I think these TIFs have done exactly what they're supposed to do, which is redevelop blighted property or bring in a new business we don't have."

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## Saturday car fire under investigation

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — A vehicle was a total loss after a car fire in Rochelle on Saturday morning, Rochelle Fire Department Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Edwards said.

First responders were called to 1215 6th Ave. at 9:21 a.m. on Saturday for a car fire and Rochelle Police Department Officers on scene reported the fire to be fully involved. The fire was in the engine compartment and the windshield area at the front of the vehicle and was quickly extinguished, Edwards said. The entire engine compartment of the vehicle burned. There were no injuries to anyone involved and no other cars or dwellings were impacted.

See FIRE page 2

## Cornfield Tent Revival at Calvary Lighthouse Church is Aug. 7-14 Pastor Horvath: ‘We have speakers coming in from all over the United States’

BY JEFF HELFRICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

**HILLCREST** — Calvary Lighthouse Church in Hillcrest will be hosting a seven-day Cornfield Tent Revival Aug. 7-14 every night at 7 p.m. The signs and wonders conference will take place at 14409 E. Hemstock Road. and events will also be held at 10 a.m. Aug. 11-14.

The free gathering will include a number of well-known religious speakers including Brian Gibson, Billy & Cynthia Thompson, Bob Rodgers, Keith Taylor, Jay Peters, Charles Walters, Carl Duff, Tommy Combs, Chuck Brewster, Michael Livengood, Stephen Strader, Tom Arnold, Kedrick Tembo, and Robert & Rochelle Lockhart. The event will be hosted by Calvary Lighthouse Church Pastor Dr. James Horvath. Worship will be led by Michele Horvath and Eddie James.

The revival will be held in a tent that has a capacity of 2,000 people, Pastor Horvath said. The seven-day event will include events for youth, attendance by local officials,

prayer and other activities.

Johnson is a three-time champion in basketball that spent time in the NBA. Peters is a youth evangelist that travels all over the United States. Brewster worked for the Secret Service and served five U.S. presidents.

"We have speakers coming in from all over the United States," Horvath said. "We couldn't even get everyone listed on the flier. There will be about 20 more speakers. We feel like God wants us to bring all of the denominations together. Our staff has been on the phone with all the area churches to invite them to come out."

The tent revival will be Calvary Lighthouse Church's first. It typically hosts conferences, and one will coincide with the tent revival.

Horvath said due to the unrest in the country with the attempted assassination of Former President Donald Trump and changes to the presidential election ticket, gatherings and prayer are needed.

"We need God right now more than we ever have in our country,"



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

**Calvary Lighthouse Church in Hillcrest will be hosting a seven-day Cornfield Tent Revival Aug. 7-14 every night at 7 p.m. The signs and wonders conference will take place at 14409 E. Hemstock Road. and events will also be held at 10 a.m. Aug. 11-14.**

Horvath said. "We really feel like we're right in the middle of everything with prayer right now. We want to call our nation to pray. We really feel like God wants to unite the nation right now. That's what I think people will find here."

Horvath expects to see 5,000-10,000 attendees or more at the tent revival over its seven days, which he said will benefit the local economy. Planning for the event has required "an incredible amount" of work for Calvary Lighthouse Church and its staff.

The youth event at the tent revival will feature a basketball floor and a dunk contest. Baptisms will take place at the event. Meals will be served.

"It's an undertaking to do something like this," Horvath said. "This is maybe the biggest thing we've done here in the area. And we've done some pretty big things over the years. People can expect a lot of energy. The worship will be lively. There will be a full band. There will be multiple

worship teams involved. There will be a lot of excitement inside the tent. It will be electric."

Each night will feature prayer for attendees and the hardships they're going through in their lives, Horvath said. A town of Rochelle's size having a tent revival to the scale of next month's is "very uncommon."

"This is a very rare event here," Horvath said. "We probably do about four major events a year, but nothing like this. This is rare for Rochelle."

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## KNOW IT TODAY



## Pinning held for Kish graduates

Kishwaukee College held its pinning ceremony for recent nursing graduates. Page 5

## WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
87 70	87 73
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
83 68	87 66

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## OBITUARIES

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- COLE JACOB RAMOS
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# LOCAL NEWS

## FIRE: Vehicle a total loss after Saturday fire in Rochelle

From page 1

The state fire marshal was on scene and an investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing. RPD Deputy Chief Phil Frankenberry said the circumstances may have involved foul play. "There were some witnesses that said there was a bottle by the front tire full of an unknown liquid and that was where the flames came from that ultimately engulfed the whole car," Frankenberry said. "At this time we don't believe it was an overheating of the car causing the fire because it had been parked there for a while."

The vehicle was processed by the state fire marshal and RPD will soon get a report on what the liquid was and whether it was the point of ignition, Frankenberry said. "The investigation is still active and we have no leads at this point," Frankenberry said. "We did locate the owner of the vehicle in his home. Witnesses in the area said a vehicle that is not from

here was driving around, but nobody saw the bottle thrown from the vehicle. It is under investigation. Once we get the report back from the state fire marshal we'll know more. At this point we don't know what the ignition source was and what that bottle and liquid were."

Rochelle Fire, some off-duty personnel and Flagg Center Fire responded to the scene. Edwards said the vehicle was a large SUV and the fire did not make its way to potentially-dangerous areas at the rear of the vehicle.

"Flammable liquids are always dangerous," Edwards said. "The fire never made it to the gas tank in the rear of the vehicle. You have to worry about wires burning that can electrically spark. If there's a hatch on the vehicle the lift cylinders that hold the tailgate up are a danger when fighting a car fire. I don't think any of that was involved in this and it was just in the engine compartment. It was out in the street and not near anything."



(COURTESY PHOTO) A vehicle was a total loss after a car fire in Rochelle on Saturday morning, Rochelle Fire Department Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Edwards said. First responders were called to 1215 6th Ave. at 9:21 a.m. on Saturday for a car fire and Rochelle Police Department Officers on scene reported the fire to be fully involved.

## CITY: Rochelle seeking to bring big box retailer to former Sullivan's site

From page 1

The city's move towards the potential new TIF district came after the Sullivan's Foods company and the Caron Ridge Shopping Center building changed hands into new ownership. The city has had conversations with the new ownership and developers interested in opening businesses in the building.

"We've had multiple meetings with the new owners of the building that have some big box

retailers that are talking about their gaps in financing and not being able to do the project with some sort of assistance with the TIF district," Pease said. "Those conversations have been going on for quite some time and they're still ongoing. The current owner would probably lease that space and develop it as the big box stores see they need to."

Fiegenschuh said that developers have expressed interest in development deals involving TIF funds

to make a project work financially. Conversations have included the possibility of repurposing the larger former grocery store space for a different use utilizing less space, Fiegenschuh said, which could prove to be a "very expensive endeavor."

"The financials just aren't there and they say the sales may not be there for the right rate of return if they redeveloped the space because all 40,000 square feet isn't needed," Fiegenschuh said. "They want to repurpose the

building and develop a portion of it. The TIF can go in and help repurpose the building. That's why the Caron Ridge Shopping Center makes so much sense for a TIF because you have a building. There are some tenants, but a majority of the square footage has been vacant for 7+ years. You can redevelop the site and make infrastructure upgrades. Because it's been vacant, 100 percent of those TIF dollars can go to redeveloping the building."

Pease called the process of establishing the potential new TIF district "lengthy", and it will include a joint review board meeting Aug. 19 and a public hearing in September. The final ordinance to accept it will be in October. Once that takes place, the city can start talks on deals with developers.



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH) The city's move towards the potential new TIF district came after the Sullivan's Foods company and the Caron Ridge Shopping Center building changed hands into new ownership.

"All of this absolutely makes us excited for the future of that space," Pease said. "And we don't want to get ahead of ourselves, but there are already conversations with developers on the vacant farm land to the east as

well. They're looking at us as a location they might want to build on."

The big box retailers that have been looking at the former Sullivan's Foods space are not grocery stores, Fiegenschuh said. Since the closure of Sullivan's, the city has worked to bring a third grocery store back to town, but the interest has not been seen, he said.

"Who we've been talking to is not a grocery retailer," Fiegenschuh said. "I know that disappoints some people.

Michelle has worked the phones hard to get another grocery store and there just isn't an interest at this point because of the market and where we're at. There are other types of national retailers that are interested. Maybe we don't get a third grocery store, but maybe we get some retail that we've never had before that brings people from DeKalb or Rockford here. There's definitely synergies there. I'm super excited. Michelle and her team are doing a great job."



To read Ronny's nomination and to learn more about RCH's Pillar of Excellence's Award, go to the RCH Facebook page or visit [RochelleHospital.com](http://RochelleHospital.com)

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Second Quarter 2024 AWARD



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**Jessie**

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# PRIME TIME

## Senior-friendly interior renovations

HOME is where the heart is. That sentiment may be especially true for seniors who have spent decades living in their homes. A lot of hard work goes into home ownership, and seniors who have lived in the same space for a while undoubtedly have countless memories within the walls of their homes.

A lifetime of experiences in a home can make it hard to leave, but many seniors experience diminished mobility as they age. Mobility issues can make it hard for seniors to traverse their homes, but aging homeowners can make various renovations to make a home more accessible.

- Revamp entryways and staircases. A 2020 study of 1,000 adults in the United Kingdom found that 28 percent of individuals age 65 and older who don't exercise regularly struggle with activities like walking up stairs. The study, commissioned by Total Fitness, also found that 14 percent of men and women over 65 who regularly engage in moderate exercise still find it challenging to climb up and down a flight of stairs. Seniors facing similar challenges can install a ramp at their home's entryway so they can comfortably go in and out. Inside, a chair lift can ensure seniors are not struggling to move from one floor to another.



- Raise the outlets throughout the home. They're easily overlooked, but outlets, particularly those outside the kitchen, tend to be close to the floor. AARP notes that's no accident, as outlets are generally placed at a height equal to the length of a hammer to save time with measuring when buildings are being constructed. Outlets close to the floor can be difficult for seniors with mobility issues to reach. Relocating

the outlets a little higher off the floor is not an expensive renovation, but it can make a home more accessible for seniors who have difficulty bending down or getting down on one knee.

- Install door knob extensions. Verywell Health notes that nearly half of all people age 65 and older have arthritis or another rheumatic condition. Arthritis can make it difficult for seniors to grip and turn door knobs.

Door knob extensions can make it easier for seniors with arthritis to open the doors in their homes. Such extensions are roughly five-inch levers that can be installed over an existing door knob, making it easier to grab and pull down. Extensions save seniors the hassle of turning the knob, which some may find painful and almost impossible.

- Renovate the bathroom. Bathroom renovation projects can be costly,

but seniors with mobility issues should know that bathrooms can pose a particularly dangerous threat. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that roughly three million older adults are treated for fall injuries in emergency departments each year. A 2019 analysis published in The Journals of Gerontology noted that 22 percent of in-home falls resulted in a change in the person's walking ability. Replacing

a step-over shower with a zero-step alternative can make it easier for seniors with mobility issues to get in and out of the shower, thus reducing their risk for falls. Grab bars along shower walls and a chair inside the shower can make it easier to bathe and towel off safely.

Seniors with mobility issues can make their homes more accommodating through an assortment of simple, yet effective renovations.

## Risk factors for atrial fibrillation

A healthy heart is vital to a long life. Aging individuals recognize that link, and many take steps to protect their heart health, which may include changing their diets or exercising with greater frequency.

Recognizing certain threats to heart health is another important step individuals of all ages can take as they seek to live long, healthy lives. One such threat is atrial fibrillation, which is often referred to as "AFib." Johns Hopkins medicine notes AFib is a type of abnormal heartbeat caused by extremely fast and irregular beats from the upper chambers of the heart. Johns Hopkins notes a person with AFib may have a heart that beats more than 400 times per minute, which is caused by faulty electrical signals that make the atria (the two upper chambers of the heart) contract much faster than normal.

The American Heart Association reports that AFib increases the risk of heart-related death and stroke. But individuals may be curious about their risk for AFib. Though some of the risks for AFib, such as family history, may be beyond an individual's control, others can be managed with the goal of reducing the likelihood of developing the condition. The AHA notes that people who have one or more of the following conditions are typically at higher risk for AFib.

- Age: Age is a significant risk factor for AFib. Johns Hopkins notes that adults older than 50 are at elevated risk for AFib. In addition, the AHA reports that medical researchers suspect the number of AFib cases will rise considerably in the coming years as people are living longer. Recognition of age as a

significant risk factor for AFib might compel more individuals to take additional risk factors for the condition more seriously.

- High blood pressure: The AHA reports that long-standing, uncontrolled high blood pressure can increase a person's risk for AFib. This link between AFib and high blood pressure underscores the need for annual health examinations, which often uncover the condition known as "the silent killer" due to the fact that it does not necessarily produce noticeable symptoms.

- Existing heart conditions: Heart valve problems; hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which is marked by a thickening of the walls of the heart chamber; acute coronary syndrome, an umbrella term used to refer to conditions in which blood supplies to the heart are suddenly blocked; and a history of heart attack are just some of the heart conditions that increase a person's risk for AFib. Anyone with a personal or family history of these and other heart conditions is urged to discuss AFib with



their physicians.

- Alcohol consumption: Binge drinking increases risk for AFib, according to the AHA. The organization defines binge drinking as five drinks in two hours for men and four drinks in two hours for women. If individuals want to consume alcohol, Johns Hopkins emphasizes the need for moderate consumption,

which is defined as one drink or less per day for women or two drinks or fewer per day for men.

- Activity levels: Though physical activity is an essential component of a healthy

lifestyle, the AHA notes that AFib is common in athletes. The condition can be triggered by a rapid heart rate known as a supraventricular tachycardia, which can be a byproduct of exercise.

AFib can pose a serious threat to individuals from all walks of life. Recognition of that threat and how to reduce AFib risk can be part of anyone's long-term health regimen.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## OBITUARIES

### Marcia Ruth Goelitz

**ESMOND** — Marcia Ruth Goelitz, 92, of Esmond, Illinois passed away on Monday, July 22, 2024, in her new home in Monroe Center, Illinois. She was born in Durand, IL on August 31, 1931, the oldest daughter of Everett and Mildred (Wallace) Laube.

She grew up on a dairy farm in Durand, and worked hard to skip grades in school to be in her brother Paul's class. Marcia attended Northern Illinois Teachers College (now NIU), and met the love of her life, Boyd W. Goelitz, newly returned from serving in WWII. They married in June 1952, and enjoyed 68 wonderful years together, farming and raising three sons, Roger, Charles, and Michael. Marcia became a licensed pilot and owned her own plane, flying west with Boyd to choose calves to purchase for their cattle-feeding operation in Esmond, Illinois. She also worked for a number of years at the Rochelle Walmart. Her life was spent working with her husband, driving tractors, hauling feed, harvesting grain, and taking care of her family. Marcia was a member of the Esmond United Meth-

odist Church, serving on committees, cooking and helping in many areas for the past 70 years. Her relationship with Jesus Christ was of utmost importance, and she was ready to go to heaven. Marcia loved her family, especially gathered around the table for holiday dinners. Her children and grandchildren have wonderful memories on the farm with their grandparents.

Marcia is survived by her sons and her daughters-in-law, Roger and Lourdes Goelitz of Loveland, CO, Charles and Nancy Goelitz of Bloomington, IL, and Mike and Judy Goelitz of Monroe Center, IL; grandchildren: Sara (Chris) Sturgeon, Erin (Robin) Held, Sean Goelitz, Serena Goelitz, and Adam Goelitz; great-grandchildren: Maggie, Alexandra, and Caleb; siblings: Judy Johnson, Gene (Carol) Laube, Bruce (Diane) Laube; sister-in-law, Gladys Laube; bonus daughter, Teri Johnson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by her parents, her beloved husband, Boyd, brothers: Raymond and Paul, brothers-in-law: Harold and Frank, sisters-



in-law: Pauline, Betty and Catherine, and great-grandchild, Trevor.

Special thanks to Visiting Angels, Prestige and OSF Hospice for their excellent and loving care of Marcia in her last days.

Visitation on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Rochelle, IL. Memorial service on Wednesday, August 7, 10:00 A.M. at Esmond UMC, 675 Eychaner Rd., Esmond, IL with Pastor Dave Rogula officiating. Burial at Greenview Cemetery, with luncheon at Esmond UMC following. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Greenview Cemetery. Cremation services by Unger-Horner Funeral Home, Rochelle, Illinois.

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

On July 29 at 1:38 p.m. Lexi Jo Gillen, 25, of Freeport was arrested on outstanding warrants in Stephenson County and Freeport and transferred.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty in the court of law.

### Cole Jacob Ramos

**ROCHELLE** — Cole Jacob Ramos, 37, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, July 27, 2024 in Rochelle, and he is now at peace in Heaven with his loving Lord.

Cole was born on July 9, 1987 to José L. and Judith A. (Byars) Ramos in Rochelle.

He was a 2005 graduate of Rochelle Township High School and later attended DeVry University and Waubensee Community College.

Cole collected football cards and he was an avid fan of the Dallas Cowboys. Surrounded by mostly Bears and Packer fans, Cole enjoyed bantering with family and friends during football season gleefully rubbing it in when the Cowboys won and agonizing when they lost. He loved getting together with family for cookouts and parties, and enjoyed friendly but competitive bags tournaments, including the smack talk that was

part of the games for all players. Cole was a fitness enthusiast and spent many hours working hard in the gym lifting weights. He also enjoyed disc golfing, reading and a wide variety of music. He loved all dogs, especially Dez, his loyal Rottweiler-Boxer.

Cole is survived by two daughters, Claire Nicole DeLaTorre and Harper Delilah Ramos; his father, José (Colene Pottinger) Ramos of Rochelle; his mother, Judy (Jim) Zeinz of Rochelle; grandmother, Maria Ramos; two sisters, Jaimee (Cody) Hinrichs of Ashton and Olivia Ramos (Landan Martin) of Loves Park; and numerous aunts and uncles. He was also a proud uncle to Brayden and Makayla.

He loved all of his family and while he will be greatly missed, he will be fondly remembered for his big heart, caring spirit and his strong faith in God.

He was preceded in death by his maternal



grandparents, Delbert and Dellouise Byars; paternal grandfather, Santiago Ramos; and two uncles, Scott and Brian Byars.

The visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth St., Rochelle. The funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, August 2 at New Hope Fellowship Church, 1501 10th Avenue, Rochelle with Pastor Nick Tornabene officiating. Burial will follow the service at Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family.

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

### Nancy Sue Thorne

**ROCKFORD** — Nancy Sue Thorne, 87, of Rockford, passed away on July 20, 2024, at River Bluff Nursing Home, after a long illness. She was born on May 26, 1937, in Rochelle, IL; the daughter of Alfred and Gladys Horton. Nancy attended Rochelle High School. She married Jack L. Thorne on April 24, 1965. Nancy loved the Lord. She cheered for her grandchildren in sports. She was the matriarch of her family and her family meant everything to her. She was her family's self-appointed caretaker. Her hobbies included interior design, crafting, and spending time with family.

#### OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**OREGON** — On July 26 at approximately 11:53 p.m. deputies responded to the 7,000 block of East Illinois Route 64 for a single-vehicle motorcycle

accident. After an investigation it was determined that a 2009 Harley Davidson Softail being operated by Dennis A. O'Sullivan, 48, of Sycamore, had a headlight malfunction causing the motorcycle to travel off the roadway and crash into the south ditch. O'Sullivan was transported to Javon Bae Hospital - Riverside by the Oregon Fire Department for injuries sustained in the accident.

On July 26 at approximately 11:31 p.m. deputies responded to the 300 Block of West Meadow Street in Polo regarding a reported domestic battery. After investigation, deputies placed Raymond A. Lopez, 63, of Polo, under arrest for battery, assault, and disorderly conduct. Lopez was transported to the Ogle County Jail, where he was released with a notice to appear in court at a later date.

On July 27 at 2:18 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 2,000 block of East Flag Road. As a result, Claudio Manrique-Galicia, 28, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license suspended. Manrique-Galicia was additionally issued citations for no front plate and expired registration. Manrique-Galicia was released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

On July 27 at 8:25 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 300 block of Linn Street, Kings. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested, Detrick Hall, 35, of Elgin, for driving while license revoked. Hall was transported to the Ogle County Jail, processed, and released with a notice to



Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle, IL.

The family would like to express a special thank you to River Bluff Nursing Home and Northern Illinois Hospice for their care of Nancy. Donations may be made to the National Breast Cancer Foundation [www.nationalbreastcancer.org](http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org) and UW Heart Research [www.heartfoundation.org](http://www.heartfoundation.org).

appear at a later date. Hall was also issued a citation for improper use of registration.

On July 29 at approximately 11:59 p.m. deputies were dispatched to the intersection of Pines Road and Burlington Road in reference to a one-vehicle accident with an injury. Upon arrival deputies learned a gray Volkswagen Jetta, was driven by Gabrielle Sandel, 18, of Oregon. Sandel was traveling eastbound in the 2,000 block of West Pines Road when she traveled off into the north ditch before striking a utility pole and coming to rest in the ditch. Sandel was treated by Oregon EMS and transported to KSB Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. The accident remains under investigation.

On July 29, deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 251 and Edson Road. After an investigation, deputies cited Anthony Kozak, 45, of Byron for no valid license, speeding, and disobeying a stop sign. Kozak was given a notice to appear for his citations.

On July 29, deputies conducted a traffic stop at Illinois Route 251 and Illinois Route 64 for a speeding violation. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Jose Santana, 43, of Davis Junction, for no valid Illinois driver's license. Santana was additionally cited for speeding 26-34 miles per hour over the limit. Santana was released on a notice to appear and shall appear in court at a later date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

## Underwood earns degree from WIU

#### MACOMB/MOLINE

— A total of 1,083 students earned academic degrees or post-baccalaureate certificates after the

Spring 2024 semester at Western Illinois University. Bachelor's degrees were awarded to 670 graduates, including Madison R. Un-

derwood of Rochelle (bachelor of arts, sociology). Academic distinction was awarded to baccalaureate graduates who achieved high grade point averages. This includes: Summa Cum Laude, 3.9 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale; Magna Cum Laude, 3.75-3.89 GPA; and Cum Laude, 3.6-3.74 GPA. Master's and doctoral degrees were earned by 413 graduates.

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# ASHTON NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



## AFC FFA members participate in Vo-Ag Fair, FFA officers go on retreat

On July 22, members of the Ashton-Franklin Center FFA Chapter participated in the Section 2 Vo-Ag Fair (left). Over the weekend of July 27-28, the Ashton-Franklin Center FFA Officers held their officer retreat in Princeton (right). They reviewed last year, planned for next year, and spent quality time together as a team.

## Rep. Fritts announces August Summer Tour events

**DIXON** — State Rep. Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) has officially announced his 2024 Summer Tour scheduled events for August.

The tour consists of traveling office hours and coffee & conversation events from June 5 to Aug. 30. Coffee & conversation events will all be held at locally-owned coffee shops and restaurants.

The events scheduled for August include the following:

**Traveling Office Hours:**

Aug. 13 at the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, located at 601 W. 10th St. in Rock Falls from 10-11:30 a.m.

Aug. 13 at the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 211 Locust St. in Sterling from 12:30-2 p.m.

Aug. 15 at the Earlville

City Building, located at 210 Railroad St. in Earlville from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Aug. 15 at Waterman Village Hall, located at 215 W. Adams St. in Waterman from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Aug. 15 at the Shabbona Public Works Building, located at 206 Blackhawk St. in Shabbona from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

**Coffee & Conversation:**

Aug. 7 at the Maple City Pancake House, located at 405 5th Ave. in Sterling from 8-10 a.m.

Aug. 20 at A's Kitchen, located at 2004 1st Ave. in Rock Falls from 8-10 a.m.

Aug. 21 at Ziggy's Family Restaurant, located at 1212 1st Ave. in Mendota from 8-10 a.m.

To view the full Summer Tour schedule, visit [RepFritts.com/SummerTour](http://RepFritts.com/SummerTour).



(COURTESY PHOTO)

**Kishwaukee College Registered Nursing graduates pose for a photo at Kish's Spring 2024 Nursing Pinning Ceremony. Graduates were presented with a special pin before family and friends during the ceremony, which recognized the successful completion of the program.**

## Kish College recognizes 23 nursing students during spring 2024 pinning ceremony

**MALTA** — Kishwaukee College nursing students were honored during a pinning ceremony on Wednesday, May 15, at the College. Kish recognized 23 students for completing the Registered Nursing program and presented each graduate with a special pin before family and friends during the ceremony.

The registered nursing graduates of spring 2024 are: Marvellous Ajibare, Bettina Banda, Chloe Block, Alexis Carr, Ranzy Collins, Odalys Galarza, Perla Gonzales, Leah Harrolle, Ebuwa Igbinovia, Molly Isham, Miriam James, Britney Medina, Kayleigh Quinn, Marcella Schultz, Jes-

sica Schumacher, Sherita Sims, Jessica Solis, Humberto Valdez, Cierra Thomas, Alaina Thompson, Karli Warner, Ella Yarman and Celia Valle.

Block, Collins, Galarza, Gonzales, Harrolle, Igbinovia, Isham, James, Medina, Schultz, Schumacher, Valdez, Thomas, Warner and Yarman were recognized as Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honors Society members. Karli Warner was named the Spring 2024 Outstanding Student. Warner provided an address reflecting on the challenges and benefits of pursuing a career in nursing.

"As a mother, embarking on the journey of nursing school has been

uniquely rewarding. It has been rewarding to expand my skill set and to make an impact on the lives of others. It has been rewarding to have my daughters see and admire the hard work and dedication — to hear them tell people, 'My mommy is going to be a nurse,'" Warner said.

The ceremony included an address from Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College, and Angela Delmont, director of nursing. Delmont shared the history and symbolism of pinning ceremonies as the graduates take the next step in their college or career journeys.

"Today, as you receive nursing pins, you not

only wear a symbol of an esteemed profession but carry with you the values that define nursing, which are compassion, empathy, integrity, and an unrelenting pursuit of excellence in patient care," Delmont said.

During the ceremony, each graduate was pinned by a friend or family member who had supported the student or acted as a mentor while completing the program.

The Registered Nursing program at Kishwaukee College prepares students to become fully licensed registered nurses in Illinois. For more information on nursing at Kishwaukee College, visit [kish.edu/nursing](http://kish.edu/nursing).

## Harris earns degree from Western Illinois

**MACOMB/MOLINE** — A total of 1,083 students earned academic degrees or post-baccalaureate certificates after the Spring 2024 semester at Western Illinois University. Bachelor's degrees were awarded to 670 graduates, including Sierra Harris of Franklin Grove (bachelor of science, agricultural science).

Academic distinction was awarded to baccalaureate graduates who achieved high grade point averages. This includes: Summa Cum Laude, 3.9 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale; Magna Cum Laude, 3.75-3.89 GPA; and Cum Laude, 3.6-3.74 GPA. Master's and doctoral degrees were earned by 413 graduates.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

### AFC CUSD #275

## Go, Raiders!

Ashton-Franklin Center Jr/Sr High School  
611 Western Ave., Ashton, IL 61006  
815-452-7461 | Malinda Hart, Principal

## Learn + Grow + Thrive

Ashton-Franklin Center Elementary School  
217 South Elm, Franklin Grove, IL 61031  
815-456-2325 | Jenah Burkitt, Principal

### Community Building

Mills and Petrie Memorial Building  
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815-453-5048

### Funeral Home

Beverage Lyons Funeral Home  
601 Richardson Ave., Ashton, 815-453-2441  
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### Public Library

Mills and Petrie Memorial Library  
704 First Street  
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### Schools

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815-453-7461

### Village Hall

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815-453-2241  
[www.ashtonil.com](http://www.ashtonil.com)

## Beverage Lyons Funeral Home

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# LOCAL VIEWS

## Ron Kern: Fair season is upon us

SUMMER means one thing...it's fair season!

Growing up in Springfield our farm was about a mile west of the State Fairgrounds. From our back porch you could see the grandstand, and of course at night you heard the blare from the grandstand shows, always followed by fireworks. And on the weekend you could hear the roar from the sprint car and stock car races. State Fair week was a big deal.

Mom and dad would take the family to the fair for an evening to enjoy the rides, carnival, livestock barns and the midway shows. During racing weekend dad took my brothers and myself to the races.

Of course there was the fair fare (always wanted to write that). Cozy dogs, foot-long hot dogs, frozen chocolate bananas on a stick, lemonade shake-ups, saltwater taffy and anything to could possibly shove in a deep fryer.

All the stuff nutritionists swear by!

So fair season is upon us and the Ogle County Fair is rapidly closing in. This year's edition starts on Wednesday, July 31 and runs through Sunday, Aug. 4. There's plenty to keep you and your family entertained.

Ticket prices this year make the Ogle County Fair the best value around. Kids under the age of four get in free. One-day entry passes and one-day grandstand passes are \$10. A five-day pass is \$40 and kids can purchase unlimited carnival rides for discount prices. Advanced tickets can be purchased at Casey's in Oregon or you can purchase online at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/33163/ogle-county-fair>

Besides all the scheduled shows and such there are daily shows on the grounds including the Flores Circus Thrill Show, KidBucks Game Show, Act the Robot and Chainsaw Artist Carving.

Wednesday kicks-off the fair with the Fair Queen Contest, Antique tractor parade and the Illini Stock and tractor pulls.

Thursday features the tractor pulls and the Sheez-It's Band.

Friday has a magic show by Brian Holt, Big Hat Rodeo and the Killer Bs Band.

Saturday brings in the livestock auction, kiddie pedal pull, Ogle County Pork Producers Pork Chop Dinner, and the always popular Demolition Derby.

Of course the carnival will be running each and every day of the fair and you can usually find a livestock show going on somewhere.

So, if you are looking for some great family fun plan your day at the fair; it won't disappoint!

**Supply and demand**  
USDA's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report

offers a look at the new crop year's supply and demand balance sheets.

For the domestic 2024/25 crop supply projections for most crops are based on farmer planting decisions.

For corn the 2024/25 marketing year, USDA projects U.S. corn ending stocks at 2.102 billion bushels, up four percent (80 million bushels) from 2023/24. The current new crop corn projection came in below industry expectations and almost 17% below estimations. With the loosening domestic market, USDA

projects the average market price to fall to \$4.40/ bushel, down 5.4% from 2023/24. Globally, we can expect corn ending stocks to hold steady in 2024/25.

Overall, the corn market in 2024/25 is looking less bearish than it did when farmers were making planting decisions a few months ago. USDA

raised both old crop and new crop corn demand by 100 million bushels each. Projections for total use in the 2024/2025 marketing year of 14.8 billion bushels represent a 1.1 billion bushel increase over 2022/2023, bouncing back to near-record levels set in 2021/2022 at 14.9 billion bushels.

While the 2024/25 corn market is looking less bearish, the opposite is true for soybeans. In the upcoming marketing year, U.S. soybean ending stocks are projected at 445 million bushels, higher than both trade expectations and the estimates in February. As compared to the current 2023/2024 marketing year, this represents a whopping 30.8% increase. Due to this large projected increase, USDA projects prices to fall to \$11.20 per bushel, a year-over-year decrease of 10.8%.

Globally, there is a similar but more muted situation for soybean ending stocks, with a

year-over-year projected increase of 15%, rising up to 128.5 million metric tons (MMT). Brazilian production is projected to increase 15 MMT (9.7%) to 169 MMT in 2024/25, and Brazilian exports are projected to increase three MMT (2.9%) to 105 MMT.

The estimations for soybeans are heavily reliant on continued growth in soybean use, with an estimated 125-million-bushel increase in both crushings and exports, representing increases of 5.4% and 7.4%, respectively. If demand does not hold firm for soybeans, it could turn more bearish very quickly.

These numbers represent USDA's initial forecast as the growing year progresses expect to see these numbers vary.

"The only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable." -John Galbraith

*Ron Kern is the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.*

## Climate change could return us to the pre-antibiotic era

THE extreme heat that recently blanketed the United States is a clear sign of climate change. But rising temperatures are fueling more than just hotter summers. Climate change is contributing to the spread of drug-resistant infections. And alarmingly, the medicines we use to fight those pathogens are losing their effectiveness.

Antimicrobial resistance, or AMR, occurs when bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens evolve to resist the effects of medications, making common infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death.

Recent figures link AMR to nearly 5 million deaths annually -- far more than the combined death toll of AIDS and malaria. By 2050, more people will die of drug-resistant infections than currently die of cancer.

Climate change is accelerating the spread of these superbugs, providing favorable conditions for pathogens to grow and spread. Warmer temperatures can increase the reproduction rates of bacteria and viruses, extend the range of habitats suitable for pathogens, and even heighten the chances of gene transfer among bacteria, leading to more robust strains of drug-resistant microbes.

The pressure cooker of climate change is moving us closer to the pre-antibiotic era. Patients I once treated as a family physician could have very different outcomes without the backdrop of antibiotics. Ordinary infections could become life-threatening, and routine, minor surgeries could become high-risk procedures.

Investment in research and innovation is crucial to stay ahead of evolving pathogens. But our current efforts to develop new antibiotics are not keeping pace. There are fewer than 100 antibacterial therapies

now in the pipeline, according to the World Health Organization.

By contrast, there are over 6,500 active clinical trials for cancer treatments.

We are in a race with ever-evolving bacteria -- and we are losing. The main hurdle is financial. It costs nearly \$1 billion to shepherd a new antibiotic through clinical trials.

But successfully developing an antibiotic is often financially ruinous. Most new antibiotics target small patient populations with specific drug-resistant infections, and the new medicines

to treat those infections are rightly used sparingly, only as a last resort -- since the more you use antibiotics, the more likely bacteria will eventually become resistant.

Combating climate change requires new technologies and new economic models. The same is true of AMR. We must rethink how we incentivize antibiotic research. Subsidies, tax credits, or direct funding for early-stage R&D can provide relief to companies developing new antibiotics. Other countries, like the United Kingdom, have experimented with subscription models, where drugmakers receive a flat fee for bringing a

successful new antibiotic to market. Faster FDA approval pathways can help reduce the time and cost of clinical trials.

Ultimately, the fight against antimicrobial resistance requires a multifaceted approach, integrating scientific innovation, policy reform, and global collaboration. By addressing both climate change and AMR with the urgency and resources they demand, we can protect public health and secure a safer, healthier future for all.

*Howard Dean is the former chair of the Democratic National Committee and former governor of Vermont. This piece originally ran in Salon.*

### How to contact government officials

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20515  
(202) 225-6201

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

IL Rep. Bradley Fritts  
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Springfield, IL 62706  
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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



(COURTESY PHOTO)

## First Queen for the Cause winner presented with check

From the Heart presented its first Queen for the Cause check on July 15. The winner was Tonya Sarver. From the Heart thanked everyone who is supporting its efforts to raise money for its nine nonprofits. The New jackpot is \$7,300 and the current weekly giveaway is \$250! The Queen of Hearts game takes place on Thursdays at Luna at 7 p.m.

## Ogle County Animal Control to host microchipping day

**OREGON** — Ogle County Animal Control will host a microchipping day on Saturday, Aug. 3 at the Ogle County Health Department building at

907 Pines Road in Oregon from 9-11 a.m. No appointment required. Cost: \$20/chip. Includes registration with Home Again Pet Recovery Ser-

vice. The service is for dogs and cats only and participants must be an Ogle County resident. Dogs over four months must

have a current rabies vaccination. Microchipped dogs and cats get a \$5 discount per year on their rabies tag. If questions, call 815-732-1185.

## Rochelle City Council candidacy petitions now available

**ROCHELLE** — Candidate packets for three four-year full-term council members in the City of Rochelle will be available in the City Clerk's Office at Rochelle City Hall located at 420 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Petitions may be circulated beginning July 30.

City residents running for the office must file as if there will be a primary election involving 13 or more candidates for the office of council member. If required, the Consolidated Primary Election will be held on Feb. 25, 2025. If there are not

13 or more candidates for the office of council member, there will not be a primary, and the names of the candidates will be placed on the ballot for the Consolidated General Election to be held on April 1, 2025. The Rochelle City

Clerk's Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 21-25, 2024, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 28, 2024, to accept candidate petitions or certificates for the Consolidated Primary Election to be held on Feb. 25, 2025.



- 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
- July 18 - From the Heart, \$25
- July 19 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
- July 20 - From the Heart, \$25
- July 21 - Yazmin Nambo, Rochelle, \$50
- July 22 - Robert Danekas, Rochelle, \$25
- July 23 - Michelle Knight, Rochelle, \$25
- July 24 - Lars Larsen, Rochelle, \$25
- July 25 - From the Heart, \$25
- July 26 - RACF, \$25
- July 27 - Steve Hall, Rochelle, \$25
- July 28 - Tracy and Nate Kessen, Sugar Grove, \$50
- July 29 - Betsy Jones, Amboy, \$25
- July 30 - Eva Chu, Rochelle, \$25
- July 31 - Lee Dusing, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, \$25

## QUEEN FOR THE CAUSE

**DRAWINGS THURSDAYS 7 P.M. @ LUNA**  
**CURRENT WEEKLY PRIZE: \$250**  
**CURRENT JACKPOT: \$7,300**

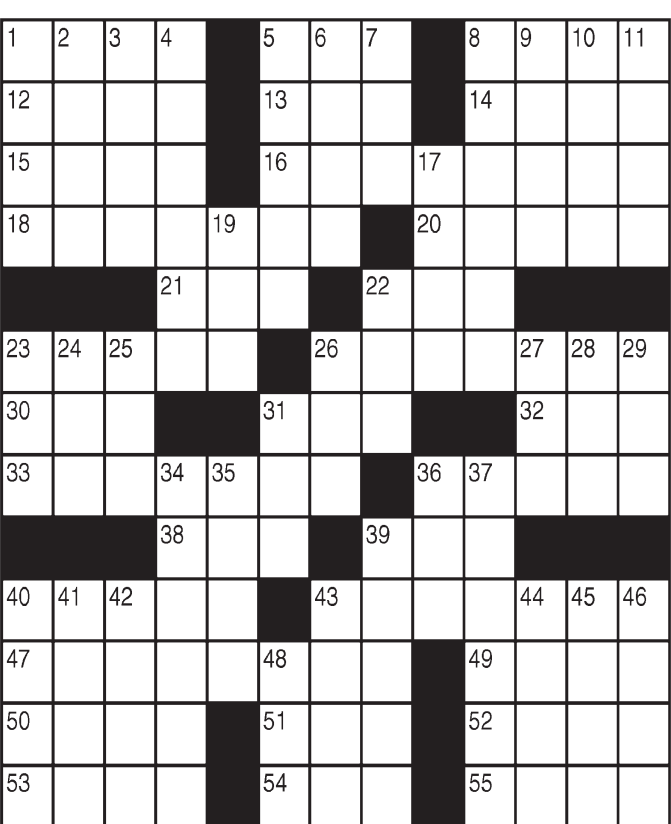


## Coffee Break

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 Swear
- 5 Understood
- 8 Six-pack units
- 12 Slightly
- 13 French assent
- 14 October birthstone
- 15 Sultry Horne
- 16 Annoying
- 18 Michelangelo works
- 20 Pumped (up)
- 21 Medit. nation
- 22 " — Blue?"
- 23 Cook in the oven
- 26 Sun spot
- 30 Take courses?
- 31 Pie — mode
- 32 Felon's flight
- 33 Fake ally
- 36 Cavorts
- 38 Mel of baseball
- 39 UFO crew
- 40 Top floor
- 43 Cargo
- 47 First-termers
- 49 Contribute one
- 50 Staffer
- 51 Brit. record label
- 52 Actress Fisher
- 53 Colonial flag maker
- 54 "Norma —"



#### DOWN

- 1 Baby elephant
- 2 Cab alternative
- 3 Trig function
- 4 Equilibrium
- 5 Really dig
- 6 Belonging to us
- 7 Dead heat
- 8 Universal
- 9 Per person
- 10 Handle
- 11 Santa's ride
- 17 Docile
- 19 Chicago winter hrs.
- 22 Altar in the sky
- 23 Ump
- 24 Rowing need
- 25 Packed away
- 26 Aviate
- 27 Carrier to Amsterdam
- 28 Napkin's place
- 29 Ambulance initials
- 31 Invoice fig.
- 34 Loud sounds
- 35 Engrave
- 36 GPS suggestion
- 37 Egyptian deity
- 39 Golfer Els
- 40 Miles away
- 41 Half a sextet
- 42 Turner and Danson
- 43 Disaster aid org.
- 44 Get overemotional
- 45 Prefix with pad or port
- 46 Snare
- 48 Mal de —

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: **B** equals **H**

HUAPB RGAUKEHG PUZH ZEPB G  
DAMGTEJBKN BEFB VUVLKGPEUH  
UD VGAPERLKGA SGSN SEAYJ  
UD VAMN: TEYBN BGZT.

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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



# Classified Marketplace

**BUY OR SELL**  
Place A Classified Ad



ROCHELLE • HILLCREST • CRESTON • STEWARD • KINGS • ASHTON

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS,  
CIRCUIT COURT,  
OGLE COUNTY  
Publication Notice of  
Court Date for Request  
of Name Change  
There will be a court  
date on my request to  
change my name from  
Alicia Lynn Lindholtz to  
the new name of Alicia  
Martinez Lindholtz.  
The court date will be  
held on Sept. 4, 2024  
at 9:00 a.m. at the Ogle  
County Judicial Center,  
106 5th St., Oregon,  
Ogle County, in Court-  
room #304.  
Alicia Lynn Lindholtz  
No. 0727  
(July 24, 31 and Aug. 7,  
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

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

## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless  
licensed or holding a  
permit as a childcare  
facility, may cause

to be published any  
advertisement soliciting  
a child care service. A  
childcare facility that is  
licensed or operating  
under a permit issued by  
the Illinois Department  
of Children and Family  
Services may publish  
advertisements of the  
services for which it is  
specifically licensed or  
issued a permit. Your  
Hometown Newspaper  
strongly urges any  
parent or guardian to  
verify the validity of the  
license of any facility  
before placing a child  
in its care.

## 203 HELP WANTED

U of IL Extension is  
seeking an Office  
Support Assistant for  
Ogle County, pay is  
\$18.92/hr. For more  
information, call  
815-732-2191. EEO Employer.  
(08052024MS)

## 301 ANTIQUES

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

## 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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

**SPLIT Firewood For**  
Sale. Contact 779-251-  
0254

## 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

## 307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

New Milford

Refrigeration

6331 11th Street | Rockford

New, Used, Scratch & Dent

Refrigerators  
Freezers  
Washers/Dryers  
Stoves  
Air Conditioners  
Dehumidifiers

815-262-3900

We also carry a large selection of refurbished appliances with a warranty.

Buy, Sell, Trade or Rent

through the

CLASSIFIEDS

# GET DOWN WITH YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE™

1 GET IT

2 SLIP IT

3 CUFF IT

4 CHECK IT

Check it every day. Self-monitoring is power.

ad COUNCIL

American Heart Association.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Visit: [ManageYourBP.org](https://ManageYourBP.org)

Or scan code for more.

In partnership with HHS Office of Minority Health and Health Resources and Services Administration under cooperative agreements CPIMP211227 and CPIMP211228.

AM I OKAY TO DRIVE?

BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING

NHTSA

ad COUNCIL



# SPORTS

## RTHS Football

(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)



### Hubs continue with two weeks of padded football camp at RTHS

The Rochelle Township High School football team kicked off its second week of the two-week padded camp for new and returning players on Monday morning. It's the final week of the summer schedule for the Hubs, who practiced in Sterling on Tuesday and will head to Byron for 7-on-7 scrimmages this Friday. Fall practices will begin on Monday, Aug. 12 and Rochelle will play its first game of the 2024 season against Woodstock on Friday, Aug. 23. Above are a series of action photos from the first week of Rochelle's padded football camp.

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## HUB SPOTLIGHT

### Thiravong's competitive spirit leads to success at SVSU

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**F**ORMER Rochelle student-athlete Megan Thiravong closed out her junior season with the Saginaw Valley State University women's golf team by stringing together some of her best rounds as a collegiate player. It was at the GLIAC Championship in Michigan, however, where Thiravong truly shined after being challenged to elevate her competitive edge to a new level.

With Saginaw Valley State fighting for an opportunity to advance to the match-play portion of the conference tournament, Thiravong fired her strongest 18-hole round of the season, shooting a team-best 74 on the second day of the tournament to lead the Cardinals to third place out of eight schools in stroke play. Much of that effort stemmed from a conversation Thiravong had with her new head coach, Mike Masten, who presented her with a difficult-but-achievable test.

“We were sitting dangerously close to the qualifying cut for the match-play portion of the tournament,” Thiravong said. “Coach Masten pulled me aside on the 11th hole and said, ‘Megan, you’re the only player I am telling this to because I know your playing style well. I need you to beat your competitors on every hole starting now.’ I did exactly that. I took every chance I was given to gain a stroke on my playing partners and swing our team into the semifinals.”

Thiravong ultimately finished fourth out of 43 players in the tournament and was named an All-GLIAC Honorable Mention for the first time in her collegiate career. The strong showing at the conference tournament capped off a solid junior campaign for Thiravong, who started in every match during both the fall and spring seasons. With her senior year on the horizon, Thiravong is seeking to transform her new found competitive spirit into greater results.

“Coach Masten and I agreed to work on sharpening my competitive edge against my direct competition,” Thiravong said. “We noticed how I could focus more when focusing on incrementally overcoming my playing partners and striking when the iron is hot. As for our overall team, I want us to compete together at the NCAA regional and place within the top seven. I am confident in the skills of our upperclassmen and incoming freshmen.”

Thiravong shot a trio of stellar rounds during the GLIAC Championship, opening the tournament with a 76 and closing with another round of 74 during Saginaw Valley State's semifinal match against Davenport. The former Lady Hub standout preceded the conference tournament with a team-best performance at the FIndianapolis Intercollegiate event at Chariot Run Golf Course in Laconia, Indiana, where she carded consecutive rounds of 78, 74 and 80 to take 12th overall.

“This past season was an overall success



(PHOTO COURTESY OF SVSU ATHLETICS)

**Former Rochelle student-athlete Megan Thiravong was named an All-GLIAC Honorable Mention during her junior season with the Saginaw Valley State University women's golf team.**

and my favorite year competing with the team,” Thiravong said. “Even though we had some tough fall finishes, coaches Masten and [Matt] Pumford always provided us with data-driven statistics and inspiring reflections to boost our confidence leading into the spring... Coach Masten lit a new kind of competitive flame in my spirit and he brought a different perspective that will pivot our program in future years.”

A four-time IHSA state qualifier and a two-time Interstate 8 Conference champion at Rochelle, Thiravong will step into the role of team captain during her senior year at Saginaw Valley State. It's a role she's quite familiar with, as Thiravong was a three-year captain and a three-time MVP award winner for the Hubs despite being the only girl on the team for most of her prep career. Thiravong's success at RTHS has translated into a successful run at the NCAA Division II level.

“When coach Masten approached me on that 11th hole, I thought back to what coaches [Dave] Cartwright and [Glen] Mehrings taught me during my time with RTHS,” Thiravong said. “Coach Mehrings and coach Cartwright have been my initial support system and driving forces for competing in college. They both showed me how to compete against a field of much larger, stronger and more experienced players using techniques that were unique to me. We worked heavily on keeping a strong mental state while prioritizing accuracy over distance.”

Thiravong has been interning this summer as an improvement engineer with the Dow Chemical Company in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Thiravong, who's currently studying for her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, said she has an offer to work as a production engineer at the Dow Chemical Company headquarters in Midland, Michigan after graduating next spring.

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# SPORTS

**FINDING HER EDGE**  
RTHS alum Megan Thiravong reflects on her junior season at Saginaw Valley State.  
See page 10 for more details

**RTHS Football**

## Hubs welcome in Forreston

Rochelle holds combined padded practice with Cardinals on Tuesday, July 23

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — The Rochelle Hub football team welcomed the Forreston Cardinals in for a combined practice and scrimmage Tuesday, July 23, when the purple and white geared up for its second day of the team’s two-week padded camp for returning and incoming high-schoolers.

The two weeks of padded camp serve as the team’s final push toward the start of the 2024 season, which kicks off with the first week of fall practices beginning Monday, Aug. 12. While the Hubs held separate skills and lineman camps earlier in the summer, the two weeks of padded camp bring back players at all positions in both helmets and shoulder pads. Tuesday’s practice with Forreston included lineman drills as well as 7-on-7s for the varsity and JV skills players.

“These next few weeks come down to some of the foundational principles we have in our program,” head coach Kyle Kissack said. “That means playing with physicality and being disciplined in our approach. We’re really able to dial those in once we get the pads on and these two weeks are a great opportunity for us to finish what we’ve laid the foundation for throughout the summer.

(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub football team welcomed the Forreston Cardinals in for a combined practice and scrimmage Tuesday, July 23, when the purple and white geared up for its second day of the team’s two-week padded camp for returning and incoming high-schoolers.

It’s a great opportunity to get all of our kids together in a competitive environment.”

Rochelle returns a stable of linemen on both sides of the football. Among the returning seniors are All-Conference honorees Kaiden Morris, Colton Czekala, Jack Carmichael, Alex Pemberton and Ryan Senne. The Hubs also welcome back several All-Conference seniors on offense such as quarterback Carson Lewis, tailback Grant Gensler, tight end Jack Pavlak and wide receiver Elijah Harley. Juniors including fullback Roman Villalobos and sophomore wingback

Dylan Manning, who each received All-Conference recognition last fall, are also back in the fold.

“I’ve been happy with the way we’ve played in our 7-on-7s,” Kissack said. “We’ve had a number of kids who’ve had an opportunity to compete on that side of the ball. What’s been a coaching point for us is consistency. We’re a capable football team, but the challenge right now is being consistent and reliable... Our kids understand what the expectation is and I believe in them. I’m excited about what that challenge means to them and I’m interested to see how they’ll

respond.”

The Hubs are welcoming back a host of starters on defense including senior cornerback Xavier Villalobos, who was an All-Conference honoree last season. Two returning seniors who could take on much larger roles for the Hubs this fall are safety Jack Tilton and inside linebacker Brandyn Metzger, who have each taken first-team reps throughout the summer workouts.

“Jack’s a perfect example of a kid who has continued to develop over the course of his career,” Kissack said. “Having the discipline to stay with

the program and trust the process is something we really stress to the community because the kids mature over those four years and they gain a deeper understanding of what they want to accomplish. If our kids trust the process and continue to come in with the intention of getting better, they almost always get their opportunity.”

Junior linebacker Brode Metzger, who will also start at tight end, is another player to watch this year. Rochelle will conclude its summer schedule with 7-on-7s at Byron on Friday, Aug. 2. The Hubs traveled for a padded practice in Sterling on

Tuesday that also included 7-on-7s. Rochelle’s first game of the season will be at home against Woodstock on Aug. 23.

“This is our second season in our defensive scheme and our kids have responded really well to a lot of the language, the coverages, the calls and the movements,” Kissack said. “Brandyn has had a great summer in the weight room and he’ll be relied upon to get us lined up defensively. Brode was banged up at the beginning of last season, but he worked his way back into the lineup and finished the season really well. He’s really grown up and I’m excited for him.”

**Youth Swimming**

## Locals medal at Illinois YMCA Long Course State Championships

Lofthouse, Burke and Slattengren represent Rochelle at state meet July 12-14

**ST. JOHN, Ind.** — Three young swimmers from Rochelle made a splash at the YMCA Long Course State Championship held at the Lake Central High School in St. John, Indiana from July 12-14. Clara Lofthouse, Josie Slattengren and Sydney Burke swim for the Dekalb County Swim Team at the Kishwaukee YMCA in Sycamore.

They qualified for the state meet after achieving the required times in their respective events throughout the summer season. The trio competed against hundreds of other swimmers from across the state and showed their skills and dedication in the pool. The swimmers and their coaches are proud of their accomplishments and look forward to more challenges and opportunities in the future.

Clara Lofthouse, 11, participated in six events in the state championship. She achieved personal best times in four events and placed in the top 10 in five events securing spots in the finals which earned her five medals. Her best performance was in the 200-meter freestyle

finals, where she finished seventh with a time of 2:41.96, improving her prelim time by almost 5 seconds. She also helped her team secure a third place win in the 200-meter freestyle relay with a split of 34.76.

Josie Slattengren, 14, showed her endurance and stamina in the state championship, competing in four distance events and three 50-meter events. She swam the 1-mile freestyle in 22:01.0, placing eighth in the state. She also improved her personal best times in the 200-meter freestyle, 50-meter freestyle and 50-meter butterfly. She was part of the 400-meter medley relay team that finished ninth with a time of 5:42.6. Josie walked away with eighth and ninth-place medals and four personal bests.

Sydney Burke, 13, demonstrated her versatility and skills in the state championship, swimming in eight different events. She achieved personal best times in three events and made it to the finals in three relays. Her best individual performance was in the 50-meter breaststroke,

(COURTESY PHOTO)

Clara Lofthouse, Sydney Burke and Josie Slattengren represented Rochelle in the 2024 Illinois YMCA Long Course State Swim Championships in St. John, Indiana from July 12-14.

where she clocked in at 47.67 seconds, placing 22nd in the state and

setting a personal best. She and her relay teams earned medals in their

three relays by finishing eighth in the 400-meter freestyle relay, ninth in the

200-meter medley relay and 10th in the 200-meter freestyle relay.