



ROCHELLE News-Leader

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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

SUNDAY, SEPT. 15, 2024

Update on facilities committee work presented SRO agreement with city approved during board meeting

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Rochelle Elementary School District heard an update by District Business Manager Kevin Dale on recent work done by the district's facility committee.

The district's facility committee met Sept. 6 and discussed a number of topics, namely completed and future work at Tilton Elementary School. The district completed a paving project over the summer that expanded its parking lot for additional student safety. The finishing touches such as grass work are being put on that project.

Work has begun on preliminary drawings and ideas for future renovation work at Tilton School. The district hopes to go out to bid for that work by December to begin the work in the spring and summer that will last until school starts for the 2026-2027 school year.

At its meeting in June, the board unanimously approved a resolution to issue a maximum of \$11,163,432 in general obligation school bonds



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Tuesday, the Rochelle Elementary School District heard an update by District Business Manager Kevin Dale on recent work done by the district's facility committee.

for renovations at Tilton Elementary School and possible future work at its other schools.

The June approval was the culmination of a months-long process of securing funding for the Tilton work. The district is currently in the process of \$14-16 million worth of needed renovations at Tilton School after finding in a health life safety evaluation that an estimated \$7.9 million worth of work is required at the school for those issues. Health life

safety concerns the physical safety of the building for students and staff to occupy. Tilton School was built in 1949. Along with funding from bonds, the district is utilizing \$6-8 million from its reserves for other improvements involving security and spatial concerns including pick-up and drop-off areas. The work will be done in a three-year plan.

For longer-term plans at Tilton School, the district is tying in health life safety needs with recommended

security enhancements and staff needs and wants, namely limited space in the building. The district has looked at designs and ideas with various options for the facelift of the existing building and additional space to be added in an expansion with additional classrooms, multi-purpose room, gym, library and music room space, ADA accessibility, technology and climate control.

See SCHOOL pg 10

Purchase of new truck approved

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

HILLCREST — At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a new Ford F-350 dump truck for \$98,190 from Hackbarth Truck and Equipment by a vote of 4-0 with Trustee Dan Potter abstaining.

The purchase also includes a snow plow and a bed-mounted salt spreader along with safety lighting. The board also considered two other bids from Hackbarth for a Ford F-250 (\$97,190) and a Dodge (\$96,920) and a Bonnell Industries bid with a \$109,549 price estimate.

The truck will replace a larger 2000 snowplow and dump truck and another smaller 2011 truck that has seen issues with rust in its bed. Both of those trucks have seen high maintenance costs. Hillcrest took delivery of a new maintenance truck last year as well.

See HILLCREST pg 9

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Quilts presented to veterans

Four local veterans were recently presented with Quilts of Valor.
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WEATHER

SUNDAY	MONDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
87 64	86 60
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
86 60	85 58

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:

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OBITUARIES

• HELENE LOUISE TIMM

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INSERTS

• MENARDS
• SV FALL FEST MAG

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Holcomb Bank
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Midwestern Clothing Company
Midwestern Clothing Company
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LOCAL NEWS

Midwestern Clothing Company of Rochelle awarded \$15,000 Community First® grant

ROCHELLE – This week, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBank Chicago) awarded Midwestern Clothing Company a grant of \$15,000 through its CommunityFirst® Accelerate Grants for Small Business program. FHLBank Chicago offers grants of up to \$30,000 to eligible small businesses to advance economic opportunity in the communities it serves.

Midwestern Clothing Company LLC is a huge supporter of local business and collaborates with others to create an experience for their customers. Midwestern Clothing Company also partners with the Rochelle Area Community Foundation to raise funds for their Endowment Fund for “Giving Tuesday.” The funds raised go directly back into

the community they serve. Midwestern Clothing Company truly shows kindness and compassion to not only their customers, but to all community members as well. They do their best to lift others up and work together with many businesses within the community. They love their community and are committed to helping wherever they can along the way.

Additionally, Haley Kersten Brill (co-owner, Midwestern Clothing Company) was one of two people from the local district to be invited by a state representative to attend an Emerging Women Leaders Conference in Springfield where she was recognized by the House Leader for her dedication to her community.

This grant will be used

to improve exterior signage & building appearance, purchase additional inventory in wider range of sizes and improve equipment for customization.

“This grant is an incredible opportunity for us to make some improvements to our retail space and grow our inventory in order to provide a better experience for our customers,” Brill said. “We appreciate the time and effort of the team at Holcomb Bank and for making this happen for us. It’s such an incredible compliment to be thought of in a meeting and recommended for a program like this.”

Through FHLBank Chicago’s member institutions, like Holcomb Bank, Accelerate Grants assist the growth and development of small businesses in Illinois and Wisconsin. All



(COURTESY PHOTO)

This week, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBank Chicago) awarded Midwestern Clothing Company a grant of \$15,000 through its Community First® Accelerate Grants for Small Business program.

grant recipients are small businesses that make a difference in their community, and funds are intended for the following purposes:

The purchase or improvement of property, the purchase of machinery, tools or equipment; the purchase of inventory, materials, or supplies;

workforce development or training; new or upgraded technology.

“Small businesses play an integral role in local communities in driving economic growth, from creating jobs to fostering community development,” said Katie Naftzger, senior vice president, commu-

nity investment officer, FHLBank Chicago. “As a leader in the housing and community development space, FHLBank Chicago recognizes that affordable housing isn’t just about the homes themselves — it’s about ensuring entire communities have what they need to thrive, including economic opportunities for the residents and small businesses who call them home.”

The grant was sponsored by Holcomb Bank.

“Midwestern Clothing Company is such a local success story,” Holcomb Bank President/CEO Perry W. Byers said. “From starting an online retail business to bringing it full circle into a downtown storefront, we couldn’t be prouder of what Haley, Kelsey & Alyssa have accomplished. Not only do they run a solid business, they make a point to give back to the community and support other businesses. This grant allows us to support our small business customers in the best way.”

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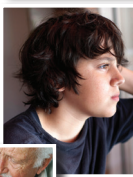


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LOCAL NEWS

(COURTESY PHOTOS)



4 local veterans presented with Quilts of Valor

Four local veterans were recently awarded with Quilts of Valor by the Rochelle Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. These beautiful quilts are machine or hand quilted to a specific size by volunteers working with the Quilts of Valor Foundation, are personalized with labels identifying the recipient, quilter, and date of the award and are presented in gratitude for the veteran's service. The Quilts of Valor Foundation keeps a record of each recipient. The veterans honored were John Gruben (U.S. Army, Vietnam War); Dan Graber (U.S. Army, Vietnam War) being congratulated by veteran Lyle Headon (left); Archie Millotte (U.S. Air Force, Korean War) and Robert Garland (U.S. Army, Vietnam War) shown seated with America 250 committee chairman Becky Danner and Rochelle Chapter Regent Debby Katzman. The quilts were presented by the Princeton Quilts of Valor representatives Jean and Robert McNeilis shown seated with members of the Rochelle Chapter NSDAR.

Video games alive and well at Star Worlds Arcade

DEKALB – Patrick O'Malley, owner of Star Worlds Arcade, opened the business with his parents while still in his early teen years. O'Malley maintains a vast collection of classic video game and pinball machines and prides himself on providing a unique environment for young and old alike.

Inducted into the Twin Galaxies International Registry of Historic Video GameArcades, Star Worlds stands out as one of the last, and possibly only, remaining neighborhood arcades that has survived since the 1980s. Nearly 40 years in business under the same ownership is an outstanding feat, especially when it comes to video game arcades.

Star Worlds Arcade has always been a quaint arcade dedicated to offering video games and pinball machines that are clean and well maintained for their customers. While there are an ever-changing number of games at the venue, the selection is not limited to the '80s. You can start out



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Patrick O'Malley, owner of Star Worlds Arcade, opened the business with his parents while still in his early teen years. O'Malley maintains a vast collection of classic video game and pinball machines and prides himself on providing a unique environment for young and old alike.

playing the classic Ms. Pac-Man or Galaga, move on to one of several pinball machines, win a rubber ducky in the Duck Tank, fight zombies with The House of the Dead, dance with your partner on their Dance, Dance Revolution, continue with the rare Pop'n Music, and the list goes on.

Mr. Walter Day, founder of the international video game high score organi-

zation Twin Galaxies, has high praises for O'Malley. Day has included the arcade owner in his series of video game trading cards dubbing O'Malley as "Keeper of the Flame" for his contributions to the video game culture. Day has also been at the Star Worlds venue several times to honor game players as well as industry leaders such as Eugene Jarvis and Larry DeMar, creators of such games as

Defender, Stargate, and Robotron:2084, and pinball designer Steve Kordek.

Star Worlds Arcade also provides revenue sharing games for your business location, as well as home game sales and repairs. For more information about this entertainment venue, look them up on the Internet at starworldsarcade.com or better yet, stop by and check out the place in person.



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OBITUARIES

Helene Louise Timm

ROCHELLE — Helene Louise Timm, 88, passed away Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at her home in Rochelle, Illinois. Helene was born on October 22, 1935 to Alfred and Minnie W. (Stiefel) Schumacher in Davis Junction, IL. Helene loved homemaking and the time she spent with her family, friends and church family. She had a strong faith and enjoyed sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. She was a champion Sorry player, who very rarely lost. In addition to her parents, Helene is preceded in death by her husband, Jim Timm on February 25, 2018; three brothers: Russell, Richard and Alfred

Jr. Schumacher and sister, Maxine Burri. Helene is survived by her three daughters: Tami (Larry Johnson) Rhea of Rochelle, Suann (Gary) Wells of Burlington, IA and Karen (Mike) Collins of Rochelle; seven grandchildren: Samuel (Meghan Hogan) Rhea, Raeanne (Jeff) Boyer, Ashley (Brian) Kuddes, Zachary (Ben) Danekas, Nathan (Jessica) Timm, Christopher (April) Collins and Lindsey (Dimitri) Lee and 13 great grandchildren. The memorial visitation will be from 9:30 - 11:00 A.M., Monday, September 16, 2024 followed by the memorial service at 11:00 A.M. all at the First Baptist



Church, 810 Woolf Court, Rochelle with Rev. Dr. Richard Woodruff officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Helene's memory to Serenity Hospice and Home or the First Baptist Church. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

County residential electronics recycling event is Sept. 27

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department (OCSWMD) will be hosting a residential electronics recycling event on Friday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 909 Pines Road in Oregon. This event is for Ogle County residents only and a free permit is required in advance of the event. To obtain a free permit call 815-732-4020 or email solidwaste@oglecountyil.gov and provide your name, address, phone number and email address by noon on Thursday, Sept. 26. Accepted items include all televisions and comput-

er monitors, computers, computer hardware and cables, laptops, tablets, cell phones, printers, FAX machines, scanners, shredders (no tubs), copiers, video gaming equipment, DVD/VCRs, cable/satellite boxes, stereo equipment, radios, digital clocks, cameras, calculators, phone systems, holiday light strands, extension cords, rechargeable batteries, printer ink cartridges, CD/DVDs, and CFL bulbs. Microwave ovens accepted for \$5 per unit. Cash or check accepted. Limit seven (7) large or bulky items per permit and one permit per county household per month.

Business or institutional electronic materials not accepted at these events. Business or institutional electronics are accepted by the OCSWMD via a separate program. Call the number above for more information and pricing for business electronic recycling, and to make an appointment for drop off of the materials to be recycled. For more information about this recycling event call the OCSWMD at the number above, visit www.oglecountyil.gov, or on Facebook at Ogle County Solid Waste Management Dept.

ISP Troop 1 announces monthly activity for August

OGLE COUNTY — Illinois State Police Troop 1 Commander, Captain Joseph Blanchette, announces the enforcement figures and activity for August. Illinois State Police Troop 1 troopers issued 1,023 citations, 813 written warnings, and made 18 criminal arrests during the

month of August. Troopers issued 328 citations for speeding, 33 citations for distracted driving violations, and 74 citations for occupant restraint violations. Troopers investigated 97 traffic crashes, assisted 257 motorists, and conducted 651 commercial motor vehicle inspections, of which

72 were placed out of service for safety reasons. There were 27 arrests for driving under the influence. ISP Troop 1, which encompasses Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago counties, investigated one fatal crash in August.

Household hazardous waste collection event is Oct. 12

OREGON — The Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department, in cooperation with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, will be hosting a household hazardous waste collection event Saturday, Oct. 12. Pre-registration is required to attend this event and can be done on at www.oglecountyil.gov under the Solid Waste tab. This event is open to Illinois residents and is for household generated materials only. No industrial, agricultural, or institutional materials will be accepted at this event. There is no charge to residents to attend this event.

Registration will close at noon on Oct. 9. Household hazardous waste includes household materials which may be flammable, corrosive, toxic, or reactive and can cause harm to people, pets, or the environment. The following materials will be accepted at this collection event: oil-based paints, varnishes, and stains, paint thinners, herbicides, pesticides, old gasoline, pool chemicals, cleaning products, mercury, used motor oil/automotive fluids, drain cleaners, acids/corrosives, lawn chemicals and fertilizers, solvents, anti-freeze, hobby chemicals,

adhesives, aerosol paints and sprays, rechargeable batteries, and fluorescent bulbs. Latex paint and pharmaceuticals/OTC medications will NOT be accepted at this event. Have materials easily accessible in your vehicle, event staff will unload your materials. Pre-registration is required for this collection event through the Ogle County website. Event location and your assigned appointment time will be provided via email after you register for the event. Please call 815-732-4020 for more information or questions about this event.

ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

ROCHELLE — On Sept. 9 at 10:52 p.m. Timothy J.G. Mendez, 41, of Steward was cited for no valid registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 10 at 9:21 a.m. Terry L. Karschnik, 56, of Mankato, Minnesota was cited for speeding 68 miles per hour in a 45 miles per hour zone and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 10 at 8:39 a.m. Cynthia M. Heinrich, 45, of Amboy was cited for speeding 46 in a 30 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 10 at 6:33 a.m. Wil C. Murray, 33, of Rochelle was cited for no insurance and expired registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 10 at 6:19 a.m. Jane Marie Zacny, 35, of DeKalb was cited for speeding 47 in a 30 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. Quarey Weikal, 22, of Kirkland was cited for

expired registration. She signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 10 at 12:25 p.m. Elinor Nuyen, 19, of Aurora was cited for speeding 55 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone. She signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 10 at 3:45 p.m. Kyle Petterier, 38, of St. Louis, Missouri was cited for speeding 60 in a 45 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 10 at 4:06 p.m. Kolby Burrow, 30, of Rochelle was cited for speeding 50 in a 30 miles per hour zone. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 10 at 5:17 p.m. Kyle Frady, 19, of Franklin Grove was cited for speeding 57 in a 30 miles per hour zone and operating an uninsured vehicle. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 10 at 4:37 p.m. Baylee Sutton, 19, of Pekin was cited for expired registration and operating an uninsured vehicle. She signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4

Rochelle court date. On Sept. 11 at 10:44 p.m. Amador Nolberto-Isaac, 31, of Rockford was arrested for no valid driver's license. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 11 at 8:03 p.m. Julio C. Oblea, 48, of Rochelle was cited for suspended registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 11 at 6:39 p.m. Josefina Hernandez-Soto, 36, of Peru was cited for speeding. She signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 12 at 7:22 p.m. Chad A. Shaw, 43, of Rochelle was cited for disobeying a stop sign and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. On Sept. 12 at 7:53 p.m. Steven K. Baldwin, 61, of Rochelle was arrested for driving while license revoked and cited for disobeying a traffic control device and no insurance. He signed a promise to comply and was given an Oct. 4 Rochelle court date. All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

OREGON — On Sept. 10 at 3:12 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Illinois Route 251 and East Illinois Route 64. After a brief investigation the passenger, Alphonse Delatorre, 53, of Rochelle, was arrested for an outstanding warrant from McHenry County. Delatorre was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he is held in lieu of bond. On Sept. 11 at approximately 7:24 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Blackhawk Drive and Walnut

Street in Byron. After further investigation Andre McQueen, 20, of Sterling, was placed under arrest for unlawful possession of cannabis. McQueen was also cited for speeding. McQueen was released on a notice to appear. On Sept. 12 at approximately 7:59 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop in the 11,000 block of North Rock City Road. After further investigation Jose Corado-Argueta, 34, of Rockford, was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Corado-Argueta was

additionally cited for speeding and an equipment violation. Corado-Argueta was released on a notice to appear. On Sept. 12 at approximately 5:42 p.m. deputies initiated a traffic stop on Mulford Road at the north county line on a vehicle for speeding. Upon further investigation deputies arrested Jorge Ramos, 22, of Elgin for driving with no valid license. Ramos was released on a notice to appear with a future court date given. All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

ROE 47 announces annual Pathway Playground Career exploration day

STERLING — The Regional Office of Education (ROE) #47 is thrilled to announce the return of its annual Pathway Playground event, offering a day of career exploration for eighth graders in Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Counties. This year's event will take place on Friday, Oct. 18 at Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC) and is expected to welcome over 1,000 students. The Pathway Playground provides a unique opportunity for students to connect with local businesses and explore the vast array of career paths available to them. Last year, over 70

businesses participated, showcasing their industries through interactive activities. This year, the goal is to have at least 100 businesses present, offering an even wider range of career exploration opportunities. "We're excited to continue building upon the success of Pathway Playground," said Pathway Navigator Chanda McDonnell at ROE #47. "It's an incredible opportunity for students to get hands-on experience and learn about exciting careers right in their own communities." Past activities have included: Installing windows in garage doors (construction), reporting the weather using a green screen (media & communications), and learning how to navigate a roundabout (transportation). These activities repre-

sent just a sample of the diverse career clusters students will encounter at Pathway Playground, including: manufacturing, health sciences, agriculture, information technology, arts & communication, human & public services, and business & finance. Call to action for businesses: The ROE #47 Pathway Team is actively recruiting businesses from Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties to participate in this impactful event. Businesses interested in showcasing their careers to the next generation of talent can contact Chanda McDonnell (cmcdonnell@roe47.org) or Heather Waninger (hwaninger@roe47.org) by September 30th, 2024. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with future employees and inspire the next generation!

ROCHELLE News-Leader

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General Manager	(815) 561-2124
Newsroom Staff Jeff Helfrich, Managing Editor Russ Hodges, Sports	(815) 561-2151 rhodges@rochellenews-leader.com
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Report policy

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

LOCAL NEWS

NIFB announces Rockford relocation and expansion plans

ROCKFORD – On Aug. 27, Northern Illinois Food Bank announced exciting updates regarding the relocation and expansion of its Northwest center in Rockford, in a press conference attended by Julie Yurko, president and CEO of Northern Illinois Food Bank, and Illinois State Senator Steve Stadelman. The event marked the introduction of the future home of the Northern Illinois Food Bank Northwest Center, set to relocate to a new and expanded facility at the former K-Mart site at 1397 Sandy Hollow Road, Rockford, later this year. As highlighted during the press conference, food insecurity remains a critical issue throughout Northern Illinois. In Winnebago County, food insecurity affects 1 in 7 residents. According to the ALICE Report, 41%

of Winnebago County households fall below the threshold of financial survival meaning they struggle to cover basic living expenses such as food, housing, transportation, healthcare, and childcare. Over the past five years, the Food Bank has responded by increasing meal distribution from 5.3 million in FY19 to 8.7 million in FY24 in Winnebago County. Northern Illinois Food Bank's Northwest Center collaborates with over 100 food pantries, schools, senior centers, and community organizations throughout Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, Ogle, Stephenson, and McHenry Counties to ensure neighbors have access to nutritious food. The Winnebago Community Market, a 4,000-square-foot pantry located within the current Rockford center, has been

a crucial resource, serving 1,700 families each week since its opening in 2018. Since 2015, the Food Bank has been operating from a 19,000-square-foot facility, which it has now outgrown due to increasing demand. With the need for more space and lease ending in December, the Food Bank is taking the opportunity to relocate and expand its operations to a new, larger 30,000-square-foot facility on Sandy Hollow Road. Northern Illinois Food Bank Northwest Center relocation and expansion will provide several key benefits: A larger parking lot with improved visibility and accessibility on a major thoroughfare. 11,000 additional square feet of space, including two dock doors and ample warehouse space, which will support

expanded food storage, an agency dock, freezer and cooler capacity, and additional office and meeting areas. The current Northwest Center and Winnebago Community Market will be renamed the Northern Illinois Food Bank Neighborhood Market, offering an enhanced grocery shopping experience for neighbors and supporting the OrderAhead program for convenient, private online grocery ordering. The new space will also allow for the expansion of wrap-around services and resources for the community. The Food Bank is actively fundraising for the Neighborhood Market renovations and build-out, with a goal of raising \$600,000 by the end of the year. So far, nearly \$200,000 has been raised, including a generous

matching gift from Theresa and Jerry Hinck and contributions from UW Health, Barbara Bullock, and Christopher Bullock. Additionally, the Kjellstrom Family Foundation has contributed to the expansion, and a grant from US Foods will help fund innovative temperature-controlled lockers for grocery pickups. Senator Stadelman also announced securing \$50,000 in funding as part of the ReBuild Illinois capital spending bill, supporting local infrastructure and capital improvement projects. "I'm proud to support Northern Illinois Food Bank in its mission to ensure no one in Rockford goes hungry," said Senator Stadelman. "We are encouraged by the generosity of our donors and partners, including Senator Stadelman, who has been a long-time

supporter of the Food Bank," said Julie Yurko during the announcement. "While we are grateful for all the support, we still have a long way to go. If you can help, please consider a financial contribution or other resources. Together, we can ensure families throughout Winnebago, Boone, DeKalb, Ogle, Stephenson, and McHenry counties get the food they need to thrive." Following the press conference, attendees were invited to tour the new facility that is still under construction and will be open to the public later this year. For more information on how to contribute to the Northern Illinois Food Bank's expansion project, please visit Northern Illinois Food Bank Neighborhood Market - Northern Illinois Food Bank (solve-hungertoday.org)

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. John's Lutheran Church, 126 E. South Street, Creston. Phone 815-384-3720, Email: StJohnsLutheran@aol.com, members of NALC/LCMC. Worship is led by **Pastor Terese Whitten** 231-878-4150. St. John's Lutheran Church is a part of God's Family, planting hope, nurturing faith, and harvesting love. Fellowship time begins at 10:00 followed by worship at 10:45. Sunday school is conducted during worship service except during the summer.

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

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



LOCAL VIEWS

Consider this: The 2nd amendment

WE are always discussing Amendment II to the United States Constitution and the right to bear arms. Especially, after horrific events take place like the recent school shooting in Winder, Georgia. There are, of course, too many of these shootings and something must be done to prevent them. The discussion, therefore, centers around how to restrict the ability of these shooters to obtain guns. Amendment II says simply, “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” You can find this at: www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript. Although this is a straightforward statement, it does say that the right concerns a well-regulated militia. Yet, there is no explanation of what is meant

specifically by this, so the Supreme Court has determined that it means we all have this right to bear arms under any conditions.

Some states in the union do, however, have certain limitations. And there are now, and have been, federal restrictions in place. But current restraints seem to have done little to stop the progression of, and increase in, these horrific events. There was a restriction placed on owning certain types of guns in 1994 that lasted through 2004. It was better known as the assault weapons ban. During this time data on the ban was interpreted as helping reduce, increase, and be of no effect on gun crime. This information can be found at: www.factcheck.org/2013/02/did-the-1994-assault-weapons-ban-work/. So why was it so hard to prove? High-capacity magazines and their effect

on the outcomes.

So, is there anything at all that can be done to keep our children safe, if not ourselves? It certainly would be nice if the whole country had the same feeling that this was important. But can it be important to those that continue to complain about taking away *some* of their gun rights with new legislation? Is it important to those that talk about the rights of children to have every chance to be born into this world by eliminating *Roe v. Wade*, contraception options, and other means to protect a mother’s health? Is it only important *until* the child is born?

What about Amendment I to the United States Constitution? It reads: “Congress shall make no law respecting an estab-

lishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” These are sacred rights. But this Amendment only talks about making no law to abridge these rights. What about a law to *protect* these rights?

How is the right of a child, and later an adult, to freedom of speech protected if the child is not around to have that right? Do we care about these rights if we don’t do anything to prevent our citizens, all citizens, from the loss of their life or their ability to enjoy these rights? Is this a kind of oxymoron that we wish didn’t exist? People pass in many ways. Accidents exist. Mistakes

happen. Sometimes just being in the wrong place at the wrong time can be fatal. These events are unalterable. But what about doing something that can minimize the violence we see happening almost every day to our neighbors, friends, and family?

Of course, in the long run, it’s all up to us. That’s what is good about democracy. We all have a say. We can vote against those that do not represent us and vote for those that do.

It’s funny how some on both sides of the aisle seem to go along with much of their party platform no matter what their constituents desire. None of us should vote along party lines. If we do, without thinking on our own, then we truly create us-versus-them scenarios. We can declare a party in primaries, to vote for a base of people from which we can choose during the election. If we find these

candidates aren’t really working for us, though, we can vote in the regular election for an alternate candidate who is.

In a democracy, we have the freedom to do *almost* anything we want. But, as we talked above, and in some other circumstances, we need to have others in mind. It seems to me that it would be a very miserable world if we all thought alike.

With that in mind, I would like to thank Mr. Roberts who wrote an opinion piece in the Rochelle News-Leader Sept. 8. His viewpoint is a bit different from mine and it was good to see him express his own thoughts. I encourage others to do the same. We need to hear all sides. That’s how we develop our own positions. And isn’t it great that we have an alternative to doing so in our local newspaper rather than online?



Reed Harris

Suicide prevention and drug education save lives and help local communities

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. During this month, prevention organizations, survivors, mental health advocates, and community members unite to promote suicide prevention and awareness.

One important aspect of suicide prevention is recognizing the connection between substance use and suicide. Drug addiction prevention campaigns are always working hand-in-hand with suicide prevention campaigns in local communities.

Drug and alcohol addiction, such as alcohol and opioid use disorders,

for example, significantly increases the risk of suicidal ideation, attempts, and death. These are generally the two most implicated substances in suicide risk.

The risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior is elevated with acute alcohol intoxication and chronic alcohol use or dependence. The same applies to opioid use, as it can increase the risk of suicide and unintentional overdose caused by opioids alone or through polysubstance use.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, on average, every five hours and 41 minutes, a person dies by suicide in Illinois. The total number

of deaths by suicide increased by seven percent from 2021 to 2022. The suicide rate among men was 3.6 times higher than the rate among women in 2021.

Fortunately, prevention campaigns work and increase awareness surrounding substance use and suicide. Anyone can take action today by knowing simple things, such as dialing 988 for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, a 24-7 free and confidential support for people in distress.

Locally, and in addition to the Crisis Lifeline, other resources include

the Safe2Help Illinois: Dial 844-4-SAFEIL, Text SAFE2 (72332), or email HELP@Safe2HelpIL.com. Someone can also text HOME to 741741 to reach the Crisis Text Line.

We must all work to change the conversation from suicide to suicide prevention. There are actions that anyone can take to help and give hope to those who are struggling. Consider some of the following pointers.

Ask, do not beat around the bush, but ask that person how they are doing and if they are thinking about suicide. Acknowledging and talking about

suicide reduces suicidal ideation. Be there for that person, and they will feel less depressed, less suicidal, and less overwhelmed.

Keep them safe and help them stay connected. When lethal means are made less available or less deadly, the frequency and risks of suicide decline. Moreover, the hopelessness subsides when you help that person create a support network of resources and individuals.

Most importantly, maintain contact, follow up, and see them in person as frequently as possible. This is a critical part of suicide prevention, along with always learning more about prevention

and awareness.

However, this process is not bulletproof, and we must recognize there are countless instances of individuals taking their lives and giving no indication or red flag they were suicidal. But if we can keep changing the conversation, breaking down the walls of stigma, and making the resources accessible, more people may ask for help before it is too late.

Marcel Gemme is the founder of SUPE and has been helping people struggling with substance use for over 20 years. His work focuses on a threefold approach: education, prevention, and rehabilitation.



Marcel Gemme

How to contact government officials

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

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

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

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

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

** Denotes Chairman/President*

Rochelle City Council
*John Bearrows jbearrows@rochelleil.us
Kathryn Shaw-Dickey kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us
Bil Hayes bhayes@rochelleil.us
Rosaelia Arteaga rarteaga@rochelleil.us
Dan McDermott dmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Tom McDermott tmcdermott@rochelleil.us
Benjamin Valdivieso bvaldivieso@rochelleil.us

Rochelle Elementary School Board
*Trisha Vaughn tvauhn@d231.rochelle.net
Dave Casey dcasey@d231.rochelle.net
Steve Buita sbuita@d231.rochelle.net
Ashley Jackson ajackson@d231.rochelle.net
Stephanie White swhite@d231.rochelle.net
Javier Zepeda jzepeda@d231.rochelle.net
Jennifer Thompson jthompson@d231.rochelle.net

Rochelle Township High School Board
*Tom Huddleston tom.huddleston@rthsd212.org
Bill Ravnaas bill.ravnaas@rthsd212.org
Jeff Tilton jeff.tilton@rthsd212.org
Bobby Chadwick bobby.chadwick@rthsd212.org
Brent Ohlinger brent.ohlinger@rthsd212.org
Laurie Pillen laurie.pillen@rthsd212.org
Joel Thompson joel.thompson@rthsd212.org

Flagg-Rochelle Park Board
Brent Carmichael bcarmichael@rochelleparkdistrict.org
John Dobbs jdobbs@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Dale Wells dwells@rochelleparkdistrict.org
*Tim Hayden thayden@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Jodie Hart jhart@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Joe Lenkaitis jlenkaitis@rochelleparkdistrict.org
Kristi Gonzales kgonzaless@rochelleparkdistrict.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 3
Austin Gillis agillis@oglecounty.org
Dan Miller dmiller@oglecounty.org
Joseph Simms jsimms@oglecounty.org

Ogle County Board Dist. 4
Jackie Ramsey jramsey@oglecounty.org
Skip Kenney skenney@oglecounty.org
David Williams dwilliams@oglecounty.org

Creston Village Board
*Tom Byro tommyb_47@yahoo.com
Greg Hopkins ghopkins522@comcast.net
Steve Katzman skatzman@essex1.com
Mike Kerns ac.kerns@comcast.net
Curt Ward caward92@comcast.net
Mark Hibshman
Reid Elliot
Jennifer Payton

Hillcrest Village Board
*Richard Rhoads rrhoads@hillcrestil.us
Pam Pittman ppittman@hillcrestil.us
Dan Potter dpotter@hillcrestil.us
Tim Ball tbball@hillcrestil.us
Jose Huerta jhuerta@hillcrestil.us
Eileen Braski ebraski@hillcrestil.us
Joe Thompson jthompson@hillcrestil.us

Flagg Township
Sue Messer flaggtwp@rochelle.net
Joanna Patrick flaggtwpc@rochelle.net
Susan Rothenberger assessor@rochelle.net
Scott Seebach scottseebach@gmail.com

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Flagg-Rochelle Library
Jaqueline Dickow dickow@comcast.net
*Teresa Haggstad haggstads@comcast.net
Kelly Johnson kellyjohnson0927@yahoo.com
Lanning Nicoloff nicoloff118@comcast.net
Sheri Klindera alwayslefty2@gmail.com
Susan Sevedge nit1prl22@yahoo.com
Darci Waltrip doobs12@comcast.net

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

COMMUNITY



Above is Emily Harbaugh with her Reserve Champion milk cow. Below is Allissa Martin with her Champion AOB steer at the 2024 Ogle County 4-H Fair.

Ogle County Carefree 4-H Club reflects on time at fair

OREGON — The Carefree 4-H Club in Ogle County held its August meeting at the Ogle County Farm Bureau in Oregon. Discussion topics included reflecting on their time at the Ogle County 4-H Fair. Members who participated in the Ogle County 4-H Fair had fun showcasing their general projects and being part of the livestock shows. The club discussed having a Thanksgiving Food Drive and other ideas for a community service project.

The club will participate in the Autumn On parade this October in Oregon. At their November meeting, the club will hold officer elections for their members. Also coming up is Achievement Day, which is the 4-H awards program where members can win prizes for their efforts.

4-H is an informal youth education program of University of Illinois Extension. For more information or to get involved with the program, contact the Ogle County Extension office at



815-732-2191 or visit us online at <https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo>. This is the best time of the year to join!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 17
David Jones
Jenny Rosenbach

Sept. 18
Amie Eggenburg
Terry & Teresa Dodillet
(anniversary)

Sept. 19
Madison Wooten

Sept. 20
Jon & Carolyn Bieck
(anniversary)

Sept. 23
Jeff & Diana Dickey
(anniversary)

Sept. 29
Lyndsey O'Brien
Sarah Kulwicki

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



- Aug. 20 - Terry Truckenbrod, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 21 - Joyce Bialas, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 22 - Kaylee Brown, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 23 - Carol Elliott, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 24 - Mackinzie Hamlink, Amboy, \$25
Aug. 25 - Mary Sage, Rochelle, \$50
Aug. 26 - Timothy Thompson, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 27 - Acres Bistro, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 28 - Colonial Flowers and Gifts, Rochelle, \$25
Aug. 29 - Focus House, \$25
Aug. 30 - Julie Lovett, Steward, \$25
Aug. 31 - Rosaelia Arteaga, Rochelle, \$25
Sept. 1 - RACF, \$50
Sept. 2 - Kathy Butler, Princeton, \$1,000
Sept. 3 - From the Heart, \$25
Sept. 4 - William Haan, Rochelle, \$25
Sept. 5 - Zeno Enderle, Rochelle, \$25
Sept. 6 - Roger Pearson, Rochelle, \$25
Sept. 7 - Rita Thompson, Dixon, \$25
Sept. 8 - Bob Aubry, Rochelle, \$50
Sept. 9 - Margaret Danek, Kings, \$25
Sept. 10 - Allison Reed, Byron, \$25
Sept. 11 - Kayla Rios, Rochelle, \$25
Sept. 12 - Slavoljub Majinovic, Rochelle, \$25
Sept. 13 - Arely Hickey, Rochelle, \$25
Sept. 14 - Paige Humphrey, Pecatonica, \$25
Sept. 15 - DJ and Noeka Williams, Rochelle, \$50

QUEEN FOR THE CAUSE

DRAWINGS THURSDAYS 7 P.M. @ LUNA
CURRENT WEEKLY PRIZE: \$500
CURRENT JACKPOT: \$11,005



Coffee Break

MAGIC MAZE • — COAST

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: RED-BROWN METAL

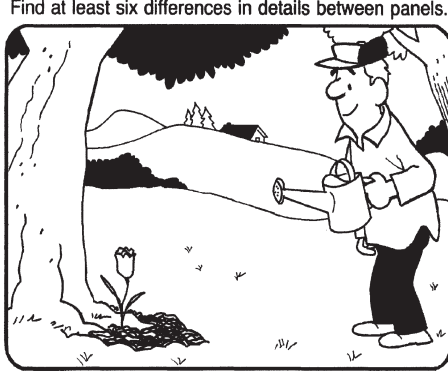
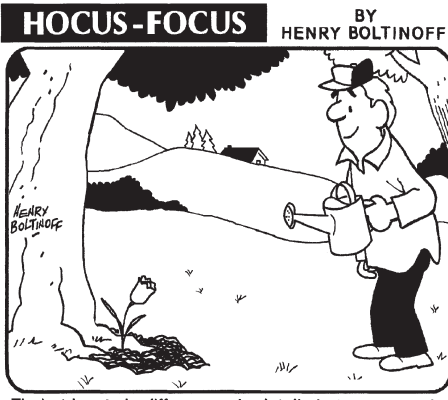
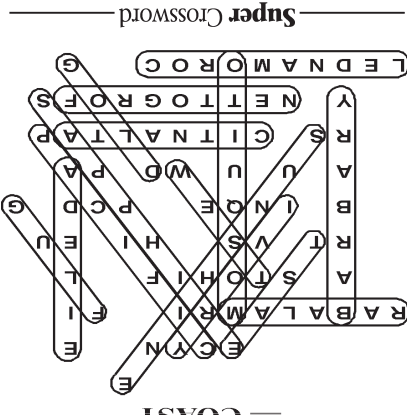
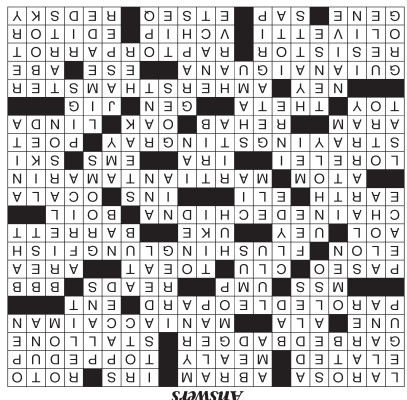
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Atlantic
Barbary
Coromandel

East
Forgotten
Gold
Gulf

Ivory
Malabar
Mosquito
Pacific

Sapphire
Sunshine
West

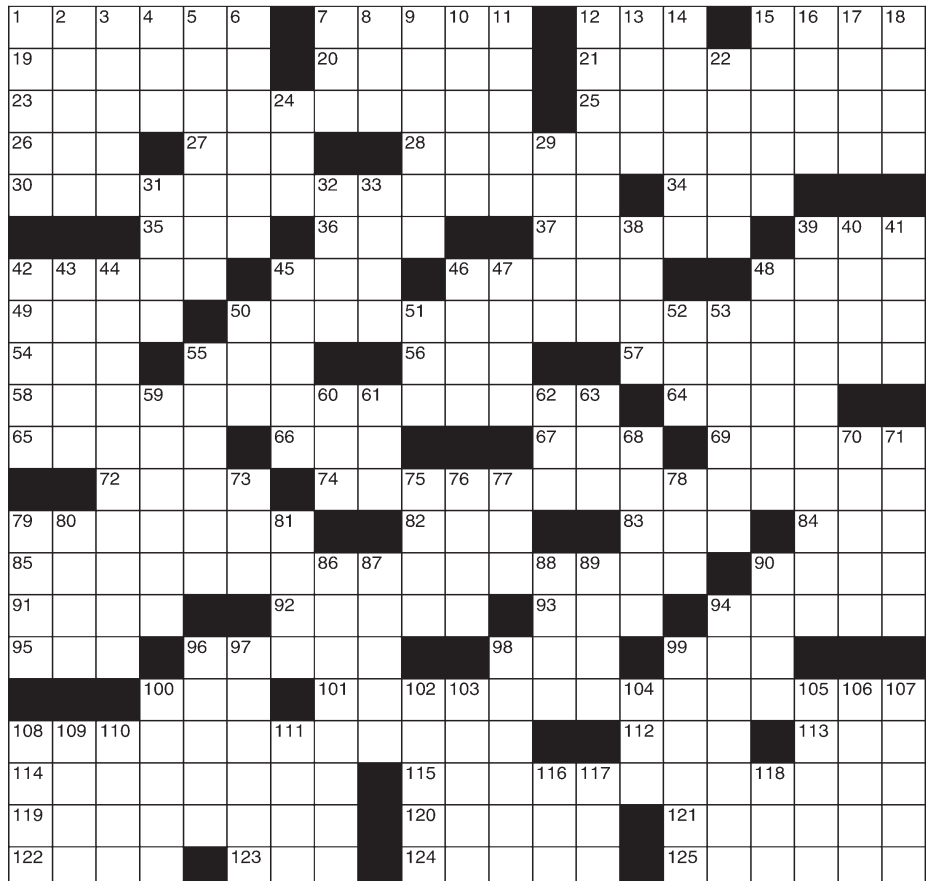
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Differences: 1. Tree trunk is different. 2. Spot on watering can is longer. 3. Cap is larger. 4. Hair is shorter. 5. Mountain is different. 6. Flower is different.

Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Old-time crooner
7 James — Julius
12 Taxing org.
15 Old news-paper section
19 On cloud nine
20 Having fine granules
21 Refilled to the brim
23 Nocturnal burrower wearing clothes?
25 "Rocky" star
26 French "a"
27 Taking after
28 Semiaquatic reptile that's really
30 Big spotted cat released from jail early?
34 Doc treating laryngitis
35 Orig. texts
36 Sports official
37 Interprets
39 Antifraud org.
42 1990s Toyota coupe
45 "McQ" actor Gulager
46 Ready- (precooked)
48 Region
49 Tesla's Musk
50 Lobe-finned swimmer turning red?
54 Pioneering paper email co.
55 One-eighty
56 Mini-guitar
57 Elizabeth — Browning
58 Spiny anteater on a leash?
64 Put in very hot water
65 Solid ground
66 Actor Wallach
67 Seat winners
69 Florida city
72 Quark's place
74 Very small monkey from the red planet?
79 Rhine siren
82 "Sliver" writer Levin
83 "Emma" has two of these
84 Slalom, e.g.
85 Whip-tailed marine menace going off course?
90 Bard
91 Composer Khachaturian
92 Fix up, as an old house
93 Hard wood
94 Actress Blair
95 Kid's amuser
96 Eighth Greek letter
98 Mil. bigwig
99 Irish dance
100 Waterloo marshal
101 Michel
108 Large lizard from northern South America?
112 Dialect suffix
113 Penny prez
114 Electric circuit component
115 Mimicking bird that's predatory?
119 Classic typewriter brand
120 TV show blocking device
121 Text alterer
122 Trait carrier
123 Enervate
124 Latin abbr. meaning "and the following"
- DOWN**
1 Starting boost
2 Actress — De La Garza
3 More scarce
4 Gambling parlor, in brief
5 "Look here, too," in a reference
6 Befuddles
7 Doc's gp.
8 Shut-eye site
9 Dust picker-upper
10 Take — of faith
11 Actress Loy
12 "Agreed!"
13 Campus mil. gp.
14 Zoned (out)
15 Ignited again
16 2004-11
17 Laker Lamar
18 Unbox, e.g.
22 Schemes
24 With 31-Down, it doesn't bode well
29 Like the verb "go": Abbr.
31 See 24-Down
32 Humdinger
33 Aussie birds
38 "... three men in —"
39 She starred in "Room"
40 — Actress (award for 39-Down)
41 Thai currency
42 Serenity
43 "Hi," in Hilo
44 Nonpolluting power source
45 Bonnie's pal
46 — torch
47 Linear, briefly
48 Sahara's land
50 Agent's cut
51 "Say what?"
52 Seize
53 Spruces up
55 Sinful
59 Group of PC gurus
60 Hard wood
61 Covert org.
62 Actress Long
63 Actress
68 Fajita meat
70 Was keen on
71 Singer O'Day
73 "Don't tell — can't!"
75 Singer Coolidge
76 Chi-Town daily paper
77 Singer Janis
78 Novelist Tan
79 Future atty.'s exam
80 Other, in Oaxaca
81 Pertaining to
86 "Return to reality!"
87 SeaWorld whale, once
88 Leaves
89 Vent vocally
90 Sty animals
94 Greenish citrus drink
96 All wound up
97 "Regency" hotels
98 Pie charts, e.g.
99 Quartz type
100 Easily duped
102 Presnell of "Fargo"
103 Legislate
104 That girl
105 Petite pies
106 Kindle buy
107 New attempt
108 Sailor's quaff
109 700-mile-long Congolese river
110 "The check — the mail"
111 Ninth Greek letter
116 Game draw
117 Trio before R
118 Free (of)



LOCAL NEWS

HORNER: Rochelle funeral home purchases Mendota business

From page 1

Chad Horner will lead operations at Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle, with Funeral Director Michael Torman and Funeral Assistant Evan Horner assisting at both locations.

After serving families in the Rochelle area across decades, the Horners are looking forward to getting to know the Mendota-area community.

"I'm excited," Derek Horner said. "I'm realizing fast how gratifying it's going to be to make connections down here. Now I just feel like this is going to be an extension of home. I'm starting to meet people in town already. In the short time I've been here, it's been very similar. The same small-town vibe and great people."

Merritt said he believes the change is going to be positive, and he's already spoken with families that have been "really pleased" with the Horners since they began work in Mendota. When he started to consider selling, Chad and Derek Horner were the first people that came to mind.

"I saw them as being

the next owners of this funeral home," Merritt said. "I've always had them in mind for it. Passing this off to a family like the Horners is the only way it could have gone for me to feel good about selling. It means the world to me that they'll carry on. It makes it easier to walk away from this business I've known all my life. I feel very confident in what Derek and Chad will do with it."

Merritt leaves the business with a legacy of working with Mendota-area families for 58 years.

"It's been very rewarding for me to do this work since 1966," Merritt said. "I've had so many good relationships with the families. I have some that I'll never forget about."

The new owners plan to make upgrades to the historic 1938 building including more technology for amenities like video tributes, and renovations to the chapel. Chad Horner said Merritt-Horner Funeral Home will mirror the Rochelle operation when it comes to values.

"We find value in serving families," Chad Horner said. "To have another family funeral home that



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The owners of Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle recently purchased Merritt Funeral Home in Mendota. From left to right: Derek Horner, funeral director/owner; Bob Merritt; Don Horner and Chad Horner, funeral director/owner.

allows us to have the same sort of service that we would like to provide the community was perfect for us. Families have always come first for us. That won't change here. This reinforces all of the work we put in serving families. It's a calling,

not a job. To be able to expand from Rochelle after all these years and serve another community, it's a rewarding situation for us to know that what we do is valued."

In an email to Merritt, Don Horner once described his sons as

"capable and caring." Merritt called back on those words as he handed the business off to Chad and Derek, who want the Mendota-area community to know what to expect in the coming years.

"One thing about being family-owned and oper-

ated is we care about the families," Chad Horner said. "That comes before the business of it. Families have always come first. People in Rochelle and Mendota that come to us will know that their funeral home cares about them first."

NAMI Sauk Area spreads awareness in September, Suicide Prevention Month

SEPTEMBER is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a crucial time dedicated to raising awareness about mental health. NAMI Sauk Area (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is offering support to those in need and educating communities. This month, they will highlight the importance of suicide prevention and provide critical resources. NAMI Sauk Area is actively engaged in several initiatives to support and educate the community this September.

Suicide is a major public health concern. In 2022, over 48,000 Americans died by suicide, making it the 12th leading cause of death in the U.S. Recognizing warning signs, such as persistent feelings of hopelessness, social withdrawal, increased substance use, giving away possessions, and verbal cues of suicidal thoughts, is crucial.

On September 17th,

NAMI Sauk Area will host a presentation called "Mental Illness & Hospitalizations: What Families Should Know" at Rooted Wellness in Sterling. Speakers Amy Meyer, CGH Behavioral Unit, and Mary Thormahlen, NAMI In Our Own Voice presenter, will provide insights on hospitalization and suicidal ideation for loved ones.

The organization will be hosting a suicide TALK presentation by Jeff Hippen during the Survivors of Suicide Support Group on Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m., and the presentation is open to the public. This presentation aims to end the stigma around suicide and help people understand it better. The event will take place at 300 W. South St., Morrison.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 10-14-year-olds and the third leading cause among 15-24-year-olds. NAMI Sauk Area is committed to raising awareness and pre-

venting youth suicide. They will be distributing silicone bracelets, bookmarks, and informational resources to 7000 high school students across Whiteside, Lee, Ogle, and Carroll Counties. This initiative is aimed at increasing awareness of the 988 Lifeline during Suicide Prevention Awareness Week and ensuring that young people have access to important information about mental health and support services.

Through a grant for NAMI Illinois Youth and Young Adult Mental Health Collaborative, NAMI Sauk Area will be hosting a state training for NAMI Ending the Silence at Rooted Wellness, Sterling on Sept. 28-29 (applications due Sept. 16). NAMI Sauk Area is looking for people to take the training to teach the course at local high schools. We are also looking for young adults to help describe their journey from mental illness to re-

covery. Ending the Silence is a free, evidence-based, 50-minute session designed for middle and high school students. Your students will learn about mental health conditions through a brief presentation, short videos, and personal testimony from a young adult who describes their journey to recovery.

One of the main focuses of this year's awareness campaign is to promote the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Launched in July 2022, 988 is a free, confidential, 24/7 hotline that provides immediate support to individuals in crisis or those who are concerned about someone else. By calling or texting 988, individuals can connect with trained crisis counselors who offer emotional support, crisis intervention, and resources for ongoing help. The establishment of 988 represents a significant improvement in making mental health crisis intervention more accessible and effective. The Substance



Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has designated Sept. 8 as 988 Day, further emphasizing the importance of the 988 Lifeline and encouraging communities to spread the word about this vital resource.

As Suicide Prevention Awareness Month unfolds, NAMI Sauk Area is com-

mitted to raising awareness, providing educational resources, and nurturing a supportive community for those impacted by mental health challenges. By uniting and staying informed, we can all play a part in preventing suicide and promoting mental health wellness. Find more information at namisaukarea.org.

New Seed Library program at Flagg-Rochelle Public Library

ROCHELLE – The Seed Library is a new program available at the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library in collaboration with the Ogle County Extension Master Gardeners. The

program aims to educate the community about the rewards of gardening and seed saving.

The Seed Library is housed in a repurposed card catalog and is divided into

four seed categories: herbs, flowers, native plants, and vegetables. The seed library will grow when community members donate the seeds they plant and harvest back to the library. Participants

borrow 8-10 packets of seeds per fall and spring growing season.

This free program is available to all community members. You do not need a library card to participate.

Just pick up seeds inside the library entrance when the library is open.

Don't forget to register for the Seed Saving 101 workshop on Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. by calling the library

at 815-562-3431. The Ogle County Master Gardeners will instruct how to save seeds from vegetable plants. All are welcome to this free event, and all supplies are included.

Lincoln Manor

Owned and operated by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) offering apartment living for older adults in Rochelle and the surrounding communities.

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LOCAL NEWS

HILLCREST: Update presented on priority 1A water main project

From page 1

Greg Hackbarth of Hackbarth Truck and Equipment said the new truck will take about four months to receive and prepare. The village made the move Wednesday to get the truck to help with the upcoming winter season.

1A

Village Engineer Kaitlin Wright of Baxter & Woodman provided an update Wednesday on Hillcrest's ongoing priority 1A water main project. The project's contractor is Elliott & Wood, Inc. The project has a \$1.2 million total budget and is replacing mains along the full length of Scott Avenue, parts of Errett Road and Erickson Road from Scott Avenue to Jeffrey Avenue, and parts of Jeffrey Avenue from Errett Road to Erickson Road. Those streets are in the southern and oldest part of the village. The project will be financed with an IEPA loan that will involve 50 percent loan forgiveness. The debt service on the project will be \$35,000 per year over 20 years.

Wright said Wednesday that pressure testing has

been done on the water main installed on Scott Avenue from River Road to Errett Road and sampling came back correct. That stretch is now under pressure and chlorinated, but will not be live or connected until the project is complete.

Water main work is being finished along Erickson Road and will be connected to what has been installed on Jeffrey Avenue and the village's water hub by the end of next week. Testing will then be done on that section. Elliott & Wood will then focus on reconnecting water service lines in about 2-3 weeks and residents will be coordinated with individually.

Lead

Wright also provided an update on state-mandated lead service line inventory work that has been ongoing in Hillcrest. The village recently submitted its water service line inventory and replacement plan to the state.

Hillcrest has 444 water service lines that it must check to see if they're possibly made of lead. The inventory submitted to the state consisted of 190 copper lines, 17 galvanized



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Wednesday, the Hillcrest Village Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a new Ford F-350 dump truck for \$98,190 from Hackbarth Truck and Equipment by a vote of 4-0 with Trustee Dan Potter abstaining. Village Engineer Kaitlin Wright of Baxter & Woodman provided an update Wednesday on Hillcrest's ongoing priority 1A water main project.

lines, 12 plastic lines, two lead, 62 unknown-not lead due to age of construction, and 161 unknown. The village received 228 responses to a survey it sent out to residents to determine water line materials, making up over 50 percent of its water lines.

The village is mandated to replace any lead water service lines it has. The ongoing water main project has funds built into it to replace any lead service lines it comes across.

Tractor

The board tabled a

potential future purchase of a tractor during the meeting. Hillcrest is in need of a tractor to use with various attachments it has to mow its pond and remove brush and tall grass in its pit.

Trustees expressed a desire Wednesday to

procure more bids on different brands to consider and to wait for a time to purchase a tractor that is more timely.

The board also tabled the potential future purchase of new garage doors for its maintenance building on Wednesday.

Country Road Greenhouses 2nd Annual Fall Native Sale Sept. 28-29

ROCHELLE — Country Road Greenhouses, wholesale growers of native plants, native restoration specialists, and the exclusive producers of the Prairie Plugs™ grow method, will be hosting its second annual Fall Native Plant Sale on Sept. 28-29 at the farm, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

The Fall Sale and the annual Spring Sale are the only two public sales conducted at the farm each year.

A full line of native plants (forbs, grasses, sedges, rushes) will be

offered in containers ranging from individual "plugs" to individual three-inch pots, to three-gallon native trees and shrubs, with discounts offered for whole flats and five or more tree and shrub discounts.

The farm is located 10 miles west of DeKalb, three miles east of Rochelle and one mile north of Casey's gas station in Creston at 19561 E. Twombly Road, Rochelle, IL 61068.

CRG also supplies native plants to many organizations' native plant sale fundraisers as well,

including the Chicago River restoration project.

CRG continues their mission to restore native habitats and replace the millions of acres of native prairie that Illinois has lost due to farms and industrialization. CRG has been providing solutions to native restoration and native landscaping challenges for the past 40 years with growing practices that are time-tested.

"We welcome the public twice a year to our nursery, and we have seen native plant awareness increase in homeowners seeing the value of native

plants," co-owner Bryan Redington said. "We sell only native perennial forbs, grasses, sedges and most recently, native trees and shrubs. These plants are hosts to pollinators such as butterflies, bees, birds and more."

The 150-plus native plant species offered to this area include milkweeds, native sunflowers, asters for emergent wetlands and from woodlands to full-sun dry areas.

The Prairie Plug™ method (2.5" top diameter by five inches deep) is a native plant grown in a flat container with a hole

on the bottom that can be used to pop the plant out for easy planting.

Peggy Redington said, "Native plants grow to have deep root systems — up to 15 feet deep, with flood and drought resistant characteristics. Prairie plants are like the icebergs of the real world. Their true scope can only be realized beneath the surface. Each spring we burn our prairies to eliminate weeds and other invasive species. The root systems remain intact and plants begin to resurface almost immediately."

For the past 40 years,

CRG has specialized in providing native prairie plants for: environmental restoration, native landscaping, wetland mitigation, streamside and lake bank stabilization and enhancement and environmental education.

"We welcome the public to our second annual Fall Plant Sale on Sept. 28-29 — we love to help our customers 'Go Native!'"

For further info, like us on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/CRGreenhouses

Or www.PrairiePlugs.com

Heat wave ignites crop maturation process, sparks concerns

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

AFTER an unseasonably cool start to the grain fill period, a blast of hot air the last week of August kicked the crop maturation process into overdrive.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service reported 10% of the corn crop was mature and 62% was dented in Illinois as of Aug. 26, which was ahead of the average pace by 7 and 15 points, respectively.

Meanwhile, 93% of soybeans were setting pods and 6% were dropping leaves as of the same date, both well ahead of

the average pace across the state.

"Corn has had a pleasant grain fill period, but the 90-(plus)-degree temperatures will speed up maturity," Karen Corrigan, an agronomist with McGillicuddy-Corrigan Agronomics, noted in a recent IL Soy Advisor report.

Temperatures in Illinois averaged just 68.7 degrees (4.6 degrees below normal) Aug. 19-26 but heated up well into the 90s with triple-digit heat index readings in many parts of the state to close the month.

"Temperatures this (past) week could push that (crop maturation) along rapidly," said Jeff

Guilander, a FarmWeek Crop Watcher from Jersey County. "Soybeans are getting a yellow tone as they begin to mature."

Guilander believes harvest in his area could begin near or just after Labor Day weekend as crops continue to progress rapidly. Temperatures were expected to moderate by that time. Other farmers look for harvest to begin later this month around the state.

Champaign County Crop Watcher Daniel Herriott reported a similar situation in his area.

"The early maturing corn that was planted in early April is racing to the finish line," he said.

The recent run of hot, dry weather could also slow the spread of some crop diseases, particularly tar spot, according to Corrigan. She advised farmers to note weed escapes to consider for 2025 cropping plans.

But the recent heat and dryness could have a negative impact on some crop yield potential, depending



(PHOTO BY CATRINA RAWSON)

Corn in LaSalle County matures amid hot temperatures the last week of August.

in part on planting dates and previous weather.

"Variation in fields is dramatic as the stressed areas really stand out," Guilander said.

Some areas of the state received rainfall at the peak of the heat wave Aug. 27, including small pock-

ets that received 2-plus inches.

Overall, topsoil moisture was rated 61% adequate, 38% short to very short and just 1% surplus statewide as of Aug. 26. All or parts of 12 Illinois counties in the northeast were rated abnormally

dry, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

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LOCAL NEWS

SCHOOL: Elementary board introduces new teachers during Tuesday meeting

From page 1

The facility committee also discussed playground equipment and 10-year health life safety evaluations for the district's buildings besides Tilton being finalized to assess future needs.

Dale said the district has new portable sheds at the vacant May Elementary School for storage of equipment as it works to move equipment out of its Cherry Avenue maintenance building that is in disrepair.

"Once we get that building cleaned out, we'll come back to the board with options on that building," Dale said.

SRO

The board approved an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Rochelle and the Rochelle Police Department for the continuation of its school

resource officer program through July 1, 2027 by a vote of 5-0 with Board Member Jenny Thompson abstaining. Thompson is a city employee.

Rochelle Police Department Officers Jim Jakymiw (Rochelle Township High School) and Sydney Jackson (elementary district) will continue as SROs within Rochelle schools. The SRO program began in 2018.

The cost for the SRO program is \$200,000 total annually for both officers' salaries and benefits. Schools will pay a prorated share of salary, benefits and training. The elementary school will pay \$3,750 or 33% per month for SRO services. The RTHS district will pay \$7,500 or 66% per month for salary and benefits. Those numbers will increase on each Jan. 1 by agreed upon numbers

with RPD's union.

"We have really enjoyed our partnership with RPD," Superintendent Jason Harper said. "We've had fantastic SROs in our community in both districts and we look forward to another great set of years here and a continued great partnership."

New teachers

The board heard introductions during the meeting of new teachers from each building's principal. Lincoln Elementary School has two new teachers, Central Elementary School has four new teachers, Tilton School has three new teachers, and Rochelle Middle School has seven new teachers.

"Making our new teachers feel welcome and supported is a big part of what we're trying to achieve here in terms of



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The district's facility committee met Sept. 6 and discussed a number of topics, namely completed and future work at Tilton School. The district completed a paving project over the summer that expanded its parking lot for additional student safety.

helping our students grow as much as they possibly can," Harpersaid. "Thank you to all of our first-year teachers and good luck in the rest of the year."

Budget

The board held a public hearing for and unanimously approved its fiscal year 2025 budget during the meeting. The budget is

available on the district's website and consists of capital improvements including the Tilton work and the purchase of new buses.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Foundation for Focus House: Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Ryan Spradlin (center), Universal Banker Jasmin Galvan (second from right), and Teller Colleen Roberts present the \$2,500 check to Foundation for Focus House Treasurer Lance Charnock (left), Foundation for Focus House Vice President Russell Crull (second from left) and Foundation for Focus House Executive Director Jeni Hardin (center).



(COURTESY PHOTO)

"Hoo" Haven Wildlife Rehab & Education Center: Stillman Bank Retail Office Manager Kelly Carlos (right) presents the \$2,500 check to "Hoo" Haven Wildlife Rehab Director Karen Herdklotz (left) and "Hoo" Haven Wildlife Rehab Business Manager Steven Herdklotz (center).



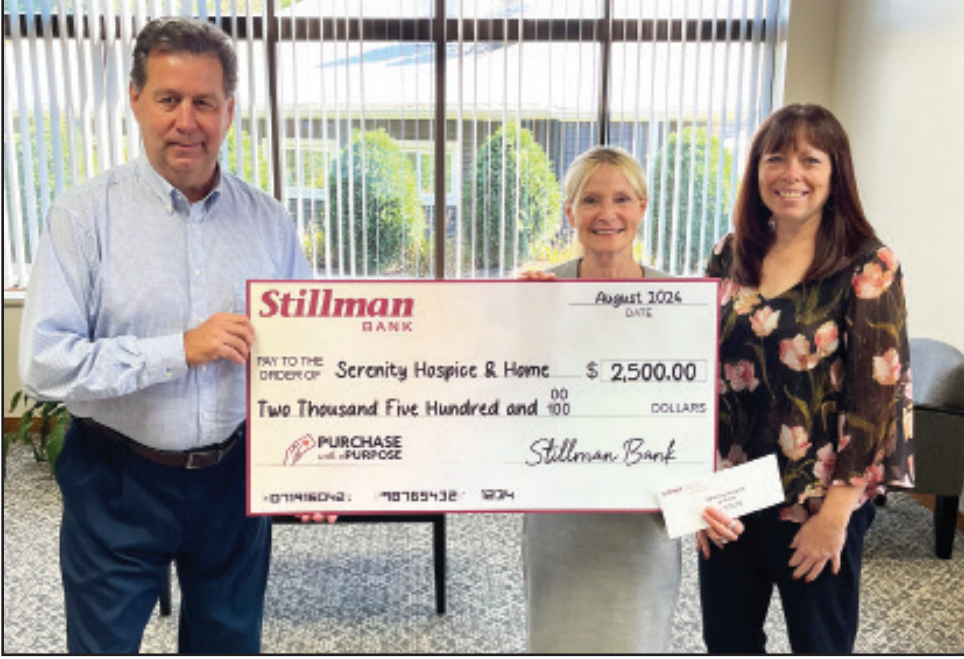
(COURTESY PHOTO)

Maggie & Amos Foundation: Stillman Bank Senior Vice President Pat Donahue (right) and Teller Supervisor/Retail Banker Jodi Peters (left) present the \$2,500 check to Maggie & Amos Foundation members Megan Dettman, Stephanie White & Lynn Kalnins (center).



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Marshmallow's Hope: Stillman Bank Executive Vice President Ed Munguia (left) presents the \$2,500 check to Marshmallow's Hope Outreach Coordinator Bev Pomeroy (right).



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Serenity Hospice & Home: Stillman Bank Senior Vice President Pat Donahue (left) and Teller Supervisor/Retail Banker Jodi Peters (right) present the \$2,500 check to Serenity Hospice & Home CEO Lynn Knodle (center).



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center: Stillman Bank Senior Vice President Pat Donahue (left) and Teller Supervisor/Retail Banker Jodi Peters (right) present the \$2,500 check to Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center Executive Director Jessica Cash (center).

Stillman Bank donates \$15,000 with Purchase with a Purpose campaign

STILLMAN VALLEY – Stillman Bank recently ended their "Purchase with a Purpose" Debit Card campaign in

which a \$1 donation was made to local charities with every Stillman Bank Debit Card transaction up to \$15,000.

Six local, non-profit organizations from the Rock River Valley were nominated by our local communities to receive

\$2,500 from this promotion: Foundation for Focus House, "Hoo" Haven Wildlife Rehab & Education Center, Maggie &

Amos Foundation, Marshmallow's Hope, Serenity Hospice & Home, and Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center.

For more information about this campaign or Stillman Bank's products and services, visit www.stillmanbank.com.

LOCAL NEWS

Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago awards \$30,000 grant to The Warehouse on Park in Genoa

GENOA – This week, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBank Chicago) awarded The Warehouse on Park a grant of \$30,000 through its Community First® Accelerate Grants for Small Business program. FHLBank Chicago offers grants of up to \$30,000 to eligible small businesses to advance economic opportunity in the communities it serves.

The Warehouse on Park is a live music and small events venue in Genoa. They host local bands and food trucks on a weekly basis and host small weddings and work events. The funds will be used to repair some deferred maintenance on their roof and will help support the purchase of a new PA system for musicians.

“We are very grateful to receive this grant from First State Bank. Our plan is to continue the evolution of the Warehouse on Park, and we are excited to use the funds for various property repairs. It’s our goal to create a fun musical experience in our community.” Bill and Mary Lloyd, owners, Warehouse on Park, said.

Through FHLBank Chicago’s member institutions, like First State Bank, Accelerate Grants assist the growth and development of small businesses in Illinois and Wisconsin. All grant recipients are small businesses that make a difference in their community, and funds are intended for the following purposes: The purchase or improvement of property,



(COURTESY PHOTO)

This week, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBank Chicago) awarded The Warehouse on Park a grant of \$30,000 through its Community First® Accelerate Grants for Small Business program.

the purchase of machinery, tools or equipment; the purchase of inventory, materials, or supplies; workforce development or training; and new or upgraded technology.

“Small businesses play an integral role in local communities in driving economic growth, from creating jobs to fostering community development,” Katie Naftzger, senior vice president, community investment officer, FHLBank Chicago, said. “As a leader in the housing and community development space, FHLBank Chicago recognizes that affordable housing isn’t just about the homes themselves — it’s about ensuring entire communities have what they need to thrive, including economic opportunities for the residents and small businesses who call them home.”

The grant was spon-

sored by First State Bank. Since 1940, First State Bank has been a locally-owned bank committed to providing value-added offerings, backed by exceptional service to the local communities they serve. They do so by providing a combination of cutting-edge banking products and conveniences and employing local professionals who take the time to get to know each customer’s banking needs on an individual basis.

“We were thrilled to award The Warehouse on Park the small business grant”, Kirk Ross, First State Bank president/CEO, said. “They epitomize the type of small business that will benefit from such a grant to sustain their continued service to their community.”

For more information on Accelerate Grants and eligibility, visit www.fhlbc.com.

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SPORTS



HUBS BEAT BELVIDERE

The Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football team defeated Belvidere on Monday.

See page 3 for more details

RTHS Boys Soccer

Hubs score win over Johnsbury

Senior midfielder Diaz records two goals as Rochelle shuts out Skyhawks

BY RUSSELL HODGES SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Senior midfielder Fernando Diaz scored two goals for the second consecutive match on Monday evening, when the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team faced Johnsbury.

Diaz found the net once in each half, cashing in two assists from junior forward Antonio Ruiz to lead the Hubs over the Skyhawks 3-0. The match was largely controlled by the Hubs (3-3-1, 0-0 Interstate 8), who possessed the ball for a large portion of the opening half. Junior goalkeeper Antonio Hueramo recorded five saves and the shutout to lead the Rochelle defense in the win.

"The communication between me and my teammates... I was making runs for them and they were setting me up, which made it easier for me to score," Diaz said. "Everyone was opening up and creating space for each other. We were running into that space and that helped us with our passing. We've been working

a lot in practice on holding possession and that was helpful too."

Rochelle kept the ball away from Johnsbury for most of the first half, slowly but methodically moving the ball from side to side and pushing the ball wide to set up scoring chances in the middle. The Hubs capitalized on their tactics during the 14th minute, when senior midfielder Bryan Garcia crossed the ball to junior forward Kevin Orozco, who tapped a right-footed ball into the back of the Johnsbury net. A starting defender over the last two years, Garcia has moved into the midfield, where he's elevating his role on and off the soccer field as a team captain.

"We've been working on our communication and our spacing," Garcia said. "It felt good to bring home a win for our fans. We took the ball out wide and our wide players were a factor in this win... I'm hoping to take control of our team and make sure everyone's calm and in check. My teammates and I have grown over the last four years and our chemistry is really strong."



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Bryan Garcia challenges for the ball during the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer match against Johnsbury on Monday. Garcia had one assist as Rochelle defeated the Skyhawks 3-0 in nonconference action.

The Hubs took a 2-0 lead over the Skyhawks during the 26th minute, when another cross into

the Johnsbury box, this time from Ruiz, found the foot of the senior midfielder Diaz, who drilled the pass into the net. Rochelle sealed its victory

with a third and final goal during the 59th minute, when a long pass from Ruiz led to Diaz winning

a one-on-one matchup and rolling a right-footed shot through the arms of the Johnsbury goalkeeper and into the back of the net.

RTHS Golf



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub varsity golf team earned a 165-172 win over the Sycamore Spartans at Fairways Golf Course on Tuesday evening. At left, senior Chris Hickey drains a putt on the third hole. At right, sophomore Alex Dyer hits out of the bunker on the fifth hole.

Hubs continue strong start with win over Sycamore

Rochelle remains unbeaten in Interstate 8 after 165-172 victory Tuesday night

BY RUSSELL HODGES SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — A memorable season could be brewing for the Rochelle Hub varsity golf team, which continued its recent hot streak and remained unbeaten in the Interstate 8 Conference after outshooting the Sycamore Spartans at Fairways Golf Course on Tuesday evening.

Junior Ian Metzger earned medalist honors with a 2-over-par 38, while sophomore Alex Dyer followed with a 3-over-par 39 as the Hubs defeated Sycamore 165-172. Metzger has been the catalyst for

Rochelle (8-1, 3-0 Interstate 8) over the last few weeks, posting a series of stellar rounds including a season-best 34 against the Morris Redskins at The Creek. Metzger said Tuesday that being competitive has fueled the team's surprisingly strong start to the season.

"I didn't know how well everyone would shoot this year," Metzger said. "We have to take four scores, but when we have five guys who can post a number, it gives us a good chance to win. It's been great because Alex and I know we don't have to shoot in the low 30s to give our team a chance. We just

need to keep playing how we have been and continue to get better."

Sophomore Owen Carmichael carded a 41 for the Hubs, who have already won more matches this season than they had over the previous three years combined. While Metzger and Dyer have led the charge, Rochelle has benefited from consistent scoring from newcomers like sophomore Johnny Chadwick, who posted a 47 to round out the top four players Tuesday. Senior Chris Hickey and sophomore Connor Lewis finished with scores of 51 and 54.

"It's a lot more fun to

win matches than it is to lose them," Metzger said. "It's a different feeling this year. We've won all of our conference matches, which puts us in a position to potentially win the conference... I had an idea of how Alex and I would shoot this year because we played a lot over the summer, but Owen's been solid and both Johnny and Connor have helped out."

The Hubs have two more Interstate 8 matches before competing in the conference tournament, where Metzger will look to defend his crown after winning the individual title last season. Rochelle will face Kaneland at

Hughes Creek on Wednesday before hosting Ottawa at Fairways on Tuesday, Sept. 17. The Interstate 8 tournament is at Kishwaukee Country Club on Sept. 23.

"My ball striking has been there and I've been consistently lowering my score," Metzger said. "I still don't feel like I've hit my full stride yet and I know there are more good scores to come."

Kaneland

The Rochelle Hub varsity golf team is now one win away from concluding the Interstate 8 Conference schedule with a perfect record. Rochelle

moved one step closer to achieving that feat on Wednesday evening, when the Hubs faced Kaneland at Hughes Creek Golf Course.

Junior Ian Metzger and sophomore Alex Dyer each carded a 1-over-par 37 to tie for medalist honors as Rochelle defeated the Knights 168-177 to extend its win streak. Sophomores Connor Lewis and Johnny Chadwick finished with respective scores of 46 and 48 for the Hubs (9-1, 4-0 Interstate 8).

Sophomore Owen Carmichael totaled 49 and senior Chris Hickey scored 53 to round out the varsity lineup on Wednesday.



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



Liam Bertsche
Year: Freshman
Sport: Cross Country

Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?
A: This is my third year.
Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?
A: It isn't too hard and I like to run.
Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?
A: French because it's pretty easy as long as you pay attention and practice at home.
Q: What is your dream job and why?
A: Either something in law,

mathematics, coding or writing. Law seems like a good job, I'm good at and like math, coding seems fun and I like to write stories.
Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?
A: A beach because I've never been to one.
Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?
A: Having something to do other than being lazy at home every day.



Q: How many years have you been playing this sport?
A: Four years.
Q: What do you enjoy most about this sport?
A: I enjoy running through scenic forests and the feeling of running neck-and-neck with an opponent toward the finish line.
Q: What is your favorite school subject and why?
A: Ag because Mrs. Page loves funnel cakes and the class is a nice cool down at the end of the day.
Q: Who is your favorite athlete and why?
A: Robert Lewandowski because he's a great old time soccer player for the great nation of Poland.
Q: Who is your biggest role

model and why?
A: I think it's always changing but right now I'd say it's my mom.
Q: What is your dream job and why?
A: To be a cartographer because I've always loved making maps and I consider myself to be pretty good at it.
Q: Where would your dream vacation be and why?
A: Warsaw, Poland because I've always wanted to see eastern Europe and the World War II memorial sites.
Q: What is your favorite thing about being a student-athlete at RTHS?
A: The coaches and players all work really hard to make each other better.

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SPORTS

RTHS Golf

Hubs concede narrow nonconference loss to Forreston

Rochelle's eight-match winning streak ends after 168-171 defeat on Thursday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub varsity golf team saw its eight-match win streak come to a close on Thursday, when the purple and white hosted Forreston at Fairways Golf Course. Sophomore Alex Dyer fired a 1-over-par 37 and tied for medalist honors to lead the Hubs, who fell a few strokes short in a 168-171 loss to the Cardinals. Junior Ian Metzger shot a 3-over-par 39 for the Hubs (9-2, 4-0 Interstate 8), who will travel for the ACC Charger Invitational at Phillips Park on Saturday. Despite the minor setback, head coach Glen Mehrings reflected on a solid week that included Interstate 8 conference wins against

Sycamore and Kaneland. “Today was a little hiccup, but our kids have all responded well this year,” Mehrings said. “We only lost by three strokes and every player can look back and see where they could’ve saved a few strokes... Everyone has to contribute to the team score and we have to learn how to minimize damage. I think we will and hopefully we’ll be able to rebound on Saturday.” Sophomore Johnny Chadwick turned in a 46, while sophomores Owen Carmichael and Connor Lewis each carded 49 to round out the top five varsity scores on Thursday. Senior Chris Hickey recorded a 50 out of the fourth varsity slot and sophomore Trenton Cunningham led the JV team

with a 44. Rochelle will make its claim for the Interstate 8 regular season title on Sept. 17, when the Hubs host the Ottawa Pirates. “Our kids are competitive and they take their score personally,” Mehrings said. “We’ve had top players in past years who took their scores personally, but it may not have filtered down to the rest of the team. It starts at the top for us and both Ian and Alex take their scores personally. Responsibility is hard to coach and it’s intrinsic to the players, but we even have kids on the JV team who practice on their own and on the weekends when they don’t play well. That kind of attitude helps our kids push through those rough spots and they’ll find success past that.”



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Sophomore Connor Lewis hits a putt on the eighth green during the Rochelle Hub varsity golf match against Forreston on Thursday evening.

RTHS Football



(PHOTOS BY MARCY DELILLE)

The Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football team won 32-0 over Belvidere on Monday evening, improving to 3-0 on the season. At left, freshman Tyson Pavlak runs toward the outside of the line of scrimmage. At right, freshman Luke Chadwick races a Belvidere defender toward the corner of the end zone.

Hubs shut out Belvidere in fresh-soph matchup

Eyster runs for two touchdowns as Rochelle wins over Bucs 32-0 on Monday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Hub fresh-soph football team continued its perfect start to the season Monday evening, shutting out the Belvidere Bucs for

a 32-0 win in nonconference play. Rochelle (3-0, 0-0 Interstate 8) will face Byron at home on Monday, Sept. 16 at 5:30 p.m. Freshman Andrew Eyster rushed for two touchdowns in the win over Belvidere, reaching the end

zone on a 6-yard run and a 4-yard run. Freshman Luke Chadwick added a 5-yard run for a touchdown, while freshmen Cohen Haedt and Eli Schweitzer connected for a 6-yard touchdown pass on offense. Freshman Aidan Lopez recorded five

tackles for the Hub defense in the win. **JV** The Rochelle Hub JV football team scored a 28-8 win against Woodstock on the road this past week. Sophomore Tyler Gensler

rushed for two touchdowns including a 15-yarder and a 5-yarder for the Hubs (1-0, 0-0 Interstate 8), who will face Sycamore on Monday, Sept. 23 at 5:30 p.m. Junior Van Gerber rushed for a 30-yard touchdown and threw a 48-yard

touchdown pass to sophomore Jonathan Andrist. Junior Frank Nasca and freshman Sebastian Alb-ertson each snagged interceptions on defense, while sophomore Brody Bruns finished with six tackles in the victory.

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SPORTS

NIU Football

Huskies stun fifth ranked Notre Dame in South Bend

Brown gains 225 total yards as NIU defeats Fighting Irish 16-14 on the road

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Kanon Woodill's (Plainfield, Ill./Plainfield North) 35-yard field goal with 31 seconds left lifted the Northern Illinois University Huskies to a 16-14 victory over fifth-ranked Notre Dame on Saturday afternoon (Sept. 7) at Notre Dame Stadium.

Antario Brown (Savannah, Ga./Beach) gained 225 total yards (126 receiving and 99 rushing) with a touchdown and Ethan Hampton (Elburn, Ill./Aurora Christian) was 10-of-19 passing for 198 yards and a touchdown as the victory over the Fighting Irish marked the Huskies' first win over a Top Five opponent. It is also the first win by any Mid-American Conference team over a team ranked in the Associated Press Top Five.

The win marked NIU's 19th "Boneyard" victory, wins over power conference and ranked programs, since 1983, and the third for NIU head coach Thomas Hammock in the past four seasons.

"I'm so proud of the kids, our coaches, everybody, they believed," NIU head coach Thomas Hammock said to NBC postgame. "They believed and we came here and got it done. They listened to what I said, I told them all week, 'we don't need luck, we just need to be our best,' and they were their best today."

Trailing 14-13, Amariyun Knighten (Hollywood, Fla./Stranahan) picked off Notre Dame quarterback Riley Leonard, returning the turnover to midfield with 5:55 left in the fourth quarter.

NIU methodically moved down to the Notre Dame 19, picking up a pair of third downs on the drive, with Hampton running for a first down on fourth and two from the 31. Three Gavin Williams (Altoona, Iowa/Dowling Catholic/Iowa) then set up the 35-yard field goal attempt for Woodill in the final minute. The senior



Antario Brown (Savannah, Ga./Beach) gained 225 total yards (126 receiving and 99 rushing) with a touchdown during Northern Illinois University's 16-14 win over Notre Dame.

from Plainfield, Ill., split the uprights with the kick from the right hash to give the Huskies a 16-14 lead.

Notre Dame drove to the NIU 44 on the final drive before lining up a 62-yard field goal attempt with five seconds remaining. For the second time in the contest, Cade Haberman (Blair, Neb./Westside) blocked the kick, which was recovered by Jaden Dolphin (Des Plaines, Ill./Maine West), as time ran out, sending the Huskie fans and their sizeable traveling fanbase into delirium.

The Huskies outgained the Fighting Irish, 388-286, in the contest as the NIU offense was extremely balanced, rushing for 190 yards while gaining 198 passing. NIU held Notre Dame to just 123 rushing yards and intercepted Leonard twice in the game.

Notre Dame took the opening kickoff and went 75 yards in 13 plays, capped by an 11-yard touchdown run from Leonard to give the Irish the early lead.

A bad bounce on the ensuing kickoff pinned the Huskies back to their own 2-yard line, but it took NIU just five plays to answer the Notre Dame touchdown drive. Hampton hit Brown on a slant and the Huskie running back broke a tackle and raced 83 yards for the score to tie the game at seven with 5:35 to play in the first quarter. The play tied for the eighth-longest passing play in school history and the longest since 2008.

NIU took the lead on its next drive as a 28-yard carry from Brown put the Huskies in field goal range. Four plays later, Woodill connected from 42 yards to give NIU a 10-7 lead just

over two minutes left in the opening quarter.

After an interception from Christian Fuhrman (Mesa, Ariz./Queen Creek/SEMO), the Huskies scored for the third drive in a row to start the game. Hampton hit Brown for 43 yards on the first play of the drive to move NIU to the Notre Dame 12. The Huskies moved to the Fighting Irish four-yard line but settled for a 21-yard field goal from Woodill as the NIU lead grew to 13-7.

Brown's 126 receiving yards marked the first 100-yard receiving game by a Huskie running back since Garrett Wolfe recorded 114 receiving yards on Sept. 2, 2006, at Ohio State.

On the final play of the first half, Haberman made the first of his two field goal blocks on the day as the Huskies took a six-

point lead into halftime. The block was the first by a Huskie since Devonte O'Malley (Midlothian, Ill./Bremen) blocked a field goal against Georgia Tech on Sept. 4, 2021.

Brown finished the first half with 199 yards of total offense, 126 receiving and 73 rushing.

"I think he is one of the best backs in the country," said Hammock. "He is one of the best backs in the country if he wants to be. Did I believe he could have a game like this? I did. And we were going to plan it that way. He was cramping up in the second half and we didn't use him a lot, but I said, 'you did more than enough to help us be in position to win the game.'"

Notre Dame forced a Huskie punt on the first drive of the second half and then drove 64 yards

in six plays, capped by a 34-yard touchdown run by Jeremiyah Love, as the Irish regained the lead, 14-13, with 8:34 to play in the third quarter.

The hosts maintained that 14-13 advantage as they got the football with 7:49 left in the fourth. Notre Dame moved from its own 25 to midfield before Leonard's second interception of the day gave the ball back to NIU with under six minutes to play, setting up the game's dramatic final minutes.

Fuhrman finished with a team-high nine tackles, Dolphin recorded eight stops while O'Malley had a pair of sacks and three tackles for loss in the victory.

NIU (2-0) will have a bye next week before returning home on Saturday, Sept. 21, as the Huskies host Buffalo in their Mid-American Conference opener.

RTHS Girls Tennis

Seniors lead Rochelle to road win over Kaneland

Lady Hubs sweep doubles matches enroute to 6-3 victory on Tuesday evening

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

MAPLE PARK — Seniors were the stars of the show on Tuesday evening, when the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity tennis team swept all three doubles matches and claimed three singles matches against

Kaneland enroute to its first Interstate 8 Conference victory of the season.

Seniors Abby Metzger and Sydney Carmichael accounted for two of the team's six victories on Tuesday evening. Metzger defeated Olivia King 6-2, 6-2 at No. 3 singles before uniting with senior team-

mate Lauren Dyer for a 6-3, 6-1 win against Jade Lee and Hannah Gianetto at No. 2 doubles. Carmichael beat Ella Bischoff 6-0, 6-1 at No. 5 singles before teaming up with senior Natalie Wagner for a 6-4, 4-6, 10-2 win over Joe Goe and Ella Bischoff at No. 3 doubles.

Rochelle's doubles sweep included a strong outing from seniors Catherine Williams and Erin Murphy, who took down Olivia King and Laina Ariola 6-2, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles to help the Lady Hubs secure their 6-3 victory over the Knights on Tuesday. Rounding out the

singles lineup for the Lady Hubs was senior Kendyl Darby, who cruised for a 6-1, 6-1 win over Joe Goe at No. 6 singles. Rochelle (2-3, 1-1 Interstate 8) will play at Rockford Lutheran on Thursday evening.

Erin Murphy and Lauren Dyer each took their singles opponents to three

sets on Tuesday, with Murphy falling 3-6, 7-6(3), 7-10 against Lauren Babka at No. 2 singles and Dyer conceding a 2-6, 6-3, 8-10 loss against Hannah Gianetto at No. 4 singles. Catherine Williams played a pair of close sets during her 3-6, 3-6 loss against Ellie Taylor at No. 1 singles.

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SPORTS

RTHS Boys Soccer

Comeback effort falls short in loss to Sycamore

Casillas, Diaz each score two goals as Rochelle falls 6-4 on Wednesday evening

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Sycamore Spartans appeared ready to roll over the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer team during Wednesday's Interstate 8 Conference matchup. But a valiant effort from the purple and white nullified a five-goal deficit and brought the Hubs back within striking distance.

Sycamore dominated the early portion of the first half, scoring five consecutive goals against the Hubs, who offered minimal resistance on defense and struggled with the quick passing attack from the Spartans. Facing a 5-0 deficit, Rochelle finally increased the pressure on both ends of the field, which enabled the Hubs to retake most of the control during Wednesday's match.

Despite two goals from seniors forward Alberto Casillas and senior midfielder Fernando Diaz, Rochelle was unable to climb out of the five-goal hole, as Sycamore escaped with a 6-4 win. The Hubs (3-4-1, 0-1 Interstate 8) will travel and face DeKalb on the road Saturday afternoon.

"The bottom line for

us was that we didn't come out ready to play," head coach Brad Male said. "Once we scored that first goal, we picked our heads back up and we played how I know these guys are capable of playing. I thought this match showed that we're capable of playing against any team in our conference. We have to play as a team and we have to play for 80 minutes."

The Spartans didn't take long to seize control of the opening half, scoring within the first minute and building a five-goal lead in the first 15 minutes of action. Rochelle found new life midway through the first half, when sophomore defender Alexis Nava sent a long pass through the air that found its way to Casillas, who sent a right-footed shot into the net during the 19th minute.

Rochelle added another goal during the 32nd minute, scoring after Diaz cashed in an assist from senior midfielder Bryan Garcia to bring the Hubs within three. Trailing 5-2, Rochelle carried its momentum into the second half, where the Hubs brought themselves within two after scoring in the 42nd minute. The goal



Senior Alberto Casillas takes on two Sycamore defenders during the Rochelle Hub varsity soccer match against the Spartans on Wednesday evening.

(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

came after Diaz sent a free kick toward the Sycamore goalkeeper, who smacked the ball away but right toward Casillas, who scored easily on the deflection.

A foul inside the Rochelle box led to a penalty kick and a goal for Sycamore's Jameson Carl in the 47th minute, but the Hubs answered right back

during the 52nd minute, when junior midfielder Antonio Ruiz rolled a pass to Diaz for his second goal of the match. A foreign exchange student from Spain, Ruiz played an integral role in Rochelle's comeback surge.

"Antonio is an excellent ball handler," Male said. "He sees the plays

develop and he's able to put the ball where it needs to go. I'm looking for him to continue doing that for us. We changed his position on the field a few times today and I thought he fit well in each of those positions. The key for us will be getting the ball off our feet a little quicker so we can develop more

plays."

The Hubs continued to fight for possession and quality shots during the second half, but the Sycamore defense stood strong and prevented Rochelle from further shrinking its deficit. Rochelle's next conference match will be played at Kaneland on Monday, Sept. 16.

RTHS Volleyball

Rochelle takes three-set match against North Boone

Bruns dishes out 34 assists as Lady Hubs defeat Vikings 25-23, 24-26, 25-13

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

POPLAR GROVE — Junior Meredith Bruns

notched 20 kills to lead the Rochelle Lady Hub varsity volleyball team during its nonconference road matchup against the North

Boone Lady Vikings on Tuesday evening.

A back-and-forth start to the match led to a dominant third set for the Lady Hubs, who brought home

a 25-23, 24-26, 25-13 win over North Boone. Seniors Dempsey Atkinson and Emma Kennay anchored the back row for Rochelle (7-3, 0-0 Interstate 8), with

Atkinson totaling a team-high 15 digs while Kennay added 10 digs. Junior Jaydin Dickey and sophomore Briel Metzger stepped up on offense, with Dickey total-

ing eight kills and Metzger adding six kills.

Rochelle will return to action on Saturday, when the Lady Hubs travel for the Byron Invitational.

Stranger Danger

School has started, and with all of activities going on, there is no better time to discuss the danger of strangers with your kids. Telling them not to talk to strangers is not enough. You want to make sure they know what a stranger is and how to deal with them.

Here are some safety tips to include in your discussion.



- Do not mistake a friendly face for someone you know. Anyone you do not know is a stranger, regardless how nice they seem or what they have to offer. Just because the person has a cute dog or tons of candy does not mean you can trust them. Ask for identification from anyone in uniform.
- Do not walk to school or play outside alone, if you can help it. Strangers are less likely to approach groups of kids.
- Do not go places where strangers could be lurking, such as empty playgrounds or abandoned buildings. Stay in busy areas.
- Do not let your guard down. Always be on the lookout for strangers.
- Do not make contact with strangers. Be quiet and take their questions and pleas for help to an adult you know and trust.
- Do not panic should a stranger approach. Run to a reliable adult and let them know what is going on, whether a teacher in the parking lot, a clerk in a store or a neighbor down the street. If possible, take down the stranger's license plate number. Should the stranger grab you, do whatever it takes to get away from them and attract the attention of any reliable adults that may be around.
- Do not keep any incidents with strangers to yourself. Let your parents know as soon as possible so they can contact the police.

Tailor your discussion to your kids' ages and use role-playing to help them understand the gravity of the situation. Their safety is at stake!



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SPORTS

Rochelle Middle School

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



Rochelle Middle School eighth grade volleyball team brings home victory over Belvidere South

Rochelle Middle School's eighth-grade girls volleyball team scored a 25-17, 25-27, 15-12 victory against Belvidere South earlier this month. Above, Mia Thomas (left) passes the ball forward and Alivia Law (right) tips the ball over the net. Below, Isadora Hueramo (left), Georgia Schabacker (middle) and Emily Mandujano (right) each takes their turns on the serve.



9 Biggest Benefits Of Shopping Rochelle First

- Youth programs, schools and non-profit groups look to our businesses first when fundraising.** These community-minded businesses donate faithfully to local youth sports programs, community clubs, nonprofit groups and churches – just to name a few. Shouldn't we look to those same businesses first when we need goods and services? Of course we should!
- High rate of return.** For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through payroll, taxes and other expenditures. Online orders return absolutely nothing to Rochelle, IL.
- Seeking health care in your hometown brings the comforts of receiving qualified care from people you know and trust.** Whether it be a trip to the dentist, regular health care screenings, a visit to a specialist or an emergency, you need not travel. It's all right here.
- Banking with people who know you is a luxury found only in hometowns.** You don't have to show your ID every time you go in. You can get a loan from people who know you and understand your needs, whether it be money for your first car or to help your business grow. Local banks believe in the value of community members helping one another.
- No one wants to have to make an insurance claim, but it's painless when your agent is your neighbor.** You don't have to convince them that there was a hail storm, or that the wind nearly took your roof off. They know because they live here. Which do you want when you've had a bad day: A face-to-face meeting with your local agent, or a machine answering the phone at that big national insurer that advertises on TV?
- Time is money.** It's simple math (especially when you figure in gas mileage.) Shopping locally can actually save you both time and money!
- Customer service after the sale is invaluable.** Local retailers not only take responsibility for the product they sold, they will often fix it or replace it – no questions asked. Appliances, furniture, computers and electronics sometimes have glitches. Would you rather box yours up, send it to who knows where, and wait six to eight weeks, or just go back to the nice guy that helped you when you bought it?
- Keeping it local encourages community growth.** By choosing to do business locally, you help maintain Rochelle's diversity, charm and appeal; which attracts new community members.
- One word: Jobs.** When you do business of any kind in Rochelle, it creates and maintains jobs for others in our area. A healthy employment rate is the cornerstone of all economies. How can you help the economy recover? Start at home.

WHO'S WHO IN HEALTHCARE

Important reasons to visit a primary care physician

IT is vital to make personal health a priority. Despite that widely accepted truth, far too often people delay trips to see their doctors. The coronavirus pandemic only compounded this issue. An April 2020 report from Modern Healthcare found roughly one in three Americans delayed medical care as they coped with the financial loss and stress caused by COVID-19. A report from CTV indicated Canadian cancer diagnoses were down 16 percent from 2018 to 2020 due to closed facilities or fear of getting COVID-19 from medical offices.

Concerns about the pandemic are not the only reasons individuals may skip doctor visits. Some avoid going to the doctor due to fear of the unknown. Dr. Barbara Cox, a psychologist based in San Diego, told NBC News that it's common to feel reticent and anxious about going to the doctor. Around 3 percent of the population actually suffers from iatrophobia, the medical name for fear of doctors. Most just worry about getting bad news.


A refresher course on the benefits of visiting a primary care doctor

may compel millions to schedule appointments and get back on top of their overall health.

- **Chronic disease management:** An individual with a chronic disease, such as kidney disease, diabetes or hypertension, should consult with a doctor about the ideal frequency of visits and to coordinate medication and testing with specialists.
- **Vaccines and shots:** Primary care providers (PCPs) offer routine vaccinations and can ensure that individuals are up-to-date on the immunizations they need to stay safe. Tetanus, diphtheria, shingles, pertussis, flu, and now COVID-19 vaccines are vital to overall health.
- **Medical referrals:** A PCP can assess a health situation and refer a patient to the correct specialist if more extensive care is needed. However, many chronic conditions can be monitored and addressed by a PCP.
- **Cancer screenings:** UW Medicine, which specializes in patient care, research and physician training in Seattle, says most people will need a few cancer screenings as they age, including colonoscopies, Pap smears, mammograms, and other important diagnostic tests for cancer. PCPs are usually the first line of defense against cancer and can ensure patients receive the screenings they need.
- **Non-life-threatening illnesses or injuries:** Unless a situation is life-threatening or severe, thereby warranting a trip to the emergency room, most people can visit their PCPs for help treating a variety of conditions. When in doubt, individuals should first consult with their general practitioners about the right course of treatment.
- **Routine lab work:** Blood and urine tests often are part of annual well visit checks. Many PCP offices have phlebotomists on staff so that lab work can be conducted in the convenience of one place and then sent out for testing.
- **Work or sports physicals:** Certain employers require physical examinations, as do schools and recreational sports leagues. PCP offices are the place to go for these types of examinations, which are generally recommended annually.

Primary care physicians are often the first people to turn to for a bevy of health and wellness needs.





Riaz Khan, PT, DPT
Midwest Physical Therapy and Rehab

Education & Experience:
Doctorate degree in Physical Therapy; Certified in Dry Needling; More than 35 years experience in physical therapy in hospitals (during the Gulf War), nursing homes, outpatient clinics, home health & rehabilitation centers

Specialty/Focus:
Physical Therapy for back pain, balance, weakness, falls, hip/knee/shoulder replacements rehab, post op sholder & spine rehabilitation, post fractures rehab, arthritis, MS, Parkinson's, stroke, auto accident, sports & work injuries.

Services:
Provide physical therapy at home and as outpatient in Rochelle. We provide one-on-one care. We accept BCBS, Aetna, United Health Care, Medicare, Medicaid, Auto Insurance, Workman's Comp & Others. We will work with your medical provider.

Accepting New Patients:
Yes

09152024



Kelly Tonielli Davis, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CMEWCN
Davis Family Health

Education: 24 yrs. beginning as a CNA, achieved Masters in Nursing Education 2011; Family Nurse Practioner-Certified 2016; Doctorate in Nursing 2018.

Areas of Focus: Family, Drug Treatment, Diabetes, Wound, DOT

Services Offered: DOT Physicals, Drug Treatment, Weight Loss Solutions Pediatrics-Elderly. End of life coordination, Wound Treatment, Minor office surgical procedures, overall wellness

Personal or Family Info: Married 27 yrs., 2 children, 2 grandchildren. Served in the USAF for 7 years from 1986-1993 as a Security Specialist (Security Police). Served during Desert Storm and achieved many awards.

Accepting New Patients: Yes


09152024

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Janet Truckenbrod Sarver, P.T., D.P.T.
Physical Therapist
Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists


Education & Experience:
Janet graduated with a Doctorate of Physical Therapy in May 2013 from Northern Illinois University. She also received a Bachelor degree at NIU, majoring in Biology with a minor in Chemistry in 2007.

Specialty/Focus:
Janet enjoys treating a variety of caseloads including pediatrics, orthopedics and sports related injuries through use of manual therapy and therapeutic exercises, and also provides aquatic physical therapy at The REC Center in Rochelle. She has taken several courses on pediatrics focusing on torticollis, developmental milestones, and gait analysis and and training. Janet is a Rochelle High School alumni and athlete. She continues to live and work in Rochelle, and enjoys serving and being a part of the community in which she was born and raised.

Services:
Manual physical therapy, pediatric physical therapy, aquatic physical therapy, sports therapy, strength training, spine, back & neck pain, joint replacements, ankle & knee, shoulder pain, rotator cuff, osteoarthritis, tennis elbow, sciatica, Plantar Fasciitis, Sacroiliac Joint Pain, repetitive use injuries, Torticollis, gait analysis, gait training

Accepting New Patients:
Yes

09172023



Aaron Nevdal, P.T., D.P.T.
Board Certified in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy
Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists

Education & Experience:
Aaron earned a Master of Physical Therapy Degree from Northern Illinois University in the spring of 2002. In 2008, Aaron earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Regis University in Denver, CO. In 2009, he completed board certification in orthopedic physical therapy. Aaron has also completed various courses focusing on evaluation and treatment of the spine, hip, foot and ankle, knee and shoulder. He is certified in dry needling and blood flow restriction.

Specialty/Focus:
Aaron enjoys seeing a varied caseload of orthopaedic conditions. His main professional interests lie in using exercise, manual therapy, and dry needling in the treatment of patients with spinal and extremity orders.

Services:
Manual physical therapy, sports therapy, strength training, spine, back & neck pain, joint replacements, ankle & knee, shoulder pain, rotator cuff, Osteoarthritis, tennis elbow, sciatica, Plantar Fasciitis, Sacroiliac Joint Pain, repetitive use injuries.

Accepting New Patients:
Yes

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
VILLAGE OF CRESTON
PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Village of Creston, having duly passed an Ordinance (080624) allowing the same, is accepting bids for the purchase of the real property specifically described as follows:
LOT2 IN THAT PART OF BLOCK2 LYING NORTH OF THE OF THE RAILROAD IN THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF DEMENT, NOW VILLAGE OF CRESTON, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN BOOK "D" OF PLATS, PAGE 5 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF OGLE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.
ADDRESS: 308 E NORTH ST, CRESTON, IL 60113
PIN: 25-23-279-003
Said property is zoned R-1 and any purchaser must comply with any and all municipal, state, and national codes, laws, restrictions, and statutes regarding any improvements to be made on the property after purchase. The property is being sold as-is with no guarantee as to fitness as to any purpose. The property will be transferred to the successful bidder, if any, via recordable quitclaim deed.
The Village of Creston will be opening any bids received for the above-described property at their regular meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on October 1st, 2024 at the Creston Village Hall and only those bids received prior thereto will be considered. The Village of Creston reserves the right to accept any qualifying bid at that time, no matter the amount, and may reject all bids. This Public Notice invites and advertises for public bids for the above-described property. Please include your name, address, telephone number, and amount you are willing to pay for the said property within a sealed envelope and deliver the same to the Creston Village Hall, during normal business hours, in advance of Tuesday, October 1st, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for your bid to be considered.
Russell A. Crull
Village Attorney
No. 0822
(Aug. 25, Sept. 1 and 8, 2024)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
(Variance of Code)
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all persons in the City of Rochelle, Ogle County, Illinois, that a public hearing will be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Rochelle City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North 6th Street relative to the following:
Petition of Pasquesi Farms LLC DBA Mightyvine for a variance of code to allow up to four shipping containers for onsite storage for the property located at 222 Centerpoint Drive in Rochelle, IL. The subject property is currently zoned I-2 General Industry and has a legal description of:
PARCEL: 24-22-400-015
LOT TWO (2) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE FINAL PLAT OF CENTERPOINT INTERMODAL CENTER ROCHELLE "PHASE ONE", BEING A SUB-

DIVISION LOCATED IN PART OF SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 40 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN PLAT FILE D ON PAGE 95 AS DOCUMENT NO. 0707621 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; ALL SITUATED IN THE CITY OF ROCHELLE, THE TOWNSHIP OF FLAGG, THE COUNTY OF OGLE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.
The petition is on file and available for examination in the office of the Community Development Director, 420 N. 6th Street, Rochelle, Illinois during normal business hours.
All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard. Anyone interested in participating in public commentary remotely should contact Michelle Knight at mknight@rochelleil.us or call 815-562-6161 to make arrangements.
Rose Hueramo, City Clerk
City of Rochelle
No. 0912
(Sept. 15, 2024)

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given in compliance with the Ordinances of the Village of Creston, Illinois, that a public hearing will be held before the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Village of Creston upon the application for a variance of BRIAN TERRY, relating to the property located at 203 S. Woodlawn Road, within the Village of Creston (Parcel ID: 25-23-287-005), legally described as follows:
THE EAST HALF OF LOTS ONE (1) AND TWO (2) IN BLOCK THREE (3) IN THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF DEMENT, NOW CALLED THE VILLAGE OF CRESTON; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF OGLE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.
This application is filed for the purpose of requesting a variance to allow for a reduction of the required setback from 25 feet to 10 feet pursuant to the requirements of the Village of Creston Code of Ordinances.
A public meeting before the Planning and Zoning Commission on the request will be held at 6:30 p.m. October 1, 2024, at the Village of Creston Hall, 110 N Main St, at which time and place any person wanting to be heard may be present.
Steve Katzman, Chair
Planning and Zoning Commission
Village of Creston
No. 0914
(September 15, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit

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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.

301 ANTIQUES

ANTIQUES WANTED:
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103 AUCTIONS

FARM EQUIPMENT & ANTIQUE AUCTION
SAT. SEPT. 28 at 10:00 A.M.
LARRY KONSTANT ESTATE
1711 S. PECATONICA RD., PECATONICA, IL

Location: East of Freeport, IL or West of Rockford, IL on US 20. Go south on Pecatonica Rd. (at State Police Headquarters) 2-1/4 miles to farm.

FARM EQUIPMENT: White 2-155 Gray Stripe Tractor, CAH w/ duals, wts, 20-38" rear tires, 4,444 hrs, 800 hrs on Reman motor, strong runner!; Oliver 1655 Diesel Tractor w/ wf, 3 pt, wts, extra step, 6,167 hrs, all orig!; AC - B Gas Tractor w/ wf, hand brakes, rear lift, 9.5-24 tires w/ Woods #59 Belly Mower; Glencoe 9 shank Disc/Chisel Plow; Rear Harrow fits Glencoe; Kent 15' hyd. Fold Disk-O-Vator w/ mtd. Harrow; J.D. 7000 6 R. Planter; M.M. 545-4-16" Semi mtd. Plow w/ Gauge wheel; Bush Hog 6' 3 pt. Mower; AC 1 B. Plow, fits B; Kill-Bros 350 Gravity Box w/ Kory Gear; Kory 350 Gravity Box w/ JD Gear; "Like New" Underferth 580 Gravity Box w/ tarp, lights, brakes!; Hutchinson 8'x53' PTO Auger; Mayrath 6'x40' Auger w/ elc. Mtr; Woods 1010 Grader Blade, 3 pt, 3 hyd. lines; Lifetime 14' hyd. Hog Cart; Grain Cleaner; Endgate Seeder; Behlin GP-500 bu. PTO Dryer; White 3 pt. Quick Hitch; Assort. Farm Gates; Torch Set w/ Cart; Farmor 180 amp Welder; Winco 15,000 watt PTO Generator w/ cart, 540 PTO; Older Hercules Block, heads, fits 2-155; 100# Anvil; Fence Posts & Wire; 300 gal. Fuel Tank w/ Gasboy Pump; Heat Houser for 1655; Assort. Hand Tools; Wagon full Misc. Farm Items. **SPECIAL ITEMS:** Rare Hand made Custom Covered Wagon w/ wood wheels, Lunch Wagon, seat & 2 tongues!; J.D. Scheffner Co., Freeport, IL Double Box w/ High wheel gear, restored! (see pictures). **ANTIQUE ITEMS:** Bob sled, complete; Butcher Kettle; Wood Wagon Wheels; Platform Scale; Steel Hand Corn Sheller; Oak Wall Telephone; Walnut 5 D. Chest Drawers; Pine 5' Cupboard; Assort. Old Tobacco Tins; Assort. Indian Items; Arrow Heads; 30+ Shell Boxes-cardboard; Steel wheel Gun Powder Cart; Pine Desk; 6' Tall Oak Cupboard; Floor Safe; Stoneware; Crocks; 4'-150 yr. old Wall Clock; Mantle Clocks; Walnut Chest w/ Hanky Box & Mirror; Dynomite Charger, Ohio; Adv. Yardsticks; Cloth Bank Bags; Old Bottles; Oak Commode w/ T. Bar; Sleigh Bells; Cow Bells; Duck Decoys; Platform Rocker w/ stool; 6' Dining Table w/ 6 Chairs; Fishing Poles; Plus much more Misc. items of Household Antiques! **FARM CONSIGNMENTS FROM NEIGHBORS:** 1975 J.D. 4430 w/ 158 loader, 18.4R-38, quad trans, 5263 hrs., very clean! 1978 JD 4400 D. Combine w/ 5,000 hrs, very clean incl. 444 Corn Head, 443 Corn Head, 213 Grain Platform, Spreader/Chopper; 48"x6" PTO Auger; 1981 NI 708 Power Unit (Gray & Orange) w/ 89839 Husking Bed, Perkins 140 hp motor, 4,000 hrs, JD Adapter Plate; JD 350-50' Elevator, power lift; New Mayrath 8'x28' Trunk Load Auger; JD 400 Mix Mill; Oliver Steel Barge Box w/ Hoist, JD 953 gear; 3 pt. JD 825 6 R. Cultivator; Lindsay 24' Harrow w/ cart; 50"x8" Auger; 50"x10" Auger; New Kory 20' LP Head Cart; 24' Bale Conveyor; Killbros 375 Gravity Box w/ JD 1075 Gear; Grain-O-Vator #30 Hyd Auger; Tandem Wheels.

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FARM SAFETY

What consumers can do to support local farmers

FARMING has never been a vocation for individuals looking for easy work. Farmers typically work long hours, braving the elements regardless of how unpleasant the weather may be.

All that hard work ensures individuals who live in rural, urban and suburban communities have constant, readily available access to healthy foods. Such devotion merits support, and thankfully there are many things consumers can do to show their appreciation for local farmers.

- Buy fresh foods at your local farmers market. Farmers markets are many foodies' favorite places, but they aren't exclusive to individuals with a passion for food. Everyone needs to eat, so why not eat foods grown locally, which are generally more fresh and appetizing than imported fruits and vegetables sold at chain grocery stores?

Even individuals who don't typically eat fresh fruit and vegetables can find something delectable at a local farmers market, where anything from homemade tomato sauces to locally raised fresh beef and pork might be on sale.

- Order directly from local farms. Some farmers have embraced the e-commerce revolution and begun selling the foods they grow to consumers via their own websites. Research local farms and determine if it's possible to buy directly from them. Farms may offer delivery or pick-up, and consumers can enjoy fresh foods even more knowing that they helped farmers earn higher profits by buying directly from them.

- Check labels before buying in local grocery stores. Packaging labels will indicate where fruits and vegetables came from. When possible, choose items produced by local

farmers. This may include fruits, vegetables, meat, pork, or even desserts like pies. Locally produced foods often taste more fresh than items sent from overseas or distant farms, and consumers will feel better knowing they helped to support local farmers.

- Spread the word. Get the word out after a satisfying experience with local farms and farmers. Whether it's buying food from farms or taking advantage of family days that let kids enjoy a day on the farm, sharing positive experiences via social media or word-of-mouth can be a great way to inspire your neighbors to support local farmers as well.

Consumers can do much to support hardworking local farmers. In addition to feeling good about supporting their rural neighbors, consumers also might feel good when they sit down and enjoy a meal featuring locally grown, fresh foods.



How agricultural technology can help improve sustainability

SUSTAINABLE agriculture is an approach to farming that will allow modern farmers to meet the needs of a growing population while enhancing environmental quality. That can benefit both current and future generations, and technology will play a vital role in realizing the goals of sustainable agriculture.

According to the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, sustainable agriculture is designed to meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs. That's a worthy goal, especially in the face of a growing global population that the United Nations estimates will increase by two billion persons by 2050.

There are numerous benefits to utilizing sustainable agriculture technology, which can be especially advantageous to modern farmers.

Efficient land manage-

ment

Modeling technologies can be utilized to make more efficient use of land. According to Sustainable Brands, a global community of brand innovators, modeling technologies can be employed in a host of ways, including to identify tillage practices and the status of tile drainage. Certain agricultural technologies have been designed to predict the performance of cropland, which can allow farmers to more effectively and efficiently use their land. Farmers also can employ modeling technologies to determine soil health and water needs and usage, which can benefit the land and ensure resources aren't wasted. Utilization of such technologies ensures farmers can meet the needs of modern consumers without affecting future farmers' ability to do the same.

Reduce runoff

The United States Environmental Protection Agency notes that runoff

poses a significant threat to the environment. When runoff occurs, fertilizer, bacteria and other pollutants find their way into streams, rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Sustainable Brands notes that nanotechnology is an efficient way to deliver nutrients to crops that can improve both the efficacy of the nutrients and reduce runoff.

Protect crops

Sustainable Brands notes that agricultural biologicals are inputs derived from natural materials that have low toxicity. That low toxicity reduces their environmental impact. Agricultural biologicals utilize the properties of such things as bacteria, fungi and even insects to support healthy crops, potentially improving yield without adversely affecting the environment.

Sustainable agriculture technologies can help modern farmers and their successors meet the needs of a rapidly growing global population.



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SPORTS

Rochelle Junior Tackle



(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)

The Rochelle Junior Tackle season is well underway, with kids ranging from fifth through eighth grade participating in activities including football, cheerleading and dance. At left, Vinny Tornabene attempts an onside kick. At right, Isadora Hueramo cheers for the home crowd. Below, members of the RJT dance program perform.

Rochelle Junior Tackle program provides opportunities for all kids ‘It’s fun to watch all of the teams hit their strides as the season goes on.’

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Junior Tackle football program is enjoying another successful season on the field. Whether it’s through the action on the football field or the sideline and halftime entertainment from the cheer and dance programs, Rochelle Junior Tackle allows children to make new friends and form new skills both inside and outside of athletics.

Jeff Manna has taken over as president of the Rochelle Junior Tackle program after his brother-in-law, Derek Johnson, stepped down after several years at the helm. Manna, who comes from Oswego, has been involved with Rochelle Junior Tackle for the last few years, running the scoreboard clock as well as coaching flag football and serving as a member of the board. His wife Amanda also helps with the RJT cheerleading program.

“It’s been a good season so far, not only with junior tackle but with the flag football program,” said Manna, who’s also helping the eighth-grade team as an assistant coach. “It’s fun to watch all of the teams hit their strides as the season goes on. I’d say that our participation has been pretty consistent over the last few years.

We went from having six or seven kids per team at our youngest level of flag football to eight or nine kids per team. Our numbers at the RJT level are looking good and we make sure all of our kids have a chance to get into the game.”

Rochelle Junior Tackle features four teams for its fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth-graders. Each team plays eight games during the season, which typically begins in the middle of August before ending in early October.

Rochelle is a member of the Big 14 Conference, which includes Byron, Dixon, LaSalle-Peru, Oregon, Princeton, Rockton, Sterling, Stillman Valley and Streator.

“It’s fun to watch the kids grow from fifth grade through eighth grade,” said Manna, whose 5-year-old son Jaxyn is in flag football and whose nephew, Landon Johnson, is on the sixth-grade team. “They learn football skills and life skills, whether it’s sportsmanship or helping their teammates. We include everyone and it’s been fun to watch them grow over these last several years.”

Practices kicked off

during the summer and are held at the Helms Park fields north of Jones Road during the school week. Games are played on Saturdays during the regular season, with the top four teams in the conference from each grade level advancing to compete for first and third place. One goal of the Rochelle Junior Tackle program is to be a feeder program for the Rochelle Township High School football program, which hosts an RJT camp every summer.

“The kids learn how important the running game is,” said Manna, who complimented RTHS alum and eighth-grade football coach Riley Hall for his work with the program this year. “Riley’s been doing a really good job of coaching the eighth-graders and getting them ready for what they’re going to see in high

school... We see at each grade level how much the kids understand the importance of the running game, which has been successful at the high school level.”

While many children in the Rochelle Junior Tackle program are playing some form of football, the

program also offers cheer and dance teams, which are coached by Rochelle Township High School student-athletes. Like football, many children who participate in cheer and dance at the Rochelle Junior Tackle level continue on to either cheer or dance

at the high school level.

“The high-schoolers become role models for the kids before they even reach high school,” said Manna, who has a 3-year-old daughter Irelynn. “The RJT cheerleaders and dancers then become role models for the younger kids.

My daughter can’t wait to cheer and she’s always out there cheering with the kids and having a great time. Our numbers are a little lower than they’ve been in previous years so we’d like to see those numbers increase, particularly on the dance side.”



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SPORTS

Rochelle Junior Tackle



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Rochelle Junior Tackle's flag football program is back in action for the 2024 season. The program features three divisions for children between preschool and fourth grade. Games are played during the fall every Tuesday and Wednesday evening at the Helms Park football field.

Rochelle Flag Football teaching skills on and off the field

'It's been a great experience for the kids and it's exciting to watch them grow'

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Junior Tackle flag football program is about more than just the action on the field. While the program teaches the fundamental skills needed to play the game, children also learn and develop valuable life skills including teamwork, friendship and more.

There are 185 children ranging from preschool through fourth grade participating in flag football this fall. Co-coordinator Johnny Gonzales said that the program has increased its number by 20 from last year, the most he's seen since becoming a coordinator five years ago. The program features three divisions including the NFL League (third and fourth-graders), the College League (first and second-graders) and the Arena League (preschoolers and kindergarteners).

"It's been a great experience for the kids and it's exciting to watch them grow," Gonzales said. "Our numbers are increasing and

we have more kids in our flag football program than we've ever had before. We have a good mixture of boys and girls competing with each other. Seeing how far the kids come in each of the different leagues from their first day... It's so nice to see. We have a lot of volunteer coaches who put a lot of time into working with these kids."

Games are held every Tuesday and Wednesday evening at the Helms Park football field during the season, which spans eight total weeks throughout August and September before concluding with the NFL League tournament in October. Practices are held during the week at Rochelle Middle School, where coaches and players work together on sharpening foundational football skills including handoffs, running, blocking, passing, catching, teamwork and more.

"The kids learn how to compete, particularly in the NFL League where they're a little bigger and older and they're starting

to understand the differences between winning and losing," said Gonzales, who co-coordinates the flag football program alongside Jake Messer. "It's part of the process of being successful... The kids learn about themselves and they learn how to grow, develop and overcome adversity. In the younger leagues, our kids learn about teamwork. There are so many things our kids learn during flag football that translate over to regular life."

The flag football program serves as a precursor to the tackle football program for fifth through eighth-graders and eventually the Rochelle Township High School football program. Gonzales said that most skills learned at the flag football level, including pulling flags and learning new positions, are seen in a different way once those children move up to the tackle football level.

"Pulling flags transitions into tackling and the kids learn how they can get to the ball carrier," Gonzales said. "The kids are put in de-



fensive positions that carry over to tackle football and on offense, the kids learn how to block and move the football from the center to the quarterback and then the running back.... We had 28 fourth-graders playing flag football last year and right now, we have 23 fifth-graders playing tackle football, which is a small drop from year-to-year."

In addition to serving as co-coordinator of the flag

football program, Gonzales also coaches and sees the development from his own children, many of which have gone through the program. Gonzales' daughter Jaelyn has gone through the flag football program and his son Xander, who's in fourth grade, has been in the flag football program since he was a preschooler.

"I'm super excited and I know I can speak for all of the fourth-grade parents

when I say that these kids have competed against each other for the last four or five years, but they're ready to become teammates in fifth grade," Gonzales said. "We have some great competition out here and it's a great environment for these kids. It's so fun to see the kids compete against their friends knowing that they'll eventually become teammates when they're in fifth grade."

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