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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025 \$1.25

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**Koritz served
with Air Force**

Rochelle's Tim Kortiz served with the U.S. Air Force from 1988-91.
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**ALDO'S
PIZZERIA**

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- JANET MARIE BERGESON
- LARRY J. HAMMOND
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- CONSTANTINOS 'GUS' A, VASILOPOULOS

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City's downtown project is underway

Improvements include new pavilion, parking lot

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle has begun work on its downtown project that will include the reconstruction of seven parking lots, the addition of two new parking lots, the construction of a pavilion structure with bathrooms, a stage and storage; and undergrounding of overhead utilities.

City Community Development Director Michelle Pease said a new parking lot at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Lincoln Highway has new curb and gutter and is ready for asphalt. The city recently purchased and demolished a former bank drive up building on the property. The parking lot at Cherry Avenue and North Main Street also has seen new curb and gutter and is ready for asphalt. On April 21, the city began reconstruction work on the parking lot at West 4th Avenue and North 6th Street. Asphalt will be poured in the parking lots to finish them on or after May 7 when asphalt companies open.

The city has yet to go out for bids for its second contract of downtown



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

City Community Development Director Michelle Pease said a new parking lot at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Lincoln Highway has new curb and gutter and is ready for asphalt. The city recently purchased and demolished a former bank drive up building on the property.

work, which will likely include the reconstruction of the parking lots off North Main Street, the construction of a new parking lot on the corner of 2nd Avenue and Washington Street, and the construction of the pavilion structure at the north end of the North Main Street parking lots.

“Contract two has not been bid out and we’re still finalizing what that will consist of,” Pease said. “I’m hoping to get that in front of the city council at the end of May or beginning of June for that bid to go out. The work would take place as soon as we can get the bid approved.”

When that work takes place, the utility undergrounding project in the

alley from the post office south to 4th Avenue will also take place. City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh said the closure of the alley will be the only disruption from the work and that the city will be working with area businesses to make sure they still have access points.

The city recently purchased and demolished a home east of the Rochelle Fire Department station to construct a new parking lot that will be used by RFD personnel to replace the spaces that will be lost for the pavilion structure. That work will also take place this summer.

See DOWNTOWN page 8



Man charged with murder after shooting

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

MT. MORRIS — A shooting early Monday evening in Mt. Morris took the life of a 25-year-old Oregon High School graduate and a 44-year-old man has been charged with his murder, an Ogle County Sheriff's Office press release said.

On Monday, April 21 at approximately 4:59 p.m., the Ogle County Sheriff's Office received a report of a shooting following a domestic incident at 1 South Ogle, Apartment 13, in Mt. Morris. Upon arrival, officers located Cameron Pasley, 25, at the residence suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

See SHOOTING pg 2

Park Board approves special use permits

Overhaul done at Floyd J. Tilton Park's minor league baseball field

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — At its monthly meeting Monday, the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a number of special use permits for upcoming events in the area at its facilities.

Among requests approved Monday was one by the City of Rochelle to use Atwood Park for its fireworks celebration on Saturday, July 5. Flight Deck Bar & Grill will host its fireworks on Friday, July 4.

National Night Out will be held by the Rochelle Police Department on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at Atwood Park. The City of Rochelle will also host a movie in the park on June 20.

On Saturday, May 3, the north parking lot at The REC Center will host the Rochelle Hispanic Community Association's annual Cinco De Mayo Festival from 3-11 p.m. Activities will include



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

At its monthly meeting Monday, the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a number of special use permits for upcoming events in the area at its facilities.

food, a mechanical bull, bounce houses, bands and dancers and dog races. That event is typically held downtown, but will not be this year due to the city's ongoing parking lot work.

The special use permit fees were waived for each of the requests.

Field

Park District Executive Director Jackee Ohlinger said during

the meeting that recent overhaul work has been done on the playing surface at the minor league field at Tilton Park.

See PARK BOARD page 8

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LOCAL NEWS



(PHOTOS BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Rochelle Township High School recently named its 2025 Prom Court representatives.

RTHS names 2025 Prom Court candidates

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School recently named its 2025 Prom Court representatives. Winners will be crowned at the RTHS Prom on Saturday, April 26.

Senior nominees for Prom Queen include Emma Kay Kennay (daughter of Jeremy and Sheri Kennay), Payton Cesarone (daughter of Mia Ramsey and John Cesarone), Brisa Zepeda (daughter of Javier and Martha Zepeda), Sydney Carmichael (daughter of Noah and Raegan Carmichael) and Erin Murphy (daughter of John Murphy, Lynn Tilton and Sherry Murphy).

Senior nominees for Prom King include Grant Gensler (son of Jim Gensler and Missy Gensler), Khalil R. Winston (son of Kalynn Winston and Rashad Epting), Trent Kreider (son of Susie Kreider and Corey

Kreider) and Cash Budde (son of Rhonda Creager, Jeremy Budde, and Michelle Budde).

Junior nominees for Prom princess include Audyn Kemp (daughter of Jaime and Shawn Kemp), Ashley Dickey (daughter of Jennifer and Shannon Dickey), Rafaela Canaan (daughter of Cristiane Braga and Marcos Canaan, host daughter of Alison and Ryne Vrana), and Angel Perez (daughter of Gabriela Perez and Javier Perez).

Junior nominees for Prom prince include Brode Metzger (son of Brad Metzger and Erin Metzger), Van Gerber (son of David Gerber and Suzie Gerber), Emmanuel Nambo (son of Juan Carlos Nambo and Laura Angeles Zurita) and Wyatt Worthington (son of Melody Worthington and Victor Worthington).



SHOOTING: 25-year-old OHS grad passed away at hospital due to gunshot wounds

From page 1

The Mt. Morris Fire Protection District transported Pasley to Saint Katharine Hospital in

Dixon where he was later pronounced deceased, the press release said.

“The suspect, identified as Derek Swanlund, 44, was located a short distance from the scene and taken into custody without incident,” the press release said. “He is currently lodged at the Ogle County Jail and has been charged with first degree murder, with additional charges to follow.”

The Mt. Morris Police Department was assisted by the Ogle County Sheriff’s Office, Polo Police Department, Illinois State Police Crime Scene Services, and the Mt. Morris Fire Protection District. The investigation is ongoing by the Ogle County Sheriff’s Office.

The Ogle County Sheriff’s Office will release further details as

they become available.

An Oregon School District Facebook post on Tuesday, April 22 said Pasley was a 2018 graduate of OHS and a current member of its custodial team.

“Cameron will be remembered for his easy-going personality, his ability to strike up a conversation with just about anyone, and the calming presence he brought into every room,” the OHS Facebook post said. “He had a bright



future ahead of him and was someone who made even stressful situations feel manageable. Please join us in keeping Cameron’s family, friends, and colleagues in your thoughts during this incredibly difficult time.”

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Jean Kay Williams

ROCHELLE — It is with saddened hearts that we announce the passing of Jean Kay Williams, 74, who passed away on April 14th, 2025. Jean was born on March 28th, 1951 in Rochelle, IL to Erwin “Shorty” and Virginia “Ginny” Hackman.

Jean was employed at Northern Illinois University since 2000 where she was continued to work until her passing. While at NIU she earned her Bachelors Degree, graduating in 2008. Jean enjoyed sewing, volunteering at the Moose, nurturing stray animals and traveling to spend time with family. Nothing surpassed her love for cooking and baking, especially for her friends and family. When a guest entered her house, they were leaving with a heart full of love and Tupperware

full of leftovers. When she wasn’t baking, she was devoting her time with her family. Jean did not miss a milestone in any of her children’s, grandchildren’s, or great-grandchildren’s lives. As the matriarch of the family, she offered sound advice while providing an open ear in the event that was all someone needed.

She is preceded in death by her parents; One brother, Mike Hackman; and a sister-in-law, Shirlean Hackman.

She is survived by her three sons Timothy (Mallissia) Ellis of Ashton, IL, Gary (Julie) Ellis of Rochelle, IL and Jeff (Toria) Ellis of Ardmore, OK, her grandchildren Jessica (Jeff) Guida, Kaitlyn (Ethan) Chandler, Marissa Ellis, Kimberly (Jordan) Smith, Aaron Ellis, and Brooke (Dylan) Calvert, along



with her great-grandchildren Branson, Adelynn, Kennedie, Abri, Salem, Lincoln, Elia, Isley, and Maverick, her brothers Greg (Gisella) Hackman, Steve (Shirlean) Hackman and Terry (Renee) Hackman.

A Celebration of Life will be planned and posted at a later date.

In lieu of flower, donation may be made to Serenity Hospice and Home, 1658 Rt 2, Oregon, IL 61068.

Constantinos ‘Gus’ A. Vasilopoulos

ROCHELLE — It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, Constantinos “Gus” A. Vasilopoulos. He left us on April 17, 2025 at the age of 89 surrounded by his loving family. He was a man of immense wisdom, love, and strength, backed by an unwavering spirit. His smile, his greetings, his stories and his humor could light up a room.

Gus was born in 1936 in the village of Agiorgitika, Greece. He came to America when he was 20 years old. He met his wife, Armande, at Northern Illinois University, and they married in 1958. Gus loved children, and they soon started welcoming four of their own. Gus was manager of the original McDonald’s in DeKalb, Illinois. He then purchased his uncle’s shoe repair shop located in downtown DeKalb, where he worked for about ten years. After moving to Rochelle in the early 1970s, he became a foreman at a local concrete supplier. An injury at work left him disabled physically but not disabled in spirit. He decided to further his education and became a full

time student at Kishwaukee College. It was there that his love for art began. He continued to flourish at Northern Illinois University, where he graduated with a degree in Political Science. His art included making pottery, sketching, and writing poems that were often published in the NIU Towers literary magazine. In his later years, he loved to garden and spend time outdoors.

Gus and his wife and family enjoyed many travels and gatherings around our country over the years. One of the highlights of our travels was a family trip to Greece in 1988.

Gus cherished every moment he spent with family and loved ones. His wife, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren brought him tremendous joy. He was deeply loved and will be deeply missed by all. Survivors include his wife Armande; children: Nick (Eileen Garvey), Stacy (Jim Lum), Dimitra (Brent Cornwell) and Evgenia Diane; nine grandchildren: Samuel (Starla), Rayelle, and Eleah Nokovich, Katie (Matt), Emily (Cam) and Maggie Vasilopoulos, William (Mackenzie), Laurette and Jacob Cornwell and



three great grandchildren: Scarlett, Sarah Grace and Sophia. Survivors also include his sister, Dimitra, brothers: Nick and Bill, and several nieces and nephews.

To honor his remarkable life, visitation will take place on Saturday, April 26th, from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M. at the Rochelle United Methodist Church, 709 4th Ave., Rochelle with an 11:00 A.M. funeral service officiated by Pastor Katherine Paisley. Burial will be at Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle. A luncheon will follow at the church. Memorials may be made in Gus’s memory to the United Methodist Church. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

We welcome all to join our family in celebrating Gus’s life and the memories we cherish.

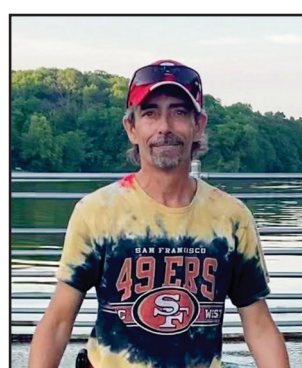
Larry E. Barnes Jr.

ROCHELLE — Larry E. Barnes Jr, 54, of Rochelle passed away Monday April 14, 2025. Larry was born in Rockford, Illinois at Swedish American Hospital on October 2nd, 1970. He was born to Larry Sr and Sharon Barnes. He went to Rochelle Township High School. He was a forklift operator at Ryder in Rochelle. He enjoyed his job and loved the people he worked with. Larry was a great dad and an even cooler grandpa! He enjoyed spending quality time with his family and friends and made everlasting memories. He was charismatic and made friends everywhere he went. Larry was the type of person who would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. He would

go out of his way to help the people he cared about! He was adventurous and loved the outdoors. He was a diehard San Francisco 49ers fan and would tell you he bled red and gold! Larry enjoyed making people laugh and seeing smiling faces. He will be missed dearly and will be remembered by all.

Larry is survived by his sons Larry III and Tylor (Alexis) Barnes; his daughter Sabrina (Clay) Barnes; several grandchildren Zoey, Lilith, Hayden, and Jackson; brothers Earl Barnes and Roy Fultz; and his significant other Laurie Ankeny-Kramer.

He was preceded in death by his parents Larry Sr and Sharon Barnes; his brother Edward Fultz, sister Wanda Bucci, and son Austin Barnes.



Please join us celebrating his life on Friday, April 25th, 2025 at Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home, 704 N. 6th St. Rochelle, IL 61068 from 12:00 – 4:00 PM. Visitation will be from 12:00 – 3:00 PM then Pastoral services will follow at 3 PM. Arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com

Larry J. Hammond

ROCHELLE — Larry J. Hammond, 72, passed away Sunday, April 20, 2025 at his home in Rochelle with his family by his side. Larry was born on March 3, 1953 to Earl W. and Esther L. (McClain) Hammond in Rochelle. On June 16, 1973, he married Mary Koebler in Rochelle. Larry grew up in Rochelle and worked in construction most of his life.

Larry is survived by his wife, Mary of Rochelle; daughter, Ann Finnestad of Scarboro, IL; son, Jacob Hammond of Rochelle; grandchildren:

Cole Burkhart and Reese Finnestad; brother, Bill Hammond; two sisters: Dorothy (Laverne) Johnson of McLeansboro, IL, and Beulah (Rick) Skelt of Rochelle; and great granddaughter, Mia Parades.

In addition to his parents, Larry is preceded in death by three brothers: Howard, Harold and Harlan Hammond and two sisters: Carol Goatcher and Barb Dodson.

There will be a memorial visitation from 4:00 - 6:00 P.M., Thursday, April 24, 2025 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St.,



Rochelle. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home. Memorials may be made in Larry’s memory to Serenity Hospice and Home. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF’S REPORT

OREGON — On April 15 at approximately 9:23 p.m. deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 20,000 block of East Heal Road in rural Creston. After a brief investigation, dep-

uties arrested Cesar Soto Piceno, 35, of Creston for no valid driver’s license. Soto Piceno was also cited for improper lane usage. Soto Piceno was taken to the Ogle County Jail

where he was charged and released on a notice to appear with a future court date.

All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Janet Marie Bergeson

DIXON — Janet Marie Bergeson, 68, passed away Friday, April 18, 2025 at her home in Dixon, Illinois. Janet was born on June 24, 1957, the daughter of Dallas E. and Francis J. (Simmons) Durbin in Joliet, IL.

Janet is survived by her children: Jessie Burns of Collinsville, IL, Christina Burns of Rochelle, IL, Judy Needs of Elizabeth, IL, Darryl Bergeson of Lake St. Louis, MO, David Bergeson of Polo, IL, Dale (Erin) Bergeson of Rochelle, IL, James Raleigh of Benton, KY and Tanya Raleigh of Rochelle, IL; long time partner, Tom Raleigh of

Dixon, IL; five brothers: Dallas “Sonny” Durbin of Rochelle, IL, Allan Durbin of WI, Johnny Durbin of TX, Danny Stewart of CO, Jeb Stewart of West Brooklyn, IL; two sisters: Nancy Durbin Smith and Roberta Stewart both of NC; 26 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Janet was preceded in death by her brother, Mark Stewart; sister, Velma Durbin and most recently her daughter-in-law, Andrea Bergeson.

Visitation will be from 9:30 - 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. 6th St., Ro-



chelle. The funeral service will follow at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday with Judy Williams officiating. Burial will be at Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle. Memorials may be made in Janet’s memory to the American Cancer Society. Visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.

ROCHELLE POLICE REPORT

ROCHELLE — On April 15 at 6:06 a.m. Daniel S. Metzger, 26, of Rochelle was arrested for an Ogle County warrant and transferred.

On April 14 at 6:51 p.m. Kenneth C. Kolb, 46, of Sycamore was cited for disregarding a stop sign. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 9 Rochelle court date.

On April 14 at 11:22 p.m. Francheska S. Elam, 34, of Mendota was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle. She signed a promise to comply and was given a May 9 Rochelle court date.

On April 14 at 3:11 p.m. Trent J. Kreider, 18, of Rochelle was cited for speeding. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 9 Rochelle court date.

On April 15 at 10:49 p.m. Liliana Baeza Ramirez, 39, of Belvidere was cited for disobeying a traffic control device. She signed a promise to comply and was given a May 9 Rochelle court date.

On April 16 at 12:09 a.m. Roger M. Perry, 63, of Rochelle was cited for expired registration. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 9 Rochelle court date.

On April 16 at 4:32 p.m. Keegan Brewer, 26, of Rochelle was arrested for driving on a suspended license and cited for disregarding a stop sign. He signed a promise to comply and was given a May 9 Rochelle court date.

On April 16 at 6:43 p.m. Timoteo Rocha-Hernandez, 45, of Rochelle was arrested for disorderly conduct. He was released on a notice to appear with a May 16 Ogle County court date.

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

ROCHELLE News-Leader

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

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

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Honoring our American Hero

Rochelle's Tim Koritz served as flight surgeon in U.S. Air Force from 1988-91

BY JEFF HELFRICH
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Dr. Tim Koritz of Rochelle served active duty in the United States Air Force from 1988-1991 as a flight surgeon. He also served in the Air Force Reserves from 1983-1988.

After graduating from Rochelle Township High School and receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Koritz was a first-year medical student at Harvard University Medical School, where he applied for and received a scholarship with the Air Force. Koritz entered the reserves and finished medical school and a yearlong internship in Seattle to get licensed before going active duty in 1988.

Back in his second and fourth years of medical school, Koritz completed month-long courses through the Air Force to get his flight surgeon's wings when



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Dr. Tim Koritz of Rochelle served active duty in the United States Air Force from 1988-1991 as a flight surgeon. He also served in the Air Force Reserves from 1983-1988. After graduating from Rochelle Township High School and receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Koritz was a first-year medical student at Harvard University Medical School, where he applied for and received a scholarship with the Air Force.

his active duty time came.

"They allowed us to put in a request for where we wanted to be stationed and I was lucky enough to get my second choice, an F-15 squadron at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico," Koritz said. "It's a beautiful area with great flying weather 300 days out of the year. There was an operational F-15 squadron, which at that time was the top of the heap in air-to-air capability."

A flight surgeon's top responsibility during wartime is telling the squadron commander whether or not pilots were medically fit to fly. During peacetime, Koritz's duties included flying with pilots to determine a baseline for them and acting as the family practice doctor for pilots in the squadron and their families.

In flight surgeon school, Koritz learned medical expertise associated with flight in high-performance aircraft, such as hypoxia, decompression sickness, g-force induced loss of consciousness, spatial disorientation, and a specialty in ophthalmology due to vision being the most important sense for a pilot.

"We had survival training," Koritz said. "It was interesting. I would never fly as pilot in command. I was always in the backseat. I had full controls back there and they let me fly all the time. We practiced everything. We were on a 24 hour recall. If something came up, we had to be ready to go in 24 hours. I'd always been an aviation nut and to be able to fly in high-performance fighters was a great opportunity for me."

In 1989, a detachment from Koritz' unit took six jets, 12 pilots and support staff to Howard Air Force Base in Panama right up until the invasion of Pana-

ma. Prior to the invasion, the Air Force was tasked with escorting high-value military assets to Panama. In 1990, Koritz' unit was given a temporary duty assignment in Holland.

"That was quite interesting," Koritz said. "Back then, Russia was still the big threat. The Air Force wanted squadrons once every two years to go and fly in the European Theatre and get used to the weather and air space. We were in southern Holland and you'd take off and you could be in East Germany in about 10 minutes. It's not a big open space like New Mexico."

During Koritz' time at Holloman Air Force Base he was stationed next to the White Sands Missile Range, which was the alternate landing site for the NASA space shuttle if it couldn't get into orbit. During launches, his squadron would be on alert and Koritz had medical operations responsibilities if a landing took place.

Koritz' squadron was not called to duty when Desert Shield and then Desert Storm took place, as they were committed to Asia as a backup for air superiority capability in monitoring North Korea as the U.S. was in another conflict.

Early 1991 saw a personal loss for Koritz, as his brother, U.S. Air Force Major Tom Koritz, was piloting an F-15 that was shot down over Basra, Iraq on Jan. 17, 1991 during the Persian Gulf War on a mission to bomb a refinery. Tim accompanied his brother's

remains home for his burial with honors in Lawnridge Cemetery. Tom Koritz was a medical school graduate as well. The brothers grew up both fascinated by flight and followed similar paths.

"My family had an emphasis on service," Koritz said. "My dad got through high school in three years and at age 17 enlisted in the Navy in 1944 during World War II. My brother was active duty in the Air Force from 1980-1991. My brother had the corporate knowledge, so if I ever had a question I could lean on him for advice."

Tim Koritz left the service in 1991 to pursue his interest in clinical practice. He spent 2.5 years at the University of Iowa for his anesthesia residence. In 1994, he and his family moved back to the Northern Illinois area where he became an anesthesiologist on staff at Rockford Memorial Hospital and spent 24 years there. After 5-6 years at OSF St. James Hospital in Pontiac, Illinois as a staff anesthesiologist, he retired two years ago.

Koritz credits his military service as the reason he was able to graduate from medical school and separate from the Air Force with no debt.

"I always loved aviation and I had the opportunity to see the epitome of aviation at that time and experience it and be part of it," Koritz said. "I had a great career in anesthesia in the Rockford Memorial operating room when it was up and running at full steam. We were the best show in town and did more

"My family had an emphasis on service. My dad got through high school in three years and at age 17 enlisted in the Navy in 1944 during World War II. My brother was active duty in the Air Force from 1980-1991. My brother had the corporate knowledge, so if I ever had a question I could lean on him for advice."

Tim Koritz

surgeries than the other hospitals combined. We had excellent surgeons, anesthesia and nursing staff."

Koritz's service left him with a "profound respect" for military personnel and the jobs they do. And it left him with a dream fulfilled.

"They were a very professional group," Koritz said. "I think any citizen who witnessed what went on there would be proud to be an American. Our pilots were so dedicated to their job and all they wanted to do was make sure they did a great job and improve. I can remember my very first sortie flight. One of the flight commanders took me under his wing and I had to fulfill a bunch of criteria and jump through hoops before I could actually fly a sortie. In my first one, he was flying and I was in the back seat. We were taxing out waiting to take off and I had the biggest smile on my face. It was something I'd been dreaming about for years, and there I was."

Honoring Our American Hero is a series that prints twice a month in the News-Leader. If you know an American Hero you would like to have featured, contact Jeff Helfrich at jhelfrich@rochellenews-leader.com or call 815-561-2151.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Tom McDermott: The birth of the Hub

IF you're from Rochelle, you know what it is to be a Hub. But what is a Hub, and how did Rochelle become the Hub City? Rochelle did not start out as the Hub City. The area was officially known as Hickory Grove, Lane, and finally Rochelle. Unofficially Rochelle was the self-proclaimed, City of Progress, City of Homes, City of Light, and even Hang Town. Nothing would re-brand every few years and still does today. Only one name or brand has withstood the test of time. Let's look at the evolution of the "Hub City" and the logo.

The first railroad arrived in Rochelle in 1853. The Dixon Airline Railroad literally put the community on the map. The Village of Lane was founded in 1871. Lane was renamed Rochelle in 1865. With the arrival

of the Chicago and Iowa Railroad in 1870, Rochelle was one of the few communities to be served by two railroads. Research shows that the city began referring to itself as a rail hub, a common term for many communities with railroad service.

The progress of transportation continued and in 1913 the route for the Lincoln Highway, the first hard-surfaced road reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, was plotted. Rochelle was on the route and began replacing dirt and gravel streets with Purinton Paver brick. Today the road is known as Illinois Route 38, Lincoln Highway, and Lincoln Avenue in our community. The construction of the cross-country Lincoln Highway continued for years and was officially opened in 1923. Completion of the project came in 1935 when the road was finally hard surfaced from

the east coast to the west coast. Two railroads and one cross-country paved road, yet there is no reference to a "Hub City"

It was when the plan to construct the "Meridian Highway" was put forward that perception started to change. The Meridian was to be the first hard surfaced road reaching from the Gulf of Mexico, in the south, to the border of Canada to the north. When the route was established, it became obvious that the first north/south road would pass through Rochelle. It was Sept. 23,

1926 when Mr. Stafford, editor of the Rochelle newspaper, penned the following. "Rochelle can then be in truth the Hub City with two routes of importance leading to and from her streets, a large, new and heretofore

out of the question trade territory can be enjoyed." This is the first time, 1926, the term "Hub City" can be found. The celebration of the opening of the Meridian Highway through Rochelle featured Miss Garland Lind as Ms. Meridian Highway, and Ms. Armelia Grafas as Ms. Lincoln Highway. The Meridian Highway has seen many names through history. Today we know it as Illinois Route 251, or Seventh Street in town. The crossing of the Lincoln Highway and Meridian

Highway only occurs in Rochelle, making it the Hub City.

The Rochelle athletic teams had been referred to as "The Purple and White" since the high school developed sports teams. They were not referred to as "The Hubs"

until much later. Once the area began referring to Rochelle as the "Hub City," the high schools were not far behind. The first reference to the sports teams as Hubs was in the 1929 school Tatler. "Rochelle has completed another successful season. For the first time in Hub Basketball history, there was a light-weight, and a heavy weight team, under direction of different coaches." Hubs became the preferred title when speaking of Rochelle High School teams.

The growth of the terms "Hub City" and "Rochelle Hubs" grew quickly and by 1930 the first mention of businesses such as "The Hub Style Shop and The Hub Theater" appeared in newspaper advertisements. There have been more than 50 businesses with Hub in their title since it first appeared in 1930.

The final step of the process came in 1956. The school yearbook, "The Tatler", was under the direction of Rosalia Stotmeister. Kay Connolly, Lee Coopridger, Carol Pinter, and Lois Shaw were on the editorial board with Janice Pest as the art editor. The cover of the Tatler featured an old wagon wheel hub with broken spokes. The logo would appear on the cover of school and city materials from that point on.

So, without hiring a branding advisor and forming a committee, Rochelle has developed a brand that has not only lasted, but grown from 1926 to today, almost 100 years. The Hub City and the Rochelle Hubs are part of the community and as the saying goes, "Once a Hub, always a Hub."

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

OCFB's Ron Kern: Concerns about tariffs

AS I write, according to the "old timers", I've got about 10 more days left to plant my potatoes. Not sure where the old norm of getting tubers in the ground before Good Friday came from, but I do know those "old timers" will even get out there in the mud to make that deadline.

For me I'm moving at my own pace. Been planting spuds for over 30 years and never had a failed crop and made the Good Friday timeline only about half the time. So you will find me out planting those little starch carriers when the soil is fit and my back isn't aching.

Plenty of angst in the farm community over

trade tariffs imposed last month by the Trump Administration. With a majority of the potash we use for crops in the U.S. coming from Canada it will be interesting to see how producers react to fertilizer needs.

We at the Illinois Farm Bureau support a rules-based approach to trade, and our farmers simply cannot afford the uncertainty of a potential trade war. Farm income has declined for a second straight year, and we know from experience that farmers and rural communities are the first to suffer from retaliatory tariffs. We hope the administration will consider the economic impact on Illinois farmers and rural communities

when contemplating tariff implementation.

Illinois is the largest total exporting state in the Midwest and the fourth largest in the country. Illinois is the third-largest exporter of agricultural commodities in the country. Total exports from Illinois in 2023 were estimated at \$81 billion. Of that, approximately \$13.7 billion can be attributed to agriculture. Since 2019, Illinois' total exports have increased by \$18.9 billion, or 31.7%. Export activities support over 800,000 jobs in Illinois

Illinois Farm Bureau continues to meet with

Illinois congressional members to share our concerns about tariffs. Our message is clear:

Trade and tariffs are a real concern for our farmers and understand the significance in free trade.

Trade and tariffs are a national legislative priority for IFB in 2025.

Our priorities are:

Defend trade deals for Illinois farmers,

Ensure blanket tariffs are not the trade policy of the United States,

Explore new markets for Illinois agricultural products, and

Expand current trade

agreements, remove barriers, and increase demand for Illinois agriculture products.

Export markets are a key to agricultural profitability.

Export markets for agricultural goods are essential for keeping farms financially healthy and trade figures represent significant contributions to farmers' bottom line.

Establishing new, diverse market opportunities and eliminating existing trade barriers are vital to the financial sustainability of U.S. agriculture.

The U.S. continues to sit still and lose big on trade while our competitors strike new deals and expand market access/

market share for their goods.

Enforcing existing agreements and ensuring that countries uphold their trade commitments is crucial.

Agriculture needs strong advocates for trade in Congress and the White House.

Tariffs are a tax on the consumer. The consumer will pay that tariff. Tariffs will trigger retaliatory tariffs, and agriculture is always the focus of those retaliatory tariffs. Rather than tariffs we would like to see the Trump administration expand current trade deals and create new trade deals.

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

How to contact government officials

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

IL Sen. Li Arellano Jr.
Stratton Office Bldg
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-1942

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the News-Leader office (211 IL Route 38 East), mailed to the News-Leader (P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068) or e-mailed (news@rochellenews-leader.com.) 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.



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ROCHELLE News-Leader

COMMUNITY



Hub City Senior Center of Rochelle accepted a \$11,300 donation from 100+ Women Who Care of Ogle County on April 8 at the Lincoln Arts Center in Rochelle.

100+ Women Who Care of Ogle County donates to Hub City Senior Center

ROCHELLE — Hub City Senior Center of Rochelle accepted a \$11,300 donation from 100+ Women Who Care of Ogle County on April 8 at the Lincoln Arts Center in Rochelle. Each quarter the members choose the recipient by vote chosen from three well deserving candidates. Hub City Senior Center offers a wide variety of services and activities to support the growing population of seniors in our communities. They offer meals and transportation providing as many as 8,500 rides a year. There is growing evidence of the need for social interaction and physical activity in our later years and the senior center is a key part of supporting those essentials.

100+ Women Who Care is a growing community of women in Ogle County who join together to support local not for profits in Ogle County. The group meets every quarter in various locations. For more information please contact Deanna Forrest at forrestdede5@gmail.com or find them on Facebook www.facebook.com/oglegives.

Chana Mother's Club to host annual Spring Salad Supper on May 5

CHANA—The Chana Mother's Club will host the annual Spring Salad Supper on Monday, May 5 at 6 p.m. at Chana Education Center 204 N. Main St., Chana. Bring your signature salad and be prepared to reminisce. While we do not have a specific program planned, bring any memories, pictures, or questions about our Chana School and the Chana Mother's Club. Especially fun are class pictures, photos from the famous Fun Fairs and objects or trinkets from past years.

Please invite any former moms, teachers, students or interested bystanders to join us as we relax and share the memories. Drinks and table service will be provided. Feel free to call Joyce S. 815-904-5948 Or Linda D. 815-543-3844 if you have any questions.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April 24 Jose Tlapa Lainie Arnold	May 5 John & Kris Oleson (anniversary) Diana Dickey Troy & Minia Waters (anniversary) Abigail Norris	May 7 Barb Aleman Darah Bridgeman	May 16 Kathy Conant
April 26 Evan Jones April 30 Nora Bridgeman Oakley Gonzales	May 6 Abbie Overstreet Kane Cromwell Kevin & Courtney South (anniversary)	May 8 Ashley Martinez	May 17 Krynn Hayward
May 1 Jamey King	May 10 Dominic Lopez	May 12 Bill & Mary Baskins (anniversary)	May 18 Arianna Thompson
May 4 Susan Morris		May 20 Darrell & Beth Bolhous (anniversary)	

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

2025 From The Heart Celebrating 17 Years of Giving

Mar. 28 - Brice Hintzsche, Franklin Grove, \$25
Mar. 29 - Kyle C. Bridgeman, Rochelle, \$25
Mar. 30 - Zach Prewett, Rochelle, \$50
Mar. 31 - Chris Haas, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 1 - Lorita Bertrand, Champaign, \$25
Apr. 2 - Barbra Weist, Sycamore, \$25
Apr. 3 - Edward Jones, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 4 - Melissa Liebe, Dixon, \$25
Apr. 5 - Jay Mulholland, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 6 - Lillian Andrew, Rochelle, \$50
Apr. 7 - Sharon Watkins, Sycamore, \$25
Apr. 8 - Edward Jones, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 9 - Dawn Plock, Leaf River, \$25
Apr. 10 - Pat Fletcher, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 11 - John Bearrows, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 12 - Connor Macklin, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 13 - Linda Ohlinger, Rochelle, \$50
Apr. 14 - Mona Daum, Dixon, \$25
Apr. 15 - Jillian Condon, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 16 - Jayme McCombs, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 17 - Ida Maeial, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 18 - Ellyn Schoenholz, Paw Paw, \$25
Apr. 19 - Marina Lawrence, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 20 - John Bearrows, Rochelle, \$300
Apr. 21 - John Pearson, Lindenwood, \$25
Apr. 22 - Alyssa Perez, Rochelle, \$25
Apr. 23 - Pat Fletcher, Rochelle, \$25

Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Persian Gulf emirate

6 Little lie

9 Chances, for short

12 Winner's gesture

13 "All bets — off"

14 Haw preceder

15 Thesaurus compiler

16 Bach's "Coffee —"

18 Deserves

20 Legal document

21 Salonga of "Miss Saigon"

23 Commotion

24 Deli array

25 Arsenal supply

27 Wear down

29 "Othello" character

31 Indian instruments

35 Mea —

37 Coin aperture

38 Be buoyant

41 — out a living

43 Glacial

44 Hoops great Monroe

45 Ornamental beetle

47 Cheery refrain

49 Arcade pioneer

52 Revue segment

53 Prohibit

54 Serious

55 That lady

56 Walgreens alternative

57 On mom's side

DOWN

1 TiVo, for example

2 Mil. morale booster

3 "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" role

4 Baseball's Tommie

5 Office leader?

6 Element

7 401(k) relatives

8 London's Big —

9 Butler's love

10 — four (small cake)

11 Plane assignments

17 Chirps

19 Perfect

21 Science room

22 Brit. record label

24 1501, in Roman numerals

26 Available for work

28 Japanese seaport

30 Snip

32 "Open sesame" speaker

33 Sinbad's bird

34 Pigs' digs

36 Praline nuts

38 Greek cheeses

39 Coniferous tree

40 Emulate Douglass

42 Obliterate

45 Serb or Croat

46 Heaps

48 "Shark Tank" network

50 Emeritus, briefly

51 Hot temper

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: **B** equals **W**

W O F W B M B F P H F D D X T F I P I P D H
P Q F X L H F N P Q P J D F . X W O X L T
W O F E ' Q F N Q M J P J D E X L P
H P J D F Q F D P W X M L H O X N .

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King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

Answer

The two weasels are inseparable. I think they're probably in a sable relationship.

answer

CryptoQuip

King Crossword

LOCAL NEWS

DOWNTOWN: 'This is... going to bring our downtown to the next level'

From page 1

Due to the city's work downtown, the Cinco De Mayo festival will take place at The REC Center on Saturday, May 3 instead of downtown. Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival will take place at Atwood Park Aug. 15-17 instead of downtown for one year only.

Much of the work will be covered by a Rebuild Illinois Downtowns & Main Street Capital Grant from Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity that the city received in January 2022. The grant amount is for \$1,151,974 and covers parking lot restoration, the construction of two new lots and public restrooms.

"I'm super excited," Pease said. "This is probably one of the bigger things that's going to bring our downtown to the next level. We're working on someone to potentially be able to coordinate events and work on recruiting more events to our downtown. All of the existing events now will be able to save money on renting a stage and portable restrooms. It will help with our existing events and hopefully create even more events. The goal is to create more foot traffic for our downtown businesses. Maybe they expand their hours because there's more people there from an event. This is a big project for us."

The city also has plans for a new mural on a wall that faces the overpass at

ALM Fine Cabinetry, and an urban park near West Fourth Avenue and North Sixth Street at the former site of Vinny's Barbershop.

Pease said the businesses in the downtown area are excited about the planned work, namely because of the addition of public restrooms, which will be the first in the area. The plan is to complete all of the work by summer 2026.

"That would be a great goal to have it all done before the next Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival," Pease said. "This is my 13th year with the city and our downtown looks completely different today. Our city manager, mayor and council are supportive of our ideas and we're lucky to have that."



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

The City of Rochelle has begun work on its downtown project that will include the reconstruction of seven parking lots, the addition of two new parking lots, the construction of a pavilion structure with bathrooms, a stage and storage; and undergrounding of overhead utilities.

PARK BOARD: Skare Park Driving Range now open for 2025 season

From page 1

"Despite a lot of ongoing challenges associated with this field, we've been working diligently on it," Ohlinger said. "So far we've incorporated a total of 10 pallets of turf into the field and we tilled it about six inches deep

and addressed the soil. We then leveled the field to the best of our ability and finished it with our drag and saw some rain and leveled it and dragged it again."

The three fields at Rochelle Middle School will have bases installed to serve as backups for

some of the clay fields that could be unplayable depending on the weather conditions throughout the season.

Driving range

Ohlinger also announced during the meeting that the driving range at Skare Park officially

opened for the season on April 1. Tokens can be purchased at The REC Center and all REC members get a buy-one-get-one discount on tokens.

A controlled burn was also recently completed at the prairies at Skare Park. Spring work has also included turning on water at all park district facilities.

Spring Lake

Park District Director of Recreation Maureen Stevens said during the meeting that preparation to open Spring Lake Pool this summer is underway and "going well." Most seasonal staff for the facility have been hired.

Ohlinger announced back in March that there will be no fee increases for daily admission, pool passes, swim team or swim lessons at Spring



(PHOTO BY JEFF HELFRICH)

Among requests approved Monday was one by the City of Rochelle to use Atwood Park for its fireworks celebration on Saturday, July 5.

Lake Pool for upcoming summer.

Delivery

The park district recently took delivery of a new 2025 Ford F-250 Super Duty truck from Prescott Brothers Ford that it approved for purchase for \$63,668 back in March. The purchase of the truck included a snow plow. The

truck replaced a vehicle sold by the park district at auction in 2021.

The park district also recently took delivery of a new zero turn mower from Johnson Tractor that it approved for purchase in February for \$11,680. The total purchase of the new mower was \$16,860 with a \$5,000 trade in of an existing mower.

**Celebration of LIFE for
Dorene Golt**
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SPORTS



NORTH PARK BOUND

RTHS senior Carson Lewis will play football at North Park next year.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Boys Track & Field

Nuyen ascends to new record height

Junior pole vaulter clears 17 feet during 48th Annual Hub Relays on Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Andrew Nuyen admitted he didn't have the sharpest warmups as he prepared to take the runway for the pole vault competition during the 48th Annual Hub Relays on Saturday.

That didn't hold him back from shattering his own RTHS school record, clearing 5.18 meters (17 feet) to finish in first and obliterate his previous record by a full foot. Despite some uneasiness before the competition started, Nuyen ascended far beyond his previous record, tweaking the distance of his approach on the runway and using a longer pole to achieve his new record.

"I had a bad mental approach coming in and I didn't think I'd clear anything above 15 feet, but I turned it around," Nuyen said. "I was mostly hanging out with my friends and I think that being in a fun environment really pushed me. It was hard to progress throughout the entire competition because my warumps weren't very good, but I started slow and I progressed from there."

Nuyen, who finished first at the meet and helped lead Rochelle to third place with 104 points in the team standings, has set four school

records since the start of his sophomore season. After breaking John Place's 1983 record of 15 feet at the Ogle County Championships last spring, Nuyen cleared 15 feet 11 inches at the Auburn Indoor Invitational in February before breaking the 16-foot barrier during the 2025 Windy City Pole Vault Summit at Rolling Meadows in March.

"I make adjustments during practice, but from a meet perspective, it's a big challenge because it's hard to change what you're used to doing at meets," Nuyen said. "It worked out and I thought the meet gave me a lot of confidence in my long approaches during the outdoor season... I have this feeling that I've proven myself, so I want to ride it out and have as much fun as I can."

Nuyen, who now ranks first in Class 2A, second in the IHSA and ninth nationally in the pole vault, was one of four Hub athletes to win field events during the meet on Saturday. Junior Caden Goodwin took both the long jump and the triple jump, winning with respective leaps of 6.19 (PR) and 12.30 meters. Senior Jack Tilton claimed the high jump with a PR clearance of 1.95 meters for the Hubs, who hosted a coed meet with LaSalle-Peru on Tuesday

evening.

Rochelle finished second in both the 3200-meter relay (Elijah Mayen, Pedro Rosales, Tyler Johnson and Declan McGee) with a time of 8:36.28 and the 440-meter shuttle hurdle relay (Hunter Bivins, Wyatt Worthington, Kenny Overton and Edwin Mendez) with a time of 1:12.75. The Hubs took third in three relay events including the 800-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Virgil O'Dell, Jack Tilton and Richard Pierce in 1:34.93), the 400-meter relay (Caden Goodwin, Virgil O'Dell, Nathan Rosas and Richard Pierce in 44.82) and the 4000-meter distance medley relay (Declan McGee, Jackson Smith, Christopher Hickey and Tyler Johnson in 11:52.72).

Rochelle placed sixth in the 6400-meter relay (Johnny Morales, Eduardo Cisneros, Chris Hickey and Levi Waddle) with a time of 22:16.22 and seventh in the 1600-meter relay (Jackson Smith, Declan McGee, Elijah Mayen and Wyatt Worthington) with a time of 3:48.58. In the individual running events, sophomore Hunter Bivins won the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 42.37 seconds and freshman Tyler Johnson finished second in the 3200-meter run in 10:23.37.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Junior Andrew Nuyen set a new school record in the pole vault during the Hub Relays on Saturday, clearing 5.18 meters (17 feet).

RTHS Girls Soccer



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team hosted an Interstate 8 Conference match against Ottawa on Monday evening. At left, sophomore Cali Zies battles with Ottawa's Jaylah Cortez for the ball. At right, freshman Abigail Dougherty settles the ball as Ottawa defender Taylor Brandt attempts to steal it away.

DeLille scores second-half goal in loss to Ottawa

Freshman forward nets third goal of season as Lady Hubs fall 5-1 on Monday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Freshman forward Morgan DeLille capitalized on a re-directed shot inside the Ottawa penalty box, putting in her third goal of the season to give the Rochelle Lady Hubs a spark early in the second half of their Interstate 8 varsity soccer match against the Pirates. Facing a 3-0 deficit,

Rochelle emerged from the halftime break with renewed energy, using quick passes and controlling the sidelines to pressure the Ottawa defense. The Lady Hubs broke through during the 44th minute, when a shot from freshman midfielder Paige Harris found its way to DeLille, who positioned herself near the goal line and rolled the ball into the net. Rochelle maintained

pressure on the Pirates throughout the early portion of the second half, but the Lady Hubs were unable to add to their total. Although Ottawa went scoreless for almost 40 minutes, the Pirates clinched their victory with a pair of goals late in the second half, scoring in the 73rd and 78th minutes to seal a 5-1 win over Rochelle. The Lady Hubs (6-8, 1-4 Interstate 8) will resume conference play with a road

match against Sycamore at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday.

"I think our younger players are working well with our seniors and our leadership has brought them along nicely," head coach Brad Male said. "I'm looking forward to seeing the younger players get better and our team building that camaraderie as the season moves forward."

While Rochelle entered the second half with a

spark, it was the Pirates who largely dominated the first half. Ottawa (3-6, 2-3 Interstate 8) controlled the ball in the midfield and took advantage of its speed up top, using smart passes inside the Rochelle box to convert goals in the 14th and 29th minutes and take a 2-0 lead. An Ottawa shot from well beyond the box went through the hands of sophomore goalkeeper Yana Bartkiv and into the

Rochelle net in the 37th minute.

"We're working through a few injuries, but overall, I thought we played well but it didn't come out our way," Male said. "In the first half, we started off slower than I would've liked. We can't rely on one person every time and we need to work on playing as a team for the full 80 minutes."

See SOCCER page 8



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HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Carson Lewis will be continuing his academics and his football career at North Park University next year. Lewis was an All-Interstate 8/KRC honoree as a junior.

Lewis commits to play football at North Park University

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Carson Lewis will be heading to the Windy City after graduating from Rochelle Township High School this spring. A two-year varsity starting quarterback for the Hubs, Lewis has committed to continuing his academics and athletics at North Park University next year. Lewis, who said he intends to study business, played four years of football at Rochelle.

"It was just different from being in Rochelle," said Lewis, who visited the campus prior to announcing his commitment on social media last month. "I'll be in Chicago and it's a great opportunity for jobs after college. The campus is beautiful and the coaching staff is good. They're on the rise in their conference and they are going to get better and better... I didn't know if I would play, but the opportunity came and I'm happy that I get to keep playing football."

Lewis became Rochelle's starting quarterback during his junior season, when he threw for 634 yards and seven touchdowns as the signal caller for the team's wing-T offense. Lewis helped lead the Hubs to a 7-3 record and an Interstate 8/Kishwaukee River Blue Division title, the school's first conference title since 2004. As a senior, Lewis threw for 493 yards and six touchdowns as Rochelle went 10-2 overall and reached the IHSA 5A State Quarterfinals.

"I hope I can bring my hard work and leadership and compete with the other players there," Lewis said. "I feel like I bring great leadership on the field. Rochelle gave me a great experience and I got to play quarterback all four years of my high school career. Playing at Rochelle helped me a lot to be able to continue my journey into college. Where I improved the most

was getting stronger and throwing the ball farther. I improved my strength and my knowledge of football."

An accomplished three-sport athlete at RTHS, Lewis earned All-Interstate 8/KRC honors and IHSFCA Academic All-State honors during his junior football season. Lewis, who played four years of basketball and is currently in his fourth year with the baseball team, eclipsed 1,000 career points during his senior basketball season in which he was an All-Interstate 8 Honorable Mention. Lewis has earned Academic All-Interstate 8 honors in each of his three sports.

"I hope I can get faster and stronger in college and I hope to have an even better knowledge of football," Lewis said. "Rochelle football has taught me a lot. We learned how to be relentless and never quit during the game. We don't quit and we just keep going until the game is over."

Lewis played three seasons of varsity basketball and is currently in his second year of varsity baseball at Rochelle. Lewis helped lead the Hubs to 13 wins during his senior basketball season, which concluded in the IHSA 3A Regional Finals. Currently Rochelle's lead-off hitter, Lewis pitches and plays center field for the Hub baseball team, which went 4-3 over its first seven games.

"I really think Carson is a great example of what grit can provide for an athlete," RTHS head coach Kyle Kissack said. "His effort and attitude and toughness to put his head down and work relentlessly to grow his abilities impacted our team in ways that may not have shown up on the stat sheet. Carson responded and delivered in difficult moments and his coachability and his willingness to embrace challenges are something for younger kids in our program to emulate."

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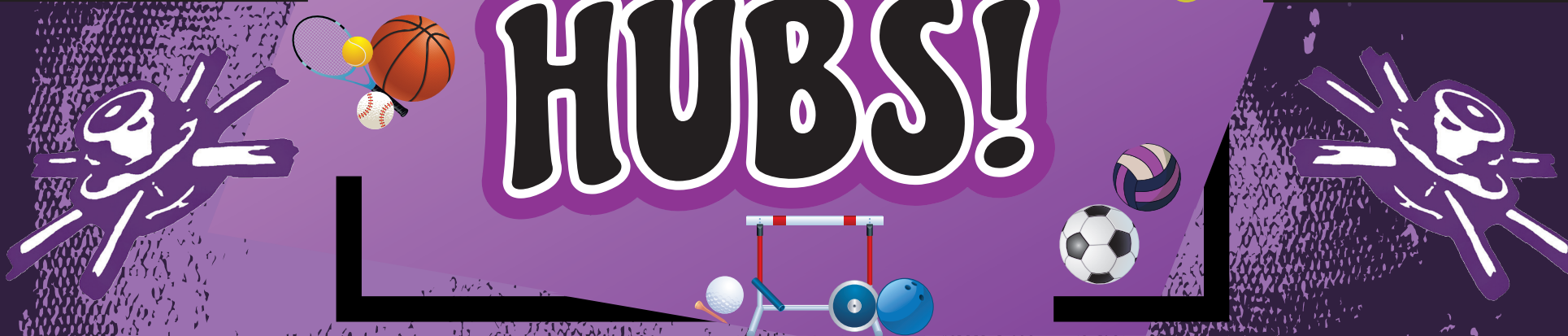
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SPORTS

RTHS Baseball



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Hub baseball team opened its Interstate 8 Conference series against Kaneland on Monday evening. At left, junior Van Gerber fouls off a pitch. At right, sophomore Johnny Andrist takes a lead from first base.

Four-run frames fuel Hubs in road win over Guilford

Rochelle concedes series sweep against Sycamore, falls to Kaneland on Monday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCKFORD — The Rochelle Hubs recorded 12 hits and scored four runs in two different innings during their nonconference varsity baseball matchup against Guilford on Saturday.

Sophomore Brody Bruns reached base four times and collected four RBIs, while senior Brandyn Metzger went 2 for 5 with one double and three RBIs for the Hubs, who snapped a three-game losing streak with a 13-6 win over the Vikings. Junior Brode Metzger went 4 for 5 with one triple, one double and four runs scored for the Hubs (5-5, 0-3 Interstate 8), who hosted Kaneland at 4:30 p.m. on Monday afternoon for the start of a three-game Interstate 8 Conference series.

Rochelle took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning, where Brode Metzger slapped a one-out single before scoring on an RBI double from Bruns, who recorded two extra-base hits in the game. Guilford (5-3, 3-0 NIC-10) tallied two runs in the bottom

of the first inning, where Maddux Lee laced an RBI single up the middle before Riley Kegley's sacrifice fly put the Vikings up 2-1.

Guilford smacked four singles and put six batters on base in the bottom of the second inning, where a wild pitch and an RBI single from Keelan Jones gave the Vikings a 4-1 lead. Facing its largest deficit of the game, Rochelle rallied for three runs in the top of the third inning. Brode Metzger sparked the rally, belting an RBI triple to score senior Carson Lewis, who singled to lead off the frame. Senior Ethan Goodwin followed with an RBI single on the infield and Brandyn Metzger drove Goodwin home on an RBI groundout up the middle, tying the game at 4-4.

The Hubs regained the lead in the top of the fourth inning, tallying four runs on two hits and two Guilford errors. Brandyn Metzger's two-out RBI double through the second-base side capped off the four-run rally for the Hubs, who carried an 8-4 lead into the bottom of the fifth inning, where the Vikings earned one run back on an

RBI single from Lee, who went 3 for 3 in the game.

Sophomore Andrew Huerta reached on a fielder's choice to score Goodwin in the top of the sixth inning, giving the Hubs a 9-5 advantage. Rochelle sealed its win with four runs in the top of the seventh inning, where two hit batters and a two-out single loaded the bases for Bruns, who delivered a three-run triple into deep right-center field to give the Hubs their largest lead. Guilford scratched one run on an RBI single from Max Haddad in the bottom of the seventh.

Goodwin started on the mound for the Hubs, throwing four innings and striking out two batters. Lewis entered in relief, firing the final three frames and striking out three batters.

Kaneland

Sophomore Johnny Andrist was successful on the mound and at the plate as the Rochelle Hubs teed off their Interstate 8 varsity baseball series with Kaneland on Monday.

Andrist earned the start and struck out four batters

over five and one-third innings, holding the Knights to one earned run on five hits. The sophomore also went 2 for 3 with two singles and an RBI to lead the Rochelle offense, which scattered six hits during the team's 6-1 loss. The Hubs (5-6, 0-4 Interstate 8) will continue their conference series at Kaneland on Wednesday evening.

"Johnny has a great arm and when he's in the strike zone, I think he's really tough for teams to hit," head coach Jarrod Reynolds said. "I felt like they were behind him all day and he did a good job of keeping us in the ball game. It's difficult to be a sophomore on varsity, but I think he's going to benefit from this experience and I think he's going to be a really good player."

Kaneland (10-4, 2-1 Interstate 8) capitalized on a pair of Rochelle errors early in the game, scoring an unearned run in the top of the first inning before a trio of singles led to another run in the top of the second inning. Although the Knights threatened for more in the second inning, Andrist escaped

the jam with back-to-back strikeouts. Andrist then shut down the Kaneland offense over the next three frames, limiting the Knights to just two singles during that span.

Trailing 2-0 in the bottom of the second inning, Rochelle scored its first and only run of the evening. Senior Brandyn Metzger ignited the offense with a one-out single and sophomore Andrew Huerta drew a walk in the next at-bat to put two runners on base. A strikeout put Kaneland one out away from ending the inning, but Andrist stepped up and delivered the hit of the game for Rochelle, slapping an RBI single to the shortstop side to bring home Metzger.

The Hubs almost tied the game soon after, as sophomore Dylan Manning singled out of the No. 9 hole in the lineup. But a throw from left fielder Brady Alstott to catcher Nate Campbell caught Huerta advancing home to end the inning and preserve the Kaneland lead. Rochelle put two runners on base in the bottom of the third inning, where senior Carson Lewis reached on

a lead-off single and junior Brode Metzger drew a walk, but three straight outs ended the threat.

"I thought we played with them for most of the game and that's been our thing," Reynolds said. "We have to put a full game together and I think if we can get to the point where we can put a full seven innings together... We're right there on the doorstep and we just need to get over that hump. We did some good things today and we have some little things we need to clean up."

Nolan Claeson's RBI groundout in the top of the sixth inning gave the Knights a 3-1 advantage and set the stage for a breakthrough seventh inning, where Alstott smacked a two-run single and Thomas Thill reached on an infield single for an RBI to put Kaneland ahead by five runs. Andrist pounded a one-out single through the left side in the bottom of the seventh inning, but the sophomore was caught stealing on a strikeout for a game-ending double play.

See BASEBALL pg 8

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The Rochelle News-Leader

SPORTS

RTHS Softball Lady Hubs collect nine hits during loss to Somonauk Rochelle continues Interstate 8 Conference play with defeat at Morris on Monday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE — Nine hits weren't enough for the Rochelle Lady Hubs to overcome a pair of five-run innings from Somonauk during nonconference varsity softball action Friday evening.

Junior Madigan Williams and senior Lauren Dyer combined for five hits to lead the Lady Hubs, who fell behind early and were unable to contain the Bobcat offense, which tallied 14 hits in a 14-2 win over Rochelle. Dyer went 3 for 3 with three singles, while Williams went 2 for 3 with an RBI for the Lady Hubs (3-11,

0-3 Interstate 8), who have now lost eight consecutive games. Rochelle resumed conference play with a road game against Morris at 4:30 p.m. Monday.

Back-to-back singles led to a two-out rally for the Bobcats, who cashed in one run on a bases-loaded walk before an RBI single from Kira Barnes led to three more runs on the Somonauk side. An error on the Lady Hubs, who committed three in the first inning, allowed Kammy Ambler to reach base and Barnes to touch home, giving Somonauk a 5-0 lead.

Dyer smacked a one-out single and sophomore Camryn Metzger drew a

walk in the bottom of the first inning, but a popout to foul territory ended the scoring threat. Somonauk tallied two runs in the top of the third inning, where Ady Werner belted a solo homer to left field before a pair of singles, including an RBI knock from Barnes, gave the Bobcats a 7-0 advantage in the game.

Two doubles and a single enabled Somonauk to score two more runs in the top of the fourth inning. The Lady Hubs threatened in the bottom of the fourth inning, where Metzger and sophomore Emma Hella slapped back-to-back singles, but an out on the bases and a double-play

popup to the second-base side extinguished a promising Rochelle effort.

Sophomore Briel Metzger's lead-off single sparked a two-run frame for the Lady Hubs in the bottom of the fifth inning. A pair of Somonauk errors allowed Metzger to score and an RBI single from Williams enabled sophomore Jaclynn Lira to cross home plate two batters later. Rochelle singled two more times, but another out on the bases and a popout to second ended the threat.

Leading 9-2, Somonauk clinched its win with five runs on four singles and three walks in the top of the sixth inning. Brooke Bahrey

went 4 for 5 with two RBIs to lead the Bobcats, while Barnes went 3 for 4 with three RBIs. Dyer pitched two innings before handing the ball to freshman Mya Martinez, who struck out three batters and pitched the final four innings for the Lady Hubs.

Morris

Senior Lauren Dyer went 2 for 3 with two singles and one run scored to lead the Rochelle Lady Hub offense during Interstate 8 varsity softball action against Morris on Monday.

Despite an efficient plate performance from Dyer, Rochelle was limited to five hits, while Morris

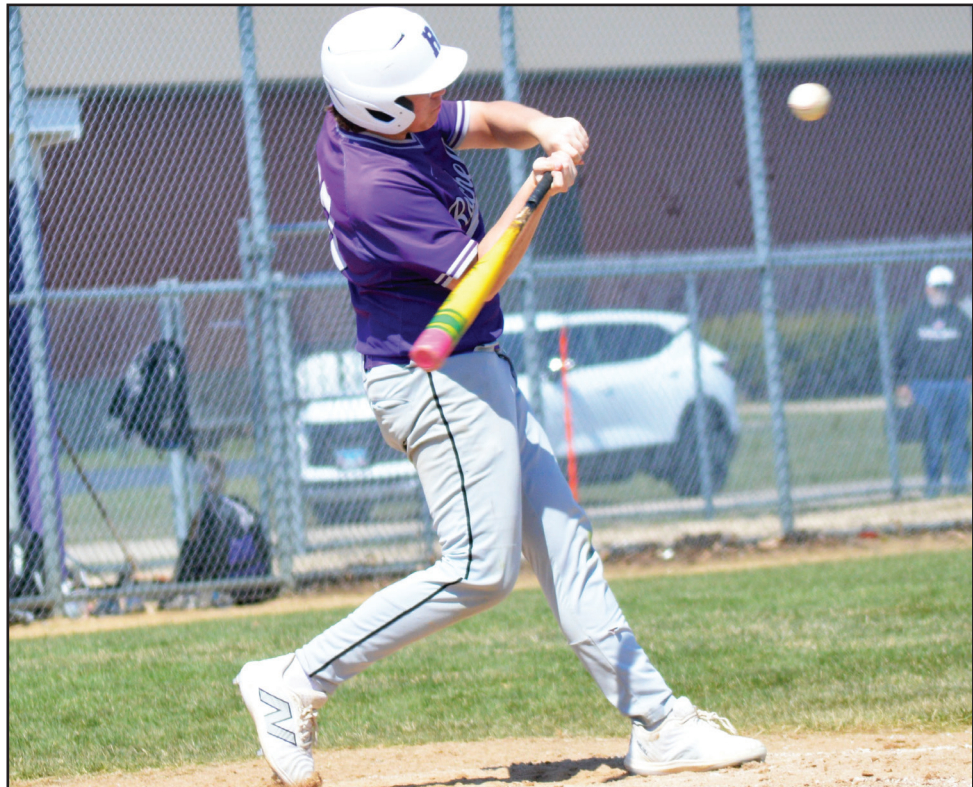
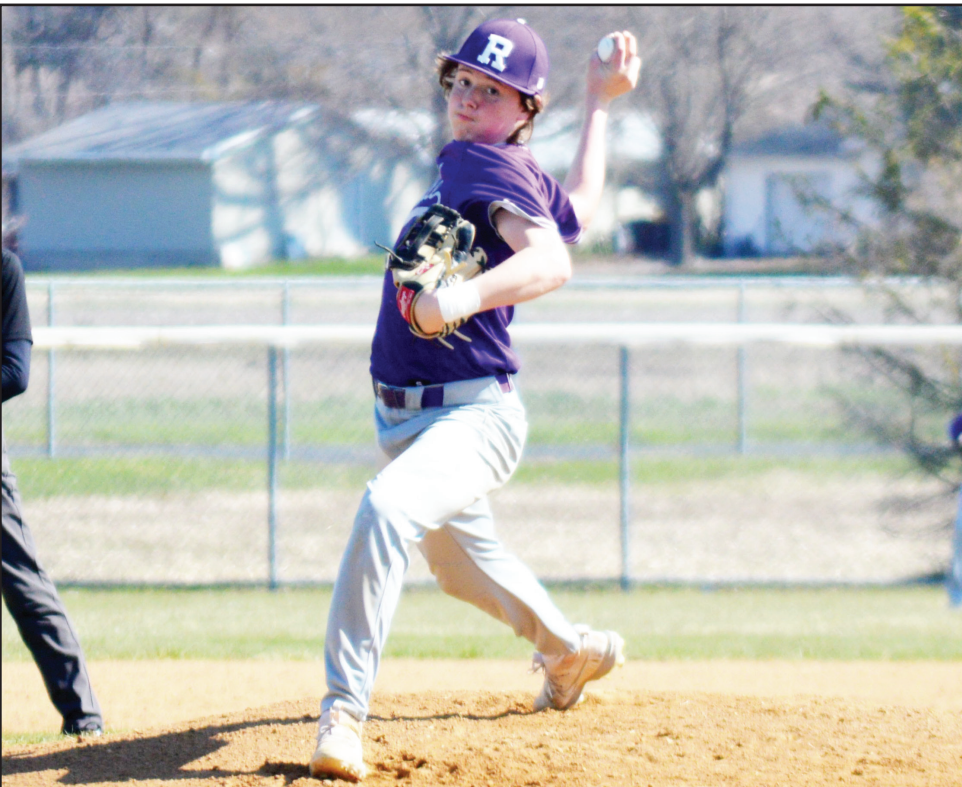
tallied eight runs over the first two innings to hand the Lady Hubs a 13-3 defeat. Sophomore Phelisy Lopez accounted for the team's lone RBI of the evening, finishing 1 for 2 with one single and one walk. Rochelle (3-12, 0-4 Interstate 8) hosted South Beloit on Tuesday.

Morris (11-4, 1-2 Interstate 8) scored three runs in the bottom of the first inning, where Cami Pfeifer smacked an RBI single to right field before two runners, including Pfeifer, touched home on a wild pitch and a passed ball.


See **SOFTBALL** page 8

RTHS Baseball

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)




Rochelle Hub baseball teams battle Streator, Kingdom Prep Lutheran in nonconference action on April 12
The Rochelle Hub sophomore and freshman baseball teams played against nonconference opponents at RTHS on Saturday, April 12. The freshman team scored 21-11 and 15-0 wins over Kingdom Prep Lutheran, while the sophomores fell 15-12 against Streator. Above, sophomores Bobby Tourdot (left) and Trenton Cunningham (right) work on the mound and at the plate. Below, freshman Sebastian Albertson (left) throws a pitch and freshman Holden Liebhaber (right) fields a grounder.



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SPORTS

Youth Baseball

(PHOTOS BY ROBIN RETHWILL)



Rochelle 561 Sluggers 12U baseball team competes in local tournament at Floyd J. Tilton Park on April 12

The Rochelle 561 Sluggers 12U baseball team was among multiple squads taking the field for tournament action at Floyd J. Tilton Park in Rochelle on Saturday, April 12. The 561 Sluggers 12U team played three games, falling 9-4 against Red Devils 12U and 8-4 against Mendota Matadors 12U before bowing out with a 7-6 loss to the Rochelle Rampage 12U squad. Above, Bentley Etes (left) and Landon Johnson (right) fire pitches from the mound. Below, Garrett Miller (left) takes a swing and Cooper Harris (right) pulls back hit bat after a bunt attempt.

RTHS Girls Track & Field

Lady Hubs take third at Freeport Pretzel Invitational

Rochelle wins three field events, scores 115 points during road meet on Saturday

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

FREEPORT — The Rochelle Lady Hub varsity track and field team brought home three field event victories during the Freeport Pretzel Invitational on Saturday. Rochelle finished second in all three relay events and scored 115 points to take third out of six schools in the competition.

Senior Erin Murphy

earned her fourth consecutive shot put victory of the outdoor season, winning with a heave of 11.02 meters. Senior Dempsey Atkinson set a new outdoor PR in the triple jump, winning with a distance of 10.13 meters. Senior Taelynn Rodeghero recorded her first high jump victory of the outdoor season, winning the event with a clearance of 1.42 meters.

Juniors Samantha Overton and Katie Toczylowski

went second and third in the pole vault with clearances of 1.98 and 1.83 meters, respectively. Sophomore Maddie Peska recorded a PR of 22.07 meters to finish fifth in the discus throw, while fellow sophomore Elena Daugherty led the Lady Hubs in the long jump, placing sixth with a distance of 3.87 meters. The Lady Hubs will be back in action Tuesday evening, when Rochelle hosts a head-to-head meet

with LaSalle-Peru.

Rochelle finished second in the 3200-meter relay (Marley Cherry, Bridgett Ramirez, Carol Carpenter and Kyrie Cragin) with a time of 11:29.91. The Lady Hubs also finished second in the 400-meter relay (Ryelee Bogle, Zoe Malley, Valerie Saldana and Katie Toczylowski with a time of 56.81 seconds and the 800-meter relay (Elyse Manning, Kyrie Cragin, Dylan Etes and

Alex Neece) with a time of 1:54.41. Senior Marianna Saldana led Rochelle in the hurdles, taking third in the 100-meter hurdles (19.24 seconds) and second in the 300-meter hurdles (PR of 54.09).

Sophomore Vivian Worthington and freshman Carol Carpenter spearheaded the charge in the distance events, with Worthington earning a PR of 14:37.09 for fourth in the 3200-meter

run and Carpenter nailing a PR of 5:55.67 for fourth in the 1600-meter run. Freshman Marley Cherry (3:01.63) and senior Bridgett Ramirez (3:01.67) each recorded PRs and went sixth and seventh in the 800-meter run. Senior Alex Neece finished sixth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 29.68 and freshman Zoey Schabacker clocked in at 14.12 for 10th in the 100-meter dash.

RTHS Boys Tennis

Winters continues stellar start in road match at Freeport

Hub junior wins singles match as Rochele falls to Pretzels 4-1 on Monday night

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

FREEPORT — Junior Philip Winters continued a stellar start to his season on Monday night, when the Rochelle Hubs took the court for a nonconference varsity match against Freeport.

Winters emerged with a three-set victory at the No. 2 singles court, overcoming a tough loss in the opening set to take down Colin Helm 2-6, 6-1, 6-1. Winters improved to 13-1 overall and 7-1 in singles play for the Hubs, who conceded all three doubles matches and split the two singles points in their 4-1 loss to the Pretzels on Monday. Rochelle (2-3, 1-1 Interstate 8) will resume Interstate 8 Conference action with a road match against Morris at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Junior Mark Green

represented Rochelle at No. 1 singles, taking five games in a 4-6, 1-6 loss against Freeport's Alex Cuatatl. Sophomores Amor Lara and Derek Swartz hung tough in their No. 3 doubles match against Jonathan Escamilla and Christian Ruiz-Palero, nearly winning the second set in a 2-6, 5-7 defeat. Sophomore Noah McKinney and freshman David Eckardt had a promising start to their No. 2 doubles match, falling 4-6, 0-6 to Carlos

Delavin and JC Herrera. Junior Caleb Mortensen and sophomore Sam Sergeant took the court at No. 1 doubles, falling in a 0-6, 0-6 sweep against Diego Robles Sanchez and Caden DeJong.

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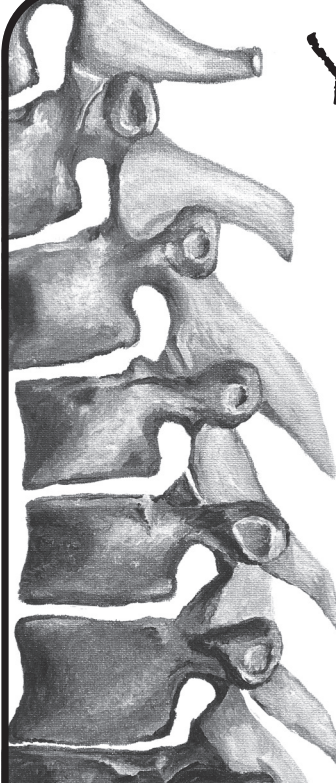


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against Diego Robles Sanchez and Caden DeJong.



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ASHTON NEWS



AFC FFA members travel to SVCC
This week, Ashton-Franklin Center Middle School FFA members travelled to Sauk Valley Community College to attend the Middle School Conference MISSION: Middle School. They worked like detectives within their teams to learn more about FFA, leadership, and teamwork. (Courtesy photo)

AFC baseball team collects wins

ASHTON — The Ashton-Franklin Center varsity baseball team scored a 14-3 win over Hiawatha on Thursday, April 3. Chase Hayes-Hear and Barrett Becker each went 3 for 4 to lead the AFC offense, while Logan O’Brien went 2 for 2 with two RBIs and Justin Henert added two RBIs. Caleb Thomas pitched three and two-thirds innings, striking out four batters in the victory.

The AFC baseball team added a 10-7 win against Lena-Winslow on Saturday, April 5. Logan O’Brien went 3 for 5 with a double and two runs scored, while Chase Hayes-Near went 2 for 3 with a double and two RBIs. Brock Lehman went 2 for 4 with one triple and two RBIs.

AFC earned a 10-0 shut-out win against Amboy on Tuesday, April 8. Caleb Thomas threw all five no-hit innings and struck out 11 batters, while Brock Lehman went 3 for 3 with two RBIs to lead the offense. Brody Ellis, Logan O’Brien and Nolan Rueff each finished with one hit and one RBI.

AFC defeated Amboy for a second time on Thursday, April 10, winning 8-4 behind a 14-strikeout pitching effort from Aaron Lester, who fired six innings for the Raiders. Brody Ellis, Caleb Thomas and Chase Hayes-Near each finished with two hits, while Nolan Rueff had two RBIs.

AFC faced South Beloit on Monday, April 14, falling 14-6 despite Brock Lehman finishing 2 for 2 with three RBIs and two runs scored. Caleb Thomas scored two runs for AFC in the loss.

AFC took a 12-2 loss from Eastland on Tuesday, April 15. Logan O’Brien went 1 for 2 with a home run and one RBI, while Caleb Thomas added an RBI for the Raiders in the loss.

AFC picked up a 10-5 win against Hinckley-Big Rock on Wednesday, April 16. Aaron Lester went 2 for 4 with two RBIs, while Nolan Rueff went 2 for 3 with two RBIs and Justin Henert went 2 for 4 with two RBIs. Brody Ellis, Caleb Thomas, Brock Lehman and Barrett Becker each collected RBIs.

AFC fell 12-2 against Eastland on Friday, April 18. Aaron Lester and Chase Hayes-Near each recorded RBIs for the Raiders, who finished with six hits in the loss. Justin Henert went 2 for 4 with one double.

AFC and Stillman Valley clashed on Saturday, April 19, with the Raiders falling to the Cardinals 10-5. Brody Ellis went 2 for 3 with one RBI, while Justin Henert reached base three times for the Raiders in the loss.

Vials place 1st for AFC in horticulture

ASHTON — On April 9, the Section 2 FFA Horticulture Career Development Event was held and Ashton-Franklin Center School District students participated. Participants were tested on their general knowledge, identified plants, read landscaping plans, judged rings of plants, and classified pests and diseases along with identifying treatment methods. Kate Viall placed first as an individual in the high school division and Elsie Viall placed first in the middle school division.

ISP announces results of alcohol countermeasure enforcement patrols

LEE COUNTY – Illinois State Police (ISP) Troop 1 Commander, Captain Joseph Blanchette, announces the results of Alcohol Countermeasure Enforcement (ACE) patrols in Lee, Whiteside and Winnebago counties during March. These ACE patrols allowed the ISP to focus on preventing, detecting, and taking enforcement action in response to violations associated with impaired driving and illegal transportation or consumption of alcohol or drugs.

Violations: Driving under the influence (DUI) citations: Six. Other alcohol/drug citations: Eight. Occupant restraint offenses: 16. Registration offenses: 40. Driver’s license offenses: 22. Insurance violations: 11. Total citations: 181. Total arrests: 19. Total written warnings: 47.

Alcohol and drug impairment are estimated to be a factor in more than 47% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in Illinois. There is one alcohol-related traffic fatality every 39 minutes in the United States. The ACE program allows officers to work even harder at removing dangerous DUI offenders from the road. This project is funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Lee County Sheriff’s Office announces sentencing in meth distribution case

DIXON – The Lee County Sheriff’s Office is proud to announce the successful resolution of a significant narcotics investigation that led to the arrest and subsequent sentencing of 47-year-old James L. Ballard. The investigation, which culminated in a search warrant executed on June 30, 2024, at 320 S. Canal Drive in rural Dixon, resulted in multiple charges against Ballard relating to the distribution and possession of methamphetamine.

Ballard was charged with: methamphetamine delivery 100<400 grams (a class X felony); methamphetamine delivery 15<100 grams (a class X felony); methamphetamine delivery 5<15 grams (a class-one felony); and possession of methamphetamine 15<100 grams (a class-one felony). On April 3, 2025, James Ballard pleaded guilty to the charge of methamphetamine delivery 15<100 grams, a class-X felony. As a result, Ballard was sentenced to 10 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

The Lee County Sheriff’s Office was assisted by the Illinois State Police - Blackhawk Area Task Force.



James L. Ballard
Citizens are reminded to call the Lee County Sheriff’s Office at (815) 284-6631 or Crime stoppers at 1-888-CAUGHT-U. Callers can remain anonymous and receive rewards of up to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

ISP announces results of recent distracted driving enforcement, OREP in Lee County

LEE COUNTY – Illinois State Police (ISP) Troop 1 Commander, Captain Joseph Blanchette, announces the results of Distracted Driving Enforcement Program patrols held in Lee, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties during March 2025. This program provided extra patrol coverage for ISP officers to focus on saving lives and reducing serious crashes by enforcing distracted driving laws.

Violations: Hand-held phone/device citations: 23. Texting while driving citations: five. Other types of distracted driving citations: Zero. Total distracted driving citations: 28. Total distracted driving written warnings: Zero. Total of all citations: 63. Total of all written warnings: Eight.

This project was funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.



OREP
Illinois State Police (ISP) Troop 1 Commander, Captain Joseph Blanchette, announces the results of Occupant Restraint Enforcement Patrols (OREP) held in Lee, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago counties during March. These OREPs provided extra patrol coverage for the ISP so officers could focus on saving lives by making sure all vehicle occupants were buckled up.

Violations: Safety belt citations: 14. Child restraint citations: Zero. Total citations: 33. Total written warnings: Five.

Most motorists know safety belts save lives, but some ignore their safety and that of their families by neglecting to use safety belts and child restraint devices. These patrols reinforce the occupant protection message by focusing on those who ignore the law. Lives can be saved if people simply “buckle up!” This project was funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MIRDZA KALNINS, Deceased.
NO. 2025PR27
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of MIRDZA KALNINS, of Mount Morris, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 3, 2025, to LILY A. WELP, whose address is 421 S. McKendrie Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054, and whose at-

torneys are Fearer, Nye & Chadwick, 420 4th Avenue, PO Box 117, Rochelle, IL 61068. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at Ogle County Courthouse, Oregon, IL 61061, or with the representative, or both, no later than October 9, 2025, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
FEARER, NYE & CHADWICK, Attorneys for LILY A. WELP, Executor of the Estate of

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF OGLE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JACKIE D. KERNS, Deceased.
NO. 2025-PR-26
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of JACKIE D. KERNS, of Creston, Ogle County, Illinois. Letters of Office as Co-Executors were issued on April 3, 2025, to TERESA A. KUEHL whose address is 6422

S. Beck Road, Box 173 Creston, Ogle County, Illinois; SANDRA K. HOTT whose address is 24175 S. First Street, Sycamore, DeKalb County, Illinois; and MICHAEL D. KERNS, whose address is Box 198, Creston, Ogle County, Illinois, and whose attorneys are Hewitt & Wagner, 1124 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, Ogle County, Illinois, 61068. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Ogle County, Oregon, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, no later than six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this claim

notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Hewitt & Wagner Attorneys at Law
For the Executors of the Estate of Jackie D. Kerns, deceased
No. 0408
(April 9, 16, and 23, 2025)

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 Plan-

ning and Zoning Commission of the Village of Creston upon the application for a variance of the ROBERT FERIS ESTATE, relating to the property located at, within the Village of Creston (Parcel ID: 25-23-204-004), legally described as follows: S 25 FT LOT 2 & ALL LOT 3 BLK 18 VIL OF CRESTON
This application is filed for the purpose of requesting a variance to allow for a reduction of the required setback from 25 feet to 7 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 7:00 p.m. on May 8, 2025, at the Village of Creston Hall, 110 N Main St, at which time and place any person wanting to be heard may be present.
Reid Elliot, Chair
Planning and Zoning Commission Village of Creston
No. 0419
(April 23, 2025)

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Applicants must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver's license, proof of insurance and a safe driving record. Drivers will use company vehicles when delivering, and will be trained on the respective routes.

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SPORTS



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

The Rochelle Lady Hub soccer team hosted Ottawa for an Interstate 8 Conference match on Monday evening. At left, senior Betty Flores holds off Ottawa attacker Jaylah Cortez. At right, freshman Paige Harris races Ottawa's Georgia Kirkpatrick for the ball.

SOCCKER: Lady Hubs finish with four shots on goal in loss to Ottawa

From page 1

DeLille's goal in the 44th minute brought the Lady Hubs within two, but the Pirates held out long enough to regain control of the mid-field and reapply pressure on the Rochelle defense. Ottawa made multiple runs at the net during the second half, but stingy defense from the Lady Hubs, led by senior center back Betty Flores, as well as clutch saves from Bartkiv, who totaled 11 in the match, allowed Rochelle to keep the Pirates out of the goal until the game's final minutes.

Ottawa ultimately broke the line late in the second half, capitalizing on a pair of through balls to seal the Interstate 8 victory. The Pirates posted 16 shots, all of which were on goal, while the Lady Hubs finished with 12 shots and four shots on goal.

BASEBALL: Rochelle concedes Interstate 8 sweep against Sycamore

From page 3

Sycamore

A brief rally in the fifth inning quickly went wayward for the Rochelle Hubs, who saw their game-tying effort spoiled by an eight-run outburst during their Interstate 8 Conference varsity baseball series finale against the Sycamore Spartans on the road Friday evening.

Sophomore Andrew Huerta delivered a key at-bat for the Hubs in the top of the fifth inning, smacking an RBI single to center field that brought home the game-tying run and evened the score at 4-4. But the Spartans took the game over in the bottom half of the inning, capitalizing on five walks and three base hits to tally eight runs and ultimately hand Rochelle a 13-4 loss.

Rochelle loaded the bases in the top of the first inning, where senior Brandyn Metzger drew a walk to move home the first run of the game. Davis Collie tied the game for Sycamore, hitting an RBI single into center during the bottom half of the inning. The Hubs responded in the top of the second inning, taking a 2-1 lead when sophomore Johnny Andrist scored on a passed ball.

Adam Eder's sacrifice fly in the bottom of the second made the score 2-2 before the Spartans took the lead on Sawyer Valdez's RBI single in the bottom of the third inning. Sycamore (8-4, 3-0 Interstate 8) tacked on another run in the bottom of the fourth inning, where Kyle Prebil reached on an infield single that allowed lead-off hitter Tyler Lojko to cross home plate.

An error and a single led to two runs for the Hubs in the top of the fifth inning, where Huerta's RBI single evened the score at 4-4 before Sycamore's eight-run rally turned the tide of the game. Tyler Townsend and Henry Hamingson recorded back-to-back two-run hits to cap off the eight-run frame for the Spartans, who added one run on two singles and an error in the bottom of the sixth inning. Senior Carson Lewis went 2 for 4 to lead the Rochelle offense in the loss.

SOFTBALL: Lady Hubs held to five hits during defeat at Morris

From page 4

The Lady Hubs earned a run back in the top of the second inning, scoring after Lopez drew a walk and crossed home on a wild pitch one batter later.

A two-out error on Rochelle ignited a five-run rally for Morris in the bottom of the second inning. Haile Olson sparked the rally, belting an RBI triple to left field before Karson Dransfeldt followed with an RBI single in the next Morris at-bat. Mylie Hughes capped off the five-run frame with a three-run homer to left field. Freshman Mya Martinez nearly drove a run home on a single in the top of the third inning, but a play at the plate resulted in the third and final out for Rochelle.

The Lady Hubs came through in the top of the fourth inning, making the score 8-3 after Dyer slapped a lead-off single and sophomore Camryn Metzger doubled on a fly ball to center. After Dyer scored Rochelle's second run of the game, Lopez laid down a bunt to the third-base side, reaching on the infield single while driving home Metzger to cut the Morris lead to five runs.

Morris answered with two runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, where an untimely error in right field allowed both Olson and Dransfeldt to score and put the Lady Hubs behind 10-3. Two more Rochelle errors enabled Morris to add a pair of runs in the bottom of the fifth inning. Macie Ferguson clinched the Morris victory with a walk-off RBI double in the bottom of the sixth.

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