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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

\$ 1

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New market

Koolidge acquires new
market for radio show. See
page 9

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY
HIGH LOW
24 22

THURSDAY
HIGH LOW
34 12

FRIDAY
HIGH LOW
16 1

SATURDAY
HIGH LOW
11 -10

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OBITUARIES

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Innovative reading program leads to 100 percent success at Steward School

STEWARD — Many concerns in the education world have arisen over the last year. Time and time again we keep hearing the phrase “students are falling behind.” The good news is that the students at Steward Elementary School are not “falling behind” in reading during the pandemic. Steward School students are evaluated at least twice each quarter to determine their reading levels. All of this comes as no surprise to the teaching staff and administration.

In fact, since August of 2015, when the administration gave the green light to teachers to try an unconventional and innovative framework for reading instruction, the student reading levels and achievement have been steadily climbing. In traditional reading instruction, all students in a grade level read out of the same textbook, regardless of students’ individual reading abilities. Students are grouped based on grade level and have little chance to read material

they find interesting and engaging.

In August of 2016, students in grades 2 through 6 were assessed to determine their actual reading levels. Just 10 of the 32 students (31 percent) were reading at or above their expected level. The students were then put in small groups depending on skill level at that time rather than grade levels. Instruction was given to these small groups using books that were at an appropriate reading level for the members of the group. Students’ reading levels were assessed every few weeks, and the small groups were rearranged accordingly. After one semester of this type of reading instruction, 17 of the 32 students (53 percent) were reading at or above their expected level. The efforts of teachers and students, intelligently applied created a 71 percent increase in students reading at grade level.

See **READ** page 2

Lame Duck look back: How criminal justice bill would overhaul officer certification

New standards will determine who can become law enforcement in Illinois

BY RAYMON TRONCOSO

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS/RTRONCOSO@CAPITOL-
NEWSILLINOIS.COM

Editor’s note: This story is part of an ongoing “Lame Duck Look Back” series in which Capitol News Illinois is following up on the major bills that passed both chambers of the General Assembly in the Jan. 8-13 lame duck session. This is one of several stories examining the criminal justice reform backed by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus.

SPRINGFIELD – A criminal justice package that passed both chambers of the General Assembly last month contains provisions that would grant the state increased power over police discipline and standards of conduct starting in 2022.

The omnibus package, which was backed by Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, has not yet arrived at the desk of Gov. JB

Pritzker, although he has said he looks forward to reviewing the bill which needs only his signature to become law.

Pritzker campaigned on several issues in the bill and indicated his support, but has not yet said directly that he will sign it.

One of the more controversial provisions in the bill would expand the scope of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, or ILETSB, which currently oversees training and grant programs for law enforcement and correctional officers throughout the state.

Police certification standards would be made more robust under the legislation, with law enforcement officers placed into three categories: active, inactive and decertified. Only those with an active certification from ILETSB can be legally employed at an Illinois agency in a law enforcement capacity.

A decertified officer has 30 days to file a motion with the board for reconsideration, and all decertifications are subject to judicial review. Once an officer is formally decertified, they are prohibited from ever regaining certification.

Each officer will be responsible for keeping their certification active by submitting verification forms to ILETSB every three years to confirm they’ve completed all mandatory training and have no disciplinary actions taken against them that would result in decertification.

Under current Illinois law, officers can only lose their certification under very narrow circumstances. They must either be convicted of a felony or a limited list of “decertifiable misdemeanors” such as offering a bribe, theft and prostitution.

From 2009 to 2014, Illinois decertified 64 officers. Over the same period of time, Florida decertified 2,125 officers and Georgia decertified 2,800.

See **OVERHAUL** page 10

Plans underway for Focus House supper

BY JENNIFER SIMMONS
MANAGING EDITOR

ROCHELLE — After having to cancel what would have been the Foundation for Focus House’s 20th annual spaghetti supper last year due to COVID, the foundation hopes that this year’s event — which has been revamped to accommodate new COVID guidelines — will be more successful than in years past.

This year’s event will feature a drive-thru supper, online auction and a lunch delivery option on April 14.

“We decided to offer a lunch delivery option this year and will be having the dinner with a drive-thru format instead of the standard sit down format of the past,” Executive Director for Foundation for Focus House Jeni Hardin said.

The lunch and dinner will include spaghetti with homemade sauce, French bread, salad with



choice of Ranch or French dressing and dessert with choice of fruit pie or cake.

Lunch delivery will be available from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and is by pre-order only. Dinner tickets are available in advance or the day of the dinner as well.

Tickets can be purchased for \$8 each by contacting Hardin at jhardin@oglecounty.org or calling 815-562-5881, extension 433. Payment can be made with cash, check or credit card.

“The money raised from the spaghetti supper fundraiser will go directly to the needs of the youth at Focus House,” Hardin said.

“Some examples of things the funds will cover are hygiene items, clothing, winter weather needs, books and games, appliances and supplies needed for the homes and minor maintenance and repairs at the homes. Having to cancel both of our main fundraisers last year, we took a big hit on our donations coming in and funds that help the youth and the programs at Focus House.”

Along with the supper, an online auction is also being put together. Sponsorships and auction items are being accepted as well. Anyone interested can contact Hardin for more information.

Focus House is a shelter care facility that has been operating in Ogle County since 1975. The facility serves primarily in-county youth that need residential treatment, but over the years, Focus House has also taken out-of-county youth as well.

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LOCAL NEWS

Lincoln Presidential Library joins with State Board of Education for art contest

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois children can showcase their artistic talents and consider the importance of art in our lives, thanks to a statewide art contest sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The theme of the contest is “Art Surrounds Us.” Illinois students from kindergarten through high school can let their imaginations run wild to create original works of art reflecting what the theme means to them.

Judging

Judging will occur across four levels: kindergarten through second, third through fifth, sixth through eighth, and 9-12. In each level a winner and three runners-up will be selected, and one piece will be selected as “Best in Show.”

The 16 top designs will be displayed by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and a single winner will be used as a poster sent to all schools during Illinois Arts Education Week, March 15-19, 2021.

Deadlines

Artwork may be submitted now through Feb. 12. The winners will be announced in conjunction with Illinois Arts Education Week. The winner of “Best

in Show” will also be recognized at an ISBE Board meeting and a framed copy of their work will hang in the Board office.

“We chose ‘Art Surrounds Us’ as the theme this year because of the stories we’ve heard about people finding comfort and inspiration in the arts during the pandemic,” said ALPLM Education Director Heather Nice. “We hope it encourages students to see the world differently, looking for patterns and beauty in the everyday experience – or maybe to highlight the fantastical worlds that surround them via their imaginations.”

Submissions

Submissions must be 11 inches by 14 inches and two dimensional. They cannot feature copyrighted characters or images. More details are available at bit.ly/ALPLM-ArtContest.

“ISBE is excited to highlight all areas of student learning, including the area of fine arts,” said ISBE’s director of student care, Molly Uhe-Edmonds. “The fine arts allow students to demonstrate their unique talents. These students will go on to be well-rounded individuals who are able to view the world through a creative lens.”

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, at 212 N. 6th St.

in Springfield, is dedicated to telling the story of America’s 16th president through old-fashioned scholarship and modern technology.

The library holds an unparalleled collection of Lincoln books, documents, photographs, artifacts and art, as well as millions of other items pertaining to Illinois history. Meanwhile, the museum uses traditional exhibits, eye-catching special effects and innovative story-telling techniques to educate visitors.

More information

For more information, visit www.presidentlincoln.illinois.gov or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The mission of the Illinois State Board of Education is to provide leadership and resources to achieve excellence across all Illinois districts by engaging legislators, school administrators, teachers, students, parents, families and other stakeholders in formulating and advocating for policies that enhance education, empower districts and ensure equitable outcomes for all students. Its vision of Illinois is a state of whole, healthy children nested in whole, healthy systems supporting communities wherein all people are socially and economically secure.



READ: Levels at 100 percent

From page 1

After the 2016-17 school year, the small group framework was expanded to include first grade and some seventh and eighth grade students. Students were also given more choice about what books they would read as long as the books were within their instructional levels. As students progressed through the reading program their reading levels continued to improve. At the end of the 2017-18 year, 51 of 59 students (89 percent) were reading at or above their targeted level. By the end of the 2018-2019 school year the number was 46 of 49 (94 percent).

“As of January 2021, 100 percent of Steward School students in second through eighth grade are reading at or above the expected levels that were established before the pandemic,” School

Superintendent Lowell Taylor said. “In other words, despite the hardships beginning last spring, our students continue to thrive and we are confident that any students that may fall behind will get caught up quickly in this program.”

“An administration that empowers innovative teaching helps students reach their full potential. A teaching staff supported by that administration and willing to go the extra mile to construct their own curriculum for the benefits of their students, will continue to showcase the growth of students even during challenging times.

“As a staff we want parents and families to know how extraordinary it is for a school to be able to say, with evidence-based proof, that 100 percent of students read at or above grade level and we are proud of the tremendous student progress.”

Regional spelling bee set for Feb. 18

DIXON — The Lee-Ogle-Whiteside Re-

gional Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, Feb. 18 at Dixon High School. Sponsors are Sauk Valley Media, 1st National Bank in Amboy, and Lee-Ogle-Whiteside Regional Office of Education. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Spelling Bee will not be open to the public but only to parents of participants.

Five finalists from the Lee-Ogle-Whiteside elementary and middle school students in grades fifth through eighth will

compete for the regional championship. The winner receives an all-expense paid trip to National Harbor, Maryland to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee at the end of May.

Prizes include Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, Amazon.com gift cards, 2021 United States Mint Proof Set, Encyclopedia Britannica online subscription, medals, and pin.



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Ogle County COVID-19 Weekly Update

As of Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Number Vaccinated: 4,417

Vaccinating Phase 1b: Essential frontline workers and people ages 65+.

If you are age 65+, please pre-register online at health.oglecounty.org.

Watch for additional vaccine pre-registration information for those that do not have access to a computer.

We are all working together to vaccinate our county as quickly as we can. Please be patient as we work through this process.

Ogle County COVID-19 Statistics*

Positive Cases:	4,693
Recovered Cases:	4,577
Deaths:	64
Current Active Cases:	116
Positivity Rate:	5.5%

*Most current statistics available.

STATE NEWS

GOP members hope to block new teacher standards

Proposed 'culturally responsive' educator standards up for review Feb. 16

BY PETER HANCOCK

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS/PHAN-COCK@CAPITOLNEWSILLINOIS.COM

SPRINGFIELD—Republican Illinois state lawmakers are pushing back on proposed new standards for teachers and administrators that are scheduled for a hearing before a legislative rulemaking committee later this month.

Supporters of the proposed "Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards" say they're merely an attempt to make sure that all educators are trained in ways to reach students across all racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. But critics are calling them a form of political indoctrination that seeks to inject partisan, liberal ideology into the classroom.

The new standards would apply to teacher training programs at Illinois colleges and universities rather than K-12 school curricula. They are scheduled to come up for legislative review on Tuesday, Feb. 16, before the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, or JCAR, a legislative body that has oversight authority over state regulatory agencies.

If approved, the standards would take effect in October 2025 in order to give state-approved educator preparation programs ample time to incorporate them, according to a statement from the Illinois State Board of Education.

ISBE also noted it will "offer optional professional development on the standards to current educators," but school districts "maintain local control over what professional development they choose."

During a virtual news conference Monday, three



Republican Reps. Tom Demmer, Steve Reick and Adam Niemerg speak during a virtual news conference to criticize new standards for Illinois teachers and administrators being proposed by the Illinois State Board of Education. (Credit: Zoom.us)

Republican House members said they hope JCAR will block the adoption of the proposed rules.

"You know, across the country and around the world, we've seen politics be injected in more and more parts of our lives. And the litmus test of 'is someone progressive enough or not' has come up time and time again," said Rep. Tom Demmer, R-Dixon. "Unfortunately, the rule that's being offered by the state board of education today, around culturally responsive teaching standards, is really just an attempt to impose further progressive politics into our education system, instead of focusing on the things that we know teachers, administrators, students and families across Illinois need."

Demmer was joined in the news conference by GOP Reps. Steven Reick, of Woodstock, and Adam Niemerg, of Dieterich. Demmer and Reick both serve on JCAR.

Reick pointed specifically to a portion of the new standards that call on teachers to "understand and value the notion that

multiple lived experiences exist, that there is not one 'correct' way of doing or understanding something, and that what is seen as 'correct' is most often based on our lived experiences."

He also pointed to another provision calling on teachers to "(a)ssess how their biases and perceptions affect their teaching practice and how they access tools to mitigate their own behavior (racism, sexism, homophobia, unearned privilege, Eurocentrism, etc.)"

Another provision calls on educators to "(b)e aware of the effects of power and privilege and the need for social advocacy and social action to better empower diverse students and communities."

"Let's be clear. This rule is not an improvement to education," Reick said. "It's an attempt to interject politics into the classroom. The standards that ISBE wants to impose are beyond misguided. Requiring certain political viewpoints in our school systems is simply unacceptable."

JCAR is a 12-member

group that is evenly divided between House and Senate members and between Democrats and Republicans. Its main function is to review proposed agency rules to make sure they do not conflict with state law and to make sure administrative rules reflect the General Assembly's intent when it passed a law authorizing such rules.

In most cases, the panel makes a finding of "no objection," meaning the agency is free to adopt the final rule. Occasionally, when JCAR members have some concerns about a proposed rule, they will vote to make a "recommendation" that the agency go back and clarify a point or tighten up its language.

But JCAR also has authority to issue an "objection" to a proposed rule if enough members believe it is inconsistent with state law, that it would have an adverse economic impact on small businesses, municipalities or nonprofit organizations, or that it fails to meet some standard or requirement of the Illinois Administrative Procedures Act.

"Cultural responsiveness is inclusive of all of the experiences our educators, students, and families bring to the classroom."

The state of Illinois administers standardized tests each year in English language arts and math to students in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school.

According to scores from the 2019 tests, the most recent scores available, only 37.4 percent of all students met or exceeded the state's standards for English language arts. That included 47.7 percent of all white students but only 25.6 percent of Hispanic students and 17.7 percent of Black students.

In math, only 32 percent of all students met or exceeded the state's standards, including 41.7 percent of white students, 20.4 percent of Hispanic students and 11.8 percent of Black students.

Republicans at Monday's news conference said that's an indication that schools need to focus more on teaching basic reading, writing and math skills, not on cultural sensitivity lessons. But Ayala argued that the two go hand-in-hand.

"As we help students recover from learning loss due to the pandemic, giving our teachers opportunities to learn about effective, equitable, and research-based strategies like cultural responsiveness could not be more important," she said. "Every student deserves to feel welcomed, included, and accepted at school. Students are more engaged when they see their cultures represented in what they learn at school."

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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

Sharon Castle

LOS OSOS, Calif. — Sharon L. Castle of Los Osos, California, passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 22, 2021 at the age of 83.

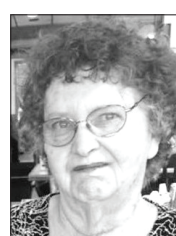
Sharon spent her life not only as a business owner but managed to be fully involved in her family. She will be greatly missed by her children, Kirsti and Rich Rose of Morro Bay, California, Vaughn and Cindy Castle of Visalia,



California, Maleah and Blake Chaffee of Arroyo Grande, California, and Shawneen and Michael Arreguin of Rochelle; grandchildren, Taylor Nisbet, Kyle and Heather Arreguin, Vaughn Castle, Alise Nisbet (Larry Haynes), Brian and Adam Funderburgh, Troy (Melissa Doe) Arreguin, Walter Chaffee (Maegan Stewart), Anna and John Frady and Matthew Rose; great-grandchildren, William, Lucas, Kylie, Kaia, Halle, Savannah and in our hearts, Baby Barrett.

ROCHELLE — Donna Jean Bear, 77, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021 at the Rochelle Rehabilitation Center in Rochelle.

Donna was born on Dec. 20, 1943 in Batesville, Indiana, the daughter of Charles E. and Ada E. (Morrison) Rork. On Dec. 19, 1961, she married Robert Lee Bear in Ripley County, Indiana. After 55 years of marriage, he preceded her in death on June



10, 2017.

In addition to her parents, she is also predeceased by her son, Scott.

Donna enjoyed crocheting, embroidery, watching TV and listening to music. She especially loved going to church each week.

Donna is survived by her children, Crystal Bear, Bobby Bear and Mike (Juana) Bear; 11 grandchildren, Lisa, Katie, Jessie, Rachel, Daniel, Dustin, Carrie, Kenny, Destiny, Michael and Angelica; six great-grandchildren;

her sister, Sharon; and many nieces and nephews.

The visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5 at the Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 North Sixth Street, Rochelle. The funeral service will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5 with Pastor Lowell Woolbright officiating. The service will be live streamed on the Unger-Horner Funeral Home Facebook page. Burial will follow at Trinity Memory Gardens in Rochelle.

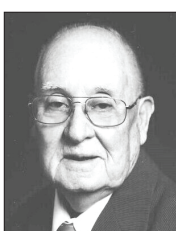
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James Cox

ALBANY, Mo. — James Bert Cox, 84, of Albany, Missouri and a former resident of Rochelle, passed away Jan. 27, 2021 at his home.

Jim was born Dec. 22, 1936 in Washington, Nebraska, the son of Thomas A. and May (Crom) Cox. His parents preceded him in death.

Jim graduated from King City High School, King City, Missouri, class of 1954. On Dec. 25, 1954, he was united in marriage to Normajean Shaffer. They lived in Parkville, Missouri, moving to Rochelle, in 1962. While living in Rochelle, Jim was



a computer programmer for his own business, Jim's Computer Service. He also worked for Rochelle City Municipal Utilities as a safety director. In 1999, Jim and Normajean moved to Albany. Normajean passed away May 26, 2009.

Jim was a member of the Golden K Kiwanis Club in Rochelle and a member of the Albany First Baptist Church.

On June 26, 2010, he married Rosemary Stevens. She preceded him in death June 9, 2020.

He enjoyed attending auctions, playing cards, writing inspirational messages, and sharing them, an avid sports fan of the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals and took great pride in

restoring the historical Perry Home in Albany.

Survivors include his children, Beverly Wiginton of Franklin Grove, Janice (Ray) Nelson of Wauconda, Joseph (Sandy) Cox of Machesney Park, Betty (Marc) Van Tassel of DeKalb, stepdaughter, Ginger (Brian) Summa of Darlington, Missouri; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Private family services will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Albany Senior Center in care of the Roberson-Polley Chapel, 403 N. Hundley, Albany, MO 64402.

Online condolences can be made at www.robersonpolleychapel.com.

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.

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FRANKLIN GROVE — Donald E. Hillison, 92, of Franklin Grove, passed away, at Generations at Neighbors, Byron. Don was born Jan. 25, 1929, in Amboy, the son of Henry E. and Mildred (Gleim) Hillison. He attended school in Lee Center.

Don married the love of his life, Dorothy J. Hussey on Sept. 14, 1948 at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin Grove and have

been happily married for 72 years. He was a life-long farmer in Franklin Grove area raising corn, soybeans and Charolais Cattle. Don enjoyed traveling with his wife and several very close friends. He especially enjoyed hunting and being a life-time member of the Ferrell's Northwinds Goose Club in Marian.

Don was a devoted husband to his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He spent many hours sitting on hardwood bleachers supporting local teams, his grandchildren and great-granddaughters.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; children Tom (Susan) Hillison, Susan (Dave) Coers; grandchildren, Angie (John) Shrimplin, Shane Coers, Krista (Zach) Finifrock, Scott (Ellie) Hillison; great-grandchildren, Emily Shrimplin, Callie

Jo Shrimplin, Henry Finifrock; brother, Delbert (Connie) Hillison. Donald was preceded in death by his parents, and sisters Fern Josephson and Marilyn Engelbarts.

A graveside service will be at held 11 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 4 with Pastor Jack Briggs, officiating at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established.

Arrangements were completed by Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon. Condolences may be sent to www.prestonschilling.com.

Donald Hillison



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BLOOMINGTON — Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) members, spouses and children are eligible to apply for 78 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. The scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, will be awarded in total of \$124,000 for the 2021-22 school year.

"We are pleased to recognize students through our growing scholarship program," said Jennifer Smith, Development Manager, IAA Foundation. "It is a privilege to support the next generation of leaders and encourage degrees in agriculture related fields."

Students may apply for a variety of scholarships, including three IAA Foundation Top Scholarships, where winners will each receive \$5,000 awards. Another \$7,500 award goes to the Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership scholarship winner. In addition to family scholarships often established to honor the memory of a loved one, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of organizations such as Prairie Farms Dairy. For 2021, the IAA Foundation is honored to administer the newly created Sara C. Andrews Memorial Scholarship and the H.R. Beeson Scholarship.

All applicants must be current high school seniors accepted for enrollment, or students already enrolled, at an accredited college, or university. Scholarships are awarded for exceptional academics, leadership experiences and community involvement. Previous winners of an IAA Foundation scholarship are eligible to apply again if the scholarship allows.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines is available on the Foundation website, www.iaafoundation.org. NEW TIMELINE: The application opens January 1, 2021 and must be completed online by February 15, 2021.

For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at 309-557-2232, or e-mail Jennifer Smith at jsmith@ifb.org.

The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.

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LOCAL NEWS

Deputies arrest man for domestic battery

On Jan. 27 at 9:27 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 39 at Twombly Road for a traffic offense. After a short investigation, deputies arrested Mario Galeas-Flores 30 of Cleveland, Texas, for no valid driver's license. Galeas-Flores was released on scene with a return court date of Feb. 10.

On Jan. 27 at approximately 12:26 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one vehicle accident with no injuries at the intersection of Rural Road and Pershing Street which had struck a telephone pole. After investigation, deputies learned Teresa Zepeda, 46, of Byron, was traveling northbound on Rural Road after she had just negotiated a curve. Zepeda lost control of her vehicle



before traveling off into the west side ditch and striking the telephone pole. Zepeda was issued citations for no valid driver's license, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and operating an uninsured vehicle. Zepeda was released on an I-Bond at the scene and given a future court date.

Jan. 29

On Jan. 29, Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested Antonio Escatel, 44, of Mendota, for domestic battery. Escatel was released on a \$3,000/10 percent bond and will appear in court on Feb. 26.

On Jan. 29 at approximately 11:03 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one vehicle rollover accident with suspected injuries in the 11000 block of North Illinois Route 2. After investigation,

Ogle County Sheriff's deputies learned Angie Forgione, 42, of Crystal Lake, was traveling southbound on North Illinois Route 2 and swerved to avoid a deer. Forgione lost control of her vehicle, traveling into the east side ditch where she overturned. Forgione was transported to a nearby hospital for her injuries by Byron EMS. Ogle County Sheriff's deputies were assisted on scene by Byron Fire and Ambulance personnel.

Jan. 30

On Jan. 30 at approximately 4 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to an address in Stillman Valley in reference to a disturbance. After a brief investigation, Deputies arrested Raul Amador Jr., 32, of Rockford, for criminal damage to property. Amador Jr. was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released to

correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

Feb. 1

On Feb. 1 at 10:48 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one vehicle accident in the 17,000 of East Ritchie Road. After an investigation, deputies cited a 16-year-old juvenile male for driving without a license. The male was not injured due to the accident. The male was given an I-bond for his citation.

Feb. 3

On Feb. 3 at 12:46 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies responded to the 3000 block of East Illinois Route 64 for a vehicle in the ditch. After an investigation, Jake R. Petersen-Rysavy, 24, of Rochelle was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

State police charge man for speeding

On Wednesday, Jan. 27 at approximately 8:15 p.m., Napoleon C. Stuckey, 34-year-old male of Peoria, was stopped on Interstate 39 northbound at milepost 110 in Ogle County for speeding. Stuckey was charged with speeding, following too closely and driving while license revoked. Walton was released on recognition bond.

On Friday, Jan. 29 at approximately 2:09 a.m., Tyanne Kennedy-Etes, 46-year-old female of Rochelle, was stopped on South 12th Street at Lakeview Drive, Rochelle, Ogle County for improper lane usage. Kennedy-Etes was charged with improper lane usage and driving under the influence of alcohol. Kennedy-Etes was released on a recognition bond.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Helping others sometimes means getting your hands dirty

“IT’S not our problem.” I hate those four words more than any others strung together in the English language.

It’s an excuse for looking away. Decades ago, when I was a young reporter, I had just taken a new job with a newspaper and the staff was excited to soon be moving into a new building. One cold December night, a desperate woman called. She was in labor, and in that era before cell phones, couldn’t get a hold of her husband who was working construction in the building we were moving into.

It was past midnight and she didn’t know if we could reach him. I told my boss that I was caught up with my work and could drive the three blocks to the construction site to get him.

The boss looked at me and said, “It’s not our problem.” He ordered me to tell her we couldn’t help.

More than three decades later, I’m haunted by that conversation. I had been on the job for all of six weeks or so. I should have told the boss “no.” But I didn’t. Instead, I sat at my desk until 1 a.m. knowing I had betrayed not only my own values, but those in which I had been reared.

I grew up in a home where I never heard that phrase. Early on, my parents taught my siblings and me that we are our brother and sister’s keeper.

I remember when I was a teenager, my Dad was driving through a rough neighborhood in my hometown of Galesburg. He saw an older woman lying on a sidewalk. Cars were

buzzing by her prone form. He stopped and found she had fallen and broken her hip.

He took five pairs of clean coveralls from his truck and created pillows for her to be comfortable and had someone call an ambulance. He stayed with her until the paramedics carried her – and the coveralls – away.

Helping others means making sacrifices and getting your hands dirty. It’s not always as antiseptic as writing a check to a charity, although sometimes that is part of the solution.

While we may disagree on how best to help someone, we should never delude ourselves that we don’t have such an obligation.

Sometimes we have to say “No” to those in authority and pay the price. I should have done that decades ago but I didn’t.

How did things end up for that woman in labor? I have no idea. That’s what happens when you look away. You don’t know how the story ends. As for the editor who said “It’s not our problem” he was out of journalism within a year.

My Millennial friends like to talk about “trigger words” that resurrect past traumas. I’ll be honest, I’ve long thought that was New Age gobble-dyhook.

But then I heard someone say, “It’s not our problem,” and memories of that cold December night in 1989 returned to me. The most offensive part of that phrase is “our.” It identifies a person with a group, a clan, a race, an employer – that sets itself apart from others. The inference in the state-

ment is if the person was part of “our” group, they’d deserve help. But otherwise, “It’s not ‘our’ problem.”

The Bible story about the Good Samaritan isn’t just about helping others, it’s about reaching across racial, cultural and economic boundaries to aid those from groups other than our own.

Today, I carry two gallons of gasoline, a jack and host of tools in the back of my

pickup to assist stranded motorists.

Sometimes I’m able to help change a tire or give someone enough gas to make it to a service station. One time, I just sat with a young man while his car was engulfed in flames along-side Interstate

55. I couldn’t help him much, but at least he knew someone cared.

When I think back 32 years to that woman whom I didn’t help, I’m haunted by my inaction. A sin of omis-

sion is as bad as one of commission.

How do we teach our children not to repeat the kind of mistake I made? I’ve been wrestling with that as part of my 2021 resolutions. So, I asked my daughters if they would like to help stock mini-pantries or “blessing boxes” around Springfield.

They embraced the idea with enthusiasm. During this pandemic, many hard-working families are in need. Those who can, should help out.

Beginning this

week, I’ll take my girls to the grocery store to buy food that we’ll leave at small stands across the city for families to anonymously use.

Why am I doing this? Well, we want to help others. But I also don’t want my children to grow up to ever say, “It’s not ‘our’ problem.”

Scott Reeder is a veteran statehouse journalist. He works as a freelance reporter in the Springfield area. Scottreeder1965@gmail.com



Scott Reeder



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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.

Serenity offering group for young widows

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*The Kitchen Table is located at 7034 S. Klondike Road, Rochelle. The suggested donation is \$5 unless otherwise stated. A kid's menu is available each serving date and includes peanut butter and jelly, corn dog with chips or chicken nuggets. Please note that all menus are subject to change. Serving is from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Sunday brunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu is always available on the answering machine by calling 815-561-9074 or visit www.KitchenTableRochelle.org.

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	bunch?	tenders
DOWN	20 Louis	39 Notoriety
1 Oaxaca water	Armstrong	40 Russian river
2 Reddish	song	41 Some wines
brown	22 Haunting	43 Crisp cookie
3 Region	24 Hotel area	45 Libertine
4 "That'll Be the	25 "Humbug!"	46 Mideast air-
Day" singer	26 "Suits" net-	line
5 Insult	work	47 Author Bellow
6 Coin aperture	27 Disco guy	49 100%
7 Wheel cover	on "The	
8 Six-pack	Simpsons"	

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



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answer

One of my computer keys appears to be sticking, but I can't put my finger on it.

ON THE FARM

Rumen additive and controlled energy benefit dairy cows during dry period

URBANA — Getting nutrition right during a dairy cow's dry period can make a big difference to her health and the health of her calf. But it's also a key contributor to her milk yield after calving. New research from the University of Illinois shows diets containing consistent energy levels and the rumen-boosting supplement monensin may be ideal during the dry period.

"Many producers use a 'steam up' approach where you gradually increase the energy intake during the dry period to help adjust the rumen and adapt the cow to greater feed intakes after calving. Our work has shown that's really of questionable benefit for many farms, and it may be safer to just keep a constant level of feed intake before calving," says James Drackley, pro-



fessor in the Department of Animal Sciences at Illinois and co-author on a study published in the *Journal of Dairy Science*.

To test their hypothesis, the researchers fed cows either a controlled-energy diet throughout the dry period or a variable energy diet containing greater

energy during the close-up period. The two diets made no difference in how the cows performed or in any of their metabolic indicators after calving.

"Obviously, it's simpler if we don't have to feed an additional diet halfway through the dry period," Drackley says.

On top of the two feeding strategies, the researchers either added monensin to the prepartum diet or didn't. The supplement is typically fed during lactation to make fermentation in the rumen more efficient and convert nutrients into milk proteins. Some producers take the supplement

out during the dry period to give rumen microbes a "rest" period.

"Our research showed if we took monensin out during the dry period, then the cows produced about 2 kilograms less milk in the next lactation," Drackley says. "The conclusion is it's better to leave it in

and prevent that lost milk production. I'd guess the majority of dairy farms in the Midwest are feeding monensin during lactation, so this should be a fairly relevant piece of information."

The article, "Effects of prepartum diets varying in dietary energy density and monensin on early-lactation performance in dairy cows," is published in the *Journal of Dairy Science* [DOI: 10.3168/jds.2020-19414]. Authors include Joel Vasquez, Maris McCarthy, Bruce Richards, Kelly Perfield, David Carlson, Adam Lock, and James Drackley. Funding was provided in part by Elanco Animal Health and the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, part of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at Illinois.

Dairy calves benefit from higher-protein starter feed, Illinois study says

URBANA — Dairy producers know early nutrition for young calves has far-reaching impacts, both for the long-term health and productivity of the animals and for farm profitability. With the goal of increasing not just body weight but also lean tissue gain, a new University of Illinois study finds enhanced milk replacer with high crude-protein dry starter feed is the winning combination.

"Calves fed more protein with the starter had less fat in their body weight gain, and more protein was devoted to the development of the gastrointestinal sys-

tem, compared with the lower starter protein," says James Drackley, professor in the Department of Animal Sciences at Illinois and co-author on the study. "Our results say producers who are feeding calves a more aggressive amount of milk for greater rates of gain should be feeding a higher protein starter along with that."

Producers typically feed milk replacer along with a grain-based starter feed to kick-start development of the rumen ahead of forage consumption. Yet the *Journal of Dairy Science* study is the first to specifically

examine body composition changes, versus simple body weight, in response to milk replacer and high-protein starter feed.

Understanding where the nutrients go in the body makes a big difference.

"If producers aren't providing enough protein in the starter as the calves go through the weaning process, they might be limiting development of the gastrointestinal system, which is needed to provide nutrients for the rest of the body," Drackley says.

Drackley and his co-authors started two-to-three-day-old calves on one of

three experimental diets: a low rate of milk replacer + conventional starter (18 percent crude protein, as-fed basis); a high rate of milk replacer + conventional starter; and a high rate of milk replacer + high crude-protein starter (22 percent crude protein, as-fed basis). Additional protein in the high-protein starter was provided by soybean meal, compared with conventional starter, which was a mixture of wheat middlings, soybean meal, and corn, among other ingredients. The calves were weaned at six weeks of age, and were harvested

at five or 10 weeks to determine body composition.

"After weaning, the weights of the digestive system and liver were greater with the higher protein starter," Drackley says. "It might be part of the reason why a slump in growth is often seen right around the time of weaning when calves are fed a conventional starter. The calves just don't have the developed digestive system to be able to keep things going as they change from the milk diet to the dry feed diet."

He adds that calves fed the higher rate of milk re-

placer grew more rapidly and had more lean tissue, with less fat.

"The low rate of milk replacer has been fairly standard, historically. It's designed to provide the maintenance needs and a small rate of growth, and to encourage calves to consume the dry feed at an earlier age. But research has supported the use of higher rates, so we're trying to shift the industry towards rates of milk feeding we think are more appropriate," Drackley says. "Now we have good reason to point producers to high-protein starter, as well."

New federal label requirements issued for products

THE Illinois Department of Agriculture has registered the following Dicamba products for the use on soybeans for the 2021 growing season: XtendiMax with Vapor Grip Technology, Engenia Herbicide, and Tavium Plus Vapor Grip Technology. The new federal label for dicamba was issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on Oct. 27, 2020.

The new federal label requirements for these products include:

Requiring an approved pH-buffering agent, also known as a volatility-reducing agent, be tank mixed with dicamba products prior to all applications.

Requiring a downwind buffer of 240 feet and 310 feet in areas where listed endangered species are located.

Additional recordkeeping items.

The approved federal label also includes a cutoff date of June 30 for application of these products on soybeans. However, IDOA will be utilizing its authority pursuant to Section 24(a) of FIFRA and relevant provisions of the Illinois Pesticide Act to impose a cutoff date of June 20 for application on soybeans. In addition to the June 20 cutoff date, IDOA also intends to include the following additional application re-

strictions for application of these products on soybeans:

Temperature restriction of 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

Requirement to consult the Field Watch sensitive crop registry <https://www.field-watch.com> before application.

Prohibiting application if the wind is blowing toward any Illinois Nature Preserves Commission site that is adjacent to the proposed field of application.

Prohibiting application when the wind is blowing toward an adjacent residential area.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture, along with

the University of Illinois Extension Service, is hosting the Certified Livestock Manager Online Training and Webinars for 2021. It is the 25th year IDOA has provided training to producers. There will be two training options for this year, new online training and four webinars (virtual workshops), which will provide Illinois livestock producers the manure management training they need to meet the requirements of the state's Livestock Management Facilities Act.

The webinar dates are Tuesday, Feb. 9 and Thursday, March 4. These will have the same format as previous workshops starting at 9:00 am. After the webinar, those with over 1,000 AUs will be required to log in and take the 40-question online test in lieu of the IDOA's paper-based test. Pre-registration is required (\$40).

Please go to go.illinois.edu/CLMT to register. For questions with registration, please contact UI Extension at 815-858-2273.

Producers also have the option of taking online training that consists of nine lessons. The online training has been updated for 2021 to resemble face-to-face workshops more closely. It is available at any time and your own pace. It should be considered the first option for everyone. Producers with less than 1,000 AUs will work through the lessons only. Having more than 1,000 AU requires completing the lessons and passing the online test. Until Dec. 1, livestock producers with more than 1,000 AUs can take the online test in lieu of the IDOA's paper-based test. You can create an account and get access to the online training at go.illinois.edu/CLMT (\$40).

Any questions relating to the online program can be directed to Nesli Akdeniz at 217-300-2644.

Producers' support while we are transitioning to a completely online format this year is much appreciated. An optional informational session will be held on the new online training system and webinars. To attend an informational session, visit go.illinois.edu/CLMT and click the link provided to join (no cost): Feb. 23, 2021 (Tuesday) at 6 pm.

The Livestock Management Facilities Act of 1997 requires:

Facilities with 300 or more animal units to have at least one employee certified in proper manure handling procedures.

Facilities with 300 to 999 animal units, the employee either must complete online CLM training or webinar or pass the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Certified Livestock Manager online exam.

The employee of facilities with more than 1,000 or more units must complete one of the training options and pass the Certified Livestock Manager online exam to achieve certification.

The "Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship Curriculum" continues to serve as a resource manual for CLM training. The manual provides more depth and additional topics than can be covered in a webinar or online training. This curriculum is available for free online at go.illinois.edu/manual.



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LOCAL NEWS

Koolidge Show adds Bloomington-Normal's AM 1230 WJBC to station affiliate lineup

ROCHELLE — The Midwest-based syndicated radio program The Michael Koolidge Show (www.koolidge.com) just added Bloomington-Normal's AM 1230 WJBC to its growing stable of affiliates, which will air its daily broadcasts from noon to 2 p.m. Syndication began Monday, Jan. 25.



Koolidge

better part of a decade and is independently syndicated on over a dozen stations in the Midwest, including Decatur, Springfield, Quincy and Kankakee. Though mostly heard in Illinois, the show has a strong following in Southern Wisconsin and Central Michigan as well, where it's heard on Hillsdale's WRFH.

TMKS hits the road frequently to broadcast from various locations throughout the country, including the annual Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, D.C. (this year from Orlando, Florida), national political conventions (both Democrat and Republican) in Denver, Tampa,

Minneapolis, Cleveland, Philadelphia et al, both Cubs and White Sox Spring Training in Arizona, the annual SHOT Show in Las Vegas, and most recently covered the 2021 U.S. Senate runoff elections in person in Georgia.

"We don't like to be chained to our studios and so we try to get out in the thick of things as much as possible, global pandemics considered. Our audience is the patriotic citizens of small towns, of mid-sized cities, and of rural America," Koolidge said. "Regardless of who's in office, at any level, we will continue to be a strong voice among the forgotten men and women here in what we proudly call 'Fly-Over USA,' and we're not going anywhere."

The addition of Koolidge's show on Cu-

"We are very excited to be adding The Michael Koolidge Show to our lineup. Michael's been very successful throughout Illinois and the Midwest and we can't wait to have him on WJBC."

Dan Westhoff

mulus Broadcasting's WJBC was instigated by Operations Manager Dan Westhoff

"We are very excited to be adding The Michael Koolidge Show to our lineup. Michael's been very successful throughout Illinois and the Midwest and we can't wait to have him on WJBC," Westhoff said.

Recent guests on the show include David Marcus from The Federalist, Kerry Pickett from The Washington Examiner,

Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, and Congressman Darin LaHood (IL-18).

For more information contact TMKS at radio@koolidge.com.

The Michael Koolidge Show is a regionally syndicated and independently owned daily two-hour radio program based in Rochelle. It broadcasts a cumulative total of 70 hours each week on the following stations: Rockford's News/Talk 1440 WROK, Kankakee's

AM 1320 & FM 101.3 WKAN, Quincy's AM 930 WTAD, Newsradio 1240AM and 107.5FM WTAX in Springfield, Talk 101FMWZUS in Decatur, Hillsdale MI's FM 101.7 WRFH, Pittsfield's FM 97.5 WBBA, WCRA in Effingham on AM 1090, 96.3FM and 99.5FM, 1180 AM WLDS in Jacksonville, and now AM 1230 WJBC in Bloomington-Normal.

It also streams seven days a week at www.koolidge.com.



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RTHS Athletics

Hubs back in action

Winter sports including basketball resuming practices, games

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—After several months of shut-downs, mitigations and uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Rochelle Township High School’s winter sports programs are only days away from their first contests of the 2020-21 season. While athletic events are returning to the Hub City, there are specific protocols that RTHS, student-athletes and spectators must follow.

RTHS will allow a maximum of 50 spectators for home sporting events including bowling matches and basketball games. Spectators don’t include athletes, coaches, trainers, staff or officials. Rochelle competes within the Interstate 8 Conference, which will allow two spectators per athlete for home basketball games and bowling meets, one spectator per athlete for road basketball games and no spectators for road bowling meets.

Spectators must be 30 feet away from the basketball court and all spectators and athletes must wear face coverings.

“The kids are excited to compete again,” RTHS athletic director Richard Harvey said. “We’re trying to give people an opportunity to attend events but there are quite a few restrictions we have to stay within. We’re going to do our best to get our 50 people into the gym.”

The RTHS bowling teams will open their seasons in the Oregon Hawk Classic at Dixon’s Plum Hollow Lanes on Saturday, Feb. 6. The RTHS Hub basketball team will face Stillman Valley on the road Friday, Feb. 5 for its first game of the season, while the RTHS Lady Hub basketball team hosts Sycamore for its season-opening game on Tuesday, Feb. 9. Admission charges for home basketball games include \$5 for adult spectators and \$3 for senior spectators.

See RTHS page 2




(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Lady Hub basketball senior Sofia Lenkaitis (left) and Hub bowling senior Keith Holland (right) practice with their respective teams this past week. The Rochelle bowling teams open their seasons at the Oregon Hawk Classic on Feb. 6, while the Lady Hub basketball team will host Sycamore on Feb. 9 for its first game.

RTHS Wrestling

Rochelle grapplers begin open-mat workouts

Hub wrestling team hosting one-hour sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

ROCHELLE—Tuesday afternoon marked the first wrestling activities at Rochelle Township High School since the 2019-20 season ended nearly 12 months ago. Under normal circumstances, Rochelle wrestlers would be preparing for the postseason, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020-21 season will begin during the unprecedented summer sports season.

The Hubs will hold open-mat workouts at RTHS on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for new and returning wrestlers. The upcoming season will begin on April 19, running nearly two months before concluding on June 12. While the IHSA has said there will be no postseason this year, head coach Alphonso Vruno said a conference title is still the goal.

“The kids and the adults are all excited to be back,” Vruno said. “Even if the activities don’t look as normal as they look last year, I wanted to get the kids on the mat and do something... I think our goals have to change a little bit because the season will look different, but I want us to compete for a conference championship. What I’m explaining to the kids is that, even though the season isn’t going to look normal, we can still have success individually and as a team.”

Nearly a dozen wrestlers worked out during the team’s first open-mat session Tuesday, practicing basic techniques including offensive and defensive stances. Under current IHSA and IDPH guidelines, all wrestlers must wear masks during practices and competitions. Rochelle will be looking to follow up an impressive 18-4 dual-record performance during the 2019-20 season.

“Our biggest concerns are conditioning and injuries,” Vruno said. “We want the kids to get back to doing some of the basic movements and these next few weeks will be devoted to playing games and working on basic wrestling techniques. We won’t have any live wrestling, but we want the kids to get back in shape and get back to doing something on a regular basis.”



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Caleb Nadig leads members of the Rochelle Township High School wrestling team through warm-ups during an open-mat workout Tuesday afternoon. The team will hold open mats twice a week in preparation for the upcoming wrestling season, which begins April 19 and concludes June 12.

SPORTS

RTHS: Spectator limits imposed for winter events



(PHOTOS BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Hub basketball senior Garrett Burdin brings the ball up the floor during practice this past week. The Hub basketball team will face Stillman Valley on the road this Friday, Feb. 5 for its first game of the season. No spectators will be allowed.

From page 1

Spectators who are unable to attend home games can stream them live on the NFHS website at www.nfhsnetwork.com for a monthly charge. The RTHS athletic department has installed a camera in the main gym for streaming purposes and will post a link to the stream online.

Doors for each basketball contest will open 30 minutes before each start time and the main gym will be cleared after each game. Tentative schedules for all of the RTHS winter sports teams have been posted on the Rochelle T.W.P. H.S. Athletics Facebook page. All winter sports seasons will conclude on Saturday, March 13.

"We'll check our student-athletes before each practice and each game, but if they're feeling sick, they shouldn't attend," Harvey said. "The kids need to wear masks, use hand sanitizer and stay 6 feet apart whenever possible. We've been doing those things for a while, we've had good luck so far and hopefully we can continue to keep our student-athletes and our coaches safe."

Varsity and JV bowling matches will begin at 4 p.m. for all home and

"The kids are excited to compete again. We're trying to give people an opportunity to attend events but there are quite a few restrictions we have to stay within. We're going to do our best to get our 50 people into the gym... We're trying to be flexible and make things as safe as possible for our kids..."

Richard Harvey

road contests excluding Interstate 8 Conference Championship tournaments, which will start at 9 a.m. on March 13 at DeKalb's Mardi Gras Lanes for the girls and Peru's Illinois Valley Super Bowl for the boys. RTHS cheerleading and dance teams will conduct virtual competitions this season including the IHSA State Series events. Dance sectionals and state are scheduled for Feb. 27 and March 6, while cheerleading sectionals and state are scheduled for March 6 and March 12, respectively.

Spring sports teams including volleyball and soccer, as well as summer sports teams like wres-

ting, have already begun using out-of-season contact days, which run through June 4 and are limited to three days per week with a maximum of six hours of contact per week. The contact days were approved during the latest IHSA Board of Directors meeting Jan. 27. Sports teams like football and track and field are expected to resume contact days in the near future.

"Nothing beyond the winter is set in stone," Harvey said. "Things are constantly changing and we're trying to be flexible and make things as safe as possible for our kids while still accommodating as many people as possible. Hopefully we can get it done."

NIU Athletics

Huskies earn honors

DEKALB — Three Northern Illinois University student-athletes were named Distinguished Scholar-Athletes by the Mid-American Conference Friday for excelling in the classroom and in competition.

Football players Brayden Patton and Kyle Pugh and cross-country standout, Ashley Tutt, earned the honor, which goes to student-athletes who qualify for their respective Academic All-MAC Teams with a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or above, and earn All-MAC accolades in their sport. First-year students, junior college transfers and graduate transfers in their first year of residence were not eligible for the award.

Tutt, the 2019 MAC cross country champion, helped lead the Huskies to the team title in 2020. The Huskie senior finished second at this season's event. A native of Channahon, Tutt earned Distinguished Scholar-Athlete honors for the third time in her career (2018 and 2019) and boasts a 3.81 GPA while pursuing her degree in history.

Patton, who started all six of NIU football team's six games this season at center, achieved a 4.0 GPA in NIU's sport management master's program. Huskie linebacker Kyle Pugh, who is also enrolled sport management master's program, played in five games and was tied for second on the team in tackles with 36. He carries a 3.8 GPA and, like Patton, is a first-time Distinguished Scholar-Athlete selection.



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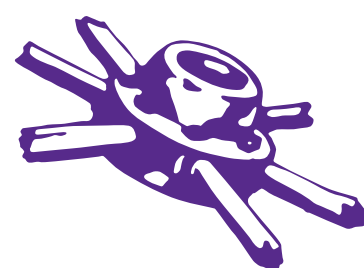
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HUB SPOTLIGHT

Crandall selected for IADA Hall of Fame

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

KEVIN Crandall coached high school football for over three decades, winning over 200 games during that period and cementing his legacy as one of the most accomplished coaches in the state, earning inductions into the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2012) and the Rochelle Township High School Hall of Fame (2017). Crandall led RTHS to 18 postseason appearances and won 160 games wearing the Hub purple and white colors.

While Crandall's football achievements are well documented, his work as an athletic director at RTHS for 24 years shouldn't be overlooked. Before his retirement in 2018, Crandall received Athletic Director of the Year honors from the Illinois Athletic Directors Association. Nearly three years later, Crandall will be inducted into the IADA Hall of Fame in the Class of 2021.

"It's always humbling," Crandall said. "Everything in my career has been a team effort and I had two wonderful secretaries in Debbie O'Brien and Ronda Poliska who allowed me to be more involved in the athletic directors association and the coaches association. We had a lot of quality coaches and we built great facilities so we could host a lot of events. Our administration was always great about letting me travel to stay involved with those organizations."

Crandall began his tenure as RTHS athletic director in 1994, helping reshape the foundation of RTHS and its athletic department. Under Crandall's leadership, RTHS implemented the Hub Power strength and conditioning program and oversaw the design and construction of the Douglas A. Creason Athletic Complex. Crandall also played a role in the foundation of the Western Sun Conference and the merger that created the Northern Illinois Big 12 Conference.

"We could really see the difference our Hub Power program was making, not only physically for the kids, but because we ran it as a unified program, it really helped our sports build a connection where all the kids were rooting for each other," Crandall said. "Building the new high school and the new athletic complex really accelerated everything for us. We went from having pretty mediocre facilities to having one of the best facilities in northern Illinois."

Crandall may have retired as head football coach and athletic director at RTHS over two years ago, but he continues giving back to the sport as executive director of the IHS-



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Former Rochelle Township High School athletic director and head football coach Kevin Crandall will be inducted into the Illinois Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame this year.

FCA, where he helps curate instructional programs for high school football coaches and sponsor Academic All-State awards for student-athletes. Crandall, who was honored with the 2020 Ray Eliot Award for his sportsmanship and service, will receive his IADA Hall of Fame induction later this year.

"I have a lot to reflect on," Crandall said. "I still attend the athletic directors conference every year and I'm on the vendor committee for that. The football coaches association keeps me busy and involved and it gives me a leadership role which I enjoy. I've been enjoying time with my wife and kids and we travel quite a bit. I've been playing a little more golf than I used to."

Crandall attended Tremont High School and Millikin University, where he played football and earned his bachelor's degree before obtaining his master's degree in athletic administration from Eastern Illinois University. Crandall, who was inducted into the Millikin University Hall of Fame in 2016, said one of his fondest memories as athletic director of the Hubs came in 2009, when RTHS hosted the IHSA 3A Boys Basketball Sectional Championship against Oswego.

"It was the first time our big gym at the new high school was full," Crandall said. "Both student sections were full and it was almost a capacity crowd. There was electricity in the air and when I looked around I thought to myself, 'Wow, this is amazing.'"

"Everything in my career has been a team effort... We had a lot of quality coaches and we built great facilities so we could host a lot of events."

Kevin Crandall



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OGLE COUNTY
PROBATE DIVISION
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MATTER)
OF THE)No.
ESTATE)2021
OF)P 6
MARLENE)
A. SPRING.)
Deceased)

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of MARLENE A. SPRING. Letters of Office were issued on January 19, 2021, to Bryan J. Spring, 4639 E. Woodbine Rd., Byron, IL 61010, who is the Executor of the Estate. The attorney for the Estate is Amanda J. Martinez, The Law Office of Amanda Adams Martinez LLC, 5732 E. Riverside Blvd., #201, Loves Park, IL 61111. Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before July 27, 2021, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section

18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Ogle County Circuit Clerk - Probate Division, at 106 S. 5th Street, Suite 300, Oregon, Illinois 61061, or with the Estate legal representative, or both. Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office - Probate Division must be mailed or delivered to the Estate legal representative and to his attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. BRYAN J. SPRING, Executor of the Estate of Marlene A. Spring, Deceased AMANDA ADAMS MARTINEZ #6287970 a.martinez@adamsmartinezlaw.com The Law Office of Amanda Adams Martinez LLC 5732 E. Riverside Blvd. #201 Loves Park, IL 61111 p. (815) 491-8065 No. 0124 (Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10)

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201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

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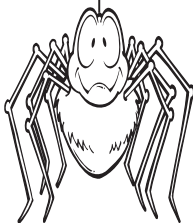
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BIG GAME PREVIEW

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Brady seeking unprecedented seventh title

Bucs become first team in league history to host Big Game matchup

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

THE Tampa Bay Buccaneers made history with their 31-26 victory over the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field this past weekend. With the victory, Tampa Bay became the first team in NFL history to earn an opportunity to compete in the Big Game on its home field. The Big Game will kick off at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida on Sunday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Quarterback Tom Brady also added another unprecedented achievement to his Hall of Fame resume, securing his 10th career Big Game appearance as he looks to win his seventh career championship title. Brady went 6-3 across nine Big Games as a member of the New England Patriots. Brady now has as many Big Game appearances as Aaron Rodgers and Drew Brees.

The Buccaneers feature several high-profile weapons on offense including wide receivers Mike Evans, Chris Godwin, Antonio Brown and tight ends Rob Gronkowski and Cameron Brate. Running back Ronald Jones II ran for nearly 1,000 yards during the regular season, and the addition of former



The Tampa Bay Buccaneers will represent the NFC in the Big Game on Sunday, becoming the first team in league history to host the championship game on their home field. Quarterback Tom Brady will try for his seventh career title in 10 appearances.

first-rounder Leonard Fournette has bolstered the Tampa Bay backfield. The Buccaneers finished second in the NFL this season in passing yards per game with 289.1.

Tampa Bay's defensive unit has several elite talents as well includ-

ing linebackers Lavonte David and Devin White, who leads all postseason players in tackles. Defensive linemen Jason Pierre-Paul, Ndamukong Suh and Shaq Barrett made up a unit that helped Tampa Bay finish fifth in sacks with 48 during the

regular season. The Buccaneers have seven sacks this postseason.

The Buccaneers are coached by Bruce Arians, who led the team to an 11-5 record and the No. 5 seed in the NFC this season. Tampa Bay reached the Big Game with victo-

ries over the Washington Football Team, the New Orleans Saints and the top-seeded Green Bay Packers.

The 2021 Big Game matchup is a repeat of Week 12, when the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Buccaneers 27-24 at Raymond

James Stadium despite 345 yards and three touchdowns from Brady, who also had two interceptions. Evans caught two touchdown passes in the game, while Gronkowski and Godwin combined to record 14 receptions for 203 yards.

Big Game History

Game	Date	Results	Location	MVP
I	1-15-1967	Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10	Los Angeles, CA	Bart Starr
II	1-14-1968	Green Bay 33, Oakland 14	Miami, FL	Bart Starr
III	1-12-1969	NY Jets 16, Baltimore 7	Miami, FL	Joe Namath
IV	1-11-1970	Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7	New Orleans, LA	Len Dawson
V	1-17-1971	Baltimore 16, Dallas 13	Miami, FL	Chuck Howley
VI	1-16-1972	Dallas 24, Miami 3	New Orleans, LA	Roger Staubach
VII	1-14-1973	Miami 14, Washington 7	Los Angeles, CA	Jake Scott
VIII	1-13-1974	Miami 24, Minnesota 7	Houston, TX	Larry Csonka
IX	1-12-1975	Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6	New Orleans, LA	Franco Harris
X	1-18-1976	Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17	Miami, FL	Lynn Swann
XI	1-9-1977	Oakland 32, Minnesota 14	Pasadena, CA	Fred Biletnikoff
XII	1-15-1978	Dallas 27, Denver 10	New Orleans, LA	H. Martin & R. White
XIII	1-21-1979	Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31	Miami, FL	Terry Bradshaw
XIV	1-20-1980	Pittsburgh 31, LA Rams 19	Pasadena, CA	Terry Bradshaw
XV	1-25-1981	Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10	New Orleans, LA	Jim Plunkett
XVI	1-24-1982	San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21	Pontiac, MI	Joe Montana
XVII	1-30-1983	Washington 27, Miami 17	Pasadena, CA	John Riggins
XVIII	1-22-1984	LA Raiders 38, Washington 9	Tampa, FL	Marcus Allen
XIX	1-20-1985	San Francisco 38, Miami 16	Stanford, CA	Joe Montana
XX	1-26-1986	Chicago 46, New England 10	New Orleans, LA	Richard Dent
XXI	1-25-1987	NY Giants 39, Denver 20	Pasadena, CA	Phil Simms
XXII	1-31-1988	Washington 42, Denver 10	San Diego, CA	Doug Williams
XXIII	1-22-1989	San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16	Miami, FL	Jerry Rice
XXIV	1-28-1990	San Francisco 55, Denver 10	New Orleans, LA	Joe Montana
XXV	1-27-1991	NY Giants 20, Buffalo 19	Tampa, FL	Ottis Anderson
XXVI	1-26-1992	Washington 37, Buffalo 24	Minneapolis, MN	Mark Rypien
XXVII	1-31-1993	Dallas 52, Buffalo 17	Pasadena, CA	Troy Aikman

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BIG GAME PREVIEW

Kansas City Chiefs

Mahomes eyes second title in three seasons

Chiefs enter matchup with Tampa Bay as defending champions

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

AFTER winning the Big Game in 2020 with a 31-20 victory over the San Francisco 49ers, star quarterback Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs are back in the championship game and looking to secure their second consecutive title as defending champions.

Mahomes, who was named Most Valuable Player in the Big Game last season, could become the youngest quarterback in NFL history to win multiple championships if the Chiefs emerge victorious over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Raymond James Stadium next Sunday, Feb. 7. Mahomes recently led Kansas City over the Buffalo Bills in the AFC title game, winning 38-24 and becoming the 12th quarterback in NFL history with a touchdown pass in 30 straight games.

Mahomes, who finished second in the league behind only Deshaun Watson in passing yards, highlights an elite Kansas City offense that ranks first in the NFL with nearly 416 yards per game including over 300 yards per game through the air. Wide receiver Tyreek Hill and tight end Travis Kelce are Kansas City's top pass catchers, while first-



The Kansas City Chiefs will represent the AFC in the Big Game on Sunday. The Chiefs are defending champions and are looking to win their second league title in three years. Quarterback Patrick Mahomes will attempt to win his second MVP award as well.

round pick Clyde Edwards-Helaire and former All-Pro running back Le'Veon Bell will carry the ball out of the backfield.

Defensive back Tyrann Mathieu totaled six interceptions during the regular season, third-most among NFL players. Mathieu leads

a Kansas City defensive unit currently ranked fifth in both sacks and yards allowed during the postseason. Defensive tackle Chris Jones, who totaled 7.5 sacks during the regular season, will line up as the top pass rusher for the Chiefs.

Kansas City defeated

Tampa Bay 27-24 earlier this season in Week 12, with Mahomes throwing for 462 yards and three touchdowns while completing 37-of-49 passes. Hill was unstoppable during the matchup, torching the Buccaneers defense on their home field for a career-best 269 receiving

yards and three touchdowns on 13 receptions. Mathieu and defensive back Bashaud Breeland each intercepted Tampa Bay quarterback Tom Brady during the victory.

Mahomes and Brady's last postseason meeting was in 2019, when Brady's

Patriots topped Mahomes and the Chiefs 37-31 in overtime at Gillette Stadium. Mahomes threw for 295 yards and three touchdowns in the game, while Brady finished with 348 passing yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

Big Game History

Game	Date	Results	Location	MVP
XXVIII	1-30-1994	Dallas 30, Buffalo 13	Atlanta, GA	Emmitt Smith
XXVIX	1-29-1995	San Francisco 49, San Diego 26	Miami, FL	Steve Young
XXX	1-28-1996	Dallas 27, Pittsburgh 17	Tempe, AZ	Larry Brown
XXXI	1-26-1997	Green Bay 35, New England 21	New Orleans, LA	Desmond Howard
XXXII	1-25-1998	Denver 31, Green Bay 24	San Diego, CA	Terrell Davis
XXXIII	1-31-1999	Denver 34, Atlanta 19	Miami, FL	John Elway
XXXIV	1-30-2000	St. Louis 23, Tennessee 16	Atlanta, GA	Kurt Warner
XXXV	1-28-2001	Baltimore 34, NY Giants 7	Tampa, FL	Ray Lewis
XXXVI	2-3-2002	New England 20, St. Louis 17	New Orleans, LA	Tom Brady
XXXVII	1-26-2003	Tampa Bay 48, Oakland 21	San Diego, CA	Dexter Jackson
XXXVIII	2-1-2004	New England 32, Carolina 29	Houston, TX	Tom Brady
XXXVIX	2-6-2005	New England 24, Philadelphia 21	Jacksonville, FL	Deion Branch
XL	2-5-2006	Pittsburgh 21, Seattle 10	Detroit, MI	Hines Ward
XLI	2-4-2007	Indianapolis 29, Chicago 17	Miami Gardens, FL	Peyton Manning
XLII	2-3-2008	NY Giants 17, New England 14	Glendale, AZ	Eli Manning
XLIII	2-1-2009	Pittsburgh 27, Arizona 23	Tampa, FL	Santonio Holmes
XLIV	2-7-2010	New Orleans 31, Indianapolis 17	Miami Gardens, FL	Drew Brees
XLV	2-6-2011	Green Bay 31, Pittsburgh 25	Arlington, TX	Aaron Rodgers
XLVI	2-5-2012	NY Giants 21, New England 17	Indianapolis, IN	Eli Manning
XLVII	2-3-2013	Baltimore 34, San Francisco 31	New Orleans, LA	Joe Flacco
XLVIII	2-2-2014	Seattle 43, Denver 8	East Rutherford, NJ	Malcolm Smith
XLVIX	2-1-2015	New England 28, Seattle 24	Glendale, AZ	Tom Brady
L	2-7-2016	Denver 24, Carolina 10	Santa Clara, CA	Von Miller
LI	2-5-2017	New England 34, Atlanta 28 (OT)	Houston, TX	Tom Brady
LII	2-4-2018	Philadelphia 44, New England 31	Minneapolis, MN	Nick Foles
LIII	2-3-2019	New England 13, LA Rams 3	Atlanta, GA	Julian Edelman
LIV	2-2-2020	Kansas City 31, San Francisco 20	Miami Gardens, FL	Patrick Mahomes

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