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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021 \$1

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New advisor
Sen. Manar resigns, becomes advisor to Pritzker. **See page 3**

WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
33 25	35 24
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW
32 20	29 18

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OBITUARIES

- DONNA KNETSCH GITTLESON
- BOYD GOELITZ
- REV. PAUL GODDARD
- DEANNA HAYWARD

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INSERTS

- FARM & FLEET
- ALDI

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Icy scene

Ice and frost on trees may have looked pretty the past several days as shown above at Memorial Park but was the cause of several power outages due to extra weight on power lines. Rochelle Municipal Power crews have been working the past several days to restore intermittent power outages caused by lines brought down by the extra weight of the ice and frost. As of Tuesday afternoon, RMU has closed 227 tickets since last Tuesday ranging from low hanging wires to actual outages.

(PHOTOS BY JENNIFER SIMMONS)

YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

The January through June Year in Review appeared in the Sunday, Jan. 3 edition of the Rochelle News-Leader.

July WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

ROCHELLE — As the state of Illinois entered Phase 4 of its reopening plan, The Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District announced its plans and new regulations for opening some of its summer-time amenities.

The park district has plans to reopen with the following recommendations from the state: A face mask when social distancing cannot be maintained, groups of 50 or less, 30 feet of distance from other recreational groups, washed hands before and after and sanitized equipment before and after use.

Other safety recommendations include bringing water from home (onsite drinking fountains for emergency purposes

only), using the restroom prior to arrival (on site restrooms for emergency purposes only) and taking garbage home. While there are many new rules and regulations, the park district is happy to be serving the community again.

SUNDAY, JULY 12

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Municipal Utilities officials announced Thursday that the new radium removal treatment plant on Hayes Road is now officially online.

The \$3 million project was designed, permitted and constructed over a period of two years. This project also included 3,500 feet of 21" sewer line extension along Steward Road. Funding was possible thanks to the IEPA's low interest loan program. Water revenues will be used to pay back the 20 year loan.

In the past four years the city has made significant investments in our water system to stay in compliance with state

From the Heart 2021 going virtual

Tickets now available online

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Rotary Club's annual From the Heart dinner-auction is the organization's premier fundraising event of the year, bringing corporations, businesses, couples and individuals together to help support important service agencies in the Rochelle area community.

"We're broken hearted over not being able to hold our in person Gala in 2021, but our charities still need us. We have lost one of our charities, as the doors to the Rochelle Child Care Center have closed for good," event organizer Dave Eckhardt said. "That is an enormous loss to our community. We can't lose anymore. From The Heart is asking that you give from your heart this year. The gala, which is normally held on first Saturday of February at



the Flight Deck Bar and Grille in Rochelle, raises more than \$46,000 for seven local non-profit groups that provide valuable family services in and around the Rochelle region."

Because of that, the From The Heart Committee has decided to host a Virtual Event in 2021 on the From The Heart Facebook page where we will feature an amazing giveaway.

Tickets
For \$100 per ticket, you will have one entry

into a drawing to win one of five virtual event prizes:

- 1/2 hog and processing
- 1/4 beef and processing
- LG UHD 75 Inch TV
- Apple Watch Series 6
- KitchenAid 5 Quart Bowl Lift Stand Mixer

Plus you will receive a \$25 voucher for the Flight Deck.

Additional chances to win one of the five prizes are available for \$20 each, once the initial \$100 ticket is purchased.

See EVENT page 5

A look back at some of the top Rochelle News-Leader stories of the past year

statutes and the potable water guidelines. This is the second radium removal plant in town since radium was detected on these two wells.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Veterans War Memorial Association is \$7,000 closer to completing its bronze statue at the Veterans War Memorial at Lawnridge Cemetery thanks to a donation from the Rochelle Rotary Club Friday.

Rochelle Rotary President Greg Folmar and Rotarian Sam Graber presented association president Chuck Roberts and director Wendell 'Pal' Colwill with the donation from the club's NFL Pool funds. The money will be used toward the association's life-size bronze statue at the memorial.

"Since 1954, Rotarians across the world have stood by the Four-Way Test and have used it to guide us in our decision making," Folmar said.



During a City of Rochelle council meeting, the city's human resource director Nancy Bingham (far right) presented Rochelle Area Community Foundation Director Kim Montgomery with \$16,386. The money was part of the city's employee pledge program for 2020-21. Since it's inception, city employees have pledged approximately \$30,000 to the community foundation. Also pictured is Rochelle City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh. (Wednesday, July 29)

"Especially in these trying times, everyone could benefit from applying this in our daily lives. Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? The Rochelle

Rotary Club is a proud supporter of our veterans and we are very happy to stand beside the Rochelle Veterans War Memorial Association and do our small part in erecting this monument."

See page 8

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LOCAL NEWS



Sofia Lenkaitis, Rochelle Township High School senior with Brion Brooks, Village of Progress executive director, receives a check for \$1,000 from the Village of Progress Foundation made possible by Larry Young & Friends Charity.

Lenkaitis receives scholarship

OREGON — For 23 years, the Village of Progress Foundation has presented educational scholarships to folks in Ogle County. Applicants must be a resident of Ogle County and a high school senior or full-time college student who either has a disability of is majoring in an area that serves those with disabilities.

One of the scholarships, in the amount of \$1,000 is made through a gift from Larry Young & Friends Charities. Larry Young & Friends Charities partner with the foundation to help make its annual golf outing a success. Larry Young also serves on the Foundation's Board of Directors.

This year a scholarship through the Larry Young

& Friends Charity was presented to Sofia Lenkaitis.

Lenkaitis is a senior holding an above-4-point GPA at Rochelle Township High School. She will be pursuing a degree in nursing.

Lenkaitis wrote about her desire to make a difference in her community and how she discovered a passion for nursing during her volunteer service.

Each of her references commented on the countless volunteer hours she donates to numerous community events.

To learn more about scholarships opportunities visit the news and events section at www.villageof-progress.org.

Stillman Bank names holiday giveaway winners

ROCHELLE — Stillman Bank held its annual Holiday Giveaway drawing on Dec. 23. The bank had a total of six winners throughout its six

locations. The winners received either a beef quarter or pork half.

The winners of the beef quarters were: Debbie Miller (Byron), Breana

Frewin (Oregon) and Nancy Pfab (Lindenwood).

The winners of the pork halves were: Kellie Stien (Roscoe), Dean Johnson (Stillman Valley) and Den-

nis Streid (Rockford)

The annual Holiday Giveaway is one of the many ways the bank gives back to the local communities it serves, officials said. For more information on the 2020 Holiday Giveaway or to find out more about Stillman Bank's products and services, please contact or visit www.stillmanbank.com.

Stillman Bank is an independently owned community bank founded in 1882.

WIOA funds available for local job-seekers at Kish College

MALTA — A high-paying career is not out of reach. Kishwaukee College's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Program is looking to help local students bolster their employment skills and find new career opportunities. The program offers out-of-school youth ages 16-24 years old an opportunity to participate in training that will assist them in obtaining employment.

The WIOA Program is a federally funded grant geared towards helping qualified individuals gain the professional skills necessary to learn a new career. Through the grant, Kishwaukee College can offer up to \$10,000 based on eligibility. Funding can go towards books, tuition, supplies and other services to help with education. Mileage and child care reimbursement may also be available. Residents from the city of DeKalb may automatically qualify for the Youth Program due to the city's overall poverty rate.

There is a list of more than 60 programs available at Kish covered by WIOA funding. Students can work towards a degree or certificate or enter the workforce right away with a short-term training program. Some popular programs include:

- Basic Nurse Assisting
- Google IT
- Truck Driving Training
- Pharmacy Technician
- Medical Assistant
- And many more

For Rochelle's Erika Villalobos-Miller, assistance came in the form of financial aid for tuition and travel expenses.

"(WIOA) really got me through my first few semesters," she said. "I had to drive to school every day, which was expensive but they really helped with those costs."

Villalobos-Miller started with the Basic Nurse Assisting program through WIOA due to her interest in medicine. She decided to continue to study nursing at Kishwaukee and plans on finishing her associate degree this year before transferring to the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign to study molecular and cellular biology.

"It ended up being very supportive," she said. "WIOA helped out tremendously."

The support is not limited to the classroom. Students can gain real-world experience through job shadowing. And these connections give those seeking work an opportunity to impress employers. Kish offers career counseling and support and the ability to match job-seekers with local businesses based on their skillset.

To learn more contact Phylcia Hampton, WIOA Youth Coordinator, at 815-825-9384 or phampton1@kish.edu.

"(WIOA) really got me through my first few semesters," she said. "I had to drive to school every day, which was expensive but they really helped with those costs."

Erika Villalobos-Miller

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STATE NEWS

Manar resigns to become senior advisor to Pritzker

Senate Republican Leader Brady resigned Dec. 31 as well

BY JERRY NOWICKI

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COM

SPRINGFIELD — Democratic state Sen. Andy Manar of downstate Bunker Hill announced Monday he will resign from the General Assembly effective Jan. 17 to join the governor's office as an advisor two days later.

The announcement marked the second high-profile resignation from the state Senate in one week's time, as Minority Leader Bill Brady, R-Bloomington, announced his immediate resignation on Dec. 31.

Manar announced his resignation shortly after noon Monday, and within 20 minutes Gov. JB Pritzker's office announced he would hire Manar as a senior advisor. Manar will be paid \$278,000, annually according to the governor's office, half of which will be paid out from a limited liability company created by Pritzker to compensate several of his top aides beyond their state payrolls. That company is

East Jackson Street LLC.

The rate of pay is more than three-and-a-half times Manar's Senate salary, which was \$79,100 in 2019, according to a state database run through the Illinois Comptroller's office.

In a statement, Manar said his wife Trista and three children "have only known me as a husband and father who also carries the responsibility of serving as an elected official."

"They have never known a day otherwise," he said. "The time has come for someone new to take up the call in the Illinois Senate. Central Illinois is full of outstanding individuals ready to step forward to meet the challenge — be an agent of change in Downstate Illinois."

Manar would have been up for reelection in the 48th Senate District in 2022, likely facing a difficult challenge in an area that leaned heavily toward Republican President Donald Trump in the 2020 election. He did not respond to a phone message from Capitol News Illinois Monday.

Manar replaces Nikki



Sen. Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill, appears at an event with Gov. JB Pritzker and others in 2019. He announced Monday he will be leaving the Illinois Senate to take a job in Pritzker's administration as a senior advisor. (Capitol News Illinois file photo by Jerry Nowicki)

Budzinski, who left the administration in February, as a senior advisor.

"Andy is a fiercely devoted public servant with an enviable track record in the legislature. His counsel and friendship have been invaluable over the last two years," Pritzker's Chief of Staff Anne Caprara said in a statement. "We are elated that he will be serving alongside this team as we face the challenges of the coming years."

The Bunker Hill Democrat has served in the Senate since 2012 and was most notably the lead negotiator of an evidence-based funding formula for K-12 education which directs money to the schools that are furthest from funding adequacy based on a number of factors. That reform passed in 2017.

Prior to the General Assembly he served as city councilman, then mayor in Bunker Hill, as well as Macoupin County Board Chairman.

Brady

Brady, who resigned ahead of the new year, served as Senate GOP leader since 2017, but members of his caucus elected Sen. Dan McConchie, of Hawthorn Woods, to lead them in the 102nd General Assembly which begins Jan. 13.

Brady served in the Illinois House from 1993 to 2000 and has served in the state Senate since 2002. He also made three separate bids for the governorship, winning a place on the ballot as the GOP's candidate facing Pat Quinn in 2010. He lost to Quinn

by approximately 32,000 votes.

He did not give a reason for his resignation in a letter distributed to members of the Senate Republican caucus. He was paid \$96,500 in 2019, according to the comptroller's database. He would have stood for reelection in 2022 in the heavily Republican area.

"Over the years, our caucus was successful in securing additional funding for our public schools, helping create a tax-credit private school scholarship program for low and middle-income students, standing up against incomes tax hikes that hurt working families, and working tirelessly to improve our state's crumbling infrastructure," he said in the letter.

Both senators stepped

down after a deadline that would have called for special elections to choose their successors, so local party leaders in the counties within their districts will choose each of the senators' replacements.

Sen. President Don Harmon, who was voted to that post in January 2019, lauded both outgoing senators in statements distributed by a spokesperson.

"I will miss working with Leader Brady. He has proven time and again to be a results-driven lawmaker and leader. While we have our political differences, he always came to the negotiating table looking for common ground and success, not conflict," Harmon, D-Oak Park, said as he wished Brady well.

Harmon called Manar a "guiding force for so many lawmakers on so many issues," noting that Manar served first as a chief of staff in the Senate before being elected to the chamber.

"He's compiled a lifetime of achievements in what is still a very young career. Atop that list would be the education funding overhaul he led that sets our state on a course for fundamental education fairness, equity and excellence," Harmon said. "Andy's been my friend and an invaluable sounding board since my first days in the Senate, and I'm grateful that our friendship is even stronger today. The governor is very lucky to have him. I wish Andy all the very best in his new role."

"The time has come for someone new to take up the call in the Illinois Senate. Central Illinois is full of outstanding individuals ready to step forward to meet the challenge — be an agent of change in Downstate Illinois."

Andy Manar

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

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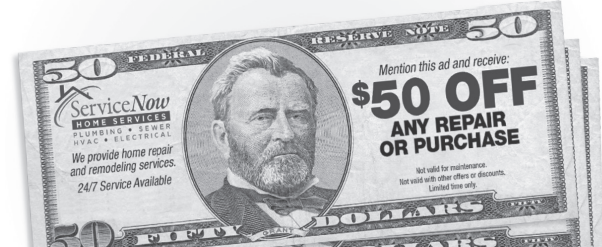
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LOCAL NEWS

Obituaries

ESMOND — Boyd W. Goelitz, 94, of Esmond, passed peacefully into our Lord's presence on Jan. 1, 2021, surrounded by loved ones.

Boyd is survived by his wife of 68 years, Marcia, of Esmond; his sons, Roger (Lourdes) of Loveland, Colorado, Charles (Nancy) of Bloomington, and Michael (Judy) of Monroe Center; his grandchildren, Erin (Robin) Held of Aurora, Colorado, Sean Goelitz of Denver, Colorado, Sara (Chris) Sturgeon of Normal, Serena Goelitz and Adam Goelitz of Monroe Center; and his great-grandchildren, Maggie Sturgeon, Alexandra Held and Caleb Held; sisters-in-law, Catherine Goelitz and Judy Johnson; brothers-in-law, Paul (Gladys) Laube, Eugene (Betty) Laube, Bruce (Diane) Laube; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Iva Goelitz; his brother, Harold Goelitz; and infant great-grandson, Trevor Sturgeon.

Boyd was born on Sept. 3, 1926 at home in Esmond. He graduated from

Rochelle Township High School in 1944, was drafted into the Army in March of 1945. He served his country first as a Counter Intelligence Corps (Special Ops) officer, then in Graves Registration, recovering remains of downed U.S. servicemen in Japan. After WWII, he returned home and began his life-long passion of farming the land, enjoying being his own boss, and helping to feed the world.

In addition to raising corn and soybeans, he loved feeding cattle, which he did until he was 73. Never one for full retirement, at 77 he then began a career as a Crop Insurance Adjustor until he stopped at age 90, all the while continuing his grain farming, even working the ground this past Fall in preparation for Spring planting.

He married Marcia in 1952, and they settled a mile away from his family's farm. They were blessed with three sons, Roger, Charles, and Michael. Boyd was a great family man and a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Family and his faith were

of utmost importance to Boyd and he loved being able to celebrate family events and important occasions. He was known for great hugs, great stories, and always had time to show his love to family and friends. He felt God had truly blessed him.

Boyd was deeply involved in the Esmond community. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge for 73 years; a lifelong member of Esmond United Methodist Church; served on the board of Greenview Cemetery for 42 years and as Secretary-Treasurer for 35 years; and served as board member of the former United Bank of Rochelle.

Boyd played both baseball and hockey as a young man. Always a sports fan, he later officiated high school football and basketball for 37 years, as a member of the White Pines Officials Association. He officiated the State 3A football championship game in 1995 and the State 6A football championship game in 1996. He was a lifelong fan of the Detroit Tigers

and Detroit Red Wings and always looked forward to the baseball season.

Boyd lived out his Christianity with honesty and integrity. His family and friends will always remember him as a man of wisdom. He had a deep love for his country. He always demonstrated a genuine interest in everyone he met.

A funeral is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 9 at the Esmond United Methodist Church for family, with a livestream on the Unger-Horner Funeral Home Facebook page for the community as Boyd's life is celebrated.

The family would like to thank Mike and Judy Goelitz for opening their home and providing compassionate end-of-life care, and to OSF Hospice for their wonderful care of Boyd and support for the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Esmond United Methodist Church or Greenview Cemetery, Esmond, Illinois.

Please visit www.ungerhorner.com to sign the online guest book.



Rev. Paul Goddard

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The Rev. Paul Dillon Goddard died in Fort Myers, Florida, on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020 after a months-long battle with failing health, including cancer.

Paul was born on Sept. 23, 1938, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the second child of Alpheus John

Goddard Jr. of Freeport, Illinois, and Jane Dillon Goddard of Sterling, Illinois.

He attended public schools in Lancaster until his family moved to Sterling in 1950. Paul graduated from the Eaglebrook School, in Deerfield, Massachusetts, in 1953, and Shattuck Military

Academy, in Faribault, Minnesota, in 1956.

In 1960, he graduated from the University of the South, and The General Theological Seminary, in New York in 1963.

Upon ordination as an Episcopal Priest, he served as Associate Rector at St. John's Episcopal Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and then as Rector of a mission parish in Rochelle, where he directed the building of its first church.

His final parish was Grace Episcopal Church, in Galena. He then retired and moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where he and his lifelong companion,

the late Boyd Johnson, enjoyed many good years. During this time, he and Boyd owned and operated a restaurant and gift shop, in Middleton, Wisconsin, known as The Gallery.

Eventually, Paul established his residence on Sanibel Island, Florida, and spent his summers in the Madison area.

Paul was always an active and devoted clergyman in retirement, serving his churches gratuitously, both in Madison and Sanibel, in whatever capacities may have been needed.

He was steadfast in his faith, and a comfort and friend to many. Aside from

his professional pursuits, he, with Boyd, enjoyed traveling, boating, and entertaining, always in the company of their beloved poodles.

Paul is survived by his brother, Alpheus John Goddard III of Rockford, and nieces Katherine Page, Sarah Adler, and Mercy Goddard, nephews Paul Goddard and Christopher Goddard, and eight grandchildren and grandnieces.

Paul was especially grateful to nieces Kate and Mercy, nurse Linda, nurse Wendy, case worker Michelle, and care consultant Lisa, for their special attention during his final

days, as well as his good friends in Madison, and the wonderful and caring parishioners and clergy of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church of Sanibel, Florida.

A memorial service for Paul will be scheduled for a later date.

Memorial gifts may be made through Harvey-Engelhardt Funeral & Cremation Services: 1600 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33907 or we-care@harvey-engelhardt.com for the benefit of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church of Sanibel, FL.

Descansa en paz, Pablo.

Donna Knetsch Gittleson

STEWART — Donna Lynn Knetsch Gittleson, 80, passed away unexpectedly at her home in

Stewart, on Jan. 1, 2021. Donna was born on June 15, 1940 to Ralph C. and Linnea L. Roberts

in Chicago. On June 17, 1961, she married Henry Arthur Knetsch III in Morton Grove. He preceded her in death on Dec. 19, 1988. Later, she married Ronald Lee Gittleson on Nov. 20, 1993 in Stewart. He also preceded her in death on March 15, 2011.

Donna was a very active member of the Stewart United Methodist Church. She adored her children, grandchildren and most recently her great grandchildren and stayed very involved in their day-to-day lives.

She enjoyed gardening, flowers and was a tough Scrabble foe. Donna was a strong supporter of the food and clothing pantry at N.I.C.E. and the Cause for Paws Rescue. She cared deeply for all she spent time with and was especially grateful to all those who helped her maintain her independence. She ran the family farm up until her last day. She also worked as a library clerk at the Flagg Township Library in Rochelle for many years.

Donna is survived by her four children, Henry Knetsch, IV of Stewart, Karen (Jim) Maliszewski

of Rockford, Jim (Jenn) Knetsch of Stewart, and

Kim (Jeff) Munson of Dixon; her brother, Ron (Sue) Roberts of Bellingham, Washington; nine grandchildren, Kristie Knetsch, Jana (Mike) Guzzaldo, Jake (Allison) Maliszewski, Emily, Ben and Josh Knetsch and Evan, Kaelyn and Madalyn Munson; seven great-grandchildren, Kaiden and Kaleb Gomez, Kameron Knetsch, Khloe Davis, Isla and Leo Guzzaldo and Henry Maliszewski along with her dear friends at Stewart United Methodist Church.

There will be a private family only funeral service on Friday, Jan. 8 at 1 p.m. with Pastor Megan Thompson officiating. The service will be livestreamed on the Unger-Horner Funeral Home Facebook page. Burial will follow the service at Stewart Cemetery in Stewart.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Donna's memory to the Stewart United Methodist Church or to the Cause for Paws Rescue.

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Deanna Hayward

ROCHELLE — Deanna Sue Hayward, 50, of Rochelle, passed away Jan. 4, 2021.

Services are pending with the Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth Street, Rochelle. Visit www.ungerhorner.com.



Read and Recycle

LOCAL NEWS

Three taken to hospital following one car accident

On Dec. 29 at approximately 4:15 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies, along with Mt. Morris Fire, Mt. Morris EMS, and Oregon EMS responded to a single vehicle accident in the 3000 block of West Mud Creek Road. After an investigation, it was learned that Rene Wehler, 52, of Mt. Morris, had overcorrected after her tire had slid off of the roadway, causing the vehicle to enter the south ditch and come to rest after striking a pole. Wehler and two minor children were transported to KSB Hospital by Mt. Morris EMS and Oregon EMS. The vehicle was removed by D&W towing.

Dec. 31

On Dec. 31 at approximately 9:30 p.m., Ogle County deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection on North Walnut Street and Second Street in Byron. After investigations, deputies arrested Michael Cretsinger, 53, of Byron, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Cretsinger was also issued citations for illegal transportation of alcohol, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and failure to signal. Cretsinger was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

On Dec. 31 at 9:30 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop at Walnut and State Street in Forreston. After investigation, Deputies arrested Charles Alba, 34, of Forreston, for driving while license suspended, no insurance and expired registration. Alba was given an I-bond for his citations.

Jan. 1

On Jan. 1 Ogle County Sheriff's deputies initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle

for a speeding violation on Interstate 39 near Monroe Center. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Dyshun Jones, 20, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for driving while license suspended. Jones was released from the scene on an I-bond and will appear in Ogle County Court at a later date.

On Jan. 1 at approximately 1:17 a.m., deputies responded to the 7000 block of East Illinois Route 72 in reference to a domestic disturbance. After investigation, deputies arrested Ned Reed, 27, of Stillman Valley, for domestic battery. Reed was transported to the Ogle County Jail and released to correctional staff, where he was held in lieu of bond.

Jan. 2

On Jan. 2, Ogle County Sheriff's deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near Illinois Route 64 for a speeding violation. After a brief investigation, deputies arrested Devory McGee, 38, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for driving while license revoked. McGee was released from the scene on a I-bond and will appear in Ogle County court at a later date.

Jan. 3

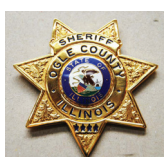
On Jan. 3 at approximately 12:07 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop in the 1100 block of South Meridian Road. After investigations, Ogle County Sheriff's deputies arrested Eric Valdez of Sterling, for driving under the influence of alcohol. Valdez was also issued a citation for disregarding a traffic control device. Valdez was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was released

to correctional staff and held in lieu of bond.

Jan. 4

On Jan. 4 at approximately 10:31 p.m., deputies initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 39 near mile marker 102. After further investigation, Jacob Larson, 29, of Moline was placed under arrest for driving while license suspended. Larson was released on an I-Bond at the scene.

On Jan. 4 at approximately 8:52 a.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Barker and Woodburn Roads. After investigation, deputies placed Charles Larson, 36, of Beloit, Wisconsin, under arrest for driving while license revoked. Larson was additionally issued a citation for operating an uninsured vehicle. Larson was transported to the Ogle County Jail where he was held in lieu of bond.



EVENT: Annual fundraising gala to be held virtually this year

From page 1

"We are also having an online auction with items that would normally have appeared on our silent auction tables during the gala," Eckhardt added. "The online can be viewed at <https://bearrows.hibid.com>. We have set a goal to raise \$50,000 for our seven local non-profit groups in 2021, but we can't meet our goal without help from you. From The Heart is asking that you give from your heart this year. Please consider purchasing a ticket, bidding on an item, becoming a sponsor of our Virtual Event or

donate an item that can be raffled off. We trust we can count on your help to make this year's event one of our best yet."

The proceeds from our annual event go to our From The Heart recipients: Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation and Hub City Senior Center.

Mail your donation to From The Heart, PO Box 202, Rochelle, IL 61068. For more information, call Eckhardt at 815-562-2220. Tickets can be purchased at <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org>.

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LOCAL VIEWS

Guest column

Politicians unsure what to expect when coming back into session

JUST call it the lame-duck shrug. State representatives return to Springfield on Friday, but if you ask any of them what they expect to consider, you're more than likely going to get a shrug.

No one knows. It's a mystery, wrapped in a conundrum and bound up in a riddle.

"House Speaker Mike Madigan is keeping things pretty close to the vest. We are just a few days out and we just don't know," said state Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield. "I had members of the majority party, Democrats, calling me to see what I had heard about session. They thought I might know, because I represent Springfield. That's pretty telling when members of the party in control don't have a clue."

Madigan spokesman Steve Brown said he anticipates lawmakers will consider legislation being pushed by the House Democratic Black Caucus. But, as of Monday, no bills had been filed with the House clerk pertaining to that caucus' agenda.

Among the issues said to possibly be a part of that agenda is a measure that would eliminate "qualified immunity" for police officers. This would allow victims of police misconduct to personally sue the officers as well as the governmental body that employs them. Leaders of the Black Caucus also are pushing measures pertaining to job training, education funding equity and Medicaid financing.

Rep. La Shawn Ford, D-Chicago, declined to discuss specifics of the Black Caucus agenda. But he and other members of that caucus have expressed dismay that there are not more minority owners in the state's marijuana dispensaries.

But state Rep. Avery Bourne, R-Morrisonville, said it is not enough to know the broad issues to

be discussed, legislation needs to be reviewed carefully.

"So far, we haven't seen any bills," she said. "And we really can't weigh in until we have seen specific legislation."

Unfortunately, lawmakers are often kept in the dark until shortly before they are about to vote on a bill. This minimizes the opportunity for voters and interest groups to lobby against a bill before it comes up for a vote.

"Children are taught civics, but there are some who don't like to see it practiced," said Ari DeWolf, a government affairs specialist for the Illinois Policy Institute.

"Lame duck" is the colloquial term for the period between an election and an inauguration. Some of those serving have either lost the election or have chosen not to seek re-election.

These members are thought to be less inhibited in voting against their constituents' wishes. Indeed, during past lame duck sessions Illinois lawmakers have approved such controversial measures as abolishing the death penalty, creating same-sex civil unions and increasing the state income tax by 66 percent.

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, said in a virtual news conference that he fears Madigan will again push for a lame duck tax hike after voters rejected a constitutional amendment to create a graduated income tax. "They refused to listen to our warnings over and over again," he said. "And now, after voters just sent the Democrats a message, Madigan and his cohorts will be trying to sneak a tax increase — yes, sneak a tax increase — into the lame-duck session."

Brown pooh-poohed the notion that lawmakers may consider an income tax hike during

the waning days of the legislative session saying he hadn't heard the matter discussed.

The session is scheduled to begin Friday and could run until Jan. 13, when the new General Assembly will convene to inaugurate its members.

Because of the CO-

VID-19 pandemic, lawmakers haven't met since late May when they held a brief session to pass a budget and a few other items deemed essential.

That budget is out of whack by \$5 billion. It was passed on the hope that Congress would pass a stimulus package that would include aid

to struggling state and local governments and that voters in November would approve a constitutional amendment to allow the state to levy a graduated income tax. Neither happened.

Rep. Ford said, "Lame duck session is the time to ramp up taxes if we are to avoid cutting

needed programs."

On the other hand, when tax decisions are left to lame ducks — taxpayers should expect to be goosed.

Scott Reeder is a veteran statehouse journalist and a freelance reporter. ScottReeder1965@gmail.com.



Scott Reeder



VOICE ON THE STREET

Question:

What will you spend your stimulus check on when you receive it?

"Property taxes."

Wenda Comacho

"Pay off some bills."

Shelley Sims Reynolds

"Bills."

Marilynn Bulthaus Roberson

"Rent."

Christine Elaine

"Car repairs."

Alex Torres

"Survival...."

Joshua Mosher

"Bills and a spin bike I've been wanting for a long time."

Jamie Gadson

"Beer and cigars."

Matthew Darby

"Nope, right into savings."

Angie Rubeck Ward

"Paying off my minivan."

Cayce Bridges Groves

"Our stove broke on Christmas Eve, so it went to buying a new one."

Danielle Arredondo

"Depends, are they still direct depositing? Or was it one and done on the fourth and now the rest wait to claim on taxes?"

Katherine Mosher

"Paid my loan off."

Diamond Reynolds

"Home improvements."

Chrissy Norris

"Pay off car."

Pat Estes

"Bills."

Susan Marie

"Rent."

Chris McCarter Ackland

"Bills."

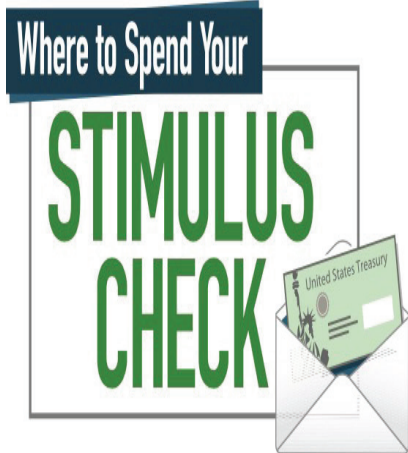
Leslie Walters

"Invest in the stock market."

Kelly Walters

"Bills and invest if possible."

Alexis Reyes



How to contact government officials

U.S. Con. Adam Kinzinger
1218 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C.
20515
(202) 225-3635

IL Sen. Brian Stewart
M104A State House
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0180

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Kim Whalen kwhalen@oglecounty.org

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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.

COMMUNITY



Bruce and Cathy Boardman

Boardmans celebrating anniversary

ROCHELLE — Bruce and Cathy Boardman of Rochelle will celebrate their 45th anniversary on Jan. 10.

Bruce and the former Cathy Richardson were wed Jan. 10, 1976 in the Boardman Chapel in DeKalb.

The couple has two children, Brent Boardman of Dixon, and Brit-tany Furman of Rochelle, and two grandchildren.

The Kitchen Table menu

Jan. 5 – (Tuesday) – Cornbread crab cakes, coleslaw, herb roasted potatoes, fresh greens salad	peppers over white rice, sauteed veggies
Jan. 7 – (Thursday) – Teriyaki chicken over rice, carrots, broccoli cauliflower	Feb. 7 – Sunday Brunch – Sausage gravy and biscuits, fried bologna or sausage, scrambled eggs
Jan. 12 – (Tuesday) – Sweet & sour pork stir fry	
Jan. 14 – (Thursday) – Pork chops, mac n cheese, peas, soup	
Jan. 19 – (Tuesday) – KT Bowls (chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, cheese, gravy), coleslaw, biscuits	
Jan. 21 – (Thursday) – Spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, salad	
Jan. 26 – (Tuesday) – Mississippi pot roast, roasted veggies, cornbread	
Jan. 28 – (Thursday) – Kielbasa with onions and green	

*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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jan. 6 Debbie Bonacquisti	Christina Jones	Harold & Kathy Sanders
Jan. 7 Elaina Phillips Gary Phillips Summer Coffman	Jan. 13 Judy Messer	Hailey Losoya
Jan. 8 Graciela Perez Xavier Villalobos	Jan. 14 Jeannie Boeck Haley Thompson	Jan. 23 Odessa Waters Michele Perez
Jan. 9 Cheyenne Pourchot	Jan. 15 Kami South Trenton South	Jan. 24 Terry Dodillet Kelly Arnold
Jan. 11 Troy Martinez Kathy Sanders	Jan. 19 Kevin South	Jan. 25 Nikki Greenfield Ashton Arwood
	Jan. 20 Noelia Lopez	Jan. 28 Peggy Futrell

RTHS board meeting date changed

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Township High School Board of Education January board meeting has been changed from Monday, Jan. 18 to Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Hub Gallery Room at the Rochelle Township High School, 1401 Flagg Road, Rochelle.



FROM THE HEART DAILY CASH WINNERS

- Dec. 9 - Brenda Mason, Dixon, \$25
- Dec. 10 - Celia Castillo, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 11 - Tina Fletcher, Westville, Indiana, \$25
- Dec. 12 - Daisy Russell, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 13 - Cal Jacobs, Rochelle, \$50
- Dec. 14 - Laurie Borowicz, Sycamore, \$25
- Dec. 15 - Adlai Schaefer, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 16 - Shelley Haws, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 17 - Sean Saweikis, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 18 - Melissa Folkers, Sterling, \$25
- Dec. 19 - Judy Schermerhorn, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 20 - Debbie Vrana, Princeton, \$50
- Dec. 21 - Cindy Harris, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 22 - Debbie Ferguson, DeKalb, \$25
- Dec. 23 - Julie & Dave Christopherson, Chana, \$25
- Dec. 24 - Debbie Vrana, Princeton, \$25
- Dec. 25 - Linda Christell, Rochelle, \$1,000
- Dec. 26 - Laurie Miller, Davis, \$25
- Dec. 27 - Jennnifer Herrera, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 28 - Dennis Neal, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 29 - Jeff Glen, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 30 - Verda Crum, Rochelle, \$25
- Dec. 31 - Jason Bird, St. Charles, \$25

Checks to winners will be mailed out at the end of each month



Coffee Break

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Nile vipers
5 Cistern
8 Sprint
12 Guitarist
Atkins
13 — -de-France
14 Formerly
15 Antelope's playmate
16 Its days are numbered
18 Degree of excellence
20 Endures
21 "Nova" ailer
22 Lass
23 Regions
26 Volcanic crater
30 "Entourage" agent
31 Branch
32 Felon's flight
33 Trinidad music
36 Fountain drinks
38 Fine, at NASA
39 Marry
40 Dishonor
43 Actor Rory
47 Squid dish
49 Big fair, for short
50 "Oops!"
51 Drench
52 Peruse
53 Facts and figures

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31					32		
33			34	35					36	37		
			38				39					
40	41	42				43				44	45	46
47					48				49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

DOWN
1 Outlet letters
2 The Mets' old home
3 Rind
4 American flag feature
5 Bad habits
6 Winged
7 Aviv preceder
8 Disney duck
9 &&&&
10 Ella's style
11 Towel word
17 Israeli airline
19 Small ammo
22 Leg, in slang
23 Efron of "Parkland"
24 Man-mouse link
25 Zero
26 — -Magnon
27 Right angle
28 Squealer
29 Early hrs.
31 Request
34 Motorcycle maker
35 "The Raven," for one
36 Actor Gibson
37 Stick
39 Is patient
40 Gulf War mis-sile
41 "Funny!"
42 Oodles
43 Manitoba tribe
44 They can take a yoke
45 — the crack of dawn
46 Agrees silently
48 Piercing tool

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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: **K** equals **O**

YIAE G PGBSKKEVWS CVLAW G

PIGBGPSAB YGF SKK ZGEF

JASGVNW, KEA ZVCIS PGNN VS

KLABJBGYE.

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

Answer

When a cartoonist gives a character way too many details, one might call it overdrawn.

CryptoQuip
Solution time: 23 mins.
Answers

YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 1

Sunday, July 26

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Chamber of Commerce on Friday announced Tricia (Wagner) Herrera as its new executive director by unanimous vote by the chamber board. She will assume her new role on Aug. 3.

"The board and I are thrilled at the choice of Tricia (Wagner) Herrera as our new executive director," Kari Andrist, representing Holcomb Bank on the Chamber Board of Directors and board president-elect said. "Tricia has served as a director and president of the board for more than eight years and knows the Rochelle community well. Tricia is the right fit for the position and will play a vital role in the growth of the chamber and its continued support of our members."

Herrera was instrumental in providing timely and relevant information and resources to members by creating a close partnership with the City of Rochelle, Kishwaukee College and Waubesa Community College, among others. She currently serves on several regional chambers of commerce and non-profit boards.

**August
Sunday, Aug. 2**

ROCHELLE — The City of Rochelle recently completed its three-part, \$7 million Rochelle Railroad expansion project.

The project consisted of building the new Rochelle Trans Loading Center, a four-track wide bridge with an adjacent detention pond, and expanding the

old track to create new unit change interchange tracks. Construction on the project began in August 2018 and was expected to take nine months, but due to an excess amount of rain last spring and an early winter, the project took about two years.

The railroad system serves many industrial businesses and was in need of expansion since it had reached its capacity. The railroad is one of the main driving forces behind economic development in the community and the city hopes the new expansion will attract even more businesses to Rochelle.

ROCHELLE — Through its Restart Rochelle grant program, the City of Rochelle recently distributed approximately \$200,000 to local small businesses affected by the COVID-19 shutdown.

Each business applied for up to \$5,000 through the grant program. The funds could be used to pay rent, mortgage, insurance, utilities or anything to help make ends meet caused by the COVID-19 shutdown. Approximately \$160,000 of the funds came from community development dollars when the city sold its transmission lines and the other approximate \$40,000 came from enterprise zone funds.

Since not every business that applied asked for the full amount of \$5,000 the city was able to approve 41 business's requests through the program. The funds were donated to the businesses so they do not need to be paid back, the city just asks for a receipt as proof of what the funds were used toward.



Habitat for Humanity began building its 13th home and second for a family in Rochelle, on June 13, for Felix and Tanya Vega and their five children. Since the first shovel was dug into the ground in June, construction has been moving forward at the build site at an average of three to four days a week. (Wednesday, Sept. 9)

**WEDNESDAY,
Aug. 5**

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Municipal Airport recently completed a \$3.2 million three-phase runway and taxiway renovation project.

The first phase of the project involved tearing up the old asphalt ramp leading to the taxiway and runway and rebuilding it out of much stronger and longer lasting concrete. The second phase of the project was tearing up the old runway that was beginning to fall apart to resurface, repaint and implement new groove drainage technology for the new runway.

The final portion of the project involved relocating the old taxiway from the beginning of the runway toward the middle to act like a speed bump for planes entering the runway. This entire project ensures the

safety of the pilots as well as updates the quality of the runway itself.

SUNDAY, AUG. 9

ROCHELLE — With the start of the school year quickly approaching, Rochelle Consolidated School District 231 has released the safety protocol and procedures for reopening its elementary buildings and Rochelle Middle School.

As the district moves forward with its plan of a hybrid, online and in-person learning plan, all students in grades K-12 will be assigned a technology device to aid in the remote learning process. The district will also continue to provide amenities such as transportation for students who qualify in accordance with the district's pandemic transportation policy as well as breakfast and to-go lunch options.

All students and staff will be screened upon

entering the building with infrared thermometers and anybody who shows a temperature over 99.5 will be asked to wait in a designated holding center for 15 minutes before rechecking his or her temperature. If the individual's temperature does not change the school nurse will check for other COVID-19 symptoms.

If any student demonstrates further symptoms during his or her morning screening or throughout the day, they will be isolated in a controlled environment and sent home. It is also very important to notify the school if a student will not be in attendance as well as complete the Rochelle schools' "students with COVID-19 symptoms" form.

SUNDAY, AUG. 23

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Fire Department Chief Dave Sawlsville

recently looked back on his 40 years protecting the community and what has changed during his career.

For Sawlsville, becoming a firefighter was not something he knew he wanted to do from a young age or even something that he pursued. Rather, it was something that found him. It was June 1980 and Sawlsville was working at the old Coast-to-Coast Hardware Store in Rochelle.

One day, one of his regular customers came into the store and mentioned that the fire department was looking for volunteer firefighters. Sawlsville applied right when he finished work that day, and he was hired the next month, working as a paid on-call volunteer for seven years before being hired on as a full-time firefighter on Aug. 10, 1987.

See page 9



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YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 8

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26

ROCHELLE — The use of non-highway vehicles within the corporate limits of the City of Rochelle was approved by Rochelle City Council Monday night. The new ordinance was adopted to allow for residents to permit the non-highway vehicles; however, certain provisions must be followed.

Some of the provisions include a minimum speed of 15 m.p.h. and maximum speed of 25 m.p.h., four wheels, and does not include vehicles operated by a driver straddling the apparatus (such as an ATV).

Guidelines are also outlined in the ordinance including allowable hours of operation, proof of driver's license and insurance and roadways which vehicles are not allowed to operate on.

September WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

ROCHELLE — Local residents have reported seeing dead fish floating in the water and along the banks of Lake Sule in Rochelle, but the park district says there is no need to be concerned.

Two residents called into the Rochelle News-Leader office Monday morning to report fish of all kinds floating all around Lake Sule and along its banks. One woman went to the lake to go fishing and was totally shocked when she saw the lake full of floating, bloated dead fish.

The other caller said he drove from out of town to the lake, since he had heard from others that it was a great fishing spot. Upon arrival, he saw all of the dead fish and left without casting a single line. The Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District executive director Jackee Ohlinger was contacted and said the dead fish are due to recent environmental conditions.

"This occurred about the same time last year and is nothing to be alarmed about," Ohlinger said. "It is due to low oxygen levels in the lake from low water levels and plankton bloom that doesn't allow the sunlight to penetrate into the water."

SUNDAY, SEPT. 13

OREGON — Ogle County Circuit Judge John B. Roe, IV has been appointed to the Supreme Court Committee on Juvenile Courts.

The Supreme Court Committee on Juvenile Courts (the committee) is tasked with reviewing and making recommendations on matters affecting juvenile law and juvenile courts, including child protection and delinquency systems. The committee will review, analyze and examine the impact of legislation and case law as it relates to juvenile law and procedures and any aspect of the juvenile court process.

"I am honored to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court Committee on Juvenile Courts," Roe stated. "I look forward to the opportunity to improve the effectiveness of the juvenile court system as



On Tuesday, the statue of the soldier overlooking the War Memorial was installed on the pedestal at Lawnridge Cemetery facing the engraved bricks of the veterans honored at the memorial. This is the very first piece of bronze art to be placed in Rochelle. The piece was sculpted by Fran Volz. (Wednesday, Oct. 7)

a whole."

15th Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Robert Hanson nominated Judge Roe for the Supreme Court Committee and was quite pleased Judge Roe was selected over other qualified judges.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Area Community Foundation announced Thursday the creation of a new fund.

The Dual Language Educators Scholarship fund is designed to support the educational efforts of future bilingual teachers who plan to work in the Rochelle schools. The purpose is to support expenses towards tuition at Kishwaukee College for students who are committed to teaching in Rochelle schools' bilingual and dual

language programming after graduation.

The fund was started with a generous donation from the Crawford Foundation. The Rochelle Area Community Foundation is pleased to assist the district in providing support for the educational needs of future teachers who will serve the students of Rochelle for generations to come.

October WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21

ROCKFORD — A nurse from SwedishAmerican hospital and with ties to Rochelle has been awarded for her initiative in helping newborn infants born exposed to opioids during pregnancy.

On Monday, Janel Mott, BSN, RNC-CLC, was awarded the Dr. Henry C. Anderson Quality

Award. Mott is a nurse in the SwedishAmerican Mother/Baby Unit.

Each year, SwedishAmerican recognizes one individual in the health system who provides outstanding quality, achievement and education to patients and to one another. The award is named after Dr. Henry C. Anderson, a physician and healthcare leader who was dedicated to SwedishAmerican's heritage of quality excellence for more than 50 years. He joined the medical staff at SwedishAmerican as a primary care physician in 1955. After 34 years of practicing medicine, he joined the administrative staff at SwedishAmerican, where he served as vice president of professional affairs and chief quality officer.

This year's recipient, Mott, championed the Eat, Sleep, Console (ESC) initiative to help infants exposed to opioids during pregnancy. Before ESC was implemented, hospital stays for the infants averaged 14 days, often including a stay in the NICU. In addition, pharmacologic interventions were used to manage withdrawal and breastfeeding rates were decreased.

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Township High School students conducting in-person learning will see a slight change to their class schedules when the first semester concludes this winter.

Superintendent Jason Harper said students attending school will have five in-person classes and one online class during the second semester. Students

currently attending school are taking four in-person classes and two online classes. Harper revealed the decision during the monthly Rochelle School District 212 Board of Education meeting Monday evening.

SUNDAY, OCT. 25

OREGON — State Rep. Tom Demmer told the Ogle County Board that people are mobilizing to try to save the Byron Generating Station, which Exelon Generation said it would be closing in September 2021.

At its Oct. 21 meeting, Demmer told board members that he and other legislators on both sides of the aisle are looking for ways to change state policies that could save the Byron and Dresden plants. Dresden, in Morris, is scheduled to close in November 2021.

Demmer said that making changes to save the plant is "not an impossibility."

He said Exelon has been active in Springfield over the last couple of years and has talked about the importance of it nuclear plants and the carbon free electricity they produce, and how they should factor into the state's overall electric power policy.

The company has also said that plants like the Byron Station could close if changes weren't made.

"It's been talked about for several years, but recently became a lot more real," Demmer said.

But even after the talk, he said the announcement to close the plants released on Aug. 27, "...was a shock to a lot of us."

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Demmer said Gov. JB Pritzker has set up a power policy group, and Demmer said some people from Byron will be testifying in front of that group on the importance of the plant to the local economy and the region.

See page 10

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28

STEWARD — Steward Arbor Day came late this year thanks to COVID-19 canceling the normal spring celebration at a school assembly. The celebration was held Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Steward Cemetery.

The value of trees was extolled as Village President Hugh McKiski's Arbor Day Proclamation was read and training on how to plant trees was given. The crowd assembled and planted four new trees, which were paid for in part by the Trees Forever Grant "Recover, Replant, Restore!"

"My heart is filled with gratitude for the wonderful group of people who enthusiastically worked hard planting trees, and for Trees Forever for awarding Steward the grant," said Steward tree advisory committee chairperson Karen Bonnell. "May the trees planted in the cemetery greet passers-by with spring and fall beauty, and offer comfort for those who mourn."

Veteran tree planters Kim Arne, Tom Brown, Marlie Brown (age 3 1/2) helped along with Scout Troop No. 64 which included scoutmaster Jason Johnson, John Castle, John Conley, Eric Holden and current scouts James Holden, Caleb Johnson, Logan Frye, Nolan Johnson, and Caleb Castle, as well as Evan Meives, and first time Steward tree planters Maggie Brown, Madelyn Brown (age 2), and Chris Cardott. Tom Brown delivered the trees.

November

SUNDAY, NOV. 8

ROCHELLE — The Ogle County Health Department has recently recommended that school districts in the county transition to a remote learning period for all students, beginning Thanksgiving break and ending in mid-January, due to increasing COVID-19 spread within the local community.

"Ogle County is experiencing significant community spread of COVID-19," the health department recommendations read. "The Ogle County Health Department has recommended a pause to in-person learning between the holidays and into the first two weeks of 2021. The increased community spread raises the risk for higher rates of COVID-19 transmission in schools. The health department is concerned that transmission rates during the holidays will make it difficult for school staff and the health department to keep up with contact tracing. The decision to move to remote learning is ultimately one of the local school board and the district superintendent. The Ogle County Health Department is making the above recommendation for local school board consideration due to the increase in local COVID-19 cases, local hospital utilization, the assumption that families will gather with family members outside of their immediate household, most college students will be home during this time; increasing the risk of transmission



Above, Dave Drayna presents a new refrigerated van to Bill Vanstone, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry president, Cal Jacobs, pantry board member, and several other pantry volunteers. (Wednesday, Dec. 9)

and the local public health system's limited ability to respond to the rapid growth in the number of cases."

SUNDAY, NOV. 22

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Area Community Foundation is the recipient of a \$30,000 contribution from ComEd to enhance the quality of life in the Rochelle area.

"The Rochelle Area Community Foundation would like to express its extreme gratitude for ComEd's generous contribution on behalf of the City of Rochelle," Foundation President Cal Jacobs said. "This will provide funds to continue the foundation's work now and into the future."

This contribution follows the City of Rochelle's sale of its electric transmission assets to ComEd this past summer. As lead negotiator on the transaction, City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh felt it was essential that in a deal of this size, a contribution be made that benefits residents.

SUNDAY, NOV. 29

ROCHELLE — With the State of Illinois moving into Tier 3 COVID-19 mitigations, the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District has made some changes regarding access to the recreation center at Helms South. An update from executive director Jackee Ohlinger was published to the Rochelle Community Park District Facebook page Tuesday afternoon.

All pre-sale memberships will be frozen and not charged until 2021 due to the new mitigations, which call for indoor sports and recreational activities to be paused. However, the park district will offer three options for using the recreation center in December including a \$30 December REC Pass, a \$20 Walking Pass and one-hour court and turf rentals at special rates.

December

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Area Community Foundation announced Tuesday the award of \$30,050 in Coronavirus Response Fund Grants to nonprofit organizations serving the needs of people in the local area.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Rochelle Area Community Foundation will distribute funds to aid local nonprofit organizations in their service to the community

related to COVID-19. In this third round of grant making, seven organizations applied to the Coronavirus Response Fund and each application was funded in full.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

OREGON — As Ogle County Board Member Don Griffin cut the ribbon in front of the new Judicial Center Annex on Dec. 3, he brought to a close a 22-year process that led to that moment.

It was in June 1998 that the county's Long Range Planning Committee was established to develop a 25-year capital improvement plan, which focused on the judicial system.

In remarks after the ribbon cutting ceremony, Griffin said all of that planning is what brought the county this new jail.

"We have a very nice facility for the citizens of Ogle County for many years into the future," he said.

The county broke ground on the new facility in April 2019. It took 20 months to build and came in on time and under budget. The total cost is projected to be about \$23 million.

SUNDAY, DEC. 20

JUPITER and Saturn will merge in the night sky Monday, appearing closer to one another than they have since Galileo's time in the 17th century.

Astronomers say so-called conjunctions between the two largest planets in our solar system aren't particularly rare. Jupiter passes its neighbor Saturn in their respective laps around the sun every 20 years.

But the one coming up is especially close: Jupiter and Saturn will be just one-tenth of a degree apart from our perspective or about one-fifth the width of a full moon. They should be easily visible around the world a little after sunset, weather permitting.

Toss in the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, the longest night of the year — and the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere — and this just-in-time-for-Christmas spectacle promises to be one of the greatest of Great Conjunctions.

It will be the closest Jupiter-Saturn pairing since July 1623, when the two planets appeared a little nearer. This conjunction was almost impossible to see, however, because of its closeness to the sun.

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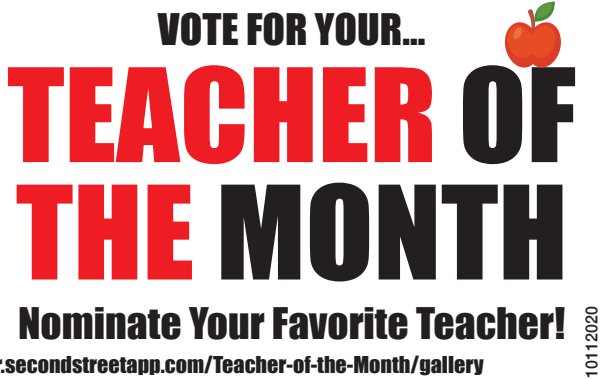
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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6, 2021

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

SPORTS



LOOKING TO IMPROVE

Hub runner Peter Forsberg is aiming to cut multiple minutes off his PR next year.

See page 2 for more details

RTHS Girls Basketball

Home on the hardwood

Lady Hub guard Davis-Carter finding herself through hoops

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

WHEN Lady Hub student-athlete Adrianah Davis-Carter was young, her family always had the sports channels on while she watched television. Her brothers were both heavily involved in sports, so she always wanted to take up a sport she could claim as her own and be great at.

Davis-Carter also competed in multiple sports growing up, but basketball was the sport that made the greatest impact on her life. Her love for basketball started when she went out for her fifth-grade team, and the competitiveness of the sport has brought her back ever since.

"Basketball is such a fast-paced game," Davis-Carter said. "You're constantly moving up and down the court and you have to be ready at any moment to either defend or score. It's crazy how competitive basketball can be. It can go from one team taking the lead to becoming a one-possession game where not letting the other team score is the biggest priority."

Davis-Carter has spent her last two years with the Rochelle Township High School Lady Hub basket-



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Junior Adriannah Davis-Carter goes to the basket for a layup against Ottawa this past season. Basketball has made a tremendous impact on Davis-Carter since she took up the sport in fifth grade.

ball program, competing with the freshman team before suiting up for the sophomore team this past season. Now a junior, the speedy guard will earn her first crack at varsity competition when the Lady Hubs eventually return to action this coming season.

"I felt like I performed very well with my team during my sophomore

season,” Davis-Carter said. “The drive and push we gave each other was amazing and a lot of bonds were created. I’ve been with many of my teammates since my freshman year and we were really able to connect in the gym and in the classroom. As a team, I felt like we moved around the floor well. I’m not sure what to expect

next year but I hope we can avoid drama and become a bigger family.”

Davis-Carter said improving her stamina, keeping her emotions in check and being more communicative will be the keys to her individual success this coming season. As she continues preparing for her junior season, Davis-Carter said she wants to

be a teammate who can be counted on to create space on the floor, play tough defense and be a vocal leader.

"I felt I could've been more talkative last season because our communication in practice was amazing, but it wasn't always there during games," Davis-Carter said. "I definitely want to control my speed and gain more

stamina. I know I'm fast, but if I spend half the game running around, I know I won't be able to perform at 100 percent at the end of the game... Self-improvement is a very important thing for me. You are your own coach in that moment, and you can either be lazy or really push yourself in order to see what you need to fix."

RTHS Softball

Ansteth aiming to improve hitting next season

Senior catcher building on strong defensive skills

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

DESPITE losing her most recent softball season to COVID-19, Rochelle senior Kendal Ansteth continued working hard over the summer to improve her skills on the diamond. Whether it was through competing with the Express Fast-pitch travel program or practicing on her own, Ansteth will be ready to be a leader for the Lady Hub varsity team when action resumes this year.

"Losing my junior season to COVID-19 was hard," Ansteth said. "I was really looking forward to the season because I felt like we would've had a pretty solid team. I was still able to play with my travel team over the summer and practice, which has allowed me to continue to be prepared for the upcoming season, and my

travel coaches continue helping me improving.”

Ansteth earned brief experience with the varsity team during her sophomore season, working behind the plate as Rochelle's starting catcher while teammate Maddi O'Rourke was sidelined. Already a stout defender, Ansteth said becoming a better hitter will be the biggest stride she hopes to make during her fourth and final season with the Lady Hub softball program.

"I had the opportunity to fill in on varsity for a couple of weeks and I enjoyed playing at a faster pace and working

with the team,” Ansteth said. “I thought I did well as a catcher and this next season, I want to continue improving my hitting. My goals for my senior season are to improve my hitting, work hard and have fun because I think we’ll have a solid team this season.”

Ansteth has been an impact player on the softball field since taking up the sport at 7 years old. She began playing travel softball when she was 9 and she said she enjoys everything about the sport, from being on the field

to making new friends,
traveling and working as
a team.

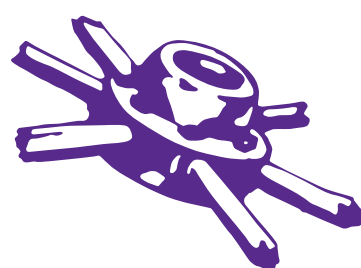


(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Senior Kendal Ansteth earned limited varsity experience during her sophomore season with the Lady Hubs in 2019. Ansteth competed with her travel club over the summer to stay prepared for her senior season this year.



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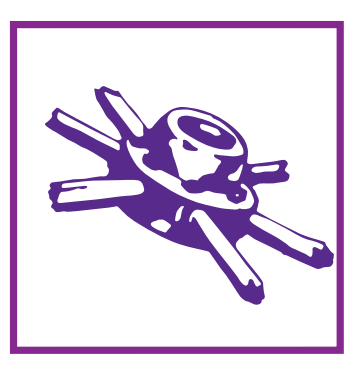
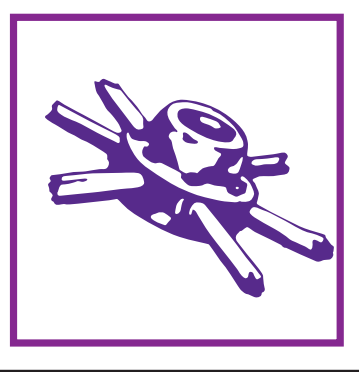
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HUB SPOTLIGHT

Forsberg setting high standard for senior year

BY RUSSELL HODGES
SPORTS EDITOR

SLASHING four minutes off a personal-best time is no easy task for cross country runners. That's what Hub harrier Peter Forsberg will attempt to achieve, however, after recently completing his second season with the Rochelle Township High School cross country program.

Forsberg first ran with the Hubs as a sophomore, beginning his season running times near the 25-minute range before ultimately cracking the 23-minute mark over his last five meets. While the COVID-19 pandemic drastically altered the team's offseason training program, Forsberg entered his junior season even faster, running in the 22-minute range in Rochelle's first meet of the 2020 season and clocking in at 21:40 during the Interstate 8 Conference Championships.

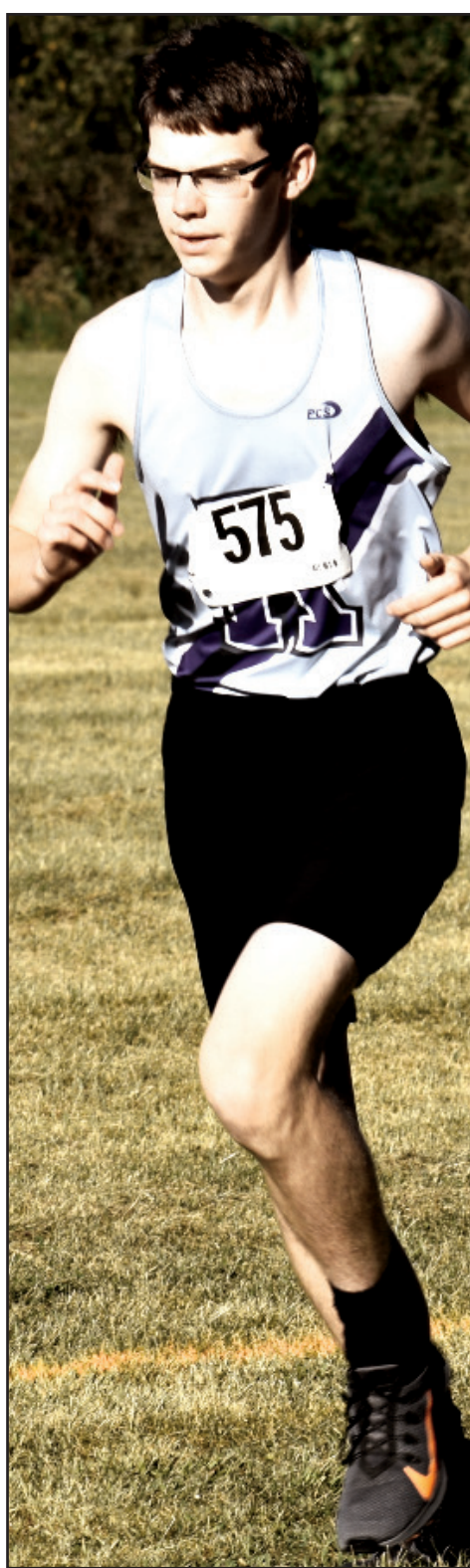
"The pandemic changed a lot of the regular structure of cross country," Forsberg said. "We didn't have any big meets and most of the meets were against only one or two schools. This wasn't entirely bad, though, as it gave us a chance to see where we compared to other schools. I'd like to drop 3-to-4 minutes off my times from this season and it'd be great if our team can win more meets than we did this season. We'll have to keep training hard to do that."

Forsberg was among several upperclassmen who ran for the Hub cross country team this past season. With only two notable seniors departing from the program, Forsberg will have an opportunity to step up and earn a starting varsity role as one of Rochelle's top runners next fall. Forsberg has the experience to compete, as he's been running cross country since sixth grade.

"I like how the sport has team competition, but you're also competing against yourself to continue getting better," Forsberg said. "I thought I had a decent season, but the lack of an offseason training program made it difficult for me to progress. We did pretty well as a team and we even won a few meets at the start of the season. I thought I did well in staying consistent during each race. I'm training over the offseason to be faster for next year."

"I like how the sport has team competition, but you're also competing against yourself to continue getting better... We did pretty well as a team and we even won a few meets at the start of the season. I thought I did well in staying consistent during each race. I'm training over the offseason to be faster for next year."

Peter Forsberg



(PHOTO BY RUSSELL HODGES)

Junior Peter Forsberg will look to cut four minutes off his personal record from the 2020 cross country season.



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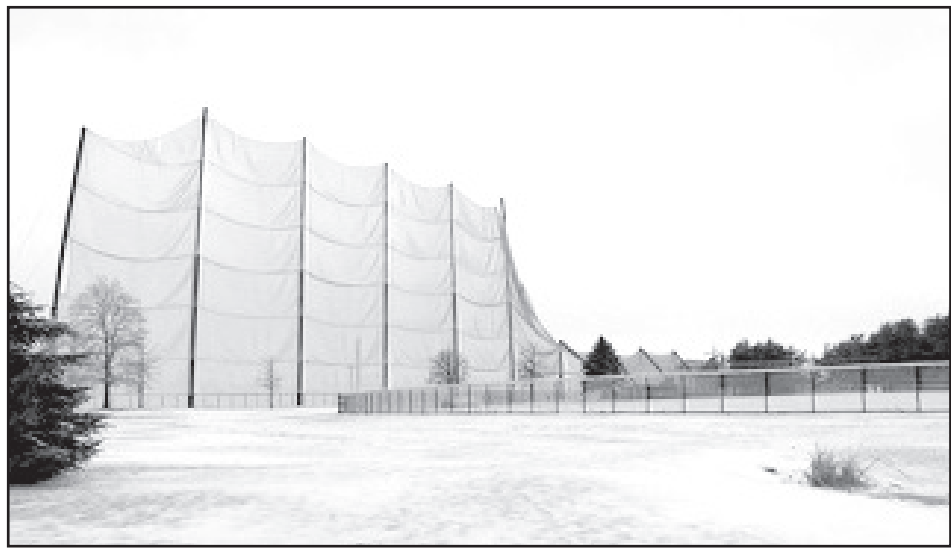


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SPORTS



(COURTESY PHOTOS)

Winter storms damage protective netting at Kishwaukee College baseball field

Winter storms caused damage to the protective netting behind the Kishwaukee College baseball diamond late last week. The college is currently removing the

netting to properly assess the damage from the storms. Hamel said the college will determine its next steps once the damage is assessed.

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1. Time and Place of Opening Bids. Sealed proposals for the construction of the Generator for Water System and Village Hall for the Village of Hillcrest, Ogle County, Illinois, shall be uploaded by the Bidder to the BHFx Planroom (www.bhfxplanroom.com) "Submit Bid Docs" tab available until 2:00 P.M., Thursday, February 4, 2021, where at that time the Bid Docs tab will be inactivated and bids will be publicly opened and lump sum bid read aloud. Bidders are invited to view or call in to the bid opening via video or phone. Zoom meeting information available in bidding specifications.
2. Description of Work. The proposed construction consists of a new exterior-mounted natural gas fueled engine generator, concrete pad, automatic transfer switches, two soft starters for well pumps, electrical conduit systems (some underground), modification of existing electrical panels, associated electrical work, removal of existing generator from within existing generator shed, natural gas piping (some underground), lawn restoration, and other miscellaneous items of work.
3. Information for Bidders. Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Grant No. 12-203613. Neither the State of Illinois nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees is or will be a party to this

invitation for bids or any resulting contract. All pertinent documents may be examined on the internet at www.bhfxplanroom.com. Copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from BHFx Digital Imaging, www.bhfxplanroom.com, upon a non-refundable payment of \$75 per set. Documents can be purchased only through BHFx Digital Imaging (https://www.bhfxplanroom.com/). Not less than the prevailing rate of wages as determined by the Department of Labor or determined by the court on review shall be paid to all laborers, workmen and mechanics performing work under this contract. The Village of Hillcrest is exempt from the Illinois State, municipal or county Retailers Occupation Tax, Service Occupation Tax, Use Tax, and Service Use Tax as described in Illinois Compiled Statute Chapter 35. Bid prices shall not include the cost of such taxes. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bidder's bond, certified check, bank cashier's check or bank draft payable to the Village of Hillcrest for five percent (5%) of the total amount of the Bid as provided in the Bidder Instructions. A Pre-Bid Conference of all prospective Bidders and/or their representatives will be held at Village Hall on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. Bidders are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference.
4. Rejection of Bids. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive technicalities. Unless the Bids are rejected for good cause, award of contract shall be made to the lowest responsible and responsive Bidder. Dated at Village of

Hillcrest, Illinois this 4th day of January 2021.
Jason Fore,
Village President
Dawn Bearrows, Village Clerk
No. 0106 (Jan. 6)

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ON THE FARM

Feeding the world in a sustainable way

WELL, we've turned the page on 2020. I'm guessing that most folks are glad it's over. Unfortunately the virus has decided to jump ahead to 2021 along with us. Wish I just would have stayed behind, it would have been one thing I lost that I was glad to see go.

Hopefully the new vaccine will be readily available to all soon. More importantly I hope it works. No one deserves two years of this.

I suppose this is the time of year to make new resolutions, but I'm not exactly sure what direction to head. You see, when making my resolutions for 2020 I never saw what has transpired over the

last 12 months on the horizon. With that said, I'm a little gunny to commit to ideals that may be shattered by a sneeze.

Perhaps I will just resolve to continue to wear my mask, wash my hands, keep my distance and pray for a vaccine. So I guess I will resolve to find normal.

Good luck with that.

A recently released survey conducted by the American Farm Bureau suggests that a majority of Americans believe farmers and ranchers are feeding the world in a sustainable way.

Sustainability is an important topic to many Americans in 2020. John Newton, chief economist for the farm bureau, says a recent survey found a majority of Americans

trust farmers to use sustainable practices.

They recently conducted a survey to gauge the public's perceptions of farmers and ranchers and their sustainability practices, and what they found is more than half the adults, 58 percent, rate the sustainability practices of farmers positively. They have broad agreement on that from a majority of adults across demographic groups that trust farmers.

The survey said nine in 10 adults trust farmers, which is four percent higher than the last survey that AFBF took in June. While farmers can always improve their sustainability, the poll shows that Americans don't think farmers should have to bear the cost of doing so by themselves.

The public doesn't

believe that farmers need to go it alone. They recognize that climate smart technology adoption is a public good. Seven in ten adults say that government incentives to encourage farmers to adopt additional sustainable ag practices would be effective in improving environmental sustainability in agriculture.

Americans understand farms must be economically sustainable as well as environmentally sustainable.

Four in five adults, they understand the importance of feeding the world, and then they also understand the importance of farmers being able to pass their farm down to future generations and keeping that farm in the family.

On the back of

strong export demand, lower ending stocks and higher prices, USDA projects soybean acreage will increase by nearly 6 million acres, or 7 percent, from 2020 to 89 million acres planted. If realized, 2021 soybean acreage would be the third-highest acreage on record, behind only 2017 and 2018.

Despite higher corn prices in recent weeks and current expectations for shrinking stockpiles, USDA projects corn acreage for 2021 will decline by 1 million acres, or 1.1 percent, from 2020. If realized, total corn and soybean planted area would be 179 million acres, the second-highest acreage on record, behind only 2017 when more than 180 million acres were planted.

During 2020, all wheat planted acreage was 44.3 million acres,

the lowest wheat acreage on record. Headed into the 2021/22 marketing year with a lower wheat inventory and higher expected prices, USDA projects wheat acreage will increase by more than 1.6 million acres, or nearly 4 percent, to 46 million acres. Corn yields for the 2021/22 marketing year are currently projected at a record-high 180.5 bushels per acre, 2.1 bushels per acre, or 1.2 percent, above the current marketing year. Soybean yields are projected to decline by 1.3 bushels per acre, or 2.5 percent, to 50.6 bushels per acre. If realized, 2021/22 soybean yields would be a tie for the second-highest on record. Wheat yields are projected to decline by 0.6 bushels per acre, or 1.2 percent, below prior-year levels.

2021 Women Changing the Face of Agriculture event postponed

GALESBURG — The 2021 Women Changing the Face of Agriculture event, scheduled for March 5, 2021 at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois, has been postponed until 2022.

"While we were disappointed that yet another event will be postponed, we believe in our goal and the opportunities that this event provides for students to explore careers in the agricultural industry," said Gayle Baker, Women Changing the Face of Ag PR Committee Chair. "This year has taught us to look for new ways to accomplish our goals, and we plan to do the best we can to still provide useful information for students."

Online curriculum, including videos of women representing various careers in agriculture and information about sponsoring agribusinesses, will be available starting March 5, 2021 for viewing by anyone interested in learning more about agricultural career opportunities. Videos will be grouped by theme for easy access.

"We appreciate the Illinois Agri-Women putting participants' health and safety at the forefront and respect their decision to postpone the conference until 2022," said El-

"We appreciate the Illinois Agri-Women putting participants' health and safety at the forefront and respect their decision to postpone the conference until 2022."

Ellen Burns

len Burns, Carl Sandburg College.

"As Sandburg continues to build its ag program, we look forward to collaborating with the WCFA committee, industry professionals, and volunteers over the next year to serve as the host site for the event, which will showcase the abundant educational and career opportunities in agriculture across Illinois and beyond."

The Illinois Agri-Women, coordinators of the event, will continue to offer scholarship opportunities for young women pursuing higher education in agriculture. Several interns will also be hired to assist with communications work year-round.

The next Women Changing the Face of Agriculture event will take place on March 4, 2022, at Carl Sandburg College. Registration materials will be available in late 2021.

The Women Changing the Face of Agriculture conference began in 2010 as a way to bring together

professional women in agriculture with high school and college age women seeking career information and advice. The conference is a project of the Illinois Agri-Women. More information can be found at www.womenchangingthefaceofagriculture.com.

Conservation Reserve Program general signup underway

SPRINGFIELD — Agricultural producers and private landowners interested in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) can sign up for the popular program is underway until Feb. 12. The competitive program, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

"This signup for the Conservation Reserve Program gives producers and landowners an opportunity to enroll for the first time or continue their participation for another term," FSA Illinois State Executive Director, William Graff said. "This program encourages conservation

on sensitive lands or low-yielding acres, which provides tremendous benefits for stewardship of our natural resources and wildlife."

New cropland offered in the program must have been planted for four out of six crop years from 2012 to 2017. Additionally, producers with land already enrolled but expiring on September 30, 2021, can re-enroll this year. The acreage offered by producers and landowners is evaluated competitively; accepted offers will begin October 1, 2021.

More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.



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SPORTS

NIU Men's Basketball

Huskies dismiss head coach Montgomery

Chapman named interim coach for remainder of 2021 season

DEKALB — Northern Illinois University will make a change in its men's basketball head coaching position and will separate from head coach Mark Montgomery effective immediately, NIU Associate Vice President

and Director of Athletics Sean T. Frazier announced Sunday.

"We thank coach Montgomery for his commitment to NIU and his efforts to advance NIU men's basketball over the last 10 seasons," Frazier said.

"We wish him the best in the future."

Frazier said NIU will conduct a national search for a new head men's basketball coach.

"We will be meticulous and efficient in finding the best person and coach

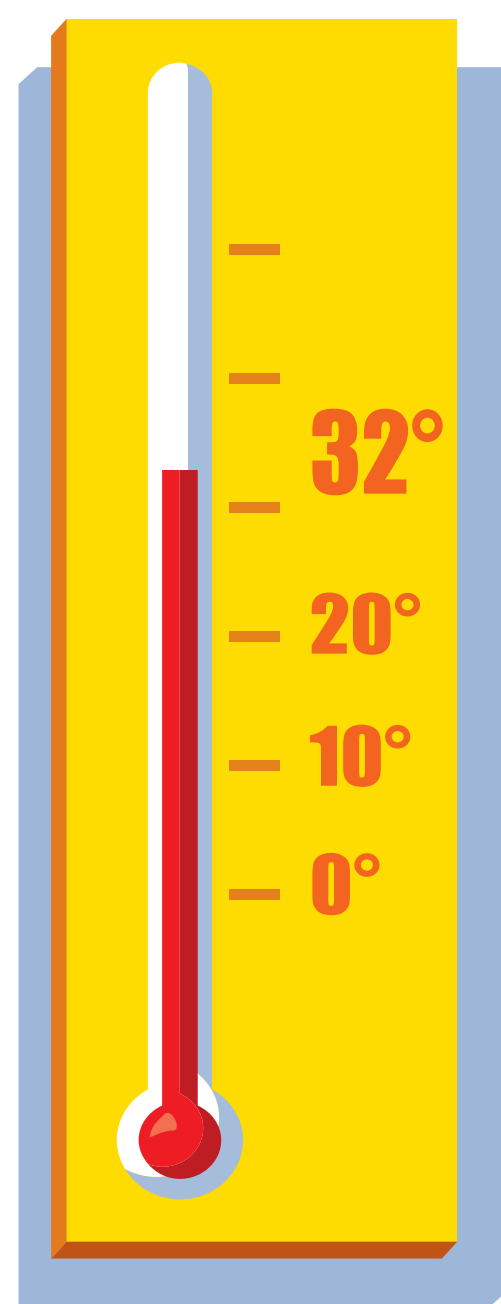
to lead the Huskie men's basketball program going forward," he said.

Associate head coach Lamar Chapman will lead the team on an interim basis for the remainder of the 2021 season. NIU started its season 1-7 overall.

"We thank coach Montgomery for his commitment to NIU and his efforts to advance NIU men's basketball over the last 10 seasons."

Sean T. Frazier

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