



# ROCHELLE News-Leader

WEEKEND EDITION | WWW.ROCHELLENEWS-LEADER.COM

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:



304 E. IL Route 38  
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Vol. 101 • No. 71

LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

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## KNOW IT TODAY



**Toys for Tots**  
Local program a success.  
See page 2

**WEATHER**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>32 20</b>	<b>35 20</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
<b>HIGH LOW</b>	<b>HIGH LOW</b>
<b>35 24</b>	<b>39 28</b>

Today's RNL issue sponsored by Community Unity member:

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**OBITUARIES**

- HARRIET ARWOOD
- CAROLYN BOWMAN
- DALE BRYANT
- DONNA GITTLESON
- BOYD GOELITZ
- JIM JAMES
- JEAN MACTAGGART
- GONZALO AUGUSTO VALDIVIESO MORENO
- RALPH PULLIN JR.
- DAVID WILLIS
- JOHN WOLFF SR.

See page 3 - 5

**INSERTS**

- WALGREENS
- MENARDS
- SCHNUCKS

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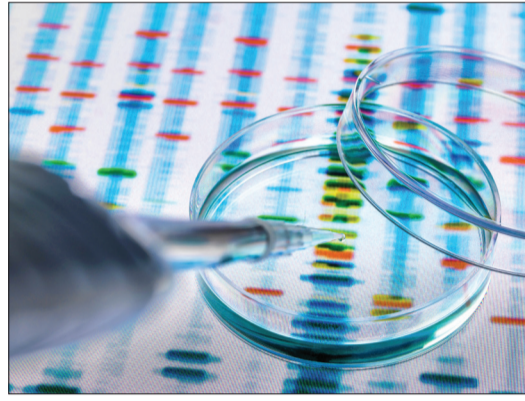
# New laws take effect

BY SARAH MANSUR  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS/SMANSUR@CAPITOLNEWSILLINOIS.COM

**SPRINGFIELD** — When a new year begins in Illinois, there typically are dozens if not hundreds of new laws going into effect. Not this year. Like so many other things in 2020, the legislative spring session was stunted by COVID-19. Once the global pandemic reached Illinois in March, the General Assembly would meet for only four more days — wrapping up the odd session during masked and socially distanced gatherings at the Capitol and Bank of Springfield Center. The fall veto session was scrapped altogether. As a result, only three new laws will take effect on Jan. 1, 2021. Here's a look at them, as well as the next increase in the minimum wage that will be applied Friday:

### Insulin costs cap

Senate Bill 667 (Public Act 101-0625) amends the Illinois Insurance Code to cap out-of-pocket insulin costs at \$100 per month for all patients using a state regulated insurance plan, regardless of the amount of insulin or type of covered prescription insulin drug used to fill the insured patient's prescription. Roughly 1.3 million adults in Illinois, or 12.5 percent of the population, have diabetes, according to the legislation. SB 667 also provides that the Illinois Department of Insurance, along with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, must create a public insulin pricing report that includes a summary of insulin pricing practices and public policy recommendations to control and prevent the overpricing



of insulin prescriptions. Sen. Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill, chief sponsor of the Senate bill, said in a statement that the legislation shows Illinoisans don't have to accept costly prescriptions as the status quo. "We can change the fact that prescription medication costs more in the United States than any place in the world. This legislation passed because people spoke up and told their story. This historic legislation doesn't become law without them and their effort," Manar said in the statement.

### Use of DNA in missing person cases

House Bill 2708 (Public Act 101-0266) amends the Missing Persons Identification Act to allow law enforcement agencies to obtain a DNA sample of a missing person or a DNA reference sample from family members' DNA, once a missing person report is made. The law also provides that law enforcement cannot retain DNA samples from family members or the missing person after the

person has been located. It also adds the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, a national information clearinghouse for missing persons, to the list of laboratories that law enforcement agencies can work with when trying to find a missing person. Sen. Tony Munoz, D-Chicago, who was one of the bill's sponsors, said in a news release that using the national system will hopefully help law enforcement find missing people sooner. "Successfully finding a missing person requires law enforcement to move fast, and we want to make sure they have every tool available to do their job," Munoz said in the release.

### Keeping victims' addresses confidential

House Bill 2818 (Public Act 101-0270) amends the Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence Act by including survivors of sexual assault and stalking in the Illinois Address Confidentiality Program (ACP), which offers survivors protection from their abusers by allowing them to acquire and use a substitute address instead of their real address. HB 2818 allows survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking who fear for their safety to apply to the ACP through the Attorney General's Office. The ACP forwards all first-class mail and provides survivors with a substitute address for public records and documents, such as driver's licenses and state-issued identification cards.

See LAW page 2

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

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

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8**  
**ROCHELLE** — The Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District which includes Creston, Steward, Hillcrest and Flagg-Center fire departments received its insurance rating for 2019 and it was a big improvement from the following rating. The rating is determined by the Insurance Service Organization, a nationwide organization that goes out to different municipalities and rates their ability to put out fires. The rating is then used to contract with many different insurance organizations.

This rating is based off of all aspects of the fire department ranging from training, equipment, staffing, dispatch capabilities, and then 40 percent of the rating comes from the municipality's ability to supply water.  
**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15**  
**ROCHELLE** — Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded more than \$1.2 million in funds to 684 public school districts across the state through the District Library Grant Program. Included in the chosen districts are both the Rochelle elementary and high



Pictured are Rochelle Rotary President Connie Dougherty, Jan. 1, 2020 Cash Calendar Winner Rosemary VanKirk and From the Heart founder David Eckhardt. VanKirk won \$1,000 in the Jan. 1 From the Heart Rochelle Rotary Cash Calendar drawing. (Sunday, Jan. 10)

school districts as well as Kings and Eswood school districts. The grants were awarded based on a formula of \$0.75 per student with a minimum grant award of \$750. The libraries receiving the funds can use the money on many different things including fiction and nonfiction books, educational CDs and DVDs, as well as many other resources to improve the technology or Wi-Fi connection of the library.  
**SUNDAY, JAN. 19**  
**ROCHELLE** — Thanks to the efforts of three local women, a worldwide organization with chapters throughout the United States and Europe has recently created a local chapter in Ogle County. 100 Women Who Care is an organization with 650 county chapters spread across the United

States and Europe. 100 Women Who Care gathers to raise money and make an impact on nonprofit organizations located within the same county as the chapter. The goal of each of the chapters is to donate \$10,000 to a local charity in one hour, four times a year by following a formula from the organization. "Fundraising takes a lot of hours of leg work on the part of the volunteers and with system, only four meetings a year, if we can get 100 women members who are willing to donate \$100 we can raise \$10,000 in one hour," explained Deanna Forrest, one of the three founders. Group members will meet four different times a year for one hour each time, where they will each donate \$100 and choose the organization that will receive the \$10,000 donation. At the meetings, each member brings a check for \$100. Then members nominated organizations to be put into a hat to draw from. Three organizations are drawn at random at the meeting.

See REVIEW page 8

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# LOCAL NEWS

## LAW: Minimum wage increases

From page 1

The bill also changes the name of the law, from the Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence Act to the Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking Act.

In a written statement, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul said ACP is an important added layer of protection and peace of mind for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

“I am committed to ensuring that survivors have access to the resources

and support needed to aid their recoveries, and I encourage survivors to participate in this program that can help protect them from the individuals who perpetrated crimes against them,” Raoul said in the statement.

### Minimum wage increase

The minimum wage in Illinois will rise from \$10 per hour to \$11 per hour on Jan. 1.

The Illinois General Assembly passed increases to the minimum wage in 2019 with legislation that raises the minimum wage \$1

every year until it reaches \$15 per hour in 2025.

In 2020, wage earners saw their hourly wage increase from \$8.25 to \$9.25 on Jan. 1, and to \$10 on July 1.

“We want to make sure that workers earning minimum wage are aware that the \$1 increase should be reflected in their paychecks for any time they work after the first of the year,” Michael Kleinik, director of the Illinois Department of Labor, said in a news release. “While we fully expect employers will pay the new wage, we also want workers to be aware of the change.”



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Above, before and after makeover of an old nightstand using Dixie Belle Paints. Left, Suzanne Fulford, founder of Dixie Belle Paint Company.

## The Shed offering Dixie Belle Paint demonstration

**OREGON** – The Serenity Shed announced it will become a distributor for Dixie Belle Paints.

These extraordinary paints take all the hard work out of refurbishing and painting projects because they do not require you to do all of the sanding, scraping and priming. They allow you to focus on the fun parts of the project.

The Shed will be offering a free demonstration on Jan. 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to show you exactly how these paints work and to give you some inspiration for your New Year’s projects. You will see actual items being refurbished and have an opportunity to ask questions about your own projects. Even if you are not interested in refurbishing but just have an interest in these special techniques, we invite you to come and bring a friend.

“During a particularly difficult time in my personal life, I started refurbishing furniture as my therapy,” said Suzanne Fulford, the founder of Dixie Belle Paint Company. “I hated the sanding, scraping and priming part of the refurbishing, just took too much time.

That’s when I heard of a type of paint that did away with all those miserable steps. I tried to purchase some but it was crazy expensive. That was when I decided to come up with my own recipe that was more cost-effective. Voila ... Dixie Belle was born.”

Since introducing Dixie Belle paints into their workroom, the volunteers at The Shed have had fun exploring the many techniques possible when using these special products. Mark your calendars and get your new year off to a creative start. The Serenity Shed, which supports Serenity Hospice, is a crafting workshop open to the public and located at 131 N. 3rd St. in downtown Oregon.

For more information call 815-732-2499 and ask for The Shed.

### Toys for Tots



On behalf of Edward Jones, office of Anthony Rowley, we sincerely thank everyone that donated a gift for Toys for Tots. Despite everything, this year was a huge success with more than 120 gifts dropped off for local children. The Rochelle Community coming together with such generosity this Christmas is much appreciated.



## Your Health and Safety Is Our Priority

Rochelle Community Hospital remains dedicated to your health, wellness and—safety—especially now. Delaying care could impact your health. Learn more about our enhanced safety procedures, policies and modified hours at: [rochellehospital.com](http://rochellehospital.com).

### RCH COVID-19 Triage Line:

**CALL 815-561-8829**  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### RCH is taking these precautions:

- Using COVID-19 screening measures at entrances including temperature checks
- Requiring masks and social distancing 6-feet in all areas
- Diligently cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces
- Offering the COVID-19 triage line for questions and testing appointments



# LOCAL NEWS

## Wreaths Across America



Shown left to right are participants in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery and the wreath/organization they presented, Kirk Reinhart, Knights of Columbus (K of C); John Kling, K of C; Chuck Roberts, U.S. Army/American Legion Post 403/TAPS; Lance Corporal Paul Davis, U.S. Marine Corps; Commander Mary Beth Papke, U.S. Navy; WWII Veteran, U.S. Army Air Corps John Roe, Air Force; Laurie Perry honoring Pete Honaker U.S. Coast Guard; Caroline Kessen/Lois Delhotal/Casondra and Colton Rowley families in honor of David Kessen, U.S. Merchant Marines; Troy Papke, POW-MIA/Boy Scout Troop 553; Jack Anderson, Boy Scout Troop 553; and Roy Lorenz, Commander K of C Honor Guard. Not shown are Rochelle City Manager, Jeff Fiegenschuh; Reverend Jesus Dominguez, Pastor St. Patrick's Church; Sarah Flanagan, Regent Rochelle Chapter, NSDAR; Reverend Mary Lou Kator, Chaplain Rochelle NSDAR; Lydia Roberts, WAA chairman, Members of Boy Scout Troop 553, Girl Scouts and local youth, Pledge of Allegiance.



Shown left to right are participants at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Rochelle Veterans' War Memorial at Lawnridge Cemetery, Joe Drought, U.S. Army; Commander Mary Beth Papke, U.S. Navy; WWII Veteran U.S. Army Air Corps John Roe, Air Force; Charles Roberts, TAPS; Troy Papke, POW-MIA; Lance Corporal Paul Davis, U.S. Marine Corps; Laurie Perry, Coast Guard; Linda Corwin-Graber, U.S. Merchant Marines; Kirk Reinhart, Knights of Columbus (K of C).

Remembering these 163 known Veterans interred at St Patrick's:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Allen, Ira<br>Allen, R.J.<br>Allen, Robert "Tipp"<br>Anthesat, Clifford<br>Askvig, Charles Wayne<br>Askvig, Harlan J.<br>Auchtstetter, Henry<br>Bauer, Charles<br>Beck, Lowell<br>Binz, Andrew D.<br>Boelkes, Henry L.<br>Boyle, Francis<br>Boyle, Robert L.<br>Burke, Robert<br>Burns, Michael<br>Carlson, Gordon<br>Caron, Yvette<br>Castro, Jose (Joseph) A.<br>Chadwick, Eleanor A.<br>Chadwick, Paul E.<br>Chatfield, John Dee<br>Cipolla, Billey "Bill"<br>Clark, Charles W.<br>Clementz, Paul W.<br>Coleman, Francis J.<br>Contreras, Jose V.<br>Conway, John Patrick<br>Coquillotte, Edward Eugene<br>Cornett, Mandrell<br>Cote, Alcide<br>Cote, Claude<br>Cote, Jean-Louis<br>Cote, Jules Emil (Luke)<br>Cote, Marie<br>Cote, Robert L.<br>Cote, Roger<br>Crawford, Jack Albert<br>Daum, John G.<br>DeCoursey, Raymond<br>DeCoursey, Thomas<br>Dee, Paul A.<br>Dee, Stephen W. Jr.<br>DeGryse, Randy K.<br>DeGryse, Robert A.<br>DeGryse, Valerie E.<br>Delaney, Willie<br>Deutsch, Leonard<br>Dobner, John<br>Donelson, Frank<br>Durand, Scott<br>Farnham, Bernard<br>Feldhaus, John (Jack)<br>Flynn, Thomas<br>Gerace, Thomas<br>Geraty, Timothy | Gharrity, James Paul<br>Glessner, Ralph A.<br>Golt, Michael<br>Grolla, John<br>Hart, Robert<br>Haws Arthur P.<br>Haws, Frank R.<br>Haws, Ralph Franklin<br>Hayes, Joseph N.<br>Hayes, Michael T.<br>Hayes, William Francis<br>Healy, Wellington C.<br>Henry, Alex<br>Henry, Vernon P.<br>Herrmann, Emmett<br>Herrmann, Anthony J.<br>Herrmann, Gilbert D.<br>Herrmann, Jerome B.<br>Herrmann, Ronald H.<br>Herrmann, Thomas<br>Herrmann, Warren E.<br>Hodolitz, John P.<br>Hooley, Daniel John<br>Hooley, Dennis Michael<br>Hooley, Elmer Eugene<br>Hope, John Meade<br>Jaeger, Theodore<br>Johnson, Edward Bruce<br>Kornett, Mandrell<br>Kary, Cornelius<br>Kary, Christopher<br>Kessen, David<br>Kessen, Eugene<br>Kessen, John Thomas<br>Kneorzer, Sharon<br>Krieger, Albert<br>Krieger, James William<br>Laese, Francis D.<br>Laese, James E.<br>Lakanen, William A.<br>Lanz, Mathias<br>Leppard, Thomas Edwin III<br>Livingston, Edwin<br>Lokken, Albert<br>Lower, John<br>Lyons, Thomas<br>Madden, Harry J.<br>Madden, William<br>Malone, Robert J.<br>Mattison, John<br>McAdam, Robert<br>McCann, Edward Patrick<br>McDermott, John<br>McNichols, Arthur P.<br>Meserole, Danny Joe<br>Moore, Albert E. | Moore, J.P.<br>Mosley, Edwin<br>Mulligan, Michael Joseph<br>O'Brien, Patrick G.<br>O'Brien, George<br>O'Rourke, James<br>O'Rourke, Francis T.<br>Olson, Chester<br>Pena, Raul "Rudy"<br>Pena, Reynaldo<br>Peterson, Minferd<br>Pierce, Gilbert C.<br>Plourde, Maurice Joseph<br>Primeau, William<br>Reasi, Cyril<br>Reising, Joseph Leo<br>Reynolds, Eugene G.<br>Riley, Richard C.<br>Rodriguez, Filomeno<br>Rogde, Donald<br>Rogers, Benny<br>Rook, Robert R.<br>Rossi, Michael F.<br>Ryan, John Edward<br>Ryan, Joseph<br>Sage, Robert M.<br>Sandevul, Francisco J.<br>Scallan, Charles<br>Kahler, Theodore G.<br>Schade, Theodore L.<br>Schiezes, Frank<br>Shelton, Kenneth E.<br>Sullivan, Aleck<br>Sullivan, D.<br>Sullivan, Daniel Jerome<br>Sullivan, Daniel V.<br>Thompson, Alexander Kenneth<br>Tigan, Eugene W.<br>Tigan, Walter J.<br>Tigan, Walter T.<br>Traugott, P. L.<br>Upah, Richard, Jr.<br>Walker, James Philip<br>Walsh, John George<br>Walsh, Thomas<br>Walters, Fred<br>Wellnitz, Albert<br>Wheeler, Dee G.<br>Wherston, James W.<br>Williams, David C.<br>Wing, LeRoy R.<br>Wolf, George A.<br>Wolford, Ronald James |
|---|---|--|



Three of the 29 grave specific wreaths that were placed at Lawnridge Cemetery during the Wreaths Across America ceremony on Dec. 20 are shown. From now until Jan. 15, 2021, wreaths sponsored for the December 2021 ceremony will be matched 2-for-1 with an additional wreath by the Wreaths Across America organization, helping us honor additional veterans next year. Wreaths may be sponsored on line at [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/IL0136P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/IL0136P).

At left, through the support of the Rochelle community, all 163 known veterans at St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery shown on this list were honored with wreaths at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Dec 20, 2020.

## Obituaries

### Dale Bryant

ROCHELLE — Dale L. Bryant, 91, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020 with family by his side at home in Rochelle. Dale was born on July 13, 1929 to William Curtis and Clara (Thomas) Bryant in Luka, Ill. On July 17, 1982, he married Shirley Moshier in Oregon. Dale was an irreplaceable part of making Central School in Rochelle look and run well. He worked there for many years before retiring in 1990.

(Ken) Johnson of Clinton, Iowa; Randy Mosher of Greenville, North Carolina, Jeff Mosher, Pamela (Scott) Odle of Rochelle, and Mark (Amy) Mosher of Ft. Myers, Florida. He is also survived by his very special grandchildren, CK and Adam Funderburgh, Chris and Dawn Bryant, Jori, Katie and Jessie Bryant, Doug and Kim Johnson, Ethan and Evin Odle and Lucas Mosher. Dale was also blessed with 12 great-grandchildren.

Dale is preceded in death by three brothers, Don, Robert and Curtis Bryant, as well as four sisters, Pearl Wells, Marjory Brennan, Dorothy Cronwell and Gladys Felty.

Dale's wife and family pray that he awaits them in heaven with a hug and a joke.

Dale's energy and ability to bring laughter and joy to those around him will be missed by many. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Shirley Bryant of Rochelle; and his eight children, Linda Muller of Weed, California; Larry (Debbie) Bryant of Ottawa, Steve (Bobbie) Bryant of Rochelle, Carol

A private, family-only funeral service was held Saturday, Dec. 26 at the First Presbyterian Church in Rochelle with Pastor Doug Forsberg officiating. Cremation care was provided after the service. Memorials may be made in Dale's memory to the First Presbyterian Church in Rochelle. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Donna Gittleston

ROCHELLE — Donna Gittleston, 80, passed away on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 at her home.

Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth Street, Rochelle.

Arrangements are pending at the Unger

An online guest book is available at [www.UngerHorner.com](http://www.UngerHorner.com).

### Gonzalo Augusto Valdivieso Moreno

ROCKFORD — Funeral service for Gonzalo Augusto Valdivieso Moreno will be held at Rita's Catholic Church, 6254 Valley Knoll Drive in Rockford on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### Harriet Arwood

**ROCHELLE** — Heaven received a remarkable woman when Harriet K. (Hayenga) Arwood, 81, went home to be with her Lord. She passed away unexpectedly of natural causes on Dec. 31, 2020 at the Franklin Grove Living and Rehabilitation Center. She was born on May 22, 1939 in Rochelle, the daughter of Mason W. Hayenga and LaMae (Zies) Hayenga. Harriet was a life long resident of Rochelle. She was preceded in death by her parents; a stepfather, John Ihnen; two brothers, Lowell and Mason; sister, Jackie Hayenga; and her daughter, Kathryn Schweizer. She was an avid roller skater in her youth being at the roller rink every time the doors were open. Harriet was employed as a secretary ever since her graduation

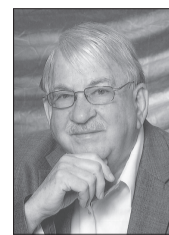


from RTHS. She worked for a local eye doctor's office, the Chamber of Commerce, a couple of local real estate offices, but spent over 35 years working for Caron International. Harriet enjoyed John Wayne movies, listening to the Statler Brothers and watching a variety of sports on television. She loved reading her favorite books by Debbie Macomber and the Murder She Wrote mysteries. Most recently her passion was watching the Hallmark Channel movies and she saw all of them more than once. Harriet loved lighthouses and their meaning regarding her Lord and Savior. Throughout her life she enjoyed crafting, but she mostly crocheted. Friends and family have benefitted from her talent in the form of blankets, doilies and other craft items she made over the years. Above all she loved her family...our loss is Heaven's gain. She is survived by two daughters,

Lisa (Vinnie) Burton of Vonore, Tennessee, and Marci (Brian) Esgar of Rochelle; son-in-law Lincoln Schweizer of Adolphus, Tennessee; seven grandchildren, Nick (Beth) Ethridge, Randy (Angela) Ethridge, Jake (Rachel) Burton, Steven (Stacy) Schweizer, Kaitlin (Matthew) Gille, Andrea (Rik) Laube, and Erin Esгар; 15 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren and no. 3 due in May; and four nieces and two nephews. Private family funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 7 at the Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth Street, Rochelle, with Pastor Chad Hall officiating. Burial will follow at Whiterock Cemetery in Kings. Funeral will be live streamed on the Unger Horner Funeral Home Facebook page. Memorials may be made to the family. An online guest book is available at [www.UngerHorner.com](http://www.UngerHorner.com).

### Jim Britt James

**ROCHELLE** — Jim Britt "J.B." James, 83, passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 28, 2020 at the KSB Hospital in Dixon. He was born March 12, 1937 in Nunnelly, Tennessee, the son of C.B. and Jimmie Lea (Connelly) James. He married Joyce Mason on March 21, 1969 at the Athens Christian Church in Athens, Tennessee. Jim was a huge people person; he knew everyone because he talked to everyone. He was very compassionate and loving, a down to earth person who was never really fazed by much. He was more than a friend, he was like your father or brother who liked to joke around. Jim was



passionate about searching for Indian relics in his home state of Tennessee. He was a member of the Rochelle United Methodist Church, Golden K of Rochelle, and the Horicon Masonic Lodge No. 244. Jim was a loving and devoted husband, father, and cat lover of Sunny who followed him everywhere. Jim is survived by his wife of 51 years, Joyce Mason James; daughter, Megan Brittany James of Long Beach, California; son, David James; brother, Bob (Mary Helen) James of Centerville, Tennessee; sister, Brenda (Grant) Robinson of Hendsersonville, Tennessee; brother-in-law, Howard (Bobbie) Mason of Hilliard, Florida; sister-in-law, Bella Mason of Norwood, Ohio;

numerous special nieces and nephews; and the special Garbisch family. In addition to his parents, Jim is preceded in death by his beloved daughter, Ashli Ann James; brother, Bill James; sister Barbara White, and infant sister Beverly James; and a brother-in-law, Elden Mason. A private family funeral service will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 2 at the Rochelle United Methodist Church with Pastor Rob Hamilton officiating. The funeral service will be live streamed on the Unger-Horner Funeral Home Facebook page. Interment and graveside service will follow in Lawncreek Cemetery in Rochelle. Please visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Carolyn Bowman

**ROGERSVILLE, Tennessee** — Carolyn Lee Bowman, 68, of Rogersville, passed away on Dec. 29, 2020 in Rogersville. Carolyn was born to Delmar and Clara Swofford on Aug. 30, 1952. She went to school at Poplar Bluff High School in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. She was married to Jerry W. Bowman on Aug. 30, 1975 in Stringtown, Missouri. She worked and re-



tired from Silgan Containers in Rochelle, for 32 years. Carolyn was an active member at Crossroads Assembly of God Church, and also in the Women's Ministry. In addition to her parents she is preceded in death by her loving husband, Jerry Bowman; brother, Donald Swofford; and sister, Cynthia Swofford. She is survived by children, Sarah (Steve) Evans of Galena, Missouri, Jerry (Noreen) Bowman of Clarksville, Tennessee, Angela (Michael) Johnson of

College Station, Texas, Pat Bowman of Houma, Louisiana, and Jeri (Chad) Spencer of Morristown, Tennessee; and brothers, David (Shelia) Swofford of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Michael Swofford of Nixa, Missouri. The family received friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021 at Christian-Sells Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life followed at 7 p.m. with Rev. Stephen Kimery officiating. Online condolences may be sent at [www.christiansells.com](http://www.christiansells.com).

### Jean MacTaggart

**ROCHELLE** — Jean Ann (Ohl) MacTaggart, 83, of Rochelle, passed away Dec. 30, 2020 at Cherryvale Place, Rockford, where she had been cared for since Jan. 15, 2017. Jean was born at home May 22, 1937 near Volga, IA to Clarence and Lucillia "Lucy" (Lawver) Ohl. Jean was raised and educated in the Strawberry Point, Iowa, area schools. Graduating from Strawberry Point High School in 1955. An honor student, involved in vocal music, band, basketball and football cheerleader. After graduating she married Clarence MacTaggart on Sept. 11, 1955. Their first home was in Charles City, Iowa, where Clarence attended trade school and Jean worked in a laundromat. In January 1956 they moved to



Carthage, Ill., where they both worked in a printing company for three and a half years, then to Tipton, Iowa, for three and a half years. In 1963 moved to Rochelle, where they lived until April 2020. Raising their five sons and later three granddaughters to adulthood. Jean worked for 22 years at Spurgeon's Department Store in Rochelle until the store closed and then continued part-time at Printing Etc. until 2002. Jean enjoyed baking (making many birthday and wedding cakes), reading, knitting, traveling (visiting all 50 states, some of Canada and Mexico), playing cards and attending the sons' and grandchildren's music and sporting events. Jean is survived by husband, Clarence; and sons, David Clarence (Connie) of Libertyville, Chris Willoughby (Barbara) of Glen Ellyn, Scott Allen of Chicago, James Edward of Rockford, and Thomas Paul (Julie) of Colorado Springs, Colorado; nine grandchildren, Shannon (Fanio) Belmon-

te of Rochelle, Sarah Lynn of Urbana, and Ashley Nicole of Rockford, who they raised for some of 13 years, Melissa Ann of Sterling, Eric Barclay (Dana) of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Bruce Duncan of Highland Park, Adam Price (Laurene) of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Africa, Kevin Andrew of Lisle, and Justin Allen of Colorado Springs, Colorado; one great-granddaughter, Petra Catherine of Ethiopia; brother, Edward (Barbara) Ohl of Marion, Iowa; and sister, Sharon (David) Streicher of Casa Grande, Arizona; as well as many cousins throughout the country. She was preceded in death by her parents; and two sisters, Maxine and Mary. Jean's cremains will be entered in Cass Township Cemetery in Strawberry Point, Iowa, at a later date. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's. Cremation care provided by the Unger Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth Street, Rochelle. An online guest book is available at [www.UngerHorner.com](http://www.UngerHorner.com).

### Ralph Pullin Jr.

**LINDENWOOD** — Ralph F. Pullin, Jr., 75, passed away on Friday, Dec. 25, 2020 at the V.A. Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. Ralph was born on Feb. 1, 1945 to Ralph Foss and Georgianna (Svetly) Pullin in Rochelle. He was a lifetime resident of the Lindenwood area, and a lifelong active member of the Lindenwood Union Church. Though he had many occupations throughout his life, he was always a musician, even during his military service in Vietnam as a member of the 1st Cav Skytroopers Band. He sang and played the French horn (among other things) with many groups across northern Illinois, including the Rochelle Municipal Band, the Old Timers



Band, the Rockford Area Horn Club, and various groups at Kishwaukee College. Ralph is survived by his daughter, Rachael (Colin) Averill of Appleton, Wisconsin; brother, Robert (Bonnie) Pullin of Lombard; two sisters, Marlene (John) Young of Sun Lakes, Arizona, and Ethel (Henry) Mount of Lincoln, Nebraska; two grandchildren, Haddon and Hezekiah Averill; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins, all of whom are noted in his extensive genealogical records that he was fond of referencing. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. Burial will be at Lindenwood Cemetery. Services will be deferred to a later date. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.



#### NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

The real property consisting of a residence located at 1101 N. Main Street, Rochelle, Ogle County, Illinois, will be sold by the Ogle County Sheriff at the Ogle County Sheriff's Office, 202 S. 1st Street, Oregon, Illinois, at a Sheriffs Sale on January 22, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Information concerning this sale is as follows:

1. The person to contact for information of the real estate prior to the sale is: Hewitt & Wagner, 1124 Lincoln Highway, Rochelle, Illinois, (815) 562-2704. The real estate may not be inspected prior to the sale.
2. The terms of sale are payment of 20 percent by cashier's check or certified funds on the date of sale with the balance to be paid in full by noon on the next business day after the sale.
3. This is pursuant to the court case, No. 20-CH-34, Ogle County, Illinois, in which a foreclosure was filed.

#### Something to Think About

Jeff Beverage  
Director

**CREMATED REMAINS**  
As cremation gains in popularity, some odd dilemmas crop up. Some years ago, for instance, funeral directors in Florida realized they had a delicate problem on their hands. Their storage rooms were filling up with containers of unclaimed cremated remains, some of which had been there more than half a century. In some cases the deceased had no immediate survivors and had left no directions beyond a request for cremation. Sometimes the widows or widowers had planned to claim the remains within a few weeks, but died themselves before doing so. Then, too, there were plenty of instances in which survivors



apparently didn't understand that while cremation satisfies the law's demand for the "final disposition" of a body, the ashes that emerge from the fire are the tangible remains of a human life and call for something more dignified than being dumped into the trash bin.

**Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services**  
704 N. 6th St., Rochelle  
815-562-6872  
[www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com](http://www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com)

## ROCHELLE News-Leader

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**Newsroom Staff**  
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See page 5 for more obituaries

# LOCAL NEWS

## Obituaries

### David Willis

**ROCHELLE** — David T. Willis, 70, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020 at Generations at Neighbors in Byron. Dave was born on July 21, 1950 in Selma, Alabama, to Oscar and Mary Jo (Capatina) Willis. On Sept. 25, 1987, he married Jane Gasmund in DeKalb.



In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Edward Willis, and a brother-in-law, Dale Cranmore. Dave is survived by his wife of 33 years, Jane, of Rochelle; three children, Michael L. Willis, of Rochelle, Bryan A. Willis, of Poplar Grove, and Jody T. Willis of Rochelle; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two

step-daughters, Donna L. Banta of DeKalb, and Teri Lynn (James) Patterson of New York; and four sisters, Barbara (Rick) Blackerby, Janice (David) Scott, Brenda Cranmore and Teresa (Tommy) Gaylor, all of Alabama. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### John Wolff Sr.

**ROCHELLE** — John Raymond Wolff, Sr., 62, of Rochelle, passed away Monday, Dec. 28, 2020 at the Rochelle Community Hospital. John was born Aug. 27, 1958 in Dixon, the son of Ralph and JoAnn (Youngblood) Wolff. John married Patricia “Pat” Zhe Sept. 13, 1980 in Rochelle.



John was preceded in death by his parents. John liked to watch sports. He was an avid Bears, Cubs and Bulls fan. He enjoyed bowling when he could. When he was home he enjoyed watching lots of westerns and playing video games. John was survived by his wife of 40 years, Pat; one son, John (Heather Bradshaw) Wolff Jr. Of Kalamazoo, Michigan; one daughter, Danielle

Wolff of Rochelle; one granddaughter, Zelda Gibson; two brothers, Ralph (Martha) Wolff Jr. of Natalia, Texas, and Ken Wolff of Rochelle; and one sister, Linda Bunger. Cremation care has been provided by the Unger-Horner Funeral Home in Rochelle. A private family service will be held at a later date. Please visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com) to sign the online guest book.

### Boyd Goelitz

**ESMOND** — Boyd W. Goelitz, 94, of Esmond, passed away Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 at his son’s home surrounded by his loving family. Arrangements are pending with Unger-Horner Funeral Home, 400 N. Sixth Street, Rochelle. Visit [www.ungerhorner.com](http://www.ungerhorner.com).

### Nominations being accepted for county soil and water board

**OGLE COUNTY** — To all people of legal voting age who own or reside on land located within the boundaries of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District, nominations are being accepted for two, two-year terms as directors of the Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation District. Nominations can be made at the district’s office,

1213 Pines Road, Suite 3, Oregon, during the normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To be considered for nomination as a candidate for the office of director, nominees must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located within the boundaries of the district. Interested persons must respond by 4 p.m. on Jan. 21.

## Rochelle Area

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

**The Bridge Church**, Pastor Greg Duncan, 11038 E. IL Route 38, Rochelle, IL 61068. Phone: 815-562-7750. Sunday School: 9:00 am; Sunday Service: 10:00 am; Nursery & Children’s ministry during am service; Bible Study Tuesday 10:00 am and Wednesday 7:00 pm. Web: [thebridgechurchrochelle.com](http://thebridgechurchrochelle.com) Email: [thebridgechurchrochelle@gmail.com](mailto:thebridgechurchrochelle@gmail.com)

**Calvary Lighthouse Church, Assemblies of God**, Senior Pastor, Dr. James Horvath. 14409 Hemstock Rd., Rochelle. Sunday Morning: Sunday School for Adult & Children 9:00 A.M., Sunday Worship & Children’s Church 10:00 A.M., Sunday Evening & Children’s Church 6:00P.M.. Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M. – Adult Teaching, Missionettes & Royal Rangers Childrens Classes, The Last Stand Youth Group. Nursery available for all services. HE-Brews Cafe is open before and after services. For further information, please call the CLC office at 815-562-7701, or email us at [staff@calvarylighthouse.com](mailto:staff@calvarylighthouse.com)

**Calvary Lutheran Church, LCMC** - “To Know Christ and to Proclaim Christ in Word and Deed” – 19 Perry Road, Lee, IL 60530 (the intersection of Perry Road and W. County Line Road) Worship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. which is broadcast live on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/Calvary-Lutheran-Church-576481519413773/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/Calvary-Lutheran-Church-576481519413773/). Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. Rev. Martha Uecker Nelson, Pastor. A Grief Support Group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call (815) 824-2825 or email [CalvaryLeeIL@gmail.com](mailto:CalvaryLeeIL@gmail.com) for more information. [www.facebook.com/Calvary-Lutheran-Church](http://www.facebook.com/Calvary-Lutheran-Church).

**Church of Christ**, Minister Dominic Venuso. Hillcrest Ave. and Erickson Rd. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Mid-Week Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Free Bible Correspondence Course (815) 562-6572.

**Church of God/Iglesia de Dios, Rochelle Church of God** invites you to its bilingual services every Sunday at 3pm. La iglesia de Dios en Rochelle te invita a sus servicios bilingues cada domingo a las 3pm. We hope to see you. Te esperamos. Iglesia de Dios Evangelio completo. 222 1st Ave., Rochelle, Illinois., 61068.

**Creston United Methodist Church and Steward United Methodist Church** - Rev. Megan Thompson, Creston: 126 West South Street, P.O. Box 209, Creston, Illinois 60113. Sunday morning worship 9:00am. Coffee fellowship at 10:15am. Steward: 507 Main Street, P.O. Box 80, Steward, IL 60553. Adult Sunday School, 10:00am. Sunday morning worship and Children’s Sunday School 11:00am. Contact the church office at 815-396-2250 for more information.

**Elim Reformed Church**, 140 S. Church Road, Kings, IL 61068. Phone: 815-562-6811. Email [goelimchurch@gmail.com](mailto:goelimchurch@gmail.com) Website [www.goelimchurch.org](http://www.goelimchurch.org) Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m., Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Rev. Cary J. Winn.

**Faith Lutheran Church** – “Making Christ Known Through Lives of Faith.” Sunday worship resources are available on our Facebook page - ‘Faith Lutheran Church ELCA.’ You may also e-mail Pastor Joy Alsop at [Pastor@faithlrochelle.org](mailto:Pastor@faithlrochelle.org) for more information. Faith Lutheran Church offers their prayers and love to our community during this difficult time.

**First Baptist Church of Rochelle, First Baptist Church of Rochelle** invites you to experience our practical Bible services which have nurseries provided in every service along with a wide range of children’s and teen ministries. Sunday School is at 9:30 am with regular church services at 10:30 am and 6:00 pm. Wednesday Family Night starts at 6:30 pm with AWANA for the 5 yr. olds thru 6th grade. The Omega Teen Ministry also starts at 6:30 pm for 7th – 12th grades and the Adult Bible Study at 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church is located 6 blocks west of Hwy 251 at the corner of Woolf Ct. and 8th Ave. in Rochelle. Call 562-4168 for more information. Listen at 11:00 am Sunday mornings on WRHL 1060 AM for the Sunday morning “Bible Message.” [www.firstbaptistrochelle.org](http://www.firstbaptistrochelle.org)

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

**First Presbyterian Church** – An Amazing Place for Amazing Grace- Rev. Doug Forsberg, Senior Pastor. 1100 Calvin Road, Rochelle. Email: [info@placeforgrace.com](mailto:info@placeforgrace.com). Sunday morning worship on our Website and Facebook Live. [www.placeforgrace.com](http://www.placeforgrace.com) / [www.facebook.com/placeforgrace](http://www.facebook.com/placeforgrace)

**Flagg Center Community Church of God Faith of Abraham**, corner of Flagg and Center Road, Flagg Center. Pastor Ron Macy. Phone 815-899-6229. Thursday night Bible study 6:30 p.m. Sunday school 9:30 a.m.; Worship service 10:30 a.m. Preaching Jesus Christ crucified, buried, resurrected, ascended and returning to earth to establish God’s Kingdom. Also preaching the unity of God and the sleep of the dead.

**Harvest Baptist Church** 241 Scott Ave. (Hillcrest). Rev. Duane Boehm, pastor. Email [duane712@hotmail.com](mailto:duane712@hotmail.com), cell 815-757-3427. Visit us on Facebook! Service times: Sunday School for all ages 10 a.m., Sunday morning worship and children’s church 11 a.m. , Wednesday evening Bible study 7 p.m.

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

**Living Water Community Church** 405 N. Main St, Rochelle. Phone: 815-561-6249, Website: [www.lwccr.com](http://www.lwccr.com), Like us on facebook, Non-Denominational, Casual, Christ Centered. Pastor Bobby Gardner, Worship Director, Wes Carr, Youth Director, Adrian Daugherty. Services: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 10am. Radio: 1060 WRHL every Sunday 8:30-9:00am. Nursery, Toddlers and Children’s Ministry 1st-5th meet during each weekend service. Small Groups, Life Groups and discipleship workshops available. 7C’s Mission- located at 1135 Lincoln Hwy, Light lunch, Hygiene & Clothing items available the last Saturday of each month from 10:00am-1:00pm.

**New Hope Fellowship (Church of God - Anderson, IN)**, 1501 10th Ave., Rochelle, IL 61068. Service: Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., (815)561-8400, [www.NHFchurch.net](http://www.NHFchurch.net) Pastor: Dan Sergeant. (Classes for children through age fifth grade during service.)

**Primitive Baptist Church**, services 3rd Sunday each month, at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., in the meeting room of the Holiday Inn Express, 1240 N. Dement Road, Rochelle, Ill. Elder Robbie Webb, and other ministers preaching. Lunch and fellowship time between services. Contact Elder Rob Webb, 312-809-0871, or Elder Robert Webb, 217-357-3723, or email [bwebb9@juno.com](mailto:bwebb9@juno.com) for more information. Services sponsored by the Carthage Primitive Baptist Church for convenience of members and friends in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. Visitors are welcome.

**Rochelle United Methodist Church** Rob Hamilton, Pastor; 709 Fourth Avenue, (815) 562-2164. Traditional Worship and Children’s Church, 9 a.m. (traditional service is broadcast live on WRHL-1060 AM) and also available online at [rochelleumc.com](http://rochelleumc.com). Fellowship in Hicks Hall at 10 a.m. Contemporary (Coffee House Style) Worship and Children’s Church, 11 a.m. Nursery is provided at both services for children 2 and under. Handicap accessible. Come join us...open hearts, open minds, open doors.

**St. Patrick Catholic Church** Rev. Jesus Dominguez; Deacon Fermin Garcia; Deacon George Schramm; 244 Kelley Dr. (Corner of Kelley & Caron Rd.), PO Box 329, Rochelle, IL 61068. **Office Hours:** 9:00 AM-5PM Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 3 PM Friday, 7 PM Saturday (Spanish). Phone: 815-562-2370. Fax: 815-562-5250. **Mass times:** Daily 8AM, Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 PM, Sunday Mass 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM in English and 11:00 AM in Spanish. **Confessions:** Wednesday 8:30-9:00 AM, Thursday 6:00-6:45 PM, Saturday 4:00-4:45 PM Or by appointment. **Religious Education:** Mrs. Kalah Williams, Director of Religious Education. 903 Caron Road, Rochelle, IL 61068, 815-561-0079 Website: [stpatrickrochelle.com](http://stpatrickrochelle.com) Email: [stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:stpatrick-rochelle@rockforddiocese.org) Facebook.com/StPatrickRochelle

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

# LOCAL VIEWS

**Guest column**

## Happy new year

**H**APPY New Year! Someone please tell 2020 not to let the door hit it on the butt on the way out.

Take Covid and the election with you. Don't come back.

One hundred years ago we entered the "Roaring 20s." It was a time of flappers, the Charleston, Prohibition and Al Capone. I wonder how people will remember 2020 in 2121.

No one knows what the future holds, but hopefully our future will be brighter than the past year or two.

\*\*\*\*\*  
A couple of days after Christmas, our house was thrown into darkness. A car knocked down a utility pole on Flagg Road, throwing our area and the area south of Flagg Road into darkness.

Sitting with candles and flashlights, I thought of what life would have been like before electricity. I imagine families played games or provided some entertainment in the dark days of winter. Or maybe they just went to bed early. I did enjoy the darkness of the neighborhood and the quiet of the house for a little while, but I admit, I was very glad when power was restored.

I had gone into town to pick up some carryout when I passed the accident scene. The pole was hanging on some lines and there were sparks and smoke. I understand the driver was not seriously injured.

\*\*\*\*\*  
With the first major snowstorm under our belt, it's good to remember all the people who make life better for us.

Thank you to the plow drivers for the city, township, county and state. It can't be fun driving a plow in blowing, blinding snow.

Thank you to the

police who respond to calls in snow and freezing weather. Be it a call for a stranded motorist or an accident, officers respond as soon as possible regardless of the weather.

Thank you to the firemen and first responders respond who are called to vehicle accidents, structure fires and health issues. All of these calls bring responders out into the worst weather. Fighting a fire in freezing temperatures is no fun task.

Imagine being a utility department linemen going up a utility pole in a blizzard to fix a power outage. Every winter they do that.

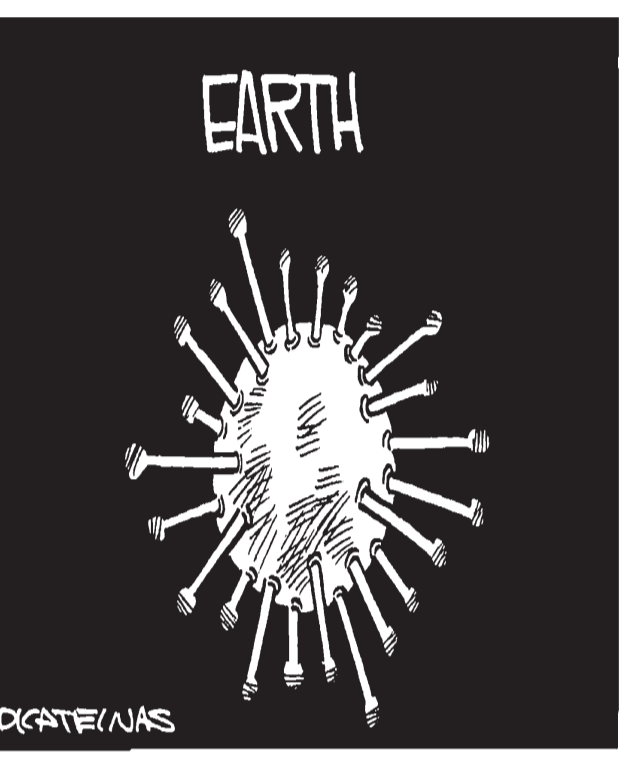
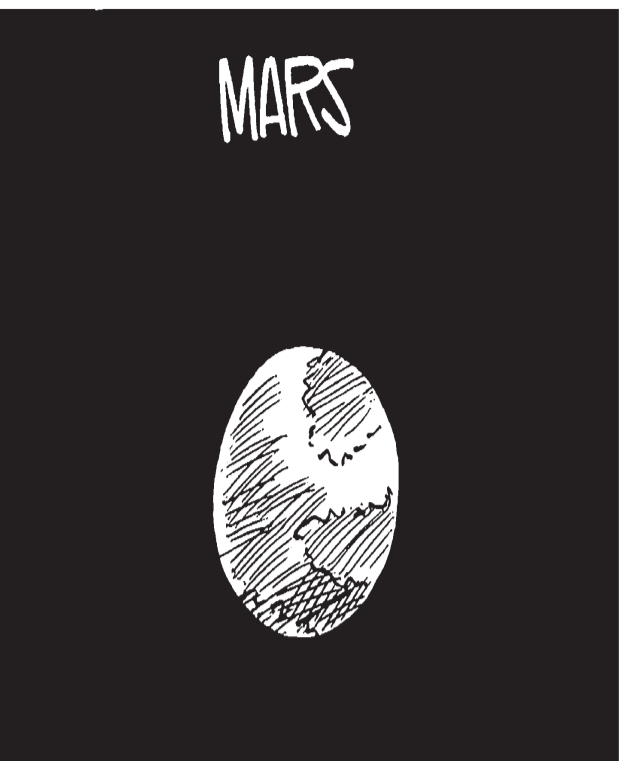
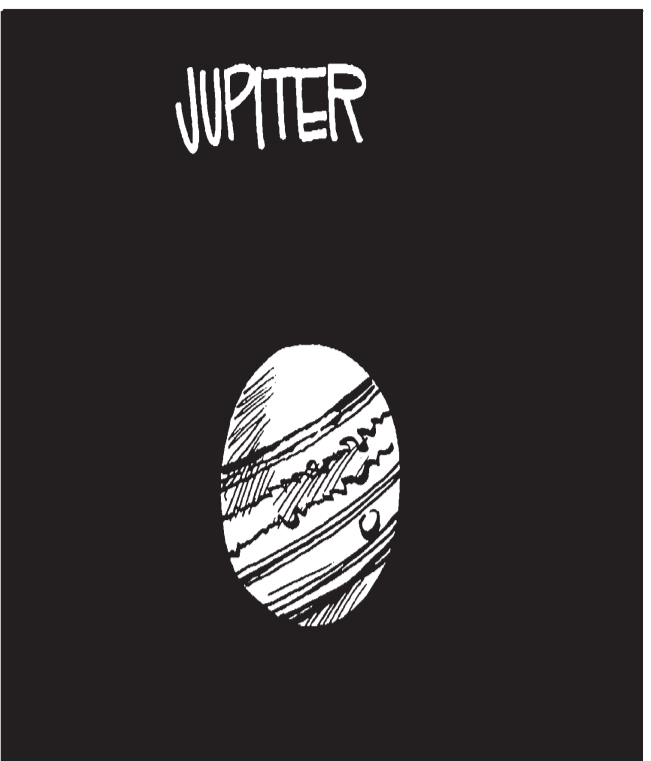
Thank you to doctors, nurses, custodians, technicians and other support staff at Rochelle Community Hospital who plow through the snow to be there when we need them.

And thank you to all the others...the store clerks, restaurant workers, truck drivers, postal workers — too many to list — who keep going when the weather gets tough. Thank you all very much.

*Terry Dickow can be contacted at terrydickow@gmail.com.*



**Terry Dickow**



## Here are my predictions for a great 2021

**W**OULD you look at that — we all made it out of 2020 and into 2021. Seriously, we should take a moment to be thankful we made it here.

As we all know, 2020 was a year like no other in our lifetimes. The pandemic has killed more than 330,000 Americans — including people I know and you probably know — and has infected many others. Some of them are still having health problems and might have permanent issues due to the COVID-19 virus.

Thankfully, science has come through and vaccines are now starting to slowly make their way out to the public. It will be months before we are all vaccinated, but at least we can see things starting to turn.

So I enter 2021 with hope, and that is a good feeling. I would love to see my dad this year — something that has been impossible in 2020 due to the

virus. I would love to go out and see friends, enjoy some live music, maybe go to a movie.

You know, all the things we did for years. But those were "normal" years. And 2020 was anything but normal.

I also enter 2021 ready to make my annual predictions. To be honest, my batting average here is not good. Just to refresh your memories, I predicted — among other things — that in 2020 the Chicago Bears would win the NFC North, Donald Trump would quit as president to join the senior PGA tour and a child with a smartphone for a head would be born.

Obviously, I am no Nostradamus. But that won't stop me from digging deep and coming up with some predictions for 2021.

The COVID-19 vaccine will

give 3 percent of those who get it superpowers. That will lead to a mad rush of previously anti-vaccine people to get the shot. Unfortunately, the superpowers thing will turn out to be an Internet hoax. On a positive note, the country will achieve a nearly 100 percent vaccination rate.

New President Joe Biden and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will get into a fist fight in a meeting at the White House. No punches will actually land, as both men will tumble to the ground while trying to reach each other, but both will claim victory. Cable news networks will call it "Punch out 2021" on a scroll at the bottom of the screen.

Even when it is safe to pack away the masks, people will continue to wear them. Masks become a new fashion trend and

are very popular with Americans. Ultimately, most people think others look better with a mask covering a large part of their face.

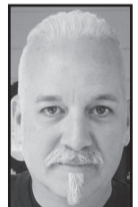
Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, sensing an opportunity, will officially change his name to JB Pritzker-Sucks. He will eventually win re-election and become the state's most popular governor.

The Chicago Bears will win the NFC North. Hey, I have to be right eventually.

\* By the end of the year, America and Americans will be more united. There will be less rancor and more agreement. A sense of common goals and a mission to help one another will return. Hey, a guy can dream, right?

I hope everyone has a great 2021!

*Brad Jennings is editor of the Ogle County Life.*



**Brad Jennings**

### 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

**IL Rep. Tom Demmer**  
314 Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-0535

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

### KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL LEADERS

\* Denotes Chairman/President

**Rochelle City Council**  
\*John Bearrows jbearrows@rochelleil.us  
Kathryn Shaw-Dickey kshaw-dickey@rochelleil.us  
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Tom McDermott tmcdermott@rochelleil.us  
John Gruben jgruben@rochelleil.us

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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



Vivian Holt

## Methodist church to host blood drive

**ROCHELLE** – Rochelle United Methodist Church will host a blood drive with Rock River Valley Blood Center from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 7 at Hicks Hall.

Donors can make appointments online at [rrvbc.org](http://rrvbc.org) or by calling 815-965-8751. Walk-ins are also welcome.

The blood center needs to see 700 donors per week as the only provider of blood products and services to 10 regional hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin.

If you're a first-time donor, please bring a photo ID. You can donate whole blood every 56 days. The process is safe and simple, and one unit can save up to three lives.

### Eligibility

You are in general good health: you have a normal temperature, blood pressure, pulse and meet the hemoglobin guidelines.

You are 17 years old (or 16, with parental consent). You weigh at least 110 pounds.

It has been at least 8 weeks since your last whole blood donation.

Most medications will not defer you from donating blood. Conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure do not necessarily disqualify you from donating blood.

It is recommended that donors eat a meal within four hours prior to donating.

## Card shower planned for Holt's 99th birthday

**ROCHELLE** — Vivian Holt will celebrate her 99th birthday on Jan. 10.

Her family is having a card shower for her. If you would like to send a card to her, please address it to 1040 Calvin Road, Rochelle, IL 61068.



### 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 - Jennifer 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

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Jan. 3**  
Justin Sandoval
- Jan. 5**  
Grace Yates  
Alaina Eubankz
- Jan. 6**  
Debbie Bonacquisti
- Jan. 7**  
Elaina Phillips  
Gary Phillips  
Summer Coffman
- Jan. 8**  
Graciela Perez  
Xavier Villalobos
- Jan. 9**  
Cheyenne Pourchot

- Jan. 11**  
Troy Martinez  
Kathy Sanders  
Christina Jones
- Jan. 13**  
Judy Messer
- Jan. 14**  
Jeannie Boeck  
Haley Thompson
- Jan. 15**  
Kami South  
Trenton South
- Jan. 19**  
Kevin South
- Jan. 20**  
Noelia Lopez

- Harold & Kathy Sanders
- Hailey Losoya
- Jan. 23**  
Odessa Waters  
Michele Perez
- Jan. 24**  
Terry Dodillet  
Kelly Arnold
- Jan. 25**  
Nikki Greenfield  
Ashton Arwood
- Jan. 28**  
Peggy Futrell
- Jan. 29**  
Nayelia Ramirez

## Coffee Break

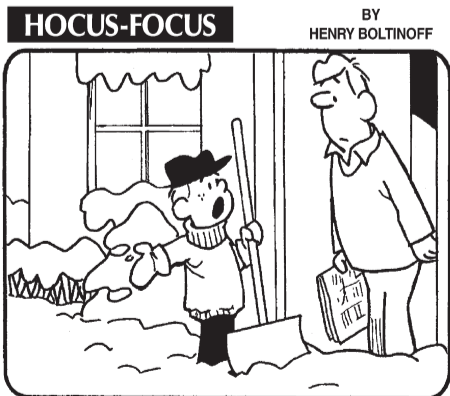
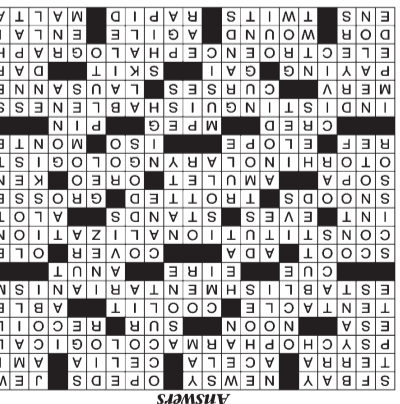
### MAGIC MAZE ● CONTAINERS

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

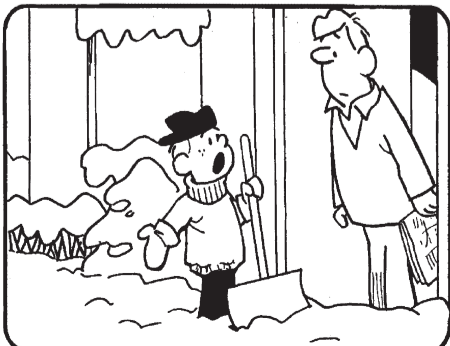
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: SUSPENDED FROM A NECKLACE

- Breadbox
- Briefcase
- Capsule
- Cask
- Compact Decanter
- Gripsack
- Inkwell
- Jerry can Kit
- Pillbox
- Pouch
- Quiver Vase
- Vessel

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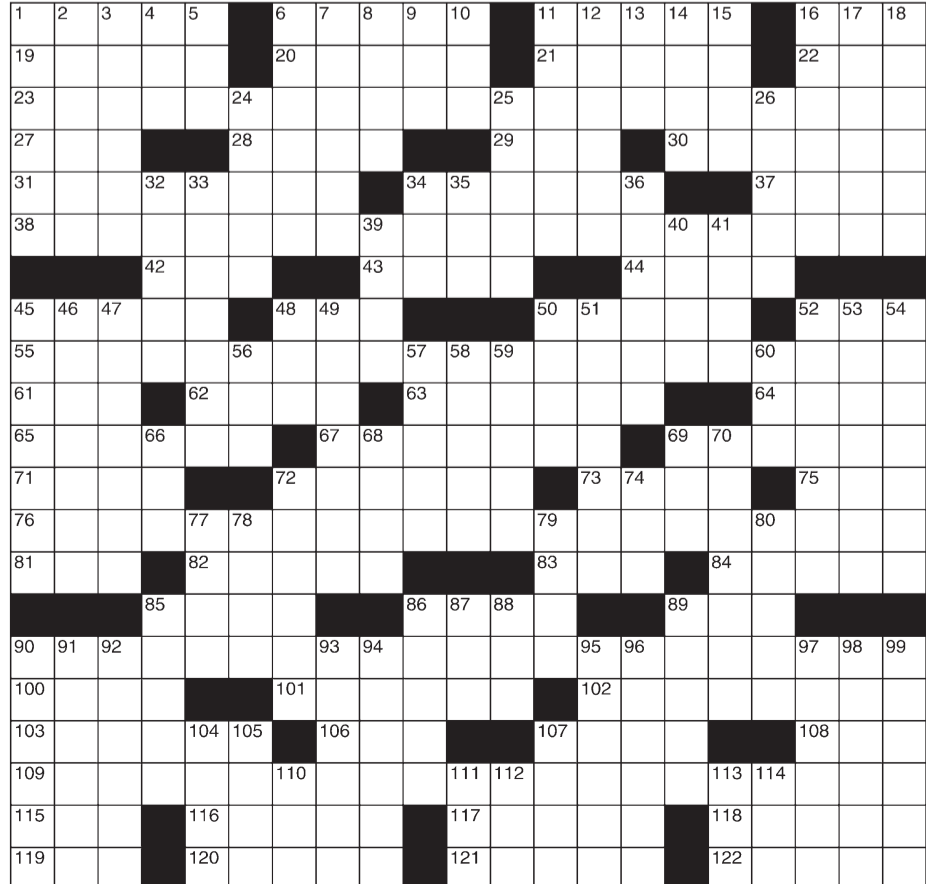
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Panels are missing; 2. Cap is reversed; 3. Arm is moved; 4. Handle is shorter; 5. Neckline is different; 6. Paper is moved.

### Super Crossword 21 AND SINGLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Alcatraz Island locale, for short
- 6 Info-filled
- 11 Subjective paper pieces
- 16 Yeshiva student, e.g.
- 19 Land, in Italy
- 20 Fast Amtrak service
- 21 Salsa singer
- 22 Pal, in Nice
- 23 Concerning the effects of drugs on the mind
- 27 Maestro — Pekka Salonen
- 28 12:00, half of the time
- 29 South, in Spanish
- 30 Finch in fear
- 31 Squid feature
- 34 "Chill out!"
- 37 Amply skilled
- 38 Belief in a national power structure
- 42 Acting signal
- 43 Blarney Stone's land
- 44 "Sometimes you feel like —"
- 45 Get moving
- 48 Org. for tooth drillers
- 50 Lid
- 52 Bullfight yell
- 55 Official endorsement via an amendment, say
- 61 Savings acct. addition
- 62 Days before holidays
- 63 Rises
- 64 Heaps
- 65 Ornamental hairnets
- 67 Jogged
- 69 — Pointe, Michigan
- 71 Gazpacho, e.g., in Spanish
- 72 Talisman
- 73 Cookie for 100+ years
- 75 He's a doll
- 76 Ear, nose and throat doctor
- 81 B-ball official
- 82 Sneak off to say "I do"
- 83 The same: Prefix
- 84 — Carlo
- 85 Street — (popular acceptance)
- 86 Video file format, in brief
- 89 Wrestling win
- 90 Quality among identical things
- 100 TV's Griffin
- 101 Oaths
- 102 Swiss city on Lake Geneva
- 103 Shelling out
- 106 Moo goo — pan
- 107 Short comic sketch
- 108 Fist bump, colloquially
- 109 Machine for a brain test
- 115 Palme — (film award)
- 116 Coiled
- 117 Sprightly
- 118 China's Zhou
- 119 Mil. officer
- 120 Taunts in fun
- 121 Swift
- 122 Nation south of Sicily
- DOWN**
- 1 Fla. Gulf city
- 2 Admits guilt, with "up"
- 3 Kobe of hoops
- 4 Curved path
- 5 "Boo- —!" ("All right!")
- 6 Port southeast of Roma
- 7 Canyon comebacks
- 8 Stop nursing camera type
- 10 Thanksgiving staple
- 11 Like mystical practices
- 12 City in Illinois
- 13 Added wing
- 14 Fashionable
- 15 Stuffing herb
- 16 "I, Claudius" star
- 17 PC-to-PC letters
- 18 Actor Dafoe
- 24 Aunt's spouse, in Paris
- 25 Unified already have plans"
- 32 Cantina snacks
- 33 Bordered on
- 34 Roman 901
- 35 Above, in verse
- 36 Country crooner
- 39 Fire output
- 40 Mother of Don Juan
- 41 Magical glow
- 45 Clip out, as a coupon
- 46 Imply in its definition
- 47 In addition to
- 48 Gorged on
- 49 Fluffy floor-cleaning tool
- 50 Walking aid
- 51 They can't be taught new tricks, in a saying
- 52 Raincoat material
- 53 Most baggy
- 54 Pact among nations
- 56 ER hookups
- 57 Bit of land in 'oceanic
- 58 Mink relative
- 59 In smart garb
- 60 Eastern spiritual path
- 66 Crew tool
- 68 Precept
- 69 Salon goop
- 70 Suitemates, say
- 72 Like one of a battery's terminals
- 74 Pal of Piglet
- 77 That girl's
- 78 "How did — this happen?"
- 79 Close by
- 80 Fixin' to
- 85 Longtime Honda model
- 86 Rock or jazz staple
- 88 Suffix with host or lion
- 89 Mickey's dog
- 90 Obstruct
- 91 Fruit "Aliens in the Attic"
- 92 Maytag products
- 93 Rocker Ted
- 94 Big pianos
- 95 High-pH substance
- 96 Skipped out (on)
- 97 Ultimate purpose
- 98 Be short with
- 99 Old compact Kia model
- 104 Abbr. on a food carton
- 105 Escalate
- 107 Clipper, e.g.
- 110 "Sure," in Soissons
- 111 Pointy part of Mr. Spock
- 112 Links gp.
- 113 Rubby or onyx
- 114 Stuff in some viral genes



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# YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 1

## SUNDAY, JAN. 26

**ROCHELLE** – An open house was held in the Rochelle Community Hospital cafeteria Thursday afternoon to welcome the hospital's new CEO.

On Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m., the public had an opportunity to come enjoy snacks and refreshments and meet Gregg Olson, the new CEO, as well as his wife, Denise. Olson was previously CEO of the hospital from 1997 to 2007 but then moved onto a different position for the last 13 years.

The job opening comes after Mark Batty, the former CEO of seven years left the hospital to take another position.

Olson says that a lot has changed in the last 13 years, but he is very glad to be back home.

## February WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

**ROCHELLE** – The Rochelle Rotary Club hosted its 13th Annual From the Heart dinner-auction fundraiser over the weekend, and it exceeded all expectations.

The gala took place on Saturday, Feb. 1, inside the hangar at The Flight Deck Bar and Grill. The event includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, games for prizes and both a silent and live auction. The goal of the event each year is to provide a fun night for the community while raising \$40,000 to be split between eight non-profit organizations.

The event raised over \$40,000 this year, and in doing so, From the Heart reached a landmark total of \$500,000 raised since



The Rochelle Township High School speech team took first place at the IHSA Regional Championship on Saturday for the second year in a row. (Wednesday, Feb. 12)

## WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

**ROCHELLE** — A landmark building in the City of Rochelle's north corridor may not be around much longer, but council and city staffers are working to make the future much brighter.

Rochelle City Council members unanimously approved a proposal Monday evening calling for the acquisition and demolition of the Hickory Grove Banquet & Convention Center, located at 1127 N. 7th St. in Rochelle. The building's prospects became public knowledge over the weekend, when Robin Baldwin Gounaris, owner and operator of Abraham's Bar & Grille inside Hickory Grove, published a lengthy Facebook post about the future of the property.

"For 15 years, I have tried to save [Hickory Grove]," Baldwin Gounaris wrote. "I have come to the decision that I can no longer save it. After

many meetings with potential buyers, investors, the county and the city, there are just too many building issues and zero funds to fix them."

City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh presented City Council members with the proposal, which calls for the City of Rochelle to purchase Hickory Grove from the Ogle County Civic Center Authority, which currently owns the building, for \$1. The city would then demolish the building and secure a private development partner to construct a new mixed-use property on the site.

## SUNDAY, FEB. 16

**ROCHELLE** – MightyVine Tomatoes held an event at its facility in Rochelle to celebrate the first harvest of its newly completed Phase 3 greenhouse expansion.

With the completion of its Phase 3 expansion in fall of 2019, local tomato-grower MightyVine is harvesting 22.5 acres of premium-quality toma-

atoes. With this expansion, financed by Rabo Agri-Finance, the hydroponic farm will now produce 10 million pounds of fresh tomatoes a year in their 1 million square foot, state-of-the-art greenhouse. MightyVine currently employs 100 residents with competitive pay and benefits.

## WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

**ROCHELLE** – A Chana resident has been chosen to be an ambassador for Nothing Down, an international Down Syndrome awareness organization.

One-year-old Lane Schabacker was chosen from over 500 applications from 42 states and 11 different countries, to be one of 29 ambassadors for the organization. The mission of the organization is to provide support, advocacy, education and opportunities for individuals and families that have been touched by down syndrome.

Lane's parents found

out about his diagnosis when his mother was about 12 weeks pregnant. Once the family got over the initial shock, one thing that helped them get through difficult times was seeing success stories from other families of children with Down Syndrome.

## March WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

**ROCHELLE** – Thanks to a very generous donation, the local food pantry will no longer struggle to move pallets of food by hand.

Hodge Forklift Retailer recently donated a forklift to the Rochelle Christian Food Pantry. The pantry previously owned one, but it had been very unreliable and recently stopped working.

Since the previous forklift stopped working, food pantry workers have been forced to move the pallets of food one at a time, by hand. The pantry is very grateful for the donation

because it was in need of a new forklift, but did not know how it was going to acquire one.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 15

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle schools superintendent Jason Harper confirmed that all Rochelle schools will be closed starting Monday, March 17 through Monday, March 30.

Following President Trump's declaration of a national emergency regarding the spread of the coronavirus on Friday and Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker's subsequent announcement that all schools in Illinois were to close from March 17 to March 30, Harper released a statement that all Rochelle schools would not be in session for the remainder of the month.

The plan as of Friday afternoon calls for students to return to school on Tuesday, March 31.

See page 9



**Established 1853**

*City of*  
**ROCHELLE**  
ILLINOIS

*Wishing you all the best for the New Year.*

**City of Rochelle**

**Established 1882**

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Rockford	Roscoe/Rockton	Stillman Valley
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[www.stillmanbank.com](http://www.stillmanbank.com)

**Established 1913**

*Wishing one and all peace, comfort and prosperity in the upcoming year.*

**Rochelle**  
Community Hospital

900 N. Second St., Rochelle  
815-562-2181  
[www.rochellehospital.com](http://www.rochellehospital.com)



# YEAR IN REVIEW

From page 8

## April WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

**OGLE COUNTY** – Ogle County has identified its first positive case of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The health department is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The individual is an adult in their 50s. Further details about the individual will not be released to protect the privacy of the individual and their family. Both the individual and their close contacts are being monitored by the Ogle County Health Department.

“As anticipated, this case confirms the presence of COVID-19 in our county. This case reinforces the importance of actions the public can take to protect themselves and prevent the spread in the community. The Healthcare partners in Ogle County are working closely with IDPH, the CDC, and regional partners to monitor, respond, and help limit the spread of the disease,” emergency preparedness and health coordinator Cherie Rucker stated in a press release sent out by the Ogle County Health Department just after 3 p.m. Monday.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 19

**ROCHELLE** — The Ogle County Health Department has ordered an immediate closure of Hormel’s Rochelle Foods facility in Rochelle. City of Rochelle officials have been briefed

on the need to close the plant. The facility will have 48 hours to comply with the order. The closure order is in effect for two weeks from the date of compliance.

As of Friday, a total of 24 cases of COVID-19 have been linked to the facility including cases in Ogle County (19), Whiteside County (three) and Winnebago County (two). Due to the outbreak, it is necessary to take immediate action to protect the community from this dangerous and infectious disease.

According to Ogle County Health Department officials, several attempts to assist in the control of the outbreak were made.

## May SUNDAY, MAY 3

**ROCHELLE** – With help from the community, Rochelle Township High School has thought of a way to provide its juniors and seniors with a modified prom experience, while following all CDC safety guidelines.

On Saturday, May 16, Rochelle Township High School will be hosting a virtual “Prom 2020 Revised,” which will include different prom activities for students to participate in. Several events are presented by local businesses, including SuperHits 93.5, Cypress House, Lifeworks Photography and Hicks BBQ.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

**OREGON** — The Ogle County Sheriff’s Department said farewell to one of its finest deputy sheriffs who served the community for nearly 30



Production of the first batch of hand sanitizer began Friday morning at Kennay Farms Distillery in downtown Rochelle. (Sunday, March 22)

years.

Cheri Brodzik had been an Ogle County deputy sheriff since 1990, and she held multiple titles throughout her career with the department. As she approached her 30th year on the force, she recently made the emotional decision to retire.

“I have really enjoyed being a police officer for 30 years and at the school for the last two, but it just seemed like good timing for me,” said Brodzik. “It is bittersweet for sure, I am going to miss all of my students, teachers and staff at the high school and the group of guys that I

work with on the force.”

## SUNDAY, MAY 24 ROCHELLE

While Rochelle Township High School is unable to hold any type of graduation ceremony until mid-summer, it recently held a modified drive-up event for students who still wanted their diplomas in May.

RTHS held its drive-up diploma hand out on Thursday, May 21 from 3 to 5 p.m. and Friday, May 22 from 9 to 11 a.m. Students lined their vehicles along the side of the school and wrapped around into the parking lot to avoid backing up Flagg Road.

Graduates were directed one-by-one to the front parking lot of the building, where staff members stood along the sidewalk and congratulated them. A tent with Principal Chris Lewis was set up at the front of the line.

Each car would stop, the principal said their name, handed them their diploma and congratulated them. While this was not the big ceremony students looked forward to for four years, they understand the tough situation the school is currently in. “I think the school did the best it could under the given circumstances,”

said graduating senior Austin Greifenkamp. “I would obviously rather have a normal graduation ceremony, but I really appreciate what they have done.”

Some seniors wore their cap and gowns in their vehicles as they received their diplomas, while others decorated their vehicles with balloons or paint. Many of the graduating seniors were sad about missing out on a traditional ceremony, but all of them were still happy to be receiving their diplomas.

See page 10

**Established 1963**

*Happy*  
**NEW YEAR**

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for shopping locally. Your support keeps independent businesses like us going, and we look forward to continuing to serve the needs of our friends and neighbors here in the community for years to come.

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John Vandre, Associate

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01012020

# YEAR IN REVIEW



Mason Moore found a windmill belonging to Joanne Rogde in Spring Lake while magnet fishing with his dad this week. (Sunday, May 10)

From page 9

## June WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

**ROCHELLE** — Following approval by Rochelle City Council members Monday night, a new grant program to support small business in the community has been established.

“Restart Rochelle” will offer businesses deemed ‘non-essential’ by the Governor’s stay home orders in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic up to \$5,000 to cover costs such as rent, utilities and insurance incurred while the business is closed.

“Our small businesses are a critical piece of the local economy,” said Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows. “Putting money in the hands of our entrepreneurs to cover the costs that haven’t gone away during the pandemic is just one way we can help.”

Qualifying businesses are those with 15 or less employees, including the owner, with a brick-and-mortar location within Rochelle’s city limits. Home-based businesses do not qualify.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

**ROCHELLE** — Non-profit housing organization Habitat for Humanity

of Ogle County held a groundbreaking ceremony at the future location of its latest house build.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on Saturday, June 13 at 122 S. 9th St. in Rochelle. The ceremony included the executive director and board members from Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County, Rochelle Mayor John Bearrows and Rochelle United Methodist Church Pastor Rob Hamilton who lead a prayer to bless the family and lot.

Also in attendance was Dan Roberts from the construction company helping on the build, as

well as the Vega family who will be receiving the home. While the ceremony signified the beginning of the house build, it also recognized both the organization and the family receiving it.

“Habitat for Humanity is in the business of changing lives,” said Vanessa White-Broome, Habitat for Humanity of Ogle County executive director. “We are very excited to help this family in its journey through home ownership.”

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21**  
**SPRINGFIELD** — Secretary of State Jesse

White has awarded \$15.4 million in FY20 Illinois Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grants to 638 public libraries statewide serving almost 12 million patrons.

“Due to resource disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our public libraries have never been more important and these funds will help them continue to serve the public with valuable resources,” White said. “Libraries have remained committed by providing drive-up WiFi access, significantly increasing the use of eBook collections and implementing curbside services.

I am extremely proud of the outstanding service Illinois’ public libraries provide to residents. I truly believe libraries are cornerstones of our communities and I am pleased to provide funding to help them serve the public, especially during this time.”

Locally, the Creston-Dement Public Library received \$992,500 and the Flagg-Rochelle Public Library received \$17,196.25.

See the Wednesday, Jan. 6 edition of the Rochelle News-Leader for the July through December Year in Review.



Jeff Glen of Central Bank presented Rochelle Area Community Foundation Director Kim Montgomery with a \$4,000 donation. The donation is part of the bank’s partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank Chicago COVID-19 Relief Program. (Sunday, June 7)

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# COUNTY NEWS

## Community steps up for Angel Ball

OREGON – This year has been a year like no other in our memory, and it has been especially challenging for our organizations that rely on fundraising events to supplement the cost of care and services.

Yet, for each challenge faced, the community has stepped forward.

Thank you for supporting the 2020 Oregon Rotary Foundation's Angel Ball and these three amazing organizations:

The Oregon Rotary Foundation, with its focus on providing financial assistance to local students seeking to attend college.

Serenity Hospice and Home, with its mission of providing patients and their families with a sense of comfort, peace, and dignity as they near the end of life.

The Village of Progress, with its mission of helping men and women with developmental disabilities reach their potential at work and in their communities.



Laura Cook was the winner of one of the raffle baskets. The raffle basket included donations from many folks including SuperValu, Busch Jewelry, Anna Head Photography to name a few.

Whether you purchased a sponsorship or donated goods and services, you helped make the event a success. Serenity Home and Hospice and The Village of Progress each received \$12,000. We hope to see you – in person this time – at next year's Angel Ball on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021.

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ROCHELLE  
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**High rate of return.** For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores,

\$68 returns to the community through payroll, taxes and other expenditures. Online orders return absolutely nothing to Rochelle, IL.



**Seeking health care in your hometown brings the comforts of receiving qualified care from people you know and trust.** Whether it be a trip to the dentist, regular health care screenings, a visit to a specialist or an emergency, you need not travel. It's all right here.



**Banking with people who know you is a luxury found only in hometowns.**

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**No one wants to have to make an insurance claim, but it's painless when your agent is your neighbor.**

You don't have to convince them that there was a hail storm, or that the wind nearly took your roof off. They know because they live here. Which do you want when you've had a bad day: A face-to-face meeting with your local agent, or a machine answering the phone at that big national insurer that advertises on TV?



**Time is money.**

It's simple math (especially when you figure in gas mileage.) Shopping locally can actually save you both time and money!



**Customer service after the sale is invaluable.**

Local retailers not only take responsibility for the product they sold, they will often fix it or replace it – no questions asked. Appliances, furniture, computers and electronics sometimes have glitches. Would you rather box yours up, send it to who knows where, and wait six to eight weeks, or just go back to the nice guy that helped you when you bought it?



**Keeping it local encourages community growth.**

By choosing to do business locally, you help maintain Rochelle's diversity, charm and appeal; which attracts new community members.



**One word: Jobs.**

When you do business of any kind in Rochelle, it creates and maintains jobs for others in our area. A healthy employment rate is the cornerstone of all economies. How can you help the economy recover? Start at home.



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SUNDAY, JAN. 3, 2021

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 2 • PAGE 1

# SPORTS



## MAKING STRIDES

Lady Hub bowler Carly Summers will look to continue improving on the lanes.

See page 2 for more details

### RTHS Girls Basketball

# Presence in the paint

Junior center Luxton ready to use superior height to her advantage

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

LADYHub basketball player Abby Luxton filled a dual role with the Rochelle Township High School sophomore and varsity teams this past season. Luxton used her height, length and skills to become a leading scorer, rebounder and shot blocker at the sophomore level. The 6-foot-1 center will look to make a greater impact as a junior on the varsity team this coming season.

**"I thought I did well in scoring the ball and maintaining high energy throughout our games..."**

**Abby Luxton**

Luxton chipped in during several varsity games, scoring nine points against Mendota and totaling seven rebounds in a loss against Oregon during the KSB Dixon Holiday Classic this past winter.

"I thought I played well, but there are many things I want to improve on," Luxton said. "I thought I did well in scoring the ball and maintaining high energy throughout our games. Next year, I want to become more aggressive offensively and

defensively. I also want to use my height to my advantage more often. I believe we had great chemistry throughout the season, but we can definitely make improvements. I expect everybody to come into next season with more energy."

Luxton's interior presence fueled the Lady Hub sophomore team to a second-place finish in the Rochelle Holiday Tournament this past season. Her winning efforts included scoring 20 points on only nine baskets in a victory against Genoa-Kingston. Competition and victories have been great motivators for Luxton since she took up basketball in seventh grade. Luxton will look to help the Lady Hub varsity team bounce back from two straight single-digit win seasons.

"I would like to score more and grab more rebounds during games," Luxton said. "Reaching my goals will require more practice and dedication. I feel my teammates and I were able to take advantage of each other's strengths and weaknesses throughout the season. I think an improvement for next season will be not getting discouraged with ourselves or each other."



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Junior Abby Luxton puts up a shot over an Ottawa defender. Luxton 6-foot-1 frame will make her a prime scorer and rebounder for the varsity team next year.

### RTHS Wrestling

# Accountability creating success for Weber

Sophomore grappler staying focused inside and outside the mat room

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

ACCOUNTABILITY means everything for Josey Weber. Whether it's through working out, attending practice, competing hard during meets or even maintaining strong grades outside the wrestling room, the Lady Hub sophomore grappler holds herself to a high standard of responsibility.

Weber's work ethic has resulted in her finding success in wrestling despite not taking up the sport until she joined the Rochelle Wrestling Club in eighth grade. The only female wrestler on the Rochelle team this past season, Weber competed at both the varsity and JV levels for the Hubs during her freshman year. Weber continued to show growth after the IHSA season, battling at the IWCOA Girls Sectional in Sterling and recording one victory in three matches.

"When we eventually have our season, I expect to hold myself accountable for working out, going to practice as much as I can, keeping my grades up and not slacking off," Weber said. "All I need to exceed these expectations

is the right mindset. That means doing better than I did last time, not getting down when I don't win and knowing the result is based on the effort I put in."

Weber said building strength and maintaining her high level of focus will be her goals as she continues preparing for her sophomore season with the Rochelle team. Weber's promising freshman season began taking shape during the Rockford East Freshman Invitational, where she earned a fourth-place medal in the 113-pound bracket. Weber will be among several lower-weight grapplers returning to the Rochelle program for this coming season.

"I thought I did well last season but I could've been better," Weber said. "Now that I know what to expect, I can always do better and try harder the next time I'm out there. I thought I wrestled well in practice, but I need to work on getting stronger. My role as a Rochelle student-athlete is to always keep my grades up and work as hard as I can for my team. This year, my roles are still keeping my grades up and working hard, but also holding myself accountable."

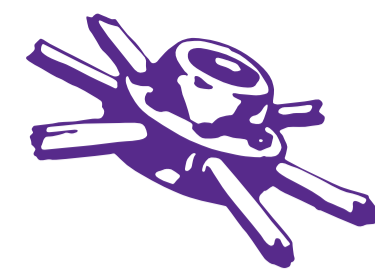


(COURTESY PHOTO)

Sophomore Josey Weber wrestled with both the varsity and JV teams this past season. Weber said holding herself accountable in academics and athletics have been the keys to her success so far.



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# HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Junior Carly Summers made her way into the varsity lineup during her first season with the Lady Hub bowling program this past year.

## Summers settling in with Lady Hub bowlers

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
 SPORTS EDITOR

BEFORE Lady Hub bowler Carly Summers arrived at Rochelle Township High School, she attended Eswood School in Lindenwood, only a few miles outside the Hub City. It was there that she and her classmates, ranging from kindergarteners to seventh-graders, were treated with a trip to the Cherry Bowl in Rockford, which sparked her initial interest in the sport.

Summers was unaware that RTHS had a bowling program until her sophomore year, when she noticed some of the players leaving school early to travel for meets. Summers signed up for the Lady Hub bowling team as a sophomore, competing at the JV level and even filling in on the varsity team occasionally. Now a junior, Summers will have an opportunity to earn a full-time varsity role for the Rochelle team, and she said she's eager to spend time with her teammates.

"With what's happening right now, my goal for the upcoming season is to play as many games as possible and grow as a team," Summers said. "Last year, I was proud of how I tried to adapt to what my

coaches suggested and I was proud of how I began understanding what did and didn't work. Last season, I had a twisting problem, which caused the ball to go haywire sometimes. I've since discovered what was wrong and I'm hoping to improve my accuracy."

Summers was one of four returning Lady Hub bowlers who arrived for the team's first practice of the 2020-21 season under new head coach Eric Widick, who replaced long-time coach Joey Johannung. Summers, who closed out her sophomore season on the varsity team after starting on the JV team, said that consistency will be the key to her success this coming season.

"Coach Johannung taught us how to think for ourselves and he pushed us to think about where we stood on the lanes and where to aim before releasing the ball," Summers said. "I'm looking forward to new observations and opinions from coach Widick. We didn't have many practices last season and I felt that my performances varied. I'd often have a good night and then a bad night. I was having issues with my inconsistent accuracy last season, but after one day of practice, coach Widick pointed something out to me about my form and how I could fix it."

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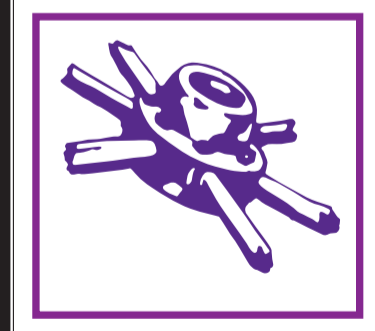
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# SPORTS

Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District

## Cole Family Memorial Fund donates to Aquatic Center

\$15,000 gift made in honor of Jeffry, Sheri & Grace Cole

ROCHELLE — The Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District is blessed to receive a very generous donation of \$15,000 to the REC Aquatic Center in loving memory of Jeffry, Sheri and Grace Cole, who died in a horrific car crash in 2006.

Alli Cole, the sole survivor of that car crash and daughter of Jeffry and Sheri, began swimming as part of her rehabilitation. The water is Alli's love and her family is thrilled to have this incredible facility in Rochelle for the community to enjoy.

Alli was a four-time gold medalist in the Paralympic Games in 2018. She qualified for the IHSA State meet in each of her first three seasons of high school swimming. Alli is also a three-time member of the Best of Rock River Valley All-Star Preps Girls Swim & Dive Team.

While she didn't have a state meet to highlight her senior season due to COVID-19, she did medal in the IHSA Sectional Series for the fourth time in her career. Alli's accomplishments are showcased in the REC Aquatic Center for all to see.

The REC Aquatic Center is home to two salt water pools that will offer opportunities for year-round swim team, water aerobics, water walking, deep water running, learn to swim, therapy and so much more. REC passes are available at [www.rochelleparkdistrict.org](http://www.rochelleparkdistrict.org).



Rochelle senior Alli Cole will have her swimming accolades on display inside the Aquatic Center at the Flagg-Rochelle Community Park District's Recreation Center. The Cole Family Memorial Fund recently made a \$15,000 donation to the facility. (COURTESY PHOTO)

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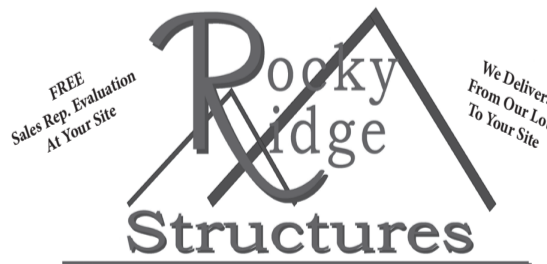
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TUESDAY EVENING JANUARY 5, 2021. Grid listing TV programs from 6 PM to 11:30 PM on various channels including WBBM, WIFR, WTVO, WMAQ, WGRF, WLS, WGN, WGBO, WTTW, WCPX, WREX, TLN, TBS, NICK, DISN, USA, TNT, NSCH, LIFE, AMC, FREE, TLC, DISC, HIST, A&E, EI, COM, FX, PARM, ESPN, ESPN2, FNC, CNN, CNN2, MSNBC, CNBC, FOOD, TRUTV, ANPL, BIGTEN, TRAV, BET, H&G, and HALL.

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THURSDAY EVENING JANUARY 7, 2021. Grid listing TV programs from 6 PM to 11:30 PM on various channels including WBBM, WIFR, WTVO, WMAQ, WGRF, WLS, WGN, WGBO, WTTW, WCPX, WREX, TLN, TBS, NICK, DISN, USA, TNT, NSCH, LIFE, AMC, FREE, TLC, DISC, HIST, A&E, EI, COM, FX, PARM, ESPN, ESPN2, FNC, CNN, CNN2, MSNBC, CNBC, FOOD, TRUTV, ANPL, BIGTEN, TRAV, BET, H&G, and HALL.

TV LISTINGS

Table with 12 columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30) and 12 rows for channels (WBWM, WIFR, WTVO, WMAQ, WQRF, WLS, WGN, WGBO, WTTW, WCPX, WREX, TLN, TBS, NICK, DISN, USA, TNT, NSCH, LIFE, AMC, FREE, TLC, DISC, HIST, A&E, EI, COM, FX, PARMT, ESPN, ESPN2, FNC, CNN, CNN2, MSNBC, CNBC, OXY, FOOD, TRUTV, ANPL, BIGTEN, TRAV, BET, H&G, HALL). Each cell contains program titles and descriptions.

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Table with 12 columns for time slots (12 PM to 5:30) and 12 rows for channels (WBWM, WIFR, WTVO, WMAQ, WQRF, WLS, WGN, WGBO, WTTW, WCPX, WREX, TLN, TBS, NICK, DISN, USA, TNT, NSCH, LIFE, AMC, FREE, TLC, DISC, HIST, A&E, EI, COM, FX, PARMT, ESPN, ESPN2, FNC, CNN, CNN2, MSNBC, CNBC, OXY, FOOD, TRUTV, ANPL, BIGTEN, TRAV, BET, H&G, HALL). Each cell contains program titles and descriptions.

Table with 12 columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30) and 12 rows for channels (WBWM, WIFR, WTVO, WMAQ, WQRF, WLS, WGN, WGBO, WTTW, WCPX, WREX, TLN, TBS, NICK, DISN, USA, TNT, NSCH, LIFE, AMC, FREE, TLC, DISC, HIST, A&E, EI, COM, FX, PARMT, ESPN, ESPN2, FNC, CNN, CNN2, MSNBC, CNBC, OXY, FOOD, TRUTV, ANPL, BIGTEN, TRAV, BET, H&G, HALL). Each cell contains program titles and descriptions.



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STATE )  
BANK )No.  
f/k/a )  
LINCOLN )20  
STATE )CH  
BANK, )34  
Plaintiff, )  
V. )  
BRIAN R. )  
HEINRICH, )  
et al, )

H. The Judgment of Foreclosure amount is \$91,990.90 as of May 1, 2020.  
FIRST STATE BANK f/k/a LINCOLN STATE BANK, Plaintiff,  
By HEWITT & WAGNER, Its Attorneys No. 1214 (Dec. 20, 27, Jan. 3)

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Department of  
Agriculture

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All producers who have not been paid by Davidson Grain, Inc. must file a claim to be considered for payment. The claimant's claim shall be barred if not filed with the Department on or before the later of: (a) the claim date of 2/28/2021 or (b) 7 days from the date notice was mailed to a claimant if the date notice was mailed to that claimant on or before the claim date.

Claim forms and claims may be obtained and filed at Rt. 38 & Woodlawn Road Creston Illinois 60113 or the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Warehouses, P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, IL 62794-9281.

Jerry Costello II  
Acting Director  
Illinois Department of Agriculture  
No. 1214 (Dec. 20)

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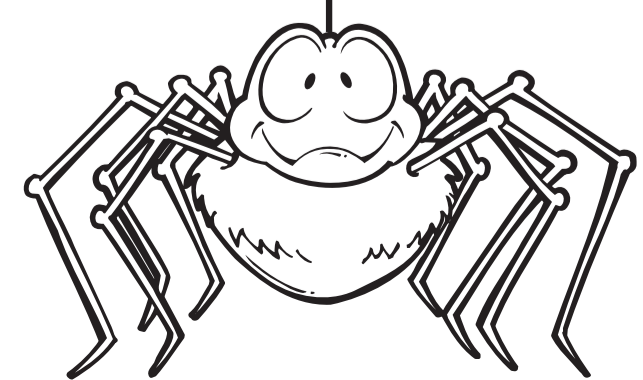
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# STATE NEWS

## Rebuilding Illinois, improving safety, keeping people and resources moving during pandemic

**SPRINGFIELD** — The Illinois Department of Transportation, under the leadership of Gov. JB Pritzker and Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman, met the challenges of COVID-19 in 2020, ensuring infrastructure stayed open and safe, keeping projects on schedule and delivering the first full year of the historic Rebuild Illinois capital program.

“This year tested our agency like no other in our history,” Osman said. “I’m extremely proud of the role IDOT played during this pandemic to keep Illinois safe in 2020. Despite the challenges, the work we accomplished this past year will have a positive impact for generations to come.”

Passed in 2019, Rebuild Illinois made possible approximately \$2.8 billion in improvements to 1,706 miles of highway and 128 bridges, as well as 228 additional safety improvements, in the 2020 fiscal year, the first full year of the bipartisan capital program.

Throughout the state, IDOT was instrumental in the response to the pandemic while meeting the challenges of keeping infrastructure open and projects moving. Even with these obstacles, IDOT kept the construction season on schedule without interruption. The year also brought new commitment to investing in underserved communities and strengthening multimodal connections in a state that serves as the country’s transportation hub.

### Pandemic response

At the governor’s direction, IDOT remained open for business throughout the pandemic, with a special focus on the critical mission of maintaining a safe, reliable system of transportation for Illinois. Roads and bridges stayed open. Maintenance and operations staff remained on duty. Projects stayed on course, sustaining jobs and the local economy in many communities.

Rest areas, as usual, were open 24/7, doing their part to keep the nation’s supply chain moving. Volunteer events were held at weigh stations to serve free boxed lunches to truckers to show the public’s appreciation.

Operations personnel across the state delivered over 2,700 pallets and packages of vital Personal Protective Equipment, which went to healthcare facilities, emergency management agencies, testing sites, veterans’ homes, hospitals and other state agencies in the fight against COVID-19.

### Highway and bridge improvements

During the 2020 calendar year, IDOT completed more than 600 highway projects, ranging from minor resurfacings to interstate and bridge reconstructions.

A 7-mile stretch of Interstate 255 in the Metro East, one of the worst roads in the state, was rehabilitated and completed nearly a month ahead of schedule. The \$67 million project, one of the first under Rebuild Illinois, was completed cheaper, faster and safer by closing the work zone to all traffic for one construction season. In the fall, the department broke ground on the Delhi Bypass and the expansion of U.S. 67 to four lanes in Jersey County.

A \$42 million investment upgraded the Murray Baker Bridge in Peoria, another project that saved time and money by diverting traffic and condensing the construction schedule to one year.

In Southern Illinois, more than 5 miles of Interstate 57 were expanded to six lanes between Johnston City and West Frankfort, the latest phase in a multiyear effort to improve safety and capacity along a crucial corridor.

Construction started in July to replace the U.S. 150 bridge over I-57 and the Mattis Avenue bridges over I-57 and I-74, advance projects leading to next year’s start of the I-57/74 interchange reconstruction in Champaign-Urbana. A cornerstone of Rebuild Illinois, the I-57/74 project will remake a critical freight juncture that accommodates almost 40,000 vehicles a day.

The \$27.4 million Illinois 178 bridge over the Illinois River in Utica was completed, providing a new gateway with dedicated bike and pedestrian access to Starved Rock and Matthiessen state parks.

A rebuilt 8-mile section of I-70 between Altamont and Effingham opened in the fall.

In the Rockford area, completed projects included a \$20 million resurfacing of Interstate 39 from Baxter Road to Harrison Avenue, along with U.S. 20 from just west of Alpine Road to I-39. The U.S. 20-Illinois 2 interchange was reconfigured to a signalized diamond interchange with various other safety improvements.

A joint project with Iowa, the new Interstate 74 Mississippi River Bridge in the Quad Cities reached a key stage with the opening of the new westbound bridge. The twin eastbound bridge is due to open in late 2021.

The Jane Byrne Interchange in Chicago marked a major milestone with the completion of all 11 ramps at the confluence of Interstates 90, 94 and 290. The project, which modernizes one of the nation’s worst bottlenecks, moves to rebuild mainline I-90/94 before wrapping up in 2022.

Progress continued on a new Interstate 80/U.S. 30 interchange in Will County. The project involves extending a third lane in each direction on I-80 from approximately Interstate 355 through U.S. 30. Other components include modernized traffic signals, drainage improvements and the extension of a bicycle and pedestrian path along U.S. 30 before everything wraps up in 2021. Engineering efforts continue on a much larger \$1.1 billion overhaul of I-80 between U.S. 30 and Ridge Road, including replacing the Des Plaines River bridges in Joliet.

A \$14.8 million widening of Illinois 132 through Lindenhurst in Lake County, with multiple safety, pedestrian and bike improvements, finished in September.

### Workforce opportunities

Building Blocks of Success, a series of free virtual workshops to drive participation in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program and greater diversity on state projects, launched in the fall.

In February, Today’s Challenge, Tomorrow’s Reward, a skills-building conference that serves to improve connections between prime contractors and the DBE community, set record attendance by drawing 400 participants.

Illinois joined with the Mid-America Association of State Transportation Agencies to establish a standing committee to facilitate sharing information and strategy on issues of diversity and inclusion.

### Multimodal vision

The department awarded 52 grants totaling more than \$38 million to support the planning efforts of long-range transportation projects across the state. New criteria established dedicated funding to create economic opportunity and enhance quality of life in disadvantaged communities.

More than \$1.5 million was committed to leverage a total investment of \$31 million for airport improvements in Quincy, Rockford and Champaign-Urbana. The department also awarded \$112 million in grants to 31 downstate transit providers, the first of \$4.5 billion from Rebuild Illinois — \$3 billion in bonding and \$1.5 billion in new pay-as-you-go funding — to invest in transit throughout the state.

An Illinois Marine Transportation System Plan and economic impact analysis study was released, with IDOT asking the public for feedback to strengthen a resource that generates \$36 billion in economic impact annually and supports more than 160,000 jobs. The final report will help guide \$150 million identified in Rebuild Illinois for public ports, with \$40 million already committed to a new inland port at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers in Cairo.

### Eye on innovation

With the pandemic limiting in-person gatherings, IDOT turned virtual in 2020, holding several public meetings online. The pivot allowed communities to gain information and provide feedback while keeping the planning process on track for key projects.

A new, modern communications center opened in October at IDOT headquarters in Springfield, serving as a vital link between federal and state partners, the public and the department by providing communications services quickly and reliably.

Illinois continued to be recognized for

its work nationally. The safety campaign “Life or Death Illinois” received the Excel Award from the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, a first in the history of the department. In AASHTO’s America’s

Transportation Awards, a partnership with Missouri to rebuild the 92-year-old Champ Clark Bridge in western Illinois garnered top honors in the “Quality of Life/Community Development, Medium Project” category.



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# STATE NEWS

## Pandemic, statehouse scandals top 2020 stories

BY JERRY NOWICKI, PETER HANCOCK, SARAH MANSUR AND RAYMON TRANCOSO

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS/  
NEWS@CAPITOLNEWSILLINOIS.COM

**SPRINGFIELD** — It was a year like no other, and one most Americans would just as soon forget, but 2020 is sure to last in the history books as one of the most tumultuous in modern history.

It was a year when face masks and hand sanitizer became ubiquitous items of everyday life and when major sporting events that many Americans use to mark the passage of time were canceled or delayed.

It was also a year marked by racial and social unrest following the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other Black Americans at the hands of police. And it was a year of economic catastrophe that brought about some of the highest unemployment rates the nation has seen.

For Illinois, the year seemed to begin on a hopeful note. The state was running a budget surplus for the first time in many years. By February, unemployment had fallen to an all-time low.

But things were about to change amid a backdrop of pandemic and government corruption scandals that rocked the foundation of power of the nation's longest-serving state legislative leader.

### COVID-19

On Jan. 24, a Chicago woman who had just returned home from Wuhan, China, where the COVID-19 pandemic originated, tested positive for the disease. A few days later, her husband tested positive as well, marking the first known instance of person-to-person spread in the U.S.

On March 9, Gov. JB Pritzker declared a statewide disaster and quickly began invoking his emergency powers with a series of executive orders including closure of K-12 schools to in-person learning and a statewide stay-at-home order that brought much of the state's economy to a grinding halt.

By year's end, COVID-19 had claimed the lives of more than 16,000 Illinoisans as the rapid distribution of a pair of vaccines marked new hope that the "beginning of the end" of the pandemic was near.

### Madigan

After more than three decades as one of the most powerful men in the state, Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan faced an uncertain political future as 2020 neared its end.

His future as speaker and Democratic Party of Illinois chairman was first put in doubt on July 17 when officials at utility giant Commonwealth Edison admitted in court to a yearslong bribery scheme in which they sought to buy favor with Madigan — the latest in a series of bombshell investigatory revelations that have centered on Democratic state politicians since 2019.

The case sparked an internal House investigation in which Republicans sought to oust him from office, but that effort was thwarted when Demo-

crats on the investigating committee — all Madigan loyalists — voted against recommending a disciplinary charge.

Madigan himself has not been charged criminally and has denied any wrongdoing.

But at least 19 members of the House Democratic caucus have said they will not vote to re-elect him as speaker, which would mean he is well short of the 60 votes needed to win another term. No one else has yet emerged as a viable contender for the office, however, so it is unclear what will happen when lawmakers reconvene in Springfield in January to choose a speaker for the 102nd General Assembly.

### Leadership changes

While there is some uncertainty about whether Madigan will serve as speaker next year, a leadership change would make House Republican Leader Jim Durkin the General Assembly's most tenured leader.

Durkin, who hails from Western Springs, has been House minority leader since 2013. That caucus indicated it will back him again in January after a brief challenge from Rep. Tony McCombie, from Savanna, who eventually backed Durkin.

While 2020 began with a leadership change on the Democratic side in the Senate, it ended with a change in Republican leadership in that chamber.

After former Senate President John Cullerton announced plans to retire in 2019 after 11 years, Sens. Kimberly Lightford, from Maywood, and Don Harmon, from Oak Park, emerged as top contenders to fill the remainder of Cullerton's two-year term. Ultimately, Harmon secured majority support from the Democratic caucus and was elected on Jan. 19 following several hours of behind-the-scenes negotiations. Harmon's fellow Democrats indicated earlier this month they would back him for another two-year term come January.

Senate Minority Leader Bill Brady, from Bloomington, announced in early November his plans to step down from Republican leadership in the Senate after three years, and members of the caucus chose Sen. Dan McConchie, from Hawthorn Woods, as his replacement. McConchie has served in the chamber since 2016.

The new year will also see challengers emerge for governor and other state constitutional officers, as candidates have already begun to announce their intentions for a statewide run.

### Looking ahead

Despite the pandemic, Illinois voters went to the polls in record numbers in 2020, opting for Democrat Joseph Biden over incumbent Donald Trump by a 58-41 percent margin.

Nearly 6.1 million ballots were cast in the November election — the largest number recorded in Illinois — after state lawmakers passed a measure greatly expanding access to mail balloting for the 2020 general election in response to the pandemic.

Democrats lost one seat in the state House to hold a 73-45 supermajority but

gained a seat in the state Senate to hold a 41-18 supermajority.

Republicans scored some big wins by defeating Gov. JB Pritzker's proposed constitutional amendment to allow a graduated income tax and by ousting Supreme Court Justice Thomas Kilbride, setting up a GOP effort to take a one-seat majority on the high court in 2022.

Legislatively in 2021, Pritzker and the General Assembly are facing a \$3.9 billion revenue shortfall, due largely to the financial impact of COVID-19 and the failure of the graduated income tax, and they are bracing for difficult choices to cut spending, raise revenue or some combination of both.

Pritzker has proposed \$700 million in spending cuts as a "first step" to address the budget holes. His administration also announced plans to borrow \$2 billion through a federal program to cover revenue losses and unforeseen COVID-19 expenses for the current fiscal year, but other difficult budget decisions loom in 2021.

The state's two main storylines of 2020 — scandal and pandemic — have also contributed to the derailing of a potential massive overhaul of the

state's energy landscape. The Clean Energy Jobs Act and other energy reforms could be near the top of the agenda when lawmakers return for a 2021 session as well.

### Black Caucus agenda

Initiatives of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus will also be at the top of the state government agenda in 2021 following a tumultuous 2020.

The agenda, aimed at ending systemic racism in Illinois, comes amid the backdrop of massive protests against police brutality and racial inequality, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic that disproportionately infected and killed Black and Latino Americans.

The agenda is split among four pillars of policy: criminal justice reform, violence and police accountability; education and workforce development; economic access, equity and opportunity; and health care and human services.

From September to October, the Black Caucus held more than 100 hours of hearings to inform potential legislation, some of which caucus leader Kimberly Lightford said

will be brought forth for January's lame duck session before the swearing-in of new lawmakers.

The effort was partially in response to prolonged social unrest following the May 25 death of George Floyd, who died after a Minneapolis Police officer knelt on his neck for over 9 minutes. Protests began the next day in Minneapolis and quickly spread to cities across the country.

That unrest led Gov. Pritzker to deploy the Illinois National Guard to Chicago on May 31 after a weekend of large-scale protests devolved into violence in some areas.

Meanwhile, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx drew national attention for dropping charges for minor and non-violent offenses for hundreds of protestors, and President Trump engaged in high-profile disputes of rhetoric with Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Gov. Pritzker over the deployment of federal authorities to Illinois to clamp down on protests. While widescale intervention was avoided, some federal officers were deployed to aid ongoing law enforcement efforts to combat gun and drug crimes.

Ultimately, the pro-

tests which lasted from May until early November became the largest in U.S. history with an estimated 15 to 26 million participants across the country, with more protests taking place worldwide.

### Marijuana licensing

In 2019, the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act legalized the sale and use of recreational marijuana in Illinois, and in legalization's first year, sales were expected to reach \$1 billion, yielding more than \$100 million in state and local tax revenue.

There's plenty of room for those numbers to grow, as at the start of 2020 the state had issued only 30 licenses for recreational dispensaries to firms that were already licensed as medical dispensaries.

Despite the promise that 75 new licenses would be awarded to social equity applicants in an effort to diversify the industry, the pandemic and a number of lawsuits delayed the process. While no additional licenses were awarded in 2020, the state won a lawsuit in November that could allow the program to move forward in 2021.

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