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LOCAL NEWS... LOCAL VIEWS

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### Food insecurities

Ag leaders, nonprofits  
address food insecurities in  
Illinois. **See page 3**

### WEATHER

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
|           |          |
| WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY |
| HIGH LOW  | HIGH LOW |
| 38 28     | 35 26    |
|           |          |
| FRIDAY    | SATURDAY |
| HIGH LOW  | HIGH LOW |
| 31 18     | 25 16    |

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### OBITUARIES

• EVELYN NEWELL  
• JAMES PEERBOOM  
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### INSERTS

• ALDI

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### A masterpiece made of snow



**Fran Volz, pictured above putting the finishing touches on his latest snow sculpture. The 8-foot mermaid is located at the gazebo in downtown Rochelle. Volz, who also does work in bronze and completed the veterans memorial statue at Lawnridge Cemetery, completed his first snow sculpture — a Smurf — in 1985.**

## Back to the classroom

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle School District 231 students and staff will return for in-person learning on Tuesday, Jan. 19 after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, Jan. 18.

Superintendent Jason Harper said the district received clearance from the Ogle County Health Department to resume in-person learning. Schools moved to remote learning in late November after recommendations from the OCHD to pause in-person learning for eight weeks.

Harper also said local teachers will be included under Phase 1B of the State of Illinois COVID-19 vaccination plan, which began with Phase 1A last month. Harper said that school nurses, who fall under Phase 1A, could receive COVID-19 vaccinations as soon as this week. Principals, day-care workers, student aids, student support staff and residents 65 and older also fall under Phase 1B



**“There’s a lot of logistical planning going on between superintendents, health offices and the OCHD. We have surveyed our staff to see who wants to take the vaccine and when they’re available to receive it. The vaccines are very much on our radar.”**

**Jason Harper**

according to the IDPH. Illinois has administered roughly 354,000 doses of vaccine.

“There’s a lot of logistical planning going on between superintendents, health offices and

the OCHD,” Harper said. “We have surveyed our staff to see who wants to take the vaccine and when they’re available to receive it. The vaccines are very much on our radar.”

## Council approves water treatment plant improvements

Council OKs COVID-19 Temporary Leave Program, amends tax abatement schedule for Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle City Council members authorized City Manager Jeff Fiegenschuh to sign an engineering agreement with Willett Hofmann & Associates Inc. for the second phase of improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, located at 888 Treatment Plant Road in Rochelle. The multi-year agreement will be at a cost not exceeding \$682,000, with in-house construction potentially offsetting a portion of the \$240,000 construction observation cost.

The system upgrades include the construction of a second new fine screen option and dewatering unit for the influent bypass channel, new piping to connect the anaerobic lagoon effluent piping to the headworks building, convert aeration bays 5-8 for biological nutrient removal, replace the clarifier drive units and demolish three existing tertiary sand filters, and install four cloth type tertiary filters. The project will be funded by an IEPA loan.

Council members approved Engel Electric Company’s pro-

posal for electrical upgrades at Well 8 at a cost of \$21,491. Council members also approved a resolution authorizing Fiegenschuh to sign a five-year dark fiber license agreement with MCIMetro for a monthly cost of \$6,567.29.

### Lee-Ogle

### Enterprise Zone

Council members amended an ordinance for the Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone establishing a three-tiered tax abatement schedule for businesses. The resolution comes after Project Jackpot, the new business entity planning to take over the Nippon Sharyo campus in Rochelle, plans to invest \$130 million in the zone and create 150 jobs.

The lowest tier requires no minimum job limit or capital investment limit while maintaining 75 percent of jobs to retain abatement (50 percent per year over six years). The middle tier requires 75 jobs or more and \$50 million in capital investment while maintaining 95 percent of jobs to retain abatement (50 percent per year over 10 years).

The highest tier requires 125 jobs or more, \$100 million in capital investment and a \$50,000 annual wage per employee before benefits while maintaining 95 percent of jobs to retain abatement (50 percent per year over 16 years).

### COVID Leave

Council members approved a resolution authorizing the creation of a City of Rochelle COVID-19 Temporary Leave Program. The temporary leave program will run until Jan. 31, 2021.

For employees exposed to COVID-19, employees will be asked to be tested and results will determine if and when the quarantine will take place. If not tested and no symptoms, the employee will be required to quarantine and use sick leave to cover the absence.

If an employee has been exposed to COVID and is being tested, the employee will be placed on COVID Administrative Leave while awaiting test results with no use of leave.

For positive test results, employees will receive up to 80 hours of temporary leave while

on quarantine. The length of quarantine will be based on the recommendation of the health department. Positive test result documents must be sent to human resources within 24 hours.

If no letter is received to confirm test results, employees may be required to use sick leave from their leave bank. For negative test results, the employee may return to work under modified quarantine guidelines: wear mask, physical distance, and monitor symptoms.

Documentation of the negative results must be sent to HR prior to returning to work.

### Ordinances

Rochelle City Council members approved a series of ordinances during January’s meeting at City Hall on Monday. The city approved an ordinance allowing retail sales of electronic cigarettes, vapor and related products at Rocky’s Smoke Shop, located at 901 S. 7th St in Rochelle.

Council members also approved an ordinance granting variation of signage for the construction of an electronic message board at Kwik Trip, located at 1000 S. 7th St. in Rochelle.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Speech team takes second at Interstate 8 Conference Meet

**ROCHELLE** — Rochelle competed in the Interstate 8 Conference Speech Meet this past weekend. Rochelle placed second as a team, behind Morris who were the team champions.

Individuals who were conference finalists included: Faith Worthington, conference champion, Impromptu Speaking. Ava Coglianese, conference champion, Special Occasion Speaking.

Megan Thiravong, second place, Extemporaneous Speaking. Paul Swartz/Mikayla Preston, second place, Humorous Duet Acting. Bella Nauman, second place, Oratorical Declamation. Mikayla Preston, second place, Dramatic Interpretation.

Ariel Zuercher/Jenn Heinrich, third place, Dramatic Duet Acting. Heidi Cruz, third place, Special Occasion Speaking. Alyssa Schwanert, third place, Prose Reading. Bella Nauman/Jenn Heinrich, third place, Humorous Duet Acting. Morgan Haas, third place, Oratorical Declamation.

Megan Thiravong, fourth place, Humorous Interpretation. Megan Thiravong, fourth place, Radio Speaking.

Paul Swartz, fifth place, Humorous Interpretation. Morgan Haas, fifth place, Oratory. Faith Worthington, fifth place, Informative Speaking. Kara Yates,



Worthington



Coglianese

fifth place, Original Comedy. Aiden Ramsey, fifth place, Impromptu Speaking. Ariel Zuercher, fifth place, Poetry Reading.

Layla Pelan, sixth place, Poetry Reading. Layla Pelan, sixth place, Prose Reading. Jessica Nguyen, sixth place, Extemporaneous Speaking. Mateo Hughes/Addison Stewart, sixth place, Humorous Duet Acting. Avery Auld, sixth place, Original Comedy. Kara Yates, sixth place, Oratory.

Jessica Nguyen, seventh place, Informative Speaking.

Aiden Ramsey, eighth place, Informative Speaking.

Speaker of the week is Bella Nauman.

## Four perspectives on achieving success on the international stage

### NIU College of Business hosting speaker series

**DEKALB** — Many companies and professionals endeavor to work in the global market. Some succeed. Others fail. What does it take to achieve success beyond your borders? The next NIU College of Business Wednesday Night Wisdom online speaker event will explore these and many other questions about how to achieve success on the international stage. Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20. All are welcome to register for free ([go.niu.edu/wnw](http://go.niu.edu/wnw)).

Our four panelists are NIU alumni and experts in international business:

Kevin Delaplace Haro, MBA '16 — Currently living in Kuwait and working as a business development manager at Austrian Business Develop Group, Delaplace has lived and studied in several countries which has helped him become an adaptable and effective multilingual communicator and presenter.

Ariel Moreno, MBA '17 — Currently living in Colombia, Moreno is the founder and CEO of e-Takeoff SAS, an ambulance to-go app and software that allows for responding to emergencies in record time, optimizing health service and saving lives.

This multi-award-winning company has clients in multiple countries, including the U.S.

Scott Rosenfelder, Computer Science '85 — Retired managing director for technology and data analytics at Deloitte's Financial Risk and Advisory Practice. His work focused on the use of advanced analytics to improve brand protection and customer experience, and measurement services for multinational companies with complex interactions.

Dean Stieber, Accountancy '79 — Retired from KPMG LLP as a strategic business partner, trusted advisor and executive leader serving clients, developing team members and leading complicated process analysis and operational projects in the U.S. and overseas.

The NIU College of Business in June launched an online speaker series, Wednesday Night Wisdom, to keep students, alumni and friends learning and connected in this unprecedented time.

When the rapid spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) sent NIU students home in the middle of the 2020 spring semester, the College of Business quickly pivoted to remote teaching and learning strategies for in-

class learning, and virtual activities for supplemental, out-of-class learning through the Business Passport Program.

"We were very pleased at our business students' willingness to engage virtually in the spring," said Amy Buhrow, senior director of Strategy, Student Success and Accreditation.

"Connectivity is the core of the college experience. We launched the Wednesday Night Wisdom series to keep our students, alumni and friends connected to one another and to learning, wherever they may be."

Each year, the College of Business hosts nearly 500 alumni and business professional visits. With limits on face-to-face interactions, the Wednesday Night Wisdom online speaker series taps our valued alumni and friends to share knowledge virtually in a safe, interactive way.

"The NIU College of Business has an expansive and highly informed base of alumni and faculty — any one of whom could be described as an expert in any number of fields," said Cassandra Young, College of Business director of Alumni Relations. "Time and time again, they have

proven the value of their knowledge as consultants through publications, to students and to other alumni. We are proud and delighted to feature their expertise and perspectives in the Wednesday Night Wisdom series."

"We launched the series slowly in June and have completed a few events each month," said Rachel Schmit, senior event coordinator for NIU's College of Business. "The live event is recorded and then edited for a downloadable future podcast."

College of Business Dean Balaji Rajagopalan said he's grateful to alumni for sharing their knowledge on topics, such as tapping into networks during this challenging time, managing finances through retirement and leadership through a crisis.

"Our alumni and faculty members have stepped up to provide a wealth of information and are helping others to stay focused and productive on their business, school assignments, projects and personal lives," Rajagopalan said.

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# FARM NEWS

## Getting farm to table faster

Ag leaders, nonprofits address food insecurity in Illinois

BY CHRISTOPHER HEIMERMAN  
FOR ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION

**BLOOMINGTON**—It takes a lot of moving parts to connect fresh produce with the communities that need it most.

You need farmers growing quality food. Funding to pay them. Food banks, pantries and food marts in place to store and distribute. And don't overlook one of the biggest roadblocks: transportation to get the food from farm to kitchen table.

"Transportation is a critical, critical issue, in terms of time and cost," Steve Miller, an at-large board member of Illinois Specialty Growers Association, said Thursday during a virtual session at the annual Illinois Specialty Crop Conference.

Here's the rub, though: To assure that food is fresh when it arrives, the fewer literal moving parts the better.

"If produce comes in from a producer on Thursday or Friday, then sits in a warehouse over the week, it doesn't get to the families until Monday or Tuesday," said Dan Kenney, the founder of DeKalb County Community Gardens, who attended the virtual conference.

In DeKalb, nonprofits have finally cut out the middle man.

### DeKalb County

Enter Klein's Farms in Elgin, just on the other side of the DeKalb County line. Since late spring, the farm has been selling produce directly to nonprofits in the county at wholesale prices. "The quality is night and day," said Joey Moore, who runs the Barb Food Mart that's served the DeKalb School District 428 community since 2012. "When

they're out picking produce that morning, it's the highest quality."

She and Kenney took part in a Zoom discussion with the Illinois Press Association on Friday afternoon.

"And there's the nutritional value," Kenney added. "Once you harvest something, it starts losing its nutritional value right away."

Even before Klein's partnered with DCCG and the Food Mart, DeKalb County was light years ahead of other parts of the state in terms of getting food from farm to table as quickly as possible.

Kenney founded DCCG a couple of months after Barb Food Mart launched in 2012. DCCG has since produced more than 200,000 pounds of food, according to its website. In 2017, it launched its Grow Mobile refrigerated truck program. In January alone, two trucks will make 11 distribution stops around the county.

The end result? Rather than receiving produce that's sat on shelves at food pantries, or been donated by grocers who can no longer sell it, families in need in DeKalb are getting farm-fresh produce.

"The message it sends out to people attending food pantries is that they deserve fresh, high-quality food," said Heather Edwards, DCCG's associate director who has overseen the launch of the Genoa Area Community Food Hub in the northern reaches of the county. "We all deserve that. Nobody should feel that they get a lesser quality than they deserve. It's about their dignity."

Moore said it's common for food donated by grocers to be inedible — "I've gotten salad that's basically soup," she said — and that



Joey Moore, director of the Barb Food Mart, stocks the pantry housed in Huntley Middle School in DeKalb on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021.

the only reason it gets donated is so the businesses can write it off.

Food security is in relatively good shape in DeKalb County because a lot of work has gone into it.

DCCG has more than 70 partners and sponsors. A food security council made up of growers, food pantries, the health department, even hospital staff have resumed meeting on a monthly basis. That community buy-in keeps all the key prongs — funding, infrastructure and transportation — running in concert.

Kenney has been working with Steve Ericson, executive director of Feeding Illinois, an association of food banks throughout the state, for a few years, and hopes to help other regions emulate DeKalb's success.

### Feeding Illinois

According to data on Feeding Illinois' website, about one in 10 Illinois residents struggles with hunger, including one in every eight children, and it would cost more than \$630 million to meet the

statewide food need.

Ericson and Shantanu Pai, an assistant sustainability researcher with the University of Illinois' Prairie Research Institute, hosted the virtual convention session Thursday. They, along with the growers association and Illinois Farm Bureau are carrying out a six-step process that will culminate with launching pilot programs throughout the state that address food insecurity.

The study is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm to Food Bank grant. Ericson said it's imperative to find funding mechanisms beyond communities' contributions.

"We have a tendency to always go back to donations," Ericson said.

"I've been around this long enough to know we're not going to end food insecurity on donations."

He and Pai hope to get at least 10 percent of the state's 3,000 specialty growers to fill out a survey and share what incentives and programs have helped get fresh food into the hands of people in need.

"People don't often write about what they've tried that hasn't worked," Pai said. "We'd really like to know what people have tried in the past, and what simply didn't work."

While he awaits survey results, a few farmers sounded off during the session.

Nicoele Arseneau, who along with Bill Belluso owns and operates 3 Winds

Farm in Kankakee, said the area is poverty-stricken and small farms want to donate their surplus, but the local food bank won't take perishable items because it has nowhere to store them. Ericson immediately intervened.

"You and I need to talk," he said, before sharing his contact information with her.

Louise Meyer, an Illinois Herb Association board member, piggy-backed on Miller's concerns with transportation. She said her business, Amrita Naturals in Elburn, actually got out of the vegetable business.

"We had plenty of organic produce, but the transportation cost — we were left to do that," she said. "We were donating it, but we didn't see how we could afford to transport it."

She said Illinois is a bit behind the 8-ball, that the food needed in the north — Chicagoland in particular — is predominantly grown in southern Illinois.

"Can you even get it there while it's edible, especially during the summer?" she said.

She said when she worked on the East Coast, things ran smoothly and electronically. Farmers were reimbursed at the point of pickup. Kenney said the Ohio government budgets \$15 million a year for food grown by local farmers.

"If Illinois could ever get out of debt, that's something we could work toward," he said.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Applications for emergency food, shelter due Jan. 22

**ROCHELLE** — The Ogle County Emergency Food and Shelter Program has received a federal appropriation from The Department of Homeland Security, EFSP National Board Program in the amount of \$23,217 for phase 38, and is accepting federal grant letters of application from agencies in Ogle County that provide emergency food and shelter.

Eligible agencies must meet the following criteria; have the capability to provide emergency food and/or shelter services; propose to use the funds to supplement or expand an existing program and services; is a private nonprofit

with a voluntary board or an agency of government; have an accounting system, and practices non-discrimination, have FEIN# and DUNNs #.

Letters of application for funds should be made to Ogle County Emergency Food and Shelter, and emailed to HOPE of Ogle County, Attn: Ruth Carter, hopeogle.admin@hopedv.org

The application letters must be received by 5 p.m. on Jan. 22, 2021.

The local board is to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area.



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### Obituaries

**CRESTON**—Evelyn B. Newell, 74, of Creston, died Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, at Rochelle Community Hospital.

She was born Oct. 30, 1946 Ryer Island, California, the daughter of Leland O. and Geneva E. (Lee) Young. Evelyn married William Eugene Newell on June 7, 1969, in Sycamore.



Evelyn was employed at Northern Illinois University as a custodian for 10 years. She enjoyed line dancing at the Moose.

She is survived by her five children, William Schorsch III, Karrie (Kenneth) Buckley, Rhonda (Jeff) Norris, Keith Newell and Lynn Wallace; grandchildren, great-grandchildren; sib-

lings, Ancel Young, Lois Jensen, Lawrence (Lar-cinda) Young, Phyllis (Everett) Elshoff, Anna (Everett) Lane; and lots of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William; her daughter, Tracy Schorsch; her parents; and grandson, Jacob Wallace.

A private family service will be held at Anderson Funeral Home in DeKalb the Rev. Judy Williams

of Rochelle Community Hospital Chapel officiating. Cremation will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society, in memory of Evelyn B. Newell in care of Anderson Funeral Home, P.O. Box 605, 2011 S. 4th St., DeKalb, IL 60115.

For information, visit www.AndersonFuneralHomeLtd.com or call 815-756-1022.

## James Peerboom

**ROCHELLE**—James (Jim) M. Peerboom, 88, unexpectedly gained his wings to be with his wife, Donna, peacefully at his home with his oldest daughter Sandy (she was his rock) who has been taking special care of him since our mother passed (Oct. 2nd, 2017), on Jan. 10, 2021. Sandy was his best friend.

He was born to Henry and Margaret Peerboom on Sept. 30, 1932 in Danvers, Minnesota. He was the youngest son of eight siblings, Bill, John, Rosie, Marie, Margaret Ann, Annie, Elaine and

Gladys.

He married the love of his life, Donna Aeikens, on April 28, 1956. They had four children, Jeff, Steve, Sandy and Donna May.

He liked watching Westerns, listening to music and tinkering with different things. He also enjoyed spending time with his family near and far.

James is survived by his children, Jeff (Kathi) Peerboom, Steve (Liz) Peerboom, Sandy Peerboom and Donna May (Jr)



Spoonmore; seven grandchildren, Jason (Nikki) Peerboom, Stephanie (Caleb) Davies, Amber (Josh) Mosher, Phillip (Amanda) Peerboom, Michael

Peerboom, Holley Peerboom and Matthew (Adriana Balvaneda) Peerboom; six great-grandchildren, Anna, Jordan, Cheyenne, Elijah, Jason and Lilley; two sisters, Rosie and Annie; as well as several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his wife,

Donna; most of his siblings; as well as several sisters and brothers-in-law and nieces and nephews.

A private visitation will be held on Monday, Jan. 18 at Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home in Rochelle. A private funeral mass will follow at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Rochelle. Burial will take place at St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery in Rochelle.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home. Visit www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com.

## Gov. Pritzker announces next phase of COVID-19 vaccine distribution

**CHICAGO** — Building on guidance by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Governor JB Pritzker announced guidelines for the next stage of COVID-19 vaccine distribution across Illinois—Phase 1B.

"ACIP's guidance serves as the foundational blueprint for Illinois' Phase 1B plan, with one key adjustment: here in Illinois we are more strongly pursuing equity in the distribution of our vaccinations," said Governor JB Pritzker. "For people of color, multi-generational institutional racism in the provision of healthcare has reduced access

to care, caused higher rates of environmental and social risk, and increased co-morbidities. I believe our exit plan for this pandemic must, on balance, overcome structural inequalities that has allowed COVID-19 to rage through our most vulnerable communities."

"With limited amounts of vaccine available at this time, it is important to prioritize individuals who are at greatest risk of exposure to COVID-19 and those at greatest risk of severe illness or death," said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "Generally, Latinx and Black populations have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 with data showing related deaths at younger ages. We are hopeful that by lowering the eligibility age to 65 years we can help reduce this disparity."

Phase 1B will begin when Phase 1A is substantially complete. It will include all Illinois residents age 65 years and older and "frontline essential workers," as outlined by ACIP. In order to reduce COVID-19 mortality and limit community spread in Black and Brown communities, Illinois reduced the age eligibility in Phase 1B by 10 years from ACIP's recommendation. Currently, the average age of COVID-19 death is 81 for White residents, 72 for Black residents and 68 for Latino residents.

The frontline essential workers designation includes many residents who carry a higher risk of COVID-19 exposure because of their work duties, often because they are unable to work from home, and/or they must work closely to others without being able to socially distance. Communities of color are disproportionately represented in many of these industries. The category defined by the federal government as frontline essential workers, which the CDC estimates as about 30 million Americans, includes first responders; education workers, including teachers, support staff and childcare workers; manufacturing, distribution and agriculture workers, including grocery store workers; United States Postal Service workers; public transit employees; corrections workers and incarcerated people, and others.

All in all, Phase 1B totals approximately 3.2 million people throughout the state of Illinois.

Prioritizing equity is a critical component of every phase of the state's vaccine distribution plan. Lowering the age eligibility and including frontlines essential workers in phase 1B is a pivotal step towards protecting all of Illinois' elderly residents and Illinoisans who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and ensuring the benefits of vaccination reach all our communities in a fair manner.

As the state enters Phase 1B, the administration will be utilizing every available resource at the state's disposal to ensure that as many Illinoisans as possible are able to receive the vaccine as quickly as possible. The Illinois National Guard will be assisting in the development of mass vaccination sites and the state will be increasing the number of providers enrolled in the state's vaccination database to support widespread availability when the time comes.

These efforts are in line with the equity directive released earlier in the pandemic with a focus on ensuring vulnerable and historically marginalized communities receive equitable and informed access to COVID-19 vaccines. The state will continue to proactively expand infrastructure, especially in communities of color, to move these vaccines through Illinois at an even faster pace once there is an increase in the federal distribution pipeline. The IDPH team continues to review ACIP's recommendations for Phase 1C.

As the state moves forward, it is critical that Illinoisans continue to follow public health mitigations to suppress the spread of the virus until vaccines are available for wider distribution.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Man arrested on domestic battery charge

**ROCHELLE** — On Jan. 1, Rochelle Police cited Sean W. Sawelkis, 41, Rochelle, for domestic battery. He was transported to jail.

On Jan. 2, Rochelle Police cited Samantha A. Kevin, 28, Ashton, for speeding. She posted a promise to comply.

On Jan. 2, Rochelle Police cited Tina R. Cupp, 52, Rochelle, for an Ogle County warrant. She posted a recognizance bond.

On Jan. 3, Rochelle Police cited Lindsey E. Pitchford, 22, Dixon, for expired registration. She posted a promise to comply.

On Jan. 4, Rochelle Police cited Tiffany King-Suttles, 30, Rochelle, for speeding. She posted a promise to comply.

On Jan. 4, Rochelle Police cited Casandra K. Brick, 29, Rochelle, for domestic battery. She was transported to jail.

On Jan. 5, Rochelle Police cited Harun A. Yusuf, 29, Fridley, Minnesota, for disregarding traffic control device. He posted a promise to comply.

On Jan. 5, Rochelle Police cited Mario A. Messer, 48, Rochelle, for aggravated domestic battery and domestic battery. He was transported to jail.

On Jan. 7, Rochelle Police cited Michael W. McNeill, 42, DeKalb, for a DeKalb County warrant. He was transported to jail.

On Jan. 8, Rochelle Police cited Tyler J. Kaelin, 23, Malta, for no insurance and failure to reduce speed. He posted an I-bond.

On Jan. 9, Rochelle Police cited Tommy R. Price, 32, Rochelle, on a Lee County warrant. He was transported to jail.

On Jan. 9, Rochelle Police cited Michael W. Graves, 46, Wauconda, for a Scott's Law violation. He posted a promise to comply.

On Jan. 9, Rochelle Police cited Matthew J. Frank, 23, Rochelle, on an Ogle County warrant. He posted a recognizance bond.

On Jan. 9, Rochelle Police cited Miklos Rab, 19, Westmont, for possession of cannabis. His court date is scheduled on Feb. 19.



**Read and Recycle**

### Report policy

Any arrests listed in this paper are merely charges and the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Please note that all police reports received from the Rochelle Police, the

Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police, will be printed without exception. Requests to omit particular reports will not be considered or honored at any time.

## Governor activates nearly 200 National Guard for Presidential inauguration

**SPRINGFIELD**—Illinois Governor JB Pritzker has ordered the activation of approximately 200 Illinois National Guard members in support of the 59th Presidential Inauguration. The District of Columbia requested additional support from the Guard in advance of the upcoming event.

"In the wake of the recent incident at the Capitol, ensuring a peaceful transfer of power to the Biden administration is of the utmost importance," said Governor JB Pritzker. "The Illinois National Guard is renowned for its exemplary soldiers and airmen and I am proud to have them represent Illinois alongside other servicemembers during the upcoming presidential inauguration."

"Supporting the presidential inauguration is a great opportunity for the Illinois National Guard to be part of history and represent the state of Illinois," said Maj. Gen. Richard Neely, the Adjutant General of Illinois and Commander of the Illinois National Guard. "Our Soldiers and Airmen are highly trained and I have full confidence

"Supporting the presidential inauguration is a great opportunity for the Illinois National Guard to be part of history and represent the state of Illinois. Our Soldiers and Airmen are highly trained and I have full confidence in their abilities to support local and federal agencies as needed."

**Maj. Gen. Richard Neely**

in their abilities to support local and federal agencies as needed."

Approximately 100 Illinois Army National Guard Military Police Soldiers from the 404th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's 33rd Military Police Battalion will support the inauguration. The battalion is based in Bloomington with subordinate units in Springfield, Freeport and Fort Sheridan. In addition, a small medical team is being activated to support the Military Police.

About 45 Security Forces Airmen from the 183rd Wing based in Springfield, the 126th Air Refueling

Wing based at Scott Air Force Base, and the 182nd Airlift Wing based in Peoria, will be activated to support the Presidential Inauguration. Another 30 Airmen from the Illinois Air National Guard will be activated to provide communication, logistics, and religious support.

About 10 Soldiers with the 5th Civil Support Team, based in Bartonville, will support the District of Columbia National Guard's 33rd Civil Support Team.

The Illinois National Guard will assist federal and local agencies to ensure safety and security during the inauguration.

## Man arrested for driving under influence

On Jan. 8 at 10:05 p.m., Ogle County Sheriff's deputies conducted a traffic stop on Illinois Route 251 at Illinois Route 64 for a traffic violation. After an investigation, Jose Rocha Maldonado, 26, of Rockford, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Jose was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

On Jan. 9 at 3:40 p.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 88 at mile marker 78 east bound. After a

short investigation deputies arrested Christopher Hayes, 19, of Bettendorf, Iowa, for driving while license suspended. Hayes was released on scene and will appear in court at a later date. His passenger Jakob Burke, 19, of Bettendorf, Iowa, was cited for possession of cannabis.

On Jan. 9 at 4:50 p.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 88 mile marker 78 east bound. After a short investigation deputies arrested Anieta Johnson, 24, of Chicago, for driving while license suspended. Johnson was released on scene and will appear in court at a

later date.

On Jan. 9 at 7:13 p.m., deputies conducted a traffic stop at Fifth and 10th in Rochelle. After a short investigation, deputies arrested Laurel Hayes, 52, of Rochelle, for DUI. Hayes was transported to the Ogle County Jail and held in lieu of bond.

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# LOCAL VIEWS

## Guest column

## Don't put taxpayers on the hook for misconduct judgements

THE Illinois Legislative Black Caucus put police abuse into a choke hold this week and are squeezing hard.

There was nothing gradual, incremental or temperate about their reforms.

They want justice now. And who can blame them?

Black and brown people have borne the brunt of police abuses for centuries.

I've been a journalist for more than 30 years in multiple states and covered police departments in big cities and small towns. I even produced a podcast examining wrongful convictions in various jurisdictions across the nation.

And based on that experience – and more university studies than you can shake a night stick at – Black people are treated far more harshly by law enforcement than their white counterparts.

Racial epithets were common in squad rooms and detective bureaus I covered whether in Illinois, Iowa, Texas or Nevada. More significantly, on the street I saw officers treat Black people more harshly.

Key points of the legislation would:

Eliminate the use of the choke hold by all law enforcement officers.

Expand the use of body cameras to police departments throughout the state.

Make police officers civilly liable when a defendant's rights are violated.

Eliminate cash bail for all crimes.

Allow municipalities to refuse to negotiate over the firing of officers or other disciplinary issues as part of labor contracts.

Perhaps the most far reaching proposed

reforms are in the area of accountability.

Labor contracts make it difficult to fire bad cops. I've seen it play out time and again where an abusive officer is fired only to be reinstated after going through labor arbitration appeals.

"Police officers aren't bus drivers. They decide whether someone lives or dies and they need to be held to a higher standard," said State Rep. Curtis Tarver, D-Chicago.

Who can argue with that?

In a state such as Illinois with a long history of strong government-worker unions, this is a radical but needed reform because it holds individual officers accountable for bad conduct.

A more curious accountability measure is the ending of "qualified immunity" for police officers. In almost all cases, police officers are not personally liable even when they violate a person's civil rights, explained Jay Schweikert, an expert on qualified immunity at the libertarian-leaning Cato Institute.

Last year, Colorado became the first state to eliminate this lawsuit protection for police officers. If the Black Caucus' bill becomes law, Illinois will be the second state.

"There are a lot of ways this can play out. If a police officer is found liable, the municipality that the officer works for can indemnify the officer and it ends up paying the judgement," he said.

But he added since this is a new area of law there are other options.

"One option is that the officer pays something like 5 percent or \$20,000 of the judgement, whichever is less. This holds the

officer financially accountable. Another option is for individual officers to purchase insurance much the way doctors do and the worse their records are the higher their individual premiums are."

Perhaps the best option is for police labor unions to provide high-deductible liability insurance to their members. That way, there is a personal cost to the officer if there is a judgement and

there is an incentive for the union to police its own ranks for those who shouldn't be in the profession.

What we don't want is for taxpayers to be on the hook for misconduct judgements or

for there to be bad cops on the streets.

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



Scott Reeder



## VOICE ON THE STREET

### Question:

*There are two Illinois Lottery games at historic jackpots this week — The Mega Millions® and Powerball® games. Do you regularly play the lottery or do you purchase tickets when jackpots reach above a certain payout? What would be the first thing you would spend money on if you were to win a substantial jackpot?*

*"I only play when [jackpot] huge and then with a group."*

Sheryl Holden



## How to contact government officials

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

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\* Denotes Chairman/President

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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

## Local Girl Scouts launch initial cookie orders through Jan. 30

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS**—Local Girl Scouts have set-up their cookie websites and been busy marketing their products and selling Girl Scout Cookies online since Dec. 14 for the Early Bird Online Only part of the annual Girl Scout Cookie Program. Now that 2021 is here, girls may choose to take cookie orders safely in-person through Jan. 30, as they create new ways to connect with customers and offer contactless ordering and delivery door-to-door.



This year's delicious cookie lineup features refreshing Thin Mints (vegan), caramel-y Samoas, peanut butter-stuffed Tag-alongs, crunchy Do-si-dos, buttery Trefoils, sweet S'mores, toffee-chipped Toffee-tastics (gluten

free, too), and more. Cookies are on sale for only \$5 per package. Girls can accept orders safely in-person or through Digital Cookie 7.0. This digital platform allows girls to take electronic orders for cookies. Customers can now order and pay for cookies online and have the option to have the cookies shipped directly to them (shipping charges apply), have a Girl Scout offer contactless delivery of cookies to their door, or donate cookies (with no additional handling fees).

Don't know a Girl Scout? Visit [www.girlscoutsni.org/buycookies](http://www.girlscoutsni.org/buycookies) to be connected to a local entrepreneur who would love to add you to her customer list.

During Girl Scout Cookie sea-

son, each local Girl Scout sets out to sell delectable cookies while also building entrepreneurial and business skills imperative for leadership and future success. All the net revenue raised — 100 percent of it — stays within our northern Illinois area.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois uses cookie earnings to power amazing experiences for girls through their programming, while girls and their troops decide how to invest in impactful community projects, personal enrichment opportunities, and more. Skills girls learn in the cookie program also influence later success as data shows more than half (57 percent) of Girl Scout alumnae in business say the cookie program was beneficial to skills they possess today, such as money management, goal-setting, and public speaking.

### The Kitchen Table menu

Jan. 14 – (Thursday) – Pork chops, mac n cheese, peas, soup  
Jan. 19 – (Tuesday) – KT Bowls (chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, cheese, gravy), coleslaw, biscuits  
Jan. 21 – (Thursday) – Spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, salad  
Jan. 26 – (Tuesday) – Mississippi pot roast, roasted veggies, cornbread  
Jan. 28 – (Thursday) – Kielbasa with onions and green peppers over white rice, sauteed veggies  
Feb. 7 – Sunday Brunch – Sausage gravy and biscuits, fried bologna or sausage, scrambled eggs

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

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### 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

Mary Evans "Molly" Petry



### FROM THE HEART DAILY CASH WINNERS

Dec. 9 - Brenda Mason, Dixon, \$25

Dec. 10 - Celia Castillo, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 11 - Tina Fletcher, Westville, Indiana, \$25

Dec. 12 - Daisy Russell, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 13 - Cal Jacobs, Rochelle, \$50

Dec. 14 - Laurie Borowicz, Sycamore, \$25

Dec. 15 - Adlai Schaefer, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 16 - Shelley Haws, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 17 - Sean Saweikis, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 18 - Melissa Folkers, Sterling, \$25

Dec. 19 - Judy Schermerhorn, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 20 - Debbie Vrana, Princeton, \$50

Dec. 21 - Cindy Harris, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 22 - Debbie Ferguson, DeKalb, \$25

Dec. 23 - Julie & Dave Christopherson, Chana, \$25

Dec. 24 - Debbie Vrana, Princeton, \$25

Dec. 25 - Linda Christell, Rochelle, \$1,000

Dec. 26 - Laurie Miller, Davis, \$25

Dec. 27 - Jennnifer Herrera, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 28 - Dennis Neal, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 29 - Jeff Glen, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 30 - Verda Crum, Rochelle, \$25

Dec. 31 - Jason Bird, St. Charles, \$25

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

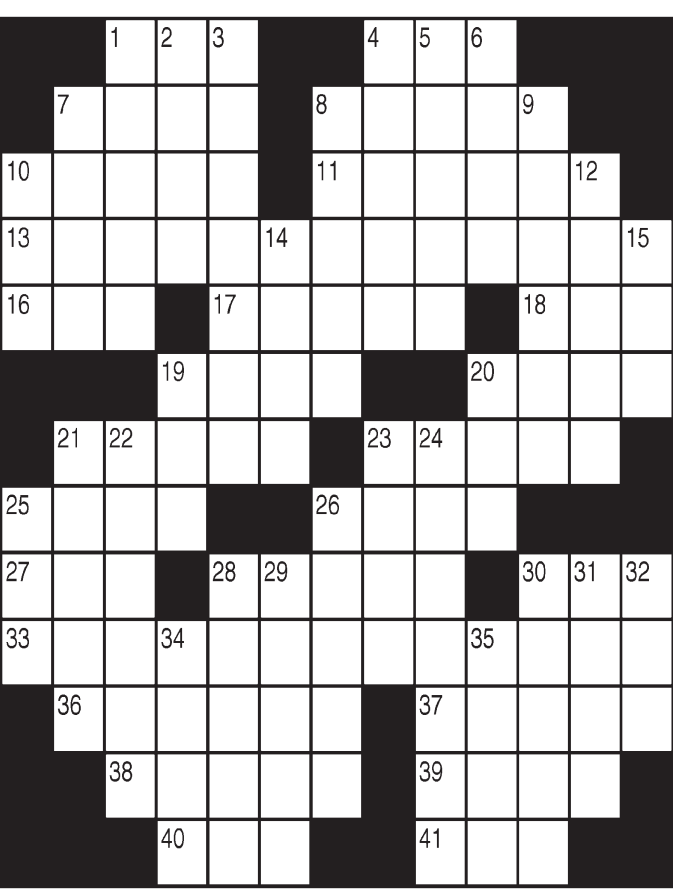


## Coffee Break

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 Opening
- 4 Cartoon frame
- 7 Vend
- 8 "Dallas" matriarch
- 10 Sleep problem
- 11 Court hammers
- 13 1998 Bruce Willis thriller
- 16 Shock partner
- 17 Hoodwinks
- 18 Water tester
- 19 Gum flavor
- 20 Roll call reply
- 21 Fry lightly
- 23 Belted area
- 25 Cooking fat
- 26 Uttered
- 27 Chemical suffix
- 28 Up and about
- 30 Quilters' get-together
- 33 Wimbledon champ of 2008
- 36 Wife of Jacob
- 37 Edition
- 38 Nodded off
- 39 D.C. baseball team
- 40 Picnic crasher



- 41 Ram's mate
- DOWN
- 1 Category
- 2 Sir Guinness
- 3 Enthusiastic approval
- 4 County of Ireland
- 5 Graceland idol
- 6 Fibs
- 7 Gush
- 8 Pharaoh's
- 9 Upper crust
- 10 Docs' org.
- 12 Bull's sound
- 14 Ancient letter
- 15 "My word!"
- 19 Wet dirt
- 20 Secreted
- 21 Less loony
- 22 Sports venues
- 23 Banshee's cry
- 24 Delta, for one
- 25 Actress Tyler
- 26 Long-legged shorebird
- 28 Wan
- 29 Used a broom
- 30 Butter up the turkey
- 31 Flightless birds
- 32 Compass pt.
- 34 Bruins' sch.
- 35 Caesar's "vidi"

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: G equals Y

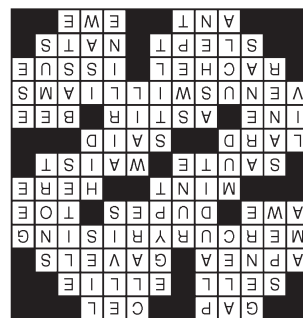
MC GBL UKDDHIHS YB AH YUHTH  
VUHI EBQHBH'E THKFFG QKS,  
VBLFS GBL AH MI YUH FMIH BC  
MTH?

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



Solution time: 24 mins.  
Answers

King Crossword

Would you be in the line of fire?  
When someone's really mad,  
If you happened to be there  
answer  
CryptoQuip



# STATE NEWS

## Madigan suspends speaker campaign

House Speaker challenges Dems to find potential replacement

BY JERRY NOWICKI

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS/JNO-  
WICKI@CAPITOLNEWSILLINOIS.  
COM

**SPRINGFIELD** — House Speaker Michael Madigan announced he would suspend his campaign for House Speaker of the 102nd General Assembly on Monday, but his statement made clear he was not withdrawing from the race.

“This is not a withdrawal. I have suspended my campaign for speaker,” Madigan said in a statement released by his office Monday morning. “As I have said many times in the past, I have always put the best interest of the House Democratic Caucus and our members first. The House Democratic Caucus can work to find someone, other than me, to get 60 votes for Speaker.”

The last sentence of the brief statement is indicative of the uphill battle

Madigan’s challengers will have to climb — they will need 60 votes, or 42 more than any challenger appeared to have Sunday night.

The House speaker is chosen by House members, and can receive both Republican and Democratic votes. There are 73 Democrats and 45 Republicans who will be seated in the 102nd General Assembly.

Traditionally, however, a majority party speaker receives votes from members of their own party.

In the first closed-door unofficial ballot conducted between Democrats in a private room at the Bank of Springfield Center on Sunday night, Madigan received 51 votes, according to several reports confirmed by Capitol News Illinois.

The speaker also has the endorsement of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus—two

key voting blocs that make up the majority of his support, although some individual members of those caucuses have said they would not vote for Madigan.

The second leading vote-getter in the closed-door meeting was Rep. Ann Williams, D-Chicago, who had just 18 votes. Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, had three votes. Rep. Kathleen Willis, D-Addison, dropped out of the race before the vote, giving her support to Williams.

The official vote does not happen until Wednesday, when the 102nd General Assembly is scheduled to convene, seating new and reelected members.

Until then, lawmakers are set to consider a flurry of transformative legislation backed by the Black Caucus during the final two days of the 101st General Assembly—measures that have also received

Madigan’s blessing.

Over the first three days of session, the discussions of who will be the next speaker have punctuated long days of policy-oriented discussion.

Capitol News Illinois was awaiting callbacks from several lawmakers Monday afternoon to discuss the impact of Madigan’s announcement, but committee hearings were ongoing at the Bank of Springfield Center which is hosting the House session amid the pandemic.

A House source said there would likely be another vote for speaker Monday evening.

“With 36 hours left before the swearing-in of a new General Assembly, Michael Madigan continues to create uncertainty and misdirection,” House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, said. “His latest statement about suspending his bid for Speaker, but not withdrawing, is



(CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS PHOTO BY JERRY NOWICKI)

House Speaker Michael Madigan is pictured on the floor of the Bank of Springfield Center on Jan. 8. The BOS Center is serving as the House chamber for the final days of the 101st General Assembly, while Madigan is facing a challenge to his speakership in the 102nd General Assembly. On Monday, Madigan said in a statement he was suspending his campaign for the leadership position, one he has held for all but two years since 1983.

typical of his style and appears to be another ploy or a head fake. For the sake of the institution, his caucus must demand that

he be direct and honest about his intentions — in or out.”

This story will be updated.

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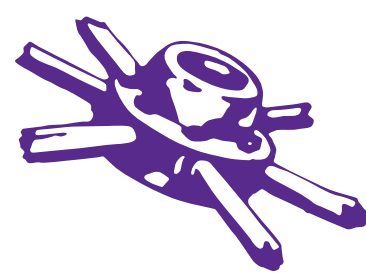


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## HUB SPOTLIGHT



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Junior Cooper Hasz dribbles past an opponent during Rochelle's sophomore basketball game against Oregon this past year. Hasz said he's working to improve his ball handling and finishing.

## Hasz ready to work hard for varsity role

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

**H**UB forward Cooper Hasz wasn't satisfied with his performance on the hardwood during his sophomore basketball season this past winter. Hasz felt that he didn't work hard enough, but with his first varsity season approaching, Hasz wants to do whatever he can to help his team.

"My goals for my junior season are to put the work in on and off the basketball court," Hasz said. "I think I'll have a role this season similar to the role I had last season and that role will be doing whatever the team needs from me. I felt that our team kept its composure really well last season and I think communication will be a big component for us to improve on for next

season. I'd like to improve my finishing around the basket and my ball handling next season."

Standing well over 6 feet tall, Hasz has the length to be an effective forward for the Hubs this coming season. Hasz came off the bench for Rochelle's sophomore basketball team last season, helping the Hubs to a 24-5 record and an Interstate 8 Championship. Hasz, who first took up basketball at a young age, said he enjoys the competitiveness and brotherhood of the sport.

"I thought we did well as a team and I know we can definitely push ourselves harder next season," Hasz said. "My expectations are that everybody will put in the work necessary for us to be a successful team once again. The bonds I've formed with my teammates are the best."

"My goals for my junior season are to put the work in on and off the basketball court. I think I'll have a role this season similar to the role I had last season and that role will be doing whatever the team needs from me... I'd like to improve my finishing around the basket and my ball handling next season."

Cooper Hasz

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# SPORTS

Illinois High School Association

## IHSA officials meet virtually with IDPH, Governor's Office

IHSA board meets Wednesday

ILLINOIS High School Association (IHSA) Executive Director Craig Anderson, members of the IHSA staff, and Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) staff members met virtually with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Deputy Governor Jesse Ruiz, and IDPH Chief of Staff Justin DeWitt on the evening of Jan. 6, 2021.

"We appreciate the dialogue with state leadership and believe it is crucial that it continue moving forward," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "We understand that the state faces shifting priorities as it continues to fight the pandemic, while also beginning the distribution of the vaccine. There was no expectation that a single meeting would resolve all our questions. However, we believe that collaboration with state officials is vital for the IHSA to be able to develop an informed plan for the 300,000-plus student-athletes and over

800 high schools that encompass the Association."

IHSA and IESA leadership used the meeting to reintroduce recommended mitigations from the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), as well as to seek understanding on any preliminary insight IDPH may have related to the return of interscholastic sports. The IHSA also asked IDPH leadership to review the risk levels of all remaining sports, with consideration for lowering some sports from their current risk levels.

"We believe that there is both data and science that validates the idea that we can safely conduct sports," said Anderson. "We have seen it work in other states and believe it can in Illinois if we utilize the mitigations provided by IDPH and the IHSA SMAC. Students are already leaving or participating out-of-state on weekends. We believe that competing for their high school remains the safest venue for participation."

All IHSA sports remain on pause at the moment.



Low risk sports may not begin until the state returns to Phase 4 in the All Sports Policy. The IHSA Board of Directors are scheduled to meet again on Jan. 13.

"Our Board of Directors is going to have difficult decisions to make regarding the seasons' for medium- and high-risk sports very soon," said Anderson. "With no specific IDPH timeline or statistical benchmarks established for the return of sports and the calendar shrinking, putting together a puzzle that allows for all sports to be played becomes increasingly improbable. We continue to urge all residents of our state to be diligent in their efforts to adhere to safety guidelines, as a lower positivity rate remains the key to athletics returning."

## Healthy Hand Hygiene Habits



Protect yourself against COVID-19 and other diarrheal and respiratory illnesses, and help prevent the spread of germs to others, by following these simple hand hygiene guidelines:

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water, lathering for at least 20 seconds.
2. If soap is unavailable, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol to clean your hands.

Wash your hands throughout the day, and particularly under these circumstances:

- Before preparing food
- Before eating
- After using the toilet
- After changing a diaper or helping a child use the toilet
- Before and after exposure to someone who is sick
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
- After touching an animal or picking up animal waste
- After handling pet food or treats
- After handling garbage or garbage cans
- Before and after attending to a cut or wound

Information resource: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Proper handwashing helps all of us stay healthy, so remember to be aware and do your part to help protect yourself and others!

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13, 2021

ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER • SECTION 1 • PAGE 12

# SPORTS



## READY TO WORK

Hub forward Cooper Hasz is motivated to maximize his effort next season.

See page 10 for more details

## RTHS Dance

# Finding her happy place

### Chellette senior Keilman looking to dance collegiately after high school

BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

DANCE has been more than a sport for Rochelle Township High School senior Kayla Keilman. Throughout nearly her whole life, dance has been a stress reliever and a form of creative expression and competition ever since visited the Just for Kix studio as a first-grader. For Keilman, dance has been her happy place, and that happiness has generated plenty of success. Keilman has danced at RTHS for the last three-plus years, helping the Chellettes advance to the IHSA State Championships twice over the last two seasons. Keilman's dancing dreams won't stop in high school either, as she plans to pursue dance at the college level.

"Competing feels great because we put so much work into a dance routine and we see all the hard work pay off," Keilman said. "My goals for my senior season are to keep pushing through, work hard and not let COVID-19 bring me down. It's been really hard not being able to

dance with my teammates but I want to keep working hard so when we're able to see each other again, we can keep moving forward. My goal for after the season is to dance at a university."

While COVID-19 has halted athletic activities this winter, Keilman and the Chellettes are optimistic about their chances to follow up a sixth-place finish in the IHSA 1A State Finals this past year if the competitive dance season can begin. Rochelle's varsity dance team has made tremendous strides since Keilman's freshman season, leaping from a 13<sup>th</sup> place sectional performance in 2018 to a top-15 placement in the prelims of the 2019 IHSA 1A State Finals. Rochelle's sixth-place finish in 2020 was the team's second-best placement in school history.

"We worked the hardest we've ever worked as a team," Keilman said. "We all pushed each other in order to reach our team goal, which was to advance to the second day of state. We worked hard as a team so nobody was left behind. I thought we worked well together and we helped



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Senior Kayla Keilman has been an integral part of the Rochelle Township High School dance program for the last three-plus years. Keilman has helped RTHS qualify for state twice over the last two seasons.

each other out. I've never been on a more close-knit team. We all love each other like family and we all want to see everybody do their best. I think we can do better on perfecting certain skills, which we were doing before COVID-19 shut everything down."

In addition to Rochelle's

run at the state meet, Keilman's junior season included a second-place finish in the IHSA 1A DeKalb Sectional and a third-place performance at the Waubonsie Valley Invitational. Keilman's individual success stemmed from persevering through the physical and mental

fatigue and her willingness to move outside of her comfort zone. If Rochelle cannot compete in 2021, Keilman said she hopes the team can finish even higher at state in 2022.

"I noticed so much improvement not only from myself, but everybody on the team," Keilman said. "I

learned a lot of new skills. The competitive season takes a toll on everybody, physically and mentally, and I felt I did well to push through all of that as well as try new things. I want to continue improving on new tricks and skills and getting over any mental blocks I may have."

## RTHS Cheerleading

# Coglianese cherishing time with Lady Hubs

### Senior athlete hoping to perform alongside teammates one last time

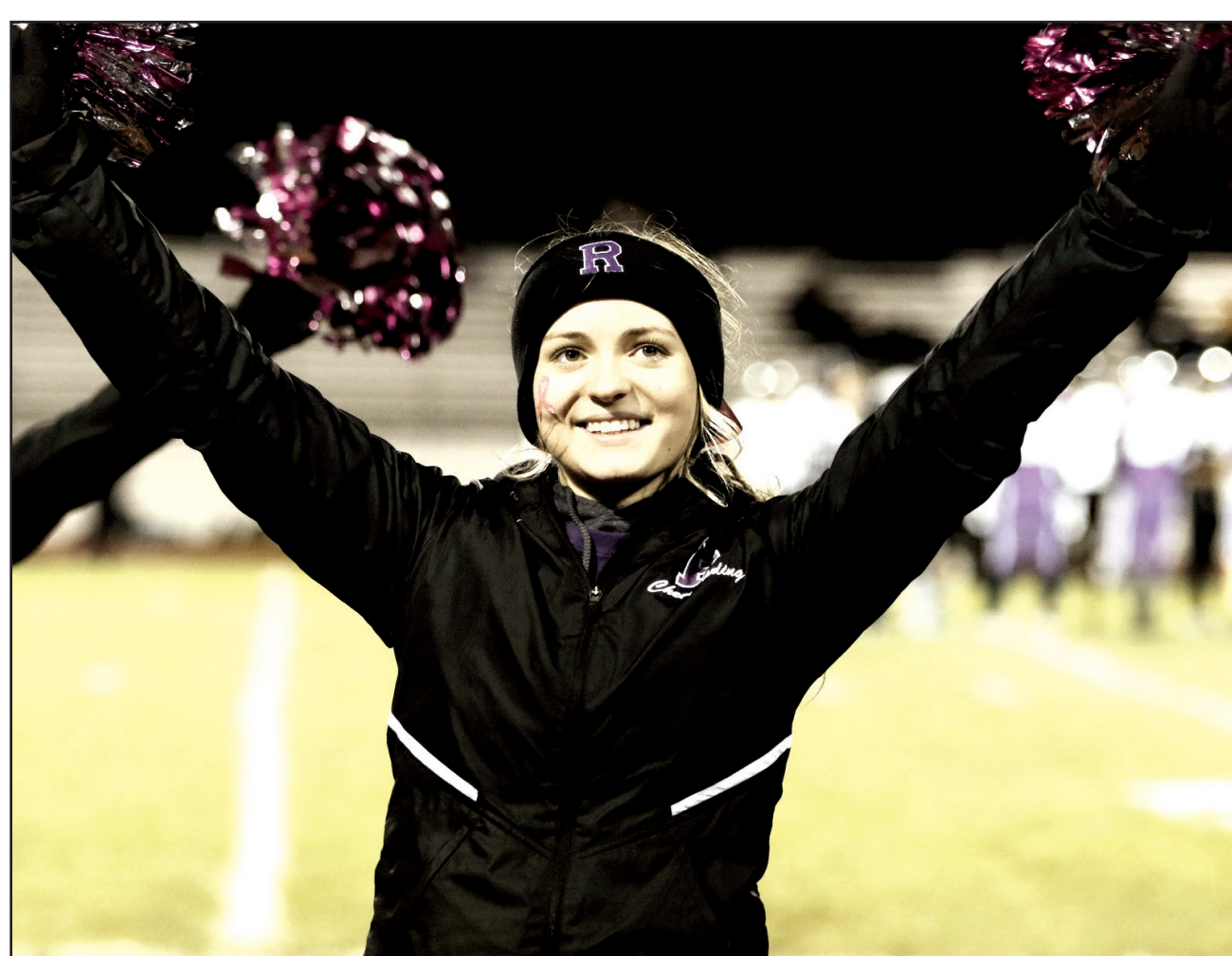
BY RUSSELL HODGES  
SPORTS EDITOR

LADY Hub senior Mary Coglianese has made many memories throughout her eight years cheering for Hub football teams. From elementary school to high school, Coglianese hopes she'll have one more chance to not only cheer alongside her friends, but showcase the talents she's developed since she first put on her Rochelle Junior Tackle uniform in fourth grade. Coglianese has cheered at Rochelle Township High School for the last three-plus years, performing with both the sideline and competitive cheer teams over her freshman and sophomore seasons. While remaining involved with the sideline cheer team, Coglianese competed for the Lady Hub varsity basketball team this past winter and took up tennis during the fall. Coglianese said she wants her final run with the RTHS cheer team to be a special one.

"What I enjoy most about cheerleading are the different ways I can express my talents and how every cheerleader on the team has a purpose and a role on the team," Coglianese said. "It's been a great deal of fun growing as an athlete in the sport for so many years and I love showing people that cheerleading is more than just the smiles they see on the sidelines. We're all hard-working athletes and I really enjoy having the opportunity to show that to people."

Should the RTHS cheer team be able to perform and compete this year, it will be Coglianese's fourth season as a sideline performer at Rochelle and her third season as a competitor. Coglianese, who said she's looking to improve her tumbling abilities this year, said the chemistry she's built with her teammates has been the biggest reason for their success.

"I felt that our stunt groups did really well, even though we switched around a lot," Coglianese



(PHOTO BY MARCY DELILLE)

Senior Mary Coglianese has cheered at Rochelle Township High School for the last three-plus years. Coglianese is hoping to have one more opportunity to showcase her talents on the sidelines.

said. "We always pushed past our struggles and came through for each

other. I felt that our team chemistry really helped us succeed in many aspects

of the sport last year. I hope I'll have the chance to become even closer

with all of the girls and build a similar chemistry this year."