



Happy Veterans Day from all levels of Amboy students
Students from Amboy High School, Amboy Junior High, and Amboy Central School came together at the AHS gymnasium to honor those who fought for the United States of America during a Veterans Day celebration on Friday, Nov. 10. Younger students waived flags, students from kindergarten to eighth grade spoke on what Veterans Day means to them, and the Amboy American Legion led the flag services. Amboy News/Brandon LaChance



Male struck by dump truck in rural Amboy; suffered non-life-threatening injuries

LEE COUNTY — On Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 1:21 p.m., the Lee County Sheriff's Office responded to a personal injury accident in the area of Sterling Road and Franklin Road in rural Amboy for a male subject on a bicycle that was struck by a dump truck. The bicyclist was identified as Evan Powers, 18, of Lee Center. Powers was transported by helicopter to Javon Bea Hospital to be treated for non-life-threatening injuries. This incident is still under investigation and there are currently no further details.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Amboy Fire Department, the Amboy Police Department, the Sublette Fire Department, and REACT Helicopter.

Public Service Announcement from Amboy Fire Department

In an attempt to give the public awareness that a fire or EMS call is taking place, the Amboy Fire Department is going to sound the siren at the fire station after each call.

The siren procedure will happen from 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. starting Wednesday, Nov. 15. Every time a call is placed during the 12-hour range each day; the siren will be sounded.

A Tribute to the fallen of World War I

Editor's note: The Amboy News will be publishing a series of articles on Lee County veterans who served during World War I. These heroes are part of Amboy's history and it is our honor to publish these articles so you can learn about their service to our country. This article was researched by Jack Mead and Tom Dempsey, and written by Dempsey.



Co. M, 329th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division
Never before had mankind fought a war with millions of soldiers trav-



elling from every part of the globe to the battle-grounds of Europe. The Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire) fought against the Allied Powers (Great Brit-

ain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan, Canada, and the United States) from 1914-1918. At the heart of this war was the question of whether nations would be ruled by kings or by laws established by free people.

The citizens of Lee County, I would help to answer that question during 1917-18. Lonnie Alsman was born in Danville, Ky., on May 20, 1892.

See Alsman page A2



Obituaries

Robert Keller
Janet Lehman
Mary Francis McLaughlin
Charles William Grobe

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Fall into Savings

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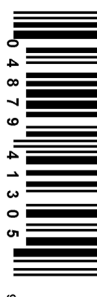
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LOCAL NEWS

November Student of the Month: Lexi Ketchum



AMBOY — Lexi Ketchum, daughter of Tanya Ketchum and Danny Ketchum, has been named The First National Bank in Amboy Student of the Month for November.

GPA: 3.9

Memberships and Involvement: Volleyball, track, Cross Country, Leos Club

Awards and Honors: Rodney Lindenmeyer award in track, Sauk Valley Media Honorable Mention in volleyball, IHSA Add A. Tude award, Amboy Clipper Volleyball award, academic all conference, and highest honors.

Best Memories of AHS: “Participating in all of the Homecoming events with my classmates.”

Future Plans: “I plan to attend a four year university to pursue a degree in interior design.”

The First National Bank in Amboy Student of the Month is chosen by Amboy High School faculty and a scholarship is awarded by The First National Bank in Amboy.

Email news items to
blachance@mendotareporter.com

Alsman continued from page A1

Later in his youth he moved to Lee County residing near Lee Center. After the United States declared war on Germany in the spring of 1917, Lonnie registered for the first scheduled military draft on June 5 at age 25. He continued working as a farm hand near Lee Center until he was called to the Army at Camp Gordon, Georgia in May of 1918.

Assigned to a replacement infantry regiment, he left New York Harbor on July 21 aboard the transport ship Anchises bound for the battlefields of France, later joining the 329th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division. His regiment was bound for the Argonne Forest and saw fierce fighting against mechanized warfare, including machine guns, heavy artillery, and poison gas attacks. To add to the misery of war, soldiers on both sides were victims of the worldwide flu

pandemic that took millions of lives in 1918.

On Sept. 28, 1918, Private Alsman became ill and was transferred to an army hospital near Paris where he died of the flu on Oct. 2. Buried with honors at the Oisne-Aisne American Cemetery in France, Lonnie is remembered as a Lee County hero who gave his life in “the war to end all wars.”

NOTE: If you know of other Lee County Soldiers who died in service during World War I, we urge you to share that information to demps60@gmail.com so that those soldiers may be honored and remembered.

Sources: “War History of Lee County Illinois, 1917-1919”, Dixon American Legion Post 12, 1919.

Soldiers of the Great War, Volume I.

U.S. Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1914.

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LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

After school program

If you have a third grader or above, they may be able to attend. They will ride the bus, have a meal, a fun place to play, and of course complete homework. Applications are in our hallway, which is open 24/7 days a week.

Volunteers

We welcome all volunteers for our afterschool program, which runs normally Monday through Thursday from 3:15 to 5 p.m. Volunteers help serve lunch, supervise kids, and help with various homework tasks. If interested, please call us at 815-857-4800. You can volunteer whatever time you have. We even have volunteers come in the morning to help with other prep tasks.

FREE Thanksgiving Community Event

This Saturday, Nov. 18, music will begin at noon and dinner will follow at 1 p.m., at the Teen Turf Building, Boehle Youth Center, 235 West Main, in Amboy. All are welcome to attend, sorry no carry outs. Come for food and comradery. If you would like to help with a dish or a dessert, please call us at 815-857-4800. We can't wait to see you.

Thank You's

We are always grateful to those that help us in our endeavor to help the community: Judy and Tom Sharkey for the fans; Bugs Bunny for the food; Patricia Hood and Colleen Ryan for kitchen items; Anonymous donation of Christmas lights; Donna Wellman for the cookies; Martha Henley for the cookies; Barb and George Spataro for the Fall items; Candy Robinson for the Bingo prizes for kids; Diane Stewart for the artificial flowers; Kathy Gardner and Candy Robinson for the pizza for early out; Lois Ford for the containers and Tammy Strub for delivering them; Amboy Police Department for the snacks; Mary Graff for the water; Mary Erlandson for the jackets; Alice and Leroy Dukes for the food and candy; Theresa Wilson for the apples and Don and Kathy Bonnell for the fruit.

Donation Drop off

We kindly ask not to drop items outside, please bring them in our 24/7 hallway.

Needs

Dishes or Desserts to pass for Thanksgiving Event this Saturday.

Final Note

Majesty on high, may Your love and compassion flow through us and to those around us. Give us pity and concern for their misfortunes and suffering. Give us the compassion and empathy we need to understand what those in our community are going through. Help us to love them well. Help us not to judge or condemn, but rather come alongside them to offer support and to be Your hands and feet. Amen.

IAA Foundation announces driving agriculture forward scholarship recipients

BLOOMINGTON — Four more individuals are getting the support they need to enroll in truck driver training classes thanks to the Driving Agriculture Forward Scholarship program, funded by Illinois Farm Bureau and administered by the IAA Foundation. In 2023, each scholarship is generously being doubled thanks to support from the Illinois Soybean Association.

The charitable arm of the Illinois Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation, is awarding \$40,000 in scholarships this year to offset the cost of commercial truck driver training and ensure more well-trained, safe drivers are available.

The third group of recipients being awarded a \$2,000 scholarship each includes Boden Flowers of Greene County, Emit Jansen of Clinton County, Brandon Roth of Macoupin County, and Trey Scheidegger of Lee County.

"It is a pleasure to invest in individuals who keep agriculture products moving and who represent

the strength and diversity of our industry," said Jennifer Smith, Development Manager, IAA Foundation.

Scholarship applications are available year-round with consideration deadlines occurring quarterly. The next application deadline is December 31, which correlates to drivers who intend to enroll in a commercial driver training program at an Illinois community college between January 1 and March 31, 2024.

Up to five scholarships are awarded every three months and are based on the Illinois Farm Bureau region where the applicant resides.

All applicants must be Illinois residents and provide proof of enrollment during their corresponding award cycle. An endorsement from a farmer, County Farm Bureau leader, agribusiness, or food process business is required.

Eligibility guidelines and applications are available through the IAA Foundation website at www.iaafoundation.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DIXON-The Lee County Health Department will have Immunization Clinics for Children and Adults by appointment only. Call 815-284-3371 to make an appointment or for information on other services available. You may also visit the website at www.lchd.com for a list of services available.

AMBOY- You are invited to join fellow senior citizens for a free exercise program. The program has moved from The Amboy Sports Park to indoors at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 960 US Highway 52, Amboy. Sessions are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. Chairs are provided for an approximate 30-minute workout. For more information, call Chris at 815-857-3963.

AMBOY- The Pankhurst Memorial Library will hold its Crochet Club on Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.

MENDOTA- OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center will host a community blood drive with ImpactLife Blood Center on Friday, Nov. 17, from noon – 5 p.m. in conference room C. ImpactLife is the provider of blood and blood components to OSF Saint Paul and many other communities in our region. To schedule an appointment for donation, call 800-747-5401 or schedule online at www.bloodcenter.org, or via the Blood Center's mobile app.

DIXON- A fundraiser is planned for the Lee County Honor Flight on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 4 – 7 p.m., at the Dixon VFW. Join them for a night out and enjoy a baked potato with all the fixin's with several choices of soup including chili, broccoli cheese, chicken noodle and potato. A good will donation will be accepted. Proceeds will help fund area Veterans going on the next Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C. Music by Les Wilson, Les Floto and Jeff Kromer will start at 4:30 p.m.

AMBOY- The Pankhurst Memorial

Library will hold its School Age program on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 – 10:45 a.m.

AMBOY-The Amboy American Legion will meet on Monday, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m., at the Old NAPA Building, 399 N Metcalf, Amboy.

AMBOY- The Pankhurst Memorial Library will hold its Book Club on Monday, Nov. 20, from 5 – 6 p.m.

AMBOY-The City of Amboy Council will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 20, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

AMBOY- The Pankhurst Memorial Library will hold its Mommy and Me program on Tuesday, Nov. 21, from 10-10:45 a.m.

AMBOY- The Pankhurst Memorial Library will be closed in honor of Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov. 24.

AMBOY-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd., on Monday, Nov. 27. Anyone interested in joining or wants more information on the Lions Club is invited to attend.

AMBOY- The Pankhurst Memorial Library will hold for adults its Diamond Painting Club program on Monday, Nov. 27, from 4 - 6 p.m.

AMBOY- The Pankhurst Memorial Library will hold its Mommy and Me program on Tuesday, Nov. 28, from 10-10:45 a.m.

DIXON- The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 12:30 – 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 29, at Knights of Columbus Hall, 506 West Third, Dixon. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

AMBOY- The Pankhurst Memorial

Library will hold its Crochet Club on Wednesday, Nov. 29, from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.

FRANKLIN GROVE- Wouldn't it be terrific for all ages to learn more about gardening? The Lee County Master Gardeners have started their gardening series again, "Big and Small Gardening." This series

will be held at the Winfred Knox Library in Franklin Grove the first Tuesday of each month, with alternating months offering a youth program at 4 p.m. or an adult program at 6 p.m.. Join the Master Gardeners for an adult lesson on Dec. 5 to learn all about home-made ice cream. One may register for these programs by calling the library at 815-456-2823.

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Robert R. Keller Nov. 8 2023, at 90

LOMBARD—Robert (Bob) R. Keller, 90, died Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, at Lombard Place Assisted Living, Lombard.

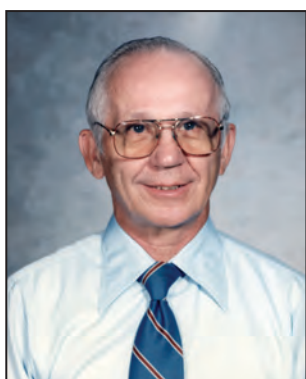
Bob was preceded in death by wife, Patricia; his parents; adoptive father, Charles; and siblings, Melvin Jr., Jim, and Betty.

Born in La Crosse, Wis., to Melvin and Olga Reeck Sr., Bob and family lived above Melvin's auto shop in Wilton, Wis., until tragedy took his brother then father in 1936. "Bobbie" started school at age 4 in Wilton's one-room-schoolhouse, attended Lane Technical High School in Chicago and worked as a mechanic at Humphry Chevy in Evanston. He joined the army in 1953 (Korean War) as a tank mechanic; later attended Northern Illinois University, where

he met future wife, Pat. Bob taught and was vice principle in Chicago-area schools before moving to Amboy, in 1972. Initially Junior High principle, Bob taught seventh and eighth grade math to several generations. An Immanuel Lutheran Church member, great math teacher, and one tough-cookie, Bob was a loving father who attended every one of his childrens' extracurricular events and would do anything to keep family safe and fed.

Thank you, friends, family, and community members for praying for and supporting Bob in so many ways the past several years.

Bob is survived by children, Ann, Susan, and Paul; brother, Charles; and grandchildren Kayley, Alexander, Christopher, Torin, Amara and Myka.



Visitation will be held from 5 – 8 p.m., on Thursday, Nov. 16, at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home, Amboy. Funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., on Friday, Nov. 17, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Amboy. Burial will be held at 2 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 18, at St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, Wilton, Wis.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org).

Janet Carolyn Lehman Jan. 2, 1949 - Nov. 4, 2023

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Janet Carolyn Lehman (nee Lynch) of Murfreesboro, Tenn., passed away peacefully on Nov. 4, 2023, surrounded by family.

Jan was born on Jan. 2, 1949, to Marilyn and Joseph Lynch.

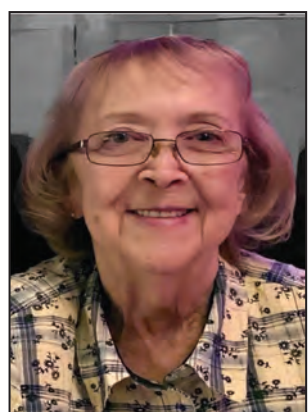
She is survived by her sons, Robert (Rachel) Lehman of San Antonio, Texas and Daniel (Tara) Lehman, of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; grandchildren, Jack and Averie; her mother, Marilyn Lynch; siblings, Thomas Lynch, Pamela (Bil) Papp, LuAnn (Dwayne) Gab, and Timothy (Tammy) Lynch; sister-in-law Dee Lynch; Goddaughter, Erin Papp-Monzon; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, uncles, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father, Joseph Lynch, and brother, Terry Lynch.

Janet graduated Summa

Cum Laude from Wright State University with her Bachelor of Science and Education. She received her Masters of Arts in Teaching from Aurora University. Jan taught at Somonauk High School for over 25 years. History, Literature and English were her passions at Somonauk. To Jan, teaching was more than textbooks and exams, it was being able to share her passion through her stories, Shakespearean plays, and historical trips abroad that made learning fun for her students. During her career at Somonauk, Jan became head of the English Department, and spent endless hours as Yearbook Advisor and National Honor Society Faculty Council member.

After retirement, Jan enjoyed developing community plays, playing bocce ball, swimming, traveling to historical



sites with friends, and numerous family trips to Washington D.C., Disney, and the ocean.

A visitation will be held at Mihm-Jones Funeral Home, Amboy, on Saturday Nov. 18, 2023, from 10 – 11 a.m., with a memorial service to follow. Jan will be laid to rest at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Amboy. Donations in Jan's memory may be made to Save the Steeple, St. Patrick's Church, 32 N. Jones St., Amboy, IL 61310. Online condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.

Mary Frances McLaughlin March 9, 1953 - Nov. 5, 2023



EAST PEORIA — Mary Frances McLaughlin, 70, of East Peoria, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023.

She was born March 9, 1953, in Mendota, the daughter of Robert and Eleanor (Friel) McLaughlin. After graduating from Amboy High School, Mary

attended St. Francis School of Nursing in Peoria where she earned her Registered Nurse certificate. In later years she earned her Nurse Practitioner certificate. Mary was a registered nurse at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria for the first half of her career. The rest of her career as an RN was spent working at Methodist Hospital in Peoria.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, William "Bill" and Donald; and one sister, Kathryn Ann (died in infancy).

Mary is survived by three brothers, Charlie McLaughlin, of Rockford, Tom (Kathy) McLaughlin, of Mapleton,

Gerald (Linda) McLaughlin, of Ottawa; and two nephews, Ryan (Liz) McLaughlin and Mike (Janis Campbell) McLaughlin. Mike and Janis are the parents of Ellie and Emma, Mary's great-nieces.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Maytown. Burial of cremains will follow at St. Patrick Cemetery in Maytown. Visitation will be one hour before mass at the church.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Online condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.

Charles William Grobe Dec. 12, 1945 - Nov. 10, 2023

FRANKLIN GROVE — Charles William Grobe, Sr., 77, of Franklin Grove, passed away Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, at Oregon Living and Rehabilitation Center, Oregon.

He was a truck driver for ADM for many years prior to his retirement.

Charles was born, Dec. 15, 1945, in Dixon, the son of Charles Maurice and Jennie (Glover) Grobe. He married Joyce L. Stallings on March 20, 1966. She preceded him in death on Nov. 22, 1996.

Charles married Diane Grobe on Aug. 20, 2000, in Nachusa. Charles was a past member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Nachusa, the Franklin Grove American Legion Post 497, and the Dixon Moose Lodge. He served in the United States Air Force.

Charles is survived by his wife, Diane Grobe, of Franklin Grove; three sons, Charles (Beth) Grobe, Jr., Benjamin (Heather) Grobe, William (Melanie) Grobe; two daughters,



Patricia (Richard) Kohn, Elizabeth (Daniel) Platt; one step-son, Kevin M. Wiegand; 18 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren.

Charles was preceded in death by parents; one granddaughter, Madelyn Grobe; one brother, Maurice Eugene Grobe; step daughter, Kari Cooper; and one step son, Keith

David Wiegand.

A memorial visitation will be 10 a.m. until time of memorial service at 11 a.m., on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at Preston-Schilling Funeral Home, Dixon, with Pastor Jack Briggs, officiating. Burial with full military honors will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Dixon. Cremation rites have been accorded.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established.

Arrangements were completed by Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon.

Condolences may be sent to www.prestonschilling.com.

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Mass at 6 pm

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Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm

St. Flannen Church
Fr. John Gow
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Evening Service - 6 p.m.
Wed. prayer meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
King's Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday
Reformers Unanimous addictions program
from 7-9 p.m.

St. Mary's Church – West Brooklyn
Rev. Randy Fronек
Mass - Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m.
Saturday – 5:30 p.m.

St. Patrick Church - Maytown
Rev. Randy Fronек
Mass – Friday - 8 a.m.
Sunday - 8 a.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Interim Minister Douglas Wood S.A.M.
960 U.S. Route 52
Phone 857-2225
960 U.S. Route 52
Phone: 815-857-2225
Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m. -
Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
Rev. Randy Fronек
Locust Street, Sublette
Phone 815-849-5412
Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass -10:30 a.m.
Wednesday - 8:00 a.m.
Thursday - 8:30 a.m.

Refuge Church
Pastor John Kalebaugh
Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52
Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930
10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows

Harmon United Methodist Church
Pastor Leanne Keate
202 N. Grove, Harmon
Phone 359-7302
Worship - 8:30 a.m.

*The Following
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Businesses
Sponsor Area
Church News:*

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First National Bank
in Amboy
Member F.D.I.C.
815- 857-3625

**Mihm-Jones Funeral
Home**
815-857-2611

Vaessen Brothers
Chevrolet
815-849-5232

KSB Medical Center
815-857-3044

The Amboy News
815-857-2311



SOCIAL NEWS



Past Lives

As I was reading “The Postcard” by French author Anne Berest, I was reminded of the great 1972 documentary, “The Sorrow and the Pity,” by Marcel Ophuls. The film derived its power not from the battlefield, but from talks with ordinary people in both France and Germany. In the process, it destroyed the myth of French resistance to the Nazi occupation. After all, it was the French police that rounded up the Jews and it was the French who ran their own camps before their Jews were shipped east to their death. “The Postcard” has that same undertone of an omnipresent fear and anxiety. And it too focusses on an ordinary family.

“The Postcard” is a very well written and equally well translated autobiographical novel of four generations of Jewish women. It is the story of Berest’s family, but she called it a novel because she included dialogue and because she changed the names of the collaborators out of concern for their descendants. The story opens in 2003 on a snowy January morning in a Parisian suburb: “My mother lit her first lung-charring cigarette of the morning, the one she enjoyed most, and stepped outside to admire the whiteness blanketing the entire neighborhood.” Berest’s mother, Lélia, a college professor of structural linguistics, finds an anonymous old postcard amid the morning mail.

The postcard is a picture of the Opéra Garnier in Paris and on the other side, written in an odd script, are the names Ephraim, Emma, Noémie, and Jacques. These are the names of Lelia’s grandfather Ephraim Rabinovitch, his wife, Emma and two of their three children. They were deported in 1942 from France to Auschwitz, where they were murdered. Myriam, the oldest daughter and Lelia’s mother, escaped when Ephraim told her to hide in the garden when the police came for Noémie and Jacques.

The postcard is put aside, but fifteen years later, Berest becomes obsessed with finding its sender. Her mother Lelia, who had researched the family history for years, tells her of the shifting fortunes and repeated escapes of the Rabinovitch family from Moscow in 1919 to Latvia, then across Eastern Europe to the Black Sea and on to Palestine, where Ephraim nearly died in the desert heat. In 1929 they leave for France, to a farm in Les Forges, their final homeland.

Myriam, having escaped the police in a harrowing bicycle ride to Paris, is smuggled out of Vichy France by her husband Vicente’s mother and sister. She and Vicente end up “living in the wild” in a simple hilltop cabin in Provence. When he is jailed, she becomes active in the resistance. At war’s end, when the surviving deportees appear in Paris, the radio announcing the daily survivors list calls them “the living dead.” For weeks, Myriam searches for her family in vain.

Diabetes care and education specialists offer a free healthy holiday program

OTTAWA — OSF HealthCare – Medical Group and the University of Illinois Extension are pleased to offer a free one-hour healthy holiday program on Tuesday, November 14, at noon. The class will be hosted by Anne Lauterjung, certified diabetes care and education specialist and Susan Glassman, nutrition and wellness educator from the University of Illinois Extension. Lauterjung and Glassman will present how to prepare a healthy holiday meal, share new recipes, adapt some old favorites and provide everyday stress reduction tips.

This class can be attended in person or virtually. In-person locations include OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center, OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center, OSF Center for Health in Streator, and the Reddick Library.

The program is open to all patients and community members. Participants will gather at one designated location or meet virtually via Microsoft Teams. Teams is an

online meeting platform you can use from a smartphone, tablet, or computer from the comfort of your home. Advance registration is required since space is limited. An invitation and directions will be emailed to each participant. You can register on the OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center website under classes and events.

For more information about this event, contact Anne Lauterjung on weekdays at 815-431-3263.

Lee County Honor Flight having fundraiser Nov. 18 at Dixon VFW

DIXON – A fundraiser is planned for the Lee County Honor Flight on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 4 – 7 p.m., at the Dixon VFW.

Join them for a night out and enjoy a baked potato with all the fixin’s with several choices of soup includ-

ing chili, broccoli cheese, chicken noodle and potato. A good will donation will be accepted. Music by Les Wilson, Les Floto and Jeff Kromer will start at 4:30 p.m.

Proceeds will help fund area Veterans going on the next Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C.

BBB Highlights great businesses for Thank a Business Month; November campaign launched to highlight great buisness

ROCKFORD – As we enter the busiest shopping season of the year, it’s a great time to thank a business. The Better Business Bureau suggests customers give a nod of support and thanks to trusted businesses with great products, customer service, or involvement with the community. Businesses, small, midsize, and large, do more than provide jobs for their employees. They often serve as an integral part of the fabric and lifeblood of their community.

The Better Business Bureau is acknowledging the importance of businesses with its new campaign in November: “Thank a Business Month, inviting customers to say thank you, which is beneficial for the business and easy to do.”

Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional Office of the Better Business Bureau, says, “At the end of November, we celebrate local and smaller businesses with Small Business Saturday following Thanksgiving. That’s very important, but one day a year isn’t enough to thank great businesses that do an exceptionally good job.”

Of course, the ultimate compliment is to continue to do business and spend money with great local businesses.

Another powerful way to thank a business you like is to leave a positive review. When you have a great experience where the business went above and beyond your expectations, post a good review on various sites and the Better Business Bureau website at BBB.org is a great place to start.

Posting positive reviews on Google, local Facebook groups or any review site of your choice helps tout a great business can help them. Also, posting positive comments on the business’s website and social media channels can also help greatly. Reputation can mean everything, especially for a small business owner trying to attract and retain customers. You want to tell customers that your business is trustworthy, ethical, and transparent – and what better way to illustrate that story than through online customer reviews.

There are so many reasons to acknowledge great businesses for great service and the impact they have on the quality of life where they are doing business. In addition to the revenue generated by the tax dollars they pay, there is also the financial support they provide for scores of non-profits and charities. In many cases, they sponsor local causes and community events.

Money spent at local businesses keeps much more money in the state and city they reside in.

According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), small businesses contribute 44% of U.S. economic activity. In the case of shopping locally, about 68 cents of every dollar spent in the community stays in the community, while only 43 cents of every dollar stays when shopping non-locally.

Horton adds, “These small businesses are close to home, often down the street or around the corner, providing for our essential needs. Small businesses can also say “Thank You” to their fellow small business owners by purchasing locally the goods and services they need.” Small businesses employ 61.7 million Americans, totaling 46.4% of private sector employees. From 1995 to 2021, small businesses created 17.3 million net new jobs, accounting for 62.7% of net jobs created since 1995.

Saying “Thank You” is beneficial for the business and easy to do:

- Continue to do business and spend money with great local businesses.
- When you have an excellent experience where the business went above and beyond your expectations, post a good review on the Better Business Bureau website at BBB.org
- Additionally, post positive comments on a business website or social media.
- Spread the word among family and friends.
- Buy gift cards, and if ordering out at a restaurant – try to pick your food up instead of forcing restaurants to use margin-cutting delivery services.
- Choose local. That may not always be possible but, when it is, it can have a significant impact.
- You can find local retailers online, try the local chamber of commerce, neighborhood-focused organizations, Facebook Marketplace, Etsy, TikTok, and other social media sites.
- If you have in your community a “buy local” organization, take part in any events they may have. Do this year-round.

For more information
If you’ve encountered a scam, report it to BBB Scam Tracker. Your report exposes scammer tactics. Sign up for BBB’s free consumer newsletter, BBB Edge, at BBB.org/ChicagoBuzz.

Visit BBB.org or follow us @ChicagoBBB on social media. Look for the BBB seal, The Sign of a Better Business.

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Senior Dining Menu
Nov. 20 - 24
8 oz. of low-fat milk served with each meal

Monday – Baked chicken breast, mashed potato/gravy, steamed peas, wgr dinner roll, strawberry applesauce

Tuesday – Meatloaf, cheesy potatoes, California blend veggies, wgr wheat bread-1, diced pears

Wednesday – Baked pork chop, baby red potatoes, green beans, wgr dinner roll, cherry crisp

Thursday – Closed - Thanksgiving

Friday – Closed

Meals served
Mon.-Fri. at 11:30 am

Call 800-779-1189 to make
reservations 24 hours in advance

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280 W. Wasson Road

A United Way Agency

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AMBOY CUSD 272
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
Monday, November 20 and Tuesday, November 21

Conferences at **Central School** are on a scheduled basis only in-person (with classroom teachers) for both days: **Monday, November 20, 12:00-8:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 21, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** Special teachers (Music & PE) will be available, as well. First Quarter Report Cards were sent home with each child on Fri. Oct. 20, 2023. Please contact your child’s teacher to arrange a time.

Junior High will conduct in-person conferences by individual teachers:
Monday, November 20 from 12:00-4:30 p.m. & 5:00-8:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 21 from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Teachers will be located in their classrooms for parents to meet with individually. Please contact the junior high office with any questions.

High School will conduct in-person conferences:
Monday, November 20, 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. & 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 21, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Teachers will be located in their classrooms. Please contact the high school office with any questions. Report cards that are not picked up will be mailed out on Monday, November 27.

Opinion

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances ~ The First Amendment

Back-to-Back

How many times have you been able to do something more than once?

I'm not talking about tying your shoes, brushing your teeth, or accomplishing a task at work where you receive compensation to fulfill the exact duty you're thinking about.

I'm talking about a prestigious accomplishment only a few people or a few teams can relate with.

The Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio football team is now in that realm, on that level, as they advanced to the Illinois 8-Man Football State Championship (7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17 at Monmouth College) for the second year in a row.

Or what I like to say, although it's used over and over again all over the place, back-to-back.

What an accomplishment for a group of 14-18-year-old young men who just want to play a game.

Not just play a game but play it at the highest level possible.

When the Clippers made the last game of the season last year at Monmouth College, lost to West Central 44-36, there was the feel, the aura, that unfinished business was left on the table.

There were a few tears, but if you looked in the eyes of just about every player on the field, you saw fire.

The fire burned all the way until the start of the 2023 season; then it engulfed.

It engulfed each player.

It engulfed each coach.

It engulfed each fan.

It engulfed each media outlet.

Everyone knew the Clippers were playing for one thing, a return to the state championship.

The craziest thing is, each opponent knew also.

Instead of hiding from the fact a target was placed on the back of the Clippers since they were returning every player but one, quarterback Tucker Lindenmeyer, they rose to the occasion every time.

Now with a 12-0 record, they play the one team who gave them a challenge in the regular season, Ridgewood, in the state championship.

A-L-O beat the team from Cambridge (not to be confused with the Ridgewood team from Norridge) 48-42 in Week 5.

The second closest score was Week 6 when the Clippers beat Milledgeville 32-20, otherwise every game was won

by 46 or more points.

If we were talking about a normal team, people may say the Clippers undefeated, championship season may end poorly.

But we're not talking about a normal team.

We're talking about a team fueled on defeat, misery, and the agony of watching someone else take home the state trophy.

It helps that every player in the lineup has talent, experience, and a love for the game, but that burning desire to be the best of the best and put an explanation point on a back-to-back opportunity and to end senior years with being the top team in the state...exceeds every story line this game has to offer.

They don't want a participation trophy.

The Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio Clippers want to win a state title.

Talking to senior Troy Anderson, junior Quinn Leffelman, and coach Scott Payne after the semifinal win against Polo, you could tell nothing, no team, is standing in their way.

Usually, I wouldn't write a column like this because I never want to add extra pressure to a group of teenagers.

But these players have put more pressure than I offer on their shoulders themselves because when it comes to the football field, they're grown men who are only paying attention to the state trophy.

Column

By Brandon LaChance



The power of words

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



An unexpected conversation with a college acquaintance has me thinking about the power of words.

I first met Bill 40 years ago when I was a freshman in college. I was going through a rough time. I was away from home for the first time and was assigned a roommate that I just couldn't stand.

Bill was a community college transfer from the Chicago suburbs. He had grown up in a devout home but wasn't regularly attending church. One day, I was sitting in the laundromat in the basement of my dorm when he came and sat beside me.

He asked what I was reading and I told him it was the New Testament. He asked where I went to church and I explained that I attended a congregation near campus but wasn't particularly happy there.

Although the church was the same denomination that I had grown up in, the pastor's messages were about as deep as a coat of varnish.

For whatever reason, I shared this with Bill. He told me of a church that he visited once that met in the college student union. The pastor was elderly and battling cancer. But he was sincere. There was no stained glass, pews or organs. Folks sat in folding chairs in a borrowed upper room.

Bill told me I should try that church.

His suggestion altered my life. I fell in love with the tiny congregation and adored the pastor and his wife. My cynicism dissipated. For the first time since leaving home, I felt like I had a place where I belonged.

The pastor joked that Bill made me a regular attendee, even though he didn't come himself.

During the past 40 years, I have lived in cities all over the United States. But the first thing I would do when moving to a new community is join a church. Some advice given 40 years ago by a casual acquaintance altered the trajectory of my life.

When Bill and I spoke this past week, his recollection of me was dim at best. I'm certain he doesn't remember that conversation. But his words mattered.

A number of years ago

a co-worker took me aside and told me how something I had said changed her life.

The two of us were young reporters working the night-shift at a newspaper and as she tells it she joked about getting drunk after work and driving home.

According to her, I said I didn't respect that and asked: "How would you feel if you killed someone because you were driving drunk?"

Years later, she took me aside and told me how my words altered her life. She immediately quit drinking and driving.

When she told me this, I was flummoxed. While it sounded like something I might say, I have no memory of that long-ago discourse.

I have chosen a career of words. Words matter particularly when they are delivered with sincerity and kindness.

Another former co-worker, Gary Schneeberger, tells of how a past supervisor's words changed his life.

"It was my first ever professional job review, and I think it might have been one of his first, because he had just become an assistant city editor when he did my evaluation. ... In the summary he said, 'If Gary continues to apply himself and learn his craft I can see him working his way up into management one day. That was the first

time, I ever thought higher than the byline. I was like, 'Wow, you mean, being like an editor and a leader and helping other writers and reporters. Is that something that's open to me, too, someday?'"

Schneeberger has gone on to a distinguished career heading up public relations for Focus on the Family and other endeavors. He added the editor who gave him the encouragement has no recollection of doing so.

I'd be remiss in not noting that the person Schneeberger said inspired him to greater things, was the worst boss I've had in my 35 years in the workforce. He criticized me during a job evaluation for abstaining from alcohol and living too sheltered a life to be a good journalist.

The biblical book of Proverbs says: "The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit."

In my 58 years, I too have said things I have regretted. To this I can only ask the listener's forgiveness. But I pray when I do speak, I'm offering words of encouragement.

Why? Because words matter.

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.

Established In 1854

The Amboy News

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SOMETHING TO SAY?

The Amboy News 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.

The limit is 300 words. Letters exceeding this will either be edited to fit or not published. The deadline for letters is noon on Friday.

Letter writers may only have two letters published per month, and the letters will be published on non-consecutive weeks. Letters are printed on a space-available basis.

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 comments 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 or individual 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 Amboy News office, 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342, mailed to the Amboy News at PO Box 162, Amboy, IL 61310, or emailed to tgreenfield@amboynews.com.

The Amboy News 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, its management and or ownership.

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ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 Years Ago Nov. 9, 1923

The city council passed an ordinance authorizing the sinking of a new well and repairing the old one with new housing and pumping equipment to provide Amboy with an adequate water supply and ample fire protection. The ordinance calls for a bond issue of \$15,000 to pay for the improvements.

75 Years Ago Nov. 11, 1948

The Rose Mary Shop will hold a Harvest of Saving Sale spotlighting Rhomberg Famous Furs.

Harry Burright, cousin of Mrs. Al Blake and Charles Burright of Amboy, was honored at Aurora Downs at "Harness Driver of the Year."

At the Theatre - Irene Dunne in "I Remember Mama."

50 Years Ago Nov. 15, 1973

A meeting was planned for anyone who was interested in saving the Amboy Depot.

Russell Mosher, Dixon businessman, has announced that he will be a Republican candidate for the office of Lee County Treasurer and will enter the March 19, 1974 primary. Mosher has been in business in Dixon since moving to the city in 1947.

Kevin Robbins of the Amboy Clippers has been named center of the 1973 All-Shark Conference Offensive Team and Tom Nauman of the Clippers was named as an All-Conference lineman of the defensive team. Clippers' Russ Taylor, linebacker, Jerry Fitzpatrick, tackle, and Joe Welty, end, received honorable mention.

25 Years Ago Nov. 12, 1998

Tim Oester presents a check for \$1,250 on behalf of the Knights of

Columbus to Amboy Mayor Hank Gerdes. The money was raised from Knights of Columbus activities held during Depot Days 1998 and will be used in the ongoing restoration of the city's Depot Museum historical landmark.

It's not often that we can record the story of one of the pioneer families in Lee County. Thanks to the recent discovery of letters, sent by Seraphina Welty in Lee County to her friends and relatives in Buffalo, NY., we can reconstruct part of her story. Seraphina Scott married David Welty in Buffalo in 1834. In 1838, on the advice of his doctor, David Welty decided to move from Buffalo to Illinois.

Shopping by phone: it's become an everyday occurrence and is particularly common among the elderly since it can be done from the safety of their home. However, along with the convenience of shopping from home, comes the risk of telemarketing fraud. According to Lee County Sheriff Tim Bivins, this form of criminal activity is sweeping the nation and creating fear among the elderly.

LOCAL NEWS

Know a veteran who needs help?

By STEVE STEIN

Shaw Local News Network

Editor's Note: This story is part of Shaw Local News Network's Thank You, Veterans project honoring military veterans throughout northern Illinois.

Just in time for Veterans Day, Illinois Joining Forces is launching an effort to connect veterans with services they may need.

The effort is called Operation Connect a Vet.

People are asked to contact IJF through the end of the year to request a wellness check – either a single check-in or on an ongoing basis – for a veteran, service member or member of their family.

The wellness checks will be made by veterans who help fellow veterans for a living. One is Michael Pedroza, a U.S. Navy veteran who served from 1989 to 1993. He's a veteran care coordinator specialist for IJF.

"Veterans we'll be calling doesn't necessarily have to be experiencing a crisis," Pedroza said. "At the very least, we want to let them know there's someone to talk to, another veteran, and they're not alone."

Most calls Pedroza takes from veterans do uncover a crisis. And that crisis is usually financial, he said.

A recent report by the United States Department of Agriculture noted that

11% of working-age veterans live in a food-insecure household.

There are a multitude of financial problems veterans face, Pedroza said.

"Rent. Mortgage. Life issues, like deciding between fixing a broken-down vehicle or getting meds," he said. "We're not going to give veterans a hand out, but a hand up. We want to meet their needs using a holistic approach."

Veterans' financial issues often are caused by the difficulties of resuming civilian life after serving in the military, Pedroza said.

There could be a job loss because of a breakdown, episodes, survivor's guilt or invisible injuries, he said.

Veterans are often reticent about asking for help, Pedroza said.

"That's because of the military culture," he said. "You learn to be self-sufficient, to improvise, to adapt to overcome whatever problem you're facing. Veterans are just too humble to reach out."

"I tell them I want to work with them to get them and their family, if they have one, in a better place," he said. "Once that self-sufficient roadblock comes down, they usually can't thank me enough."

In addition to providing help with finances, Pedroza can guide veterans and their families to find help with housing, food, employment, health care and other needs.



Amboy Fire Department receives grant
Compeer Financial wrote a \$4,000 check to the Amboy Fire Department on Wednesday, Nov. 1. The grant is to be used to purchase fire hose.

Photo courtesy of the Amboy Fire Department

IEMA-OHS provides tips for residents during winter weather

SPRINGFIELD – As many residents in the state have already experienced an early snowfall this year, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) offers readiness tips during Winter Weather Preparedness Week, Nov. 6-10, as part of Winter Weather Preparedness Month this November.

"Winter storms can arrive quickly and with little warning," said Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. "Being prepared ensures the safety and well-being of families throughout the season."

Readiness for winter is not just for comfort but for

safety and resilience. As temperatures drop, it is important that residents are equipped for snowstorms or extreme cold weather at home or on the road when travel becomes hazardous.

"Each winter season, nearly 29,000 motor vehicles crash in Illinois, producing 4,500 injuries and 80 fatalities," added National Weather Service (NWS) Central Illinois Warning Coordination Meteorologist Ed Shimon. "That is why it is imperative that people plan ahead and prepare for winter weather impacts."

Following are NWS daily tips for Winter Weather Preparedness Week, with topics ranging from travel safety to weather terminology:

Monday, Nov. 6: Snow

and Snow Safety – How much snow can cause slippery roads, what snow squall conditions entails, common precipitation types in Illinois, etc.

Tuesday, Nov. 7: Icy Roads and Ice Safety – Wide ranging impacts of ice storms, potential for power outages in winter cold, etc.

Wednesday, Nov. 8: Extreme Cold and Wind Chill Safety – Discover how quickly hypothermia can set in, how to recognize the signs of frostbite, pet safety in cold, etc.

Thursday, Nov. 9: Home Safety and Preparedness – Discover how to winterize your home, prepare for power outages after the storm, snow shoveling safety, etc.



Amboy Fire Department Spaghetti Dinner
In honor of Veterans Day, the Amboy Fire Department held a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 11 at the fire station in Amboy. Any veteran who attended was served spaghetti for free.
Amboy News/Brandon LaChance

Illinois State Fair Unveils Holiday Gift Ideas

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois State Fair wants to help you give the gift of summer fun this holiday season.

New this year, the Illinois State Fair will be offering an Illinois' Best cookbook. Wow and impress your holiday guests with prize winning recipes from the Illinois State Fair. From the main dish to the dessert, you will find something for every occasion in this one-of-a-kind cookbook.

Cookbooks can be purchased in person (\$15) on the Illinois State Fairgrounds during normal business hours or purchased online (\$20) with shipping included. Be sure to order early to ensure your cookbook makes it

to your doorstep in time to plan for the big holiday meal.

Experience gifts are the hot new trend, and the Illinois State Fair stands to be one of the top experiences of 2024. Starting Nov. 15, the Illinois State Fair will open sales for the 2024 Mega & Jumbo Passes. Passes can be purchased online or in person on the State Fairgrounds during business hours.

Mega Passes provide fairgoers with unlimited rides at both the Carnival Midway and Adventure Village all 11 days of Illinois State Fair, while the Jumbo Pass gives you unlimited carnival rides and unlimited access to the Giant Slide.

Don't miss out on the lowest

prices of the year. During the holiday sale, Mega Passes will be available for \$70 and \$80 Jumbo Passes. This holiday sale won't last long, as prices will increase on Jan. 1, 2024.

BONUS OFFER – Discount fair admission booklets will also be available for purchase. For only \$45, you can purchase an admission booklet which contains eleven any-day adult admissions. Infield parking passes are also available for \$40 and are valid for every day of the fair.

Give the gift of unlimited summer fun! The Illinois State Fair Holiday Sale starts Wednesday, Nov. 15 Purchase online at StateFair.Illinois.gov or give us a call at 217-782-0775.



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SPORTS

The Return

Clippers are back in the Illinois 8-Man Football State Championship for the second straight year

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**

Amboy News Reporter

POLO – The second of the fourth-quarter clock stopped at the 2022 Illinois 8-Man Football Association State Championship, the Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio football team made plans to return to Monmouth College.

After a 40-6 victory over Polo on Saturday, Nov. 11 in Polo, the Clippers are returning to the state championship for the second straight year.

“It’s amazing. I thank God for the opportunity to be here,” said senior defensive back Troy Anderson. “It’s great to be going back to the state championship with this big senior class that we have. It’s our last go and it’s great to have a chance to go to the championship and finish what we didn’t last year.”

“We have to finish some unfinished business. That’s what it is. We didn’t finish it last year, we have to finish it this year.”

The Clippers (12-0) didn’t wait to grab the momentum against Polo (9-3) as the defense forced and recovered a fumble on the Marcos first offensive play of the game.

The offense then did its job as it scored a touchdown seven plays later on a 3-yard run from Landon Whelchel, who also ran in the 2-point conversion, for

an 8-0 lead with 9:12 left in the first quarter.

On the second Polo offensive drive, the Clippers recorded its second of four turnovers as junior Brayden Klein intercepted Marcos quarterback Carter Merdian.

Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio’s offense answered in the same fashion as junior quarterback Eddie Jones found senior tight end Brennan Blaine for a 66-yard touchdown with 1:43 left in the first frame to take a 14-0 lead.

The Clippers scored four more touchdowns (six total) before the Marcos scored with 5:36 left in the fourth quarter on a 59-yard run.

Junior Quinn Leffelman scored the next three touchdowns as he had a 1-yard run with 8:34 in the second quarter (Jones to Blaine for 2-point conversion), a 14-yard run with 1:09 in the second quarter, and a 1-yard run with 7:26 left in the third quarter.

The last Clippers score was Jones to Blaine for 52 yards with 8:10 left in the game.

“That’s what it came down to, we made the big plays and Polo didn’t. Polo is a great team and they’re well coached,” Clippers coach Scott Payne said. “The Amboy kids played great



and made the plays they needed to make. There were a few times where we got kind of lackadaisical or forgot what they were supposed to do on defense assignment wise, but the kids bounced back. I told them all week long, ‘There is going to be adversity and you’re going to have to bounce back at one point or another.’ And they did.”

“Landon did a great job of running the football against Polo. He has all year long. He is our work horse. He’s a hard kid to tackle. He’s a great football player. It helps a lot when you have a big fullback like Quinn. You just give it to him inside the 5-yard line and he’s able to punch it in. That’s what the defense was giving us because they were trying to stop Landon on those plays. So, we said, ‘Alright, we’ll run up the middle with Quinn.’ That’s what we did, and Quinn did his job.”

Whelchel finished the game with 231 yards and one TD on 27 carries and Leffelman had 23 yards and three scores on nine carries.

Jones was 4-of-7 for 179 yards and two touchdowns, while Blaine was the only receiver who caught a ball as he had four catches for 179 yards and two scores.

After the early fumble and the Klein interception, Leffelman forced a fumble and the Clippers recovered in the third quarter and there was



Junior fullback Quinn Leffelman, top photo No. 21, helped the Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio football team make it to the Illinois 8-Man Football State Championship at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17 at Monmouth College with three touchdowns in the 40-6 semifinal win against Polo at Polo. The Clippers scored the first six touchdowns of the game against the Marcos, while the defense was accredited with causing four turnovers. Clipper nation was in full attendance at Polo and plan to be in Monmouth as well.

Photos courtesy of Brenda Merriman

another forced fumble and recovery in the fourth quarter.

Polo star Brock Soltow was held to 3-of-13 passing for 33 yards as a quarterback, while carrying the ball 19 times for 115 yards.

“Our defense played really well,” Payne said. “When you hold an offense like Polo with a player like Brock Soltow to six points, that means our defense played phenomenal. I told Brock after the game, ‘You have nothing to hold your head about, you’re a great football player and a great kid.’”

Now, the Clippers are preparing for the biggest game of the year.

And after watching West Central walk off of the Monmouth College field with the state trophy last year, Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio is ready for their moment this year as they play Ridgewood at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17 at Monmouth.

“Landon is one of my best friends, so there is some extra motivation there to block for my buddy. I feel that is a big part of it,” Leffelman said. “When he is blocking for me, there is that brotherhood there that

we’re blocking for each other. The offensive line gets credit as a unit, and I feel Whelchel and I are a unit ourselves. That’s part of our motivation.”

“It feels awesome to score three touchdowns in a big playoff game. You look out in the stands and see all the fans getting hype after the touchdowns, you can’t ask for a better town or better fans.”

“You can’t ask for a better feeling than scoring touchdowns and winning big games with your buddies. It’s the best feeling. Now, it’s time to do it at state.”

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Tuesday, Nov. 21 AHS Fresh/Soph Boys Basketball @ Polo Tournament-TBA AHS Varsity Boys Basketball @ AFC Tournament-TBA AHS Girls Basketball (H) Serena-5:30 pm AHS Wrestling (H-AJHS Gym) Mendota/St. Bede-5:30 pm NO SCHOOL-PARENT/TEACHER	Thursday, Nov. 23 NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING DAY
	Friday, Nov. 24 NO SCHOOL AHS Varsity Boys Basketball @ AFC Tournament-TBA
	Saturday, Nov. 25 AHS Varsity Boys Basketball @ AFC Tournament-TBA

SPORTS

Lady Clippers anxious for roundball season tipoff

By GEORGE HOWE
Amboy News Writer

AMBOY – For the last 10 years under the guidance of coach Mike McCracken, the Lady Clipper varsity basketball team have a record of 229-54.

As the girls hit the hardwood for the upcoming campaign, McCracken and staff have their sights set on another 20-plus win season along with recapturing a conference title that eluded them last year.

“With the depth we have going nine deep, we won’t be afraid to go to our bench,” explained McCracken. “I see no reason why we won’t be competing for a conference title and beyond.”

Two always tough Northwest Upstate Illini South Conference foes Polo, and defending conference champs, Eastland accounted for four of the five losses in an otherwise impressive 25-5 record.

“We were a little inexperienced last season where we were forced to start two sophomores in the regional against Polo. We played hard but couldn’t get over the hump,” said McCracken. “We didn’t like how last season ended.”

Where McCracken felt he had a few deficiencies with a lack of depth and experience in 2022-23, the 2023-24 team features four returning starters with last year’s lone senior Courtney Ortgiesen graduating and now part of the coaching staff.

The Lady Clippers feature a three-guard offense led by three year starting point and Co- Captain guard Elly Jones. The 5-foot-8 senior playmaker is complimented by 5’9 junior guard Tyrrah Vaessen, last year’s leading scorer on the team averaging just over 10 ppg, and 5’8 junior guard Addison Pertell.

Meave Larson, 5’9 senior forward, and 6’0 junior center Emily Sachs, who saw quite a bit of floor time, rounds out the starting five. Kenley Wilson, 5’11 junior center, will spell Sachs when she needs a breather.

“A year of experience practicing and competing together has made things much more comfortable playing alongside each other and now we are a well-oiled machine,” shared Jones.

Ellie McLaughlin, 5’7 junior guard, and



The Amboy girls basketball team takes shots during a November practice as they get ready for the 2023-24 season. The Lady Clippers return a strong nucleus of experienced players to help accomplish goals such as winning 20-plus games and hoisting a conference championship. Amboy News/George Howe

5’9 sophomore Kiera Karlson will be the first two off the bench with a couple of pleasant surprises in 5’8 junior guard Jillian Anderson and 5’9 sophomore forward Bella Yanos not far behind.

“McLaughlin and Yannos played hard in summer league ball and opened up our eyes,” McCracken said.

When the junior varsity schedule allows, two impressive freshmen 5’4 guard Al-

exa McKendry and 5’7 center Aubrey Welles might get the chance to suit up on varsity as the season progresses.

“These two players were such a pleasant surprise showing a lot of quickness at times in our first six practices that started on October 30th, they gave our starters trouble, which is a good thing,” added McCracken, who enters his 53rd year in coaching, the last 17 at Amboy. “At this time of

the year it’s enjoyable to see players emerge and become consistent.”

The Lady Clippers will play man-to-man defense but are known for a tough 2-3 zone which McCracken said helps keep the team stay out of foul trouble early.

A couple of facets of the game that he’d like to see is better shooting percentages and rebounds on both ends of the floor.

“Defensive rebounds are so important be-

cause they allow us the chance to fast break,” McCracken said. “Better guard shooting will open things up and second chance shots as a result of offensive rebounds can make the difference in the outcome of a game.”

Jones takes personal pride in finding the open girl for an easy basket but is expected to shoot more this season.

“The strongest part of my game is dishing off, but coach wants me to create my own shots which is something that we are working on because I look to pass first,” Jones said.

“Elly penetrates and gets too deep and then tries to pass,” added McCracken. “I want her to shoot that 7-to-10-foot range jumper. We want to create a free-range type of offense giving our guards the ability to shoot while also looking inside to keep our opponent off guard. Time will tell and we are ready.”

The Lady Clippers open the season at the Oregon Thanksgiving Tournament on Wednesday, Nov. 15 and play their first home game of the season at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21 against Serena.

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(November 15, 2023)

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Local Cup & Cake
Coffee | Cupcakes | Pie

815.994.1044

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100 S Front St.
Sublette IL

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