



A Word To The Wise

See **SPELLING** page A3

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LOCAL NEWS

CONKRITE continued from page A1

“SSG Conkrite arrived in France during September, 1944 assigned to the 377th infantry regiment, 95th Infantry Division, attached to General Patton’s 3rd Army in its push through France toward Germany. After attacking the ring of German defenses around the city of Metz, France, his

unit received orders to advance east to the Saar River on November 25th to capture key bridges that would allow Allied forces to move into Germany. It was on this day that Donald B. Conkrite offered his own life to save his platoon and defend free people from Nazi tyranny.

Along with over 10,000 fellow soldiers, SSG Conkrite is buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery at St. Avold, France. Most soldiers in this cemetery were killed in 1944 during the battle for Metz, or the American army’s assault on the Siegfried Line along the German border. All are remembered forever by a grateful nation.”

Citations:
Silver Star

Purple Heart
World War II Victory Medal
Combat Infantryman Badge
Marksmanship Badge
American Campaign Medal
Army Presidential Unit Citation
Army Good Conduct Medal
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign

RECYCLE! RECYCLE! RECYCLE!

VOTE FOR

Incumbent Sublette Village Trustees

Jeff Myers
and Scott Hanson

Both are Write-In Candidates
Names of candidates must be spelled correctly on ballot.

Paid for by Scott Hanson & Jeff Myers



FIRE continued from page A1

Every year Amboy hosts a school for a mass number of firefighters from Amboy, surrounding communities, Illinois, and out of state.

“We anticipate somewhere between 200-400 firefighters,” said Bryant Sr., who added the class has happened annually for the last 25 years. “Every year it fluctuates with how many firefighters attend. We don’t know for sure. There could be anywhere from 30-80 fire departments represented based on the year.”

This year’s school will be 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and will include classes teaching different disciplines such as leadership, EMS, fire safety, prevention, and policies, and auto extrication.

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3rd Ward Alderman

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LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Aerobics

We will be having Aerobics on Tuesday and Thursday. Everyone is invited to gather at Teen Turf these days at 10 a.m. for group chair exercises and walking. They have a great time together.

Fish Fry

Our Annual Drive-Thru Fish Fry is March 24th from 4-7 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 and include Fish, Coleslaw, Bread, Potato Salad and a Cookie and it is pick-up only. You can purchase tickets ahead of time from Eileen Piper or Pam Thomas. You can also purchase them from our board members: Barb Harrison, Mark Grossman, Trese McNinch, Shelli Bump, Janine and Scott Huffman, and Kimberly Watley. Our Teen Turf kids are selling them as well. Getting tickets ahead of time allows to see how much fish we will need. You may purchase them the day of the event.

St. Patrick's Day Dance

The Dance will be Friday, March 1 from 7-9 p.m. There will be music, concessions, and games. Cost to get in his \$5 and if you chaperone, your child gets in free. Hope to see everyone there.

Draw Down

Save the date-May 6 for the Drive-Thru Dinner and our Auction will be on Air Auctioneer again starting noon on Wednesday, April 26 through May 4 ending at 8 p.m. If you would like to donate a basket or a gift certificate, please contact us at 815-857-4800, email teenturf@yahoo.com, or message us through Facebook. More info to come.

Thank You's

We are always grateful to those that help us in our endeavor to help the community: Anonymous donation of fruit; Barb and George Spataro; Jim and Jean Travi for the crackers; Donna Wellman for the cookies and money for the dance; Dan and Laurie Nauman for the monetary donation through Thrivent financial; Kelly and Violet Senn for the glider chair; Tom and Anna Meinhardt for the granola bars; Tim and Lynn O'Laughlin for the granola bars; Tammy, Scott, and Brooklyn Strub for the various items; Mark and Veronica Grossman for the various items; Bob and Jan Fenwick for the bed; Donna Pinegar for the frame and Pete and Connie Kemp for the pens.

Needs

Granola Bars

Final Note

Lord Jesus Christ, grant us the gift of understanding. Help us to understand the feelings of others, the desires of others, the goals of others. At the same time, help us to understand ourselves in our actions and reactions. Widen our vision beyond our own small world to embrace with knowledge and love the worlds of others. Amen

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AMBOY- The Amboy Lions are accepting orders for their annual Rose Day. The cost is \$20 per dozen and delivery will be Saturday, April 1. See any Lions Club member to order. Orders may also be placed on Monday, March 13, between 5 and 7 p.m. at the Amboy Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. Payment at time of order is requested. Deadline to order roses is March 20.

DIXON- The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 - 6 p.m. on Friday, March 17, at Dixon Hope Bible Fellowship, 732 Brinton Ave., Dixon. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate.

AMBOY- The Pankhurst Memorial Library will hold its Tales for Tots program on March 18, from 10-10:45 a.m.

LEE COUNTY- Join the Master Gardeners of Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties on March 18, from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., at the Loveland Community Building, Dixon, for this one-day event offering participants information about horticulture, backyard gardening, pest control and more. To register: go.illinois.edu/ReadySetGrow

LEE COUNTY- Youth ages 5-18 will have the opportunity to learn more about

4-H at Project Pool hosted by University of Illinois Extension. This fun-filled program will run from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 18, at the Lee County 4-H Center. Ages eight and older will choose three sessions to attend while ages 5-7 will have their activity. Registration fee is \$15 and can be done online at: go.illinois.edu/project-pool. For more information, contact Katie McBride at the Lee County Extension Office, 815-857-3525 or kmcb2@illinois.edu

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

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

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

DIXON- The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 12:30-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, at Knights of Columbus Hall, 506 West Third, Dixon. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767.

AMBOY- The Amboy CUSD School Board will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 23, at Amboy Junior

High School.

AMBOY- The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 280

W. Wasson Rd., on Monday, March 27. Anyone interested in joining or wants more information on the Lions Club is invited to attend.

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SPELLING continued from page A1



Pictured with Parker, are, left to right, Nana Shelia Hicks, brother Hunter, sister Haidyn, mom Joanie, papa Jim Hicks, cousin Abby, and dad Cory.

It's human nature to get a little annoyed when we make a mistake but Parker took it in stride while studying.

"It wasn't frustrating to spell a word wrong because often times it was the first experience that I had with the word," he explained. "It was fun to learn new words and I enjoyed the time with my mom."

At the regional, nerves were high for both Parker and Cory.

"I was very nervous before the event but once I spelled my first word correctly, I settled down, relaxed, and felt more confident, he shared.

"I was much more anxious and edgy than Parker, to where I thought that I was going to throw up," Cory said. "When he said that I got this dad, for him to be up on stage in the spotlight in front of a packed house, I saw confidence in my young man and I was proud."

When it was Parker's time to spell a word I asked him his process.

"I visualized it in my head and I didn't write it down on the card that they gave us like many of the other kids did," he said. "All of the hard work paid off. It was thrilling to continue to advance against the older kids, and I was so happy that I didn't go out on my first word."

As you can imagine, Parker had the full support of

his teachers and classmates. One of his biggest fans was AJH Principal Andrew Full who was in attendance at the regional and relayed information as it happened.

"Mr. Full would text Miss Vicks throughout the day and she would go on the intercom that went throughout the entire school to announce that Parker advanced to the next round," said Joanie. "From my classroom, I could hear screaming and cheering. It was a special moment."

Principal Full shared his sentiments.

"I was extremely proud of Parker and how well he represented AJH," he said. "He did a phenomenal job, especially for being just a sixth grader. He is a great student."

Now that things have settled down and getting back to normal, Parker can get back into a routine.

"I will probably take a little break from studying words and go out and play a little more," he said. "The entire experience was really, really cool and I hope to go back to the regional both in seventh and eighth grade."

In case you were wondering what word eliminated Parker, it was "interred." It took 13 rounds to crown a champion. Alexander Ottens an eighth grader of Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico

Middle School won on the word "superlative." He now qualified for the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which

begins May 28 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor Maryland.

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5pm -7pm Hog Roast w/sides
7 pm Drawdown
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Grand Prize - \$2,000	3rd Prize - \$500
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For tickets, contact any member of the Fire Dept. or call 815-857-2325

Old Car Donations Needed
The Amboy Fire Department is looking for donations of old cars to be used in upcoming training April 15th.
To donate, contact the Amboy Fire Department at 815-857-2325.

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The Amboy News

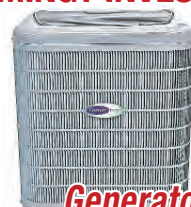
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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Bruce E. Anderson

Nov. 21, 1940 - March 7, 2023

DIXON — Bruce E. Anderson, 82, of Dixon, died suddenly on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Bruce was born at home in Chicago on Nov. 21 to Roscoe C. and Mildred O. Anderson, Thanksgiving Day, 1940. Bruce started his schooling in Amboy, attending a one room school house for the first four years, and graduated from Amboy High School in 1957. He attended the University of Illinois for one year and then served in the Air Force from 1958 through 1962. Bruce met Patricia L. Walker at the Princeton Hospital while he was on leave. They were married on May 30, 1964 and enjoyed 59 years together.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers, William and John Anderson.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia, of Dixon; daughters, Amy A. (Eric) Gard, of La Grange, and Elizabeth A. (Patrick) Bushman, of Dixon; and two granddaughters, Maggie Bushman (William

Cooper) of Madison, Wis., and Gretchen Bushman of Knoxville, Tenn. He is also survived by his brother, Robert and sisters, Betty and Nancy Anderson, of Amboy, sister-in-law, Sandy Anderson, of Henry, and many nieces and nephews.

He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church where he served on the Council and committees for several years. Bruce also served on the Dixon Police Pension Board. Bruce obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Northern Illinois University in business and worked at Borg Warner where he was plant controller. He later worked for Thermos in Freeport, Sensient Flavors in Amboy and Quebecor Printing in Mt. Morris before retiring in 2006. Bruce was a lifelong Cubs fan and enjoyed frequent trips through Lowell Park and Nachusa Grasslands to watch the wildlife. While he loved to fish, his stories about fishing outnumbered the fish caught. His day was not complete without finishing the Wordle and Nerdle



and outscoring his family in Words with Friends. He will be missed.

Visitation was held from 9 - 11 a.m., on Saturday, March 11, Immanuel Lutheran Church, with the funeral service held at 11 a.m. Private graveside service for family only followed. Memorials can be made to either Dixon In Bloom, PO Box 127, Dixon, IL 61021 or Pavilion Memorial Fund, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1013 Franklin Grove Rd., Dixon, IL 61021. Arrangements by the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon.

Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.

Marilyn Ann Braida

March 26, 1935 - March 6, 2023

AMBOY — Marilyn Ann (Kulpa) Braida died March 6, 2023, with her loving family at her side.

Marilyn, (Maizie, as she was called growing up and still by childhood friends and family) was born March 26, 1935, in St. Mary's Hospital, LaSalle, the younger daughter of Alex and Julia (Prostko) Kulpa.

She was a 1948 graduate of St. Valentine's grade school in Peru and LaSalle-Peru Township High School, class of 1952. She later took community classes at Sauk Valley College. Marilyn was married to James J. Braida of Spring Valley, on Aug. 9, 1958 at St. Valentine Church in Peru. They lived in DeKalb for the first two years of marriage while Jim attended Northern Illinois University, and where their first son, James Curtis (Jamie or Jay) was born. They moved to Amboy in 1960 where Jim began his teaching career, and where three more children were born, Perry, Tim and Bonnie.

Before marriage, Marilyn worked as a secretary at Westclox in Peru in the tool department, then the Superintendent's office. While in DeKalb, she worked at the Northern Illinois Corporation. While raising their four children, Marilyn was elected to two terms as the Amboy Township Clerk from 1977-1985. She served as Parish secretary for Msgr. Raymond Wahl at St. Patrick's in Amboy from 1978-1983. She was an active member of St. Patrick church parish where she was a lector, choir member, eucharistic adoration and

food pantry volunteer. She also was a sacristan for mass at the Amboy nursing home for many years and a Cursillo member since 1971. She was a former member of Shady Oaks Country Club, Amboy Hospital Auxiliary, Amboy Women's Club and bridge club. She remained a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Depot Museum, Amboy Civic Organizations, St. Patrick Women's organization and enjoyed her Tuesday morning exercise group.

She and Jim traveled in the USA, notably to Niagara Falls on their honeymoon and again for their 50th wedding anniversary. They also enjoyed several trips to Europe and were members of Pope John Paul II audience four times in Rome, Italy. She enjoyed attending nearly every event at AHS while Jim was the principal, watching her children and grandchildren's activities, attending St. Val's class reunions, baking (the absolute best) cookies, calligraphy, trips to Wisconsin Dells, and going to flea markets and garage sales. Growing up she played the accordion! She also was self-taught on the piano and guitar.

Marilyn and Jim established the James Braida Teacher Scholarship in 2003 at AHS and awarded scholarships for 16 years to students aspiring to become teachers.

Dear ones surviving her are sons, Perry, of Amboy, Timothy, of Olathe, Kansas, daughter, Bonnie of Dixon, and grandchildren, Schuyler (Gabrielle) Bielema, Hanna Bielema, Shannon Braida, Michael (Holly) Braida, and



step-grandchildren, Amanda (Matt) Pearson, Dustin Wolford, Jodi Ann (Royce) Fundell. She also was blessed with eight step-great grandchildren and her great nephew, David Verda.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James (Jimbo) on Sept. 9, 2018; her oldest son, James (Jay); daughter-in-law, Donna Braida; sister, Patricia Verda; brother-in-law, James Verda; and great niece Debra Verda.

Marilyn was a cornea donor.

Visitation was held at St. Patrick Church in Amboy on Saturday March 11, 2023 from 9 to 10:45 a.m., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Burial was held at St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy. A luncheon followed at St. Patrick's Parish Hall. Her grandchildren served as pallbearers.

Memorial contributions in Marilyn's name can be made to the Steeple Restoration Fund at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

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

Stress relief classes for dementia caregivers offered in Sterling

STERLING — Sign up now to attend a free nine-week Dementia Caregiver Stress-Busting Program offered by the CGH Health Foundation, in partnership with Lifescape. Classes run from April 5 to May 31 on Wednesdays. Choose from either the 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. class - both identical - and offered with your schedule in mind. The one and a half hour class will be held at 2600 N. Locust St., Sterling, in the Foundation Community Room.

The Stress-Busting Program (SBP) for

Family Caregivers™ is an evidence-based program that provides support to family caregivers of persons with dementia or a chronic illness. It improves the quality of life of family caregivers who are providing care to a loved one and helps caregivers manage their stress and cope better with their lives.

Topics covered during the various sessions include: Stress: Effects on Mind, Body and Spirit; Caregiver Stress and Relaxation; Challenging Behaviors of People with Dementia; Grief, Loss and Depression; Coping with

CLIPPER KIDDIEZ

This Week's Student of the Week is:
Noah Kessinger

Student's Favorites:

- Favorite Color - Purple
- Favorite Animal - Triceratops
- Favorite Food - Turkey sandwiches
- Favorite Book - Cars - 'Race Around the World'
- Favorite Game - Bowser's Fury
- Favorite Song - "I Love You" song

CLIPPER KIDDIEZ

This Week's Student of the Week is:
Vivienne Gray Henkel

Student's Favorites:

- Favorite Color - Pink and Purple and Rainbows
- Favorite Animal - Elephant
- Favorite Food - Spaghetti
- Favorite Book - The Wheels On The Bus
- Favorite Game - Hide and Seek
- Favorite Song - Let It Go

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St. Mary's Church - West Brooklyn
Rev. Randy Fronek
Mass - Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m.
Sunday - 8:45 a.m.

St. Patrick Church - Maytown
Rev. Randy Fronek
Mass - Friday - 8 a.m.
Sunday - 7 a.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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960 U.S. Route 52
Phone 857-2225
Sun. Worship - 9:00 a.m. Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:40-10:15 a.m.

Rev. Randy Fronek
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
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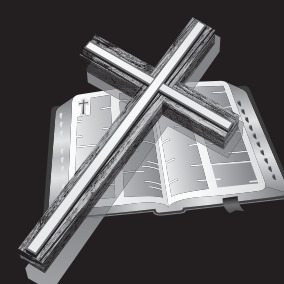
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The Amboy News
815-857-2311



SOCIAL NEWS

The Book Nook

By:

Tatjana Kazan

THE GREAT AMATEUR

Eleanor Perenyi introduces herself rather unassumingly: "All I can claim is some thirty years of amateur experience, which is to say that I know something about a lot of things and not enough to call myself a specialist in any." Her book, "Green Thoughts: A Writer in the Garden," published in 1982 and reissued in 2002 as a Modern Library Classic, is a must-read for gardeners and would-be gardeners alike. Reading "Green Thoughts" was like sitting at the kitchen table with a highly intelligent and highly opinionated woman whose wit and outright sarcasm about gardening "principles" were a constant delight. Perenyi lived in Stonington, Conn for many years, after she worked at Harper's Bazaar and Mademoiselle, where she was the managing editor. She died at 92 in 2009.

The book is arranged in 72 alphabetical commentaries of two to three pages each. Perenyi's prose is both plain and elegant. She does not mince words. On petunias: "No flower in the universe can have received as much attention from the breeders in the last twenty years, and it beats me to understand why. They are pretty, very pretty – and as hopelessly impractical as a chiffon ball dress. Rain soils and bedraggles them." On English horticulture: "The difference in climate between new and old England make English advice impractical in this country. Yet the prestige of English horticulture is such that we are still being told to do things their way... England is an offshore island. We are a continent, with no less than ten zones of hardiness."

Her advice is consistently well grounded. "Wood ashes contain up to ten percent potash, which makes them the highest natural source of this vital ingredient in fertilizer, and that potash helps plants to resist disease, build strong root systems, ripen fruit." Perenyi loves Dahlias: "Some are as blowzy as half-dressed Renoir girls; others are like spiky sea-creatures, water-lilies, or the spirals in a crystal paperweight; and they do shoot up to prodigious heights. But to me they are sumptuous, not vulgar." Her Portuguese neighbor in Stonington tells her "to ignore the conventional wisdom and plant them early or there will be no flowers before August. Plant them deeply (say, ten inches), and they can go in well before the last possible frost in May because their shoots won't yet be above ground by then."

Not fond of grass lawns, Perenyi suggests two alternatives: The famous chamomile lawn at Buckingham Palace which benefits from being trampled by thousands of feet during garden parties, and "a clover lawn which will grow almost anywhere, isn't particular about soil (which it benefits by adding nitrogen), makes a dense, weed-resistant carpet that cuts mowing by half, greens up early. The white haze of blossom, lovely in itself, is much visited by honeybees."

With colon cancer, 45 is the new 50

STERLING – A rise in colorectal cancer cases among young people has led the national guidelines for getting screened for colon cancer to age 45, rather than 50. March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. During this important month, CGH Digestive Health Services encourages people to learn more about colorectal cancer symptoms, risk factors, and screening options.

An estimated 153,020 people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 52,550 will die from it this year, according to the American Cancer Society. Colorectal cancer is a term that includes colon cancer and rectal cancer. Colorectal cancer is the second deadliest and fourth most common form of cancer in the U.S. and affects both men and women. Most colorectal cancers develop in people above age 50, but more than one in 10 diagnoses are in younger people. In fact, cases of young-onset colorectal cancer are rising. Many people put

off their routine screening exams during COVID.

But there is some good news! Colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable cancers and is highly treatable when detected early. Most people should begin getting screened for colorectal cancer at age 45, according to the new national guidelines. People at higher risk, including those with symptoms, a family history of colorectal cancer, and certain inherited genetic syndromes like Lynch Syndrome may need to get checked earlier. For more tips and information, visit www.cghmc.com/gi.

LIFESCAPE COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

Senior Dining Menu

March 20 - March 24

8 oz. of low-fat milk served with each meal

Monday – Country meatballs, mashed potatoes/gravy, mixed vegetables, wgr dinner roll, peaches

Tuesday – Chicken patty wgr wheat bun, peas and carrots, scalloped potatoes, pineapple

Wednesday – Spaghetti w/meatsauce, green beans, cauliflower, wgr garlic bread, apricots

Thursday – A. BBQ riblet, mac and cheese, baked beans, corn muffin, peaches B. Ham/chicken noodle

Friday – Tuna noodle casserole, broccoli/carrots, pineapple tidbits, wgr dinner roll

Meals served Mon.-Fri. at 11:30 am Call 800-779-1189 to make reservations 24 hours in advance

Amboy Community Center
280 W. Wasson Road



03152023

NOTICE OF

VOTE BY MAIL AND EARLY VOTING

Nancy Petersen, Lee County Clerk and Recorder would like to announce that beginning THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023, VOTE BY MAIL and EARLY VOTING will be conducted in the Election Department of her office, first floor of the Old Lee County Courthouse, 112 E. Second St., Dixon.

VOTE BY MAIL~ signed applications will be accepted through Thursday, March 30, 2023, and is available for properly registered Lee County voters. Applications are available on the website or by contacting the Election Department of her office.

EARLY VOTING~ must be conducted in person Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. and Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Closed legal holidays. The votes cast during this time will not be counted until Election Day. Once a ballot has been cast it cannot be rescinded.

Website: www.leecountyil.com

Email: election@countyoflee.org

Phone: 815-288-3309

Nancy Petersen
Lee County Clerk & Recorder

02222023

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 Years Ago
March 9, 1923

Judge John McGee, son of Hugh McGee of Amboy, has been nominated by President Harding to be a federal judge in Minnesota.

The lease on the Arlington Hotel expires this month and Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Fortney have decided not to renew it. They will sell the fixtures of the hotel on March 24. They will continue to live in Amboy.

The Amboy Hotel on Jones Street has been purchased by the St. Patrick Parish and will be used as a convent. Three sisters, teachers at the parochial school, will live there when the school is opened.

75 Years Ago
March 11, 1948

The senior class at Amboy Township High School will present a three-act comedy, "We Shook the Family Tree."

Catherine Douvier returned to her duties as librarian at Amboy Township High School after having been absent for recuperation from a tonsillectomy.

The University of Illinois celebrated

its 80th birthday. When it opened there were 50 students. In 1948 there were nearly 30,000. It has four campuses and is known around the world for its teaching and for the practical value of its research results.

50 Years Ago
March 8, 1973

Jim Becker, director of Community Services at Muscatine Community College in Muscatine, Iowa was awarded a Doctorate Degree from the University of Illinois. He was a 1955 graduate of Amboy High School.

Senator David Shapiro (R-Amboy) had been named to the School Problems Commissions, one of the oldest permanent commissions in Illinois government.

Amboy Post Office became part of a new concept in mail handling when the Area Mail Processing Plan went into effect in LaSalle and 62 surrounding post offices.

25 Years Ago
March 12, 1998

The Girl Scouts of Amboy will be

going door-to-door from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, and Sunday, March 15, to sell cookies in Amboy. The girls will also have a booth at the Sublette Toy Show and will be going door-to-door in Sublette the following weekend. Tonya Rhodes from Troop 23 was Amboy's top seller last year.

More than 25 firemen battled a late-evening fire Sunday in the Lee Center home of the Michael Torres family. The fire, which reportedly started in an upstairs bedroom when a lit candle tipped over, completely gutted the second floor of the two-story framed house on East Center St.

Daniel O'Connell Jr. of Amboy was one of five named to the new State Off-Highway Vehicle Trails Advisory Board, which will evaluate and recommend for grant funding off-highway recreational trail projects in Illinois. O'Connell, who is the ATV Club of Northern Illinois president and the CEO of O'Connell's Yogi Bear Jellystone Park Camp Resort in Amboy, is an avid ATV rider.

SVCC accepts FFA state degree for credit

DIXON — Sauk Valley Community College now accepts the FFA State Degree toward college credit. Area FFA students who have earned the State Degree qualify for agriculture credit at SVCC through Credit for Prior Learning.

These students can receive credit in agriculture courses based on the college's Credit by Evaluation process. Completing the State Degree means this credit is well deserved, and highlights the knowledge that FFA students have gained and their dedication to the agriculture industry. State Degree recipients can advance their college careers before even stepping foot on SVCC's campus.

"We are excited to provide even greater access to higher education for our community and its students. The FFA State Degree demonstrates several learning outcomes that align to our agriculture programs and providing credit will assist many in their academic pursuits," said Dr. Jon Mandrell, Vice President of Academics and Student Services.

"Completion of the FFA State Degree requires students to go above and beyond by participating in a wide variety of FFA activities and supervised ag experiences. We are happy to provide this credit evaluation which allows students to use the knowledge they obtained through completion of their FFA State Degree to assist them in jump starting their college experience," said Sasha Logan, Dean of Business, Career, and Technical Education.

The State FFA Degree is awarded to students who have completed the minimum requirements set by the National FFA organization. That includes but is not limited to: receiving the Chapter FFA Degree, completing the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) in agricultural education at or above the ninth grade level, worked at least 750 hours in excess of scheduled class time in a supervised agricultural experience program, rank in the upper 40% of the class in scholarship or have an average of a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and participated in at least 25 hours of community service.

For more information, please contact Dr. Jon Mandrell at jon.d.mandrell@svcc.edu.

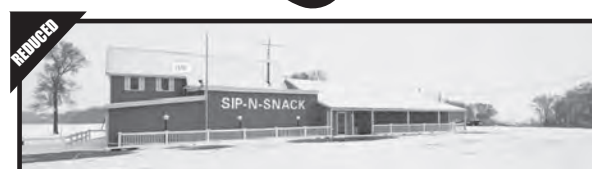
Our family deeply appreciates your sympathy and kindness at the loss of our dear mother.

We are grateful for all your thoughts and prayers and for the memorials to Save Our Steeple at St. Patrick's Church in her memory. We are truly blessed with such wonderful family and friends.

The Family of
Rosemary Liston

03152023

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10 N US Hwy 34, Mendota \$549,900

Great Business Opportunity! Sip N Snack has been in Business for 50 years! Awesome location with lots of traffic and close to Mendota golf course. So many opportunities with this restaurant/bar. Features include: large parking area, 70 KW generator, over \$100,000 in inventory and equipment, pop machine, freezer, fryers, refrigerator, some toy machines, tables, chairs, bar stools, everything you need to start today and so much more. Downstairs seats around 230 and upstairs seats around 70 people. Bar upstairs and down! Private back room for entertaining! 2 updated bedrooms. This business had a lot of take out business as well. Plenty of storage throughout. Add catering, deliveries and gaming machines to make more income! Beers signs are negotiable. Call for more information and for a showing!



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LAND AUCTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023 AT 1:00 PM^{CT}



157 ACRES ± • 2 TRACTS

The Godfrey farm is located approximately 4 miles south of Earlville, IL or 12 miles east of Mendota, IL or 16 miles northwest of Ottawa, IL. The property is further described as being located in Section 5, T35N-R3E, Freedom Township, LaSalle County, Illinois. The real estate contains a total of 157 acres (subject to survey), will be sold in 2 tracts and represents highly productive Class A soil.

Farmers and investors, be sure to check out this Class A farm located only a few miles from several export grain terminals in LaSalle County, Illinois.

MICHAEL & PHILIP GODFREY FARM

Representing Attorney: Jack Cantlin

The Cantlin Law Firm | (815) 433-4712

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Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767



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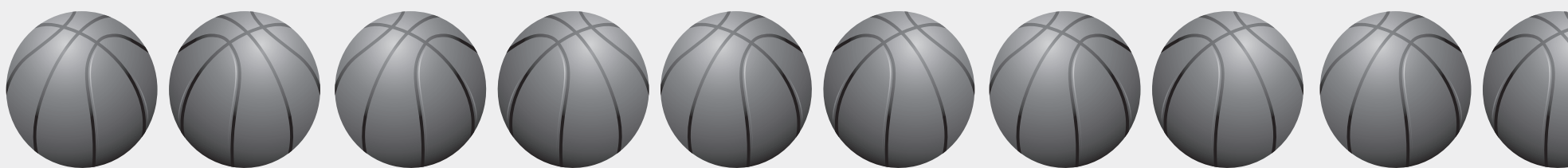
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9	WEST VIRGINIA - SPORTS N STUFF
5	SAN DIEGO ST - AMBOY FOOD AND LIQUOR
12	CHARLESTON - SUBLETTE COLLISION
4	VIRGINIA - ERBES REALTY
13	FURMAN - STENZEL INSURANCE
6	CREIGHTON - VAESSEN BROS CHEV
11	NC STATE - MAZE LUMBER
3	BAYLOR - STENZEL INSURANCE
14	UC SANTA BARBARA - RIVER COUNTRY PROPERTIES
7	MISSOURI - JONES BERRY LUMBER
10	UTAH STATE - THE LAST ALARM
2	ARIZONA - RIVER COUNTRY PROPERTIES
15	PRINCETON - FIRST STATE BANK

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1	PURDUE - SUBLETTE COLLISION
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9	FLORIDA ATLANTIC - MAZE LUMBER
5	DUKE - WOODHAVEN LAKES REALTY
12	ORAL ROBERTS - BECKER DETAILING
4	TENNESSEE - THE LAST ALARM
13	LOUISIANA - JONES BERRY LUMBER
6	KENTUCKY - STENZEL INSURANCE
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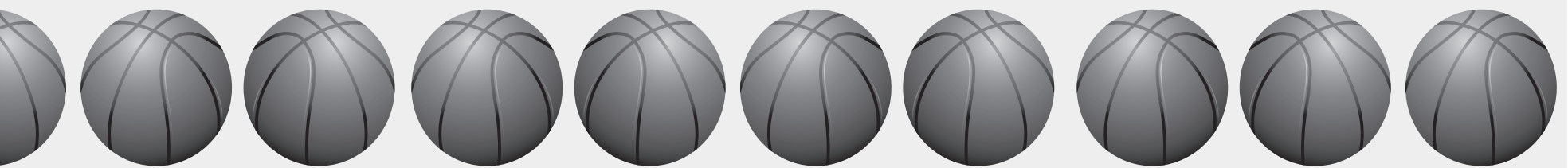
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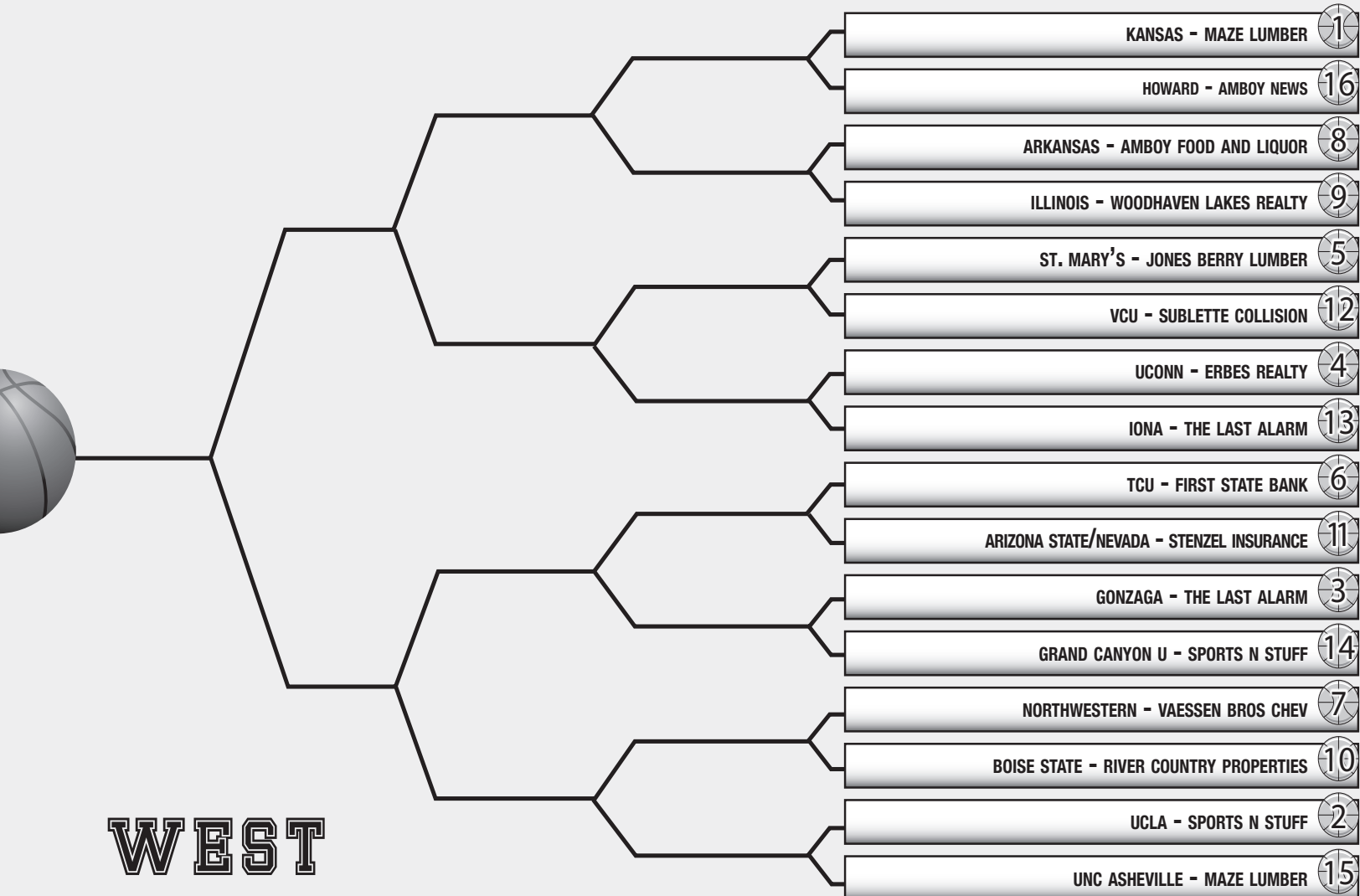
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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on March 6 A.D. 2023 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Lee County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as The Drunken Poet located at 8127 E Route 38, Ashton, IL 61006. Dated this 6st day of March A.D. 2023. Nancy Peterson, County Clerk
By Penny Skibinski, Deputy
Legal No. 0304 (3/15, 3/22, 3/29 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on March 6 A.D. 2023 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Lee County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Better Than Caffeine located at 8127 E Route 38, Ashton, IL 61006. Dated this 6st day of March A.D. 2023. Nancy Peterson, County Clerk
Legal No. 0305 (3/15, 3/22, 3/29 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing on Road District Budget Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Lee Center Road District, Lee County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024 will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at Lee Center Township Building located at 2202 Shaw Road, Amboy, Illinois from and after 7:00 p.m. on April 11, 2023. Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 11, 2023 at the Lee Center Township Building located at 2202 Shaw Road, Amboy, Illinois and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at the public hearing.

Dated this 9th day of March, 2023
Jan Bonnell
Lee Center Township Clerk
No. 0306
(March 15, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing on Township Budget Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Township of Lee Center, Lee County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024 will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at Lee Center Township Building located at 2202 Shaw Road, Amboy, Illinois from and after 7:00 p.m. on April 11, 2023. Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 11, 2023 at the Lee Center Township Building located at 2202 Shaw Road, Amboy, Illinois and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at the public hearing.

Dated this 9th day of March, 2023
Jan Bonnell
Lee Center Township

Clerk
No. 0307
(March 15, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice Annual Town Meeting Lee Center

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of the Town of Lee Center in the County of Lee and the State of Illinois, the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 7 o'clock p.m. at the Lee Center Township Building located at 2202 Shaw Road, Amboy Illinois for the transaction of miscellaneous business of the said town: and after a moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to decide the following: set meeting dates and times for May 2023 through March 2024, approve the Town Budget, approve the Road District Budget, declare any possible surplus and possible transfer of funds, consider and approve donations to charities. Discuss and set fees for overweight permit fees for loads within Lee Center Road District, discuss a petition (#23-P-1609) put to the Lee County Board Zoning committee pertaining to a special use permit within Lee Center Township for the purpose of operating a campground. Dated March 9, 2023
Janice Bonnell
Lee Center Township Clerk
No. 0308
(March 15, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF LEE IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF Judi Harvin PETITION NO. 23-P-1609

SPECIAL USE
The Petitioner, Judi Harvin states as follows:
1. The Petitioner is the owner of the parcel legally described as: PPN# 11-16-15-300-002
2. The property is located on 40 acres at 924 Isenberg Road, Amboy, Illinois 61310, in Lee Center Township, Section 15
3. The property is zoned as: Ag-1 Rural/ Agricultural District
4. The petitioner desires a Special Use permit for the purpose of operating a campground
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD: Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. 3rd floor, Boardroom, Old Lee County Courthouse, 112 E. 2nd Street, Dixon, Illinois 61021
March 10, 2023
No. 0309 (Mar. 15)

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Public Hearing ON ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the May Road District, Lee County, Illinois, for the fiscal year Beginning April 1, 2023, and ending March 31, 2024, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the clerk's residence by appointment from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on April 9, 2023. Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:30 P.M. on May 11, 2023, at the Maintenance building

and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at the public hearing. Dated this 8th day of March 2023. Laura Morgan, Supervisor
Lisa Bickett, Clerk
Legal 3010

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Public Hearing ON TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Township of May, in the County of Lee, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2023, and ending March 31, 2024, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the clerk's residence by appointment from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm on April 9, 2023. Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:30 P.M. on May 11, 2023, at the Maintenance building and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at the public hearing. Dated this 8th day of March 2023. Laura Morgan, Supervisor
Lisa Bickett, Clerk
Legal No. 0311

PUBLIC NOTICE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal voters, residents of the Town of May, in the County of Lee and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 7:00 P.M. at the township maintenance building for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following: approval of remaining new shed expenses for the township building. The April meeting will follow the annual meeting. Dated March 8, 2023
Lisa Bickett, Town Clerk
Legal No. 0312 (Mar. 15)

PUBLIC NOTICE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of the Town of East Grove in the County of Lee and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 7:30 o'clock p.m. at the East Grove Twp. Building for the transaction of miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following: Elect moderator, and approve Township Supervisors Annual Financial Statement. Dated March 14th, 2023
Charlie Gonigam, East Grove Twp. Clerk
No. 0313
(March 15, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE

East Grove Township Board Meetings for 2023-2024 will meet

on the set dates at 7:30 PM at the East Grove Township Hall. April 10, 2023
May 09, 2023
June 13, 2023
July 11, 2023
Aug 08, 2023
Sept 12, 2023
Oct 10, 2023
Nov 14, 2023
Dec 12, 2023
Jan 19, 2024
Feb 13, 2024
Mar 12, 2024
Charlie Gonigam, Clerk East Grove Township
No. 0314
(March 15, 2023)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWNSHIP AND ROAD BUDGETS

Notice is hereby given that Tentative Budgets and Appropriation Ordinances for the East Grove Township, Lee County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024 will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the East Grove Twp. Bldg. from and after 8 a.m. on March 15, 2023. Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Budgets and Appropriation Ordinances will be at 7:30 p.m. April 11, 2023 at the East Grove Twp. Bldg. and that final action on these ordinances will be taken at the public hearing. Dated on this 13th day of March, 2023. Brian Blaine Supervisor
Charles Gonigam Clerk
No. 0315
(March 15, 2023)



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2019 Chevy 1500 Dbl Cab RST, 4WD, Z71, Gray.....\$28,900

2016 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT Z71, 128K Miles, Red.....\$23,900

2018 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab, 4X4, SLT, 103K Miles, Blue.....\$29,000

2012 Ram 1500 Reg Cab Sport Hemi, 4WD, Black.....\$14,900



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(Deadlines subject to change during holiday times)

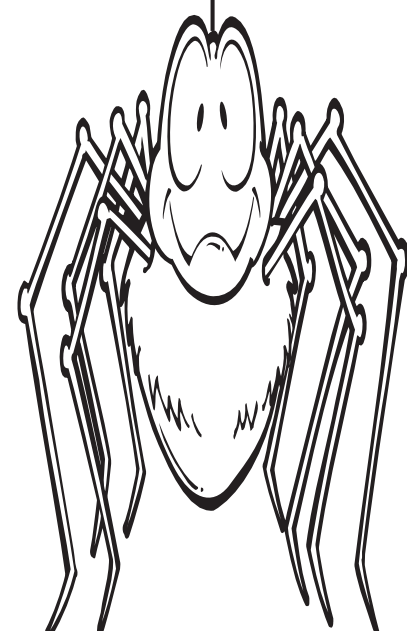
All classified marketplace line ads will appear in the following 7 print publications and on 5 high-traffic newspaper websites:
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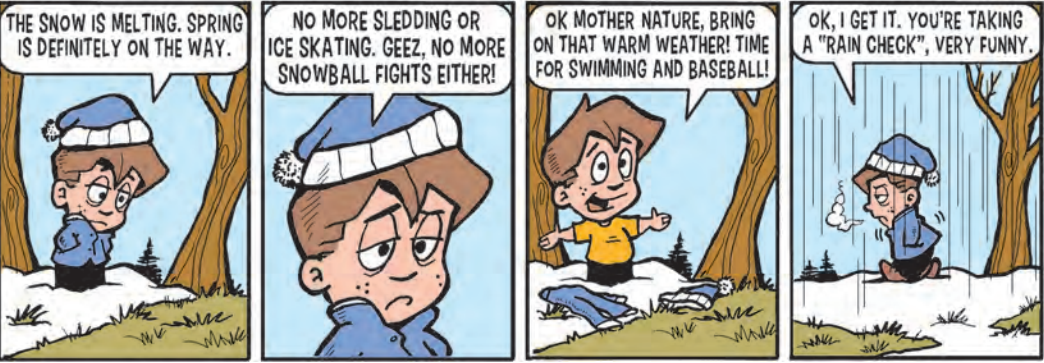
ADVERTISE WITH US



LOCAL NEWS

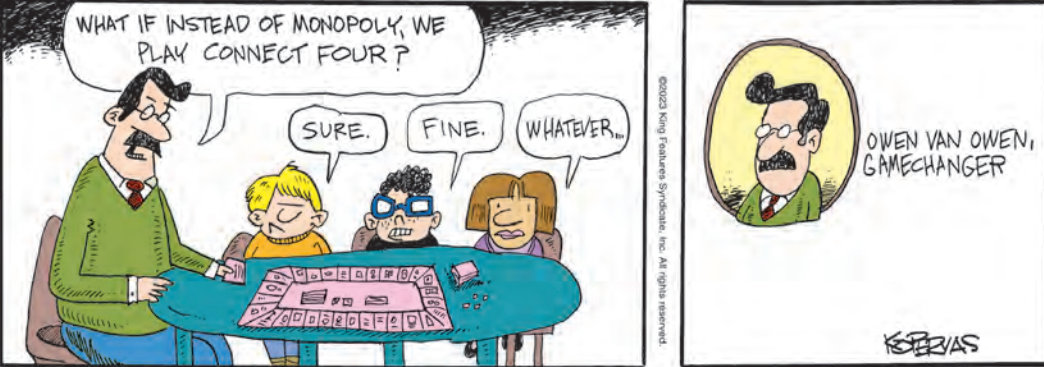
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



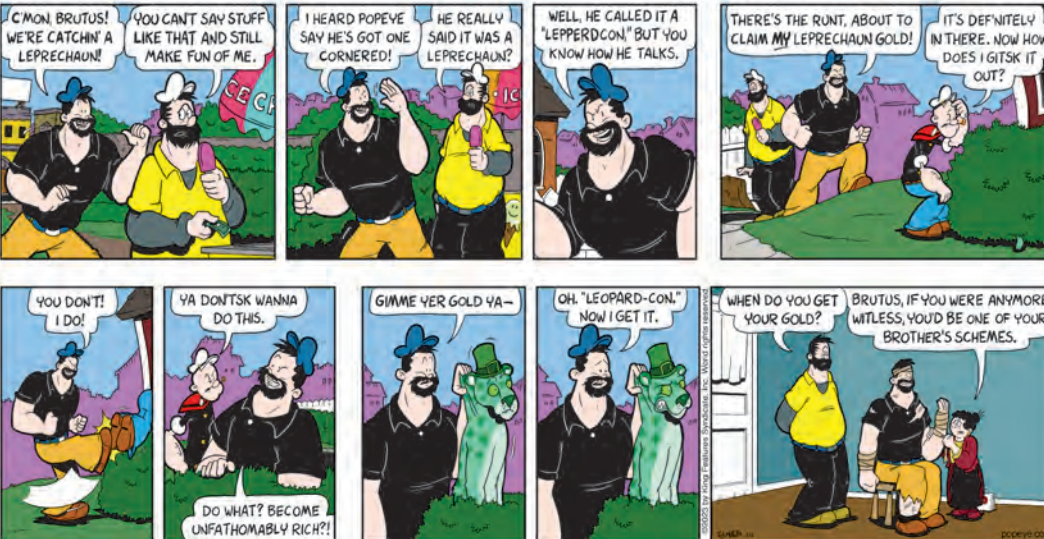
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



POPEYE

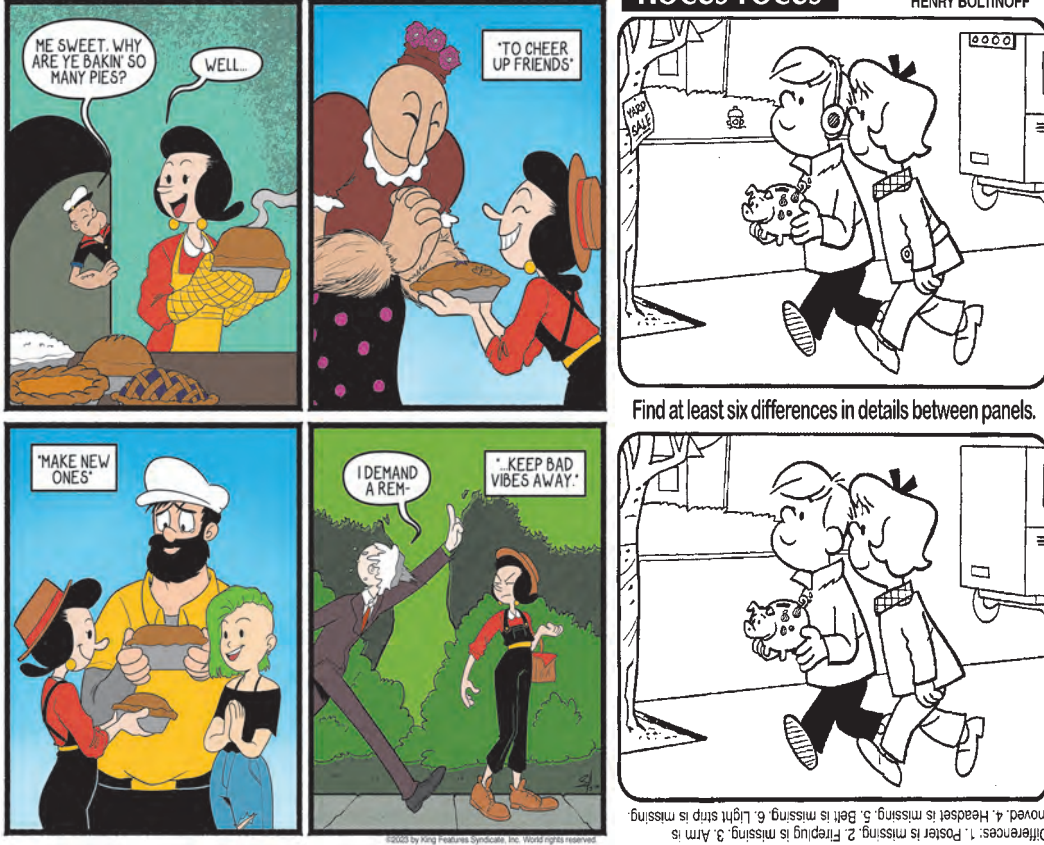
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND



OLIVE

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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 O

FVQS HGWBC RGW HQBB SVK
GUKJVQKC ZGMKR MKKCKC SG
ZQTMSQTM Q ZGUTME OSQTJFQR?
KOHQBQSTME HGOSO.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Spy TANGE
Think PONIE
Please MARCH
Cherish ARODE

TODAY'S WORD

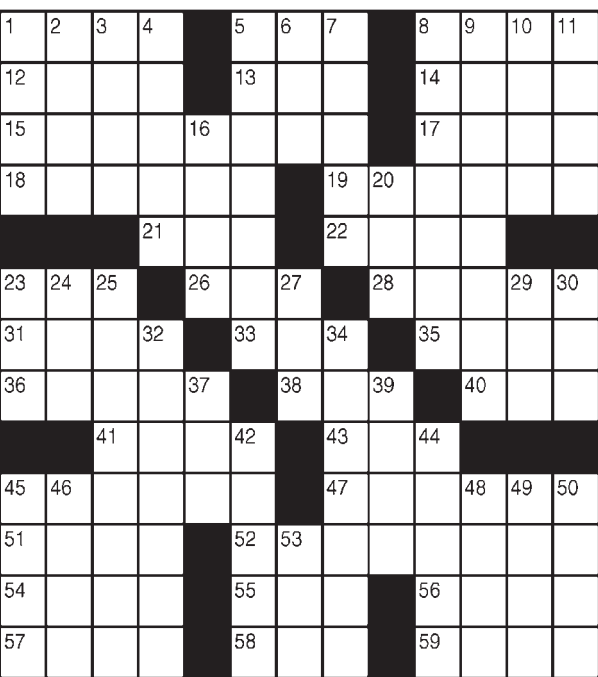
Here's one from your _____, dear.

March 13, 2023 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Release money
5 Officer
8 Wife of Zeus
12 "Born Free" lioness
13 Billboards
14 Elliptical
15 Region of northern Italy
17 Breathing (Abbr.)
18 Start a round
19 Aviary noises
21 Irish actor Stephen
22 Visibility hindrance
23 Arced tennis shot
26 Like some humor
28 Avoids work
31 Gumbo or bisque, e.g.
33 Work unit
35 Minn. neighbor
36 Writer
38 Lessing
40 Pouch
41 "Rah!"
41 Metric measure
43 — Alamos
45 Big lizard
47 Of the lower back
51 Gasp for air



- 52 Show hosted by Alex Trebek
54 Shoppe description
55 "Alley —"
56 Faction
57 Calendar squares
58 ICU workers
59 Pianist Myra

DOWN

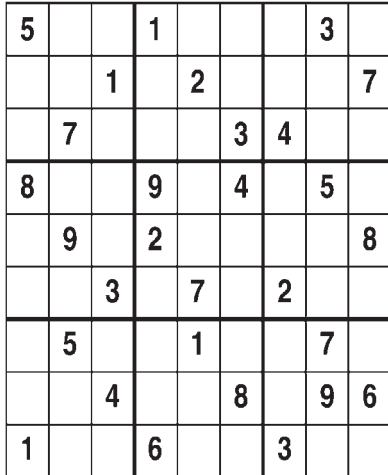
- 1 Karate level
2 Skin soother
3 "Woe —!"
4 Hard work
5 Commuter's cash-on-hand

- 6 Quirky
7 Intimidate, with "out"
8 Where earth meets sky
9 Battery brand
10 Grate
11 Swiss peaks
16 Not many
20 Actor
23 "Acid"
24 Tic-tac-toe win
25 French red wine
27 Decade parts (Abbr.)
29 Air safety org.
30 Firmament
32 Pittsburgh team
34 Runs like a horse
37 — Salvador
39 Brilliant stroke
42 College study
44 Big hit
45 Apple product
46 Big bash
48 Party cheese
49 Tosses in
50 Deli loaves
53 Long time

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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WORD LADDERS

Can you go from COINS to SPIES in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

clam

play

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: What is the name of Scarlett and Rhett's daughter in "Gone with the Wind"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What body of water lies between Australia and New Zealand?
3. TELEVISION: Eric Camden is a minister on which TV dramedy?
4. CHEMISTRY: Which element has the Latin name stannum (Sn)?
5. LITERATURE: Which book is first written in C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia series?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the name of the bird logo on Twitter?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How long does it take a sloth to digest food?
8. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the irrational fear represented by coulrophobia?
9. MYTHOLOGY: Which Greek god stared at his own reflection until he died?
10. INVENTIONS: What did Alessandro Volta invent?

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10. The electric battery.
9. Narcissus.
8. Fear of clowns.
7. An average of 16 days, and up to 30 days.
6. Larry.
5. "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe."
4. Tim.
3. "7th Heaven."
2. Tasman Sea.
1. Bonnie Blue Butler.

SCRAMBLERS

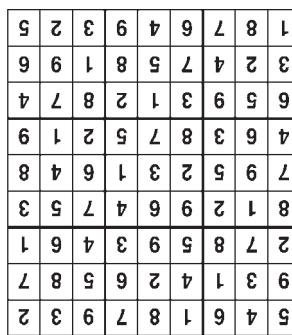
Today's Word
3. Charm; 4. Adore
1. Agent; 2. Opine
solution

SLAY, PLAY, PLOY

CLAM, CLAW, SLAW

Answer

WORD LADDER



Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Cryptoquip
What could you call the answer
overlain a moving stairway?
Escalating costs.

SPORTS

Exciting time for Amboy girls track program

By BRANDON LaCHANCE

Amboy News Reporter
AMBOY – There are zero seniors on the Amboy High School girls track and field roster.

While some may view this as a negative, Lady Clipper coach Michael Robinson takes it as a positive.

“We don’t have any seniors this year. That’s always a positive because it means we have at least one more year with the relationships that we’ve built,” said Robinson, who has been with the program for nine years and the coach for the last four. “We have four juniors, three sophomores, and 10 freshmen.”

“Our juniors, Elly Jones, Lexi Ketchum, Kimber Zitelman, and Skyler Ware, and sophomore Jenna Pinter from LaMoille, are our only returning girls from last year’s team. We have 17 girls this year and 12 of them are new.”

Jones has made it to the Illinois High School Association State Meet as a freshman and a sophomore (triple jump) and is putting in the work for the trend to continue.

Robinson sees potential state competitors throughout his roster.

“We have the potential to send more girls to state this year. It’s just going to depend on how things shake out and how much they want to work,” Robinson said. “Lexi Ketchum has been



working really hard on the 800 (meter run) and the high jump for the last two years. She’s motivated and has the capability to go to state.”

Coach is also looking at big leaps from his freshmen. Grace Althaus comes from a family of top-tier runners and athletes, and Anna Carlson and Samantha Nauman ran under Robinson in cross country.

Also, in the ranks are Amboy sophomores Emma Chandler and Alexis Cheever, freshmen Bella Yanos, Stephanie Nave, and Erian-

nah Wade.

Freshmen Taylor Wamhoff and Angela Bejarano are from LaMoille and freshmen Jillian Anderson and Mazey Sterling join the team from Ohio.

Ashton-Franklin Center doesn’t have a representative on the team in its second year in the co-op.

“It’s an exciting sign that we have so many freshmen on the team. It means we’re coming back a little bit,” Robinson said. “My first year as head coach was the COVID-19 year in 2020.

We had 16-17 kids on the team then. The next year, post Covid, we only had four runners and two throwers. Last year we had 10 or 11 athletes that made it through the entire season.

“The numbers are building. That’s a good sign for what we’re trying to do with the program. I think word of mouth of what we’re doing, trying to motivate and push the kids, is getting around. Kids want to come out and push themselves and try something different.

“We have a lot of great athletes this year because of that.”



Amboy Community Unit School District #272

Monday, March 20

AHS Girls Track @ IWU Shirk Center, Bloomington-4 pm

Oregon-4:30 pm

Central School Drawing Club-Art Room-3:20-4 pm
School Board Meeting-AJHS-6:30pm

Tuesday, March 21

AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball @ Pecatonica-4:30 pm

AHS Softball & Varsity Baseball (H) Pecatonica-4:30 pm

Friday, March 24

AHS Fresh/Soph Girls & Boys Track @ Westwood, Sterling-4:30 pm

Wednesday, March 22

AHS Art Club-Room 210-3:30-4:30 pm

AJHS Scholastic Bowl @ Sterling Challand-4 pm

Central School Young Author’s Club-3:20-4 pm

Saturday, March 25

AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball (H) Orangeville-1 pm
AHS Softball & Varsity Baseball (H) Orangeville-11 am

Thursday, March 23

AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball @ Oregon-4:30 pm

AHS Varsity Baseball (H)

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SPORTS

Amboy softball - young but experienced

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**

Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY – Amboy High School softball coach Kelly Whitman has an interesting situation for the 2023 season.

She has three upperclassmen surrounded by 13 freshmen and sophomores.

However, thanks to a competitive nature and travel ball, Whitman is coaching experienced youth.

“We’re young. We have one senior, two juniors, and the rest are freshmen and sophomores,” said Whitman, who has been with the program since it started in 2000 and has been the coach since 2008. “We have a young pitching core with two freshmen – Alyvia Whelchel and Ellie McLaughlin – and Gloria Parker, a sophomore, who saw limited action last season.

“We’re young, but we have a senior and two returning juniors as well as a few sophomores who saw varsity action last season. Our freshmen coming in have played a lot of travel ball. We have players to step into the spots that we lost from last year.”

The AHS physical education, health, and driver’s education teacher led the Lady Clippers to a 6-12 record last season. After May’s graduation, AHS lost three players including star pitcher Hannah Blanton.

With Whelchel, McLaughlin, and Parker

on the mound to fill the duties in the circle, Whitman is checking all her options in the field and at the plate.

Jersey Thomas is the lone senior who transferred from Rock Falls. During the offseason, she signed to play softball next spring at Sauk Community College. She will be at third or catcher for the Lady Clippers.

The two returning juniors with a lot of varsity innings under their belt are Addison Shaw, who started in centerfield last year and will be back in the position, and Maddison O’Mailey.

Sophomore Tyrah Vaessen was a catcher last year. This season she will be behind the plate but may see time at shortstop as well. Sophomore Haleight Stenzel was at short stop and may play short, catcher, or first base during this campaign.

“With this young group, a lot of them can play different positions. They may see the infield and the outfield. We’re still working on the pieces to the puzzle and figuring it all out,” Whitman said. “The nice thing is, we have people pushing each other for positions. Nothing is locked in yet, except for pitchers because we’re limited.

“Other than center field where Addison Shaw will be, the other positions are open and need to be claimed.”

Mixing youth and experience

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**

Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY – The Amboy-LaMoille-AFC boys track and field team is going to have to do some mixing and matching this season.

The Clippers have experience in seniors Kyler McNinch and Kelton Schwamberger, who have been on the track team for four years, as well as Zane Murphy, a senior at Ashton-Franklin Center.

Then there are gaps in the event card that will be filled by freshman and sophomores.

Coach Jeramey Wittenauer knows it won’t be easy to find the best lineup but having the talent and potential up and down his list of names to maneuver on the card, makes his job a tad bit easier.

“I think for my seniors, I kind of know what I have with them,” said Wittenauer, who has led the Amboy track and field program since 2007. “With some of the younger ones, we will see how they mature in one year of competitive track and field events. There are a lot of changes from freshman to sophomore year and even more from sophomore to junior year. I’m excited and interested to see what happens as we start the season.”

McNinch will be a top distance runner for the Clippers along with sophomore Atticus Horner.

Murphy will be inked in for sprint events, while Joel Billhorn, who transferred from LaMoille to Amboy this past year, will be asked to pick up points in the 400-meter dash.

Relays could see a mix of everyone.

“All around, I have some good, young talent that I’m hoping to put together for competitive relay teams,” Wittenauer said. “Zane Murphy will be a part of the relay teams. Besides him, I’ll have sophomores and freshmen trickled in here and there. I’ll also have a four-year guy in Kelton Schwamberger compete in relays also. So, I’ll have a nice group of experience and youth. We should be competitive.”

In field events, Schwamberger will be a long jumper and LaMoille junior Ian Sundberg will throw shot put and discus. In his two previous throwing seasons, Sundberg has performed better in discus but Wittenauer is looking for top finishes from him in both events throughout the season.

LaMoille’s Ed Fry will compete in the high jump and be part of relay teams.

RECYCLE! RECYCLE! RECYCLE!

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<div><div><div>V-8 Juice</div><div>46 oz</div><div></div><div><div>\$349 ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$3.99 ea.</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Manwich Sauce</div><div>15-16 oz</div><div></div><div><div>\$169 ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$1.99 ea.</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Rotel Tomatoes</div><div>10 oz</div><div></div><div><div>\$199 ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$2.49 ea.</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Ragu Pasta Sauce</div><div>23-24 oz</div><div></div><div><div>\$289 ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$3.39 ea.</div></div></div></div>
<div><div><div>Kraft Mayo</div><div>30 oz.</div><div></div><div><div>\$499 ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$6.99 ea.</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Kraft Salad Dressing</div><div>Assorted</div><div></div><div><div>\$399 ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$5.19 ea.</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Marie Callender's Entrees</div><div></div><div><div>\$349 ea</div><div>Reg. Price \$4.49-5.19 ea.</div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Kemp's Ice Cream</div><div>128 oz Assorted</div><div></div><div><div>\$699 ea</div><div>Reg. Price \$7.99 ea.</div></div></div></div>

Agriculture OUTLOOK

The Amboy News
Wednesday, March 15, 2023



AG OUTLOOK 2023

Weed scientists criticize EPA's proposed rules on herbicide atrazine

Loss of the weed control ingredient could threaten crop yields and increase herbicide resistance

By **SIERRA HENRY**
Illinois Farm Bureau
BLOOMINGTON — Weed researchers are challenging proposed federal restrictions on a common weed control ingredient, arguing that the rules could reduce yields and increase herbicide resistance.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in June unveiled new concentration limits on atrazine to stop runoff from harming aquatic plants and animals. The herbicide is used primarily on corn, grain sorghum and sugar cane fields.

"Atrazine is one of the most cost-effective herbicides for farmers, used especially in corn, literally for decades," said Aaron Hager, University of Illinois associate professor of crop sciences. "We're trying to manage these pests that basically have the same requirements and same resource needs as what the crop does. If we allow these unwanted plants to go and utilize these resources, then that begins to adversely affect the yield potential of that crop."

"We need more tools to be able to do this, not fewer."

If adopted, the new regulations would lower the current concentration equivalent level of concern (CE-LOC) to 3.4 parts per billion (PPB), far below the 15 ppb CE-LOC set by EPA in 2020 through an interim decision. Farmers would also be prohibited from using the herbicide in saturated fields and limited application rates of 2 pounds per acre for sorghum, sweet corn, and field corn.

Aerial application of the chemical would be prohibited when it is raining, or if a storm that could produce nutrient runoff from the treated field is "forecasted to occur within 48 hours after application."

Field corn, sweet corn and sorghum growers in watersheds containing atrazine levels above 3.4 ppb — which the EPA estimates applies to 18% of all U.S. watersheds — are required to choose from a "picklist" of conservation practices to alleviate runoff. The number and type of practices varies depending on crop type and could include use of cover crops, contour buffer strips, terrace farming or field borders.

Sarah Lancaster, a Kansas State University assistant professor and extension specialist, said the picklist adds another layer of complexity to stewardship practices already regulated by the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS).

"For farmers who are already using some of these practices as part of NRCS contracts, how do we ensure that those practices align well with the label," Lancaster questioned. "How do we ensure that our state departments of agriculture have the resources to enforce these (regulations), and the farmers



and applicators that are already keeping good records have no additional requirements?"

EPA began re-evaluating the herbicide after the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2021 granted the agency a partial remand, which followed a petition filed in 2020 by environmental groups over the 15 ppb CE-LOC.

"We've done a lot of work with our scientific community here in Illinois, and really outside of Illinois, in order to fully understand what is really a complicated proposal," said Lauren Lurkins, IFB environmental policy director. "In our view, the most complicated issues land in the laps of applicators and the farmers who are going to have to look at this label if it is made final. For us, we just want to draw attention to the issue and hopefully change it to something that's more manageable out in the countryside."

Weed scientists argue that atrazine is one of the most well-researched chemical ingredients and is used in thousands of herbicide mixes. Researchers have raised concerns that the data set EPA used to draft the new CE-LOC limit came from a larger study that wasn't as rigorously vetted. Some have also raised concerns that lowering the current CE-LOC level could ultimately affect crop yields, weed control, and jeopardize

dize soil conservation practices like no-till and cover crops.

"It's my understanding that the 15-ppb number was based on what was believed to be the most accurate and well conducted data that was available," Lancaster said. "I think it's important for folks to remember that science is a bit of a moving target and that not all science is created equal, and we should really be using the best data to ensure that we have the best outcomes for our farmers."

Lancaster added that more than 95% of the experimental treatments she and her peers use for corn and grain sorghum include atrazine in some form. Chemical application treatments included both before and after corn sprouted out of the ground.

"My question to the EPA has been this: Does the agency actually have data — field derived empirical data — that shows that any of these practices actually reduce atrazine runoff, not water runoff, but atrazine runoff," Hager said. "My concern is that there's no data to actually illustrate how effective any of these practices are."

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.)

Illinois Soybean Association opens FY24 process for proposal and project funding

BLOOMINGTON — The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) is now developing budgets and accepting proposals for FY24, which strategically align with the organization's key priority areas. The fiscal year runs from Sept. 1, 2023, through Aug. 31, 2024.

"Every year, ISA's 24 farmer Directors carefully evaluate and consider every submitted proposal and project for funding," said Chairman Steve Pitstick. "This process is essential in allocating Illinois soybean farmers' checkoff and membership dollars into plans of action that provide beneficial returns to Illinois soybean farmers and industry stakeholders."

Proposals will be assessed on providing a return on ISA's mission to uphold the interests of Illinois soybean producers through promotion, advocacy, research and education. They will also be evaluated on their effectiveness in addressing the needs of Illinois soybean producers and overall alignment with ISA's new strategic plan.

"Implemented in September 2022, ISA's new strategic plan identifies how the organization allocates resources to remain a trusted partner of current and future Illinois soybean farmers while positioning them to be successful, profitable and competitive within the industry for years



to come," said Pitstick.

ISA's strategic plan also helps set association priorities, boost operations, and ensures that all farmer Directors, employees and stakeholders work toward common objectives and targets. The following objectives from the ISA committee areas open for RFPs are:

Market Development

The Market Development committee promotes Illinois soy as the preferred choice for U.S. and global customers and supports advancements in infrastructure. Market Development's fundamental areas of focus are:

1. Building the reputation of U.S. and Illinois-grown soy (protein/oil) among international buyers with market growth potential.
2. Growing domestic markets for Illinois soy in the feed, food, fiber and fuel industries.
3. Promoting the Illinois competitive advantage in infrastructure to stakehold-

ers across the value chain and supporting programs and policies to maintain and improve that advantage.

4. Communicating the benefits of soy as a healthy source of pro-

tein and fat in food and feed products.

5. Identifying and prioritizing the development and promotion of high-value soy-based individual products.

6. Working with strategic partners to increase soy-based fuel usage in major markets, including diesel fleets, equipment, marine and aviation.

Soybean Production

The Soybean Production committee is cross-functional in agronomic research, education and outreach, creating opportunities for Illinois soybean farmers to increase on-farm profitability and manage crop production risks. The Soybean Production committee is committed to the following:

1. Building partnerships with public and private entities to augment ISA's agronomic research and education programs.
2. Establishing basic and applied research priorities that address regionally

specific production opportunities, challenges, and economic factors.

3. Demonstrating soybean system agronomics focused on soil and water quality, agricultural resource resiliency and land stewardship.

4. Continuing to expand the ISA agronomic network by raising awareness and establishing trust among farmers through ongoing outreach and research education.

Communications

The Communications department is responsible for implementing, supporting and monitoring ISA's public relations efforts, internal and external communications, websites, social networking accounts, educational outreach, and more. The department develops the association's publications, including its flagship property, Illinois Field & Bean magazine, and strengthens the association, brand and marketing efforts to ensure effective communications across all departments, directors and staff. Functions of the ISA Communications department include:

1. Internal & external communications efforts targeted to farmer audiences
2. Corporate reputation/branding
3. Communications to consumer audiences
4. Youth outreach and education efforts
5. Industry relations

Proposals are due by the close of business, 5 p.m. CST, May 1, 2023.

If you have any additional questions or questions, please call Jessica Scott at (309) 846-8581 or you can reach out to rpf@ilsoy.org.

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) checkoff and membership programs represent more than 43,000 soybean farmers in Illinois. The checkoff funds market development and utilization efforts, while the membership program supports the government relations interests of Illinois soybean farmers at the local, state, and national levels through the Illinois Soybean Growers (ISG).

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AG OUTLOOK 2023

U.S. dairy industry poised to grow

By DANIEL GRANT
FarmWeek

Milk demand is projected to grow by 21% globally between 2020 and 2030, according to Matt Daley, president of GEA Farm Technologies.

And he believes much of that demand could be met by U.S. dairy farmers.

“With more people, more dairy is consumed,” Daley said this month at the Agricultural Bankers Conference in Omaha, Neb. “What’s amazing is we’re doing it with fewer cows.”

“A dairy cow in the U.S. produces two to three times more milk because there’s more sunshine and greater access to grains (than other parts of the world).”

The world population reached an estimated 8 billion people as of Nov. 15, a new milestone in human development. The rising population and a growing middle class in some areas likely will drive increased demand for dairy products.

But with tighter environmental regulations in Europe, dairy output could actually decrease in that part of the world. Daley believes dairy expansion is also unlikely in New Zealand.

“Who’s slated around the world to produce more milk? It’s us in the U.S.,” he said.

Technology and automation will be critical for U.S. farmers to continue to boost milk output with fewer cows. GEA manufactures about 25% of robotic milking technology in North America, according to Daley.

“As long as we can expand processing capabilities, we’ll produce more milk, because the world needs it,” he said. “As labor continues to get tighter, more automation will come.”

GEA is quoting plans for new dairy plants in Nebraska, Kentucky and Georgia and three new whey distilleries are going up in the U.S.

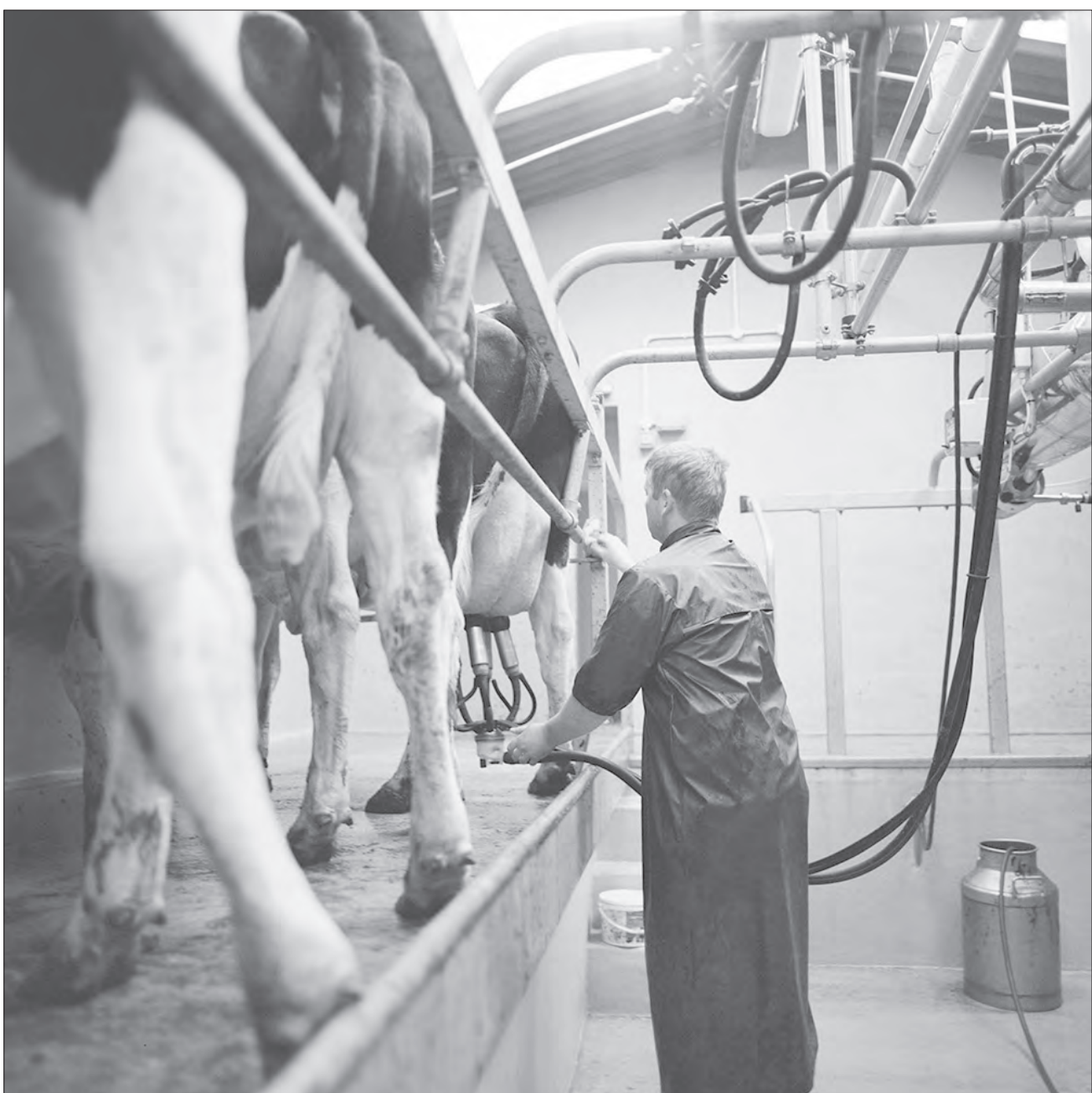
DEA is also building more concentration facilities, which separate the milk and can lower shipping costs by 70%.

A strong appetite for dairy is also driving local demand, which bodes well for small dairies looking for niche markets.

“The last four or five years, we’ve never put in so many small cheese plants,” Daley said. “The craft cheese industry is booming. A lot of dairy farmers are making their own cheese and selling it locally.”

If you’ve never heard of DEA Farm Technologies, chances are you’ve eaten food produced with its technology or at a plant it built. DEA is one of the world’s largest system suppliers for the food, beverage and pharmaceutical sectors.

“We do food on a small and massive scale,” Daley said. “Every third chicken nugget in the world is produced with GEA technology. If you eat cheese, GEA technology likely sliced it and put it in the package.”



About a quarter of processed milk in the world comes from GEA or is processed with its equipment. (This story was distributed through a cooperative project be-

tween Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.)

Study forecasts tile drainage and crop rotation changes for nitrogen loss

By LAUREN QUINN
U of I ACES

URBANA – Midwest agriculture contributes the vast majority of nitrogen in the Gulf of Mexico, causing an oxygen-starved hypoxic zone and challenging coastal economies. State and federal policies have tried for decades to provide solutions and incentives, but the hypoxic zone keeps coming back. A recent study from the University of Illinois offers a new way to understand Midwestern nitrogen dynamics and forecasts future nitrogen loads under various management scenarios across the region.

“Our model explains what’s going on across 83 watersheds in the Midwest, providing a quantitative understanding of why certain watersheds differ in terms of nutrient loss. But the most important contribution is our scenario prediction, which hasn’t been done before. If you increase tile drainage or the corn fraction, how much does the nitrogen load change? We can predict that, and I think that is really exciting,” says Kaiyu Guan, associate professor in Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES), founding director of the Agroecosystem Sustainability Center (ASC),

and senior author on the study.

Guan says a more detailed understanding of nitrogen and water flow dynamics, as well as the ability to forecast the impact of management changes, is a critical step in developing effective policies for nutrient loss reduction from field to watershed scales.

The research team analyzed the relationship between daily flow rate and nitrate concentration across 83 Midwestern watersheds, finding a universal pattern throughout the region: nitrate increases with flow before leveling off at a high flow threshold.

“To further unpack this pattern, we built a simple yet elegant model that reveals the mechanism. We looked at the contributions of shallow soil water, which has a greater flow rate and more nitrate, and deep soil water, with a slower flow and lower nitrate,” says Zewei Ma, doctoral student in Guan’s group and first author of the study. “The contributions from these areas of the soil profile change depending on the tile drainage and how much corn is planted.”

Guan says the more tile drainage is installed and the more corn is planted in a given watershed, the greater the nitrate load in the water. That conclusion isn’t new, but the ability to

forecast the impacts of increased tile installation or changing levels of corn is. The team created an interactive map [screenshots and instructions here] to show how and where a 10 to 30% increase in tile or a 20% increase or decrease in corn will change nitrate loading.

“This model gives us a starting point for a meaningful discussion about ways to reduce nutrient loss: How we should invest our effort, and, just as importantly, where we should focus on reducing tile or changing the rotation pattern. These are key questions as we actively work towards nutrient loss reduction with farmers and policymakers,” says Bin Peng, research assistant professor in NRES, senior research scientist at ASC, and study co-author.

Study co-author Richard E. Warner adds, “This work offers a significant advance in our understanding of the variability in nutrient loss across watersheds and sets the stage for developing decision support tools that will help inform more cost effective land and water conservation practices and policies.” Warner is an emeritus professor in NRES and senior scientist at the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center.

The study, “Agricultural nitrate export

patterns shaped by crop rotation and tile drainage,” is published in Water Research [DOI: 10.1016/j.watres.2022.119468]. In addition to Ma, Guan, and Peng, other authors include Murugesu Sivapalan, Li Li, Ming Pan, Wang Zhou, Richard Warner, and Jingwen Zhang. Funding was provided by the National Science Foundation’s CAREER Program, the Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council, the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, the Walton Family Foundation, and the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences is in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The Agroecosystem Sustainability Center (ASC) aims to be a world-leading innovation powerhouse in advanced monitoring and modeling of agroecosystems to improve sustainability under climate change. ASC is jointly funded by the Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment (iSEE), the College of ACES, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation (OVCR) at U of I.

A mild February wraps up a weak winter, brings wetter weather

CHAMPAIGN – February in Illinois was particularly mild, ending a winter season that was 2 to 6 degrees above normal, according to Illinois State Climatologist Trent Ford at the University of Illinois’ Illinois State Water Survey. February also brought wetter weather to the state.

February is typically the second coldest month statewide after January. This year, however, the February average temperatures ranged from the high 20s in northern Illinois to the mid-40s in southern Illinois, between 2 and 8 degrees above normal.

Several weather stations saw daily high temperatures in the 70s last month, including 74 degrees in Williamson County and 70 in Coles County. Meanwhile, a brief period of extreme cold at the start of the month pushed stations in northern Illinois well below zero, including nighttime lows of -14 degrees in Kane County and -13 degrees in Jo Daviess County.

The preliminary statewide average February temperature was 35.1 degrees, 4.0 degrees above the 1991–2020 average.

The 2022–2023 winter average temperatures ranged from the high 20s in northern Illinois to the low 40s in southern Illinois, between 2 and 6 degrees above normal. The preliminary statewide average winter temperature was 33.1 degrees, 4.9 degrees above the 1991–2020 normal and tied with the 2019–2020 season for the ninth warmest on record.

In Illinois, the average winter temperature has increased by about 0.20 degrees per decade since 1895, and the average winter temperature over the last 30 seasons is about 2 degrees warmer than the 20th century average.

Precipitation

February is also one of the driest months of the year. How-

ever, this year’s statewide average total February precipitation was 3.03 inches, 0.92 inches above the 1991–2020 average. Total February precipitation ranged from around 2 inches in south-central Illinois to over 4 inches in southern Illinois.

Last month was the second wettest February on record in Rockford, third wettest on record in Freeport, fourth wettest in Quincy, the seventh wettest in Bloomington, and the eighth wettest on record in Chicago and Moline.

Only the areas north of Interstate 72 saw any measurable snowfall last month, with totals ranging from less than half an inch from Adams County to Iroquois County up to 12 inches in far northwest Illinois. All but the northwest tip of the state saw below normal snowfall, 2 to 8 inches less than expected.

The wet winter eradicated all drought across the state. Drought recovery in southern Illinois was particularly remarkable given that each of the southern seven counties were in severe or extreme drought on Dec. 1.

Outlooks

The Climate Prediction Center temperature outlooks lean toward colder than normal across most of the state, suggesting that our unseasonably mild weather may be on hiatus for March. Precipitation outlooks for March are leaning to likely wetter than normal, possibly continuing the wet streak from January and February.

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AG OUTLOOK 2023

IDOEA encourages farmers to review safety practices around grain bins

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOEA), along with the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) are encouraging Illinois farmers grain bin safety and review safety practices while working in and around grain bins.

According to researchers at Purdue University, more than 900 cases of grain engulfment have been reported with a fatality rate of 62% in the past 50 years ending in 2010. In 2010, at least 26 U.S. workers were killed in grain engulfment accidents – the highest number on record. It only takes four seconds for a full-grown adult to sink to their knees in flowing grain and 20 seconds to be completely buried in flowing grain. Suffocation from engulfment is the leading cause of death in grain bins.

“Often times we become complacent when doing tasks we have done a thousand times and for farmers that often means working in and around grain bins,” said IDOEA Director, Jerry Costello II. “Unfortunately, problems involving flowing grain can snowball quickly. That’s why it’s important to set aside time to go over safety measures, to prepare farmers for a potential grain bin emergency.”

“Departments across the state continually train for these types of responses and continue to apply for grants to receive special tools and devices to help with these rescues, said acting Illinois State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson. “In rural areas of Illinois, response times are increased due to the remote nature of these grain bins, which makes it extremely important that farmers follow proper safety measures and don’t take any unnecessary risks.”

University of Illinois Extension suggests whenever possible, don’t enter a grain bin. If you must enter the bin, as a farm owner/operator you should:

- Break up crusted grain from the outside of the bin with a long pole. When using a pole, check to see that it doesn’t come into contact with electric lines.
- Wear a harness attached to a properly secured rope.
- Stay near the outer wall of the bin and keep walking if the grain should start to flow. Get to the bin ladder or safety rope as quickly as possible.
- Have another person, preferably two people, outside the bin who can help if you become entrapped. These people should be trained in rescue procedures and should know



and follow safety procedures for entering the confined space.

- Grain fines and dust may cause difficulty in breathing. Anyone working in a grain bin, especially for the purpose of cleaning the bin, should wear an appropriate dust filter or filter respirator.

- Stay out of grain bins, wagons and grain trucks when unloading equipment is running.

- If it is necessary to enter the bin, remember to shut off the power to augers and fans. It is a good idea to lock out any unloading equipment before you enter a bin to prevent someone from unintentionally starting the equipment while you are in the bin.

- Children should not be allowed to play in or around grain bins, wagons or truck beds.

- Where possible, ladders should be installed inside grain bins to be used for an emergency exit. Ladders are easier to locate inside a dusty bin if there are brightly painted stripes just above or behind the ladder.

Farm workers are required to attend training as a reminder to utilize the best practices while working in and around grain bins. In addition to required training there are several online training resources available:

- The Grain and Feed Association of Illinois at: www.gfai.org
- The Grain Handling and Safety Council at: www.grain-safety.org
- University of Illinois Extension at: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/agsafety/equipment/grainbinsafety.cfm>

Ag economist pushes for more free trade, not less

By ZETA CROSS

The Center Square contributor

SPRINGFIELD—Breaking down non-tariff trade barriers is a major concern for American farmers.

Last year was a banner year for U.S. agricultural exports. International sales of U.S. farm products rose by 11% in 2022, exceeding \$196 billion. The outlook for 2023 looks like that growth will continue.

Illinois farmers depend on robust sales overseas to

remain profitable.

“Exports are absolutely crucial to the agricultural sector, particularly in the Midwest,” University of Illinois agriculture economist Gary Schnitkey told The Center Square.

Soybean farmers, for example, export 50% of their crop.

“Those exports increased in 2022, in part because there was a drought and shortages, to a certain extent, in Brazil and Argentina,” two of the U.S.’s top export competitors,

Schnitkey said.

U.S. farmers have come off three very profitable years, where good weather, high yields and high demand have meant high prices. For that to continue, the export market needs to remain vibrant.

“For income and prices to remain at the levels they are now, we need exports to continue to grow,” Schnitkey said.

Illinois is the number one state in the U.S. for soybean production. Brazil is a top U.S. competitor in soybean

exports. China is the number one buyer of exported soybeans for both the U.S. and Brazil.

USDA undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs Alexis Taylor was in Iowa recently to talk about the Biden administration’s efforts to increase international trade. She told Brownfield Ag News that the USDA is working to expand market opportunities.

“Strong export markets are really critical to farmers’ and ranchers’ livelihoods,”

she told Brownfield.

“An overreliance on any single market could lead to trade disruptions,” she said.

One of the failings of U.S. trade policy in the past few years, Schnitkey said, is the failure to remove non-tariff trade barriers with other countries, in particular with the Pacific Rim countries.

“The idea of freer trade in agriculture has not been growing. We seem to be taking steps back. And that is not a good thing for the wellbeing of U.S. farmers,”

Schnitkey said.

Schnitkey would like to see the removal of non-tariff trade barriers get higher priority from the government.

“There is not a big push to make that happen,” Schnitkey said. “It is not a priority these days.”

Nigeria and the Pacific Rim countries are markets with potential for more U.S. trade, Schnitkey said.

“Free trade and freer trade is a message that most commodity groups feel is important,” he said.

Senators renew push for year-round E15 fuel use

By KIM JARRETT

The Center Square

SPRINGFIELD – A bipartisan group of Senators is asking the Biden administration again to allow the sale of E15 fuel throughout the year.

The Environmental Protection Agency bans the sale of gasoline mixed with 15% ethanol during the summer months. Sen. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., and 16 other senators said in a letter to the administration the prohibition should be removed as soon as possible.

“Taking early action on E15 will send timely and necessary signals across the energy supply chain so that fuel producers and retailers will have the certainty they need to ensure affordable, reliable, and cleaner fuel options for American consumers throughout the year,” the senators said. “Further, U.S. use of E15 will continue to displace Russian oil and finished gasoline products, ease domestic and global supply constraints, and lower net domestic fuel prices.”

Cramer joined Sens. Deb Fischer, R-Neb., and Amy Klobuchar D-Minn., in sponsoring the Consumer and Fuel

Retailer Choice Act last year. The bill did not make it out of Congress.

The E15 fuel blend is sold at more than 2,900 retailers at prices that are up to 96 cents less per gallon than regular gasoline, according to the letter. Approval to sell the blend year-round could save consumers more than \$20 billion a year and reduce carbon emissions by 17.62 million tons, the senators said.

The Biden administration allowed gasoline retailers to sell the E15 blend last summer in response to rising gas prices blamed on the war in Ukraine. That action saved consumers \$57 million, the senators said.

Taxpayers for Common Sense questioned expanding the use of ethanol. Since 2011, the Department of Agriculture has offered three subsidy programs for blender pumps, that dispense ethanol blended gas. Congress did not approve the subsidies, according to the organization.

“More than four decades of government-set mandates and subsidies for the corn ethanol industry have distorted markets, picked winners and losers, and worked at cross purposes with other federal

programs aimed at protecting consumers, the climate, and environment,” the organization said in its report issued last year. “Expanding the use of E15 in the short-term would likely have limited effects. Expanding E15 use long-term through legislative action – or worse yet, subsidizing it – would only worsen the negative impacts of ethanol use, without benefiting the climate. Instead of continuing to expand corn ethanol’s market share, policymakers should invest in real climate solutions such as agricultural conservation practices that sequester carbon long-term.”

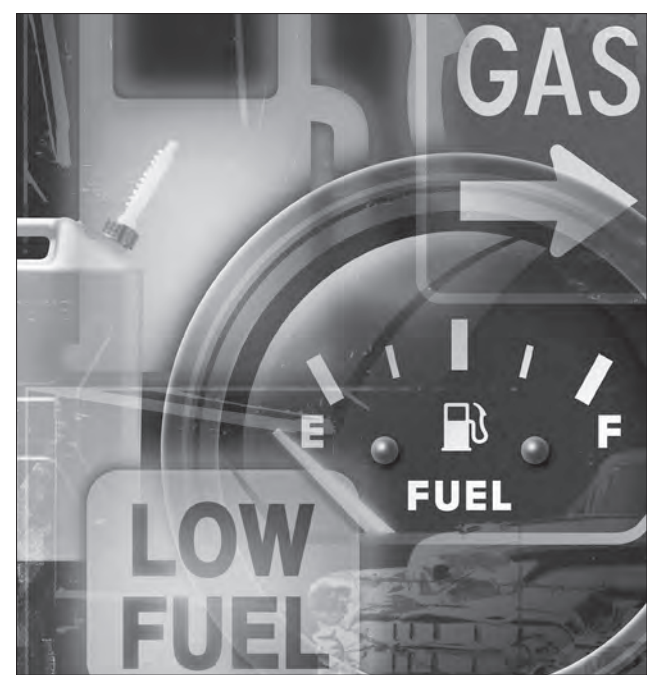
The EPA introduced a proposed rule on March 1 allow-

ing E15 to be sold in eight states year-round. The waiver for Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin will not take effect until April 2024, according to the EPA.

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, said in a social media post the EPA needs to expedite the waiver.

“Biden’s decision is over 200 days past EPA’s lawful deadline, and not in time for the 2023 driving season,” Ernst said in a Twitter post. “POTUS must grant an emergency waiver for this year.”

The EPA is planning a virtual public hearing for late March or early April, the agency said in its proposal.



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AG OUTLOOK 2023

Renewable diesel: Soy positioned as a low-carbon fuel solution

As governments and companies set aggressive carbon emission reduction goals, those organizations are looking to renewable diesel made from lower carbon, renewable resources like soybeans as a direct substitute for petroleum diesel.

Renewable Diesel vs. Biodiesel

Renewable diesel differs from biodiesel in that it can also be produced from a variety of non-fat feedstocks (like energy grasses, wood, ethanol, and even garbage) – in addition to traditional feedstocks like soybean oil. Additionally, renewable diesel can have better handling characteristics, including a longer shelf life and lower freeze point. Although there are key differences, renewable diesel, like biodiesel can still deliver a 40-86% reduction in emissions compared to petroleum diesel according to Argonne National Lab.

Renewable diesel is created through hydrotreating, a process like a traditional refinery operation. The high-heat, high-pressure process produces a fuel with chemical properties like conventional diesel, according to Clean Fuels Alliance America, formerly National Biodiesel Board.

“Renewable diesel is a top choice in markets with aggressive climate targets,” Matt Herman, Senior Director of Renewable Products Marketing for the Iowa Soybean Association, told participants at a Soybean Research Forum and Think Tank earlier this year.

Renewable Diesel Production in the United States

In 2021, U.S. renewable diesel production equaled about 815 million gallons. Consumption equaled about 1.16 billion gallons, which included about 392 million gallons of imports, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

California uses most of U.S. renewable diesel products and imports, accounting for over 80% of national demand. In 2021 the state consumed a combine 1.229 billion gallons of biodiesel and renewable diesel, replacing a full 1/3 of their petroleum diesel with renewables. The state has set a target of carbon neutrality by 2045. Utilizing biodiesel and renewable has helped California sprint toward its carbon reduction targets, while novel technologies like electric vehicles continue to gain steam.

Think Tank

Participants at the Think Tank, ranging from researchers to farmers and sustainability experts to food company executives, were asked to bifurcate the challenges and opportunities associated with renewable diesel.

They identified six challenges the soybean industry can work through to find greater success in the renewable diesel space:

- Meeting demand: Can the soybean industry produce enough soybeans to meet all demand from food, feed and fuel customers?
- Genetic edits for end uses: Will there be a yield drag for farmers if soybeans are modified in a way that creates beneficial properties for end users? (i.e. higher oil content, different fatty acid profile).
- Infrastructure: What investments are needed to support



the increase in renewable diesel capacity in the U.S.?

- Carbon intensity scores: What can be done in the lab and in the field to reduce the carbon intensity of soybeans and their crop rotations?
- Process byproducts: What can we do with the increased amount of soybean meal produced domestically?
- Market stability: What's the market look like for renewable diesel? What does it mean for soybean farmers? The soybean meal market?

Opportunities

Renewable diesel presents several opportunities for participants all along the value chain to extract greater value from soybeans, contributors to the Think Tank said.

These include:

- Soy profile: This can be an opportunity for soybean breeders to alter the bean for fuel market optimization.
- Marketing alongside electric vehicles: Renewable diesel has a place alongside electric vehicles to reduce carbon emissions.
- Sustainability/carbon intensity: Soy is a sustainable, renewable feedstock. Increasing the sustainability of biofuel will make soybean meal more sustainable, too.
- Increase demand: There are several untapped markets (marine, rail, bioheat). This demand can be influenced by policy, corporate sustainability goals, and partnerships with environmental groups.
- Processing: As the renewable diesel process becomes

more widely available, costs of processing will decrease and new products like sustainable aviation fuel may become more commonplace.

- Value add/identity preservation: Can soybeans with a higher oil content be incentivized? Is there an opportunity for regional incentives? Can we avoid identity preservation?

Unconventional Partnerships

Guiding the Iowa Soybean Association's efforts in exploring opportunities in renewable products, Herman is bringing together various stakeholders.

“We’re now starting to see these legacy petroleum companies lean into renewable diesel because this is a product they can make in their existing refineries,” Herman says.

One such conversation happened earlier this year with Valero, the world's largest independent refinery. The company is also the second largest renewable diesel producer in the world and a large producer of corn ethanol.

The conversations and plant visit with what was typically considered an adversary has morphed into finding common goals in how to increase production of renewable diesel, and, therefore, drive demand for soybean oil.

“Valero [and other petroleum companies] are under pressure to reduce their carbon footprint as much as possible for every gallon of fuel they produce,” Herman says. “There is a really strong interest in both parties in reducing the carbon footprint of agriculture feedstocks used to make these fuels.”

FFRI expanding free mental health resources for farmers

By TAMMIE SLOUP

FarmWeek

Karen Stallman keeps a file with ideas to help farmers struggling with mental health stress.

As program coordinator for the Farm Family Resource Initiative (FFRI), Stallman knows more can always be done. FFRI, which is managed by SIU School of Medicine's Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development, has been gaining momentum since it was established with grant funding in 2019.

Its free helpline connects farmers throughout the state with mental health specialists in times of need. Averaging a handful of calls per month, the issues range from financial stresses to conflict and relationship troubles on the farm.

“We’re getting positive feedback, but we do want to keep it in front of people and let them know that it is available at no charge, and you can remain anonymous,” Stallman said. “If you just need somebody to talk to, they are there.”

Follow-up telehealth counseling sessions with SIU Medicine counselors are also offered. Up to six individual, couple or group sessions are available at no cost to the farmer or farm family member.

And late last fall, FFRI began offering a free monthly virtual suicide bereavement group overseen by Bonnie Landwehr, a licensed clinical social worker and behavioral health program supervisor with SIU Medicine's Department of Family and Community Medicine.

“Suicide among the rural population is higher than the general population,” said Stallman, who farms in southern Illinois with her husband. The idea for the group was planted after an Illinois farmer died by suicide and Stallman connected an SIU School of Medicine counselor with the late farmer's county Farm



Bureau. She also learned about a similar bereavement group in Minnesota that's had success connecting with grieving farmers and their

families.

“I just thought that's something we could do here,” Stallman said. “And we had those discussions and Bonnie was willing to head that, and she's got a strong background in suicide prevention. It's something that we thought we'd try to see if it would benefit farm families.”

The group began meeting in November and has had a couple participants; Stallman said they're continuing to spread the word about the free offering. For questions or to register, call 217-757-8115 or email blandwehr54@siumed.edu.

Looking to the year ahead, Stallman is excited to expand FFRI's resources by organizing community forums for aging farmers and having a rural mental health summit in March.

“We've got lots of things planned. I'd like to see us connect more with rural faith leaders; that's going to be a target audience that we're going to focus on,” Stallman said, adding they're always exploring ways to connect with farmers, including podcasts and webinars. An upcoming self-care series called “Harvest to a Healthier You: Wellness Strategies for Farm Families,” will also launch early this year on FFRI's website.

“We identified the tough topics that we need to address: coping with loss, grieving, depression, alcohol abuse, farm legacy and divorce and its emotional toll on the farm family,” Stallman said, referring to issues the series will focus on.

“I know it's very difficult

to admit if you're struggling or you need help, because there's such a stigma with that. But we encourage people to use our resources,” Stallman said, adding the website is frequently updated. “And we would just encourage people to think about mental health as being physical health.”

“Farmers are so good at taking care of their land and

their equipment and their livestock, but oftentimes farmers don't take care of themselves, and the farmer is really the most important asset on the farm.”

(This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.)

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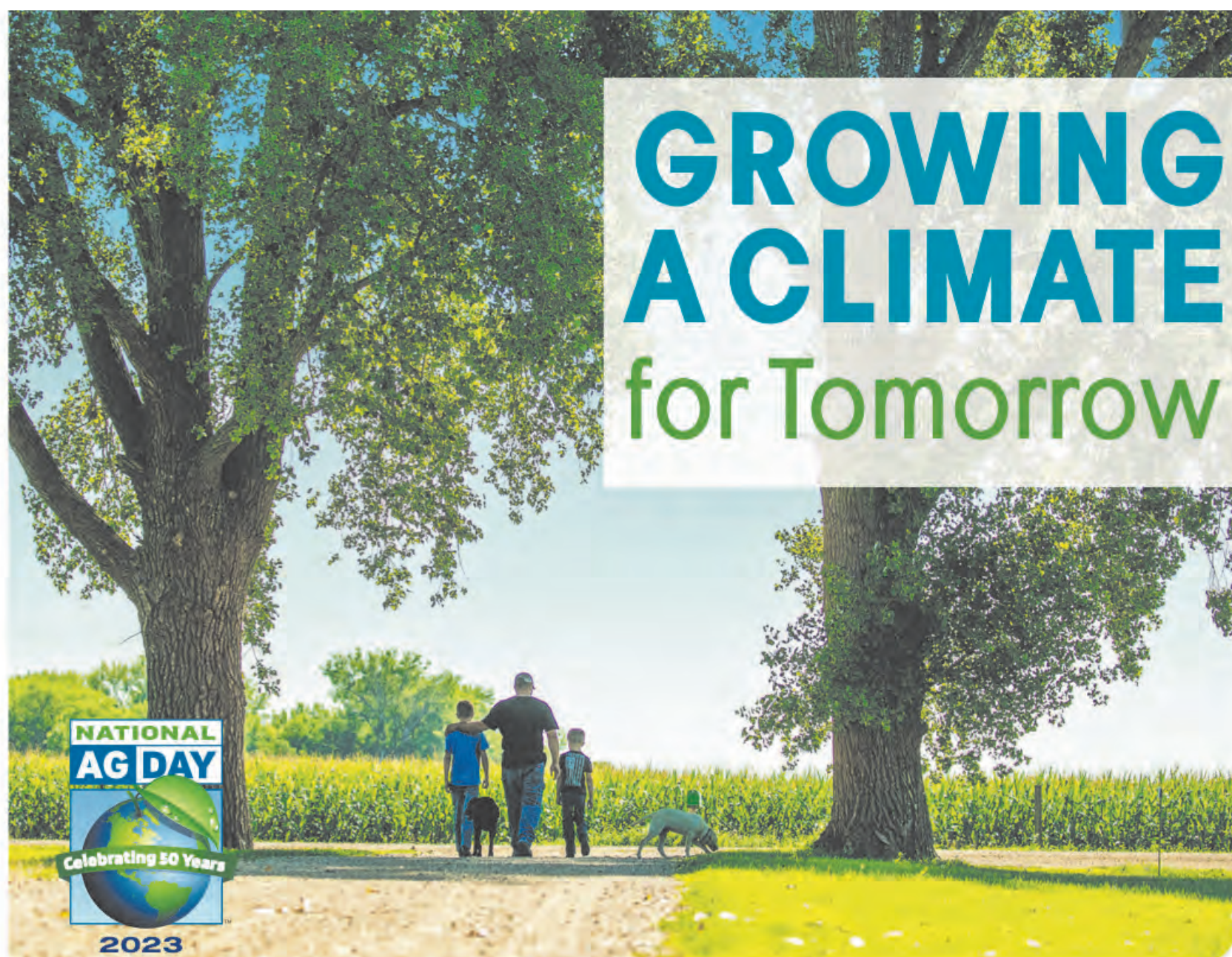


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