



Three arrested after shooting in Nelson, one still wanted by police

NELSON — On Oct. 16, at approximately 11:49 p.m., deputies from the Lee County Sheriff’s Office responded to a residence in the 100 block of East Bassett Street in Nelson for a report of an individual that had been shot in the throat. While responding to the area, information was received that the scene of the shooting took place at a residence in the 400 block of South Butler Street.

The victim of the shooting was identified as 41-year-old, Jake Verkruysse of Erie. He was transported to KSB Hospital with a life-threatening gunshot wound. He was subsequently airlifted to a Rockford area hospital for stabilization and further treatment. After a thorough and intensive investigation, arrest warrants were obtained on Dec. 15 against the following subjects.

Jake R. Verkruysse, 41, of Erie, was arrested on Dec. 15, for an arrest warrant charging the offenses of Home Invasion (a Class



Jake R. Verkruysse

X Felony), Mob Action (a Class 4 Felony), and Criminal Damage to Property Under \$500 (a Class A Misdemeanor). Bond on the warrant had been set at \$150,000. Verkruysse was later released on the evening of Dec. 16, on a recognizance bond due to ongoing medical conditions. As a condition of his release, Verkruysse was fitted with a GPS monitoring device and was to be confined to his residence in Erie. He was only authorized to leave for court appearances or previously approved medical appointments.

James L. Ballard, 45, of Dixon, was located and arrested on Dec. 16, by Lee County Sheriff’s Deputies on an arrest warrant charging the offenses of Mob Action (a Class 4 Felony), and Criminal Damage to Property Under \$500 (a Class A Misdemeanor). Bond on the warrant had been set at \$20,000. Ballard is currently on mandatory supervised release from the Illinois Department of Corrections for Delivery of Methamphetamine and Possession of a Firearm by a Felon which stemmed from Whiteside County Case Number 2018 CF 189. Ballard posted bond and was released on the evening of Dec. 16.

Lisa R. Johnson, 41, of Dixon, turned herself in on Dec. 16, at the Lee County Sheriff’s Office on an arrest warrant charging the offenses of Mob Action (a Class 4 Felony), and Criminal Damage to Property Under \$500 (a Class A Misdemeanor).

See **NELSON** page A3

Village of Sublette increases water rate, effective 2023

BY TONJA GREENFIELD
Publisher

SUBLETTE — The residents of the Village of Sublette will see their water rates increase beginning in 2023.

The Village of Sublette board met during its regular monthly meeting on Monday, Dec. 12, in the Ellice Dinges Center. All members of the board were present.

In a previous meeting, the board had discussed raising the water rate from \$4.80 per 1,000 gallons to \$5.40 per 1,000 gallons. A motion was made for this increase. A question was raised on whether this

increase was enough. Sublette Village President John Stenzel said if the board wanted to, they could do another increase next year, or even sometime again in 2023. All board members approved this increase, except for Sublette Village Trustee Larry Ellis, who voted no because he thought the rate should be higher. This change will be effective as of Jan. 1, 2023.

In other board news:

- The board approved to keep the tax levy at the same amount as last year, \$15,363. It was mentioned that the levy amount has been the same for about the last 10 years.

- The Sublette Antique Tractor and Farm Toy Show event has been set for March 18 and 19, 2023.
- Ellis asked the board to purchase a new stove for the Ellice Dinges Center. He said he found a stove for the amount of \$599. Ellis made a motion to purchase the stove, but the motion failed due to a lack of a second to the motion. Other board members expressed that they would like to see this matter go to committee, and to get other prices to compare.

See **SUBLETTE** page A3

A Look Back At Amboy’s Heroes Who Served During World War II

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

P.F.C. Berger O. Winterton

“The Christmas season highlighted the closeness of the foes. Americans and Germans alike put up Christmas trees and used the debris of war — chaff, the tinfoil dropped by bombers to fool radar — to decorate them. Men who would never do such a thing at any other time prepared gifts for other



men. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day the men on both sides of the line had an image of a manger in Bethlehem in their minds. They sang the same carols. The universal favorite was ‘Silent Night’. But they were there to kill each other. There was no stand down for Christmas.” (From Citizen Soldiers by Stephen E. Ambrose)

The war in Europe was a cousins war. A high per-



centage of American GIs had grandparents or even parents who were born in Germany, now the land of the enemy. Even more GIs were descendants of recent immigrants from other European countries, drawn to America by the promise of freedom and prosperity for future generations. By the end of this war, the rise of European authoritarianism would clash with the human desire for freedom leaving more than 421,000 Americans to die in battle.

Berger Winterton was born near Lee, on May 21, 1907 to Wick and Inger Winterton, both Norwegian immigrants. The Wintertons owned a 240 acre farm in Willow Creek Township which their nine children helped to operate. Inger, Berger’s mother, was Wick’s second wife. After his father’s death in 1936 at age 88, Berger moved into partnership with his brother Einard on their own farm in Willow Creek. On June 18, 1941, Berger was drafted into the U.S. Army,

later assigned to the 36th Armored Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Division. During World War II, armored infantry soldiers served in combination with tanks and artillery units, often equipped with half-track vehicles. These troops expanded the effectiveness of tanks by fighting house to house, in open fields or wooded areas to locate and attack enemy positions while providing coordinates for tank or artillery fire.

See **HERO** page A3

Amboy school board approves vital tax levy funding

BY GEORGE HOWE

Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY — The Amboy School Board met in regular session for the final time this 2022 calendar year on Thursday, Dec. 15.

Under Action Items there was several motions all relating to the adoption and approval of the tax levy. Local funds represent 81 percent of the district’s annual revenue with most of those dollars coming from the property tax levy. The Amboy CUSD board members passed the motion and directed the Board Secretary to file the Certificate of Tax Levy. The board also ratified an abatement of taxes and two transfers of funds.

Superintendent Joshua Nichols and reported that the work on the new high school

boiler is proceeding “very well” and they are hopeful that General Mechanical will have everything operational before next semester. The board approved contracts for demolition of the old junior high for removal of asbestos abatement, electrical, plumbing, and a general construction contractor. The asbestos abatement should start in January and February with the demolition to start afterwards.

The school district is extending the lease for two StarCraft activity buses and two 41-passenger IC buses. The board also leased two 71-passenger IC buses and one 30-passenger bus that has child seats built in that is primarily used for the pre-school children.

See **SCHOOL** page A3

Lee County reporting high level of COVID-19 cases

CHICAGO — With the holiday season underway and COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses continuing to rise across the state, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is urging Illinoisans to take action to protect themselves and their loved ones during the festive season. IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra is reminding the public that basic health precautions are especially important when it comes to protecting members of the family who are most vulnerable to severe outcome, including older family members and the very young. He strongly urges parents to take advantage of the newly authorized bivalent boosters for children six months and older.

According to the CDC, 86 counties in Illinois rated at an elevated level for COVID-19 by the CDC, up from 74 a week ago. Included in those at a high level is Lee County. Of those, the CDC reported 43 Illinois counties at a High Community Level for COVID-19, up from 29 a week ago; while 43 counties are at Medium Level, compared to 45 last week. IDPH is reporting 23,334 new confirmed and

probable cases of COVID-19 in Illinois since December 9, and 82 deaths.

“Illinois continues to see a dramatic rise in communities at elevated risk levels for COVID-19, including 43 counties that are now at a high risk,” said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. “As we prepare for holiday gatherings with our loved ones, I want to remind Illinoisians that these elevated COVID-19 community levels, along with rising flu levels, are leading to a surge of respiratory infections, increased hospitalizations and limited hospital beds. I strongly recommend all Illinoisians take preventative steps to protect themselves and their family and friends, especially those most vulnerable including young children and individuals over 65.

“These preventative measures start with being up-to-date with the COVID-19 bivalent booster that is now authorized for children as young as six months old. Getting your flu shot is very important too.

See **COVID** page A4

Lee County Sheriff’s office announces holiday campaign

LEE COUNTY — With the holidays in full swing, the Lee County Sheriff’s Office is partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation to remind motorists about the dangers of impaired driving. From Dec. 16 through Jan. 2, law enforcement across Illinois will step up enforcement efforts with a high visibility “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” and “Drive High. Get a DUI.” traffic safety campaign.

“We want everyone in our communities to enjoy the holidays without worrying about the dangers of impaired drivers,” said Chief Deputy Derek Ranken.

See **SHERIFF** page A3



LETTERS TO SANTA

Additional Letters to Santa will appear on Page B2.

Special Section



FARMER’S REPORT

Special Section

Obituaries

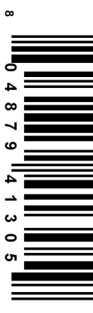
Jean Ritola

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Inserts

Snyders



LOCAL NEWS

Collision? Hail? Critters?

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12/19/2022

A.C.O. to host blood drive in January

AMBOY — During this last week before Christmas, please consider giving one more gift... the gift of life. Would you consider donating blood? What a wonderful gift to give.

Blood is urgently needed in our area. Therefore an appeal is going out to everyone 17 years of age and over in good health to give blood.

Won't you roll up your sleeve and answer the plea?

Amboy A.C.O. members, in coordination with Amboy High School, are hosting a Red Cross Blood drive on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, at the Amboy Community Building from noon to 6 p.m. Please call Judy Brinkmeier at 815-238-8927 or sign up directly at redcrossblood.org for an appointment.

SVCC Winter Break

Dec. 24-Jan. 3, 2023

DIXON — Sauk Valley Community College will close for winter break at the end of business day Friday, Dec. 23. Offices will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023.

Christmas Services



O Night Divine

May the warm light of our Savior's love illuminate your path at the holiday and all year.

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.



United First Church

East Main and Jefferson Streets, Amboy, IL 61310

Find us on Facebook • Pastor Mark Glenn 815-440-0745

12/21/2022



Christmas Eve Mass

4:00 pm St. Patrick Church, Maytown

10:30 pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sublette

Christmas Day Mass

8:00 am St. Mary of the Assumption, West Brooklyn

10:00 am Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sublette

Love surprises us! **Love** shocks us! **Love** humbles us! This God that we call "**Love**," Itself, knocks us off our feet. The **pure** gift and **ultimate blessing** that the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is to us, cannot be earned – we do not deserve this **precious** gift of a Savior. We can only **celebrate** It. We can only share It with each other. May God surprise, shock, and humble you and your family; and when you come to Mass, allow yourself to be knocked off your feet as you **passionately** pray with your **Church Community**: "Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." May the Body and Blood of Christ keep you and your family safe for **eternal life**. **Merry Christmas!**

LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Aerobics

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

Afterschool program

You must call 815-857-4800 to be put on. If you are not registered, please do not send your child without speaking with us.

Christmas Walk Thank You's

We had a jolly time last night during the Amboy Hometown Christmas Walk. So many smiling faces. We would like to thank the following people who made it happen: Michele Cheshier, Christine Cheshier, Candy Robinson, Gabby, Daniel, and Alexz Dowd, Mark Grossman, Evelyn, Addison and Shelli Bump, Larry Piper, Elijah Zimmerly, Sid, Maddy, Hayden, and Will Thomas, Kathy Gardner and Stephanie Gardner, Cindy Shaw for making bows, and Alice Dukes for making bows. Thank you to Jim and Jean Travi for bring dinner to us from Back Alley BBQ. It was a yummy treat. Hope we didn't miss anyone.

Thank You's

We are always grateful for those that assist Teen Turf in it's endeavor of helping people:

Sue and Steve Floschuetz in honor of their Mom, Shirlene Lowe; Gary and Lori Wilhem for the case of paper plates; Tim and Maureen Oester for the monetary donation; Mark and Veronica Grossman for the monetary donation for the wreath; St. Patrick's Women's Organization for the treats; Don and Kathy Bonnell for the candy bags; Chris Herckert for the cards; Irene and Eileen Ramsdell for the meat, cheese, bread, napkins, and Christmas cupcakes; Nancy Hochstatter for the monetary donation; Ryan Hall for the food; George and Barb Spataro for the tablecloths and items; Joe and Diane Stewart for the monetary donation in memory for Fran Kessel; Pastor Barb Otten; Brad and Pam Kessel for the monetary donation; Les and Betty Shaw for the monetary donation; Anonymous donation from a family for a family in need of Christmas joy; John and Meghan Schamberger for the monetary donation; Linda Gascoigne for the monetary donation; Leonard and Janet Methany for the monetary donation in memory of Fran Kessel; Joy Tsujimoto for the monetary donation in memory of Fran Kessel; Margaret and Jerry Shaw for the plates and Kleenex and Shannon and Josh Nichols for the clothes.

Needs

Plastic shelving for our new garage to store items and clearance/gently used Christmas gift bags for next year.

Final Word

God of Love, Your word declares that anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. We pray for those who are in the darkness right now, for those who choose to hate over love and choose intimidation over respect. We pray for bullies right now, please touch their hearts. Lord, please let Your light shine upon them and eradicate the darkness that surrounds them, Amen.

SUBLETTE

continued from page A1

- The board agreed to implement the fee for each video gaming machines in the village for 2023. When COVID hit, the board suspended the fee for the video gaming machines. The current fee is \$25 per machine. Ellis expressed that he thought the fee should be raised. The fee is set in a village ordinance and the ordinance would have to be amended. Board members expressed keeping the fee the same for 2023, but looking at raising it for 2024.

- Three seats on the village board will be up for election in 2023. The petition filing dates were Dec 12-19. The seats up for election are currently held by Scott Hanson, Jeff Myers and MacKenzie Belan.

The next Sublette Village Board meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m., in the Ellice Dinges Center.

HERO

continued from page A1

Sometimes they rode on the outside of a tank, with high exposure to snipers or machine gun attacks.

The 3rd Armored Division landed at Normandy on June 29, 1944 as part of the massive D-Day invasion known as "Operation Overlord." They took part in fierce hedgerow fighting and it was here that P.F.C. Winterton earned a Bronze Star and his first Purple Heart when he was severely wounded in the knee. After spending part of July and August in the hospital, he was returned to duty for as General Patton's army pushed across France toward the German border

fast enough to outrun its own supply lines. For a time, the U.S. Army would stall due to shortages in fuel, food rations, and ammunition.

On Dec. 16, Hitler, against the counsel of his top Generals, launched a massive counter-offensive which he believed would split the 600 mile allied line in two, allowing the German Army to decimate the allied forces and push them back to the English Channel. Later known as the Battle of the Bulge, the bloodiest of the European Theater, German forces took advantage of the supply shortage to force American GIs to retreat while fighting defensively

REMINDER: No grave blankets allowed in St. Patrick's cemetery in Amboy. They will be removed, if necessary.

DIXON-The Lee County Health Department will

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

services available.

DIXON- The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 – 6 p.m., on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 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. Download the Blood Donor App.

NELSON

continued from page A1

Bond on the warrant had been set at \$20,000. Johnson is also currently on mandatory supervised release from the Illinois Department of Corrections for Residential Burglary from Lee County Case Number 2020 CF 136. Johnson also posted bond and was released on the evening of Dec. 16.

During the early morning hours of Dec. 17, Jake Verkruysse removed the GPS monitoring system that was a condition of his release. As a result of this, a new arrest warrant has been issued on charges of Escape (a Class 3 Felony) and Failure to Comply with a Condition of the Electronic Monitoring or Home Detention Program (a Class 3 Felony). Bond on the new charges has been set in the amount of \$500,000. Investigators are actively pursuing leads to place Verkruysse back into custody.

The Sheriff's Office is requesting assistance from the public to locate Jake Verkruysse. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Lee County Sheriff's Office at 284-6631 or Ogle-Lee Crimestoppers at 1-888-CAUGHT U (1-888-228-4488). Callers do not have to leave their names and may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000 that leads to an arrest.

The charges from this incident allege that the three in-

SCHOOL

continued from page A1

"It's very difficult to get some vehicles right now, particularly the activity buses so we are acting fast," said Nichols.

The district also held the annual ROE (Regional Office of Education) fire safety walk through for all buildings and Nichols said that it went "as well as can be expected."

I asked Nichols to reflect on 2022 so far.

"It has felt like an almost return to normal whatever that means anymore," he said with a laugh. "I have been very grateful to be able to be in school and to host events like games, plays, concerts and other events. We hope that this continues into the new year."

SHERIFF

continued from page A1

"During the campaign, you can expect to see extra safety patrols. We will show zero tolerance for alcohol- and drug-impaired driving to help ensure everyone makes it to and from their holiday festivities safely."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, in 2020, a total of 11,654 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver.

On average, more than 10,000 people were killed each year from 2016 to 2020, with one person killed in an alcohol-related crash every 45 minutes in 2020.

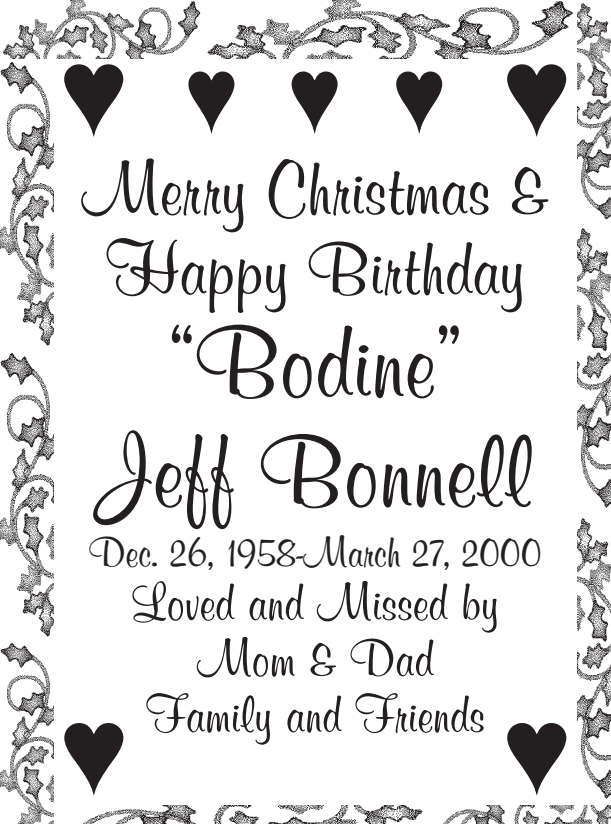
Before the holiday fun begins, make a plan for a sober ride home and remember these tips.

- Designate a sober driver or make a plan to use public transportation or a ride-sharing service to get home safely.
- If you see a impaired driver, contact you closest Law Enforcement office.
- Have a friend who is about to drive impaired? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get them home safely. They'll thank you later.
- Always buckle up!

dividuals went to the residence in the 400 block of Butler Street, Nelson, without lawful authority, for the purpose of doing violence to the person or property. It is also alleged that they inflicted injury to the person or property. As a result of the unlawful assembly at the residence, the occupant took possession of a firearm to protect themselves. Verkruysse was shot after he entered the residence in a forceful manner. The use of deadly force in this instance has been reviewed by the Lee County State's Attorney's Office and has been deemed as justified. Investigators believe that the incident appears to be drug related.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office has been assisted throughout this investigation by the Lee County State's Attorney's Office, the Illinois State Police, the Whiteside County Sheriff's Office, the Dixon Police Department, the Erie Police Department, and the Rock Island County Sheriff's Office.

All charges are merely an allegation, and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.



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Letters Policy: The Amboy News encourages letters from readers on current issues. Letters should be brief and must be signed, with a street address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes. The newspaper reserves the right to publish, edit, condense, revise or reject any submissions.

OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Jean M. Ritola

June 20, 1930 - Dec. 12, 2022

SUBLETTE — Jean M. Ritola, 92, of Woodhaven Lakes Sublette, formerly of Dolton, died suddenly Monday, Dec. 12, 2022.

Jean was born June 20, 1930 in Chicago. She was the devoted daughter of John and Mary (Rakauskys) Antanaitis, and step daughter of Marie (Sweeney) Antanaitis. Jean was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. Jean was an active church member. Pre-Covid, Jean volunteered in the church office where she "went to work" three days a week.

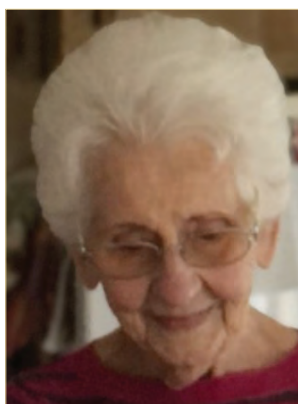
Jean married the love of her life, the late Raymond Ritola, on Dec. 4, 1948, in Chicago following a 3-month courtship.

Jean was preceded in

death by her husband; her son, Michael; brothers, John and Philip Antanaitis.

Jean is survived by her children, Philip (Cynthia) Ritola, of Cheshire, Conn., Carl (Gail) Ritola, of Rolling Prairie, Ind., Mary Lynn Valentin of Sublette, and Susan (Paul) Novosel, of Crete; grandchildren, Erin (Andrew Avera) Ritola, Sara (William) Foley, Raymond Ritola, Matthew Novosel and Alexander (Brianna) Ritola; and great-grandchildren, Auriana and Killian.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m., on Monday, Dec. 19, 2022, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Sublette, Rev. Randy Fronek officiating. Visitation is in the Church Monday from 9 a.m. until time of service.



Arrangements by the Wasmer Funeral Home in Mendota.

Burial will be at a later date in Assumption Cemetery in Glenwood.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: <https://www.stjude.org> as this charity Jean held dear to her heart.

BBB alert: 12 scams of Christmas

ROCKFORD — As we near the end of 2022, scams targeting the public continue to cause trouble. Consumers should watch out for fraudulent schemes threatening their cash and stealing personal information. Better Business Bureau (BBB) has a naughty list with the top 12 scams of the Holidays that are most likely to catch consumers and donors off guard during this season. "Many of the scams on this list are facilitated through emails and social media platforms; however, it is social media where people are the most vulnerable," says Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional Office of the BBB.

Be mindful of these scams that could cut into your holiday cheer and our tips to avoid them:

1. Misleading social media ads: As you scroll through your social media feed, you often see items for sale from a business. Sometimes the business even claims to support a charity to get you to order, or they offer a free trial. BBB Scam Tracker receives reports of people paying for items they never receive, getting charged monthly for a free trial they never signed up for, or receiving an item that is counterfeit or much different from the one advertised. The 2022 BBB Online Scams Report found that online purchase scams were the most common cons reported to Scam Tracker and the category with the most victims.

2. Social media gift exchanges: This scheme pops back up each holiday season, and this year is no different. A newer version of this scam revolves around exchanging bottles of wine; another suggests purchasing \$10 gifts online. Another twist asks you to submit your email to a list where participants get to pick a name and send money to strangers to "pay it forward." There is even a twist about "Secret Santa Dog," where you buy a \$10 gift for your "secret dog." In all of these versions, participants unwittingly share their personal information and those of their family members and friends. They are tricked into buying and shipping gifts or money to unknown individuals. And-- it's an illegal pyramid scheme.

3. Holiday apps: Apple's App Store and Google Play list dozens of holiday-themed apps where children can video chat live with Santa, light the menorah, watch Santa feed live reindeer, track his sleigh on Christmas Eve, or relay their holiday wish lists. Review privacy policies to see what information will be collected. Be wary of free apps, as they can sometimes contain more advertising than apps that require a nominal fee. Free apps can also contain malware.

4. Alerts about compromised accounts: BBB has been receiving reports on Scam Tracker about a con claiming your Amazon, PayPal, Netflix, or bank account has been compromised. Victims receive an email, call, or text message explaining that there has been suspicious activity on one of their accounts. It further urges them to take immediate action to prevent the account from being compromised. Be extra cautious about unsolicited calls, emails, and texts.

5. Free gift cards: Nothing brings good cheer like the word "FREE." Scammers have been known to take advantage of this weakness by sending bulk phishing emails requesting personal information to receive free gift cards. In some of these emails, scammers impersonate legitimate companies

like Starbucks and promise gift cards to loyal customers that have been supporting their business throughout the pandemic. Some pop-up ads or text messages say you were selected as the prize winner. If you have received an unsolicited email with gift card offers, do not open it. Instead, mark it as Spam or Junk. However, do not click on any links if you opened the email.

6. Temporary holiday jobs: Retailers typically hire seasonal workers to help meet the demands of holiday shoppers. These jobs are a great way to make extra money, sometimes with the possibility of turning into a long-term employment opportunity. However, job seekers need to be wary of employment scams aimed at stealing money and personal information from job applicants. Keep an eye out for opportunities that seem too good to be true.

7. Look-alike websites: The holiday season brings endless emails offering deals, sales, and bargains. Be wary of emails with links enclosed. Some may lead to look-alike websites created by scammers to trick people into downloading malware, making dead-end purchases, and sharing private information. If you are uncertain about the email, do not click any links.

8. Fake charities: Typically, 40% of all charitable donations are received during the last few weeks of the year. Donors are advised to look out for fraudulent charities and scammers pretending to be individuals in need. Avoid impromptu donation decisions to unfamiliar organizations. Responsible organizations will welcome a gift tomorrow as much as they do today. Verify a charity at BBB's Give.org website. Where possible, please donate to the charity through their website and use a credit card.

9. Fake shipping notifications: More consumers are making purchases online, and there is also an increase in the number of notifications about shipping details from retailers and carriers. Scammers are using this new surge to send phishing emails with links enclosed that may allow unwanted access to your private information or download malware onto your device.

10. Pop-up holiday virtual events: This year, many local in-person events, such as pop-up holiday markets or craft fairs, have moved online. Scammers are creating fake event pages, social media posts, and emails, charging admission for what used to be a free event. The goal is to steal credit card information. Confirm with the organizer of the event if there is an admission fee.

11. Top holiday Wishlist items: Low or ridiculously-priced luxury goods, jewelry, designer clothing, and electronics are always cheap counterfeits and knockoffs. Be very cautious when considering purchasing these high-value items from individuals through social sites.

12. Puppy scams: Many families, especially those with children, may be considering adding a furry friend to their household this year. However, you could fall victim to pet scams, which are on the rise this year. Request to see the pet in person before making a purchase.

For more information If you've spotted a scam (whether or not you've lost money), report it to BBB ScamTracker.

Visit BBB.org or follow us @ChicagoBBB on social media.

COVID continued from page A1

Other important protective steps include COVID-19 testing, especially if visiting someone at risk for severe disease; enhanced ventilation at gatherings; and good hand hygiene. And if you are sick, stay home and consult with your provider about whether you need one of the effective treatments that are available. A high-quality mask or respirator is also recommended and will protect you from COVID-19, the flu and other respiratory viruses. Our hope is for Illinoisians across our state to have a happy and healthy holiday season."

Dr. Vohra stressed that those who test positive for COVID-19 should immediately contact their healthcare provider to discuss whether they need treatment with one of the effective antiviral medications, Paxlovid, Lagverio and Remdesivir. All of these have been found to work against the current strains of the virus.

Access to tests and treatments can be found at the following test to treat site or by contacting your provider for treatment options, within 5 days of feeling ill.

IDPH is helping Illinoisians prepare for the fall and winter surge of COVID-19 cases by offering 1 million free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests to Illinois residents in all

zip codes outside the City of Chicago through a partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation's public charity, RF Catalytic Capital and its ProjectACT (Access COVID Tests) program.

On Dec. 9, the CDC expanded its authorization for bivalent boosters to include children aged 6 months to 5 years. Children ages 6 months through 5 years who previously completed a Moderna primary series can now receive a Moderna bivalent booster 2 months after their final primary series dose. Children ages 6 months through 4 years who are completing a Pfizer primary series will receive a Pfizer bivalent vaccine as their third primary dose.

A total of 1,712 individuals in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19. Of those, 211 patients were in the ICU and 63 patients with COVID-19 were on ventilators. The preliminary seven-day statewide case rate is 183 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 Illinoisans.

The CDC recommends the following measures for people in areas that are rated at High Community Level for COVID-19 transmission:

- Wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools and other

indoor community settings)

- If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease

- o Wear a mask or respirator that provides you with greater protection

- o Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed

- o Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to take other precautions
- o Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing)

- o IF YOU TEST POSITIVE: Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, and monoclonal antibodies

- If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease
- o consider self-testing to detect infection before contact

- o consider wearing a mask when indoors with them

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters

- Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible

Vaccination is the key to ending this pandemic. To find a COVID-19 vaccination location near you, go to www.vaccines.gov.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

St. Patrick Church
Fr. John Gow
32 N Jones, Amboy
815-857-2315 • www.stpatrickamboy.org
Masses: Tuesday – Friday Daily Mass 8 am
Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 7:30 am & 10 am
Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 pm
Wednesday, 5:30-6:15 pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Friday, 8am-5 pm

St. Mary Church
Fr. John Gow
912 Walton Rd., Walton
815-857-2670
Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm

St. Flannen Church
Fr. John Gow
213 S Second St., Harmon
815-857-2670
Mass: Sunday, 9 am

United First Church of Amboy
Pastor Mark Glenn
East Main & Jefferson
815-440-0745
Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Lee Center
Pastor Jack M. Briggs
1140 Inlet Road, Lee Center
www.LeeCenter-UCC.org
Phone 815-732-7032
Family Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Grace Fellowship Church
Amboy-Sublette
Pastor Kyle Kelly
500 W. Main Street, Sublette
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
www.graceisforyou.com

East Grove Union Church
Pastor Richard Wulf, 815-440-5321
449 Reuter Road, Amboy
Phone 815-376-6661
1/2 Mile East of Route 26 on Union Rd.
Sun., 9:00 a.m. Morning Service
Youth Church, ages 3-Grade 4
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Ages 3 - Adult
6:00 p.m. Evening Service
Wed., 6:00 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study
First Sunday night of each month, 6:00p.m.
First Sunday Family Film Night
Fourth Saturday of each month, 6:00p.m.
"Fun & Fellowship Game Night for the Whole Family!"
Come as you are and join us on the journey!

First Baptist Church
Pastor Rocky Fritz
24 N. Mason Avenue
Church Phone 857-2682
www.fbcamboy.com
Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
Wed. prayer meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
King's Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday
Reformers Unanimous addictions program from 7-9 p.m.

St. James Evangelical Congregational Church
Robert Dunbar, Pastor
US Route 52 & Red Brick Rd., Dixon
815-288-2447
Sunday 10:45 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Ladies Bible Study, Wed. 9 a.m.

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
Pastor Barb Otten
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.

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

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

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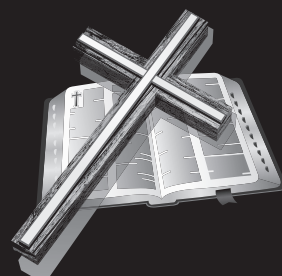
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in Amboy
Member F.D.I.C.
815- 857-3625

Mihm-Jones Funeral Home
815-857-2611

Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet
815-849-5232

KSB Medical Center
815-857-3044

The Amboy News
815-857-2311



SOCIAL NEWS

The Book Nook

By:

Tatjana Kazan

SCREWBALLS TO THE RESCUE

In “Dead Lions” (2013) Mick Herron is not averse to borrowing the most famous hunt in spy thrillers from John le Carré’s “Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy” and putting his own stamp on it. It’s been over thirty years since the Soviet Union’s demise, but “it was always handy to have a supply of expendable Russians on the books. Apart from anything else, you never knew when the wheel would spin again, bringing the world back where it started. The Cold War was the natural state of affairs.”

In Herron’s comic version of the old game, the plot twists are clever enough to rarely meet our expectations. His spies are anything but stellar specimens of the UK’s Security Service (MI5). In fact, they are the slow horses, men and women who have committed career-ending mistakes and are consequently relegated to Slough House, a shabby purgatory of a place. Presiding over these misfits is coarse, quarrelsome Jackson Lamb, who nevertheless has the instincts and intelligence of le Carré’s George Smiley. One of the pleasures of “Dead Lions” is Herron’s gift for creating memorable characters.

The plot is set in motion when retired, Soviet-era spook Dickie Bow is found dead on a bus far from home. Lamb is convinced Bow was murdered. When he finds Bow’s phone on the bus with the message “Cicada,” he sets the slow horses in motion. Cicadas, who appear aboveground every seventeen years, clearly suggest a Russian sleeper cell in England. Someone has decided to wake them, but to what end. Lamb sends River Cartwright, the golden boy of Slough House, to Upshott in the Cotswolds, to find out. Online the Cotswolds are described as being “famous for their typically English landscape of lovely green rolling hills, stone walls, woodland and charming little towns and villages.” Not a place to be awakened from. Cartwright finds out otherwise.

A parallel plotline has two spies, Luisa Guy and Nim Harper, babysit a visiting Russian oligarch. Luisa and Nim are lovers, and their story, especially Luisa’s, is the heart of the novel. When irascible Shirley Dander, a new slow horse, races to find the Russian goons protecting the oligarch, “she registered plenty of bald men, baldness being as much fashion statement as male tragedy these days.” All of the slow horses make mistakes, imperiling themselves and the mission, but Catherine Standish, Lamb’s right hand, manages to keep the balls in the air. Over peppermint tea she reflects “about life’s edges being planed away until you could see clear past them into whatever came next because whatever came next, it was best to assume the worst.” [“Dead Lions,” unabridged, is available for free on YouTube.]

The Chocolate Rendezvous returns in February 2023

DIXON—Sauk Valley Community College will host The Chocolate Rendezvous on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, from 6 to 9 p.m. on the SVCC Campus.

You are cordially invited to the Sauk Valley Community College’s Chocolate Rendezvous. This premiere, “red” tie event includes more than 100 decadent chocolates and desserts, liquor and wine tastings, gourmet appetizers and three forms of live entertainment.

Chocolate Rendezvous tickets include all of this plus three top-shelf beverages, a complimentary shuttle service to the entrance of the Dillon Mall, and viewing of a fireworks show. Tickets are \$95 per person and VIP tickets are \$150 per person. The VIP tickets are limited and include early event access at 5 p.m., specialty cocktails, private buffet and bar, premier parking, seating and viewing, plus a complimentary small gift bottle of liquor from Kennay Farms Distilling.

All proceeds from The Chocolate Rendezvous benefit SVCC’s Impact Program. The SVCC Impact Program allows students in the college’s district to earn tuition for up to three years at Sauk Valley Community College.

For more information, or to buy your tickets for the Feb. 11 Chocolate Rendezvous event, visit svcc.edu/chocolate or call 815-835-6329.

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Thursday – A) Turkey burger wgr wheat bun, sweet potato fries, broccoli, apple crisp B) Tuna salad/chicken rice
Friday – Hot ham and cheese wgr wheat bun, tator tots, baked beans, chilled applesauce

Meals served Mon.-Fri. at 11:00 am
Reservations needed 10:00 am day before
Amboy Community Center
280 W. Wasson Road • 1-815-963-1609, reservations

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1/21/2023



A.C.O. CHRISTMAS PARTY

Amboy Civic Organization members and their guests enjoyed their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the Long Branch Saloon. For those unfamiliar with the ACO, the group is an Amboy-based social club, open to women and men supporting community events and especially the Pankhurst Memorial Library.

Courtesy photos



Drive merry, bright and sober this holiday season

SPRINGFIELD—With the holidays in full swing, Illinois Conservation Police officer are partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation to remind motorists about the dangers of

From Dec. 16 through Jan. 2, law enforcement across Illinois will step up enforcement efforts with a high-visibility “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” and “Drive High, Get a DUI” traffic safety campaign.

“We want everyone in our communities to enjoy the holidays without worrying about the dangers of impaired drivers,” said Illinois Conservation Police Lt. Curt Lewis. “During the campaign, you can expect to see extra safety patrols. We will show zero tolerance for alcohol- and drug-impaired driving to help ensure everyone makes it to and from their holiday festivities safely.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System, 11,654 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver in 2020. On average, more than

10,000 people were killed each year from 2016 to 2020, with one person killed in an alcohol-related crash every 45 minutes in 2020.

Before the holiday fun begins, make a plan for a sober ride home and remember these tips.

Designate a sober driver or make a plan to use public transportation or a ride-sharing service to get home safely.

If available, use your community’s sober ride.

If you see an impaired driver on the road, pull over and contact 911.

Have a friend who is about to drive impaired? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get them home safely. They’ll thank you later.

Always buckle up!

The holiday enforcement campaign is administered by IDOT with federal highway safety funds managed by NHTSA.

If the flag box at Veteran's Park is full, please bring your flag to City Hall.

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Opinion

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

The alleged transgressions of the children of politicians

An ambulance arrived at a U.S. senator's house recently and hauled his 14-year-old daughter away for self-inflicted stab wounds.

When I read that news report earlier this month, I just cringed.

That child didn't choose to be a politician's daughter. And her problems shouldn't be exhibited in the news media for all the world to discuss. Fortunately, the staff of the senator, who represents a southwestern state, said her wounds were not life threatening.

Most every news report I've read identified the child and her father.

I'm sorry, that's a line I won't cross.

News organizations shouldn't write about the travails of politicians' children unless it would otherwise be newsworthy or the parent misuses their power to get the kid out of trouble.

I have three daughters ages 12, 14 and 17. It's never been easy to be a teenager and it's especially hard when you have a parent who holds elective office. Your life is in a fishbowl.

Don't believe me? Well, during every election cycle, I receive phone calls from people telling me about the alleged transgressions of the children of politicians.

Yes, every election.

Sometimes the folks who make these calls are political operatives. But often they are ordinary people wanting to feel better about their own screwed up family by pointing out the faults in someone else's.

This year, I received a call from a member of a prominent Democratic family who reported that the son of two Republican officeholders was ticketed for underage drinking when he was a high school student.

I looked up the case, found that the judicial system treated

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



the young man like just about everyone else and declined to do a story.

A few years ago, the son of a prominent Springfield politician was arrested on a minor drug charge. I was sitting at the kitchen table reading about the arrest in the city's daily newspaper when my sister-in-law, who had taught the young man, began hollering, "You'd better not write a story about him. He's a good kid!"

I replied that I didn't consider it newsworthy. In fact, I believe the competing newspaper's reporting to be gratuitously cruel. Still, my sister-in-law eyed me with a bit of suspicion.

When one news organization does something, often everyone in the industry gets painted with the same broad brush.

When I was a young reporter in Galveston, Texas, the son of a judge was arrested for stalking his ex-girlfriend. During the preliminary hearing, the defendant's father, who was sitting in the back of the courtroom, rose and addressed the presiding judge as a "friend of the court." He asked for leniency for his son from a fellow member of the judiciary.

I reported the entire incident because it struck me that his father was misusing his influence to see that his son received preferential treatment.

In 1991, when I was reporter in Iowa, the 16-year-old son of Gov. Terry Branstad was driving home from his part-time job when he was involved in a head-on collision that killed two people.

A two-person fatality would normally warrant a short story with the names of everyone involved. Ultimately, Eric Branstad was ticketed for improper lane usage and fined \$15.

In the end, media reporting allowed voters to decide whether the prosecutor in the case handled the matter appropriately.



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 Years Ago Dec. 15, 1922

Rev. B.A. Dickens of Mt. Morris died after an extended illness. He had been preaching for more than 40 years in the Rock River Conference of the Methodist Church. Mr. Dickens was born and raised to early manhood in Amboy. He was a son of the late A.N. Dickens and nephew of Charles Dickens, famous novelist.

The grain elevator at the Walton Co-operative Company was destroyed by fire losing about 4,000 bushels of wheat, corn and oats.

Now open for business — The American Restaurant — Hurd & Dull, Proprietors, first door north of Gridley's Grocery on Jones Street. The best of steaks, chops, chop suey and oriental dishes. Featuring a businessman's lunch from 11-2 for 40 cents. —

75 Years Ago Dec. 18, 1947

Amboy's volunteer firemen were called to Longman's Garage when an automobile caught fire. The blaze did little damage and had been extinguished before the firemen arrived.

Trial-buy a Schick Super electric shaver at Gambles. Try it for 10 days, if not satisfied, get every penny of your money back!

50 Years Ago

Dec. 21, 1972

Eureka College students have pledged Greek social organizations at the completion of Rush Week activities. Pledging Lambda Chi Alpha was Gary Jones, a freshman from Amboy.

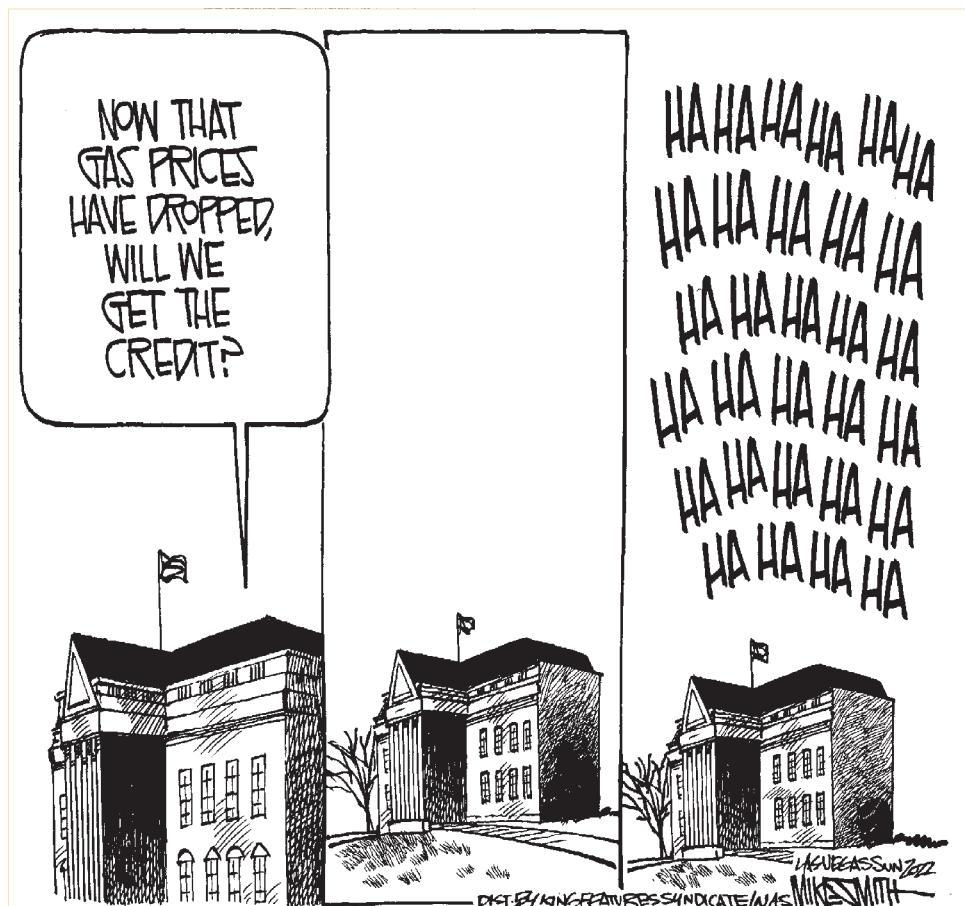
Amboy High School varsity boys basketball will host its first Holiday Tournament December 27-29. Eight teams will compete.

The Ben Franklin Store advertised live poinsettia plants for \$2.99 each.

25 Years Ago Dec. 18, 1997

City Clerk Darlene Hinkle was recently named Amboy's Citizen of the Year for 1997. In making the presentation, Mayor Hank Gerdes noted Hinkle's extensive involvement in the community, including church, civic and other activities. Hinkle will have her name permanently engraved on a plaque that is displayed in City Hall.

Just in time for Christmas, gasoline prices in Illinois have dropped to their lowest levels in two years, according to the AAA-Chicago Motor Club's December Fuel Gauge survey. These declining prices contrast with a period of rising costs one year ago. The average gallon of gas is selling for 17 cents lower than December 1996. A gallon of self-serve unleaded regular in Illinois outside of Cook County averages \$1.17 per gallon.



The Amboy News

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SOMETHING TO SAY?

The Amboy News encourages responsible letters to the editor on subjects of interest to our readers. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered.

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

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

All letters must bear the handwritten signature of the writer and include address and phone number or e-mail address for verification purposes. Neither the street address nor phone number will be printed. Letters should be typed or legibly handwritten, and no anonymous letters will be published.

Any comments of public officials should be limited to issues related strictly to their position or actions made in office, as personal attacks will not be published. Letters involving private disputes between the writer and a business or individual will not be published.

Political endorsements will be published, however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed.

Letters may be dropped at the Amboy News office, 245 E. Main Street, mailed to the Amboy News at PO Box 162, Amboy, IL 61310, or emailed to tgreenfield@amboynews.com

The Amboy News reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper, its management and or ownership.

ADVERTISING POLICY

The Amboy News is in no way responsible for errors in copy furnished by the Customer. Adjustment or republication in the next available issue will be made for that amount of space involved in errors resulting from failure of the Amboy News to correct errors plainly noted on proof. Customers shall notify the Amboy News of errors in time for correction before the second insertion.

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Monday, Tuesday
8 a.m. - noon on Friday
Closed Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday,
Sunday and major holidays.

Phone 815-857-2311
Fax 815-857-2517
Website www.amboynews.com

LOCAL NEWS



NEW BUILDING

Teen Turf has been blessed with a check from Green River Community Fund. This money will help fund the building that will house much needed furniture for those in need. Fingers crossed, the building should be installed tomorrow. Pictured above are some of our kids from *Teen Turf* along with Mrs. Piper, left, and Mrs. Burke, back right, who presented the check to *Teen Turf*.

Courtesy photos



LIONS DONATE TO FOOD DRIVE

The Amboy Lions Club recently donated \$500 to the Amboy Fire Department for their annual food drive. Pictured are Amboy Lion Jim Travi, Les Shaw, Betty Shaw, Amboy Lion Dave Kemp. The Lions donation to the food drive is an annual event.

Courtesy photo

JOHNSON TRACTOR 2022 Holiday Guide



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Front: Rose and Larry Leffelman
Back: Mary Reglin, Julie Burkardt, Lexi Willey, Chris Klein, Riley Klein, Karli Althaus, Lisa Quest

As the year ends, we at Leffelman & Associates have a tradition of reflecting on the past year in our Christmas Card to you. Looking back at our reflections from past years, things have changed a lot! For example, on our 2019 card, we began it with this sentence, "As the US prepares to enter its 125th month of economic expansion – the longest in history – and the American stock markets remain near all-time highs, the Midwest is fighting the elements." Wow! Things look quite different than what they did 3 years ago! Our farmers have had one of the best crop years ever, but our economy is not so good, to put it mildly. To quote Anne Murray's song, "We sure could use a little good news today!" As we've said before, we feel blessed to be in our little corner of the world where we all come together to support each other. Please continue to support local businesses so we can keep our little corner of the world alive and flourishing. Our product is financial security, and we are here to protect our customers. So, this Christmas Card goes out to you with heartfelt prayers from all of us, that you and your families will have a warm and wonderful Christmas and a new year filled with health and happiness.

*May the Christmas Spirit be with you & your family today
& throughout the New Year!*



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2/\$4

Navel Oranges

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Southern Yams



\$0.89/ea.

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Stove Top Stuffing

4 oz Assorted



\$2.49 ea.

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Hellman's Mayo

30 oz



\$5.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$8.99 ea.

Kraft Dressing

14-16 oz Assorted



\$2.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$4.59 ea.

Reddi Whipped Topping

6.5 oz.



\$3.49 ea.

Reg. Price \$3.99 ea.

Fisher Chopped Walnuts

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Coffeemate Creamer

32 oz Assorted



\$4.49 ea.

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Dean's Dip

16 oz



\$2.49 ea.

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Jack's Pizza

Assorted



\$3.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$4.99 ea.

Marie Callendar's Pie

14-15 oz



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Reg. Price \$4.49 ea.

Lay's Chips

4-8 oz Excludes Party or Family Size



\$2.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$4.59 ea.

SPORTS

**SECOND PLACE**

Clipper Levi Near placed second at the Stillman Valley wrestling tournament on Saturday.

Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Bontz

**FOURTH PLACE**

Clipper Lucas Blanton placed fourth at the Stillman Valley wrestling tournament on Saturday.

Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Bontz

**THIRD PLACE**

Clipper Landon Blanton placed third at the Stillman Valley wrestling tournament on Saturday.

Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Bontz

Clippers compete at Stillman Valley tourney

STILLMAN VALLEY – Amboy's wrestlers participated in the 13-team Stillman Valley Holiday Tournament on Dec. 17.

In varsity action, Levi Near finished second for the Clippers in the 132-pound weight class. He won two of three matches. Landon Blanton took third-place honors at 113 pounds, claiming three out of four matches. At 160 pounds, Lucas Blanton posted a 3-2 record and finished in fourth place.

Chase Montavon (120) and Josh McKendry (138) also competed for Amboy.

In the junior varsity tournament, Austin Heath represented the Clippers at 152 pounds.

Stillman Valley Holiday Tournament (varsity)

113 pounds – Landon Blanton (A) dec. Smith (Wheaton Academy), 9-2; Rice (Dundee-Crown) pinned Blanton, 0:38; Blanton (A) dec. McNew (Genoa-Kingston), 5-4; Blanton (A) pinned Smith (Wheaton Academy), 5:46

120 pounds – Whitehead (Winnebago) pinned Chase Montavon (A), 1:52; Gibson (Princeton) pinned Montavon (A), 0:52

132 pounds – Levi Near (A) pinned Velazquez (Dundee-Crown), 1:23; Near (A) dec. Jones (Wheaton Academy), 8-3; Christiansen (Princeton) dec. Near (A), 12-1

138 pounds – Josh McKendry (A) pinned Pittman (Stillman Valley), 1:35; Halverson (Oregon) pinned McKendry (A), 0:36; McKendry (A) pinned Sawicki (Dundee-Crown), 3:55; Kazmierczak (Wheaton Academy) dec. McKendry (A), 16-0

160 – Gavina (Dundee-Crown) pinned Lucas Blanton (A), 3:43; Blanton (A) pinned Baker (Marengo), 3:22; Blanton (A) pinned Gochis (Kaneland), 1:49; Blanton (A)

def. Carnes (Lisle), injury default; Gavina (Dundee-Crown) dec. Blanton (A), 10-4 (junior varsity)

152 pounds – Austin Heath (A) pinned Turner (Mendota, 0:48; Heath (A) pinned Larson (Johnsburg), 0:54; Ridolfi (Kaneland) pinned Heath (A), 1:25; Jordan (Mendota) pinned Heath (A), 4:56

The Clippers are coached by Brent Monatvon, Brian Appleman and Trevor Janssen.

Amboy next meet was on Dec. 20 at Oregon. They will host a home meet on Dec. 21, against Marquette, Riverdale, and Kewanee, starting at 5:30 p.m.

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Email news items to
tgreenfield@amboynews.com

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Girls Basketball

Addison Pertell & Elly Jones

Boys Basketball

Wes Wilson

Wrestling

Levi Near & Landon Blanton



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Where you come first

FDIC

The Amboy News will have early deadlines due to Christmas and New Year.

The Amboy News will have early deadlines due to Christmas and New Year.

For the Dec. 28, 2022 edition, the advertising and editorial deadline is Friday, Dec. 23, 2022, at 9 a.m.

For the Jan. 4, 2023 edition, the advertising and editorial deadline is Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at 9 a.m.

The Amboy News will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26, 2022 and reopen at 8 a.m., on Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022 in observance of Christmas.

The Amboy News will be close on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023 and reopen at 8 a.m., on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023, in observance of New Year.

12142022

Amboy Community Unit School District #272

Dec. 22 to Jan. 4 –

No School

Thursday, Dec. 29

AHS Girls Basketball (H)

Holiday Tournament-TBA

Tuesday, Dec. 27

AHS Girls Basketball (H)

Holiday Tournament-TBA

AHS Varsity Boys

Basketball @ Eastland

Tournament-TBA

Tournament-TBA

Friday, Dec. 30

AHS Girls Basketball (H)

Holiday Tournament-TBA

Wednesday, Dec. 28

AHS Girls Basketball (H)

Holiday Tournament-TBA

AHS Varsity Boys

Basketball @ Eastland

Tournament-TBA

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LETTERS TO SANTA



Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a baby dog. How
shiny is Rudolph's nose? How
many presents do the elves
make in a day?
Duke

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a horse and an iPad.
London

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a tiny ball and a
drone? How do you deliver
all the presents in one night?
Warren

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like an electric scooter.
Are all of your reindeer girls?
Cash

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a Nintendo Switch.
I like your elves that make
toys.
Destiny

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like Mini bookbags and
Mini bags.
Anne

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a ladybug doll
and OMG Delicious. I like
your hat.
Adaline

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like slime. I wonder
how the elves have magic?
Camille

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a drone. Santa, I
love your reindeer. Is Rudolph
real?
Leo Henkel

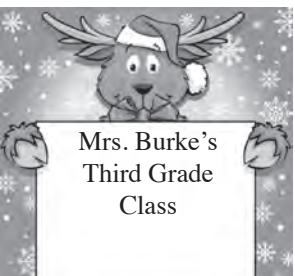
Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like Aphmau Cats. All
of them. I like Santa's hat.
Dahlia

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like Unicorn Santa. You
are the best, Santa.
Sera

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like snow and a LOL
camper. Do your reindeer
want reindeer food?
Isabel

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a Peppa Pig toy
oven. I want a stuffed fox
and a round ball that has LOL
stuff in it.
Zoey

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a Barbie. How do
you get to the North Pole? I
like the elves and Rudolph.
Kinsley



Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want a 3D camera and purple
roller skates. Can my mom
and dad have something it's
not to much trouble?
Emery Williams

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want a PlayStation 5. Can
you get my parents and
my brother something for
Christmas?
Brycen

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a Nintendo Switch,
a PlayStation 5, a laptop, and
a VR headset. Thank you for
the toys and games you get
our family.
Jackson

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a friendship neck-
lace for four people, slime,
and fidgets. I've been very
good this year, so can my
mom and dad get something.
Evelyn

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want a hoverboard, games
for my PS4 and Switch. Also,
presents for my family. Oh,
and V-bucks and Roblox.
Taiden

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a Lego set, BFF
stuff, and Roblox. Make sure
you give a present to my mom
and dad.
Jazlynn

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want a Nintendo Switch.
Can you give my parents
and my little sister Christmas
presents?
Rudra

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, all
I want is a wheel of Sharples
and for my family to get
better.
Mina

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, I
would like an X-Box. I would
also like some Roblox and I
Survived books. Could I stay
in the third grade forever?
Savannah

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, I
want a punching bag, a desk
for homework, and some
chapter books. I want some
books about sharks because
I want to learn about sharks
over the summer.
Eve

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want a Nintendo Switch,
Oculus Quest and a LOL doll.
I have been good this year.
Abigail

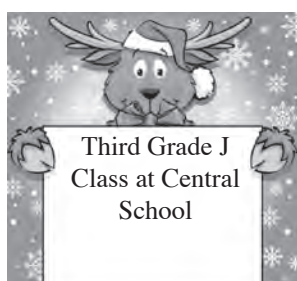
Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, I
would like a Pokemon stuffed
animal and some coloring
stuff. Can you get my mom
something?
Selena

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want a lock to lock my sis-
ters out of my room. Could
you make it steel? Also, I
want a truck like my dad's
Dodge Ram, but small like
a remote-control car, and a
new bike.
Oliver

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
can I please have LPS and a
bow and arrow? Also, could
you please get me a pink
fox wall décor and astronaut
toys?
Caitlyn

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, I
would like Roblox cards, I Sur-
vived books, a Vector action
figure with a coin, and a pair
of fuzzy socks for my mom.
Abel

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want a PC and a Nerf gun.
Please have a good Christ-
mas.
Josh



Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, I
want an iPad, a go-kart, and
a remote-control car.
Jaie

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, I
want a hoverboard, a makeup
goosie, a bubble gum ma-
chine, a headset, a sleeping
mask, and a pony.
Kayly Williams

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, I
would like Nike white cleats,
football cards and a football
card case, a PS4 red con-
troller, new boots, a new
compound bow, a new pock-
etknife, new muck boots,

a canoe, a rap shot gun,
shotgun pellets and arrows.
Everett

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want a RC car, bow and
arrows, a baseball, a baseball
glove, basketball, a basket-
ball hoop, a phone, and a PS5.
Liam Carter

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want Disney Doorables,
Squishmallows, Mini Brands,
Winnie the Pooh Doorables,
and Magic Mixies. I also
want a camera and lots of
different slimes. I want some
LED lights.
Ariyah Bellows

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want Nerf guns and Nerf
darts, water balloons and
water guns, new games for
by X-Box, and a VR headset.
Aiden Meyers

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like Squishmallows,
Pokemon cards, cute paja-
mas, signs for my room, iPad,
books to read in my room,
Mean Girls book, Matilda
book, Out of My Mind book,
and slime.
Kennedi Jo Smothers

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want Disney Doorables,
snow, Squishmallows, slime,
candy, Magic Mixie, and Snow
White Disney Doorables.
Harper Shoemaker

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I'd like a new phone, a LOL,
a Squishmallow, Dexter
Squishmallow, an Apple pen-
cil, Kindle, butterfly pea flower,
and slime.
Aurora Mae Wilhite

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want my mom to be happy,
dragon plushy, gingerbread
house, a flying orb ball, kid's
robot toys, Kidzone DIY Race
kid's toy, electric ride on
bumper vehicle, remote-con-
trol car, cotton candy, and
slime.
Paisley Ann Kant

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would like a dirt bike, an
X-Box, a new shotgun camo
wrap, and an iPhone 14.
Tuc Bergfeld

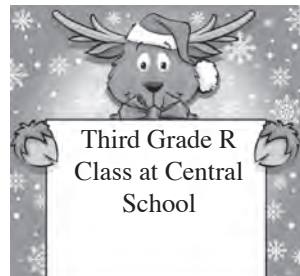
Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, I
want a RC monster truck and
a RC helicopter.
Eli Kaleel

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, I
want for my mom to not have
so much work to do and just
to have a break.
William Muetze

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I want an iPhone, a frog
Squishmallow, a lot of Squish-
mallows like a mushroom
squishy and a mystery
squishy. I would also like
pink drink slime.
Aubrey Anne Kimball

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year, I
please want some Doorables
like princesses. I want a
Magic Mixie, a camera, a lot
of Baby Yoda stuff, and some
Aipods.
Audree Schaefer

Dear Santa,
For Christmas this year,
I would love if you got me
some stuff for my baby dolls,
please and thank you. And if
you can get me a Squishmal-
low, that would be great.
Emmy



Dear Santa,
How are you? I don't really
want anything for Christmas.
I just want my cousins for
Christmas because I never
get to see them. I want them
to come earlier this year.
Please let them come back.
Mila

Dear Santa,
How are you doing Santa.
Thank you for sending gifts
last year and everything you
do. Can I get a doll house for
Christmas, please?
Adisyn

Dear Santa,
Are you and Mrs. Claus
going to have a baby soon?
Can I please have a Hex Mad
and Legos, please?
Griffin

Dear Santa,
Thank you for everything
you do. I want ice skates
or roller skates, some Play-
dough, and unicorn stuff.
Evalyn

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer and
Mrs. Claus? Can you please
bring me some Pokemon
cards, crafts, and catcher's
gear for softball? I have really
wanted to catch in softball
for years. I will leave out
cookies for you and carrots
for the reindeer because I
know they love.
Charlotte

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs.
Claus doing? By the way,
your village should be called
Mrs. Claus Village because
she built it all. Every year it
makes me so happy that I
know someone is watching
over me. I want a Twisty Petz
and everything lion please.
Mama

Dear Santa,
How are things in the North
Pole? This year, I'd really
like to get a watch, a Play
Station, new socks and new
shirts. I will leave out milk and
cookies.
TJ

Dear Santa,
I want a football and foot-
ball gloves, an American flag,
a chain with a cross on it, and
a pair of American flag duds.
Roman

Dear Santa,
I really want football
gloves and an actual football
that the Bears play football
with.
Tio

Dear Santa,
How many elves do you
have? Do you want me to
leave you carrots to give
to the reindeer? How many
cookies do you want and
what kind? I really, really want
an acoustic guitar, this Leo
circuit thing my teacher has,
and waterfalls.
Emy

Dear Santa,
We might give your rein-
deer food for Christmas. I
want an iPhone.
Kainan

Dear Santa,
How are Mrs. Claus and
the reindeer? For Christmas,
can I have a Lexington 3-tier
rolling cart in pink or blue, six
medium clear containers, and
some more fidgets, please?
Summer

Dear Santa,
Are the reindeer doing
good? I really want a guitar
and Mario Kart 8 Deluxe for
the Nintendo Switch. I will put

cookies and milk on the table.
Auggie

Dear Santa,
This year I had a wonder-
ful time. I hope you and Mrs.
Claus did, too. This year I want
a lot of Hatchimals. Can I also
get a 3-tier cart by Simply
Tidy? My teacher is really
nice. Can you get her some
games?
Annelise

Dear Santa,
I liked the presents from
last year. Santa, I would like
a Fitbit, art stuff, Mini Brands,
Squishmallow Cam the calico
cat, a giant dog Squishy toy,
and a gummy bear.
Evie

Dear Santa,
How's it going with the
reindeer? Can you please
bring me a VR and some
games for it? I will put some
cookies and eggnog by the
small village.
Owen



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In Dixon at: Shining Star

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YES! Send me my 2023 From The Heart Cash Calendar!
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NUMBER OF CALENDARS: _____

Clip and mail this form along with \$23
(\$20 per calendar plus \$3 per calendar postage) to:
Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068

SPORTS

Lady Clippers to host Holiday Basketball Tournament

AMBOY—The Amboy Lady Clippers will host the Amboy Girls' Holiday Basketball Tournament to be held Dec. 27-30.

There are two pools of varsity teams. Mendota, Newman and Somonauk will comprise the Red Pool, while Amboy, Roanoke-Benson, Hall and Serena will be in the Black Pool. There will also be freshman-sophomore games with Amboy, Newman, Hall and Serena making up those teams.

Amboy will begin the tournament on Tuesday, Dec. 27 when it plays Hall at 6 p.m.

The Lady Clippers will return to action on Wednesday, Dec. 28 when they battle Roanoke-Benson at 6 p.m., and they will conclude pool play at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 against Serena. Depending on how Amboy does in its pool play games will determine when it plays on the final day of the tournament on Friday, Dec. 30.

Amboy Girls' Holiday Tournament

Tuesday, Dec. 27

3:00 – Newman vs. Hall (FS) [old gym]

3:00 – Amboy vs. Serena (FS) [new gym]

4:30 – Mendota vs. Somonauk [old gym]
4:30 – Roanoke-Benson vs. Serena [new gym]

6:00 – Amboy vs. Hall [new gym]

Wednesday, Dec. 28

3:00 – Newman vs. Serena (FS) [old gym]

3:00 – Amboy vs. Hall (FS) [new gym]

4:30 – Mendota vs. Newman [old gym]

4:30 – Hall vs. Serena [new gym]

6:00 – Amboy vs. Roanoke-Benson [new gym]

Thursday, Dec. 29

3:00 – Amboy vs. Newman (FS) [new gym]

3:00 – Hall vs. Serena (FS) [old gym]

4:30 – Newman vs. Somonauk [new gym]

4:30 – Roanoke-Benson vs. Hall [old gym]

6:00 – Amboy vs. Serena [new gym]

Friday, Dec. 30

3:00 – Red #3 vs. Black #3 [new gym]

4:30 – Red #2 vs. Black #2 [new gym]

6:00 – Red #1 vs. Black #1 [new gym]

Former Amboy News Publisher Kip Cheek named to IBCA Hall of Fame

BY BRANDON LACHANCE

Amboy News Reporter

MENDOTA—When Kip Cheek took a job with the Mendota Reporter in 1984 he didn't know what it would bring.

Or what it would lead to.

Thirty-eight years have gone by and it has led to thousands - maybe millions - of fantastic stories, long-term friends, a family, and calling Mendota home.

His professional work ethic and journalistic ability escalated further when he was named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

"I usually watch Hall of Fame ceremonies of professional sports, and quite often those being inducted refer to it as the pinnacle of their career. Well, now I know how they feel," Cheek said. "It's incredible to realize that all of the games attended, the athletes and coaches covered, the miles traveled and the long hours put in after the games have ended has resulted in being selected to the IBCA Hall of Fame."

"It definitely shows my age, but it's mind-boggling to be covering athletes now, whose parents I covered when they were in high school. I'm sure longevity has something to do with my selection into the Hall of Fame, but I'd also like to think that I have provided our readers with the best possible coverage of their local athletes and teams all of these years."

Kip has covered many beats for the Reporter and the Amboy News, but sports has always been his favorite as he is a Chicago Cubs and Los Angeles Rams fan.

He can tell you stories of the good and

the bad, but he's made a living on recalling the good.

"Thirty-eight plus years have gone by so quickly. I can still see Mark Cooper stealing a pass and going in for a would-be dunk at the Plano Christmas Classic in 1986. And then several months later seeing that same group become the first Mendota High School team to advance to the Sweet Sixteen in DeKalb was an incredible experience. I was also there for Mendota's first trip to the Elite Eight in Champaign back in 1989," Cheek said. "The Trojans followed that up with another Elite Eight appearance in 1993, and then of course the 1996 team, which was the first to play in Peoria when the tournament was moved there from Champaign. I still say to this day that Mendota and Shelbyville were the two best teams in the state that year. It's unfortunate that they had to meet in the quarterfinals."

"Then on the girls' side, back-to-back state tournament appearances by the Lady Trojans in 1998 and 1999 was amazing to witness, capped off by a fourth-place finish in '99. And more recently, it was a joy to watch the Bromenschenkel twins (Abby and Alli) on their tremendous two-year run when they led Mendota to a 51-8 record over their junior and senior years."

Throughout his career, he's left a lasting impact on many people in the community.

Jeff Prusator, Mendota High School Superintendent who is retiring after this school year, met Cheek at the very beginning of his career at MHS when he accepted the assistant principal role 27 years ago.

"When I came to Mendota 27 years ago, my first week at the school, Kip did a

story because Bob Atherton was promoted from assistant principal to principal and I was coming in as the new assistance," said Prusator. "That was the first time I met Kip. I still remember to this day, Bob Atherton saying, 'Kip's a good guy. He's one of the good ones.' Kip got off to a good start with that, but even back then, Bob had a lot of respect for the work that Kip did."

"There is no question that the work that he does is hall of fame work. People do get in hall of fame because of longevity, but that only doesn't do it. There are a lot of people who have worked for decades and are not in the hall of fame. It's a combination of putting some time in, surviving, and the quality of people they are and the quality of work that they do."

"There is no question that Kip is a hall of famer and he very well deserves this honor."

Getting back to Cheek recalling the good stories, his readers do, too.

Prusator said Cheek's ability to focus on the good is one of the main reasons he was chosen for the IBCA Hall of Fame.

"What I appreciate about the articles Kip puts in the paper, for high school sports, they are 100 percent about the kids and the kids in a positive light. I've never read an article where he was negative toward an athletic event, a coach, or an athlete, which is awesome in a small town," Prusator said. "Another thing I believe, but I hope I'm wrong, is the Kip Cheeks and the Kevin Heironymouses, these people who spend most of their career in small communities, is going to happen very often."

"I think Kip probably, unfortunately, is

under appreciated by a lot of people about the work that he does and the quality of work that he does, and how he's a promoter of Mendota High School. We appreciate it here at the high school, but I'm not sure if the community has a full appreciation for everything Kip has done throughout his 38 years."

Kevin Heironymous has appreciated Cheek for many decades.

Meeting in the first grade at Atlantia (Illinois) Grade School, being teammates through grade school, junior high, and high school, rooming together at Illinois State University, and being the best man at each other's wedding, they got to know each other closely.

"It's a very deserving honor for him. We've crossed paths many times while working Princeton and Mendota games," said Heironymous, who has been employed by the Bureau County Republican since 1986. "We help each other out with photos, scores, and stats. It is pretty sweet to have him in the hall of fame. We grew up a half a block away from each other. We pursued the same path. To wind up in the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame together is perfect."

"He's been around a long time, but he's done top notch work that people are looking for. From Year 1 until now, he's given his readers a hall of fame product."

When asking around, there was only one bad thing said about Kip Cheek.

It was from his buddy, Heironymous, a St. Louis Cardinals fan, "The only bad thing about Kip is that he's a Chicago Cubs fan."

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SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

Clippers fall to Bureau Valley, Somonauk

AMBOY — Amboy fell behind early and suffered a 69-35 loss to Bureau Valley in varsity boys' basketball action on Dec. 13 at the AHS gym.

The Clippers were down 14-5 after the opening stanza and then Bureau Valley went on a 29-8 scoring binge in the second period to take a 43-13 halftime lead.

Wes Wilson led Amboy in scoring with 14 points. He connected on four shots from three-point land. Troy Anderson added a pair of treys and finished with 10 tallies, while Garrett Pertell (seven points) and Kyler McNinch (four points) finished out the scoring.

The Clippers couldn't maintain a fourth-quarter lead and dropped a 57-42 decision at Somonauk on Dec. 16.

After trailing 32-19 at the half, Amboy staged a furious third-quarter rally when it outscored Somonauk, 20-6, to take a 39-38 lead after three periods. Wilson keyed the comeback with three three-pointers in the frame. But the roles were reversed in the fourth quarter as the Clippers went cold with just three points while the Bobcats burned the net for 19 points.

Wilson finished with a team-high 14 points, while McNinch (12) and Anderson (10) also hit double figures.

OSFM stresses holiday decoration fire safety

SPRINGFIELD — Tis the season for decking the halls to celebrate the holiday season. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), more than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. The NFPA also reports U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 160 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year between 2016-2020, and an estimated average of 790 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees.

More than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. Candle fires peak in December, followed closely by January. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and New Year's Eve. Before you head to bed or out for the evening, extinguish all lit candles.

"Decorations add joy and extra flair to our homes during the holiday season, but they can also increase our risk for an accidental fire," said Acting Illinois State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson. "Following a few simple fire safety tips can help to reduce that risk and allow you and your family to enjoy the holiday season."

The Office of the Illinois State Fire

Marshal will once again be hosting the "Keep the Wreath Red" campaign at our offices in Springfield and Chicago, along with at the Quinn Fire Academy in Chicago and the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign. This campaign raises awareness about the importance of fire safety during the holiday season (December 1st through January 2nd). Unfortunately, last year 16 lives were lost in fire related incidents during the holiday season in Illinois.

Keep the Wreath Red Campaign began in 1954 in Naperville to raise awareness about holiday fire safety. White light bulbs will replace the red bulbs when a fire related death is reported in the state.

These white lights are not just bulbs; they represent a person. This could be your mother, father, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, friend, or neighbor. The goal of the campaign each year is to raise awareness and help prevent fire deaths from occurring. Unfortunately, as of Dec. 9, there has already been a fire related death in the state.

Below are some tips to keep in mind to stay fire-safe when decking the halls this holiday season:

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Make sure decorations are either flame retardant or flame resistant.
- Keep lit candles at least 12 inches

away from decorations or anything that can catch fire.

- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Extinguish all lit candles before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Check to make sure your lights are rated for indoor or outdoor use, or both.
- Replace any light strands that have worn or broken cords. Make sure to read the recommendation for number of light strings you can string together.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- If you have a real Christmas tree, make sure to check water levels daily! It is not unusual for a tree to drink two gallons of water the first day it is in the stand.
- Keep real Christmas trees away from a heat source. It can dry out the tree quickly.

After a busy cooking day on Thanksgiving, before firing the oven back up preparing the next holiday meal, make sure to clean it. In case of an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed until it is cool. Clean cook tops as left-over grease can catch fire. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, but Christmas and Christmas Eve follow closely behind.

**Email news items to
tgreenfield@
amboynews.com**

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE ESTATE OF
()
()
SHIRLEY LEWALLEN,
()
Deceased.
No. 2022 PR 60
()

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of SHIRLEY LEWALLEN, of 205 West Bassett Street, Nelson, Illinois on October 29, 2022. Letters of Office were issued on December 1, 2022, by the 15th Judicial Circuit Court of Lee County to the representatives and Independent Executor, TERRI SCHRYVER, 1505 Howard Street, Sterling, Illinois. The attorney for the representatives and Independent Executor of the estate is Robert J. Thompson, 119 West First Street, Ste. 200, P.O. Box 1016, Dixon, Illinois 61021.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Lee County Services building, 309 South Galeana Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021, or with the representative, TERRI SCHRYVER, 1505 Howard Street, Sterling, Illinois 61081 within six (6) months from the first publication of this Claim Notice, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of specific notice to known creditors, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that time period is barred.

Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and/or to the attorney within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.

BY: TERRI SCHRYVER, Representative/Executor.
Robert J. Thompson
119 West First Street,
Ste. 200

P.O. Box 1016
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 284-7705 phone
(815) 284-7707 facsimile
bobthompsonlaw@gmail.com
No. 1204
(Dec. 7, 14, 21, 2022)

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

State of Illinois
Department of Agriculture
Notice is hereby given that the Class I Grain Warehouse license of Mullins Grain Company, 217 North Shabbona Road, Shabbona, IL 60550, 2386 Suydam Road, Earlville, IL 60518 and 121 E. K. Irke Gate, Lee, IL 60530 has been voluntarily surrendered. Therefore, all depositors of grain who had stored grain under warehouse receipts or grain bank which has not been settled for or removed from storage as of October 4, 2022, should notify the Department of Agriculture in writing at the Bureau of Warehouses, State Fairgrounds, P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9281. However, the above-named company's Grain Dealer license is still in effect, so the entity may still legally purchase grain from the producers.
Jerry Costello II
Director
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Legal No. 1207 (12/14, 12/21, 12/28 2022)

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119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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121 LOST AND FOUND

Lost. 7 Month Old, Female Cat. Gray with a Brown Belly & White Spots on Each Side. Last Seen Wearing a Pink Harness. Lost around Rochelle Gardens on Caron Road. Call 815-503-3654. \$100 Reward

125 PERSONALS

Christopher May
please contact
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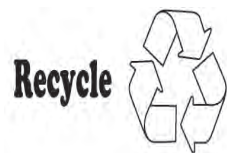
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

AHH GEEZ, I AM STUFFED. I COULDN'T EAT ANOTHER BITE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DON'T YOU KNOW COWS ACTUALLY HAVE FOUR STOMACHS?

FOUR STOMACHS, HUH?...

OK, WELL, I'M NOT ONE TO ARGUE WITH SCIENCE.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

SOME GUY TAKES A FLYER OFF A BUILDING AND NOBODY SEES ANYTHING, OR SAYS ANYTHING? I TELL YA MIKE... I'M NOT LOVIN' IT!

THE CASES OF DETECTIVE MICK NUGGET

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

HEY, JUNE, YA WANNA GO DOWNTOWN AND SIT ON SANTA'S LAP AND TELL HIM WHAT YA WANT FOR CHRIS'MIS?

HA! YER FUNNY, DAD!

DON'T TELL ME...

YUP, THEY'VE GOT AN APP FOR THAT NOW.

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

WAS DR. PEPPER A REAL DOCTOR?

HE SURE WAS...

...HE WAS A "FIZZICIAN."

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS

POPEYE

BY RANDY MCULLUM

BLAST THAT HAG! ERY SINGLE TIME!

YOU NEED TO GET DOWN TO THE BEACH IN A HURRY! SEA HAG IS UP TO SOMETHING!

BLAST IT ALL, SEA HAG!

WHAT'S GOIN ON HERE?!

OH, Y'KNOW, SEASONAL DEPRESSION, WORK STRESS...

YOU'RE TOO LATE, YOU CYCLOPTIC CHUM RAT! I'VE COMPLETED THE RITUAL!

BEHOLD AS I AWAKEN THE SLEEPING HORROR...

GOONTHULHU!

YES! FEAR, MORTALS! GOONTHULHU WALKS AND I AM HIS—

WHAM!

TRANSLATION: "JUST FIVE MORE EONS."

...SNOOZE BUTTON? ARF! ARF!

MY ARMS AREN'T CURRENTLY WORKING SO BE A DEAR AND IMAGINE THE GESTURE I WANNA MAKE.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

FOR DATE NIGHT LET'S LET FATE DECIDE WHERE WE EAT. WE'LL PUT MY COUPONS IN A HAT AND DRAW.

OLIVE

SO WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SWEET HAVEN?

I'M GOING TO COLLEGE!

OH! WHAT RAJAZ?

MARTINE BIOLOGY! MY DAD AND BIG BRO ARE BOTH SAILORS, AND I LOVE THE OCEAN JUST LIKE THEM! I EVEN DYED MY HAIR BLUE!

THE SEA IS FILLED WITH SO MANY WONDERFUL CREATURES! LOOK!

THEY... ARE LOVELY...



"But try us again sometime — you never know when we'll be _____."

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!

Lament

RIDGE

Secure

CANRITE

Push

LOPPER

Debris

SWEAT

TODAY'S WORD

December 19, 2022 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Feedbag bit
- 4 Chilled
- 8 Theatergoer's souvenir
- 12 Show to a seat, slangily
- 13 Cleopatra's river
- 14 Poi base
- 15 Dance syllable
- 16 Fabric fastener
- 18 Klum of "Project Runway"
- 20 Hide-hair insert
- 21 Early birds?
- 24 Apple intruders
- 28 Wind-driven toy
- 32 Tidy
- 33 Altar affirmative
- 34 Fussess
- 36 Log chopper
- 37 Region (Abbr.)
- 39 Flag-shaped blazer accessory
- 41 Pago Pago's place
- 43 Sleuth Wolfe
- 44 Sphere
- 46 Lively dance
- 50 Yankee uniform pattern
- 55 Squeak stopper

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16			17			
18			19			20				
			21		22	23	24		25	26
28	29	30				31		32		
33				34			35		36	
37			38		39			40		
41			42		43					
			44		45		46		47	48
50	51	52				53	54		55	
56					57				58	
59					60				61	

- 56 Clue
- 57 One-named supermodel
- 58 Buddy
- 59 Conks out
- 60 Like lemons
- 61 Supplement, with "out"
- 7 TV chef Paula
- 8 "Sophie's Choice" author
- 9 Spigot
- 10 Swiss canton
- 11 "— voyage!"
- 17 AAA job
- 19 Morning moisture
- 22 Earth sci.
- 23 Auto style
- 25 Harvest
- 26 Extra-long
- 27 British gun
- 28 Plum centers
- 29 Notion
- 30 Standard
- 31 Easy gait
- 35 Eden tempter
- 38 Perches
- 40 Privy
- 42 Illustrations
- 45 Telly watcher
- 47 Earring site
- 48 "Star Trek" captain
- 49 Medicinal plant
- 50 Prof's degree
- 51 Three, on a sundial
- 52 Away from SSW
- 53 "— Little Teapot"
- 54 Standard

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What is the primary setting of the Netflix series "Bridgerton"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Republic of Maldives located?
- LITERATURE: What is the subject of Walt Whitman's poem "O Captain! My Captain!"?
- LANGUAGE: What is the third letter of the Greek alphabet?
- HISTORY: When was the last time the Liberty Bell rang in Philadelphia?
- MOVIES: What was Henry Fonda's jury number in "12 Angry Men"?
- MATH: What is a heptahedron?
- BUSINESS: In what year did McDonald's introduce the Big Mac to all of its customers?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president tried to ban Christmas trees from the White House?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What do bees collect from flowers and use to make honey?

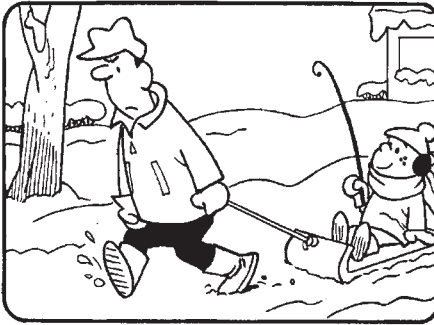
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Collar is different. 3. Leg is missing. 4. Rope end is missing. 5. Whip is shorter. 6. Scarf end is missing.

DESPERATE

Today's Word

3. Propel; 4. Waste

1. Dirge 2. Certain

SCRAMBLERS

solution

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: W equals L

KH E FYXCJY COBCB AYTJ
UPABKXEW HKCROBB WOZOW, K
JOXQYR PO KB WYYQKRS EC CPO
ZKSYJ UKXCTJO.

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King Crossword

Answers

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

recon he is looking at the

physical fitness level, I

If a doctor tests your

answer

if a doctor tests your