

The Amboy News

The Depot Museum

Amboy, Illinois

Volume 167 - Number 43

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\$1.00



Amboy, Sublette announce Halloween Trick or Treating hours

AMBOY — The City of Amboy will host its Halloween Parade at 3 p.m., on Sunday, Oct. 30. Line-up begins at 2:30 p.m. The parade will kick-off near First

Federal Savings and Loan and continue down Main Street to the old Amboy Junior High. Trick or treating hours will go from 4-6 p.m., after the parade. The Halloween Parade

is sponsored by The Amboy Car Show Committee

In Sublette, the Trick or Treating hours for Sublette will be from 5-7 p.m., on Monday, Oct. 31.

A.C.O. supports reading, library, community

BY BRANDON LACHANCE

Amboy News Reporter
AMBOY — Recently, the Amboy Civic Organization delivered a check to the Pankhurst Memorial Library in Amboy to help support reading in the community. It wasn't the first time.

And if Carole Benson has anything to say about it, it won't be the last.

"It means a lot to me. I'm a reader and I encouraged my kids to read," said Benson, who has been the A.C.O. treasurer for the last two years and a member for the last 15 years. "From the time they were old enough to even look at pictures in a book, I took them to the library every Saturday whether it was Amboy, Dixon, or Mendota. Wherever we lived, we belonged to the library."

"They were all honor students. I think it has a lot to do with reading and the encouragement of reading. The library holds a big place in my heart because I feel like they contribute to many families just like they did mine."

The Amboy Civic Organization as a whole — which began as Amboy Woman's Club in the early 1990s and reorganized in 1995 as the Amboy Civic Organization allowing men and women to aid the community — understands the importance of reading and supporting the Pankhurst Memorial Library.



Carole Benson, pictured left, the treasurer of the Amboy Civic Organization, hands a donation to Emily Goff at the Pankhurst Memorial Library.

Brandon LaChance/Amboy News

Carpet was purchased for the library after the A.C.O. sold 10x10 squares for \$10 each to donors. It sold pewter medallions representing the Amboy Train Depot to help purchase computers, bookcases, and supplies for children's programs.

Books have also been donated by the A.C.O. When members of the organization

pass away, the organization donates books in honor of the person after asking loved ones what type of books they cared for or if there was a particular book or author, he or she favored.

See ACO page A2



Amboy High School students practice "The Importance of Being Earnest."

Photo courtesy of Deb Cleary

"The Importance of Being Earnest" takes the AHS Fall Stage

BY GEORGE HOWE

Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY — It's time to queue the lights and raise the curtain on this season's Amboy High School Fall play entitled "The Importance of Being Earnest."

This Oscar Wilde creation tells the story of two bachelors, John 'Jack' Worthing and Algernon 'Algy' Moncrieff who create alter egos named Ernest to escape their tiresome lives. They attempt to win over the hearts of two women who conveniently claim to only love men named Ernest.

"We've been thinking of putting this adaptation on for a few years now, and this seemed like the right time to give it a try," said Director and Art Teacher Deb Cleary.

The small cast of 10 has been holding daily rehearsals four days a week for a while now in preparation for three performances scheduled for Nov. 4-6. Cleary and assistant director Avery Kerley once again decided to work with minimalist set designs that they've experimented with over the last two presentations.

See PLAY page A3

City council, school board host meetings last week

BY GEORGE HOWE

Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY — The Amboy City Council held their monthly meeting on Oct. 17, a very light agenda made for a quick session. Committee-man Dave Shaw, a member of the Depot Commission said that the museum is looking into a gazebo for the grounds. The Commercial Street culvert project has been completed, along with the annual fire hydrant flushing. A special Solar Farm meeting was held on Oct. 20 at the Community Building, members of the council that attended will bring their findings to the next council meeting. Trick or Treat hours will be from 4-6 p.m., on Sunday, Oct. 30 after the parade.

SCHOOL BOARD

At the regularly scheduled school board meeting held on Oct. 20, Katie Pratt opened the proceedings with information pertaining to the FFA. The Conduct of Chapter Meetings Leadership Development Event introduces FFA members to parliamentary procedure as they learn how to conduct efficient meetings and build communication skills. Last May, the Amboy team made



Pictured back row left to right: Kenley Wilson, Quinn Leffelman, Brysen Full. Front row left to right: Grace Royer, Tyler Huggins, Alaine Wittenauer, Natalie Pratt.

Photo courtesy of Katie Pratt

up of Brysen Full, Quinn Leffelman, Tyler Huggins, Natalie Pratt, Grace Royer, Kenly Wilson, and Alainie Wittenauer won the state competition and is heading to Indianapolis this week to compete at the National FFA Convention. The team is coached by Advisor Mr. Heavner. Some of the requirements include; knowing the FFA opening and closing ceremonies, how to set up a meeting room and

conduct a meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order. The team has already completed the written portion and was placed in the first round of the competition scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 26. Results will be posted to the Amboy FFA Chapter and Alumni and Supporters Facebook page.

See BOARD page A4

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.

Wallace Percy Berry, Seaman 2nd Class

In 1940, with an eye toward the war in Europe, Congress passed the first peacetime Selective Service Act. That same year, President Franklin Roosevelt announced a Naval Reserve training program designed to expand the United States Pa-



cific Fleet by 36,000 seamen. This program would allow Wallace Berry to become one of the youngest World War II servicemen from Amboy, even as his own father was serving in the Army assigned to the 971st Engineer Maintenance Battalion. This unit would later support Allied Forces in Normandy by restoring shore landing facilities after D-Day.

Wallace was born in 1925,



the only child of Percy and Freda Berry in Lee Center. In later years, the family moved into Amboy Township where Wallace attended school. His father was a carpenter by trade, and made his living independently. In the years following the war, Wallace was remembered by classmates for his contribution to the Amboy Clippers football team coached by Jim Dominetta.

At some point in the early 1940's, the Berry Family left Amboy for California,

residing in Arcadia near Los Angeles. With his high school education completed, Wallace enlisted in the Navy Reserves on March 17, 1943. Military records show that he enrolled in Landing Craft School with the Amphibious Training Command, Pacific Fleet at the San Diego Naval Base. Upon completion of this 90 day training, Seaman 2nd Class Berry was assigned to active duty on the U.S.S. John Penn, a Navy Attack Transport Vessel, departing for the South Pacific on July

27th, just four months after his enlistment.

Earlier that year, the John Penn had supplied troops and supplies during the Battle of Guadalcanal. Although many key bases were now occupied by American Forces, the Japanese still held two key bases on either end of New Georgia, a chain of islands in the southern region of the Solomon Islands. Naval and land battles continued into August before the American Navy secured these islands.

See BERRY, page A3

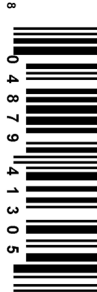
AMBOY MINUTE

Obituaries

Mary Helen Leffelman

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LOCAL NEWS

October top recruiting month for Amboy Fire Department

BY BRANDON LACHANCE

Amboy News Reporter
AMBOY — Some citizens look at October as the month leaves change color and then fall off of trees.

Others scratch their brain for an epic Halloween costume or because they don't know how much candy to buy

to hand out to trick-or-treaters on Oct. 31.

There's high school football seeding, fall festivals, school performances, dances, work assignments, construction deadlines, and the list can read until the back page of next week's Amboy News.

For Amboy Fire District Chief Jeff Bryant Sr., October

means one thing, recruitment.

"We know October is a big recruiting month for us. Not just in Amboy, but for fire departments in the area and across the nation," said Bryant Sr. "We need people for our department to continue to grow. The number one issue with fire departments today is revenue. Not far behind it is manpower and us needing bodies to aid, assist, and be there for our community."

Amby Fire District has brought in three new recruits, as one is a certified fire fighter and EMT, and the other two are going to be EMTs.

This October has also saw

eight members of Amboy High School join the department as recruits.

"Being a member of the Amboy Fire District is beneficial. It teaches you skills you may not learn anywhere else," Bryant Sr. said. "It gives you the chance to help your community or if they wish, take the training we provide, and fight fires and answer calls for other departments."

"We have had around 25 people who came through our doors and are now fire fighters, EMTs, paramedics, or dispatchers for departments in Rockford, Aurora, and other bigger cities. Some

even come back to help us if we need their assistance."

Although the October is almost over, the recruiting push is not slowing down.

The Amboy fire station will host meeting dinners at 6 p.m. every Thursday starting Nov. 3.

Guests, which can be adults or high school students, will receive information about the Amboy department, what the job entails, a dinner, and some training.

There is also a EMT class planned for March as the training will be funded by Illinois Senator Dick Durbin's grant program to financially

aid rural fire departments.

"If we could bring in two more individuals, whether it's a firefighter or firefighter and EMT, it would help our community out tremendously and it would supplement what we already have," said Chief Bryant Sr. "We had a fire call in Lee Center on Thursday (Oct. 20) and we were fortunate enough to have the manpower to assist both of our engines to assist with the fire."

See FIRE page A3



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NOTICE OF VOTE BY MAIL AND EARLY VOTING

Nancy Petersen, Lee County Clerk and Recorder would like to announce that beginning THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022, VOTE BY MAIL AND EARLY VOTING will be conducted in the Election Department of her office, first floor of the Old Lee County Courthouse, 112 E. Second St., Dixon.

VOTE BY MAIL~ signed applications will be accepted through Thursday, November 3, 2022, and is available for properly registered Lee County voters. Applications are available on the website or by contacting the Election Department of her office.

EARLY VOTING~ must be conducted in person Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. and Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Closed legal holidays.

The votes cast during this time will not be counted until the polls close on Election Day. Once a ballot has been cast it cannot be rescinded.

Website: www.leecountyil.com
Email: election@countyoflee.org
Phone: 815-288-3309

Nancy Petersen
Lee County Clerk & Recorder
09282022

Do You Know An AMERICAN HERO?

The Amboy News is once again doing a section featuring Veterans and military personnel and would like you to send or bring us a military picture of yourself or favorite military hero along with a short biography of their service history, present or past.

Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserves or Merchant Marines.

Our special section featuring your own local heroes will be published on **November 9th.**
Deadline for submitting Photos/Information is Fri., Nov. 4, 9 a.m.

If the Veteran was featured last year, you don't have to resubmit the photo and information to us this year.

Name: _____
(Optional Information)
Branch of Service: _____
Rank: _____
Present Address: _____
Location of Training: _____
Dates in Service: _____
Tours of Duty: _____
Any Other Interesting Information: (limit 50 words, please) _____

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Photos may be picked up at The Amboy News office after Wednesday, Nov. 9th, or send us a self-addressed stamped envelope and your photo will be returned.

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LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Aerobics

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

Afterschool program

Our program has started. Attendance has been tremendous. At this time, we will be having a waiting list. 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.

Volunteers

We could use your help

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Gandhi. Please consider helping us help children during our afterschool program. It runs from 3:30 till 5 p.m. We need people to listen to children read, do basic math, and other small tasks. Give one hour or give a little bit more. Contact us at 815-857-4800 if interested.

Halloween Dance & Costume Contest

We will be holding this spooky event on Friday, Oct. 28 from 7-9 p.m. We will be having a costume contest, along with games and music. The cost is \$5 to get in. We will have food and drinks for sale. Your child will get in free if you would like to chaperone. If interested, please call 815-857-4800.

Thanksgiving Community Event

Please save the date- Nov. 19. Time will be announced. All are welcome to attend, sorry no carry outs. Come for food and comradery. More details to come.

Thank You's

We are always grateful for those that assist Teen Turf in its endeavor of helping people: Maddy Thomas and Woodhaven Association for the mini pumpkins; Larry Piper for doing all the things around the building and cans; those that donate cans; Ryan Hall for the vegetables; Santa for the eggs; Enel for lunch; Donna Wellman for the cookies and money for the dance prizes; Sandy Morrissey for the monetary donation and hot chocolate; LeRoy and Alice Dukes for the watermelon; Pam Payne for the hot chocolate; Pat Stenzel for the foosball game and Donna and Delbert for delivering it; Pam and Will Thomas for the Halloween gift basket prizes; Stephanie and Dave Delhotal for the monetary donation and Shannon. Josh, and rest of the Nichols family for the pudding and crackers.

Needs

Hot Chocolate, Fruit Snacks, and Granola Bars

Final Word

Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for your purposes. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In God's Name, Amen.

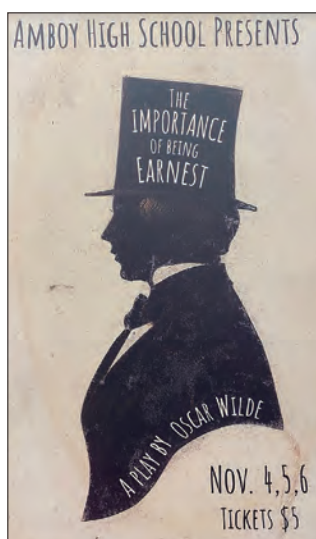
PLAY

continued from page A1

"This show will have the entire play performed in the front half of the stage," explained Cleary. "This should provide audiences with a more intimate viewing experience, as well as train our students to utilize a smaller space effectively."

A bit of a twist to this classic, finds Natalie Pratt acting in the normally male role of Algernon. "During auditions, it became apparent that Natalie was suitable for a comedic role, and given her solid performance in the past, we felt that she was ready to take on the challenge of a leading part," said Cleary. "I'm having a good time playing Algy," added Pratt."

You might have seen a poster in a local business storefront window announcing the upcoming show. Austin Shugars who plays Jack designed the artwork along with t-shirts that are currently available for pre-sale. A raffle is also held for



Posters designed by cast member Austin Shugars.

a t-shirt at each performance. Show times are 7 p.m. both Friday and Saturday with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Tickets are available at the door for \$5.

Plan to come out and support the Amboy drama department.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

EAST GROVE TWP-The East Grove Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8, at the East Grove Township Hall.

MAY TWP-The May Township meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the township maintenance building.

AMBOY-The Amboy Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the township building, 106 S. Prospect.

PAW PAW-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 - 6 p.m., on Thursday, Nov. 10, at Paw Paw Elementary School, 511 Chapman. Call the Red

Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

LEE CENTER TWP-The Lee Center Township meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Township Building, 2202 Shaw Rd., Amboy.

AMBOY-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 - 6 p.m., on Friday, Nov. 11, at Amboy Community Building, 280 W. Wasson Rd. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

AMBOY-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd., on Monday, Nov. 14. Anyone interested in joining or wants more information on the Lions Club is invited to attend.

SUBLETTE-The Sublette Village Board will meet

at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14 at the Ellice Dinges Center, 202 S. West St., Sublette.

AMBOY-The Amboy Fire Protection District will meet at 8 a.m. at the Fire Station, 25 N. East Ave., on Monday, Nov. 14.

DIXON-The Lee County Health Department will hold a flu clinic from 3 - 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at the Lee County Health Department.

Walk-ins are welcomed. No appointment necessary. Please bring insurance card or be prepared to pay a fee. Hi-Dose available for those 65 and older. For more information, please contact 815-284-3371, ext. 2100.

AMBOY-The Amboy CUSD School Board will meet at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Amboy Junior High School.

PLAY IT SAFE ON HALLOWEEN



Whether you're a child or an adult, Halloween fun should be just that. Keep safety in mind while you celebrate.

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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.

BERRY

continued from page A1

On Aug. 13, 1943, the John Penn had just finished unloading a cargo of 155 mm artillery shells off Lunga Point on Guadalcanal. At 9:20 p.m. she came under attack from different directions by Japanese torpedo planes. Within minutes seamen on the John Penn fired on one of the planes causing it to burst into flames and crash into the ship's mainmast. An instant later an airborne torpedo was launched from a different torpedo plane causing a secondary explosion near the number 5 cargo hold. By 9:50 p.m., the U.S.S. John Penn sunk stern first into the sea, losing over one hundred sailors, including Seaman Wallace P. Berry. Later shipwreck investigations discovered the stern had completely broken away from the rest of the ship by 400 yards.

Most Americans can only imagine the never-ending burden of grief and pain inflicted on soldiers during wartime. Whether by survivors who suffer physical or psychological trauma, or the sorrow of families who have lost a loved one, the weight of that loss does not lighten with time.

On Aug. 14, 1944, after being listed as "missing in action," Wallace Percy Berry, Seaman 2nd Class, was officially declared dead. He was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously. After the end of the war in 1945, Seaman Berry's mother remained in California for the balance of her life while his father returned to Amboy, spending his final two years in Arizona.

The memory of Seaman Berry is forever preserved on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. His youthful spirit and willing sacrifice are forever remembered by his town and a grateful nation.

Citations:
Purple Heart

FIRE

continued from page A2

"It was the middle of the afternoon and you never know what kind of help you're able to get. The Sublette Fire Department brought an engine and the two units, which act as one on every call, were able to take care of the fire.

"However, just a couple more people make a big difference."

Bryant Sr. added if people were not interested in becoming firefighters or EMTs, the Amboy department also recruits people for marketing, public relations, information technology (IT) services, and many more skills.

"We pay hour for hour whether it's training or if people are taking calls. It's money in their pocket and it's a good feeling to know you're helping out the community," said Chief Bryant Sr.

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RECYCLE!
RECYCLE!

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Mary Helen Leffelman Dec. 16, 1926 - Oct. 17, 2022

MENDOTA — Mary Helen Leffelman, 95, of Mendota, died on Monday, Oct. 17, 2022 at Stonecroft in Mendota.

She was born on Dec. 16, 1926 in Henry, the daughter of Olen and Hilda (Neuhalfen) Ely.

Mary Helen was a "farmers wife" and also farmed with her son, Myron. She was a volunteer Pink Lady at the Mendota Community Hospital. Mary Helen was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Mendota, St. Patrick Catholic Church in Maytown, Altar and Rosary Society, Country Squares, PTO, 4H Leader, and taught catechism. She enjoyed going to daily Mass, raising chickens, tending to her large garden, was an avid quilter, and was an excellent mother and grandmother.

Mary Helen married Hubert Leffelman on Feb. 11, 1950 in Maytown, in a double ring ceremony with her sister and brother in law, Marjorie and Melvin Leffelman.

She is preceded in death by her husband Hubert on March 1, 1983; sons, David

Leffelman, Marty Leffelman; brothers, Gordon Ely, Richard Ely; and sister Marjorie Leffelman.

Mary Helen is survived by her children, Michael Leffelman, of LaMoille, Marilyn (Bill) Morrison, of Batavia, Marlene (J. Michael) McConville, of Ottawa, and Myron (Janet) Leffelman, of Maytown; 10 grandchildren, Chris (Megan) Leffelman, Ted (Emily) Leffelman, Andrea (Anthony) Cain, Jeff (Neyer) Morrison, Sue (Aaron) Fogg, Sarah (Ryan) Zink, Katie (Laen) Neal, Luke (Bailey) McConville, Alex (Alyssa) Leffelman, and Alexis (Chaon) Hanson; and 19 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother, Ned (Carol) Ely, of Amboy; sisters and brothers in law, Karen Ely, Gilbert (Linda) Leffelman, Carol (Charles) Koch, and Leo Bushman.

Family would like to thank Stonecroft for their care of Mary Helen these last 13 years.

Mass of Christian burial was held at 11 a.m., on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, at St.



Patrick Catholic Church in Maytown. Burial followed mass at St. Patrick Cemetery in Maytown. Visitation was held from 9 – 10:30 a.m., on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022, at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. A memorial has been established to the Maytown Altar and Rosary Society.

She will be loved and remembered by her family and friends and her memory will be carried in our hearts.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.



Lee and Whiteside County Farm Bureau Foundations host Matching Funds Campaign for SVCC Ag

LEE COUNTY — The matching funds campaign hosted by Lee and Whiteside County Farm Bureau Foundations concluded on Aug. 31. Through the generosity of the foundations and our community, a total of \$20,000 was raised for SVCC's Ag Animal Science lab.

The goal of the campaign was to expand the SVCC Animal Science labs to greatly enhance the hands-on learning opportunities for students. Through the lab, students will be able to perform anatomy and physiology activities as they relate to animal reproduction, nutrition and digestion, and physical movements.

Beyond the benefits to the animal science classes, customized training will be available with portable lab kits.

Collaboration for training sessions will be available to county farm bureaus, area vet clinics, county 4-H groups, and others in need of training.

Dr. Lori Cortez, Dean of Institutional Advancement at SVCC states, "The generosity from our donors, especially the Lee County and Whiteside County Farm Bureaus, shows the overwhelming support for our SVCC Ag students. With these funds, students will have access to state of the art technologies to prepare them to lead our local Agricultural sector and beyond."

For more information on supporting the SVCC Ag program, please contact the Sauk Valley College Foundation at 815-835-6260 or foundation@svcc.edu.

Amboy News Obituary Policy

The Amboy News will print DEATH NOTICES (approximately 50 words including name, age, date of death, time/date of services) free of charge. OBITUARIES will be printed at a cost of \$40 to be billed to the arranging funeral home or prepaid with cash, check or credit card. Please submit obituaries or death notices to tgreenfield@amboynews.com.

BOARD continued from page A1

Year two of the strategic planning for the school district is continuing. Last year, a committee composed of teachers, staff, and adminis-

tration from all three schools, met monthly to sort through survey responses from students along with focus group feedback to craft a new mis-

sion, vision, and value statements for the district. This term, the committee is joined by members of each buildings school improvement team

to add detail to five priority areas and develop goals and objectives for each.

A presentation was given by Ryan Steines of Winkel,

Parker and Foster, CPA for the school audit. After the report, the board approved the financial audit report as of June 30, as presented.

Principals Janet Crowhart, Joyce Schamberger, and Andrew Full reported on school activities, end of quarter progress reports, and continued school improvements programs.

Superintendent Joshua Nichols stated the he was 'excited' to announce that the junior high demo contract had been drawn up and the first design submitted for the As-

bestos Abatement. The board approved the agreement with Analytical Design Group for the project. The first initial speculative costs will be \$15,000.

Nichols went on to explain that as the season's change and the schools go from cooling to heating the buildings, the high school boilers are in the process of being installed. Two fully working circulating pumps will be fully functional in the event one goes down, school won't have to be closed.

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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	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.	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.	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.
St. Mary Church Fr. John Gow 912 Walton Rd., Walton 815-857-2670 Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm	Grace Fellowship Church Amboy-Sublette Pastor Brian McWethy 500 W. Main Street, Sublette Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. www.graceisforyou.com	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.	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Rev. Randy Fronck 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.
St. Flannen Church Fr. John Gow 213 S Second St., Harmon 815-857-2670 Mass: Sunday, 9 am	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!	St. Mary's Church Rev. Randy Fronck West Brooklyn Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday - 5:30 p.m.	Refuge Church Pastor John Kalebaugh Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52 Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930 10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows
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.		St. Patrick Church Rev. Randy Fronck - Maytown Mass - Fri. 8 a.m., Sun, 8 a.m.	Harmon United Methodist Church Pastor Leanne Keate 202 N. Grove, Harmon Phone 359-7302 Worship - 8:30 a.m.

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Local nature and history

By Jim "Mazie" Long



Students walking to school in earlier days all knew the junco and other migrating birds that arrived this time of year. Photo courtesy Library of Congress.

Birds on parade Fall bird migration is underway in Lee County...

Millions of passenger pigeons and Carolina parakeets are gone forever. Many other birds have completely disappeared from the flyways of Illinois. But even though our passing flocks have been greatly reduced, it is still possible to encounter migrating flocks that contain thousands of birds. The wilds of the Northwoods and Canada are still the summer homes of many of our migrating birds.

In September and October, when you drive past a woodland that is full of birds, get out your binoculars and try to identify the birds that you see. Robins, bluebirds, here and there a fly-catcher, sparrows of different kinds -- and the warblers. The warblers are among our most beautiful and abundant migrating birds. It is possible to identify many different kinds of warblers in a single migrating flock.

Bird of a different feather

In the days of country schools, almost every boy and girl walked to school. They all knew the "snowbird" that suddenly appeared along the road in October -- sparrow sized, dark gray birds with white outer tail feathers. Every October, when the nights were becoming chilly, the snowbirds would appear along every fence line. Also called the dark-eyed junco, the snowbird is still one of our winter residents. They nest in the far north among the spruce and fir trees. None remain in Illinois in summer.



Jim "Mazie" Long

They are ground birds that live on weed seeds and insects and a little fruit. They often visit bird feeders in winter. Their slate color and pure white belly make them easy to identify. When they fly, you can see the flashing white tail feathers.

You will need good ears to hear their winter song. It is simply a few twitters and tinkling notes. Their sudden appearance on our roadsides in October always marks the beginning of our winter season.

Editor's Note: James Brady Long was born in Amboy on June 12, 1926. Known by many as "Mazie", he grew up in Amboy, served in the army during World War II, then studied forestry at the Michigan College of Mining and Technology. His studies in botany and forest protection continued as he ventured into farming here. A beloved story-teller, his farm became a place of learning and adventure for relatives and friends. In his later years, he contributed a series of local nature articles to The Amboy News. Upon his death in 2000, his many hand-written drafts were gathered and initially curated by Brenda Boyle. The present, renewed series draws from those drafts, both unpublished and previously published.

Related Resources:
Audubon / Dark-eyed Junco
<https://bit.ly/3rsF8EG>
Lee County Bird Count (pdf)
<https://bit.ly/3E8vrmy>

The Book Nook

By:
Tatjana Kazan

ANCIENT LIGHT

In John Banville's novel, "Ancient Light" (2012), Alex Cleave, a retired stage actor in his mid-60, sets himself the task of writing the story of his first, and probably, only love. "Billy Gray was my best friend," he begins his story, "and I fell in love with his mother... All this happened half a century ago. I was fifteen and Mrs. Gray was thirty-five." He continues, "What do I recall of her, here in these soft, pale days of the lapsing of the year. Images from the far past crowd in my head, and half the time I cannot tell whether they are memories or inventions. Not that there is much difference between the two."

By writing down his love story -- he would like to be in love one last time -- Alex attempts to keep the crushing grief of his daughter's suicide at bay. Ten years ago, Cass Cleave, deeply disturbed, threw herself from a church tower onto the rocks below in the Ligurian coastal town of Portovenere. ("Ancient Light" is the third installment of a trilogy; the

first two are "Eclipse" and "Shroud," of which the latter is the story of Cass's suicide.) The love affair with Mrs. Gray is both thrilling and frightening, mostly because Mrs. Gray was so careless about expose in that "tight little town" on the Irish coast. "Certainly she granted me full freedom of her body, that opulent pleasure garden," Alex recalls, but at fifteen he still grappled with the emotions of a child, raging at her when she upset him. "Cleave" means both "to adhere" and its opposite, "to divide."

Summarizing a plotline does a disservice to Banville's superb prose, but I must mention a second narrative that links "Ancient Light" directly with "Shroud," when Alex, who has never acted in a film, is somewhat improbably offered the starring role in a film called "The Invention of the Past." On the set, he befriends the famous movie star Dawn Devonport, whose grief over her father's sudden death drives her to attempt suicide. Alex takes this Cass stand-in to Liguria to recuperate.

In the end, Alex appears to come to terms with Cass's death: "Since it seems that nothing in creation is ever destroyed, only disassembled and dispersed, might not the same be true of individual consciousness? Where when we die does it go to, all that we have been?" The fabrications we tell ourselves in the name of memory, the self-protection and the self-injury that the past offers us lead to the truly surprising, shattering ending of "Ancient Light."

As to Banville's title, Alex maintains that if our world is illuminated by "the ancient light of galaxies that travels for a million -- a billion -- a trillion! -- miles to reach us, then everywhere we look, we are looking into the past."

Kish College offering seven short-term training programs in Spring 2023

MALTA — The Kishwaukee College Continuing Education department is offering seven short-term training programs during the Spring 2023 semester. Short-term programs at Kish are de-signed to provide students with the skills and training needed to meet local workforce demands. The programs range from 11 to 20 weeks and allow students to immediately start a career or build upon their skills with additional training.

Spring 2023 classes will be offered in online, in-person and hybrid formats. Participants will need access to a computer and the internet to participate in programs with an online component. Some programs include an externship/clinical.

The short-term training programs offered in Spring 2023 are:

Dental Assistant: Jan. 15-April 15 (Online Lecture/In-Person Practice)

Dental assistants are skilled health care professionals who work closely with dentists and dental hygienists to provide quality preventive and corrective dental care and adminis-

trative support in dental offices. In-person practice will be conducted from 6-9 pm on Tuesdays in a local dental office.

Pharmacy Technician: Jan. 15-April 29 (Online)

Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists with dispensing prescription medication while performing various other duties in a pharmacy setting. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Pipeline for the Advancement of the Health Care Workforce Program (PATH) grant funding is available to those who qualify.

Phlebotomy Technician: (In-Person)

Jan. 23-April 14 (morning session)
March 27-June 16 (night session)

Phlebotomists are skilled health care professionals trained to collect, transport, handle and process blood and other specimens for laboratory analysis using venipuncture and micro-collection techniques. Instruction and in-person practice will be conducted on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays (9:30 a.m. - noon or 6-8:30

p.m.) at Kishwaukee College. PATH grant funding is available to those who qualify.

Real Estate Broker Pre-License: Jan. 24-April 6 (Online)

Real estate brokers perform many duties in real estate transactions, including marketing homes, establishing escrow accounts, and working to ensure transactions are fair and legal. Online instruction will be provided from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Recovery Support Specialist: Jan. 24-May 23 (Online Lecture/In-Person Practice)

Recovery Support Specialists use their lived experience in mental health or substance-use recovery to help others achieve life and recovery goals. This class will fulfill the education requirement for Illinois' Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS) or Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) certification exams. In-person lecture will be held from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesdays at Kishwaukee College, and online lecture will be held from 6-9 p.m. on Fridays.

Sterile Processing Technician: Jan. 15-April 22 (Online)

Sterile processing tech-

nicians provide support to all patient care services in a health care facility. They are responsible for decontaminating, cleaning, processing, assembling, sterilizing, storing and distributing the medical devices and supplies needed in patient care, especially during surgery. PATH grant funding is available to those who qualify.

Veterinary Assistant: Jan. 15-June 10 (Online Lecture/In-Person Practice)

Veterinary assistants are critical members of a veterinary staff trained to assist veterinarians and veterinary technicians with medical procedures on sick and injured animals.

In-person lecture/practice will be conducted from 5-8 p.m. on Wednesdays at Ashton Animal Clinic in Kaneville and from 4:30-7:30 p.m. on Fridays at Ashton Animal Clinic in Ashton.

Registration for the Spring 2023 session will open in November. Contact Melissa Gallagher at mgallagher1@kish.edu to schedule a phone meeting to discuss your program of interest and possible funding options.

For more information on short-term training at Kish, visit kish.edu/shortterm.

Woodlawn Arts to present musical

STERLING — Woodlawn Arts Academy presents its fall musical theater production, "Magic Tree House: Pirates Past Noon Kids" the weekend of Nov. 11 at Centennial Auditorium. Tickets go on sale Oct. 31.

The production features 26 first through fifth grade students from Sterling, Rock Falls, Dixon, Polo and Lyndon directed by Faith Morrison, Mardi Huffstutler, Dawn Arndt and Ashley Aurand. Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13 at Centennial Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 each, plus fees, and available beginning Oct. 31 online at centennialauditorium.org, or at the Centennial Auditorium box office, which is open 3-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Tickets will also be available at the door prior to performances.

Woodlawn Arts Academy is a partner agency of United Way of Whiteside and Lee counties, and programs are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Water Street Studios to exhibit at TNPS

DIXON — The Next Picture Show (TNPS) is pleased to present Water Street Studios from Batavia, to exhibit for the first time at TNPS.

On display from Oct. 29 - Dec. 10, the exhibit will include work by 23 artists from the Chicago area. The all-media exhibit of original art will include mixed media, acrylic, oil, pastel, charcoal, sculpture, and watercolor.

The opening reception will be held on Friday, Nov. 4 from 6 - 8 p.m., featured music will be performed by Al and Jeannie Brown from Wyand.

The exhibit will be available for viewing from Oct. 29 - Dec. 10 at 113 West First Street, Dixon. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Opinion

Why do our children keep dying in classrooms and how do we stop it?

There was no menace left in the school shooter who sat across from me in the prison visitor's room.

Clad in a blue chambray shirt and a tired expression, he told me about that fateful day in 1989 when he entered a day-care center in League City, Texas, and started shooting. A bullet ripped through the heart of a teacher who ran from him. She fell, midstride.

Her hopes, dreams, aspirations ended as the blood puddled beneath her prone form.

Youngsters screamed, hollered and ran every which way.

Standing between them and the killer was another teacher holding a terrified 3-year-old, who clung to a well-worn toy rabbit. A bullet ripped through the teacher's breast, another through her hand and another punched through her body.

Miraculously not a single shot hit the child. Even more remarkably, the woman lived.

The killer turned and ran. Months later, he was caught in Louisiana. I sat in the front row of the courtroom, notebook in hand, as he was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Thirty years later, I found myself sitting across from him in a prison as he neared release.

I found myself asking tough questions about forgiveness,

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



retribution and justice. Should someone who kills ever walk free?

Looking into the murderer's eyes I felt no fear. Any menace he once possessed was long gone. Looking at him, the only word that came to mind was: pathetic.

What turned this preacher's kid into a cold-hearted killer? I met his mother and sister at the trial. They were lovely people: kind and gentle to a fault.

They begged jurors for leniency. (In Texas, jurors can determine punishment as well as whether someone is innocent or guilty.)

Leaving the prison that day, I searched for a hint of justice. The closest I could come up with was: Twelve men and women chose this outcome.

His life will end not in a death chamber or a prison cell. He will die old, disgraced and free. Can a person who committed such evil

ever be happy?

I thought of that killer, Clyde "Buddy" Spence, this past week as a Florida jury spared the Parkland shooter from the death penalty. He killed 17 people and wounded another 17.

But he gets to live. It doesn't seem fair. Life seldom is.

The scars he left will never heal.

When I returned to Texas, I talked to the family members

of the teacher killed. They are still hurting.

I spoke with the teacher who was wounded three times. She has forgiven the man who harmed her. But the bullet wounds still mar her flesh.

And I've spoken to the child who the teacher held in her arms that fateful day. She is now a mother of three fine boys. She still has the toy rabbit discolored with her teacher's blood. Her psyche bears worse stains. The shooting has become her earliest memory.

Four years ago, I heard from that child survivor again. This time she was on social media frantically searching for her niece. I asked what happened and she said there was a gunman in the local high school and she didn't know if she was safe.

The niece survived but 10 students and teachers at Santa Fe, (Texas) High School were slain. Another 13 were wounded.

I learned of one of the worst school shootings in American history, from the survivor of the first school shooting I covered more than 30 years before. Strange.

In the wake of the Santa Fe shooting, I've repeatedly traveled to Texas looking for answers. But after speaking with survivors and families of the slain, I only have more questions.

Next month, I head for Uvalde, Texas, notebook in hand. Justice remains elusive. But someone needs to ask the question: Why do our children keep dying in classrooms and how do we stop it?

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

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 Years Ago October 20, 1922

The local basketball team has adopted the name "The Amboy owl" and will play under that name in the future.

Miss Fern Leighty, who spent some time in Amboy last winter, was killed in an automobile accident on Lookout Mountain in Denver, Colorado. She was only recently married and was returning from the honeymoon trip to California.

A postcard dated at Queenstown, Ireland October 6, 1922 and received in Amboy gives the information that Rev. T.J. Cullen of this city had safely crossed the ocean and was in good health and spirits.

75 Years Ago October 23, 1947

Rosemary Tubbs is assisting as secretary in the office of the Lee County Home Bureau in the absence of Mrs.

Leah Newman.

At Eichler Bros. — Play Suits' small, medium & large, also 1-6X, 85 cents-1.95. Coveralls—1-6x, \$1.65-2.65. In Blue Chambray and Seersucker.

50 Years Ago October 26, 1972

Mrs. J.H. Hughes returned home from a tour of several European countries during which she was the piano accompanist for Mrs. Juliet King of Joliet, a dramatic soprano, who appeared in a series of concerts.

Amboy High School students rehearsed for its annual fall play, "Take me Along," to be presented on November 4 and 5 in AHS auditorium.

25 Years Ago October 23, 1997

The Amboy Black 5-6th grade junior tackle team ended their season Sunday

in Dixon with a win over Dixon Gray by a score of 22-0. The win meant a championship title and capped off a 10-0 season for the team.

At its regular monthly meeting Monday night, the Amboy City Council unanimously approved a request from Shawn Sorenberger to rezone property he owns on Pieronet Street (just north of the former American Automotive facility) from R1 (residential) to C2 (commercial) so that he can construct a mini-warehouse facility.

Matt Willahan of Amboy received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Joe Francis Haircare Foundation. The scholarship was presented by Rose Lee Williams, Franchise Education Operations Consultant for The Barbers Corporation. This scholarship foundation is Francis' legacy to help deserving individuals receive the financial assistance they need to attend a certified cosmetology school.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Are you aware that your Medicare benefits are on the ballot this November? Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act this summer which contains provisions to allow for negotiated lower Medicare drug prices, capped insulin costs, and a ceiling on out-of-pocket medication expenses. Do you know who voted against that bill? Darin LaHood.

But wait there's more, did you know that Republican congressional members have already drawn up a bill to undo this if they take over after this election?

Did you hear Kevin McCarthy announce that he intends to reduce support

to Ukraine this winter if he wins control of the House in November's election? And based on his No vote to continue supplemental appropriations to Ukraine on Sept. 30, 2022, guess which 16th Congressional candidate from Illinois will probably vote to implement that cut if he is returned to Congress; yes, the guy from Peoria.

According to Politics that Works, that same Illinois lawyer turned legislator has voted on issues that favor the wealthy 93.8 percent of the time vs. 6.2 percent for issues benefitting the middle class.

Do you know who voted against the assault weapons ban on July 29, 2022?

Same dude.

You can put the brakes on this madness by voting for Lisa Haderlein in this fall's general election. The 16th Congressional district is pivotal to who controls Congress. You may consider yourself to be a Republican, but you are smart enough to identify who will work for you and your values vs. who is working for himself. Split your ticket and vote for Lisa Haderlein or better yet, choose candidates up and down the ballot who understand what works for Illinois.

C. Amy Palmer
Democratic Precinct Committee
Person for Sublette

A trying time for American elections

BY LEE HAMILTON

As the November general election approaches, I've been struck by the rise of an unusual type of news coverage. It's focused not on the campaigns, but on the running of elections themselves.

Some of it is alarming. In California, elections officials worried about their personal safety have just been given the ability to hide their personal information—like home addresses—from the public, using the same program the state uses to help victims of domestic violence. In several states, reports The New York Times, right-wing activists "driven by false theories about election fraud" are flooding elections offices in an attempt to toss tens of thousands of voter registrations, the vast majority of them entirely legitimate. People who deny the legitimacy of the 2020 election are either becoming elections officials or angling for elected posts that would oversee election administration.

And lest there be any doubt about where all this might lead, federal Judge Amy Berman Jackson just put it bluntly as she sentenced a Jan. 6 rioter to prison: "You were trying to stop the singular thing that makes America America: the peaceful transfer of power."

My fondest hope is that the election doubters who are given new responsibility for helping to run elections see what those of us who have watched American democracy at work for decades know to our core: that the overwhelming majority of elections at all levels in this country are administered fairly and competently by people who believe in the right of Americans to express their will at the ballot box.

To be sure, charges of voter fraud are rife. But study after study and legal investigation after investigation have found that actual voter fraud in the US is exceedingly rare. There are problems, of course, whether they involve chicanery from politicians bent on disenfranchising voters whose politics they don't like, or the mechanical and logistical issues that stem from an elections system with a patchwork of procedures, obsolete machinery, and increasingly complex training requirements for poll workers.

Still, we have well over 200 years of success in transferring power peacefully, often between political leaders who disagreed with one another, because in communities all over

this country dedicated town and city clerks and ordinary volunteers make it their business to ensure that elections are conducted honestly.

I can't put it better than a city clerk and election administrator in a small northern Minnesota community just did in a newspaper commentary: "It is disappointing to see the criticism elections and election officials have received in recent years," she wrote. "The truth is, we are just like you. Election administrators and judges are part of the community. We are your neighbors and co-workers, people you see at church on Sunday or in line at the grocery store. I believe I speak for all election officials when I say we are honest citizens who want to serve our community to the best of our ability."

It's a truism that elections matter. But we sometimes forget that participation in elections matters just as much. People who don't vote because they can't be bothered or they don't care or—increasingly—they don't trust their neighbors to run a fair election do more than keep vote totals down. They also help to skew election results by making potential candidates hyper-responsive to their party's most loyal, most partisan, voters—the ones they know for certain will turn out. I'd argue that voter apathy and suspicion have contributed directly to this country's heightened political divisions in recent decades.

I wish I could say that the answer is as simple as registering and voting. And in some respects, it is. But some states are making voting harder or less convenient, and in those places, it takes some determination to cast a ballot. Even more challenging, it's not simply voting that matters: It's casting an informed vote, one that looks past all the rhetoric and outright misinformation we encounter daily. That, too, is getting harder.

Yet what choice do we have? American democracy is in our hands. The way we preserve it is at the ballot box, and if it takes some work to exercise that right responsibly, then so be it.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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The Digital Museum

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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.

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LOCAL NEWS



Pictured above are, Don Dinges, Shirley (Fleetwood) Harrison, Bill Ogan, Betty (Gascoigne) Ogan, Mary (Shoemaker) Stauffer, Frances (Morrissey) Carroll, Olive (Otto) Bernardin, Betty Anderson, James Montavon, Janet Montavon and Ms. Mudder.

Photo submitted

AHS Class of 1953 holds get-together

AMBOY — Amboy Class of 1953 held their yearly get-together on Friday, Oct. 14, at the Sunset. Those attending were: Mary (Shoemaker) Stauffer, Don Kelly, Jim and Janet Montavon,

of Dixon; Don and Donna Dinges of Sublette; Betty (Gascoigne) and Bill Ogan, of Clinton, Iowa; Olive (Otto) Bernardin and guest of Rochelle; Francis (Morrissey) Carroll, of Shorewood; and

Betty Anderson, Shirley (Fleetwood) Harrison, of Amboy. The group decided to meet next year on Oct. 13, 2023, same time and place. It was noted this will be the group's 70th. Hope to see you then.

SUBLETTE NEWS

Ghoul's Night Out

Area residents enjoyed "Ghoul's Night Out" held Friday in downtown Sublette. LaFiesta, Rt 52 Roadhouse, Local Cup and Cake, Ellie Rae's Boutique and A&J Designs welcomed ghouls, girls and guys for specials.

EDUCATIONAL BRIEFS

Ewens earns scholarship from UW-Whitewater

WHITEWATER, WIS. — Samantha Ewens from Amboy, a student who is studying Occupational Safety at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, is among the scholarship recipients for the 2022-23 academic year.

Ewens won the following scholarship(s): Dr. Ernella Hunziker Scholarship. The UW-Whitewater Foundation awarded more than \$2.5 million in scholarships to students this academic year.

Illinois Safe2Help program supports students across the state

SPRINGFIELD — On the one-year anniversary of its creation, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) Safe2Help program reports that it has received 873 public interactions across the state. Safe2Help Illinois is a free, information sharing platform that is available 24/7. In the absence of a trusted adult, students can use a free app, text/phone, or the website (Safe2HelpIL.com) to share school safety issues in a confidential environment. It was launched on Oct. 20, 2021.

"The Safe2Help program is designed to help school-age children who experience bullying, mental health struggles, or those who see signs of potential drug use or violence in someone else," said IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. "The numbers prove that this program is indeed necessary."

There are several ways that students from kindergarten through high school can reach out to Safe2Help:

- Call 1-844-4SAFEIL (723345)
- Text SAFE2 (72332)

- Online at <https://app.safe2helpil.com/>
- Email HELP@Safe2HelpIL.com
- Download the Safe2HelpIL app

"Our schools must be places where our young people feel safe and connected," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala. "Safe2Help is a welcome safety tool that can help us prevent tragedies like the mass shootings in Highland Park and Uvalde, protect students from bullying, and connect struggling students with mental health support. I encourage all of our school leaders to continue raising awareness about Safe2Help among students, so each and every student knows they have a confidential way to share information with trusted adults."

"Timely information is critical to intervene and prevent a dangerous or harmful situation," said Illinois State Police Director Brendan F. Kelly. "The Safe2Help program offers students a safe way to share information about what they observe, which can help protect their fellow students and teachers."

"It is our mission to ensure that Illinois' children grow up in safe and healthy environments. The Safe2Help program is a safe, user-friendly tool children can use to ask for help if they or someone they know is in danger and they don't have a trusted adult they can turn to," said Illinois Department of Children & Family Services' Director Marc D. Smith. "We are happy to partner with IEMA on this important initiative to let children know that they are never alone, and help is just a phone call, text or click away."

IEMA School Safety Policy Advisor Samantha Kanish, who coordinates Safe2Help in Illinois, said, "Safe2Help Illinois is an important resource for students as it empowers them to seek help for themselves or a friend in a safe and confidential environment."

With the release of Public Act 102-0416 that went into effect July 1 of this year, Safe2Help Illinois or a local suicide prevention resource number is required to go on the back of any issued student identification cards,

student handbooks, and any student planner that is custom printed and distributed for students in grades 6 through 12.

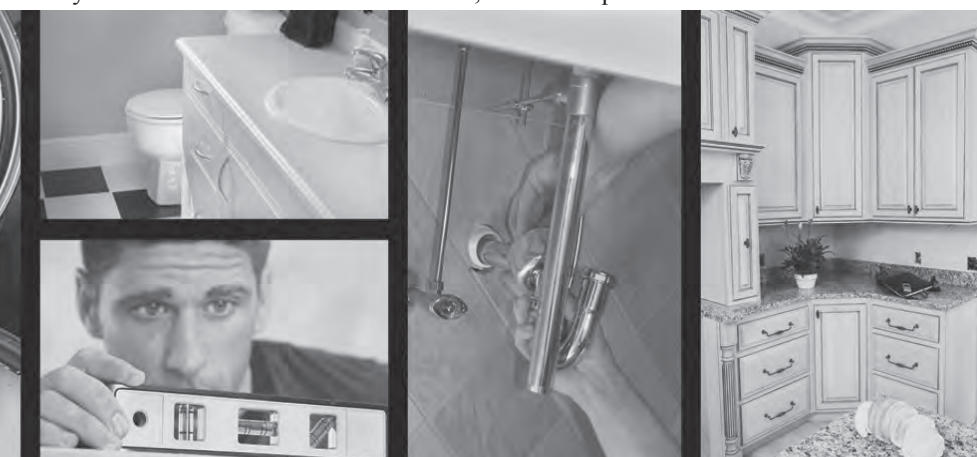
Since the program's launch, Safe2Help Illinois' top reports have been bullying (18.1%), suicidal ideation as reported by another student (4.7%), and possession and/or use of drugs, which include vaping (5.2%).

These are important issues to address. According to the National 4-H Council, 70% of teens have experienced struggles with mental health.

According to a 2020 Harris Poll, 42% of teens admit they've been leaning into their vices (e.g. unhealthy food, vaping) and unhealthy coping mechanisms to deal with the impact of COVID-19. Finally, an Illinois Department of Human Services Survey in 2020 found suicide is the third leading cause of death of Illinois youth ages 10-19.

More information on the Safe2Help Illinois program can be found at <https://www.safe2helpil.com/>

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CHEVROLET

SPORTS

Clippers fall in Week 9, already looking ahead at the playoffs

BY BRANDON LACHANCE
Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY – The Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio football team wanted to enter the postseason on a winning streak. However, the No. 1-ranked 8-man football team, West Central, showed their size and speed as the Clippers fell to the Heat, 68-30.

“They started quick. They have a really good team,” ALO coach Scott Payne said. “Their offense is a three-headed monster with great athletes at quarterback, running back, and full back. Each one of them had more than 100 yards rushing against us. Their defense stopped us on a fourth-and-one late in the second quarter and all of the momentum went their way. They were up 40 points on us in the third quarter and both of us put in our second units.

“They’re big, fast, and they run the triple option. You think you have one guy stopped and they pitch it to someone else. They don’t run many plays, but what they do run, they run it well.”

The Clippers trailed 24-12 after the first, 56-18 at halftime, and 68-30 after the third frame as neither team scored in the fourth quarter.

Junior Landon Whelchel scored on a 29-yard run and junior tight end Brennan Blaine collected a 65-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Eddie Jones for the first quarter scoring. Sophomore Quinn Leffelman brought in a 34-yard pass from Jones for a score in the second quarter and Whelchel found the endzone for a second time hauling in an 8-yard

pass from Jones in the third quarter.

“Jones has developed very well. He was 7-of-12, threw three touchdown passes, and had 132 yards against the top 8-man team in the state,” said Payne of his quarterback who took over the Clippers’ offense after senior Tucker Lindenmeyer was injured in Week 4. “He’s played better for us every week. Every week he improves something and he’s a really good player for us.”

Now it’s on to the playoffs.

During Saturday’s IHSA 8-man Football Playoff Show, Amboy earned the 5th seed in the bracket and drew No. 12 Blue Ridge for the first-round playoff game at 3 p.m. Saturday in Amboy.

Lady Clippers beat Hinckley-Big Rock

AMBOY — The Amboy Lady Clippers won a three-set match over Hinckley-Big Rock, 25-23, 21-25 and 25-16 on Oct. 17 at the AHS gym.

Amboy traveled to Fulton on Oct. 18 and dropped a 25-9, 25-9 decision.

Eastland posted a 25-16, 25-13 victory over the Lady Clippers on Oct. 20 at the AHS gym.

Payne went to work immediately by scouting

“I watched Blue Ridge film all day Sunday. They have a big fullback who is a good runner,” Payne said. “They like to run the inside trap. We’ll have to stop it if we’re going to be successful.”

“We had a pizza party for the Saturday playoff show. Once they found out where we were on the bracket, they’re excited to play. They’re letting Friday go and they are ready to play. I told the kids, it’s a new season. Everyone has the same record. We have to follow the 12-hour rule. You have to stop thinking about Friday’s loss within 12 hours and then move on.

“It’s the playoffs and anything can happen.”

Illinois 8-Man Football Playoff Pairings

[Upper Bracket]

(#16) Martinsville (4-5) at (#1) Decatur Lutheran (9-0)

(#9) Pawnee (6-3) at (#8) Champaign St. Thomas More (6-3)

(#13) Ashton-FC (6-3) at (#4) Milford CP (7-2)

(#12) Farmer City Blue Ridge (6-3) at (#5) Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio (7-2), Saturday, Oct. 29 - 3 p.m.

[Lower Bracket]


(#15) South Beloit (5-4) at (#2) Biggsville West Central (9-0)

(#10) Sciota West Prairie at (#7) Milledgeville (6-3)

(#14) South Fork (5-4) at (#3) Cambridge Ridgewood (8-1)

(#11) Kirkland Hiawatha (6-3) at (#6) Polo (7-2)

AHS Senior Volleyball Player Spotlight



Courtney Ortgiesen

#25

Parents: James and Kathy Ortgiesen

Other sports/hobbies/academics: Basketball, band, student council, National Honor Society

Plans after high school: I don’t know what I want to major in so my plan right now is to go to Sauk for two years then transfer to a four-year college.

What is your pregame ritual? Before the game we’ll usually play music on a speaker and try to get as hyped as possible.

What is your favorite volleyball memory? My favorite memory from volleyball would have to be the pink nights that we host. It is great to see the whole community coming together and supporting something that means so much to all of us.

What is the greatest lesson volleyball has taught you? Volleyball is a team sport so it has taught me that sometimes I have to put the team’s best interest above my own.

What advice would you have for younger volleyball players? You can only get better if you put in the work and you push yourself everyday.

Who has been the greatest role model in your life? My greatest role models are my two older sisters. Since I was young I knew I always wanted to live up to their names even if it is difficult at times. They have shown me dedication and hard work throughout my life and they have always pushed me to be better.

What does it mean to you to put on an Amboy Clipper volleyball uniform? Putting on an Amboy Clipper uniform means that I am representing my town. The whole team tries their best to make our town and school proud of us.

Accomplishment you are most proud of? Going out for volleyball and basketball are my proudest accomplishments. Being the only one in my grade to play these sports has been difficult these past three years but it has allowed me to create friendships that I wouldn’t have made if I didn’t go out.

Favorite quote? Nothing great should be easy

Boys cross country team heads to Sectionals

ROCK FALLS – The Amboy Clippers’ boys’ cross country team extended its season by another week after participating in the Rock Falls Class 1A Regional Cross Country Meet on Oct. 22.

The top seven teams earn bids to the sectional round and the Clippers snuck in with a seventh-place finish with 139 points. Riverdale claimed the regional crown with 24 points, while other advancing teams are Mercer County (99), Rock Falls (108), Newman (119), Rock Island Island (123) and Erie (131).

Kyler McNinch paced Clipper runners with a 12th-place finish in a time of 16:45. Charlie Dickinson checked in next for Amboy, in 21st place overall, with a clocking of 17:22. Other Amboy runners advancing with the team include Atticus Horner (30th, 17:56), Garrett Pertell (36th, 18:16), Kelton Schwamberger (47th, 18:40) and Jaden Haley (55th, 19:04).

The Clippers will compete in the Oregon Sectional on Saturday, Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. The top six teams and the first 10 individuals not on a qualifying team will move on to the state meet on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Detweiler Park in Peoria. Race time is 10 a.m.

OSF HealthCare joins national gun safety movement to address firearms as leading cause of death in children

MENDOTA – Guns are the leading cause of death for kids. Every day, 13 children die from guns. To help address this crisis and encourage parents to take action by asking about gun safety, OSF HealthCare has joined more than 170 other health care organizations representing thousands of hospitals and health systems in a nationwide public awareness and education campaign.

“It’s important for health care systems like OSF HealthCare to engage in preventive medicine,” said Kurt Bloomstrand, MD, EMS medical director for East Central Illinois EMS and an emergency medicine physician for OSF HealthCare Heart of Mary Medical Center in Urbana, Illinois. “The ‘Doesn’t Kill to Ask’ campaign equips parents and patients with the necessary tools and resources to help navigate difficult situations regarding guns. If we can better educate our patients on how to safely handle guns in the home, we can save lives.”

The campaign includes broadcast, print and digital ads and a website highlighting the fact that access to unlocked guns can lead to death, suicide and gun violence, making it more likely that children die from guns than cancer or automobile accidents. The website provides tips on how to have a conversation with other parents about the importance of safely storing firearms, and encourages parents and caregivers to normalize this conversation.

The increase in gun violence has impacted health care systems across the country, especially the medical professionals who treat patients affected by gun violence.

“Situations dealing with gun violence require extra resources and stress to the health care providers caring for them,” said Dr. Bloomstrand. “This is especially true when it impacts the youth of the communities we serve. Every day eight kids are shot by accident, which is eight kids too many. These are preventable deaths. We can do better in our communities to promote gun safety and training. By holding each other accountable and by asking simple questions regarding gun safety, we can save a life. It most definitely ‘Doesn’t Kill to Ask.’”

To learn more, visit HospitalsUnited.com.

Buddy Guy to perform in Rockford

ROCKFORD – Multi-Grammy Award winning blues icon Buddy Guy celebrates his seventh #1 album THE BLUES DON’T LIE, released via Silvertone/RCA Records. Along with it, he bids adieu to extensive touring, with the upcoming 2023 Damn Right Farewell Tour, kicking off Feb. 17, 2023, in Rockford. Visit buddyguy.net for a full list of tour dates with even more to be added shortly.

Tickets for Buddy Guy’s show at the Coronado Performing Arts Center in Rockford, went on sale on Friday, Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. Purchase at Ticketmaster.com, by calling 815-968-5222, or in-person at the Coronado Performing Arts Center and BMO Harris Bank Center Box Offices.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Week of Oct. 19

Football

Landon Whelchel

Week of Oct. 26

Football

Brennan Blaine

Cross Country

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Girls ~ Natalie Pratt

Cross Country

Addison Pertell & Kyler McNinch

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Tuesday, Nov. 1

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AJHS 5th/6th Boys Basketball (H) Dixon Catholic-6th-5pm/5th-6pm

AJHS 7th/8th Boys Basketball @ St. Mary’s, Dixon-8th-5pm/7th-6pm

Wednesday, Nov. 2

AJHS 7th/8th Boys Basketball (H) AFC-8th-5pm/7th-6pm

AHS Fall Play Practice-Auditorium-6-9 pm

Thursday, Nov. 3

Central School Drawing Club-Art Room-3:20-4 pm

AHS Fall Play Practice-Auditorium-6-9 pm

AJHS 5th/6th Boys Basketball (H) Morrison-6th-5pm/5th-6pm

Friday, Nov. 4

AHS Fall Play-Auditorium-7 pm

Saturday, Nov. 5

AHS Fall Play-Auditorium-7 pm

Sunday, Nov. 6

AHS Fall Play-Auditorium-2 pm

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THE FARMER'S REPORT



An aerial view of the Richardson Farm James Bond-themed corn maze in Spring Grove. The maze depicts actors Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig, as well as a Bond girl, the casino in Monaco and an Aston Martin. (Photo courtesy of George Richardson)

'License' to have fun: Corn maze depicts 60 years of James Bond

By TAMMIE SLOUP
FarmWeek

British Secret Service Agent James Bond has been depicted in more than 20 films since 1962.

And the owners of Richardson Adventure Farm in northern Illinois believe 60 years is something to celebrate.

To show their appreciation for the franchise and the milestone anniversary, their 28-acre corn maze in Spring Grove honors the Bond films and actors.

Walk — or get lost — among the biggest names to play 007, including Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig, as you trek along the 10 miles of trails that outline their faces. The casino in Monaco and an Aston Martin also are part of the maze, which changes every year.

"We all love James Bond. We just thought it was fun," said George Richardson, who owns the farm with son, Ryan, and brother, Robert.

Richardson boasts it's the "world's largest and most intricately designed corn maze." While he knows a few other mazes are bigger in acreage, their designs are "more spread out."

"We have to make it big, exciting and spectacular, and that's what we work on with pretty much everything that we do," he said.

Although the Richardsons have offered corn mazes since 2001, the James Bond theme picked up a great deal of media attention.

"It's been phenomenal so far this year; just so fun," he said. "I think it's because the movies are so fun."

The design concept started as some scribbles, which were sent to a maze designer. Using a planter with GPS, the corn was dropped in the ground according to the design. The Richardsons rototilled the paths and added the checkpoints and other signage.

Visitors can opt for easy mazes that take about 10 minutes or try to "solve" the big maze by hitting all 24 checkpoints. But don't fear, maze-goers can always find a way out.

"Ever since I got lost at night in our first corn maze, there's no dead ends," Rich-

ardson said. "This is not a rat maze where there's one way in and one way out."

To help with navigation, several wooden bridges were constructed within the maze, and a 60-foot tower sits along the edge. Maps also are provided.

The corn grown for the maze is the "worst possible corn," consisting of just a cob and husks. Richardson said the lightweight corn prevents injuries in case a rambunctious guest decides to pick and throw a cob while in the maze.

As a group of children ran out of the maze on a recent day, shouting, "Yay! We made it!" Richardson smiled and said that's why his family is in the agri-venture business — the joy the farm brings to visitors.

George and Robert Richardson previously grew corn and soybeans and finished 2,500 hogs, but experimenting with a Christmas tree business led them down the path to creating the adventure farm, which also offers a zipline, slides, pumpkin-picking, hayrides and more.

The family members all have their areas of expertise, said Robert Richardson, who oversees 100,000 Christmas trees.

Between the Christmas trees, fall activities and a spring tulip festival that could have a million tulips next year, the farm attracts 100,000 visitors annually.

The Richardson farmstead dates to 1836 and was a dairy farm when George and Robert were growing up. The brothers graduated from the University of Illinois and

returned to the farm in the late '70s, when they started the hog operation.

Selling Christmas trees was initially a side hobby, but after selling their first 186 trees and seeing their customers' reaction, the brothers expanded the operation.

"(Customers) loved to get onto the farm; it felt so good for them," George said. "And we had a great time doing it."

"Who would have known in 1836 that this would become an entertainment farm?"

Parent Michelle Helmich of Johnsbury visited the farm with other homeschooled families recently and told FarmWeek she remembers as a kid cutting down her family's Christmas tree at Richardson Farm.

Asked if she solved the James Bond maze, she laughed.

"Myself, I cannot read a map. I had no idea if we were in a chin or the forehead," she said.

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

Illinois Soybean Association signs historic Memorandum of Understanding with Taiwan

BLOOMINGTON — The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) and other Illinois commodity groups recently signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Taiwan that will enable closer cooperation in global trade facilitation.

This signing follows a recent announcement from the Taiwan Vegetable Oil Manufacturers Association (TVOA) that it intends to purchase between 2.6 million and 2.9 million MT (equivalent to between 96 million and 107 million bushels) of United States soybeans between 2023 and 2024. The value of these purchases is estimated to be \$1.9 billion to \$2.1 billion in U.S. funds.

"The signing of the MOU signifies a step towards global trade security," said ISA Chairman, Steve Pitstick. "And it reinforces ISA's commitment to maintain the security of international supply chains, while facilitating legitimate trade relationships."

In 2021, the total value of U.S. agricultural and related products exported to Taiwan reached \$3.94 billion, making it the seventh largest market for U.S. agricultural exports.

The U.S. supplies about 27 percent of Taiwan's agricultural imports.

The MOU, which will work to create an agreement that advances the interest of Illinois' farmers, seeks to support and grow the Illinois ag economy with more robust trade opportunities with Taiwan.

"We value the opportunity for transparency and cooperation because trade is vital to Illinois' 43,000 soybean producers," Pitstick said. "Roughly 60 percent of the nearly 672 million bushels of the soybeans grown in Illinois are exported, resulting in an estimated \$4-5 billion in value. The MOU signed today further strengthens the unique relationship between Illinois soybean farmers and the Taiwanese, and we are looking forward to working together to support world trade."

Continued Pitstick, "We have great respect for Taiwan's expertise and role in this important trade relationship. Illinois soybean farmers continue to learn from our global partners about the evolving preferences and high standards to which our products are measured. We endeavor to exceed those expectations."

Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership publishes Cover Crop Incentive Directory

DeKALB — Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership (ISAP) is excited to announce the publication of the first Cover Crop Incentive Directory for Illinois. The directory aims to provide a clear comparison of several programs that offer payment incentives to Illinois farmers for growing cover crops.

The directory includes information on 15 incentive opportunities, including publicly funded programs at the federal, state, and county levels, as well as privately funded programs throughout Illinois. The three-page document includes a brief description, relevant geography, contract length, payment details, and contact information for each program. By viewing the programs side by side, farmers will be able to compare programs and select the option that

is best for their operation.

The Directory also includes a "Stacking Matrix" to help farmers understand which programs can be combined to receive multiple incentives. With so many programs to choose from, and many programs having exceptions or exclusions for stacking, the Stacking Matrix provides a program-by-program guide to stacking opportunities.

"We've heard from farmers and farm advisors in our network that this would be a valuable resource as they promote the adoption of cover crops or consider implementing cover crops on their farm," said Jean Brokish, Midwest Deputy Director for American Farmland Trust, a founding member of ISAP. "Our goal is to spread awareness of the many opportunities available to

farmers, and to increase the adoption of cover crops throughout Illinois."

Inclusion on the directory does not constitute an endorsement of any particular program by ISAP or its members. The intent of the Partnership is to facilitate data sharing among ISAP's farmer network and advance the adoption of conservation cropping systems to improve soil health and reduce nutrient loss.

The Cover Crop Incentive Directory and Stacking Matrix is available to view on ISAP's website. The Partnership encourages farmers, conservation specialists, extension agents, and other farm advisors to share the directory with their networks and to get in touch with any suggested updates to the directory as programs continue to develop and evolve.

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