

A supplement to the Amboy News, the Ashton Gazette, the Mendota Reporter and the Rochelle News-Leader Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022

Welcome to the 2022 Amboy Depot Days



Amboy Mayor John Schamberger

t's that time of year again folks, please join us at the 41st Annual Depot Days! This year's festivities will surely entertain all ages.

The weekend will kick off on Thursday night downtown at the main stage for the Miss Amboy Contest, be sure to stick around for family night at the carnival.

On Friday the community wide garage sales begin at 8 a.m. and the carnival will open at 6 p.m. The food stands will be open at 10 a.m. with a wide variety of choices. Saturday morning is off to an early start with the Sylvan Shuffle 5k.

The Lions Club Parade theme this year is "Saturday in the Park" will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday afternoon followed by musical guest The Neverly Brothers at 7 p.m. on the Main Stage.

As they say, "the best for last," Sunday we will be hosting one of the largest Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Shows in Northern Illinois! Have you got your 50/50 tickets yet? The last winner received \$105,580!

On behalf of the City Council, I would like to thank all of our sponsors and volunteers that make this weekend happen, without them it would not be possible.

This is one weekend you will definitely not want to miss in Amboy!

Mayor John Schamberger

Welcome to the 2022 Amboy Depot Days! We Are Glad To Welcome You Back!

The City of Amboy thanks you for attending our annual event.

Mayor John Schamberger Alderman Jake Leffelman Alderman Greg Noble Alderman Brandon Klein Alderman Bill Bontz Alderman Dave Shaw Alderman Frank Stenzel

Something for everyone at the 2022 Amboy Depot Days

AMBOY — The 2022 Annual Amboy Depot Days offers something for everyone. This year's festival runs Aug. 25-28.

The annual festival kicks off on Thursday night in downtown Amboy with the opening of the food stand and carnival. Thursday night is family night and arm bands are \$20 for unlimited rides for this special night.

The Depot Days Little Dancers will take the Main Stage at 6:30 p.m. The Miss Amboy and Little Miss Amboy pageant will begin at 7 p.m. with the crowing of the new Miss Amboy at 8:30 p.m.

On Friday at 8 a.m., the community wide garage sales and the vendor booths downtown open for business. The food stands open at 10 a.m. and the carnival will open at 6 p.m. The carnival special for Friday night is \$20 bands for unlimited rides. The free concert on the Main Stage is The Neverly Brothers, sponsored by Shell Oil, from 9:30 - 1 a.m. The Knights of Columbus is again hosting a beer garden, where Burn N Bush will be performing.

Saturday morning kicks off bright and early at 8 a.m., when the annual Amboy Education Foundation Sylvan Shuffle Adult 5K Run/Walk begins. The Amboy Farm Tractor Show will be held in downtown Amboy from 8 a.m. -1 p.m. Also open in downtown Amboy at 8 a.m. will be the vendor booths. The community wide garage sales will open at 8 a.m. The food stands open at 10 a.m. and the KC Beer Garden opens at 11 a.m.

Kids will have a chance to meet and greet Princess Merida and Minions at the Pankhurst Memorial Library from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. The carnival opens at noon on Saturday and from noon to 3 p.m., they will offer an arm band special of \$20 for unlimited rides. A kids foam party will be held in the Depot Museum parking lot from 1-3 p.m. Whimsey Face Painting will be on hand in the Depot Parking lot decorating faces for free from 2 - 4 p.m.

The annual Amboy Lions Depot Days

Amboy News file photo

08142019



The 31st Annual Amboy Depot Days Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show will be held on Sunday, Aug. 28 in downtown Amboy.



parade will step off at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

The annual Teen Turf Donkey Drop will be held at 5 p.m., near Amboy Sporting Goods.

Alika Arylnn will take the Main Stage for a free concert from 7-9 p.m., sponsored by KSB Hospital. The final act of the evening is live music of Class Field Trip in the KC Beer Garden from 9 p.m. -1 a.m.

Sunday morning begins at 6 a.m. with the opening of registration for the 31st annual Depot Days Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show.

The Knights of Columbus will be host-

ing a pancake breakfast from 6:30 - 10 a.m., at the beer garden.

At 8 a.m., the downtown vendors and community wide garage sales open for business. The food stands open at 10 a.m.

Judging for the annual car show begins at 11:30 a.m.

At noon, the KC Beer Garden opens and the carnival will offer an arm band special of \$20 for unlimited rides from noon to 4 p.m.

The Depot Days car show awards will be presented at 3 p.m., followed by the 50/50 raffle winner drawn.



(Winners need not be present to win)

Get your tickets NOW at the following locations: \$1 each or 6 for \$5

AMBOY: The Last Alarm Jones Berry Lumber The Long Branch Saloon Two Sisters on Main Depot Tap Shell Express Lane Mowers and More Revolution Wellness

DIXON: Shamrock Pub

SUBLETTE: Bonnell's General Store Sublette Saloon

Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet, Inc.

OHIO: Harry's

Ticket sales will end on Saturday, Aug. 27 at noon, at the Dixon, Ohio and Sublette locations.

Amboy locations will sell until noon on Sunday, Aug. 28.

Depot Days Drum is located at Amboy Food and Liquor.

For more information, check out the Amboy Depot Days 50/50 Facebook page.

Drawing Sunday, August 28 after the Car Show

Proceeds to benefit Community Projects

Amboy Depot Museum remains historical treasure

BY BRANDON LACHANCE Amboy Staff Writer

AMBOY – Festivals, carnivals, corn boils, and just about all other summer gatherings bring in money. They're designed to raise funding for the city, city projects, city buildings, organizations, and important causes.

Amboy's Depot Days is no different than the thousands of other celebrations happening across the United States of America in July and August.

One organization and building that rely on Depot Days to help their cause is the Depot Museum Commission and the Amboy Depot Museum

"The staples of Depot Days are the car show and the 50/50 drawing," said Peggy Shapiro, who has been the Depot Museum Commission Chair since the beginning of the year and has been a member of the commission for the last four years. "They give money to us. It's our biggest funding of the year and they've traditionally have been very generous. Over the past few years, they've given us \$15,000 each year.

"When you're a small museum that doesn't charge admission, \$15,000 a year is huge."

Shapiro is proud of what the museum offers, which will have the depot museum, the freight house, and the oneroom schoolhouse open throughout Depot Days.

She picked up the community pride and wanting to preserve its history from her mother.

"My mother, Norma Shapiro, was one of the co-found-



ers of the Depot Museum," Shapiro said. "It was very important to her and I feel like I'm continuing her legacy by getting involved with it and trying to keep things going."

Besides collection funds graciously donated, Shapiro and the commission put together their own fundraisers.

Last year a quilt raffle was such a big hit, the commission thought, let's do it again.

"We have our own, smaller fundraiser that we started last year. There is a woman who grew up in Amboy, Becky Welty, and she is a quilter," Shapiro said. "Last year, she very generously gave us a quilt for a raffle. We raised almost \$1,000 on a quilt raffle. Which again, is huge for us because we're a small group of volunteers.

"This year she, very thoughtfully and generously, has given us another quilt."

The 82x82 inch, 100-percent cotton quilt named

'Checkered Dresden' was at the Depot Museum for display and showcase and is now located at Amboy City Hall.

Tickets – one for \$2 and three for \$5 – can be purchased from a Depot Museum Commission member, or at Amboy City Hall or the Amboy Depot Museum.

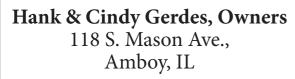
All incoming funds have a destination, an extremely important destination.

Shapiro says the museum has building issues needing immediate attention.

"We have discovered that the depot needs extensive repairs as the museum building is experiencing some crumbling," Shapiro said. "We are trying to raise massive amounts of money. Money raised from the quilt and generously donated from the Car Show Committee will go into restoring and repairing our building."



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QUILT RAFFLE TO BENEFIT DEPOT MUSEUM

Becky Welty made a quilt for a raffle drawing last year during Depot Days and it earned \$1,000. Welty has made an 82x82 inch, 100-percent cotton quilt named, Checkered Dresden, for the 2022 Depot Days raffle. Tickets are \$2 for one and \$5 for three, which can be purchased at the Amboy Depot Museum, Amboy City Hall, or from a Depot Museum Commission member.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Dana Merriman is all smiles as she was crowned Miss Amboy 2021 last year.

Amboy News file photo

Crowning of Miss Amboy kicks off annual festival

BY BRANDON LACHANCE

Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY – The experience is something Emily Zimmerman fell in love with.

When she spoke to the judges, walked across the Depot Days stage, and looked down while the Miss Amboy crown was put on her head in 2002, she knew she would never forget the Miss Amboy Pageant.

See CROWN page 9

May The Weather Be 72 Degrees And Sunny!

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Shady Oaks Country Club

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2022 Green Fees

<u>Now - Sept. 5</u> \$17 M-F 9 holes \$28 M-F 18 holes \$22 Sa-Su 9 holes \$38 Sa-Su 18 holes

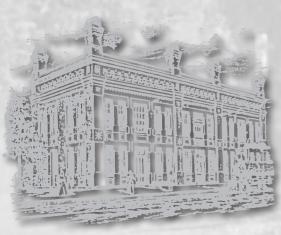
<u>Sept. 6 - Close</u> \$16 M-Su 9 holes \$27 M-Su 18 holes Walk 9 holes Mon-Sun \$9

Walk 18 holes Mon-Sun \$18

Kids 14 - 18 1/2 Price Kids under 14 with adult ALWAYS play FREE!

Enjoy Depot Days Weekend!





AMBOY DEPOT DAYS August 25, 26, 27, 28

Thursday, August 25 ----

The Neverly Brothers on Main Stage.

FREE. Sponsored by Shell Oil

K.C.'s Beer Garden: Burn-N-Bush

	"Family Night"	0.00am	Sylvan Shulle Adult SK Kull/Walk
5pm-10pm	Food Stands open		sponsored by Amboy Education Foundation. Register at www.amboy.net
6pm-10pm	Carnival on Depot Museum Grounds "Family Night Special" Arm Bands \$20 for unlimited rides	8am-1pm	Semi Big Rig Show and Amboy Farm Tractor. Downtown Amboy.
6:30pm	Depot Days Little Dancers - on Main	8am-5pm	Community Wide Garage Sales
	Stage	8am-5pm	Craft Booths - Downtown
7pm	Miss Amboy Pageant & Little Miss Amboy	10am-10pm	Food Stands open - Depot Museum
8:30pm	Announcement of Miss Amboy	11am-1am	Grounds K.C. Beer Garden: South of Bandstand
S. S. S. S. S.		11am-1pm	Kids Meet & Greet Princess Merida and
	Friday, August 26		Minions at Pankhurst Memorial Library, 3
8am-4pm	Community Wide Garage Sales		S. Jefferson Ave.
8am-5pm	Craft Booths - Downtown	Noon-3pm	Carnival on Depot Museum Grounds
10am-10pm	Food Stands open - Depot Museum		Arm bands \$20.00 for unlimited rides
	Grounds	1pm-3pm	Kids Foam Party, Depot Museum Parking
6pm-10pm	Carnival on Depot Museum Grounds.		Lot
	Arm bands \$20.00 for unlimited rides.	2pm-4pm	Whimsy Face Painting. Free Kids Event

8.00am

9:30pm - 1am

7pm-9pm

and ary, 3 ls es arking Whimsy Face Painting. Free Kids Event (Depot Parking Lot) **Depot Days Parade** Sponsored by the Amboy Area Lions Club www.amboylionsclub.com to sign up Teen Turf Donkey Drop-Chance to win \$\$ 857-4800 (located by Amboy Sporting

Saturday, August 27

Sylvan Shuffle Adult 5K Run/Walk

Amboy's Depot Days is presented to benefit the **Amboy Depot Museum.** Your support is greatly appreciated. The Depot **Days Committee wishes** to give a special thank you to the many people who volunteer their time, energy and funds to ensure the success of **Depot Days.**

Plenty of FREE parking is available! Thank you for joining us!

THE 2022 DEPOT DAYS SCHEDULE IS SPONSORED BY:

Goods)

CITY OF AMBOY 815-857-3814

KSB CENTER FOR HEALTH SERVICES

- AMBOY CLINIC

815-857-3044

JOHNSON TRACTOR

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CARRIAGE HOUSE ELECTRIC 815-538-5598

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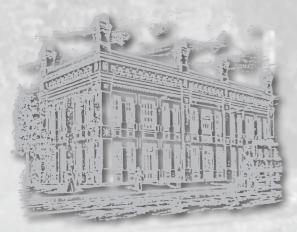
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AMBOY DEPOT DAYS August 25, 26, 27, 28

7pm-9pmAlika Arylnn on Main Stage. FREE
Sponsored by KSB Hospital9pm-1amK.C. Beer Garden: Class Field Trip

Sunday, August 28

6am-3pm	31st Annual Depot Days Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show — Downtown Amboy.
6:30-10am	Pancake Breakfast: Knights of Columbus, at the Beer
	Garden
8am-4pm	Crafts - Downtown Streets
8am-4pm	Community Wide Garage Sales
10am-4pm	Food Stands Open
11:30am	Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show Judging
Patrick	Downtown Amboy
Noon-5pm	K.C. Beer Garden: South of the Bandstand
Noon-4pm	Carnival on Depot Museum Grounds.
	Arm bands \$20.00 for unlimited rides.
3pm	Depot Days Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show Awards
Start Start	Presentation & 50/50 Drawing. Main Stage by Depot
	Museum

INFORMATION BOOTHS

50/50 tickets available at Jones Berry Lumber, Two Sisters on Main, The Last Alarm, Revolution Wellness, The Long Branch Saloon, Depot Tap, Shell Express Lane, Mowers, and More.

DAILY INFORMATION

FREE SHUTTLE on Sunday. Park at Amboy School,11 E. Hawley St. or the Amboy Community Center, 280 W Wasson Road. First Aid & Cooling Center at the Lee County Farm Bureau,37 S. East Avenue. Food Stands & Restrooms are open all weekend on Depot Grounds. Community-Wide Garage Sales: Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8am-5pm. Garage sale maps available at City Hall or the information booth. Museums open for viewing. Stop in and enjoy a little of Amboy's history. The Gift Shop will be open. Car Show Registration and information - Contact Garth Dallam 815/857-2946. www.amboycarshow.com NO PETS ALLOWED

Thank you to our Event Sponsors Johnson Oil Company

Amboy's Depot Days is presented to benefit the Amboy Depot Museum. Your support is greatly appreciated. The Depot Days Committee wishes to give a special thank you to the many people who volunteer their time, energy and funds to ensure the success of Depot Days.

Plenty of FREE parking is available! Thank you for joining us!

THE 2022 DEPOT DAYS SCHEDULE IS SPONSORED BY:

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SUBLETTE FARMERS ELEVATOR 815-849-5222

> AMBOY DENTAL GROUP 815-857-2015

GREEN RIVER OAKS RESORT 815-857-2815

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RESIDENTIAL



221 N. Mason Ave., Amboy \$147,500

Beautiful family home that has been used for a business. Zoned residential. Gorgeous hardwood floors, with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bath front enclosed area for entertaining, kitchen with an island and oak cupboards, refrigerator is negotiable, dishwasher, water softner, central air/furnace, furnace (2021), main floor laundry, central vac needs a new hose, large living room, office with 1/2 bath. The French doors lead to porch and office area. The back deck over looks the extra lot, in the back yard is grape vine, dog run, amazing circle drive and lots of parking, a 2.5 car detached garage that's heated with a big workshop area. Call today for a private showing.



2031 Richardson Rd., Amboy \$250,000

BACK ON THE MARKET. Buyer financing fell through. Don't let his one get away! Charming 3 bedroom 2 bath ranch style manufactured 1990 Patriot mobile home and 3 car attached garage is waiting for you! Multiple storage areas, laundry room, work area. Seller has repainted and put vinyl flooring throughout. All appliances and a freezer stay. Furnace and central air (11-2018), generac generator for shop and house, extra deep 24x36 Amish built Shop with 2 overhead doors (9x10 & 7x10) has lots of storage/work area and well pump room. Flagpole and flag. This beautiful country setting has many mature trees, garden and flowering trees. 1-12x18 storage shed & 1-12x42 shed, firepit, back deck, patio and landscaping throughout! LP TANK IS RENTED. All ready for you to move into! You won't find another yard this spacious at this price!



27858 2600 East St., Van Orin \$63,400 Ranch style home with curb appeal. Why Rent when you can own! This open living/diping area kitchen 2 bedroom one bath home comes with

open living/dining area, kitchen, 2 bedroom, one bath home comes with all appliances and is ready to move into. Features an attached garage that can be converted into a family room/master bedroom. There is a car port for parking, shed in back for all your storage. Call today for a showing!

203 East McKenney Street Dixon......PENDING \$202,999

LAND TO BUILD ON



917 & 919 Missouri Dr., Dixon \$17,000 A HOME BUILDERS DREAM! (917 & 919 Missouri) Double lot located in Lost Lake. This is the perfect land to build your dream home on. Lots are wooded and close to Lost Lake.



415 Saint Francis Dr., Dixon \$4,900 Unique diamond shaped lot in Lost Nation. Imagine building your dream home in a private subdivision with fishing, beaches



812-814-816 Missouri Dr., Dixon \$13,500 Three lots for you to build your dream home on. Lots 141, 142 & 143 are located in Lost Lake 814 lot size-70x158.9x69.8x163.7 and 816 lot size-71.9x163.7x82.10x168.7



707 Mississippi Dr., Dixon \$4,900 Wooded lot on in Lost Lake. Great place to build your dream home! Short walk down to the lake.

COMMERCIAL



804 W. Prairieview St., Sublette \$255,000

CALLING ALL INVESTORS! This property is located on a high traffic count and high visibility Road! Great opportunity to start your own business! Paved area for parking. Used to be a trailer sales. Parcel 19-22-09-300-008 is vacant commercial with 1.62 Ac of land. Wick building 30x88 used for storage with 3 season porch and deck with durability roof, Misc. building 24x34 with garage area, old septic, natural gas and bath room! Great for storage. Both building sold as is. Office building 36x46 with two overhead doors, storage area, 250 gal propane tank, 3 ton air conditioner, bath room, desks in cluded and a septic.



4 W. Division St., Amboy \$114,500

Great 1900 sq ft building on approximately 1/2 acre, that can be used for storage, office, or store front. There is blacktop for parking in front and grassy area in back for storage or conversion to more parking. This property is being sold AS IS.

CROWN continued from page 5

Now, as the pageant organizer for the last six years, she is helping young girls feel the same passion.

"I became involved with the pageant when I was in high school because I went out for it and won," Zimmerman said. "I was really, really passionate about it. When Laura Hicks, who did it for over 20 years, decided it was time for her to step down, she reached out to me and asked if it was something I'd like to take over. I decided to do it."

"It was a much bigger thing when I was in school. I think there were eight or nine of us. I wish girls understood the meaning behind it. You're not royalty, but you're representing your community. I can usually get two or three girls. For one pageant, I only had one." Zimmerman is hoping to have more girls ages 13-18 take part in the 2022 Miss Amboy Pageant at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 25. The number of potential queens walking across the stage is unknown as of press time (Aug. 3) because the registration deadline was Aug. 5. Whether its one or 25, Zimmerman knows each girl will learn from the Depot Days event.

"I think it being the kickoff of Depot Days is quite incredible. I think there is something so special about that Thursday night that sparks everyone to come to our downtown," Zimmerman said. "I know that they say a big part of Depot Days is the car show – which it is and I'm not undermining that at all – but I think seeing those little kids come and look at all of the older girls with pretty dresses on is very, very inspiring.

"Whether they win or not, I think these girls serve as mentors. I think it does huge things for the girls in terms of public speaking. Having a young lady brave enough to go on stage with a microphone in front of her community and speak about who she is and what she stands for, there is something unique and special about that you don't see very often any more."

Zimmerman chooses three judges who do not have Amboy ties to avoid bias of knowing contestant's family members or recognizing a last name.

The judge's duties actually start on Tuesday as the more intimate, closed-interview process takes place at the community building. Each potential Miss Amboy answers the same five questions from the judges.

Those points will be added to Thursday's points earned from stage presence, appearance, how well they did on their autobiography, and other criteria. The newest Miss Amboy will then be announced and crowned.

An older girl will not be the only one sparkling from head to toe as there is also the Little Miss and Little Mister pageants (5-8), as well as Junior Miss (9-12).

The younger contestants go through their entire competition on Tuesday. Zimmerman calls the winner Tuesday night and asks them to appear Thursday as the new Junior Miss, Little Miss, or Little Mister.

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Seggebruch

We are happy to welcome our new Production Assistant Karen Hart to our team!



08172022

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KSB Amboy Clinic 305 E Joe Drive (815) 857-3044 THE AMBOY LIONS CLUB IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE "SATURDAY IN THE PARK" 2022 DEPOT DAYS PARADE SATURDAY, AUG. 27 - 3 PM MAIN STREET

Join us for our **Second Amboy** Lions Club Health Fair Saturday, Oct. 9, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at Amboy Community Center



The Amboy Lions Club serving the community:

- Amboy Welcome Signs & Landscaping
- Cliff Walter Memorial Easter Egg Hunt
 AEDs in Amboy & Sublette Community
- Bldgs and Churches
- Continuing Education Scholarships
 Oppot Museum Shelter
 - Park Playground Equipment
 Eyeglass & Hearing Aid Recycling
 - And Much More! Register for the parade on our

Facebook page!



Sylvan Shuffle kicks off Saturday morning

AMBOY – The 2nd Annual Sylvan Shuffle 5K Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, Aug. 27.

The event was renamed in honor of a founding member and longtime president of the Amboy Education Foundation, Sylvan Leffelman. Sylvan helped the AEF grow from an entity with just a few thousand dollars in private donations to a Non-profit agency that has allocated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Amboy School District. Sylvan and his wife Virginia passed away this past year.

Online registration can be accessed through the Amboy High School website or at RunSignup.com.

This is a 5K Run/Walk that starts on the track at Amboy High School. It serpentines past the Elementary School, Junior High School through the Sports Park and concludes in front of the historic train depot. This is a USATF Certified Course. The course itself is relatively flat and allows for fast race times.

Pre-race packet pick up will take place from 4 – 6:30 p.m., on Friday, Aug. 26, at the lobby of the new Amboy High School entrance. Check-in on Saturday will be from 6:45-7:45 a.m. near the high school entrance. Walkers are welcome.



Farm Tractors on display Saturday

AMBOY – The 22nd Annual Amboy Depot Days Farm Tractor Show and Semi Big Rig Show will be held from 8 a.m. - 1p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 27, in downtown Amboy.

Tractors will receive dash plaques and

door prizes. The tractors will also take part in the annual Depot Days parade. Line-up for the parade starts at 1 p.m., with the parade beginning at 3 p.m.

Welcome to Amboy Depot Days

Enjoy a free concert of **Neverly Brothers** Friday, August 26

from 7 pm - 9 pm on the Main Stage, in



Downtown Amboy

THIS FREE CONCERT IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY JOHNSON



08172022

508 N Pennsylvania St., Sublette

Also stop by the Amboy Shell Express Lane to purchase your Amboy Depot Days 50/50 Raffle Tickets!!

Darlene Henkel chosen to be the Depot Days Parade Grand Marshal

BY BRANDON LACHANCE

Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY – When Darlene Henkel moved to Amboy from Chicago when she was 19-years old she didn't know what to expect.

Obviously, city life is different than rural life and she had to adapt.

Once she did, Henkel fell in love with a small-town environment and Amboy.

"I lived in Amboy for 59 years and I never dreamed I would ever leave Amboy. I loved Amboy ever since I arrived after I moved from Chicago when I was 19," Henkel said. "I was president of the Amboy Civic Organization for more than 20 years. It was fun and through it I did a lot of community work.

"I started Street Sign, where you name a

street and you have it for one year with benefits going to the Pankhurst Memorial Library. I was in American Legion and I did the poppy drives for several years. We did really well in Amboy and Sublette."

Henkel, who will turn 80 in October, was also the Amboy City Clerk for 22 years, the city treasurer for four years, and spent plenty of time working with churches as she was part of the funeral committee and organized funeral dinners.

Although she moved to Shorewood 1 1/2 years ago, Hen-



REGISTER TODAY!

For more information or to register go to www.amboy.net

Online	\$25*
	*Plus Processing Fee
Mail-In	\$30
Race Day	\$35
Pre-Race packet pickup:	
Friday, August 26th from 4-6:30 pm at t	the lobby of
the new High School entrance.	
All proceeds to benefit the students of A	Amboy, CUSD 272.

kel's devotion, efforts, and Amboy community pride car-

ried over to the selection as the grand marshal for the 2022 Amboy Depot Days Parade at 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 27.

"I'm very excited. I was very honored that they asked me, very honored. I was very surprised also," Henkel said. "Amboy Lions Club President Roger Wittenauer said, 'Can I ask you a question?' I told him, 'Oh, make it easy.' He asked if I had ever been the grand marshal. After I said no, he asked if I would be this year's grand marshal, and I said, 'I'd love to be.'

"I was involved in about everything. HENKEL That's just the way I am. I loved to do that

> kind of thing. I just love Amboy. I now live 75 miles away and I'm there more often than

I'm not. Some people ask, 'I thought you moved?' And other people see me enough that they don't know I moved.

"I love the people and I'll always be part of the community."

ST

Amboy Lions Club Membership Director Jim Travi, who was been with the club since 2001, said Wittenauer is the sole selector of the grand marshal.

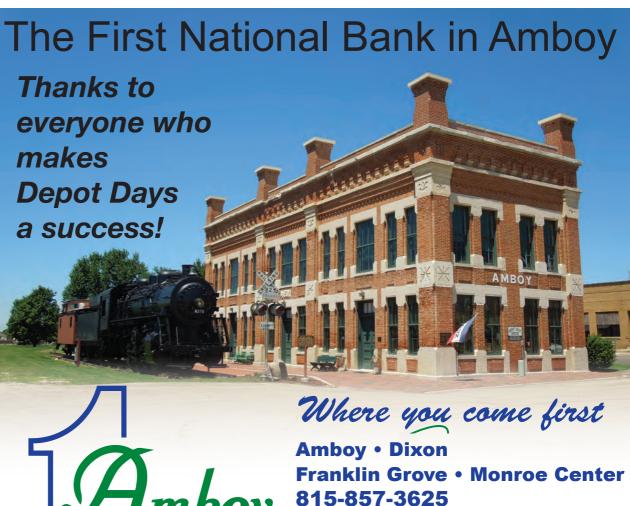
He added the nomination of Henkel only makes sense her resume and character fit what the club is looking for in a marshal.

"Roger Wittenauer is in charge of choosing the grand marshal. Previous to him it was Cecil Harrison, who recently passed away," Travi said. "Roger looks for people who have given time and effort to the community. They've given back to the community and have made an impact."

"We go back 32 years (Depot Days began in 1990, but 2022 will be the 31st parade due to Covid-19 taking out 2020), to the beginning of the parade. Amboy Lions has done the parade the entire time. We're very proud of that. Not a lot of people realize the Amboy Lions Club put the parade on.

"It's all part of Depot Days, so they think either the city or the car show puts on the parade. We have a committee that does it every year and they do a fantastic job."

See HENKEL page 12





www.fnbamboy.com



Merida, Minions coming to Amboy Depot Days

BY BRANDON LACHANCE

Amboy News Reporter **AMBOY** – Merida may be looking for a safe path for her mother-turned-bear. Minions could be bopping around caus-

Minions could be bopping around causing mischief because of a mission Gru created.

Or the beloved characters may just want to meet some new friends at 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 27 at Pankhurst Memorial Library during the Depot Days Kids Character Meet and Greet.

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114 E Everett St., Suite 300, Dixon, IL 61021 (815) 288-4949 ⋅ egbclaw.com "It gets the community involved and we get new foot traffic and some new people," said Emily Goff, who is the head librarian at Pankhurst. "It's a good way for us to get people into the door. It has definitely been a successful event for the library. It's one of the busiest days we have.

"It's awesome when a kid comes to the library and says, 'I remember when so and so (a character) was here.' They remember the meet and greet and connect their great time and meeting their favorite characters with the library."

Goff, who has held her position for seven years, is excited to have the fiery, courageous princess from Disney's Brave and the cute, cuddly, destructive Minions from many Universal Pictures films including Despicable Me, Despicable Me 2, Despicable Me 3, Minions, and Minions: The Rise of Gru.

In the last four years of the meet and greet, the library has been visited by the

likes of Captain America, Spiderman, and Paw Patrol, which is Goff's favorite guest to this point.

While the library hosts the super heroes, fire fighters, cops, princesses, and yellow pill-shaped creatures of laughter, disaster, chaos, love, and adventure, the City of Amboy throws the event and decides which characters will be at Depot Days.

"It's a good, free event for the kids to take pictures and meet the characters," said Amboy City Clerk, Melissa Eisenberger. "It's a good way to get children in the library and we were looking for an event that could be indoor or outdoor depending on the weather."

Eisenberger added the selection of the characters has only one requirement, they're different from the ones who have previously animated Amboy.

HENKEL continued from page 11 -

"It's all part of Depot Days, so they think either the city or the car show puts on the parade. We have a committee that does it every year and they do a fantastic job."

Henkel is thrilled to add Depot Days Parade Grand Marshal to her Amboy resume as she hopes it will continue to make her Amboy family proud.

The self-appointed family historian has found family ties to Amboy since 1842 and has six generations of blood relatives resting at Prairie Repose Cemetery.

Henkel said, "I will be the seventh."



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50/50 ticket sales slow, until Depot Days is upon us

BY BRANDON LACHANCE

Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY – Ticket sales for the Depot Days 50/50 drawing began July 1.

Similar to the previous four or five years, little to none have been bought says Amboy Fire Department Lieutenant and man in charge of the 50/50, Jeff Gerdes.

"Honestly, we don't have a count at this point. As weird as it is and for as much as we sell, July is a really slow month," Gerdes said. "People like to wait until August. We get them out in July just because we're kind of afraid to do it all in 30 days, just in August.

"At the moment (July 28), we don't have much of a bank account at all. We sell them for 60 days, but the first 30 days is really just about getting them out there. The sales should pick up by the second week of August and then it's full throttle from there.

"We're expecting a great turnout. We're expecting this to be a potential record year for the 50/50 drawing. People are waiting for the last second. It's crazy, but that's what happens."

When the 50/50, the famous car show, and Depot Days began in 1990, the first drawing awarded the winner \$750, although the organizers thought it may only pay out \$150.

In 2020, Depot Days was canceled due to Covid-19 and marked the first festival season without a 50/50 drawing since the first, which makes the 2022 drawing the 31st instead of the 32nd.

In 2021, the lucky winning ticket owner walked away with \$105, 580.

The record is \$149,000.

"It is new life money. In the past, we've had winners pay off college debt, pay off or put down a deposit on a new house, buy vehicles, and pay bills," Gerdes said. "It's not a \$100 pay out; it's a lot of money. It's life changing for everyone who wins in some way or another."



50/50 Raffle tickets are dropped into the large drum during the festival. Have you purchased your tickets yet? Amboy News File Photo



See 50/50 page 14



Have a great time at Depot Days!

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50/50 continued from page 13-

With the ticket sales coming in bunches closer to the drawing day of Sunday, Aug. 28 – the day of the car show and the last day of Depot Days – questions of how the winning tickets are chosen arise.

Do people think the tickets are not mixed up?

"We built a tumbler years ago with a motor on it. We flip a switch and the tumbler will spin round and round," Gerdes said. "Tickets get separated and mixed up. The day of the drawing, Miss Amboy is the one who actually draws the tickets.

"I'm standing with her on the stage on



Sunday afternoon. I tell her to not look into the tumbler, put your arm in there, swirl it around, and pull out one ticket and hand it to me. The tickets are tumbled and mixed up throughout July and August, and then obviously the day of the drawing," Gerdes said.

The grand-prize ticket holder will not be the only winner during this year's Depot Days, as five more tickets will be drawn, with the winners receiving \$2,000 each.

The five smaller denominations do not reduce the amount of the big-pot winner

as the \$10,000 is taken from the half of the money the organization claims.

The only question remaining is just how much will the big ticket be worth.

According to Gerdes, the answer won't come until shortly before Miss Amboy sticks her arm in the tumbler.

"Sunday, the day of the car show, is the biggest day. We will take in over \$100,000 just on that day," Gerdes said. "The presales are important and we'd like to get close to the \$80,000-\$100,000 mark before the big weekend, but eh, sometimes we do and sometimes we don't."



Sunday, the day of the car show, is when the most 50/50 raffle tickets are sold. AMBOY NEWS FILE PHOTO

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Depot Days Car Show ready for year 31

BY BRANDON LACHANCE Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY – Garth Dallam has been involved with the car show in Amboy every year. Vintage, roadster, hot rod, muscle, or cars you may have seen in the movie Fast and the Furious, have all come to Amboy Depot Days.

The 31st Annual Depot Days Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show on Sunday, Aug. 28, will be no different.

"Henry Gerdes and Rick Ketchum put their heads together since there never really was a celebration for the town of Amboy. What they had was pretty mediocre, so they decided they wanted to do something to help spice it up," Dallam said. "They decided to have a car show and wrangled a few of us together. I started out as a judge. I'm still judging when I have to.

"It's just a bunch of guys that want to put a car show on. We were hoping to have 75 cars in the beginning, and we had 150. We were hoping to give \$500 away in our first 50/50 and we gave away \$750. Every year we work to make it better or do something different."

Dallam is now the president of the car show (created in 1990 but missed a year because of Covid-19) which he says is in title only, because the government made the group of guys, who were simply having fun, become a 501(3)c in the tax world, and that group has to have a hierarchy.

Even with the title, he's just a car guy who loves to see cars, trucks, motorcycles and everything else with a motor whether they're from Amboy, surrounding towns, or out of state.

"You get to see everything under the sun from Model-Ts to Model-As up to brand new Corvettes, Dodge Chargers and Challengers, and everything in between," Dallam said. "Usually, everything in between has a stock class or a street machine class. You get to see a lot of different cars that people put together differently.

"Then you get to the steel body street rods. Money is the limit there. You get to see some fantastic cars that guys



have thought up and done themselves. Most of the cars have been worked on by the owner and usually there is a story that goes with it."

Dallam has heard stories about an owner of a vehicle meeting his wife when he just bought the car. He's looked at a car that once upon a time was a carriage for a first date. He's heard of drag racing stories where a car he walked past won a tight race.

Almost every vehicle he has seen at the previous 30 shows meant something to someone.

The opportunity to give an avenue for these stories to carry on gives Dallam, the car show staff, and the Depot Days guests joyful entertainment.

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"I have over 30 people who all put in a lot of hard work.

The car show has stayed here from the very beginning. When I was young, we worked on our cars all of the time. We changed engines. We changed motors. We changed the oil. Whatever a car needed, we did it. The younger generation isn't as interested in cars because they can take a chip out and put a new one in. We never had that luxury.

"If we wanted to go faster or slower, we had to change a gear, a cam, or put on different sized tires. It was something you did physically. I spent many weekends under my car and I was proud of it. Racing with your friends on the weekends was just something you did. If it breaks, you have to get it fixed so you could go to work on Monday morning."

See CAR SHOW page 16

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CAR SHOW continued from page 15

Pre-registration ended Aug. 15 in which a participant would send in the registration form without sending any payment. Dallam and his crew will have the vehicle's paperwork and dash plaques for the

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first 500 cars and first 66 motorcycles ready at the registration tent.

The payment is \$15 to get in, but the registrant will receive \$5 worth of 50/50 tickets.

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get in and you already have five chances on the 50/50 drawing that you didn't have to pay for. We're giving them to you, which is a good deal. The best part is, if it starts to rain that day or you have something else you have to do, you're not out any money at all because you never sent any money in to us.

"A lot of people like that. A lot of people like that it is a judged show."

Registration the day of is from 6-11 a.m.

There will be judges from Amboy, Rochelle, Shabbona, and from other states (there have been judges from Detroit) for all 52 classes, in which all of them will award a first, second, and third place winner.



There will be other awards handed out at the award ceremony at 3 p.m., Aug. 28.

Participants have the opportunity to vote for Best Engine, Best Paint, Best Interior, Best GM, Best Ford, Best Mopar, Best of Show, and Best of Show Motorcycle.

There is a Mayor's Choice Award in which Amboy Mayor John Schamberger will have his toughest decision of the day, Miss Amboy Award where the selected queen scratches her head as much as the mayor, and a special prize for the longest distance traveled to the show.

Dallam is hoping this year won't be like last year when Depot Days had a gas and water main break, including the water main on West Main St. which drowned parking spots for car show participants. But, if anything unexpected happens during the 2022 Depot Days, the car show crew is ready.

"This year, I think we can absorb just about anything," Dallam said. "From what we learned from other shows, we may have a pretty good sized show this year. We may have a banner year and we might not have a banner year, but there is the possibility."

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Kinyon Road: Amboy's first railroad? I heard this story when I was a gandy dancer on the CB&Q.

Editor: "Gandy dancer" is an early slang term describing the choreographed movement of section workers using hand tools to repair railroads. Much like gandy dancer folklore, stories of America's "first" railroads abound. The accuracy of the following story about the Kinyon Road line was not researched by the Amboy News.

I got this story from my foreman, Harry Brewer. When the original CB&Q was built, it was intended to give Amboy a direct eastern connection to the markets in Chicago. It was promoted primarily by a fellow named Kinyon, and sometimes called the Kinyon Road line. The city of Amboy invested a considerable amount in the railroad. The main line was to extend to Shabbona where it would connect with another railroad running into Chicago. It established depots at Shaw Station, Compton, West Brooklyn, and Paw Paw, and then turned north to Shabbona. After the eastern road was completed, the western extension established depots at Walton and Harmon. The "Kinyon Road" promoted the founding of five new towns. The end of the road was Harmon for many years.

The railroad had a good business in towns along the route. You could buy anything on the market from the railroad. Every town had a cheese and butter

RECYCLE! RECYCLE! RECYCLE!

factory shipping their products to Chicago. Livestock and poultry were also transported from every town. Amboy even had a pickle factory to send pickles in all directions. It was a common thing to take a pack-

age to the Kinyon depot in Amboy one day and have it delivered in Chicago the following day. It was the modern age. Passenger trains ran east and west on the Kinyon Road and north and south on the Illinois Central. Business was brisk for a number of years, but, I suspect, the competition from other railroads doomed the Kinyon Road.

Eventually, the Kinyon Road line was sold to the CB&O. The line from Paw Paw to Shabbona was torn up and a new line from Paw Paw to Earlville was built. The line was also extended from Harmon to Rock Falls.

Editor's Note: James Brady Long was born in Amboy on June 12, 1926.

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Long

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

Known by many

as "Mazie", he

grew up in Am-

boy, served in

the army dur-

ing World War

II, then studied

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: Gandy Dancers Folklore bit.ly/3ATSTSM ICC -- Wikipedia bit.ly/3c7krK2 Amboy Depot Museum bit.ly/3IJlk7L item/2017658617

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Donkey Drop Bingo returns to Depot Days

BY BRANDON LACHANCE Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY - Did you ever think something profitable besides farming could come out of a farm animal defecating?

Well, Donkey Drop Bingo makes it possible at 5 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 27 on E. Main St. in Amboy during Depot Days.

Eileen Piper, Teen Turf Executive Director, likes the event because it's an interesting, unique way to bring people together, reward a winner, and fundraise for Teen Turf which is an organization that survives off of fundraising and donations since it doesn't receive federal or state funding.

"We have a plot of land and it's across from Sensient Flavors. We paint a Bingolike grid on the plot in white paint. Each square is numbered," said Piper, who began Teen Turf almost 28 years ago. "We used to have a donkey, but the donkey is no longer able, so it's a horse.

"Back in the day, they used to bring a cow come into town and the game was called Bessie Bingo. We had a board member, Rich Geiger, come up with the idea and it came from there. Geiger and Pete Rood got it going. Pete got all of the gates and Rich had the horse."

Donkey Drop Bingo has evolved from its roots. Tickets are sold for \$10 a square and there are 100 squares on the game board. Teen Turf and the winner split the pot, which means whoever bought the number the horse defecates on will take \$500 home, spend it at Depot Days, or invest in their own Donkey Drop Bingo board and equipment.

"It's fun. People stand there and watch to see what happens," Piper said. "Sometimes there are more people than other times because there is a lot to do at Depot Days. Last year the winner wasn't there but someone knew who it was, so they went and got her."

And no need to worry, the winner or participants don't have to clean up the game board.

Have a safe and fun time at this year's Amboy Depot Days. **MIHM-JONES FUNERAL HOME** AMBOY

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Alika Arlynn to perform on Main Stage Saturday

AMBOY — Alika Arlynn is taking country to a whole new level and will be performing on the Main Stage on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 7-9 p.m. This free concert is sponsored by KSB Hospital.

Alika's songs are uplifting, fun and inspirational. Her songs are the kind of songs that people of all ages can relate to. Alika sings about her story, her experiences and the relationships that have shaped her. She loves to sing about her small midwestern town on a Saturday night with her friends and family.

Alika's unique sound comes from her collaboration with her songwriting partners, producer, Kevin Chalfant and engineer, professor of recording arts, Alby Odum. Mixed by Dave Bechtel and mastered by Rodney Mills (Lynyrd



Skynyrd fame). Chalfant has had chart topping rock hits and briefly stepped in as lead singer for the band journey. This collaboration brings pop rock and country together like no other before them, creating an awesome 10 song country rock album with the help of many first call Nashville musicians.

Alika and her band combine her original music and many favorite cover songs in their show.



The Neverly Brothers to perform on Main Stage Friday

AMBOY – Amboy Depot Days will welcome 'The Neverly Brothers' band to the main stage from 7-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26. The band was formed in 2003 and is based in Chicago. 'The Neverly Brothers' is a rock & roll tribute from Elvis to The Beatles.

Band members include:

• Kevin Giragosian – vocals, guitar, harmonica - Kevin has been a prominent figure on the Chicago

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live music circuit for over 20 years. His original recordings, with his former power-pop band THE WOMBATS, have been aired on various Chicago area commercial and college radio stations including WXRT and Q101. His love of vocal harmony, early-American rockabilly artists and British Invasion bands brought him to create this unique and powerful musical act.

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• Kegham Giragosian drums, vocals - Keg started his musical career in the early 1990s as the drummer and harmony vocalist for brother Kevin's former band The Wombats. As a vocalist he is equally adept at handling either lead or background harmony. When Kevin & Kegham sing those sweet two-part vocal harmonies, a la The Everly Brothers or John Lennon & Paul McCartney, you'll find yourself saying: "Only brothers could harmonize like that!"

• Mike Bradburn - upright bass fiddle, background vocals – Mike has been a long-time veteran of the Chicago music scene for over 25 years. He continues to play upright bass fiddle and electric bass for several respected Chicago area bands – the majority of the time with The Neverly Brothers. Mike rounds out the vocal arrangements with his spot-on background vocal harmonies.





Burn N' Bush takes stage in beer garden Friday

AMBOY - The ever popular Burn N' Bush 2 man acoustic band from Ashton, will take the stage in the Knights of Columbus Beer Garden on Friday, Aug. 26, from 9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. The band features Rod BURNette on vocals, cajom, and kazoo and Dave BUSHman on vocals and guitar. Enjoy Burn N' Bush as they play a variety of Rock, Country and Oldies, and their brand of fun/sing-along/standards.



Class Field Trip to headline beer garden Saturday

AMBOY - Grab your Converse and studded belts and get ready to rock out to all your favorite 90's and 2000's pop-punk hits. Class Field Trip will perform on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m., at the Knights of Columbus Beer Garden.



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