

New basketball rims at Amboy City Park, thanks to AHS graduates

BY BRANDON LACHANCE
Amboy News Reporter
AMBOY – The City Park in Amboy looks a little different.
Well, a bit newer.
Jairon Hochstatter, Chanlor Pohl, and Haden McCoy graduated from Amboy High School on May 29, but before they did, they brought new basketball rims to City Park.
“In order to graduate, we had to do a government program where we had to contact an officer in the local, state, or national government and do some sort of activity with them,” said Hochstatter. “Chanlor Pohl, Haden McCoy, and I decided that we should donate rims to the park. We play basketball at the City Park and the rims were not so good. So, that’s what we did.”
“We were originally planning on holding some kind of basketball tournament, but the dates never lined up. We couldn’t find a good time to do it, so we decided to get donations from whoever wanted to help replace the rims and improve the park, and buy the rims online.”
The three now-graduates contacted the city about their plan, received some donations, and chipped in themselves as all three work at Woodhaven Lakes. Hochstatter can be found at Woody’s Hardware, McCoy is tending to the pool, and Pohl is cooking up some grub at the general store.
The rims arrived on May 16 and they were delivered to the city on May 20.

Advocating for new rims and helping the park they’ve all grown up at was a satisfying feeling.
“It makes me feel good. I like going to the park and hanging out with people,” Hochstatter said. “I’m happy to know that I did something to be a part in improving the park. Maybe it will help someone else out who wants to play basketball at the park.”
The project was a part of Danielle Benesh’s social studies class.
Although it’s always been a fun class, the last year has been fun and rewarding.
“It’s a state recommendation, but a school requirement for graduation that you have to do a service-learning project. Since I started, six years ago, a lot of kids would volunteer somewhere like the animal shelter and play with dogs for two hours,” said Benesh, who is moving on from AHS next school year. “While that’s great, that wasn’t the true nature of the state requirement. They wanted something that was going to have a larger impact to get the kids passionate about important issues.”
“I redid it last year and said, ‘Rather than simply volunteering, you have to do more. If you care about animal shelters, that’s great, you can write to the shelter and ask what they need or what kind of funding they get. Then you can reach out to state representatives and say hey, we need more funding for animal shelters.’”
“That was the direction I tried to take it, so they’re more actively engaged. I said they



Jairon Hochstatter, Chanlor Pohl and Haden McCoy pose with the new basketball rims for Amboy City Park. The three AHS graduates donated the rims as part of project for Danielle Benesh’s social studies class.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News

could do anything as local as the school to try and make a change here or they could do a national policy they care about.”
Benesh has been happy with the ideas her students have come up with, including Hochstatter, McCoy, and Pohl.

See RIMS page A2



SUMMER READING PROGRAM BEGINS

The Pankhurst Memorial Library kicked off its four-week Summer Reading Program on Tuesday, June 7. The theme this year is camping, calling it “Read S’more about it.” Children ranging in ages from pre-school to fourth grade, three days a week, get the chance to read a book aloud, make a camping styled craft, enjoy snacks, and get the opportunity to pick a weekly prize depending on how much they read at home.

Photos submitted

The Ultimate Honor

BY BRANDON LACHANCE
Amboy News Reporter
AMBOY – Many memorials, tributes, and celebrations have been had and will continue to take place for the men and women who have fought in wars for the United States.
One high honor paying tribute and thanks to area veterans is the Honor Flight where former soldiers and officers are taken by air to Washington D.C. for a day all about them.
Lee County Honor Flight has room in its one flight a year for veterans from Lee County, Ogle County and any other surrounding counties. The only requirement is the man/woman was enlisted in the military (whether in battle or not) during World War II, the Vietnam War, or the Korean War.
Jim Travi of Amboy has been involved with Lee County Honor Flight (has sent over 500 vets to Washington D.C.) and Quad Cities Honor Flight (5,000 veterans under its belt) for five years as he helps veterans recognize the opportunity and have fun when they step aboard.

Each veteran is assigned a guardian during the trip to Washington D.C. for safety and companionship. If they are not bringing their own, they will meet their guardian at the orientation. They will also find out which bus (options are red, white or blue bus) they are riding on from Amboy to Moline before they load the plane at the Quad City International Airport fly to Washington D.C. The staff also double checks each bus to make sure there is enough equipment (such as canes and wheelchairs), and essentials for every rider.
Morning of the flight
All Honor Flight passengers will meet at the Dixon VFW Post 540 at 5 a.m. to load buses.
If a veteran doesn’t want to ride the bus, they can meet at the Quad Cities airport.
Chartered Flight
The plane usually leaves at 7 a.m. and lands at Dull International Airport around 9-10 a.m. to the ac-

tion-packed day of memorial activities.
“One thing that is neat about going through the airport when we arrive is that the local schools, especially

the grade schools, have field trips to the airport,” said Travi, who didn’t serve in the military, but stays involved to honor family members who fought for our coun-

try. “These little kids are welcoming the veterans to Washington D.C. with signs.
“In 2019, I was walking through the airport with a Korean veteran. A little girl,

probably third or fourth grade, reached over to him and asked, ‘Sir, can I give you a hug?’ He gave her a hug. It was a tearjerker. From that point, several other kids hugged the veterans.”

See HONOR page A2



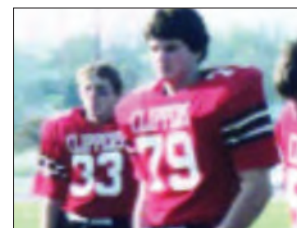
After lunch in downtown D.C., the veterans are welcome to check out neighboring memorials on their own time. They have a couple hours off guided schedule to visit places such as the Abraham Lincoln Monument, the Vietnam War Monument, or the Korean War Monument. Pictured is from the Honor Flight in 2019.

File photo

MILLER GOLDEN APPLE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

2022 Amboy High School graduate Olivia Miller is a recipient of the Golden Apple Scholarship given out by the state of Illinois. The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program is a teacher preparation and tuition assistance program for high school seniors and freshman and sophomore Illinois college students who have the determination and drive to be highly effective teachers in Illinois schools-of-need. They prepare aspiring teachers for immediate and lasting success in the most challenging teaching environments. On June 4, Miller traveled to downtown Chicago to be inducted in as a Golden Apple Scholar. Golden Apple Scholar announced the class of 2022 is the largest class of Scholars in program history and each aspiring teacher has committed to teach in a school-of-need in Illinois for five years after graduation. Miller is headed to Illinois State University this fall and will major in elementary education.

Photo submitted



CLIPPER HIGHLIGHTS

This week’s column features #79 Brad Goy
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LOCAL NEWS

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Air Museum

The crew gets on three buses, again the options are red, white, or blue to make its way to the first stop of the day. The Air Museum has planes from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

"I was with a Vietnam Vet in May of 2019. As I walked around with him, we got to the choppers and he filled up with tears," said Travi, who was a teacher, has been an investor for 30 years, and is a member of the Amboy Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus. "The veteran said, 'I was a gunner on one of these helicopters that flew in to get the wounded out. It brings back a lot of memories.'

"Once we leave the museum, we have a police escort. It is amazing to see how honored and respected people are to see the veterans move through traffic and how the guards and policemen go about it. People ask how we do everything so quickly. Well, a police escort moves you through all traffic with no issue."

Arlington Cemetery

"We time it well, so we'll see the changing of the guard. Usually, not every time but most of the time, the guard that is coming off duty will come out and talk to the veterans," Travi said. "They answer all their questions about what tomb guards go through. It's an amazing training that they have to go through."

The veterans are given about an hour to check out all monuments and honored resting places.

Air Force Memorial

Travi said if the Air Force Memorial was erected during 9-11, the airplane that terrorists drove into the Pentagon would have hit the top of the memorial before they reached the Pentagon.

On the Honor Flight trip, the veterans have a chance for remembrance at the special monument.

Self-Guided Tour

After lunch in downtown D.C., the veterans are welcome to check out neighboring memorials on their own time. They have a couple hours off guided schedule to



HERO'S WELCOME

When the flight arrives in Moline, the vets and especially the Vietnam veterans who were never really welcomed home, get the welcoming they deserve as 700-900 people are waiting for them to arrive at the airport. Pictured is from the Honor Flight in 2019.

File photo

visit places such as the Abraham Lincoln Monument, the Vietnam War Monument, or the Korean War Monument.

Travi mentioned, on the incredible granite wall at the Korean Memorial, there are etchings and pictures in the wall that disappear in the rain. Once it stops raining or the granite dries, the etchings reappear.

World War II Memorial

"In 2004, President George W. Bush dedicated

the World War II Memorial. It is an unbelievable memorial," Travi said. "It is designed with the Atlantic theater and the Pacific theater with all of the battles. It's surrounded by the flags of each of the 50 states. This is huge. It's in line between the Lincoln Memorial and the Capital."

Women in Military Service for America Memorial

Whether there are women veterans on the Honor Flight or not, there will be a stop at the women's memorial for

those who served during war.

The Flight Home/ Mail Time

"When we get on the plane in Moline to leave for Washington D.C., the plane is quiet for the first 20-30 minutes. A lot of the vets don't know each other, so there isn't a lot of talking," Travi said. "Then they start opening up and talking. By the time we get to D.C. they're visiting with each other and starting to make friends."

"On one trip, the two vets sitting in front of me found out they were only a couple of miles apart when they were stationed in Vietnam. I've stayed in contact with them and they tell me that they meet up once or twice a year."

"On the way back from Washington D.C., now everyone is talking because they've spent an entire day together. Now you can't hear

yourself think because of the talking and visiting."

About 25 minutes away from the Quad Cities International Airport, it's time for mail call.

Every veteran on the plane receives an envelope full of mail.

"We try to contact every veteran's family. We have them write a letter to their family member who is a veteran," Travi said. "We collect all of them and put them in an envelope. We have school kids in this area that will write them thank you letters."

"From the moment we hand out those envelopes, you could hear a pin drop in the plane. It's quiet. I would say over half of the vets will have tears in their eyes and running down their cheeks as they're reading the letters. Especially for the Vietnam vets because they unfortunately were not welcomed home like veterans from other wars."

Travi added, when the flight arrives in Moline, the vets and especially the Vietnam veterans who were never really welcomed home, get the welcoming they deserve as 700-900 people are waiting for them to arrive at the airport around 10:30 p.m.

"It always feels good to help people," Travi said. "If everybody would give back just a little bit when they have time, our world would be a lot happier."

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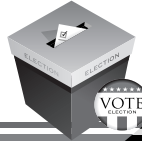
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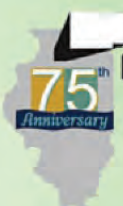
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LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Summer Splash Program

This is our first week of Splash camp for the younger kids. We start with our first movie theme this week, Moana. Let's all go to the movies will be our theme for six weeks. It began this week, June 13 and end July 20 for pre-k to fourth grade. Pre-K and K will be on Mondays, first and second are on Tuesdays, and third and fourth will be on Wednesdays. Information packets are in our 24/7 hallway. In addition for those kids going into fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and high school, we are accepting applications for the all day community program and that program started on June 6 and goes till the 4-H fair at the end of July. You can still sign up. If you have any questions, please call Teen Turf building at 815-857-4800. Let's have a great summer. Check out our pictures on Facebook.

Thank You's

We are always blessed to have the following folks help us: Those that brought items for those in need, Tammy and Scott Strub for the children items, and Donny Pollard for the items.

Needs

Granola bars and ice pops for the summer

Final Word

Thank you for the little things. For the gift of this one little day in the great span of time. For the little beauties; the sunlight on blankets in the morning, the fragrance of coffee, the smile of someone who cares for us, the texture of the day unfolding as it should. Thank you God of Grace.

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Each project came up with something needed or an outside-of-the-box idea.

"I think this stuff is super important. I have cousins graduating from college right now and they just seem really upset about the political environment and feel they can't make an impact," Benesh said. "A couple of them are against voting because they don't think it means anything."

"That's a very defeated attitude. I don't want the kids to think that way. A lot of times the kids will say, 'This is a lot to do' or 'We have other things we have to do', which is understandable but when they do the project, they feel good about the project and that they can make a change."

At the May 24 AHS School Board Meeting, two other groups of students displayed their projects.

Chrissy Shaw and Elizabeth Malach spoke about their government class project where they petitioned for future AHS seniors to have senior designated parking spots. The seniors, who will not get to take advantage of their project if the board approves, stated the positives would be senior personalization, school pride improvement, \$25 a semester fundraising for the class, water- or chalk-based paint would be used for Mother Nature's approval, and it's something to use as a half-day activity.

The other side of things in terms of who would police

the parking spots, what the punishment for inappropriate art would be, and what the parking spot dress code would be was also discussed.

Ian Eller, Andruw Jones, and Wesley Wilson presented their project about safety in the northeast of the school as traffic is now congested with the new junior high and high school being intertwined.

The group suggested a crossing guard and gave examples of why something needed to be done for the safety of the children and drivers.

Benesh mentioned other class projects such as the addition of a resource officer and another on ways to stop vandalism.

The class may have left an impact on Hochstatter as he wants to continue to help Amboy.

"It was a really great class and she is a fun teacher. She likes to really get the students engaged and she stayed on us to make sure we got the project done," Hochstatter said. "She emphasized not just taking the class for a grade but as a way to help the community."

"I could see myself doing more for the community. I'm thinking about joining the local Lions Club. When I was younger I was in the Leos Club, but high school sports took up so much time, I stopped. Now, that I'm done with high school, I want to help out more in the community any way I can."

"More in Bureau County" garage sales coming June 17 and 18

PRINCETON – Bureau County Tourism presents the "More in Bureau County" countywide Garage Sales on Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18.

Shop until you drop in Bureau County and you will find town-wide garage sales in Sheffield, Wyanet, Princeton and Ladd. There will be lots of sales all around the county including a two-day garage sale at Bureau County Fairgrounds on Friday and Saturday.

Along with all of the great shopping, there will be lots of events in Princeton that weekend including Beef & Ag Days on Saturday; Old Wheels Car Show at the First Lutheran Church on Saturday; and the Farmers Market in Princeton and Walnut on Saturday. The Z-Tour cross country bike ride will be Saturday so be careful to watch for bikes as you look for sales along the route. Psycho Silo has a car and motorcycle swap meet Friday and Saturday opening at 7 a.m.

Established In 1854

The Amboy News

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

AMBOY-The Amboy/Lee Center Multi-Township meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15, at 7 p.m., at the Amboy Township Building, 106 South Prospect, Amboy.

AMBOY- The Amboy CUSD School Board will meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 16, in the Junior High School cafeteria.

DIXON-Dixon Habitat for Humanity will hold a Ground breaking/Blessing ceremony for the 30th home at 10 a.m., on Saturday, June 18, at 713 Jay Dee Ave., in Dixon.

AMBOY-The Amboy Summer Concert Series welcomes Chris and Rick on Saturday, June 18, at 7 p.m., at the Downtown Band Shelter, Main Street. Bring a chair and a friend and enjoy this free concert. Chris and Rick play contemporary music.

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

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

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21, at the Elk's Lodge, 1279 Franklin Grove Rd. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1:30 until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21, at the Elk's Lodge, 1279 Franklin Grove Rd. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

WALTON- Lee County Democratic Party will host a Meet Your Illinois Democratic Candidates, on Tuesday, June 21, from 5 – 7 p.m., Walton Tap, 906 Walton Rd.

Residents be aware of harmful algal blooms

SPRINGFIELD – As temperatures begin to rise, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) and Illinois Department of Public Health (Illinois DPH) are reminding recreators to use caution in Illinois waterways this summer when harmful algal (cyanobacteria) blooms are possible. Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are microscopic organisms that naturally occur in lakes, streams, and ponds. Rapid and expansive growth of cyanobacteria is referred to as a "bloom." While most blooms are harmless, some produce toxic chemicals that can cause sickness or other health effects in exposed people and pets.

When a bloom producing toxins has been confirmed, local officials are advised to post appropriate signage to warn residents to avoid contact with affected waters. However, not all blooms are reported to state officials. Therefore, residents are advised to avoid contact with water that:

- looks like spilled, green or blue-green paint;
- has surface scums, mats, or films;
- has a blue or green crust at the shoreline;
- is discolored or has green-colored streaks; or
- has greenish globs suspended in the water below the surface.

Residents or local officials who suspect a cyanobacteria bloom may report the bloom to the Illinois EPA, which recently released a new Bloom Report Form Application accessible on computer or phone.

Young children, the elderly, and people with compromised immune systems are most at risk to adverse health effects attributable to algal toxins. Individuals are most often exposed to algal toxins while swimming or participating in other recreational activities in and on the water. The most common routes of exposure are direct skin contact, ingestion of contaminated water, or inhalation of water droplets in the air (e.g., while water skiing or tubing). Symptoms of exposure to algal toxins include rashes, hives, diarrhea, vomiting, coughing, or wheezing. More severe symptoms may result from longer or greater amounts of exposure. If you are concerned you have symptoms that are a result of exposure to algal toxins, contact your health care provider or call the Illinois Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Residents are also advised to keep pets out of water that may contain cyanobacteria. Do not allow pets to drink from the water or lick their fur after swimming in water containing a cyanobacteria bloom. Residents and pets that have contact with cyanobacteria should rinse with clean water as soon as possible. If pets experience symptoms that may be the result of exposure, contact a veterinarian immediately.

Activities near, but not in or on, a lake or river such as camping, picnicking, biking, and hiking are not affected. With all activities, wash your hands with soap and water before eating if you have had contact with lake water or shore debris.

Light refreshments provided. Cash bar.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 until 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 22, at the Elk's Lodge, 1279

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

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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, MAY 19, 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, June 23, 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, June 25, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Closed legal holidays. The votes cast during this time will not be counted until Election Day. Once a ballot has been cast it cannot be rescinded.

Website: www.leecountyil.com
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Nancy Petersen
Lee County Clerk & Recorder

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LOCAL NEWS

Harness Racing kicks off 2022 Illinois State Fair grandstand action

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois State Fair Grandstand will host harness racing to kick off the 2022 grandstand calendar on Thursday, Aug. 11. Known as one of the fastest tracks in the world, the one-mile track will feature strictly Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) sponsored races on opening day. Every horse that takes the track will be either Illinois conceived or foaled.

“To be able to provide an expanded showcase of Illinois horses on our State’s biggest stage and on one of the world’s fastest tracks is a tremendous way to start off our state fair,” said IDOA Director Jerry Costello. “Our hope is that those who have never experienced harness racing at the fair will come out and enjoy these races and the ones that follow throughout the fair.”

The harness races will feature a split card with the first post time at 12 p.m. noon and second post time at 5 p.m. Admission into the harness races is free for fairgoers. The remainder of the Illinois State Fair harness races are listed below with post times for each day at 12 p.m. noon:

Friday, Aug. 12
Saturday, Aug. 13
Wednesday, Aug. 17
Thursday, Aug. 18

As a reminder, tickets are on sale now for all announced grandstand shows on [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) and in-person at the ISF Box Office beginning Monday, June 13.

Thursday, Aug. 11: Harness Racing- Noon and 5 p.m. post Free

Friday, Aug. 12: Sam Hunt with Sean Stemaly and Shelby Darrall

Tier 3 - \$53 / Tier 2 - \$58 / Tier 1 - \$65 / SRO Track - \$65 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$120

Saturday, Aug. 13: Demi Lovato with TBD

Tier 3 - \$45 / Tier 2 - \$50 / Tier 1 - \$57 / SRO Track - \$57 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$112

Sunday, Aug. 14: Brooks & Dunn with Kendell Marvel

Tier 3 - \$53 / Tier 2 - \$58 / Tier 1 - \$65 / SRO Track - \$65 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$120

Monday, Aug. 15: The Ides of March featuring Jim Peterik FREE Concert

Tuesday, Aug. 16: Willie Nelson & Family with Elle King
Tier 3 - \$38 / Tier 2 - \$43 / Tier 1 - \$50 / SRO Track - \$50 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$105

Wednesday, Aug. 17: Shaggy & TLC
Tier 3 - \$24 / Tier 2 - \$29 / Tier 1 - \$36 / SRO Track - \$36 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$91

Thursday, Aug. 18: Jon Pardi with Lainey Wilson and Chapel Hart

Tier 3 - \$33 / Tier 2 - \$38 / Tier 1 - \$45 / SRO Track - \$45 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$100

Saturday, Aug. 20: Disturbed with Nita Strauss
Tier 3 - \$44 / Tier 2 - \$49 / Tier 1 - \$56 / SRO Track - \$56

Two new dementia caregiver support groups starting in June

STERLING — Two new Dementia Caregiver Support Groups are starting in June, one in Sterling and one in Polo. Caregivers are welcome to attend either group.

The Sterling group will meet at Morningside, 2705 Ave. E, Sterling, on Thursday, June 9 at 3 p.m. Respite care is also being provided for your loved one to allow you to attend the 1-hour caregiver support group sessions. The group will meet the second Thursday of each month and is hosted by Morningside, the Whiteside County Senior Center, the CGH Health Foundation and the Alzheimer’s Association.

For more information, contact Kris Trotter at Morningside at 815/622-2800. To register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/caregiver-support-group-alzheimers-dementia-whiteside-county-il-tickets-358567223217>. Registration is not required.

The Polo group will meet at the Polo Senior Center, 101 E. Mason St., Polo. The group will meet Monday, June 27 at 2 p.m. The group will meet the fourth Monday of each month and is sponsored by the Polo Area Senior Services Inc., the CGH Health Foundation and Alzheimer’s Associ-

/ Blue Ribbon Zone - \$111

Sunday, Aug. 21: Sammy Hagar & The Circle with Ann Wilson of Heart

Tier 3 - \$43 / Tier 2 - \$48 / Tier 1 - \$55 / SRO Track - \$55 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$110

*A \$30 Stage Side Party ticket is offered as an additional upgrade for all paid concerts. All Stage Side Party tickets purchased before July 15 will include a free state fair parking pass for the day of the concert.

Mark your calendars for the 2022 Illinois State Fair, Aug. 11 through 21, in Springfield. Stay up to date with all the latest news and announcements from the Illinois State Fair by connecting with us via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

ation. Respite care is not being offered for your loved one at this time.

Contact Kathy Wragg at the Senior Center at 815/946-3818 for more information. To register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/caregiver-support-group-alzheimers-dementia-ogle-county-il-tickets-358627373127>. Registration is not required.

A new evening group is also starting soon in Mt. Morris and others are being pursued in Dixon, Prophetstown, Morrison and Walnut. The planning is part of the new Dementia Project being funded by the CGH Health Foundation, in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association.

Organizers hope to offer support, resources and the latest information from the Alzheimer’s Association on new medications, research and strategies in care. Support groups create a safe, confidential, supportive environment or community and are a chance for participants to develop informal mutual support and social relationships. They also educate and inform participants about dementia and help participants develop methods and skills to solve problems.

IDPH warns of rabid bats and other animals

SPRINGFIELD –With the weather warming up, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is warning the public to beware of rabid animals, especially bats, as they become more active this time of year. IDPH has received reports of four rabid bats in the state since May 15 from Champaign, Jackson, Macon and Will counties.

“While there is a preventive treatment for rabies, it is one of the deadliest diseases we know,” said IDPH Acting Director Amaal Tokars. “Bats are the most common carriers of the rabies virus in Illinois and are responsible for the

vast majority of human rabies cases in the United States in recent years. But they are not the only carrier of rabies. The public should be not approach bats or any wild, unfamiliar or stray animal, and any animal that appears to be sick.”

IDPH stressed that a bite from a rabid animal can be potentially fatal if not treated and that public should take precautions to keep bats out of their homes.

IDPH is also reminding the public make sure that rabies vaccinations are up-to-date for pets and any valuable livestock and horses for whom a rabies vaccine is available. If a pet

is exposed to a high-risk wild animal – such as a bat, skunk, raccoon, fox or coyote -- you should contact a veterinarian for advice immediately.

Rabies is a virus that affects the nervous system (brain and nerves). People can get rabies after being bitten by an infected animal. Rabies can also be contracted when saliva or spit from a rabid animal gets directly into a person’s eyes, nose, mouth, or a wound. People usually know when they have been bitten by a bat, but bats have very small teeth and the bite mark may not be easy to see. If you find yourself in close proximity to a bat and are

not sure if you were exposed, for example – you wake up and find a bat in your room, do not kill or release the bat before calling your doctor or local health department to help determine if you could have been exposed to rabies and need preventive treatment (i.e. vaccines or other products to stop you from getting Rabies). If the bat is available for testing and test results are negative, preventive treatment is not needed.

If you have been bitten by any animal, seek immediate medical attention. Animal bites may also become infected with bacteria. Rabies preventive treatment, if needed, must begin quickly.

An animal does not have to be aggressive or exhibit other symptoms to have rabies. Changes in any animal’s normal behavior can be early signs of rabies. A bat that is active during the day, found on the ground, or is unable to fly is more likely than others to be rabid. Such bats are often easily approached, but should never be handled.


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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

St. Patrick Church Fr. John Gow 32 N Jones, Amboy 815-857-2315 • www.stpatrickamboy.org Masses: Tuesday – Friday Daily Mass 8 am Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 7:30 am & 10 am Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 pm Wednesday, 5:30-6:15 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday, 8am-5 pm	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 Fronek Locust Street, Sublette Phone 815-849-5412 Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass - 10:30 a.m. Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. Thursday - 8:30 a.m.
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 Fronek 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 Fronek - 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.

The Following Community Businesses Sponsor Area Church News:

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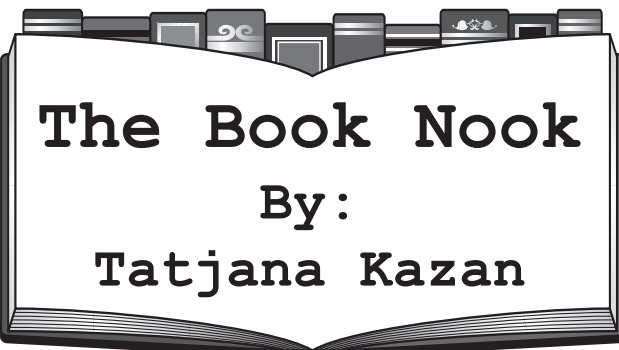
Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet
815-849-5232

KSB Medical Center
815-857-3044

The Amboy News
815-857-2311



SOCIAL NEWS



The Book Nook

By:
Tatjana Kazan

LOVE GONE WRONG

In Joyce Carol Oates's "Evil Eye: Four Novellas of Love Gone Wrong," a talisman called a nazar wards off the evil eye. "The nazar did resemble an eye, though not a human eye: it was rimmed with dark blue, not white, and it was flattened and not spherical. And it was large, and lidless, blank and staring." In Oates's world of heart-stopping terror, a nazar has all the power of a trinket. Love and evil are practically conjoined.

In "Evil Eye," Mariana, a naïve, college graduate student, whose parents are killed in a car crash, is in thrall to her mentor, a preening, manipulative older academic Austin Mohr. He courts her and they soon marry. She is his fourth wife. Mariana cannot pierce the shroud of secrecy which her husband assiduously maintains, until Ines, the first wife, arrives for a visit.

Mariana is deeply shocked when she meets Ines. The woman is missing an eye, the eye socket is a hideous cavern. Ines believes in the old ways, in the evil eye. "In the old folk tales there are no natural deaths – spirits cause them. If you are stricken, fall down, and die, it's the place where you die that is responsible – an evil spirit must dwell there." She reveals Austin's shocking secret and warns Mariana "He is not comfortable with strong women – only women missing a part of their souls."

In the second story, "So Near Any Time Always," a girl experiences first love when an older boy pays attention to her. She is "an immature sixteen. A not-pretty girl. A lonely girl. A desperate girl." He styles himself as an outsider, his past is fanciful make-believe. She feels "dazed, hypnotized – I had not ever been made to feel so significant in anyone's eyes." But something is wrong with him. Some evil rises to the surface, she becomes uneasy, she withdraws. He stalks her relentlessly, her terror mounts.

"The Flatbed" is also about a troubled, impressionable young woman who meets an older man who is so secretive he is identified only by the initial N. He is the love of her life. Their love is miraculous, but she cannot be touched. A hysterical revulsion overwhelms her when they make love. Someone in her past has ruined her. N is kind and understanding, but he demands she tell him who it is. When she does, N insists on meeting the man. He means to exact revenge.

The fourth story, "The Execution" is unlike the other stories, and it is the most graphically violent. We meet Bart, a psychotic college student who plans to hack up his parents with an axe. But the frenzied attack is not the center of the story, rather it is in the aftermath where 'love gone wrong' emerges in a truly macabre twist.

Department on Aging recognizes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

SPRINGFIELD – Ahead of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) are highlighting the warning signs of adult abuse and how to put a stop to it in Illinois.

"Every single person – no matter their age, gender, citizenship, sex, ability, race, or religion – deserves to feel safe and secure," said Governor JB Pritzker. "This World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, I call on all our residents to learn about the warning signs of elder abuse so they can do their part to keep our communities safe. Illinois is committed to ensuring our older residents are treated with the respect they deserve."

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, observed annually on June 15, serves as a call to action for individuals, organizations and communities to raise awareness about the abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults. Every year, an estimated one in 10 older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation. And that's only part of the picture: Experts believe that elder abuse is significantly underreported, in part because many communities lack the social supports that would make it easier for those who experience abuse to report it. Research suggests that as few as one in 14 cases of elder abuse come to the attention of authorities.

Illinois' Adult Protective Services (APS) program aims to prevent and resolves instances of abuse against older adults and persons with disabilities aged 18-59. The program is coordinated through 39 local provider agencies, whose trained caseworkers investigate allegations of abuse and connect victims with appropriate resources. During fiscal year 2021, the most recent reporting period for which data is available, the APS program received a total of 20,567 reports of suspected abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation. IDoA, regional Area Agencies on Aging and local provider agencies have worked uninterrupted throughout the pandemic to investigate all reported allegations of abuse.

For information on the warning signs of adult abuse, visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/aging/Engage/Pages/default.aspx>. To report suspected abuse, exploitation or neglect of an older adult or person with a disability, call the statewide, 24-hour APS hotline at 1-866-800-1409.

"We are committed to creating an Illinois where older adults and persons with disabilities can thrive and live free from abuse in their communities," said IDoA Director Paula Basta. "The Department on Aging and our partners continue to make meaningful strides to strengthen protections for vulnerable adults and encourage everyone to learn to recognize and report any signs of mistreatment."

IDoA serves and advocates for older Illinoisans and their caregivers by administering quality and culturally appropriate programs that promote partnerships and encourage independence, dignity, and quality of life. For information about the Department's programs and services for older adults and persons with disabilities, visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/aging/programs> or contact the Senior HelpLine toll-free at 1-800-252-8966, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Email news items to
tgreenfield@amboynews.com



THE PASTOR'S PEN

ARE YOU READY?

BY PASTOR JOHN KALEBAUGH
The New Testament records various times that Jesus appeared to His followers on Earth after His resurrection. The final instance is found in Acts 1:9-11 which records His ascension.

"Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight... And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'"

This final appearance and departing of Jesus also came with a promise... He would one day return. This is something that Christians should anticipate, though sometimes we forget... or perhaps never knew to begin with.

Billy Graham personally knew and visited every U.S. President from Truman to Obama (and even Trump once before he was elected). One of my favorite stories about Billy took place while he was playing golf with President Kennedy. He was telling the President about the return of Jesus, but

the President was unaware of this. At one point during their discussion President Kennedy turned toward his wife and said, "Jackie, did you hear that... Jesus is coming back!" This is a fun story. And a fascinating one. The President of the United States (who was also a Roman Catholic) did not know that Jesus Christ will return some day. But it also causes me to wonder how many other people - even church goers - do not know this biblical truth?

Jesus even spoke about His return during His earthly ministry. He told His disciples in Matthew 24:30-31, "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other." This fact was given to us from God and recorded in numerous places within the Holy Scriptures. The Old Testament actually referred to it in one place as, "The great and terrible day of the Lord." (Joel 2:31). And it is just as certain to take place as was the other prophecies about Jesus that have already been fulfilled – such as the ones about His birth, death, and resurrection.

God told us these things in Scripture before they ever occurred because He is glorified in their fulfillment. For only God can perfectly predict and then fulfill future events. But there are other reasons as well. Very important reason: He wants His followers to "keep watch" and "be ready". (Matthew 24:42-44) For even though God has revealed this event to us ahead of time... He did not tell us specifically tell us when this event would occur. Only that we are to keep watch and be ready. This does not mean we sit idly by looking up into the sky. No, I believe it means that we should live our lives in such a way as to not be embarrassed or ashamed if He came and "caught us" doing something we should not be doing, but also doing the things He told us to do.

Our Lord showed us the way, while He walked upon this earth. He was always about His Father's business. Daily He sought Him and daily He followed. His first words and His final words to Peter were "Follow Me." The message has never changed. One day it will be all wrapped up and all the work will be done. But today He reminds us that there are so many that still need to be reached for the Gospel from every walk of life. May we be found faithful.

'Til next time. God Bless you.

From The Heart Cash Calendar Winners

May 2022 From The Heart Calendar Winners

May 1 - Jeffrey Birr, Rochelle, \$50
May 2 - Heather Fenwick, Broadhead, Wis., \$25
May 3 - Kathleen Wayman, Oregon, \$25
May 4 - From the Heart, Rochelle, \$25
May 5 - Calvin Jacobs, Rochelle, \$25
May 6 - David Cartwright, Rochelle, \$25
May 7 - Christine Polz, Rochelle, \$25
May 8 - Ben Weinstein, Rochelle, \$500

May 9 - Anne Brodersen, Stillman Valley, \$25
May 10 - Shane Peterson, Rochelle, \$25
May 11 - Debbi Ramsey, Rochelle, \$25
May 12 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
May 13 - Karen Kereven, Oregon, \$25
May 14 - Romey Burgess, Steward, \$25
May 15 - Jennifer Brown, Rochelle, \$50
May 16 - Breyann Baiocco, Rochelle, \$25

May 17 - Annabelle Duffy, Rochelle, \$25
May 18 - Michelle Samano, Rochelle, \$25
May 19 - Jeffrey Leininger, Rochelle, \$25
May 20 - Annie Stahlfield, Rochelle, \$25
May 21 - Bob Johnson, Waterman, \$25
May 22 - Bobbie Colbert, Rochelle, \$50
May 23 - Cathy Larkin, Rochelle, \$25
May 24 - Andy Graber, Rockford, \$25
May 25 - Brian D. Stoll, Rochelle, \$25

May 26 - Bill Saunders, Polo, \$25
May 27 - Tricia Turner, Rochelle, \$25
May 28 - Rochelle Rotary Club, \$25
May 29 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$50
May 30 - Denise Stevenson, Mendota, \$1,000
May 31 - Dianne Jenner, Rochelle, \$25
Checks to winners will be mailed out at the end of each month.

Walnut 5K Run/Walk for ALS planned

WALNUT — The Walnut 5K Run/Walk for ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) will be Saturday, July 2, 2022. This is the same weekend as Walnut Days Celebration. Walnut will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary of Walnut Days celebrations.

The run/walk starts at 8 a.m. in front of the Bureau Valley Elementary Walnut Campus. Entry fee is \$20 if received by June 24. T-shirts guaranteed to all who register by June 24. \$25 entry fees for race day registration will be from 6:45-7:45 a.m. prior to race.

Trophies awarded to first, second, and third place overall male and female, and medals to top three in age groups (male & female); 13 age groups including a stroller/wheelchair group.

Trophies to first male and female Walnut finishers. Walkers

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Tuesday – Chef salad with greens, turkey and ham, cukes, eggs, tomatoes, cheese, wgr dinner roll/butter, mandarin oranges.
Wednesday – Polish sausage, sauerkraut, potato wedges, baked beans, chilled applesauce, wgr hot dun bun.
Thursday – Cheese omelet, sausage patties, wgr blueberry muffin, hot peaches.
Friday – A). Pepper steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, glazed carrots, wgr wheat bread-1, pineapple tidbits. B). Turkey/vegetable.

Meals served Mon.-Fri. at 11:00 am
Reservations needed 10:00 am day before
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2022 Independence Celebration
Hosted by City of Amboy & Amboy Fire Department
4 p.m. - 11 p.m. in downtown Amboy

4PM-7PM
Music, Water Slide, Face Painting, Axe Throwing, Foam Machine, Mobile Game Room, Superhero Characters, Popcorn and Popsicles, Inflatable Bounce Houses, and Bubble Making & Bubble Stations

7PM-11PM
Snap Shot - Family Friendly Classic Rock Cover Band
Music will pause for Fireworks at Dusk
Event is hosted by the Amboy Fire Department and City of Amboy with sponsorships from area businesses!

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Opinion

Sometimes we fund things because they have historic significance

Should the government subsidize nostalgia?

I've been thinking about that a lot this past week. The Illinois State Fair was in danger of losing my favorite attraction. No, not the butter cow or Turasky's thin cut ribeye sandwiches or the annual steer show.

We are talking about serious high-brow entertainment: the Giant Slide.

Just about any ride in Happy Hollow is vomit inducing for me. But I love that old slide. I've ridden down it with each of my three daughters as soon as they were old enough and brave enough to take the plunge.

The 40-foot-tall slide is for sale again, and several prospective buyers want to take the thing apart and move it out of state.

But Doug Knight, of Knight's Action Park, wants to keep it intact and on the fairgrounds.

The Springfield City Council voted Tuesday to support his purchase with a paid sponsorship of the slide, at \$30,000 a year for the next four years. For those who aren't mathematically inclined that's \$120,000 in taxpayer dollars.

The idea is that the attraction could be embossed with advertising and that would help promote Springfield as a destination. The slide, which was built in 1968, could be decorated with a Route 66 logo and become part of the upcoming Mother Road 100th anniversary observances.

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



Sorry, I'm not buying it. Advertising isn't the goal of this project. The goal is to keep a beloved icon on the state fairgrounds and the advertising is a means to an end. While the city may get some benefit from the ad, I could point to a half dozen more cost-effective mediums.

Also, the slide isn't in Springfield. Yes, the fair is a wonderful local institution, but the Illinois State Fairgrounds has never been annexed into the city. So, despite the subsidy the fair attraction will not contribute to city sales taxes.

Cities often subsidize private enterprises in the name of entertainment or just as a community amenity. Just think of the number of professional sports stadiums erected by tax dollars. This type of subsidy is not without precedent.

But where do you draw the line? Give money to the Giant Slide and then you are on that slippery slope of subsidizing just about anything.

But sometimes we fund things because they have historic significance.

Well, the most newsworthy thing to happen on the slide was in August of 1978 when then-Gov. James R. Thompson took his newborn daughter down the slide while holding her in his arms.

I was in junior high at the time and my mother was so outraged she mentioned it just about any time the governor's name came up. "How could he endanger his own child that

way?" she would say with a tone of bewilderment bordering on disgust.

Flash forward 21 years and I'm a statehouse reporter interviewing the now former governor about his lobbying activities. During the phone interview he was in Las Vegas with his daughter Samantha celebrating her 21st birthday.

The state fair was going on at the time of our conversation. I did the math in my head and it dawned on me that Mom wasn't exaggerating. Samantha was fresh out of the womb when Big Jim took her plunging down 130-feet of fiberglass.

So, I asked Thompson if he remembered the controversy.

He laughed and said he still had mothers stop him on the sidewalk in Chicago and tell him he shouldn't have taken his daughter on that slide.

After that interview, I didn't give the Giant Slide much thought until I had children of my own.

I first went down the slide with my oldest, Gracie, when she was 3 or 4. We were on the same burlap sack together at the top ready to make the plunge. She was afraid but reassured by my presence.

We enjoyed our ride downward and have made it an annual family tradition.

Today my girls are 11, 14 and 16. It's no longer cool to be seen riding the slide with your Dad even if he is a few lanes over. I find myself begging my own kids to go to the slide. I get eyerolls in response. But usually on the final day of the fair we take the plunge.

While I may think city tax dollars could be better spent, I can guarantee you when I ride down the Giant Slide this year with my three girls, I'll be glad it's still here.

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



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 YEARS AGO June 16, 1922

Editor R.J. Dean of the Ashton Gazette was in Amboy on business with the Farmers Telephone Company.

Students from Amboy who received degrees from the University of Illinois were Daniel Branigan, Mary Jones and Ruth Smith. Miss Jones receives the degree of Bachelor of Arts; Mr. Branigan and Miss Smith received the Bachelor of Science.

75 YEARS AGO June 19, 1947

The Gamble Store has been remodeled with all work done by local contractors. Carpentry was done by Ed Clarke. Frank Ottengheime did the painting and Milroy and Whitson did the electrical work.

Shop at the A&P and Save! - Eight O'Clock coffee, a 3-pound bag for \$1.05; red, ripe watermelon 5 cents a pound; beet sugar 10 lb. bag for 94

cents; caramel rolls 39 cents a package; Armour Star's corned beef hash, 16 oz. tin for 29 cents.

More than 300 have inspected Paul Vaessen's newly completed house in Sublette. Paul and his brother George have constructed the Cape Cod style home over the past two years, doing all of the carpenter work themselves. B.L. Hewitt of Amboy completed the interior decoration.

50 YEARS AGO June 15, 1972

The Amboy Evening Woman's Club, in cooperation with Pankhurst Memorial Library, will run a program of summer movies for children in the community. The films are provided by the Northern Illinois Library System and are shown free of charge.

Nancy Beggs, Heidi Palmer, and Jeanine McInerney were members of the "People to People High School Student Ambassador Program." They toured nine countries before returning July

27. The countries visited were Austria, Finland, The Netherlands, Germany, England, Denmark, France, Sweden, and Russia. Nancy will be a senior and Heidi and Jeanine juniors at Amboy High School this fall.

25 YEARS AGO June 12, 1997

Rick Pettit and Tim Rogers, both 22, arrived at JFK Airport on April 29, from Liverpool, England. They started biking through New York, up the Hudson River and across the Catskills. They witnessed the wonders of Niagara Falls and rode down the Canadian side of Lake Erie. They went through Windsor and into Detroit and rode through Indiana. They decided to ride around Chicago and hit Route 30. That's when they started seeing signs for camping and arrived at Green River Oaks Camping Resort on Tuesday, June 3. They rode 117 miles from Chicago to Amboy in less than 8 hours, stopping once every hour for a short break.



"We're considering purchasing a tank of gas."

Established in 1854

The Amboy News

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SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letters may be dropped at the Amboy News office, 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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		auto pay	\$9.50
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		auto pay	\$44.00
	10 weeks	manual pay	\$11.75
		auto pay	\$11.00

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

LOCAL NEWS

Educational Briefs

EWENS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT UW-WHITEWATER

WHITEWATER, Wis. — Samantha Ewens from Amboy, has made the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Dean's List for the 2022 spring semester.

These students have demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

"Making the Dean's List is a tremendous honor. It is a recognition of your hard work and commitment to success," said Robin Fox, who serves as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "Congratulations! We are proud of you and hope to see your names on the list again."

The Registrar's Office reports 3,237 students were selected for the Dean's List for the spring semester. About 11,500 students are currently enrolled at the university's Whitewater and Rock County campuses.

IOWA STATE HONORS SPRING GRADUATES

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State University honored more than 4,700 students who received degrees during spring commencement ceremonies May 12-14.

Following are graduates from your area:

Sterling

Cheyenne Smith, Bachelor of Science, Computer Engineering

Sublette

Natalie Vaessen, Bachelor of Science, Event Management, Summa Cum Laude

LOCAL STUDENTS MAKE BRADLEY UNIVERSITY'S SPRING 2022 DEAN'S LIST

PEORIA — More than 1700 students were named to Bradley's Dean's List for Spring 2022. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

Your local students who made the list include:

Hannah Grady of Amboy, majoring in Electrical Engineering

Caleb Sarff of LaMoille, majoring in Industrial Engineering Supply Chain Analytics

Pamela Taylor of West Brooklyn, majoring in Environmental Science Biology

Bradley University is a top-ranked, private university in Peoria, Illinois, offering nearly 6,000 undergraduate and graduate students opportunities, choices, and resources to build their futures.

MORRISON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GRADUATES

MORRISON — The Morrison Institute of Technology is honored to announce our Spring 2022 graduates.

The following local students received an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Engineering Technology/Construction:

Matthew Kurtis Shere - Chana

The following local students received an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Engineering Technology/Design & Drafting:

Grey Michael Claude Haenitsch - Dixon

The following local students received an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Network Administration:

Blake R. Burkhardt - West Brooklyn

Nolan W. Harshman - Dixon

Eric G. Holden - Ashton

Trey Winkler - Lee Center

STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST FOR SPRING 2022

MENOMONIE, Wis. - The following students from the area have been named to the University of Wisconsin-Stout Dean's List for the spring 2022 semester.

Arthur Cox, of Dixon, Senior, BS criminal justice and rehab

The award is presented to students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

UW-Stout, Wisconsin's Polytechnic University, has 47 undergraduate majors and 23 graduate programs, including one doctoral degree.

Enrollment was 7,692 in the fall.

UW-Stout is Wisconsin's Polytechnic University, with a focus on applied learning, collaboration with business and industry, and career outcomes.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES SPRING 2022 DEAN'S LIST

AMES, Iowa — Approximately 9,500 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the spring semester 2022 Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must

have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Students listed below are from your area.

Dixon

Nicholas Dean Engle, 3, Accounting
Madaline Jacobs, 4, Elementary Education

Steward

Kayla Renee McCormick, 4, Accounting
Austin Suddeth, 4, Agricultural Business

Sublette

Ashley Renee Althaus, 3, Agricultural Systems Technology
Natalie Diana Vaessen, 4, Event Management

UW-MADISON ANNOUNCES SPRING DEAN'S LIST

MADISON, Wis. - The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the spring semester of the 2021-2022 academic year.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction. Most call the honor "dean's list," but some grant the "Dean's Honor List" and "Dean's High Honor List."

Here are the students from your circulation area who have received this honor.

Dixon

Gretchen Bushman, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

WIU GRADUATION SPRING 2022

MACOMB/MOLINE - A total of 929 students earned academic degrees or post-baccalaureate certificates after the Spring 2022 semester at Western Illinois University.

Bachelor's degrees were awarded to 649 graduates.

Local graduates include:

Dixon

Caitlin Anne Hoy, Summa Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science, Law Enforcement & Justice Administration

Franklin Grove

Jodi Lynn Thompson, Master of Science in Education, Special Education

Academic distinction was awarded to baccalaureate graduates who achieved high grade point averages. This includes: Summa Cum Laude, 3.90 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale; Magna Cum Laude, 3.75-3.89 GPA; and Cum Laude, 3.6-3.74 GPA.

BUSINESSES & SERVICES



PRINTING SERVICES Call The Amboy News for your printing needs! (815) 857-2311	REAL ESTATE Woodhaven Lakes Realty, Inc. PO Box 110 Sublette, IL 61367 815-849-5476 www.woodhavenlakes.com	AVON Avon Independent Sales Representative Betty Meznarich 576 N. 3859th Rd. Rt. 2 Mendota, IL 61342 815.343.4750 mezandmezzie@gmail.com To Buy or Sell. 41 Years as an Avon Lady.	COMMUNITY CENTER AMBOY COMMUNITY CENTER <i>Available For</i> Receptions, Meetings, Fund-Raisers 280 W. Wasson Rd. • Amboy, IL 61310 (815) 440-5784 • (815) 857-2324 Julie DeArmitt - Manager
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- one week - 7 publications - price must be listed)



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101 LEGAL NOTICE

JICTB, Inc.
1701 Broadmoor Dr.
Ste 100
Champaign, IL 61821
No. 0602 (June 15)

PUBLIC NOTICE TAKE NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CASE NO.
2022TX00013
To: Ann Buelvas;
Spouse of Ann Buelvas;
Carlos Buelvas; Spouse
of Carlos Buelvas;
City of Dixon; Capital
One Bank (USA) NA;
Samantha Buelvas;
Nancy Petersen, Lee
County Clerk; Persons
in occupancy or actual
possession of said
property, unknown
owners or parties
claiming any right,
interest or title in the
described real estate:
Property located at:
816 S Jefferson Ave,
Dixon, IL
Property Index No.
07-08-04-163-001
Tax Sale Certificate No.
2019-00085
This property was sold
on October 30, 2019
for delinquent general
taxes for the year of
2018. A Petition for Tax
Deed for this property
was filed on April 18,
2022.

Your right to redeem the
property from the sale
will expire on October
18, 2022. If you fail to
redeem by that date,
the court may enter
a judgment granting
petitioner a tax deed.
This matter is set for
hearing in the Circuit
Court of this county
in Dixon, Illinois on
November 2, 2022 at
9 AM before Judge
Lee via Zoom (Meeting
ID: 827 2801 2324,
Passcode: 694825),
or whomever may be
sitting in his or her
stead.
JICTB, Inc., Petitioner
Angela L. Tucker, Esq.

PUBLIC NOTICE TAKE NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CASE NO.
2022TX00012
To: Sue Atwood; Spouse
of Sue Atwood; Edward
Hesik; Nancy Petersen,
Lee County Clerk;
Persons in occupancy
or actual possession of
said property, unknown
owners or parties
claiming any right,
interest or title in the
described real estate:
Property located at:
427 W Chestnut St,
Compton, IL
Property Index No.
05-17-11-156-004
Tax Sale Certificate No.
2019-00036
This property was sold
on October 30, 2019
for delinquent general
taxes for the year of
2018. A Petition for Tax
Deed for this property
was filed on April 18,
2022.
Your right to redeem the
property from the sale
will expire on October
18, 2022. If you fail to
redeem by that date,
the court may enter
a judgment granting
petitioner a tax deed.
This matter is set for
hearing in the Circuit
Court of this county
in Dixon, Illinois on
November 2, 2022 at
9 AM before Judge
Lee via Zoom (Meeting
ID: 827 2801 2324,
Passcode: 694825),
or whomever may be
sitting in his or her
stead.
JICTB, Inc., Petitioner
Angela L. Tucker, Esq.
JICTB, Inc.
1701 Broadmoor Dr.
Ste 100
Champaign, IL 61821
No. 0601 (June 15)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does
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are cautioned to
thoroughly investigate
all ads, especially those
asking for money in
advance.

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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all ads, especially those
asking for money in
advance."

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apartments
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baker81520@
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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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asking for money in
advance."

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee
Loans or Credit Offers
Companies that do
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can't ask you to pay for
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For more information,
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HELP. A public service
message from your
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and the Federal Trade
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119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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advance."

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

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on Facebook.

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL,
unless licensed or
holding a permit as a
childcare facility, may
cause to be published
any advertisement
soliciting a child care
service. A childcare
facility that is licensed
or operating under a
permit issued by the
Illinois Department of
Children and Family
Services may publish
advertisements of the
services for which it is
specifically licensed or
issued a permit. Your
Hometown Newspaper
strongly urges any
parent or guardian to
verify the validity of the
license of any facility
before placing a child in
it's care.

301 ANTIQUES

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If it's antique, I'm
interested in looking!
Call 815-562-2928 or
email dickharms@
hotmail.com

305 GARAGE/RUMMAGE SALES

ROCHELLE: 1207
Sunrise Court Thursday
June 16th 5pm-8pm,
Friday June 17th 8am-
5pm, & Saturday June

305 GARAGE/RUMMAGE SALES

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Polaris Ranger 700
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Toddler, Girls, Boys,
Toys, Books, Junior
Name Brands, Adult,
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Items, Mirrors, Clocks,
Wall Hangings, Endless
Treasures!!

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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NOON ONLY. Rochelle
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773-350-6724.

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453-2103. (TFN)

People needed
mostly weekends take
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Not necessary to be
available each Sat &
Sun. Drivers \$20/hr.
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2020 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab, LT, 4x4, Z71, Sunroof, Leather, 32K miles, Blue..\$46,900
2017 Chevy 1500 Double Cab LTZ, 4x4, 40K Miles, Silver.....\$37,900

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EVENTS

HUNTING & SPORTSMAN'S EXPO - June 17-19, Winnebago County Fairgrounds, Pocatonia.
Friday 4pm-9pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 9am-3pm.
Admission \$8 Information contact Marv: 563-808-4401
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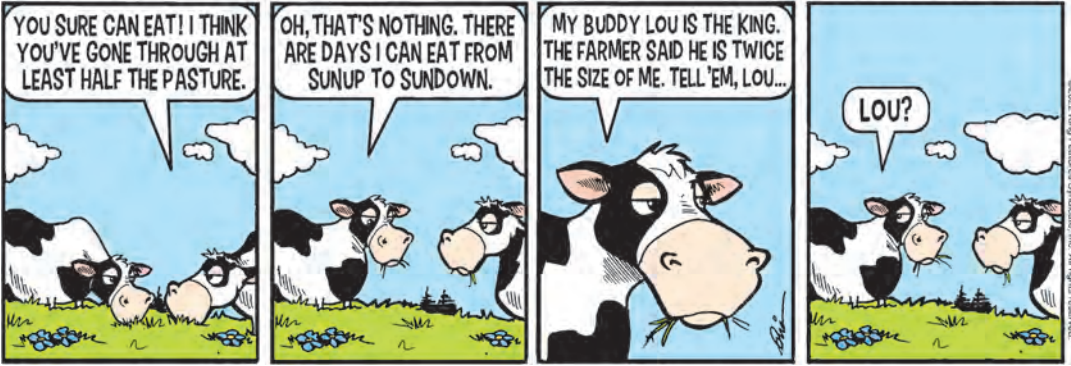
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LOCAL NEWS

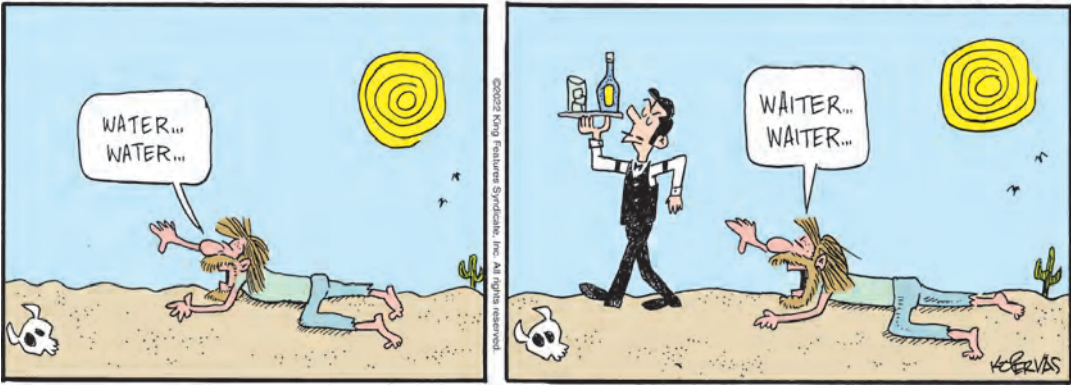
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



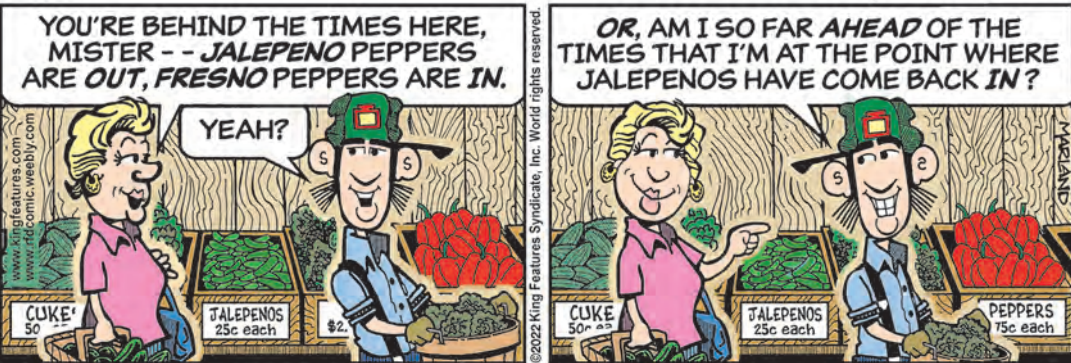
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



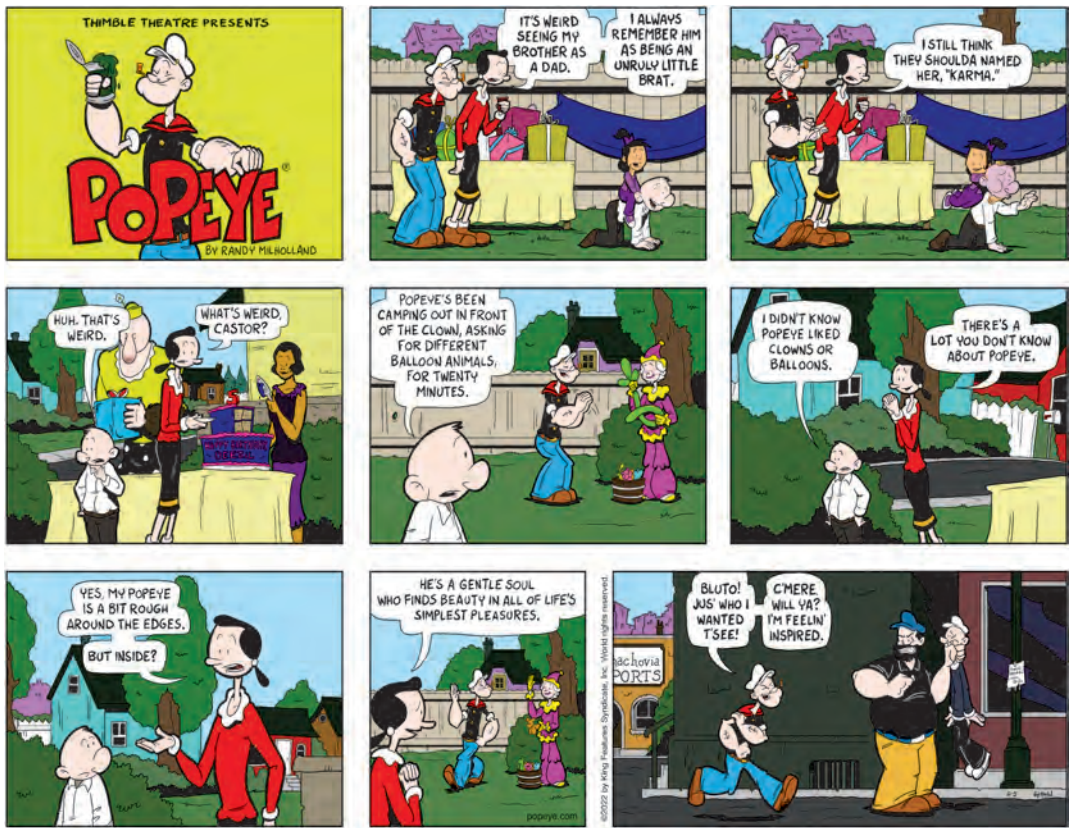
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



SCRAMBLERS

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

World ELARM
Thread BRIEF
Artificial TENURED
Payment MITER

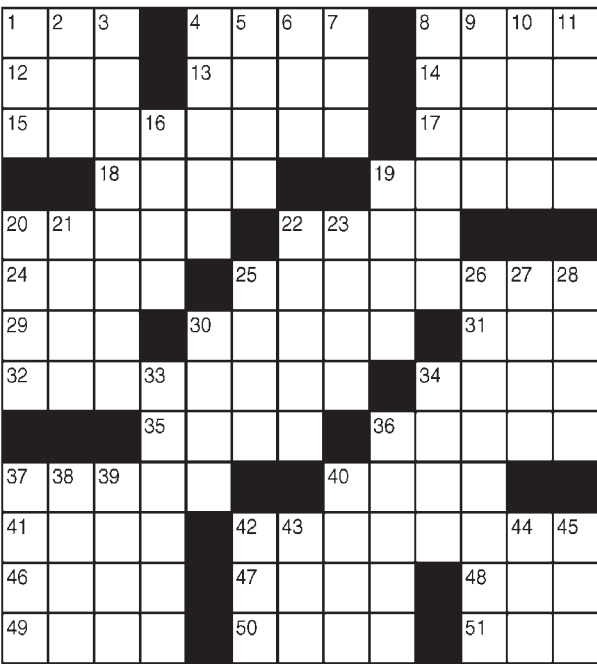
TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

June 13, 2022 Posting Date

ACROSS

- 1 Embassy VIP
- 4 Apple tablet
- 8 Mexican money
- 12 Scratch
- 13 "It can't be!"
- 14 Eve's man
- 15 Finished
- 17 Latvia's capital
- 18 Gusto
- 19 Neptune's realm
- 20 Pale
- 22 "Of — and Men"
- 24 Kite flier's need
- 25 Affectionate sign-off
- 29 Flamenco cheer
- 30 Bedouins
- 31 Arthur of "Maude"
- 32 Tennis shut-out
- 34 Taxpayer IDs
- 35 Polite query
- 36 Scarlett's Butler
- 37 Bottom
- 40 "Love — Leave Me"
- 41 Awestruck
- 42 Play-ending arcade message
- 46 Thunder god
- 47 Actor

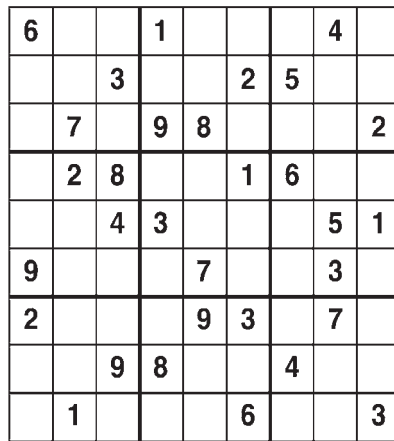


- Jannings
- 8 Postal delivery
- 28 Right on the map
- 48 Tokyo, once
- 49 "Ditto"
- 9 Ms. Falco
- 30 Petri dish gel
- 50 Oahu souvenirs
- 10 Long story
- 33 New citizen, perhaps
- 51 Lemon
- 11 Yemen neighbor
- 34 "Scram!"
- 16 Clarinet insert
- 36 Film spools
- 19 Phil of folk music
- 37 D.C. baseball team
- 20 MP's quarry
- 38 Turkish title
- 21 Missile shelter
- 39 Unhappy destiny
- 22 Dolphins' home
- 40 Roman 2,002
- 23 "Let —" (Beatles hit)
- 42 Solidify
- 25 Fay of "King Kong"
- 43 Soul, to Sartre
- 26 Saw
- 44 College URL ender
- 27 Air outlet
- 45 Scepter

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. HISTORY: In what year did the Boston Tea Party take place?
- 2. MOVIES: Which 1990s animated movie has a character named Lumiere?
- 3. MUSIC: Who wrote the song "Make You Feel My Love," performed by Adele?
- 4. LANGUAGE: What is a zoonotic disease?
- 5. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom was set at Greendale Community College?
- 6. ANATOMY: What blood type does a universal donor have?
- 7. GEOGRAPHY: Bantry Bay is an inlet in which European country?
- 8. FOOD & DRINK: What are sweetbreads?
- 9. LITERATURE: What kind of bird is titled in a John Keats' poem?
- 10. SCIENCE: What does an auxanometer measure?

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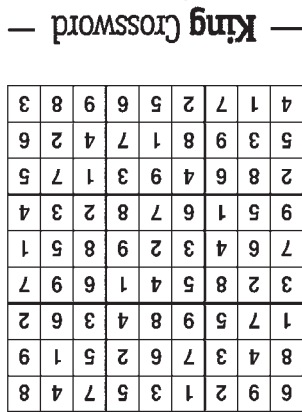
- 10. Plants' rate of growth
- 9. "Ode to a Nightingale"
- thymus gland
- 8. Organ meat from the pancreas and
- 7. Ireland
- 6. "Community"
- humans.
- species to another, especially animals to
- 4. A disease that can pass from one
- 3. Bob Dylan
- 2. "Beauty and the Beast"
- to protest taxes.
- shipment of tea into the Boston Harbor
- 1. 1773, when colonists dumped a

Answers



Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers



Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answers

Answers

Answers

Answers

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: W equals L

QDXOSVD M ZHE MKT VEOMKV
HK YF VYOWW HSEAHHL ZLMWW,
AHDV EJOE YOTD ME O
QWHEXJF JMQQXJM?

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CryptoQuip
answer
Because I got ink stains
on my small outdoor grill,
does that make it a
blochy hibachi?

LOCAL NEWS

Rural residents at a disadvantage with mental health services

BY TAMMIE SLOUP
FarmWeek

ILLINOIS — The sea of dark purple on a map of Illinois counties told a concerning story.

Most of the counties were dark purple, indicating a shortage of mental and behavioral health providers in those areas. Only a handful of counties, mostly in Cook County and the collar counties, had no shortage or partial shortages.

But it's not just an Illinois issue. Mental

health care in rural areas throughout the U.S. is in crisis.

Heather Whetsell, Southern Illinois University Medicine Population Science & Policy administrative director, presented findings of a yearlong study into mental health care in rural areas during the National Rural Health Association's (NRHA) Annual Rural Health Conference. The research was conducted by the NRHA Rural Health Fellows mental health workgroup.

Barriers to mental health care in rural

America are driven by three factors: availability of health care, access and acceptability, the fellows found.

"There are a lot of efforts going into trying to recruit and retain providers in these areas, but as you know, it's an uphill battle," said Janessa Graves, associate professor of nursing, Washington State University, who grew up in central Illinois.

When it comes to acceptability, the fellows are specifically referring to stigma.

"It's a documented problem in rural

communities; mental health stigma both for discussing issues but then also accessing services," Graves said. "Also, health literacy is an issue and then lack of privacy. I live in a town of 2,000 people and everyone knows when I go get my hair cut, much less if I'm frequenting a mental health care provider in my town."

See **SERVICES** page A11

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SUMMER HOME IMPROVEMENT

Seven characteristics of modern houses

Homes contain a variety of components that appeal to homeowners with different ideas about the perfect place to call home. That starts with the style of a home.

Buildings are classified according to share components. A Craftsman style home will have a covered porch with a set of wide base columns, while a Cape Cod home is often defined by a gabled roof and dormer windows. Modern houses, which are sometimes called contemporary homes even though the terms are not interchangeable, will have their own sets of unique characteristics. Here's a look at seven features that make modern homes unique.

1. Minimalist approach: Contemporary and modern homes both employ an approach that leans toward minimalism, including clean design lines. Spaces are open and airy without the clutter of too many ornate architectural details. While modern homes may have some curvature to their design, contemporary ones are all about an angular look.

2. Neutral color palette: Modern homes tend to utilize a neutral color palette. Modern homes may use "earthy" elements, such as wood and brick, in ways that do not look rustic. Contemporary homes rely on a color palette of black and white with shades of gray or other neutral colors.

3. Geometric shapes: Modern homes have strong horizontal and vertical elements that showcase geometric shapes in their designs. Contemporary homes often have flat roofs, while modern homes may not.

4. Large, unadorned windows: Most modern homes showcase a lot of natural light by utilizing large windows that are not covered up by heavy window treatments or elements like shutters and thick trims. Large windows are the focus of the interior and shift attention to the view outdoors.

5. Open floor concept: A hallmark of modern interior design, the open concept floor plan removes many of the walls that tend to separate common areas of a home. This helps to foster the spread of natural light and maintains the emphasis on simplicity of design.

6. Smart elements: Thanks to the proliferation of smart technology, smart homes are cropping up with greater fre-



quency. While smart devices can be included in any home style, they tend to feel like they were designed specifically for modern homes. In a similar vein, modern homes may include environmentally friendly elements, such as solar panels, upcycled materials, added insulation, and energy efficient lighting.

7. Updated kitchen spaces: The clean lines and attention

to technology and open space generally extends to modern kitchens. Modern kitchens tend to feature efficient, top-tier appliances with additional storage and space amenities that keep the room from feeling cluttered.

While some may consider modern homes austere, many others are right at home among their clean lines and airy spaces.

How to approach a basement remodel

A fully finished and functional basement is a dream for many homeowners. Such a space, when completed, can serve as an entertainment space, a man cave, an artist's studio, or any number of additional functions.

Despite their usefulness, finished basements are something of a rarity. In an analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Construction, the National Association of Home Builders® found that only around 24 percent of single-family homes built in 2018 have basements.

Homeowners who do not currently have a finished basement but are considering such a project can approach the remodel with a few key factors in mind. Careful consideration of these factors can ensure the project is budget-friendly and worthy of homeowners' investments.

Investment value: Conventional wisdom

among home renovation and real estate experts suggests that a basement remodel is best if done to satisfy current inhabitants and not necessarily to appeal to prospective buyers once the home is put up for sale. Remodeling magazine reports that a midrange basement remodel costing around \$70,000 will provide a return of around \$49,000 (or 70 percent) at resale. Though that's not a poor return on investment, homeowners who are remodeling a basement solely for the potential ROI at resale can find other projects that provide a greater return.

Foundation: The foundation of the home must garner ample consideration before beginning a basement remodel. Certain foundation issues, such as soft concrete, cracked or curved outside walls and cracks in the flooring, are indicative of significant issues with the foundation. These issues can

be costly to address, and they must be remedied before the basement remodel can begin.

Existing space: Some homeowners may have bought their homes with partially finished basements or even finished areas that they simply want to remodel. In such instances, a pre-remodel inspection from a licensed home inspector can save homeowners lots of money and heartache over the long haul. Partially finished or even aging finished basements might not have been renovated in adherence to codes, which could lead to costly violations down the road. An inspection in advance of a remodel can give homeowners an idea of what they will need to do to bring the basement up to code. Local officials also can provide a list of necessary permits and a

detailed description of requirements to ensure the remodeled basement adheres to code.

Soil: Soil surrounding the home should be tested prior to beginning the project. Radon is an odorless gas found in soil that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes can increase individuals' risk for lung cancer. Radon can seep into basements and increase that risk even further if it is present at elevated levels in the soil surrounding a home. Radon tests are simple and inexpensive, and no basement remodel project should begin without first conducting such a test.

Finished basements are valuable spaces. Homeowners who want to finish or remodel their basements should consider a host of factors before beginning the renovation.



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SUMMER HOME IMPROVEMENT

How to keep outdoor living areas safe

Outdoor living spaces are a wildly popular trend. A 2021 survey conducted on behalf of the International Casual Furnishings Association and American Home Furnishings Alliance found that 90 percent of individuals surveyed felt outdoor living spaces are more valuable than ever. That popularity was evident during the pandemic, during which 23 percent of respondents indicated they bought new furniture while 18 percent acknowledged building a deck.

The excitement of seeing a new or renovated outdoor living area can make it easy to overlook safety. But outdoor living areas, particularly those that include entertaining areas with televisions, lighting and other electronics, can pose significant safety hazards if homeowners don't take some necessary precautions.

- Use an appropriate extension cord. String lights above outdoor living spaces like decks and patios can create a warm, relaxing nighttime vibe. Those lights need to be plugged in, which increases the risk for electrical accidents. When utilizing an extension cord outdoors, never use a cord designated for indoor use. Outdoor extension cords are better insulated than cords made for indoor use. That insulation provides better protection against the elements, including sunlight, changes in temperature and moisture. When using an extension cord outdoors, make sure the cord is secured and not left lying on a deck or patio where it can easily become a tripping hazard.

- Consider fencing. Fencing can make an outdoor living space more private and safe. Local laws may mandate that pools be enclosed with fencing, but even living spaces without pools can be made safer with the installation of a fence. Firepits are wildly popular, as more than 35 percent of homeowners who responded to the ICFA survey acknowledged their intention to purchase new firepits in 2021. Adding fencing around areas with firepits establishes boundaries, which is a must for homeowners with small children. Fencing also makes it harder for local wildlife to gain access to a property, which can decrease residents' risk for tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease.

- Purchase an outdoor television. Outdoor televisions can



be expensive, but the cost of such devices will depend on what homeowners are looking for. Homeowners who plan to spend ample time outdoors watching games, movies and their favorite shows may feel a high-end outdoor television, is well worth the investment. The electronics experts at P.C. Richard & Son note that outdoor TVs are designed with safety

features that indoor televisions don't have. For example, outdoor TVs can self-regulate temperature and moisture levels, greatly reducing the risk of electrical issues.

Outdoor living spaces are wildly popular. Homeowners are urged to prioritize safety when designing and enjoying outdoor entertaining areas at their homes.

Wood floor installation dos and don'ts

Jaw-dropping features can sell a home in a heartbeat. A penthouse apartment with floor-to-ceiling windows and a panoramic view of a city skyline likely won't prove a hard sell, nor will a home with an infinity pool overlooking a landscape of rolling hills. As awe-inspiring as such features can be, some more subtle components, such as authentic hardwood floors, also can do much to make a home more appealing to prospective buyers.

Hardwood flooring is a sought-after commodity. Data from the National Association of Realtors indicates that 54 percent of home buyers are willing to pay more for hardwood floors. In fact, NAR figures indicate that 28 percent of buyers between the ages of 35 and 54 consider hardwood floors "very important" when looking for a home.

Homeowners who are considering selling their homes, or those who simply want to upgrade their existing flooring, may want to consider installing hardwood flooring. Though it's a project best left to professionals, hardwood flooring can be installed by skilled DIYers. In such instances, homeowners may want to keep these dos and don'ts in mind.

DO hire a professional if you have limited or no DIY flooring experience. Hardwood flooring installation is not generally a project for novice DIYers. Hardwood flooring projects may present some common challenges, but no two homes are the same. So unless they have prior experience installing floors in multiple rooms or homes, homeowners may save themselves time, trouble and a significant amount of money hiring a professional



to do the job.

DON'T ignore the subfloor. New hardwoods won't erase the problem of subfloors in poor condition. According to the home renovation experts at BobVila.com, squeaky floors could be an indication that the subfloor has begun to warp

or twist. Sinking floors are another indicator of deteriorating subfloors. Subfloors should be somewhat level before new hardwoods are installed, so DIYers should inspect and address subfloor issues before installing new flooring.

DO expose wood flooring

to the elements in your home prior to installation. The home improvement resource BuildDirect recommends acclimating hardwoods to the space where they will be installed. Skipping this important step could result in gaps during the winter and cupping over the summer. To acclimate hardwoods, open the boxes and spread them out for about a week while running the air conditioner or heater at normal levels. When storing hardwoods prior to installation, avoid keeping them in potentially moist areas like a basement.

DON'T skimp on tools. A DIY hardwood flooring installation might be less expensive than hiring a professional, but homeowners

should resist any temptation to increase those savings further by purchasing less costly tools or fewer tools than is necessary to complete the job. BuildDirect notes that DIYers will need at least a miter saw, table saw, cleat-nailer or stapler, finish nailer, compressor, jamb saw, chalk line, nail set, and tape measurer when installing hardwood floors. Purchase all necessary tools and read product reviews to ensure each tool is up to the task.

Wood floors can be awe-inspiring. Some homeowners can install such flooring on their own, and the project can be much easier if they learn as much about installation as possible prior to beginning the project.



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