

The Amboy News

The Depot Museum

Amboy, Illinois

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\$1.00



Pictured are Ethan Pratt with his advisor Mr. Joseph Heavner.

Photo submitted

Pratt recognized as 2022 State FFA Proficiency winner

AMBOY — Ethan Pratt was selected as the State FFA Proficiency Winner in Grain Production Entrepreneurship / Placement. Pratt is a member of the Amboy FFA Chapter of the Illinois Association FFA.

Illinois FFA recognizes students in 47 different areas based on their work-based learning, also known as Supervised Agricultural Experiences or SAEs. FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through record keeping, leadership, and scholastic achievement may be considered for this award. SAEs allow students to learn by doing by either owning and operating an agricultural business, working or serving an internship at an agriculture-based business or conducting an agriculture-based scientific experiment and reporting results.

Pratt's project includes tracking his hours worked and dollars earned as manager of the Amboy FFA Chapter's plot, owner of 50 acres of farm ground, and worker on the family farm.

Pratt was selected as the State Winner by a committee of agriculture teachers, industry friends, parents, and volunteers knowledgeable in this work-based area, who reviewed his record books online and then conducted interviews at Eisenhower High School, Decatur, on Saturday, March 26. Pratt is the son of Andy and Katie Pratt from Dixon.

Pratt attends Amboy High School. Joseph Heavner is the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor there.

Receiving this honor now makes Pratt eligible to compete in the National FFA Awards Selection process in July 2022.

Pratt serves as the treasurer for the Amboy FFA Chapter, has attended local FFA events, plays golf at Amboy High School, is a member of the Young Seekers 4-H Club, and volunteers during the annual Lee Co. 4-H Fair & Jr. Show.

Pratt will be recognized in June at the annual state FFA convention in Springfield.

Lee County's Helms named 2021 IRAP Landowner of the Year

SPRINGFIELD — Lee County resident and conservation advocate Lois Helms is the Illinois Recreational Access Program Landowner of the Year for 2021, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced today.

The Landowner of the Year award is presented to a landowner enrolled in the IRAP program who has demonstrated outstanding wildlife management, habitat improvement and conservation practices while allowing public access on their private property through the IRAP initiative.

Helms, who died in early 2022, was a longtime participant in the program with her husband, William, who died in 2016.

The Helms family devoted an exceptional amount of attention to restoring the ecological quality of their property, including adding native tree and grassland plantings, conducting prescribed burns, and removing invasive and non-native species from the property, all while allowing access to youth, first-time hunters, and veteran hunters who otherwise would have nowhere else to hunt.

William, who initially enrolled the couple's land in IRAP in 2012, wanted to ensure it was cared for and available to youth for recreational and learning opportunities even after his death, according to the



Lois and William Helms

couple's daughter, Mindy Berge.

"We assured our father we would do all we could to keep the property as he wanted it to be, and we have received wonderful support from IRAP," Berge said, noting that the family intends to remain in the program so that future generations of their family and the public can enjoy the land.

Lois Helms was one of six nominees recognized by IRAP staff for their conservation efforts and stewardship of Illinois' natural resources, as well as their willingness to allow public access to their land for recreational opportunities. Other 2021 nominees were:

Father and son Jack and Andrew Robertson (Wh-

iteside, Morgan, Scott and Macoupin counties)

Blake Hiltabrand (Bureau County)

Don Dobrinich (Montgomery County)

Jonna Krueger (Macoupin County)

Tom Held (Calhoun County)

"IDNR is grateful for landowners like Lois and her family, who have shown true dedication to improving habitat for wild game and ecologically important species like pollinators," said IDNR Director Colleen Callahan. "We appreciate their enthusiasm for providing new generations with the opportunity to enjoy memorable recreational experiences and learn about land management."

A wealth of knowledge shared by Amboy city attorney

BY GEORGE HOWE

Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY — There weren't many items on the most recent Amboy City Council meeting agenda held back on March 21, but Amboy City Attorney Matt Keegan played a vital role by informing the council members of several key points.

First topic was an update on the Zellhoffer city property purchase plans for the maintenance building and Shapiro Park. Originally, Keegan filed a petition with the courts to obtain title and stated that a court date had been successfully granted for March 23. The results of that hearing will be explained at the April meeting.

Next, the council approved the bid of \$309,789 by Blunier Builders out of Eureka, for the construction of the new cold storage building. Also discussed and approved was the financing for the project. Amboy Alderman Frank Stenzel and Bill Bontz had pursued the commercial low interest loan funds through the First National Bank of Amboy for \$200,000. Keegan advised that the loan terms couldn't be for more than 10 years at a fixed rate and that the bank can't mortgage the property. Keegan also recommended giving the mayor authority to look over the documents for final review before ratification.

Amboy Mayor John Schamberger expressed concerns and warned the council of a serious and looming issue that will need immediate attention and resolution. Schamberger has received several phone calls from concerned residents who live near and around the Humphrey property and former ordinance plant. The current owners intend to use the land for hog confinement and feel that the property has the proper zoning classification and county code. Keegan explained that currently the city can't find any documents verifying the zoning issue that was first annexed into the city 20 years ago. Amboy City Clerk Melissa Eisenberg stated that the search is ongoing. Another resolution authorizing the sale of surplus real property of the Palmer parcel at Division and Josiah Streets was passed and is currently published on Facebook. The city hopes to start to receive bids in April.

A new solar energy ordinance could be in the works for Amboy. Currently just in the talking stages, detailed information from neighboring cities Byron and Dixon were passed out to all present. The council members were in agreement that the current Dixon ordinance would seem to fit nicely with what Amboy would like to accomplish.

See **COUNCIL** page A2

Bill would provide \$500 tax credit to volunteer firefighters and EMS workers

BY GRACE KINNICUTT

Capitol News Illinois
gkinnicutt@capitolnews-illinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — Members of the Illinois Firefighters Association joined state legislators at a news conference Wednesday to outline a measure that they claim would recruit more long-term volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel by offering them a tax credit.

Senate Bill 3027 would provide a \$500 tax credit to those who serve as volunteer firefighters or EMS personnel. To qualify for the tax credit, volunteers must work for a fire department or fire protection district for at least nine months and not receive more than \$10,000 in compensation for those services during the taxable year.

Sen. Christopher Belt, D-Swansea, chief sponsor of the bill, said offering the tax credit would help address the shortage of firefighter and EMS personnel at departments that rely on volunteers.

"These individuals give up their personal time that

could be spent with their families to ensure the well-being of our state's residents with no monetary incentive," Belt said.

The bill states that if the tax credit exceeds the tax liability for the year, the excess can be applied to the earliest tax year in which there is a tax liability. The credit will not reduce a taxpayer's liability to less than zero.

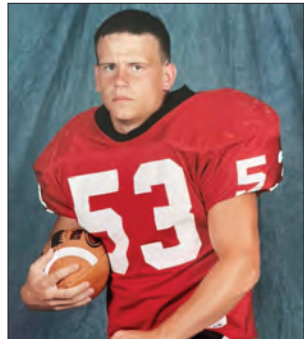
During a news conference March 18, Belt noted that if the bill is approved, it would cost about \$20 million to \$22 million in lost revenue to implement it. Belt said the cost upfront pales in comparison to the lives lost without volunteer firefighters and EMS workers.

Margaret Vaughn, government affairs director at the Illinois Firefighters Association, said the number of emergency calls to fire departments has tripled over the past 20 years, with most calls being for EMS, while the number of volunteer emergency workers continues to decrease.

Vaughn told the story of a

fire at a 100-unit apartment dwelling in Silvis, a blaze that, according to National Fire Protection Association standards, should have had 30 firefighters facing it. But only five firefighters showed up.

See **CREDIT** page A2



CLIPPER HIGHLIGHTS

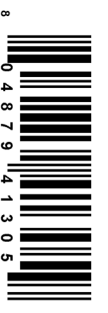
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Inserts

Snyders



2021 Lee County final multiplier announced

SPRINGFIELD — Lee County has been issued a final property assessment equalization factor of 1.0000, according to David Harris, Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue.

The property assessment equalization factor, often called the "multiplier", is the method used to achieve uniform property assessments among counties, as required by law. This equalization is particularly important because some of the state's 6,600 local taxing districts overlap into two or more counties (e.g. school districts, junior college districts, fire protection districts). If there were no equalization among counties, substantial inequities among taxpayers with comparable properties would result.

Under a law passed in 1975, property in Illinois should be assessed at one-third (1/3) of its market value. Farm property is assessed differently, with farm homesites and dwellings subject to regular assessing and equalization procedures, but with farmland assessed at one-third of its agriculture economic value. Farmland is not subject to the state equalization factor.

Assessments in Lee County are at 33.39 percent of market value, based on sales of properties in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

The equalization factor currently being assigned is for 2021 taxes, payable in 2022. Last year's equalization factor for the county was 1.0000.

The final assessment equalization

factor was issued after a public hearing on the tentative factor. The tentative factor issued in December 2021 was 1.0000.

The equalization factor is determined annually for each county by comparing the price of individual properties sold over the past three years to the assessed value placed on those properties by the county supervisor of assessments/county assessor.

If this three-year average level of assessment is one-third of the market value, the equalization factor will be one (1). If the average level of assessment is greater than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be less than one (1). And if the average level of assessment is less than one-third of market value, the

equalization factor will be greater than one (1).

A change in the equalization factor does not mean total property tax bills will increase or decrease. Tax bills are determined by local taxing bodies when they request money each year to provide services to local citizens. If the amount requested by local taxing districts is not greater than the amount received in the previous year, then total property taxes will not increase even if assessments increase.

The assessed value of an individual property determines what portion of the tax burden a specific taxpayer will assume.

That individual's portion of tax responsibility is not changed by the multiplier.

LOCAL NEWS



50/50 WINNER

Kurt Kemmerer of Sublette won the Sublette Antique Tractor and Toy Show 50/50 raffle. He received a check for \$1,166.50, a portion was donated back to the show.

Photo submitted

BBB Alert: An innocent wrong text – may not be innocent scam reports increasing locally

ROCKFORD — A new text message scam is sweeping the nation and seems so innocent that it's tempting to reply. But con artists are using phony "wrong number" texts to lure victims into conversation and falling for a scam. There have been widespread concerns on Facebook and other social media platform posts that this may actually involve sex trafficking. At this point, law enforcement and government don't think that's true, but it hasn't stopped that type of social media post from being shared over 250,000 times as of Friday.

Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional Office of the Better Business Bureau says the way the scam works is people receive a text that reads something like this: "Hey is this, John? It's Amanda. We chatted on Tinder before when I came to visit my cousin, but

we never met. I'm back in town if you want to meet up this time, are you free?"

Horton adds, "When I received one of these texts, I immediately thought it was a variation on other similar scams. And then we started hearing from others including other BBB's nationwide, so I wanted to alert people because it's probably coming here. My text stated that we knew each other from the past and she was following up. The text said, 'what's up, you probably don't remember me, but I was willing to help you have a little excitement today as the last time, with a picture of an attractive woman.'"

Other examples from the BBB: If you reply to a text like this, even with a polite, "Sorry, wrong number," the stranger responds anyway, seemingly ignoring your answer.

See SCAM page A4

CREDIT continued from page A1

"That is a public safety crisis," Vaughn said. Vaughn said the aging population, additional training requirements and new policies have been contributing factors in the plummeting number of emergency workers. Training requirements vary by the fire department and district, she said. National Fire Protection Association standard 1710 sets the minimum requirements for the number of firefighters needed when deploying fire suppression operations, EMS

operations and other operations. NFPA standard 1720 establishes the minimum number of volunteers needed to assist professional firefighters.

Rep. Tom Bennett, R-Gibson City, said passing the measure would help address staffing issues in rural areas that cannot afford full-time firefighters. He noted that the incentive can attract new volunteers to keep communities safe while showing appreciation for their service.

"They don't do it for the money (or) do it for the glory," Bennett said. "They do it because they are committed to their communities, their neighbors and their families and they want to help."

The measure passed the Senate unanimously but awaits further consideration in the House. The House Revenue and Finance Committee is expected to discuss uncertainty as to how the tax credit would be implemented Thursday morning.

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COFFEE WITH THE CANDIDATE



Brad Fritts
Candidate for
State Representative of
the 74th District
Saturday, April 2
9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Huddle Cafe
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Paid for by Citizens for Bradley J. Fritts

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COUNCIL

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Keegan again shared that certain elements would need to be hashed out such as fees, roof or ground installation and permits. Keegan stated that he will start to draw up the plans and present it to the council where they can add or omit rules accordingly.

A resolution making a portion of Metcalf a one way street from Hawley to Bacon was tabled until all parties are contacted. In the meanwhile, Public Works Director

Jeramey Wittenauer said that the new flashing speed sign had been placed at the East Main Street location with the intent to slow driver's down near the school. New motor vehicle signs for the area had come in and will also be posted very soon.

Richard Schrock from the Water and Sewer department recently finished up his 12 week classification training and received his Class 4 sewer license. The mayor stated that "it's good to see our people want to grow and better themselves to help the city, my congratulations."

Alderman Dave Shaw was in attendance after a brief illness and was warmly welcomed back by all members of the council. He informed the group that the Depot Museum is set to re-open on April 1 after performing a little dusting and sprucing up. Parks Commissioner Bontz in his report talked of the new concrete pads that will be installed in the parks at a cost of \$6,000. City Building Inspector Don Clayton had stated that he was the one that authorized the temporary fencing around the milk plant, scheduled for demolition.

Alderman Jake Leffelman shared that the Pankhurst Library will once again have in person visits. Some activities include; junior craft club for kids in grades third to eighth, and a bi-monthly Diamond painting club, all are welcome.

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INSTALLATION*

*Does not include cost of material. Expires: 3/31/22. All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$50 gift card. No purchase is necessary. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings, Inc. Limit one gift card per household. LeafGuard procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or have a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a valid photo ID, understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of LeafGuard or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a LeafGuard in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former LeafGuard customers. Promotion may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that LeafGuard may substitute a gift card of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card and terms and conditions: <https://www.darden.com/gift-cards/terms-and-conditions/> of such gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class US Mail within 21 days of receipt of promotion form provided at consultation. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Darden Restaurants and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Offer ends: 3/31/22.



Amboy Education Foundation Wine, Beer, & Cheese Gala

April 9, 2022 \$30 per person
Wine Tasting 5:30-7:30p.m.

The Valley Katz

8 - 11p.m.
Band only \$10 per person

Jimmy's Wood Fire Pizza

on site

Tickets are on sale now from AEF members or can be purchased at the Long Branch Saloon

Amboy Community Building
280 Wasson Rd, Amboy, IL

03232022

NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY

March 30th, 2022



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ksbhospital.com

LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Fish Fry

We are having our Drive-Thru Fish Fry on Friday, April 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. It will be a pick up only at the Boehle Youth Center (Teen Turf building) 235 W. Main, in Amboy. Dinner includes Fish, Coleslaw Bread, Potato Salad, and a cookie. Cost of dinner is \$12. All proceeds benefit our free programs. Our afterschool students and parents will be selling tickets. If they sell all their tickets, they will be able to attend a pizza party. Please see Eileen Piper 815-440-8195 and Board members for tickets as well: Deb Albee, Barb Harrison, Pam Thomas, Mark Grossman, Trese McNinch, Shannon Nichols, Shelli Bump, Janine and Scott Huffman, Kaylee Jones, and Kimberly Watley.

St. Patrick's Dance Recap

We had a dance on Friday, March 18, at Teen Turf for fifth graders and up. It had been two years since we had one and we had close to 60 children attend. It was so amazing to see smiling faces and dancing. The following people won a prize during one of our three games: Leah Dempsey, Kinsley Pogue, Aaron Costner, Landon Jackson, Jadon Ridings, Kylie Vaupel, Sydney Noble, Chloe Vapel, Emma Richardson, Scarlett Maple, Kaitlyn Dempsey, Ayla Costner, Janessa Ridings, Jasmin Scott, Hayden Thomas, Hannah Shoemaker, Kayla Oury, Hailey Cagle, Landon Carter, Joivvee Hilsch, Anthony Sus, Gianna Dempsey, Ella, Chase H., Scarlett Payne, Emilie Dempsey, Hope Lauzon, Demetrius Haley, and Maggie Kane.

Future Events

We will holding our 23rd annual Teen Turf Draw Down on May 7, 2022. It will be a drive-thru Dinner from 4-6 p.m. and the drawing will be held on Facebook Live at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and includes dinner, dessert, and a chance to win the Grand Prize of \$1,500. The Teen Turf Virtual Auction will be on Airauctioneer.com starting April 28, at noon and will end at 8 p.m. on May 5. Tickets will be soon available and please contact a board member or you may receive a letter in the mail.

Americorps Help Wanted

This wonderful program has provided us with so many great individuals over the years. Many of these volunteers have become teachers and other workforce leaders. They receive a stipend and school money after they complete each term. Right now we have Gabby and Pam, however we will need another person for the summer. If interested, please call Eileen Piper at 815-857-4800 or Nicole with Americorps at 815-835-6313.

Our FREE after-school program

Students in third-eighth grade. It began Tuesday, Sept. 7th from 3:30-5 p.m. Like last school year, we are only taking a set amount. You must have your child or children pre-registered prior to coming. If you are interested in having them attend, please call 815-857-4800.

Aerobics

Open to the public: Anyone is invited to gather at Teen Turf on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. for group chair exercises and walking. They have a great time together.

Thank You's

We are grateful for those who help us: Jill Copeland for donating money to fish fry senior tickets; Liz Bedford for St. Patrick's Day items; Walton Fest for the food and Justine Albee for delivering it; Brittany Kaleel for the girl items; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Woman's organization of Sublette for the baked games; Alice and Leroy Dukes for the monetary donation; Kathy Kessel for the cookies; Marykatherine Stenzel for the food; Carol Ely for the snacks; Rebecca and Ray Johnson for their monetary donation in memory of Kenneth Robbins; and Larry Piper for doing cans and those that donate them.

Needs

If anyone has an open garage or an empty storage unit, we are looking for one to store furniture for those in need. Please contact Eileen Piper at 815-857-4800.

Final Word

This day we seek thy blessings for our loved ones
For all the people who have helped us
For everyone who have made us smile
For everyone who gave their time
For those who stood beside us in life
And for those who laughed with us
Bless everyone thy Lord is our plea to you
So that their life be more wonderful too
Help them to ease their pain away
And let them stay happy all the way
Bless our family and our friends
Oh Almighty is our prayer!

Amboy Police

Speeding

On March 24, at 9:20 p.m., Justyn Carrasco, 29, of Normal, was issued a citation for speeding 47 mph in a 30 mph speed zone. She was released after posting bond.

Battery, criminal damage to property

On March 22, at 7:16 p.m., Shivaun M. Leach, 51, of Amboy, was arrested for two counts of battery and criminal damage to property under \$300. She was taken to the Lee County Jail.

Speeding, no valid DL, no proof of insurance

On March 26, Edgar J. Alfonso, 47, of Mendota was arrested for speeding 82 mph in a 30 mph speed zone, no valid driver's license and no proof of valid insurance. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.

Ashton Firemen's Breakfast

Sunday, April 3

7 a.m. - noon
Mills and Petrie
704 N. First St.,
Ashton

Price: 13 and over \$7
6 - 12 - \$5
5 and under - free



03232022

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.

WEST BROOKLYN-The Seven Sorrows of Mary devotion will be held every Wednesday evening during Lent. Gather for Confessions at 4:30 p.m. and at 5 p.m. pray the Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. This sacramental will be followed by the Holy Mass. On Wednesday, March 30, this devotion will be held at the St. Mary of the Assumption in West Brooklyn.

ASHTON-Coffee with candidate Brad Fritts will be held on Saturday, April 2, from 9 - 10:30 a.m., at the Huddle Cafe, 802 Main St., Ashton. Fritts is running for State Representative of the 74th District.

LEE CENTER TWP-The Lee Center Township will hold its budget hearings/annual audit at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, at the Township Building, 2202

Shaw Rd., Amboy.

AMBOY-The City of Amboy committee meetings will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 4, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

AMBOY-All ACO members are invited to gather Tuesday, April 5, at Maria's Pizza, 110 E. Main St., Amboy. Optional diners will gather at 4 p.m. The meeting will follow dinner at approximately 5 p.m. Optional Bunco party will follow meeting.

MAYTOWN-The Seven Sorrows of Mary devotion will be held every Wednesday evening during Lent. Gather for Confessions at 4:30 p.m. and at 5 p.m. pray the Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. This sacramental will be followed by the Holy Mass. On Wednesday, April 6, this devotion will be held at the St. Patrick Church, Maytown.

AMBOY-Mark your calendar for the Amboy Lions Club Rose Day event on Saturday, April 9. This event is one of the Club's two major fund-raisers throughout the year. The cost is \$20 per dozen. If interested in roses and supporting the Lions, please contact a Lions Club

member.

STERLING-Saturdays with a Master Gardener, will be held on Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m. - noon, at the Whiteside Extension Office, Sterling. Join Whiteside County Master Gardeners as we explore the world of gardening. All programs will take place at the Ster-

ling Extension office, 12923 Lawrence Rd., Sterling. "The ultimate cover up. Choosing the right Ground Covers" will be held on April 9. Have an area in your yard where nothing will grow? Find a ground cover that will dress up your landscape. Registration is required and can be completed at go.illinois.edu/whitesidesaturdays

U OF I EXTENSION NEWS

Spend Saturday April 9 with the Whiteside Master Gardeners

Join Whiteside County Master Gardeners throughout the year and explore the world of gardening! There will be a special swag bag for a lucky individual at the end of the year. Join us on April 9, 2022 for: The ultimate cover up! Choosing the right ground covers.

Ground cover plants are all around problem solvers; they are great for adding color, preventing weeds, controlling erosion, and providing habitat for pollinators. While grass is typically the best way to fill out empty space, sometimes low growing plants are better, and a prettier, option. Join Whiteside County Master Gardeners and discover some unique ways to dress up your landscape.

The ultimate cover up! Choosing the right ground cover will take place at the Whiteside County Extension office, 12923 Lawrence Rd., Sterling, at 10 a.m., on April 9, 2022. You must be registered to attend, register online at: go.illinois.edu/whitesidesaturdays or by calling the Whiteside County Extension office at 815-632-3611. Registration is limited to 25 participants.

Northern Illinois 4-H Summer Day Camp - Change Your Child's Life!

Registration for 4-H Day Camp 2022 is open. 4-H Day Camp is set for June 14, 15, and 16 at Rock River Christian Camp, Polo. Sign up today to get your child in on all of the amazing fun. Youth may choose to participate in all three days of camp or attend the dates that work best in their schedule.

2022 4-H Camp is a day camping experience that is conducted cooperatively by University of Illinois Extension staff in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago Counties and the professional staff at RRCC.

Sending your child to 4-H Camp will allow them to create memories they will carry with them through adulthood. 4-H camp teaches youth to make good decisions, build their self-confidence, become independent, and gain the ability to work well with others.

4-H Camp is open to ALL boys and girls, ages eight to 14 by June 14, 2022. 4-H membership is not required; however, all participants will be expected to comply with the same high behavior standards expected of 4-Hers. Youth need to be interested and excited to have a day of outdoor fun, away from television and technology. Cost each day is \$70. All camp fees must be paid in full by May 2. Download a camper application online or register online at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo/northern-illinois-4-h-camp>. You may also call an office near you: Ogle County Extension at 815-732-2191; or Whiteside Counties at 815-632-3611.

Old Car Donations Needed

The Amboy Fire Department is looking for donations of old cars to be used in training at the Amboy Fire & Extrication School 2022 on April 9.



Cars need to be donated by **April 1** and the fire department will come and pick them up.



To donate, contact the Amboy Fire Department at 815-857-2325.

02092022

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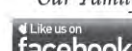
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142 North Jones Ave. Amboy \$114,900

A Darling 3 bedroom 1 bath home on a corner lot. An attached screened in porch adds to the charm of this home! The location is close to schools, downtown and the Post Office. The garage offers additional room for storage. New roof put on approximately 2 years ago. Property being sold "as is" This little gem won't last long-call for a showing today!

Woodhaven Lakes Realty

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The Amboy News

Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854

Tonja Greenfield, Publisher

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The newspaper reserves the right to publish, edit, condense, revise or reject any submissions.

LOCAL NEWS



Illinois among worst states in the country for potholes despite second highest gas tax

BY KEVIN BESSLER
The Center Square
SPRINGFIELD – Drivers in Illinois pay the second highest gas tax in the country. Despite that, Illinois is near the top of the list for the states with the worst pothole problem. A study by QuoteWizard says Illinois is the seventh worst state for potholes. Midwestern states dominate the top 10 with Indiana, Michigan and Ohio also making an appearance. Researcher Nick VinZant said pothole damage costs U.S. drivers \$3 billion a year with the average cost for repairs around \$300. “But you can spend a lot more than that very quickly because we have seen instances where people are having their alignment gets knocked off, you’re messing with the suspension, even the frame if you are hitting the Mariana Trench of potholes,” VinZant said. Researchers at QuoteWizard looked at Google search statistics going back to 2004. They found that Washington has more searches for pothole-related complaints than any other state. A couple Illinois cities made the top-50 list for the worst pothole problems. Champaign ranked 32nd and Chicago came in at number 41. Yakima, Wash., topped the list. Illinoisans may file a claim if their vehicle is damaged by a pothole. Drivers with such damage can call the Illinois Department of Transportation or go to their website and fill out a form to report a pothole. The same form can be used to file a claim. VinZant said Illinoisans should get used to potholes for a while because we are entering primetime when it comes to encountering the dreaded road hazard. “When you get moisture, it seeps into the roadway, it is still cool enough where it freezes and expands, and this is kind of pothole-forming season right now,” VinZant said. The Tax Foundation has Illinois as the second highest gas tax state in the Untied States, behind only California. Illinois’ gas tax is the highest in the Midwest.



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THE PASTOR'S PEN

DEATH, THE END OF ALL THINGS?

BY PASTOR RICK WULF
The East Grove Union Church of Rural Amboy
Hi Friends,
This is a good question. Is death the end of all things? It is a question that is on the heart and mind of many, because it happens all around us, everyday. Many times, it touches our own families. God, who created us, put us into the family relationship. Our society is based upon that precept and sadly, our family relationships have been breaking down over the course of the past decades. Because of this sad reality, our society has greatly suffered. Some people are just acting in an irrational way, with no concern for others. For those of us who believe in God and accept the Bible as God’s holy Word, the first family, no, not the Joe Biden family, the very first family, Adam and Eve, were created perfectly by God. At one point, they disobeyed God’s command and sinned against God. The Bible tells us that from that point, they possessed a sin nature and God blessed their relationship with children who also possessed a sin nature and suffered from it. The Biblical account tells us that their first son, Cain, killed his brother, Abel. What a tragic account. We cannot begin to understand what mom and dad, must have felt, but it had to be horrifying. For those who have suffered the death of a loved-one, part of our hearts are torn from us. As we know from our understanding of the Bible, and as we can observe from human history, this sadly is the reality of the world in which we live. God gives life. Disease and evil men adversely

affect it and many times take it away. For those who can only see from the human level, there is very little to offer hope. The world says, “What you see, is what you get.” There is no real meaning and purpose to life, and this is such a sad philosophy of life to possess. As a Christian, my faith is in God, and His Word has so much more to say which gives me great hope. My personal, immediate family experience with death came in 1994, when after a somewhat prolonged illness, my dad passed away. Most recently my mom passed away from age. She lived a very full 94 years. We are saddened when disease and age take our lives from our presence. I believe that is exceptionally hard for us as we go through these life experiences, when we have had the blessing of living in close proximity to our loved-ones, and they then pass away, it affects us harder. For me, when I left my hometown to get married, I was only able to see mom and dad perhaps once a year until I moved back to my hometown for two years where our first son was born, and being in the Ministry, we moved around a lot and have not been able to get back home much to see family over the 45 years of marriage. Even though family contact has been limited and now no longer possible with my folks, our consolation that we can draw on as God’s Children, we have the hope from God’s Word, the Bible that because of our personal relationship with God, we will one day see Mom and Dad when we get to Heaven. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, we see this amazing promise from God;

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.” I take this promise personally that even though my parents have passed away and I do miss them, because they, too, professed faith in Jesus and had the assurance that their sins had been forgiven, they have been reunited in Heaven. They are with Jesus. The Apostle Paul gave us this encouragement that we as don’t grieve the passing away of Christian loved ones, because they are with Jesus. My prayer for you is that wherever you are in your spiritual experience, that you will be seeking God for help. Trust in Him alone by faith. You don’t have to fear death. May God continue bless you and make you joyful for His honor and glory and for your good and the good of others.

SCAM continued from page A2

Usually, you’ll receive a few compliments and some photos of “Amanda,” who appears to be a scantily clad blonde woman. However, as the word gets out about this scam, scammers will change up the names, backstory, and photos. If you continue to engage with the stranger, who is really a chatbot, it tries to trick you into registering for dating or adult websites. Your new “friend” will encourage you to sign up for a specific website to see more explicit photos, which may involve offering up your credit card number. Considering

the dubious nature of this scam, if you hand over your credit card information at any point, you could be putting yourself at risk for fraudulent charges and identity theft. It’s obvious that the scammers are trying to elicit a response, such as sympathy, to this woman for receiving a fake number from a friend, but we need to remind consumers that appearances can be deceiving. How to avoid chatbot scams

- Ignore texts from strangers. Strangers on the internet can pretend to be anyone. Question motives behind both solicited and unsolicited messages. If you receive a text from someone you don’t know, simply don’t reply. It’s the safest route. If you engage with a scammer, even briefly, they will mark your number as active and you could receive even more shady texts in the future.
- Block numbers that appear to come from scammers. Unsolicited texts that look like they come from a chat bot or that ask you to click on suspicious links are probably not safe.
- Protect your personal information to strangers. Never share your credit card or banking information, your full name, home address, or social security number with someone you never met in person. Remember that any photo you upload on social media can be stolen and used by a scammer.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p>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</p> <p>St. Mary Church Fr. John Gow 912 Walton Rd., Walton 815-857-2670 Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm</p> <p>St. Flannen Church Fr. John Gow 213 S Second St., Harmon 815-857-2670 Mass: Sunday, 9 am</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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!</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>St. Mary’s Church Rev. Randy Fronek West Brooklyn Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday - 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>St. Patrick Church Rev. Randy Fronek - Maytown Mass - Fri. 8 a.m., Sun, 8 a.m.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Refuge Church Pastor John Kalebaugh Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52 Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930 10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows</p> <p>Harmon United Methodist Church Pastor Leanne Keate 202 N. Grove, Harmon Phone 359-7302 Worship - 8:30 a.m.</p>
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Member F.D.I.C.
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SOCIAL NEWS

Local nature
and historyBy Jim "Mazie"
Long

Thickets to Paradise

Having claimed to have found a paradise, prairie homesteaders used the word "thicket" to describe the neighborhood where they settled in what became Lee County.

Almost surely, the thickets of the distant past were populated by plants whose seeds were scattered by animals and birds. The blackberry plant would be one and black cherry another, along with smooth sumac, roses, hazel nut, and raspberry.

Today, we have many woody plants that would have grown in a thicket. We have three or four prairie shrubs that can be completely consumed by fire each year with no apparent damage. These plants can simply grow back in the spring, flower and fruit. They also do well in dry prairie conditions.

New Jersey tea has a very stout root that's as hard as any wood. The shrub produces new stems each year. Flowers are born on the new stems. The plant is somewhat related to the eucalyptus trees of Australia. The New Jersey tea plant earned its name for having been found to be a good substitute for tea in the colonial days.

The lead plant is a second prairie shrub with stout roots. The entire shrub is covered in lead-colored, silky, short hair.

I propose that a third common shrub that would have endured the prairie fires is the prairie willow. The shrub blooms very early and looks like a small "pussy willow".

I may be criticized for including the dwarf prairie rose in this unique group of survivors; but I have often seen these shrubs consumed by fire, only to grow back and bloom as if it was their normal procedure.

Unlike the pioneers, we don't talk about hailing from certain thickets anymore. Only a few woody plants have been favored to survive the persistent prairie fires of the past. Today, thickets are often black-oak woods. But there was a time when thickets would have been formed by a wider variety of woody plants. Along with the blackberry, black cherry, and raspberry, there would have been Hawthorns, plums, grapes, and bittersweet.

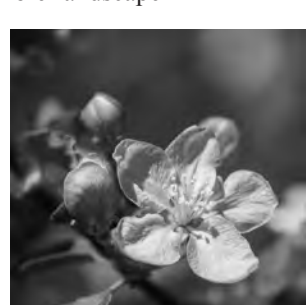
The thickets would have been popular places for pioneer jelly makers to gather fruit.

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

Jim "Mazie"
Long

published.

Related Resources:

Plant Profiles:
Thicket Forming
Shrubshttps://illinoisplants.org/
plant-profile-
thicket-forming-
shrubsThe Gathering
Revivalhttps://www2.
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OI/Documents/June07Gath-
ering.pdfIllinois' Blueberry Hills
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gov/dnr/OI/Pages/BAIllinois%
E2%80%99BlueberryHills.aspxCreating an Edible Land-
scapehttps://extension.illinois.
edu/blogs/good-growing/
2020-02-20-creating-edible-
landscape

The wild plum is an example of the renewable woody plants once found in a prairie thicket. The presence of many popular fruiting plants would have furthered the association of a thicket with the growth of a local community.

SVCC to
host job fair

STERLING—Sauk Valley Community College will host a job fair on Thursday, April 14. Area employers will be available 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. for networking and discussing open positions.

Job seekers are invited to participate during this event on SVCC's campus. No registration is required.

Area employers that would like to participate are asked to register in advance by visiting svcc.edu/jobfair.

For event information, please contact Dana Chacon at 815-835-6294 or visit svcc.edu/jobfair

Recycle!
Recycle!

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Senior Dining Menu
April 4-8
8 oz. of low-fat milk served with each meal

Monday – Grilled chicken breast, buttered potatoes, green beans, wgr dinner roll, diced pears
Tuesday – Baked ziti with meat sauce, Italian bread, wgr garlic bread, hot applesauce.
Wednesday – A). Meatloaf, mashed potato with gravy, glazed carrots, wgr dinner roll, fruited jell-o. B). Liver and onions.
Thursday – Chicken ala king with wgr buttermilk biscuit, broccoli, mandarin oranges.
Friday – Tilapia and garlic butter, wild rice, peas, wgr dinner roll, fruit cocktail.

Meals served Mon.-Fri. at 11:00 am
Reservations needed 10:00 am day before

Amboy Community Center
280 W. Wasson Road • 1-815-963-1609, reservations

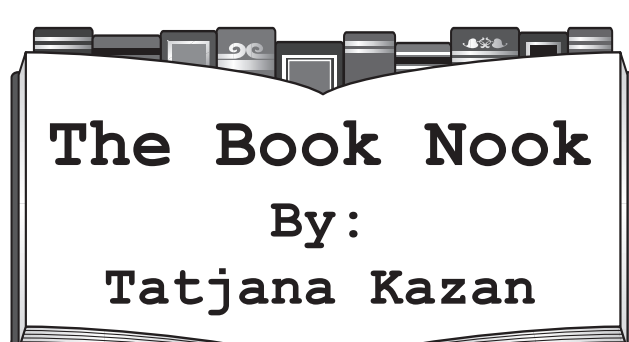
United Way
A United Way Agency



DUKES GATHER IN ARIZONA

Recently, five of the six Dukes siblings got together in near Scottsdale, Ariz. The Dukes grew up in Amboy and attended Amboy High School. Five of the six of the siblings left Amboy and live in different parts of the states. The sixth, Leroy Dukes, and his wife Alice, still live in Amboy. They own and operate the Amboy Garden Shop. Leroy and Alice were not able to join the gathering that occurred in Arizona. The Dukes are holding a copy of the Amboy News in the photo to celebrate our roots in that wonderful community. In the photo, left to right are: Gerald (Jerry) Dukes, attended Amboy High School as a member of the AHS Class of 1965, Katherine (Katey) (Dukes) Aynilian, AHS Class of 1969, Charles Dukes, Class of 1957, Lucinda (Dukes) Dragoo, Class of 1961, and Roland (Pete) Dukes, Class of 1959. Gerald Dukes lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., with his wife Diane. He is retired after a 22 year career in the United States Army. Katherine (Dukes) Aynilian lives in Mundelein, with her husband George Aynilian, and is a retired nurse. Charles Dukes lives in Morrison, Colo., and is retired after more than 20 years in government service. Lucinda (Dukes) Dragoo lives in Thornton, Colo., with her husband Charles Dragoo, and is also a retired nurse. Roland (Pete) Dukes lives in Seattle, Wash., with his wife Phyllis. He is a retired Professor at the University of Washington.

Photo submitted



CLASS CONFLICT

Shirley Jackson's final novel, "We Have Always Lived in the Castle," (1962) perfectly captures the tension between antagonists. The Blackwood's are wealthy landowners whose forested estate on a hill looks down on a village of working-class families. The Blackwood's have lived on their estate for generations, but the villagers' overtly spiteful resentment is of a more recent vintage. It came about six years ago when four Blackwood family members were murdered, poisoned by arsenic in a sugar bowl. The survivors, two sisters and their uncle, have lived contentedly in isolation after Constance, the older sister, was accused and acquitted of the murders. The outraged villagers still think she got away with murder.

The highly unreliable narrator of this tale is the younger sister Mary Katherine "Merricat" Blackwood, who at 18 sounds and acts like a 12-year old. She declares in the opening chapter that the villagers "have always hated us," and proceeds to demonstrate their intolerance during a harrowing trip into the village for library books and food. Her contempt for them, though expressed rather mildly, easily equals theirs: "Whatever planned to be colorful lost its heart quickly in the village." Merricat lives in her imagination, "catching scarlet fish in the rivers on the moon," and is fiercely protective of Constance. She marks the boundaries of the Blackwood land with charms and talismans to keep out evil.

Amboy HS Student
Council to host blood drive

AMBOY—Amboy High School Student Council will host a community blood drive with the American Red Cross on Friday, April 22, from 1–6 p.m., at the Amboy Community Building.

For more information or to make an appointment to donate, call 815-857-3632 or sign up online at redcross-blood.org.

Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors. With someone in the U.S.

needing blood every two seconds, blood products must be constantly replenished, according to the Red Cross.

According to the Red Cross, donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative, and B negative.

Recycle!
Recycle!
Recycle!

Pretty Constance, always cheerful and kind, is a cliché of the perfect housewife. The immaculate kitchen is her domain. Yet in ten years she has not managed to walk more than the few feet to her garden. She takes care of their Uncle Julian, who survived because he didn't eat enough poison to die. Though his brain is addled, he obsessively makes notes for the memoir he means to write. His ramblings reveal the fateful dinner in which his wife, the girls' parents and younger brother were killed.

The arrival of distant cousin Charles Blackwood in this childhood paradise sets the stage for the inevitable explosion of the tension that has been building throughout the story. Charles charms Charlotte into naively believing she may have a life beyond the confines of the Blackwood household. Merricat knows better and deals with Charles accordingly. A consummate gold-digger, he means to get rid of her immediately. It is in their showdown that Merricat tosses his still-smoldering pipe into a wastebasket filled with newspapers. The place goes up in flames. The firemen arrive, followed by the enthralled villagers. The roof collapses, giving the grand house the appearance of a castle, but the fire is soon put out. It is then that one of the firemen picks up a rock and tosses it through a window. It is the opening for the braying mob to rush in.

CLIPPER KID

This Week's Student of the Week is:
Wyatt Herrmann

Student's Favorites:
Favorite Color – Green
Favorite Animal – Horse
Favorite Food – Chicken Nuggets
Favorite Book – Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site
Favorite Game – Chutes and Ladders
Favorite Song – Surface Pressure from Encanto

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Opinion

Rarely are there simple solutions to complex problems like inflation

The problem with inflation is that there is more than enough blame to go around.

Some folks will say it's Joe Biden's fault, others blame Donald Trump or Russia or Congress or the Federal Reserve. Maybe everybody is a little bit right or a little bit wrong.

I don't know. I grew up on a farm. And no one appreciates the dynamics of commodity pricing better than a farmer. Every morning my folks would turn on WGIL and listen to the price for a bushel of corn or soybeans and a hundredweight of hogs. It was not a time for children to speak. This was important stuff.

But that didn't keep me from asking annoying questions. At age 10, I might ask my father why the price of pork was high or low. And he would try to explain it in language a child could understand saying something like, "Fewer baby pigs were born six months ago and that means the supply is down and prices are going up."

Or he might explain that we had favorable weather for raising corn and that had brought the supply of the grain up and price for it down.

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



For example, I purchased a wall-mounted fireplace from Ace Hardware last week. I asked an assistant manager how much she could knock off the price. She told me they don't negotiate prices unless the item is damaged. After jokingly offering to whack it with a hammer, I got to dickering with the store's top manager and he carved \$75 off the purchase price.

And sometimes he might just scratch his head and say, "I don't know why it's doing what it is doing."

My point? Rarely are there simple solutions to complex problems like inflation.

But here are a few contenders in my book: the Federal Reserve has kept interest rates far too low for too long; Congress has been spending like crazy since the beginning of the pandemic; the labor market is tight and labor costs are rising; the pandemic has really messed up supply chains and left store shelves bare and made prices for what is left higher; and Russia invaded Ukraine upending the petroleum markets.

Inflation is a thief that steals from families and leaves us poorer.

So how can an individual combat inflation?

Here are some thoughts: negotiate everything. When I make a major purchase, I negotiate.

Be pleasant but persistent.

With the inflation rate between 7 % and 8 %, it's smart to assume what you buy now would cost more later. So, for consumables, things you are certain to use no matter what, look for good prices and buy in bulk.

For example, I recently bought 18 bottles of Arm and Hammer detergent when I saw a good price at Menards. Or I bought a 6-pack of Colgate toothpaste at Sam's Club when I saw a good price.

I know that no matter what the economy does, I'll be washing my clothes and brushing my teeth. By buying now and using later, I'm hedging inflation. It's like buying a 7 % bond. It's not a flashy investment, but it is a pragmatic one.

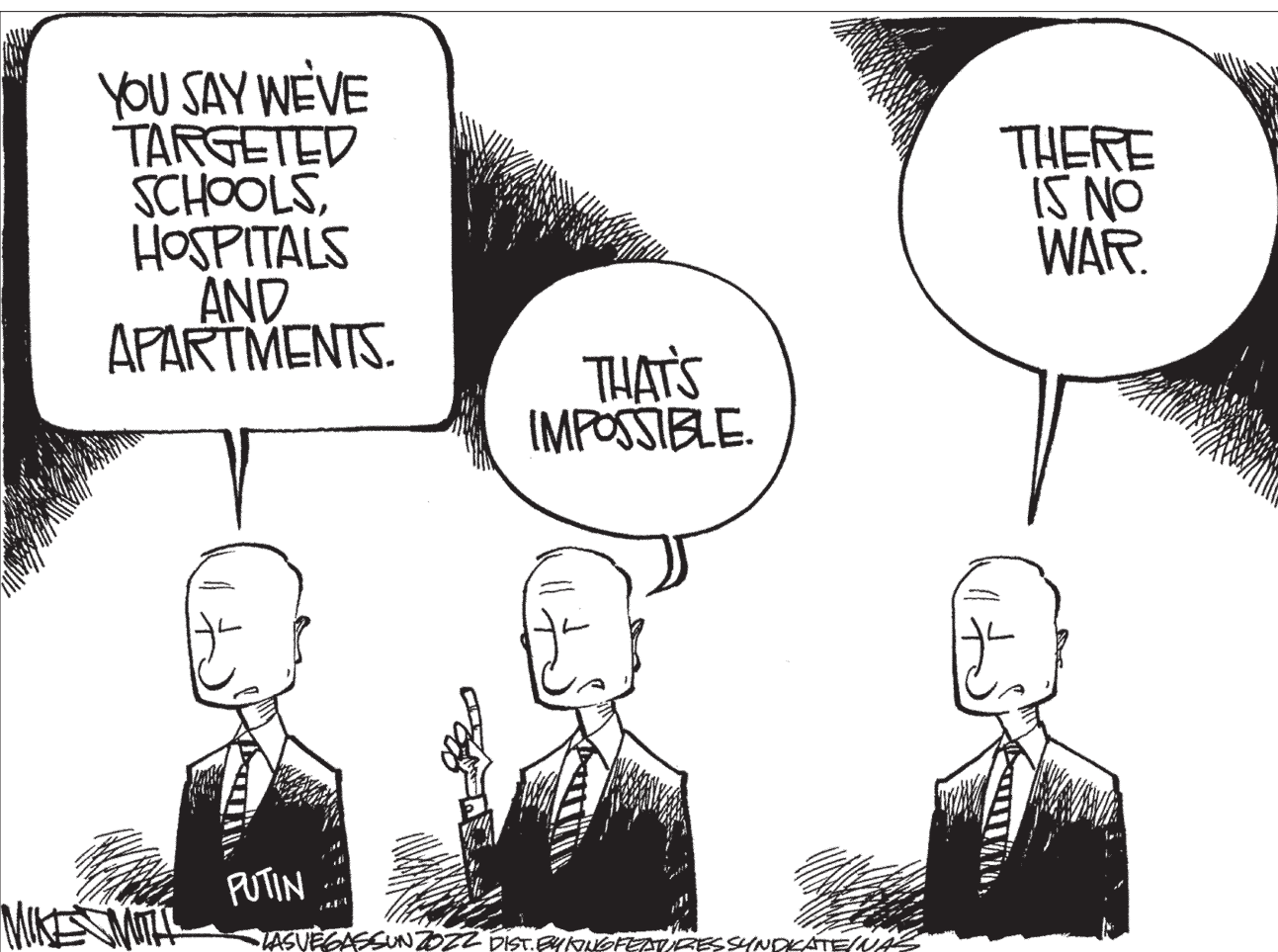
With labor prices escalating, it may be an appropriate time to consider spending money on that project you have been putting off. For example, I have a plumbing project that I have continually put off, but I know will eventually have to happen.

I got an estimate from my plumber several months ago that is good for six months. I have watched labor rates shoot up since then. So, I gave the greenlight to the project at the price it was bid at six months ago. Again, it's like buying a bond paying at the rate of inflation.

I'll be the first to admit, these aren't easy undertakings. It requires spending savings now in anticipation of those dollars in your bank account being worth less if they go unspent.

It's hardly an ideal situation. But the economy is giving few alternatives to staying ahead of inflation.

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



On This Day in History

100 Years Ago March 31, 1922

Martha L. Powell, a sister of William Powell of Amboy, who has been a successful teacher and principal in the public schools of Omaha, Neb., for many years, is a candidate for the Republican nomination for State Superintendent of Schools in Nebraska.

The motor vehicle industry paid special taxes in 1921 to the federal governments accounting to \$228,759,000.

Mr. Stephenson of the Amboy Oil and Gas Company has had a force of men at work this week unloading a twenty ton drilling machine and a lot of large size steel tubing. This machine is to be used in putting down one of the big wells in May town.

The northbound I.C. passenger train due in Amboy at 9:30 a.m. was an hour and a half late Tuesday morning. The

engine broke down at Hudson and it was necessary to send a relief engine.

75 Years Ago April 3, 1947

An evening of fun and laughs is in store for all who attend the O.E.S. Minstrel Show next Wednesday evening, April 9, in the Farm Bureau auditorium in Amboy.

The first report of spring discing was received by The Amboy News Wednesday morning. Isaac Meador reported seeing a farmer discing south of Amboy.

50 Years Ago March 30, 1972

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Shaw have purchased Shearer's Gamble Store in Amboy from Mrs. Carl (Yvonne) Shearer and will take over its operation

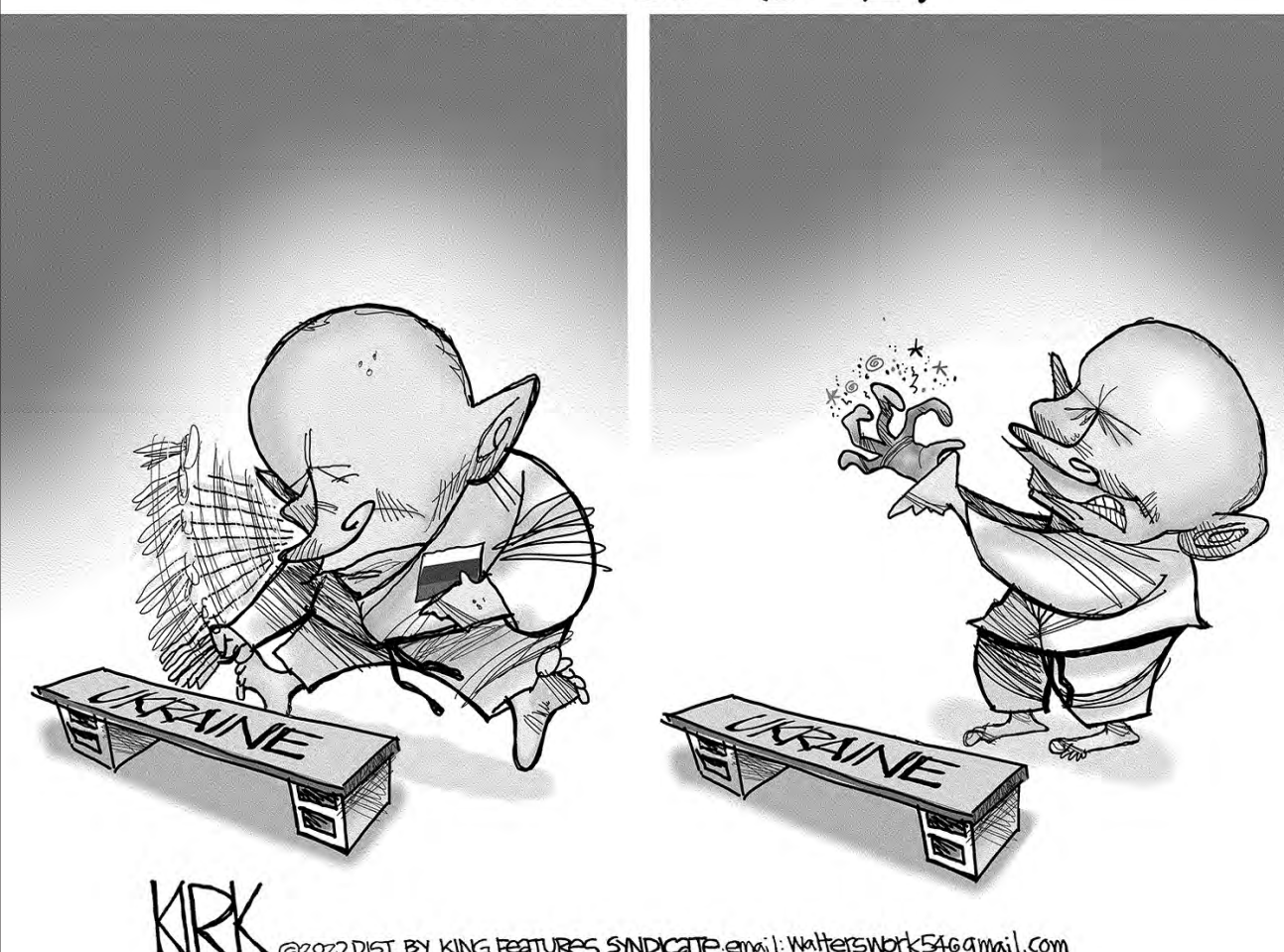
on April 1. It will be known as "Shaw's Gamble Store, Howard and Ruth Shaw, owners and operators."

25 Years Ago March 27, 1997

Seven members of the Amboy FFA Chapter participated in the State FFA Agriculture Awareness Day held March 19 at the State Capital in Springfield. A special friend of the Amboy FFA Chapter, State Senator Todd Sieben, took time from his schedule to speak with the chapter members. Present were Dory Templeman, Tina McCoy, Caleb Hardy, Rusty Wittenauer, Chris Streit, Nick Dinges and Chad Oester.

The Amboy Fire Department will present its 44th Annual Firemen's Play, "Too Many Doctors and Fiendish Firebug Strikes Again," on April 4 and 5 at Amboy High School Auditorium.

THE BLACK BELT



Established In 1854

The Amboy News

The Depot Museum

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SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LOCAL NEWS



Pictured, front row, from left to right, Kate Viall, Linnea Thorngren, Katelyn Temple, and Rachel Anton. Back row, from left to right, Maddix Swanson, Haleigh Wilcox, Madison Krum, and Paige Dykstra.

Photo submitted

Youth competed in 4-H Public Speaking Contest held in Dixon

DIXON — Youth from Carroll, Lee, and Whiteside Counties met at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dixon, on Saturday, March 19, 2022, to participate in the CLW 4-H Public Speaking Contest. Participants came prepared with a formal or illustrated speech, original work, or an oral interpretation of a published work. Topics ranged in variety from Angus cattle and ducks to an excerpt from William Shakespeare's play, Hamlet, and even a speech and PowerPoint presentation on the many historical locations of the U.S. capital.

Linnea Thorngren of Carroll County was awarded a Blue Ribbon, State Fair Delegate, and Top Junior Presentation award for her

speech on Angus cattle.

Kate Viall, Haleigh Wilcox, and Maddix Swanson of Lee County received Blue Ribbons and State Fair Delegate awards.

From Whiteside County, Katelyn Temple, Paige Dykstra, and Madison Krum were awarded Blue Ribbons and State Fair Delegate, with Paige Dykstra also receiving the top Sr. Presentation Award. Rachel Anton received a Blue Ribbon and the honor of State Fair Alternate.

State Fair Delegates have the opportunity to bring their speeches to the 2022 Illinois 4-H State Public Speaking Contest in Champaign, on April 30.

SVCC library receives state grant

STERLING — Sauk Valley Community College library received the Illinois State Library grant to expand study areas for students. Funds have been used to purchase individual study pods which will provide freedom from distractions for students.

The SVCC Learning Commons Library received the On the Road to Recovery: Transforming Library Spaces grant for \$23,508. Funding for this grant was awarded by the Illinois State Library, a Department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology

Act (LSTA).

This funding comes at a crucial time with the number of SVCC library quiet study rooms being reduced by more than half in recent years.

"In addition to library services, staff expertise, and available technology, visitors are seeking a space in which to work comfortably," states Library Coordinator, Melanie Armstrong. "Academic support is a holistic effort, and quiet study spaces figure among the most valuable services the library can offer in that respect."

For more information, please contact Dallas Knack at dallas.n.knack@svcc.edu.



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Photo courtesy of Heather Loftus

Photo courtesy of Heather Loftus

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LOCAL NEWS

Clipper Highlights: #53 Brian Lee

This week my brother Wes took over the honors of highlighting our next Clipper.

It is once again an honor to write this piece for my brother. It is even a bigger to write this piece because I played with the man, this week's Clipper, #53, my friend, The "IRON CLIPPER" Brian (BLee) Lee.

To me he's the Iron Clipper for several reasons. He never came off the field, and he was always the first one in the weight room and the last one out. He was fearless and strong, and someone you did not want to mess with. But don't just take my word for it. Let's go down memory lane, in a time that I remember quite vividly.

Brian was a graduate of the 2004 class at AHS. Where he was not only known for his athletic prowess, but was also a very intelligent Clipper. All offensive linemen have a bond, but I have a special place in my heart for this fellow former Right Guard and linebacker. Brian was a first team All Conference Right Guard and second team All Area Right Guard for his team.

I asked BLee what his most memorable game was, and without a doubt he said the first round playoff game his senior year against BV.

"We had just lost to them in the regular season 7-0 and we wanted that rematch.

Watching the playoff pairings when we heard, we were ecstatic," he said. "I remember the first drive of the game, a cut back play to our stud running back Lucky (Garrett Luck), I pulled and had to take out the end. We met shoulder to shoulder and immediately my right arm went numb. I went back to the huddle, right arm dangling, and Bean told me something along the lines of quit being a {expletive}. Feeling came back a few plays later and I was good to go. That's how this team was, we all played through pain, injuries and exhaustion because we didn't want to disappoint our group of guys."

That whole game our defense stuffed the highly favored Storm, as we would go on to a quarterfinal campaign that year. In true offensive line fashion BLee didn't glorify himself, instead praising hallmark names like McCaffrey, McCoy, Erbes and Ramirez.

"BLee was the team leader, hands down," said Blair McCaffrey (my opinion the best nose guard to wear the Red, Black, and White). "He was a very vocal leader, strong as an ox, and smart."

Former QB and Clipper Great Nick Full had the following to say, "It's pretty simple with BLee. Super strong, super smart player, worked his butt off. Great

Clipper Highlights

By Spencer Morrissey



teammate, better friend."

Clipper great and former teammate Cody Erbes shared the following, "Brian was not only a good guy but also a leader; by example and verbally. The motto of our team was to work hard, have fun, and get it done when the time comes. Brian's attitude and leadership drove this. He was also dedicated. He sacrificed a lot. He didn't even go out for basketball his junior year so he could just focus on getting stronger in the weight room. He had knee issues that he played through. Pretty sure he was concussed in a few games but he wouldn't go out. Lineman isn't a glamorous position but he was an unsung hero to an underrated team at the beginning of the season but proved ourselves throughout (es-

pecially during playoffs)."

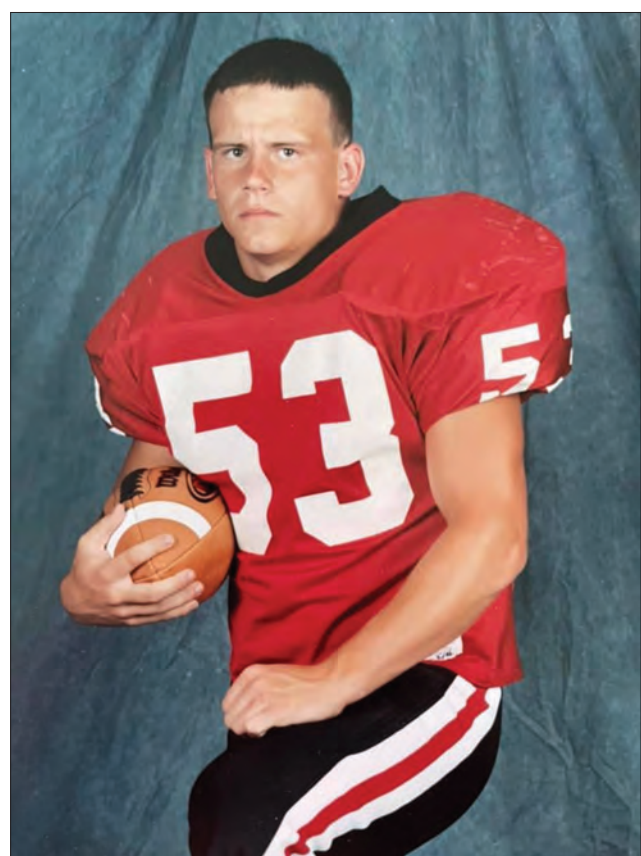
When I asked Ironman to say what Clipper football meant to him he replied, "Clipper football to me means pride. Pride of wearing the same jersey or number as the guys you grew up watching. Pride of representing a town where everyone from the barber to the school bus driver, to the group of 10 year olds wearing their jerseys cheers you on every Friday night."

BLee continued, "It's people you don't even know telling you great game, because they were there every Friday night when the lights came on. Each and every one of us who have donned that beautiful red jersey have felt the Clipper pride. Life-long friendships and especially trust are built amongst the guys you go to battle with."

Brian had nothing but praise for Coach Jones and credits him with much of his success. That year I looked up to BLee, Ramirez, Erbie and Full as they were all made captains.

"We were all captains and each game running out, when we would turn at the goalpost to run through the banner, I would run as hard as I could to beat Ramirez through it, however that 6'4 240 pound monster was like a racehorse on steroids. I never could beat him," BLee said.

It was an honor to share the field with BLee. I looked



#53 Brian Lee

up to him as an offensive lineman, leader, and friend. My most memorable story was once during an early out day BLee gave me a ride, when we came back for practice. He drove a light blue 93 mercury cougar. He picked me up at Kaleel's and we drove to practice in reverse the whole way. To this day that still makes me laugh.

Today I am honored to say that I still consider BLee a dear friend. I am also honored to say that his lovely wife Lauren is a dear friend. BLee will always have a place for Clipper football in his heart, but nothing will ever come close for the love he has for Lauren and their beautiful son Colton. BLee is a hard worker, loyal family man, and pretty much loved by everyone. No doubt a lot of these qualities were fashioned from his experience on the gridiron.

So here's to you Brian

(BLee) Lee. Our "Ironman Clipper." Thank you for your contributions to Clipper Football. Thank you for being a good friend. I'm sure Colton and Lauren thank you every day for being a man, in a world where that word is continually ceasing to exist. Its guys like you who exemplify what it is to be a Clipper. Sail on!

Spencer Morrissey, is a former resident of Amboy and 2009 graduate of Amboy High School. In April 2020, he created a private Facebook group specifically for Amboy Clipper Football Alumni. To have played Amboy football for any period of time, 1 year or all 4 years, is the only membership requirement. The group features photos, stories, and memories of past Clippers and Clipper teams. The best feature of the group is every Friday, he highlights a former player.

Amboy girls track competes at Clinton Last Chance meet

AMBOY — Amboy girls track competed at the Clinton Last Chance meet on March 21, at Illinois Wesleyan.

Sophomore Elly Jones finished earned a first place finish in the triple jump with a personal record of 10.56m. She also placed third in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 9.91. Jones set a personal record in the preliminaries of the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 9.89. She also placed fifth in the long jump with 4.94m.

In the 200 meters, Amboy senior Lauren Althaus set a personal record with a time of 29.23, placing her 18th in the event.

Sophomore Lexi Ketchum placed 24th in the 800 meters with a time of 2:50.19. Sophomore Taylor Jahn placed 32nd in the 800 with a personal record of 3:01.27. Jahn also competed in the 1600 meters and placed 33rd with a time of 6:56.60.

Sophomore Reilly Schaffer, of Amboy, placed 29th in

the 400 meters with a time of 1:26.39.

Lily Searing, a sophomore, placed 45th in the 60 meters with a time of 9.88. Dezi Cater, a junior, placed 51st in the 60 meters with a time of 10.38.

The 4x200 relay team of Althaus, Cater, Searing and Schaffer finished in 20th place with a time of 2:10.48.

In the shot put, freshman Laela Shevokas set a personal record with 7.72m landing her 28th place. Fellow fresh-

man Natalie Wamhoff, also set a personal record in the shot put with a distance of 7.12m, earning her 36th place.

Ketchum placed fifth in the high jump with a personal record of 1.47m.

SVCC expands health services

DIXON — Sauk Valley Community College will expand mental health services offered to students with the addition of TimelyMD. Telehealth services are slated to be available by the fall 2022 semester.

TimelyMD is the only all-in-one telehealth provider created for universities and colleges. The company focuses on the unique needs of students to customize a complete care solution, so campus is a place where they thrive. Services include: emotional support (Talk-

Now), scheduled counseling, and psychiatry. All providers are verified, as well as trained on TimelyMD practices and modules.

Services will be free of charge for enrolled credit-bearing students. SVCC students will be able to access all services 24/7 by phone, chat, or video call.

"TimelyMD will supplement and expand our already existing Mental Health services, plus add additional features including virtual medical visits. This is just another way that SVCC is

providing support to assist students to reach their academic, career and personal goals," said Janet Matheney, Dean of Student Services.

SVCC recognizes the need to expand health offerings, especially mental health services, to students particularly in light of the pandemic. These services are supplemental to the existing care provided in the Sauk Valley through our local hospitals and care providers.

For more information on SVCC's expansion with TimelyMD, please contact Janet Matheney at jan-et.l.matheney@svcc.edu.

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OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



Illinois spring trout fishing season opens on April 2nd

SPRINGFIELD – The 2022 Illinois spring trout fishing season will open April 2 at 57 ponds, lakes and streams throughout the state.

An early opportunity at select trout sites – the spring catch-and-release fishing season—opened March 19. No trout may be kept during the catch-and-release fishing period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning April 2.

The Illinois Catchable Trout Program is funded by those who use the program through the sale of inland trout stamps. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted during the spring season. An additional 80,000 trout will be stocked for the fall trout fishing season, which begins in October.

For the 2022 spring trout season, no trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites until the season opens at 5 a.m. April 2. Anyone attempting to harvest trout before the legal harvest season opening will be issued citations.

All anglers, including those who intend to release fish caught before April 2, must have a fishing license and an inland trout stamp unless they are younger than 16, blind or disabled, or an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces. The daily catch limit for each angler is five trout.

For more information about trout seasons and other Illinois fishing opportunities, visit <https://www.ifishillinois.org>.

Illinois 2022 fishing licenses and inland trout stamps are available now at IDNR license and permit locations, including many bait shops, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets. For a list of locations, check the IDNR website at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov>. Fishing licenses and trout stamps also can be purchased online. Find the link on the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov.

For information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Not all sites open at 5 a.m. on opening day. Anglers are reminded to check the opening time of their favorite sites prior to the open date.

Among the 2022 Illinois Spring Trout locations are:

- Bureau County – Hennepin Canal Parkway
 - Kendall County – Big Lake, Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area
 - LaSalle County – Illinois & Michigan Canal Lock 14, LaSalle; Lake Mendota, Mendota
 - Ogle County – **Pine Creek, White Pines Forest State Park
 - Whiteside County – Centennial Park, Rock Falls
- (** Denotes sites open for catch-and-release early spring season fishing)

Taking a child on a fishing trip

A fishing trip is much more than just going to catch fish. The excitement of getting the boat ready, packing a lunch, going over the checklist, picking out lures for the tackle box, buying worms, etc., is all part of the fun. The fishing experience teaches a child about patience, makes them aware of the sights and sounds of the outdoors, and provides a great sense of accomplishment from baiting a hook to catching that first fish. We all need to take the time to bring our children outside and teach them about taking ownership in caring for the natural environment. Help our Illinois youth get excited about fishing—if you can pass on your knowledge, you will be continuing a great tradition of exploring Illinois lakes and rivers.

Here are some ways to teach young people of all ages to fish and have a successful fishing experience:

Fishing License

Anyone under the age of 16 in Illinois does not need a license to fish.

Note: The adult accompanying a child fishing does not need a fishing license if he/she does not participate in fishing at all. Usually the adult casts, sets the hook, and/or helps the child reel in, in which case, that adult would need a valid Illinois fishing license.

Safety

Many fishing related accidents can be avoided with some forethought. Act on the side of caution, watch over children diligently, and teach by example.

- Young children should always fish with an adult.
- When in a boat or canoe, ALWAYS wear a life jacket.
- If weather turns stormy, be cautious and seek shelter or end your trip early. If you hear thunder, it is time to get off the water!
- Protect young eyes and skin on sunny days. The sun reflects off the water surface,



and it can be easy to get a sunburn or damage eyes. Always have young anglers wear a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses.

• Those hooks are sharp! Teach children to always be aware of where their hook is and not to let it get near anyone else. Set good rules about looking around before anyone casts.

• It is a smart practice to use barbless hooks or pinch down the barbs on your own hooks.

• Be very careful of Poison Ivy. This often grows along disturbed areas around boat ramps or in the woods. If you go on a hike, stay on the trail.

Conservation

Always teach and practice the Anglers' Code of Ethics. Our lakes and rivers belong to everyone and we all must do our part to preserve them for future generations.

• Children and adult alike should keep only what you will eat and never wastefully discard any fish.

For those fish you want to release, teach about best angling practices from the Department of Conservation's Catch-and-Release Guidelines.

• It is everyone's responsibility to protect the outdoors. Do not throw gum wrappers, sandwich wrappers, soda cans, bait containers or any other trash in the water. Pack your trash out or dispose of it in a park garbage can.

• Teach kids that fishhooks and line can snag and kill fish, birds, turtles, small mammals and frogs when thrown into the water. These should be discarded in appropriate trash containers.

• Knowing the size and number of fish it is legal to keep is important for all. Talking about regulations with your child provides a great opportunity to discuss why these are necessary and how they can help keep fish populations healthy.

Child-Sized Equipment

Small hands can handle a kid-sized rod and reel much

easier. For young children, toddler to preschool aged, a beginner fishing rod and reel combination can be found in the sporting good area of most department stores at a low price. Do not, however, choose the prepackaged rod sets with comic heroes on them for school-aged children. Instead, choose an ultra-light rod and reel.

• For kids, the most fun and least amount of line tangles are with spincast tackle.

The Best Bait

Getting kids excited about fishing usually means actually catching a fish. Fortunately, most kids are happy with any size and kind of catch.

• The best luck will usually be with earthworms. Many a fishing adventure begins with digging for your own worms in the garden or collecting them after a good rain, however, a container of worms are easily purchased from the local tackle shop or marina.

• If the sunfish are really biting, you can use corn, pieces of a hot dog or even marshmallows.

Note: Live bait does require a barbed hook. With younger children, you can instead use lures and debarb your hooks.

Where To Go?

Morning trips are best as the fish usually bite better and it is not too hot. A good place to teach a beginner is from a dock. This provides enough room to show kids how to put their worm on a hook, teach them proper casting, and observe other anglers. Sunfish often hang out around docks, making this a great way to view swimming fish and observe how fish are attracted to a lure.

To locate family friendly lakes in your area, log on to https://www.ifishillinois.org/Kids_Fishing/kids_selector.php

Fun ways to celebrate the arrival of spring

Spring is a season of rebirth in more ways than one. Spring is when certain animals emerge from hibernation, while many species lay eggs or give birth this time of year. Flowers and trees also bloom in spring, providing spectacular foliage and awe-inspiring color.

People also may feel like they have a new lease on life as they shake away the doldrums of winter and embrace longer hours of sunlight and warmer temperatures. The arrival of spring is worthy of celebration, and these activities and ideas can be enjoyable ways to spend the first day of spring.

• Spend time outdoors. One is never too old for a picnic in a park or a bike ride along the trails. Spending time outdoors is beneficial because it exposes people to sunlight, which is a precursor to the development of vitamin D. Vitamin D affects muscles, joints and tissues. It also can affect mood.



• Plant a tree. Honor the first day of spring, and Earth Day shortly thereafter, by planting trees. Trees provide habitats for wildlife, create shade, reduce air pollution by filtering the air, and produce oxygen. A sapling is a manageable tree to plant and something children

can do as well.

• Enjoy spring crafts. Grab an inexpensive canvas and paint a landscape that is in full bloom. Use quick-set plaster to create stepping stones embedded with mosaic glass pieces for color that can be added to the backyard.

• Host a spring potluck. Put fresh spring vegetables and fruits on display. Options include artichokes, apricots,

asparagus, carrots, dandelion greens, and radishes. Put together a pasta primavera, which essentially is a spring pasta dish laden with fresh vegetables.

• Decorate with flowers. Bring fresh flowers indoors and put them on display in vases or table centerpieces. Cut stems on a 45-degree angle underwater to help flowers last longer. In addition, choose floral themed curtains and throw pillows to add some spring decor.

• Create a water feature. The sound and sights of cascading water can be both relaxing and picturesque. A water feature can be something as simple as a small fountain or more elaborate like a koi pond.

Spring is a time of year when people can enjoy seasonal activities that make the most of the warmer weather and blooming landscape.

Practice safe boating

Boating is a recreational activity enjoyed by thousands of people. Spring and summer are prime times of year for boating, though people who live in temperate climates may be able to enjoy boating all year long.

Everyone who takes to the water, novices and experienced boaters included, should be familiar with boating safety guidelines. In fact, it is a good idea to take a boating safety course prior to boating for the first time or as a refresher if it has been a while since reviewing the rules of the water.

Boating safety goes beyond learning basic operation and navigation. Safety guidelines also involve getting a vessel safety check. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers complimentary boating examinations. They can verify the presence and condition of safety equipment required by federal and state organizations. Boaters also may be able to conduct virtual vessel exams. This means boat owners can perform a self-inspection of the boats based on digital prompts.

Along with boating inspections and water rules, some other ways to stay safe involve educating oneself of the larger dangers on the water. These generally involve risky boater behavior, such as failing to wear a life jacket or having an inadequate number of life jackets for passengers. Alcohol use while boating also can be problematic. Being under the influence can adversely affect boaters' reaction times and decision-making abilities. According to the 2018 U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics Report, alcohol continued to be the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents in 2018, accounting for 100 deaths (19 percent) of total fatalities. Curbing alcohol use while boating can help avoid accidents and deaths.

Excessive speeds also can derail nice days on the water. Excessive speed can cause accidents in crowded areas. Speeding makes it difficult to react to obstacles—including underwater wildlife—and bring the boat to a stop within a safe distance of others.

Boating season is heating up, and that means making safety a big part of operating and enjoying a vessel.

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LOCAL NEWS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



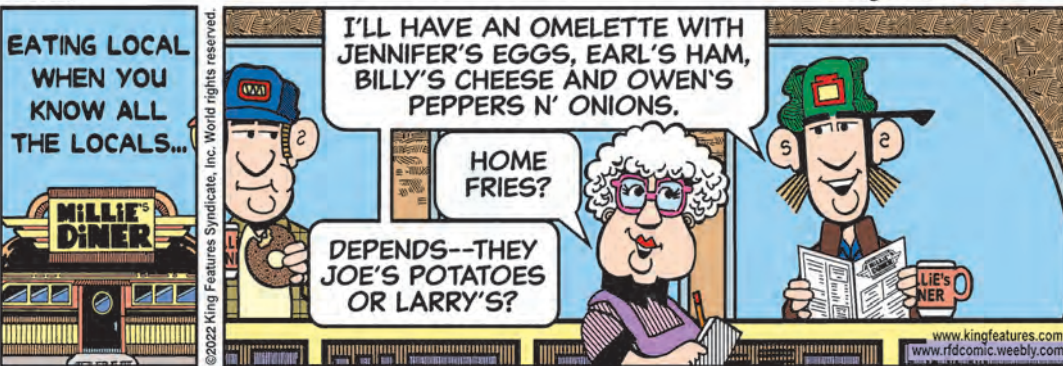
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



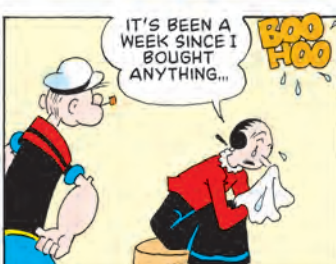
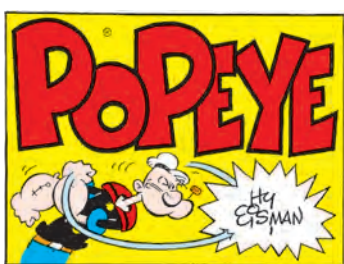
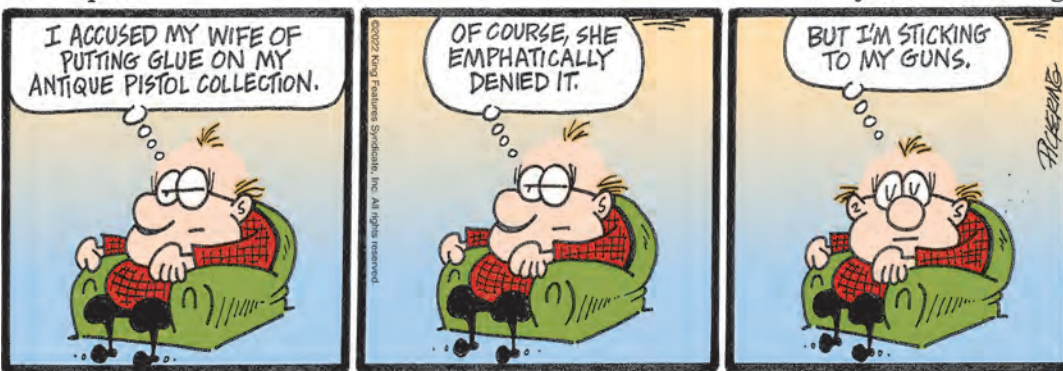
R.F.D.

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!

Common PEACH

Roller TRACES

Brawl LAWNGER

Delight TASTER

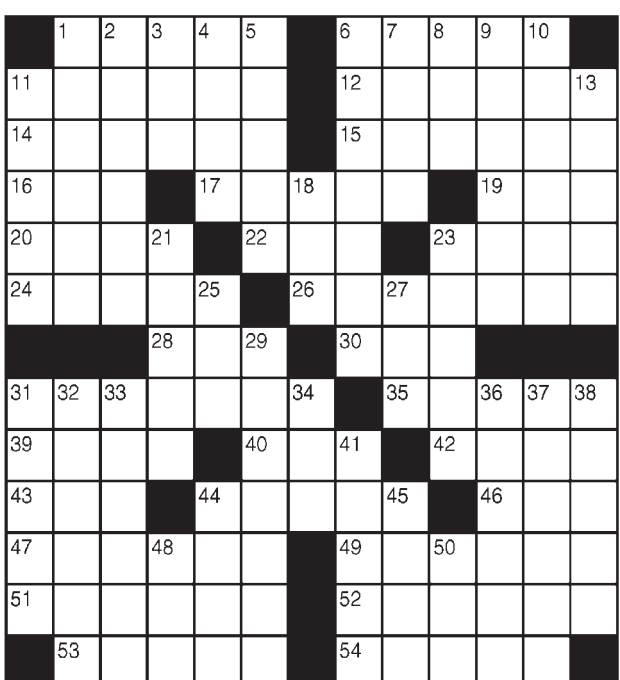
TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

March 28, 2022 Posting Date

ACROSS

- 1 Bar legally
- 6 Decorator's theme
- 11 Floodgate
- 12 Apple music service
- 14 Maidens of myth
- 15 Nap
- 16 Doctrine
- 17 Varieties
- 19 Up to
- 20 Casual tops
- 22 — Paulo
- 23 Optimum
- 24 Passover repast
- 26 Heller and Conrad
- 28 Chips go-with
- 30 Small barrel
- 31 High-ranking angels
- 35 Nintendo princess
- 39 Neural transmitter
- 40 Snitch
- 42 Eye drop
- 43 Spasm
- 44 Croc's kin
- 46 GI's address
- 47 Runs off to wed
- 49 Transforms (into)
- 51 Safe and sound

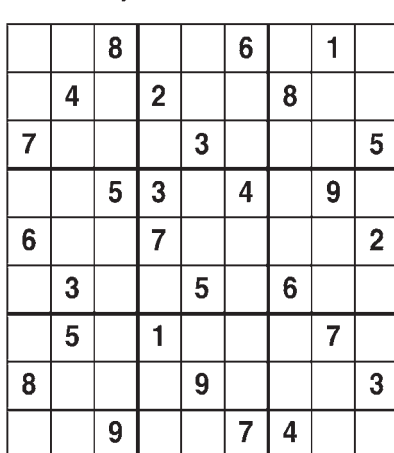


- 52 Dawn-of-mammals epoch
- 53 Ninnies
- 54 "— you!" (challenger's cry)
- 6 Identified incorrectly
- 7 Elevator name
- 8 Calendar abbr.
- 9 Foot part
- 10 Fixation
- 11 Tizzies
- 13 Mariners
- 18 British rule of India
- 21 Auto style
- 23 Sire
- 25 Shred
- 27 "— who?"
- 29 Sentence parts
- 31 Fills up
- 32 Driven out
- 33 Highly ornate
- 34 Perched
- 36 Figure skater, at times
- 37 Author du Maurier
- 38 Got up
- 41 Actress Marisa
- 44 Richard of "Chicago"
- 45 Crucifix
- 48 Young dog
- 50 HDTV brand

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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. LANGUAGE: What is a demonym?
- 2. MEDICAL: What's the common name of a condition called otitis externa?
- 3. GEOGRAPHY: Which large body of water lies to the south of Ukraine?
- 4. FOOD & DRINK: Which nut is used to make marzipan?
- 5. LITERATURE: Who is the author of the poem "The Gift Outright," which was read at President John Kennedy's inauguration in 1961?
- 6. MEASUREMENTS: What is an octant?
- 7. GEOLOGY: Which mineral is the softest on the Mohs Scale?
- 8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the name of a porcupine's baby?
- 9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the name of Barbie's younger sister, introduced in 1964?
- 10. HISTORY: In which country did the Easter Rising take place in 1916?

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Bush is missing. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Spirit is different. 5. Valentine is missing. 6. Poster is missing.

TEACHER

Today's Word

- 1. Cheap
- 2. Caster
- 3. Wrangle
- 4. Treats

SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

- 1. Cheap
- 2. Caster
- 3. Wrangle
- 4. Treats

Clue: O equals R

IHO HIVVR XJEQMX HI WVSMAI

WMO GHI EMOP MX FOVZHQN.

H'ZJ RMSJ QM QGHXP MW GHS VI

QGJ WVKK FAN.

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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: O equals R

IHO HIVVR XJEQMX HI WVSMAI

WMO GHI EMOP MX FOVZHQN.

H'ZJ RMSJ QM QGHXP MW GHS VI

QGJ WVKK FAN.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

the fall guy.

St Isaac Newton is famous for his work on gravity.

I've come to think of him as

the fall guy.

Answer

CryptoQuip



MARCH IS SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS MONTH

THE SEASON IS HERE. BE PREPARED.

As a record number of tornado outbreaks in December clearly demonstrated, severe weather can happen at any time of the year. To help people better prepare for weather emergencies, IEMA and local emergency management agencies will be promoting Severe Weather Preparedness Month throughout the month of March.

The National Weather Service and state and local emergency management officials strongly encourage people to have a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) All Hazards Weather Radio with battery backup. These radios can be programmed to receive alerts for specified counties to keep you and your family apprised of impending weather and post-event information for all types of hazards including natural (earthquakes), environmental (chemical spills) and public safety hazards (AMBER alerts). When an alert is issued for the programmed area, the device will sound a warning alarm tone followed by the essential information.

In this day and age of families constantly on the go, it is also critical for people to have multiple ways to receive notifications and updated information about severe weather warnings. FEMA offers a FREE mobile app that provides fast and reliable weather alerts from the National Weather Service (NWS). The app can be tailored to offer alerts for up to five different locations nationwide. The mobile app can also help you locate open shelters and disaster resource centers near you in the event of an emergency.

For more information about what to do before, during and after a storm, please visit www.Ready.Illinois.gov. There you will find a Severe Weather Preparedness Guide, developed by IEMA and NWS, which provides tips on how to prepare for all weather emergencies. Additional tips and information are available on the Ready Illinois Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ReadyIllinois) and Twitter page (www.twitter.com/ReadyIllinois).

Tornado Watches and Warnings

Two key alerts relate specifically to tornado conditions.

Tornado Watch - Conditions are conducive to the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area.

Tornado Warning - A tornado has actually been sighted by spotters or indicated on radar and is occurring or imminent in the warning area.

In addition, severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes, or cause damage of their own from wind gusts of 58 mph or greater and/or hail 3/4-inch in diameter or larger.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch - Conditions are conducive to the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning - A severe thunderstorm has actually been observed by spotters or indicated on radar, and is occurring or imminent in the warning area.

While tornadoes can still occur without a watch or warning being in effect, advances in the science and technology have greatly increased the ability of meteorologists to provide advance notice of them.

It is difficult to generalize the clues that portend tornadoes, and even potentially dangerous, because people looking for given conditions may be led to a false sense of security when these conditions are not present.

When a Tornado Threatens

You can improve the odds of your home surviving high winds by taking these precautions, but you won't make it tornado-proof. Nor do these measures guarantee your safety. Take these additional steps to protect yourself and your family as fully as possible:

- Decide in advance where you will take shelter (a local community shelter, perhaps, or your own underground storm cellar or in-residence "safe" room). When a tornado approaches, go there immediately. If your home has no storm cellar or in-residence "safe" room and you have no time to get to a community shelter, head to the centermost part of your basement or home —away from windows and preferably under something sturdy like a workbench or staircase. The more walls between you and the outside, the better.
- Become familiar with your community's severe weather warning system and make certain every adult and teenager in your family knows what to do when a tornado "watch" or "warning" sounds. Learn about your workplace's disaster safety plans and similar measures at your children's schools or day care centers.
- Study your community's disaster preparedness plans and create a family plan in case you are able to move to a community shelter. Identify escape routes from your home and neighborhood and designate an emergency meeting place for your family to reunite if you become separated. Also establish a contact point to communicate with concerned relatives.
- Put together an emergency kit that includes a three-day supply of drinking water and food you don't have to refrigerate or cook; first aid supplies; a portable NOAA weather radio; a wrench and other basic tools; a flashlight; work gloves; emergency cooking equipment; portable lanterns; fresh batteries for each piece of equipment; clothing; blankets; baby items; prescription medications; extra car and house keys; extra eyeglasses; credit cards and cash; important documents, including insurance policies.
- Move anything in your yard that can become flying debris inside your house or garage before a storm strikes. Do this only if authorities have announced a tornado "watch," however. If authorities have announced a tornado "warning," leave it all alone.
- Don't open your windows. You won't save the house, as once thought, and you may actually make things worse by giving wind and rain a chance to get inside.
- Don't try to ride out a tornado in a manufactured home. Even manufactured homes with tie-downs overturn in these storms because they have light frames and offer winds a large surface area to push against. In addition, their exteriors are vulnerable to high winds and wind-borne debris.

Finally, review your homeowner's insurance policy periodically with your insurance agent or company representative to make sure you have sufficient coverage to rebuild your life and home after a tornado. Report any property damage to your insurance agent or company representative immediately after a natural disaster & make temporary repairs to prevent further damage.

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