

The Amboy News

Amboy, Illinois

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\$1.00



Sublette show returns this weekend

SUBLETTE — The 40th Annual Sublette Toy and Antique Tractor Show will be held on March 19 and 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days.

The featured brand this year is International Harvester, which will be well represented featuring over 180 pieces of equipment including; tractors, trucks, wagons, and plows. Not to mention toys t-shirts and memorabilia. IH Northern Illinois Chapter President for the last 15 years Ken Wolf said that it's a labor of love but hard work getting set up.

Other models on display include Allis Chalmers, Case, Ford, John Deere, New Holland, Oliver, and a few surprises. Since 1982 the tractors have been proudly displayed outside on Sublette Main Street, and farmers and collectors are readily available to share the history and stories of the machine that first helped revolutionize farming back in 1812. If you are looking for that special toy tractor, old farm literature, crafts, or a keepsake, wander into five buildings loaded with items from vendors local-

ly as well as Kentucky, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Over the years, if the weather co-operates, the show can draw between 5,000-6,000 people. Lunch stands will be available and provided by the Sublet Indians and Maytown Comets 4-H Clubs.

The annual Fireman's Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday morning from 7 a.m. to noon at the fire station. Free Shuttle Bus service to the display buildings will be provided.

BBB annual report reveals scam risk highest with online shopping

ROCKFORD — Online shopping scams top the Better Business Bureau's list of scams that pose the most significant risk to consumers, impacting the most age groups.

Today, the Better Business Bureau released its 2021 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report, an in-depth look at how scams are perpetrated, who is being targeted, which scams have the greatest impact and how scams affect different age groups. The report also includes survey research conducted with those who reported scams to BBB Scam Tracker.

"The new findings highlight scammers' latest ploys to steal money, identity, and marketplace confidence from consumers," says Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional Office of the Better Business Bureau. "This knowledge will be the public's most effective weapon in the fight against fraud."

Among all age groups, online purchase scams were the riskiest type of scam for the second year in a row, as people continue to adjust to life in the COVID-19 pandemic. Online scams were more likely to result in a reported monetary loss than scams committed in person or via phone. Nearly three-quarters (74.9%) of the people who reported an online shopping scam lost money.

The report shows that scammers expanded their use of cryptocurrency to perpetrate fraud. Cryptocurrency scams rose to the second riskiest scam type for ages 25-64. Payment made via cryptocurrency resulted in a more than double monetary loss from 2020. The

average reported median dollar loss for cryptocurrency scams was \$1,200, much higher than the overall median dollar loss of \$169 for all scam types.

A BBB report on cryptocurrency scams is expected to be released Thursday, March 24. The report will focus on digital currencies, the tactics scammers use to take advantage of people, and what consumers can do to protect themselves. Rounding out the top 5 scams of the year ranked by overall risk are Employment, Home Improvement, and Investment scams. The Risk Report also reveals credit cards remained the highest reported payment method with a monetary loss, followed by online payment systems.

In addition to cryptocurrency, the payment methods with the highest median dollar loss were wire transfer (\$1,450), check (\$900), and prepaid card (\$700). Younger ages reported more instances of losing money via online payment system, bank account debit, and cryptocurrency. In contrast, older adults reported more instances of losing money via prepaid cards, credit card, and check.

"Impersonation" is one of the most common tactics fraudsters use to perpetrate scams. Scammers have more success with their targets by pretending to be well-known and trusted companies, government agencies or organizations. In 2021, Amazon became the most impersonated organization reported to BBB Scam Tracker, with twice the number of reports as the second-most impersonated brand, the Social Security Administration. Publishers' Clearing-

house ranks third, followed by PayPal, fourth. Facebook rose to 10th.

Among other Risk Report findings, employment scams ranked second riskiest for ages 18-24; and third riskiest for ages 25-44 and 55-64. Foreign money exchange scams were the scam type with the highest monetary loss. Investment scams rose from #10 to #5 among all ages, and for the first time, came in at #3 for ages 18-24.

Today's report uses data submitted by individuals and businesses to BBB Scam Tracker, the BBB online platform for consumers and businesses to report attempted and successful acts of fraud. The platform also enables people to search the scam reports to help determine if a scam is targeting them. BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust, the educational foundation of the Better Business Bureau, produces this report each year.

If you have spotted a scam, whether or not you fell victim, report it at BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report helps expose scammer tactics and boost consumer awareness. Visit BBB.org or follow us @ChicagoBBB on social media.

About BBB:

BBB of Chicago and Northern Illinois is a nonprofit organization that has served both consumers and trustworthy businesses for over 95 years and is a part of the IABBB. They help protect consumers from scams and provide a free database for consumers to see business ratings and reviews to find businesses they can trust. They connect consumers with businesses they can trust.

Madigan, McClain plead not guilty to racketeering charges

BY PETER HANCOCK
Capitol News Illinois
phancock@capitolnews-illinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — Former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan and former lobbyist Michael McClain on Wednesday pleaded not guilty in federal court to charges of racketeering, bribery, fraud and extortion.

Both were arraigned on those charges during a teleconference hearing before U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Cole, a hearing that was prolonged several minutes because McClain had difficulty dialing into the teleconference.

The two men were charged March 2 in a 22-count indictment that grew out of a sprawling federal investigation into public corruption that focused largely on Chicago-area Democratic officials.

Madigan, 79, served for half a century in the Illinois House, from 1971 until February 2021 when he resigned his seat after failing to secure his 19th term as speaker. He was first elected speaker in 1983 and held that post for all but two years until January 2021, making him the longest serving leader of any legislative chamber in U.S. history.

Known to many in the Statehouse as the "Velvet Hammer" for his tight control of the House, Madigan's grip on power eroded quickly after he was named as "Public Official A" in a deferred prosecution agreement with utility giant Commonwealth Edison in July 2020.

In that agreement, ComEd admitted to a yearslong practice of awarding jobs and contracts to Madigan's close associates in exchange for his support for bills that benefi-



Former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan.
(Capitol News Illinois file photo)

ted the company financially.

McClain, 74, is a former lawmaker who served in the House with Madigan for 10 years beginning in 1972 until he began work as a lobbyist for ComEd.

The indictment alleges that for a period of nearly 10 years, Madigan used his positions in the House and within the Democratic Party of Illinois to operate what prosecutors called "the



Bids being accepted to Name a Street

AMBOY — A tradition started in 1997 to honor a loved ones memory by naming a street for one year after that person is being done again this year. The A.C.O. is taking sealed bids to name the street north of the business district until Friday, April 15.

The sign will be hung on May 1 and remain there for one year. The sign will then be given to the successful bidder. Currently the street is named after Mackenzies Way.

Previous honorees were Cliff and Pat Weller, Allen "Zip" Sensenig, Avery Lovgren, Jake Metzen, Gary Hart, Howard and Ruth Shaw, Douglas Blaine, Louis Grasser, Doug Antoine, Dave Yentzer, James "Mort" Hinkle, James Mead, Bob Smith, Lisa Nauman, Dave Payne, Dale Etheridge, Elmer "Rocky" Sensenig, Arnie Stahr, Bob Machen and Jeff "Bodine" Bonnell.

The money raised will be given to the Pankhurst Memorial Library. The minimum bid is \$200 and will be accepted at the Amboy City Hall.

Pratt recognized as district FFA proficiency winner

AMBOY — Ethan Pratt was selected as the District 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 SAE. 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 was selected as the District 1 Winner by a committee of agriculture industry representatives and teachers knowledgeable in this work-based area. Pratt is the son of Andy and Katie Pratt from Dixon.

Receiving this honor now makes Pratt eligible to compete in the State FFA Awards Selection process in Decatur, on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Pratt was previously chosen as the Chapter and Section awardee in this area.

Pratt has been involved in the following other agriculture education and FFA activities: FFA Plot Manager, chapter treasurer, and various community service projects. Mr. Joseph Heavner is the agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor at Amboy High School.

Pratt will receive plaques for his accomplishments. These plaques are made possible by gifts by individuals, businesses, corporations and organizations through the Illinois Foundation FFA.



CLIPPER HIGHLIGHTS

This week's column features #3 TC Olsen

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Obituaries

Kenneth J. Robbins
Marlys R. Beetz

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LOCAL NEWS

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He is also charged with conspiracy to violate several federal statutes, five counts of federal program bribery, nine counts of using interstate facilities to aid in bribery and extortion, five counts of engaging in schemes to commit fraud and one count of attempted extortion.

Those charges carry maximum penalties ranging from five years to 20 years each, as well as \$250,000 fines.

McClain is charged with conspiracy to engage in racketeering, one count of federal program bribery, one count of using interstate facilities to aid in bribery and extortion, and two counts of engaging in schemes to commit fraud.

In response to the indictment, Madigan issued a statement denying any criminal activity.

"The government is trying to criminalize a routine constituent service: job recommendations," he said. "That is not illegal and these other charges are equally unfounded."

McClain also issued a statement through his attorney saying the charges against him

were based on the same acts that were included in an earlier indictment filed in November 2020.

"For years, the government has been trying to force Mike McClain to cooperate in its quest against former Speaker Mike Madigan," the statement read. "These latest charges are nothing more than the government's continued attempt to pressure Mike McClain to do the government's bidding."

McClain will "never testify falsely about himself or anyone," regardless of the charges, according to the statement.

"Mike McClain was innocent of the charges when they were first filed in November of 2020. He remains innocent of the recycled and new charges in this latest Indictment," the statement read.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.



The United Methodist Women's Circle is busily preparing for the Community United Methodist Church Drive-Thru Turkey Supper to be held Thursday, March 24 in LaMoille. (Photo contributed)

LaMoille church to host drive-thru turkey supper March 24

LAMOILLE – Community United Methodist Church in LaMoille will hold its annual Drive-Thru Turkey Supper from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 24 at the church, which is located at 73 N. Main St. The cost is \$12 per person. The menu

includes turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, two salads and choice of pie.

There will be no pre-supper ticket sales and no call-in orders. Those wishing to enjoy the dinner should just drive up and someone will bring it out to you.

Applications available for veterinary student loans

BLOOMINGTON – Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) is accepting applications for its Illinois Veterinary Education and Training (IVET) loan program. Loans are available to second-year veterinary students attending any accredited college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and who are focusing on Illinois food animal medicine.

The Illinois Veterinary Education Training (IVET) Program helps offset the high cost of veterinary education. The program loans up to \$40,000 to as many as three veterinary students each year. Loans are made over a period of two to three years. IVET awards recipients a \$1,500 stipend during their fourth year in school to help pay expenses associated with clinical rotations. Loans are repaid over five years, during which graduates must commit to working in a food animal practice that services

Illinois livestock producers.

"Illinois Farm Bureau encourages veterinary students to pursue a career in caring for food animals," said Tasha Bunting, IFB associate director of commodity and livestock programs. "To succeed, farmers need the services of a food-animal veterinarian to help them care for their beef cattle, swine, sheep and poultry. It's an incredibly rewarding career field that has seen an increase in demand in recent years."

Applications are due May 15, 2022 and can be found online at www.ilfb.org/IVET. The selection committee will interview eligible applicants in spring 2022. Successful applicants will be notified by mail. Loan disbursements begin in August.

IFB established IVET in 2005. Since then, the organization has awarded more than \$550,000 to 27 veterinary students who focus on caring

for food animals in Illinois.

For more information about the program, contact Tasha Bunting at 309-557-2993 or tbunting@ilfb.org.

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization directed by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB has a total membership of more than 372,326 and a voting membership of 77,462. IFB represents three out of four Illinois farmers.

White extends dates

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that expiration dates for driver's licenses, ID cards and learner's permits are being extended until July 31, 2022. The previous extension was set to end on March 31, 2022. As a result, expired driver's licenses, ID cards and learner's permits will remain valid until July 31, 2022, so customers do not need to rush into Driver Services facilities, especially during inclement weather. This extension does not apply to commercial driver's licenses (CDL) and CDL learner's permits.

White's office has expanded online renewals for expired driver's licenses and ID cards and continues to mail letters to eligible customers. The letter provides driver's license and ID card holders with a unique PIN needed to renew online instead of visiting a facility and waiting in line. Customers may call 217-785-1424 to confirm their eligibility for online renewal or to obtain their PIN.

Customers who must visit a facility include first-time driver's license or ID card applicants, first-time REAL ID applicants and drivers ages 75 and older who are required by state law to visit a facility when renewing their license.

White continues to encourage people to conduct other business online at ilsos.gov.

White noted his office is also extending the expiration dates of Restricted Driving Permits (RDPs) to July 31, 2022 for those that expired on or after December 1, 2021 through July 30, 2022.

As a reminder, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended the federal REAL ID deadline to May 3, 2023.

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*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 rehabilitating 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.

Collision? Hail? Critters?

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Prairie Repose Cemetery

Spring cleaning begins March 17. Remove fall & winter decorations by April 1. No decorations or plantings allowed that interferes with maintenance. No pets, please. No glass, stones or marbles. Also, we are looking for people who are interested in family history, genealogy and helping to maintain the cemetery.

If interested, call Don Wedekind at 815-857-3861.

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

This Friday, March 18, from 7 – 9 p.m. at Teen Turf for fifth graders to eighth graders, we will be having our first dance in two years. Cost is \$5 at the door. However, parents, guardians, and grandparents, if you chaperone, the child is able to attend the dance for free. If this is something you are interested, please call us at Teen Turf at 815-857-4800 or message us on Facebook.

There will be music, food to purchase, fun games to play, and the ability to just hang out with friends. You must have an emergency contact sheet on file—we have those on file for those that attend homework or summer program.

However, if there isn't one, you can pick one up in the 24/7 hallway on bulletin board. Or you can stop in and get one.

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.

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 through 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: Hetta Grasser for Thrivent monetary donation; Jim and Jean Travi for their monetary donation; Richard and Kathryn Dietzen for their monetary donation; Jensen Lews and Joseph Stewart for the drinks; Denise and Doug Barnes for monetary donation for fish fry tickets for seniors; Susie for the items; Andrew and Rachel Tarr for monetary donation for fish fry tickets for seniors; Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 200 Lee County Sheriff's Department; and all of our helpful volunteers: Candy, Sandy, Donna, Chris, Ashley, Emily and Mary. Special shoutout to Larry Piper for doing cans and those that donate!

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

Dear Father God, we come before You today to humbly ask for Your help and intervention in our lives. We are faced with many difficult trials and do not feel strong enough to manage them on our own.

We pray that You will give us the strength both physically and mentally to face these challenges with a joyful heart and hope for a better future. Please help us keep moving forward and help us have faith in Your plan for our lives.

We pray that You will comfort us as we face these difficulties. We offer this prayer in Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

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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**.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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, March 16, this devotion will be held at the St. Patrick Church, Maytown.

AMBOY-The Amboy CUSD #272 Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 17, at Central School Gym.

DIXON-The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive from 1 – 6 p.m., on Friday, March 18, at the Dixon Hope Bible Fellowship, 732 Brinton Ave., Dixon. Appointments are preferred; walk-ins welcome upon availability. For appoint-

ments, please call 815-288-9622 or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

DIXON-Join the Master Gardeners of Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties for Ready, Set, Grow from 8:30 a.m. – noon, on Saturday, March 19, at the Loveland Community Building, in Dixon. This one-day event offering participants information about horticulture, backyard gardening, pest control and more. To register: go.illinois.edu/ReadySetGrow

DIXON - Carroll-Lee-Whiteside 4-H Public Speaking Contest will be held beginning at 10 a.m., on Saturday, March 19, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Dixon. 4-H members will have the opportunity to present their presentation in person. To register for this event go to: go.illinois.edu/publicpresentations

SUBLETTE-The 40th Annual Sublette Antique Tractor and Toy Show will be held on Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20, in Sublette.

AMBOY-The City of Amboy Council will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 21,

at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

AMBOY-The Amboy American Legion will meet Monday, March 21, at 6 p.m., at the Old NAPA Building, 399 N Metcalf, Amboy.

SUBLETTE-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 23, this devotion will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, in Sublette.

AMBOY-On Friday, March 25, the Amboy Lions Club scholarship applications are due to the AHS counselor by 3:30 p.m. The Club will be giving up to \$1,000 per person and not to exceed \$3,000 based on the number of applicants.

LEE CENTER-The Lee Center Congregational Church and the Amboy Lions Club will be holding a chili/soup luncheon on Sunday, March 27 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Amboy Community Center with the

net proceeds being divided between the church and the club.

AMBOY-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd., on Monday, March 28. Anyone interested in joining or wants more information on the Lions Club is invited to attend.

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.

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.

Educational Briefs

AREA STUDENT RANKS AMONG TOP 2 PERCENT AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

AMES, Iowa – The following area students are ranked among the top 2 percent of students in their college at Iowa State University.

Dixon

Nicholas Engle, junior, Ivy College of Business

Steward

Kayla McCormick, senior, Ivy College of Business

Sublette

Ashley Althaus, junior, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

LOCAL STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM UW-MADISON

MADISON, Wis. - Just over 1,800 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison during a commencement ceremony at the Kohl Center on Dec. 19, 2021.

The ceremony for doctoral, bachelor's, master's and professional graduate marked a sweet return to an in-person

celebration at the Kohl Center following a one year pause and a virtual winter commencement in December of 2020 due to COVID-19.

About 1,240 of them took part in the ceremony at the Kohl Center. Total attendance, including graduates, was 5,954. The ceremony was livestreamed so that friends and family from around the world could join in.

Here are the degree recipients from your area:

Amboy

Madeline Ely, School of Education, Master of Science-Occupational Therapy, Occupational Therapy

Email calendar items to tgreenfield@amboynews.com



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123 S. Mason St., Amboy \$98,900

This listing offers a lovely 3 bedroom home with a large screened in front porch. The spacious living and dining room will certainly offer plenty of space for hosting holiday dinners! The attic could be turned into a 4th bedroom with a little work. The fenced in back yard is private and a perfect spot to enjoy a campfire and some s'mores. So much character to this lovely one of a kind home. Call for a showing today.

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Bonita Willis, Designated Managing Broker

Justin Wiley,
Realtor/Broker
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AMBOY TOWNSHIP NOTICE

By Resolution of
Amboy Township Board
VEHICLES RESTRICTED TO THE
FOLLOWING GROSS WEIGHTS:
Beginning Feb. 28, 2022

2 AXLES	
SINGLE REAR TIRE	8000 LBS.
2 AXLE	
DUAL REAR TIRES	18000 LBS.
2 AXLE FARM WAGONS	
AND FERTILIZER BUGGIES	9000 LBS.
3 OR MORE AXLES	
DUAL REAR TIRES	33000 LBS.
MAXIMUM FOR HIGH FLOTATION APPLICATORS	9000 LBS.
AXLE W/ TWO TIRES	18000 LBS.

NOTE: In no case shall GVW exceed 33,000 lb.

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Established In 1854

The Amboy News

Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854

Tonja Greenfield, Publisher
Bonnie Morris, Editor

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

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Marlys R. Beetz

Oct. 9, 1947 - March 7, 2022

AMBOY — Marlys R. Beetz, 74, of Amboy, passed away Monday, March 7, 2022 at KSB Hospital, Dixon, surrounded by family due to complications from pneumonia.

Funeral services were held Friday, March 11, at 11 a.m. at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota, with Rev. John Kalebaugh officiating. Burial will be at Evergreen Cemetery, Sublette. Visitation was held Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Marlys was born Oct. 9, 1947 in Amboy to Walter and Apalda (Pierce) Erbes. She married James Beetz on May 6, 1967 in Mendota.

Those left to honor her memory are her husband, James Beetz of Amboy; their four children, Tina (Rick)

Eastabrooks of Morrison, Laura (Eric) Pearson of Milan, Chad Beetz (fiancé Christy Kresal) of Elgin and Justin Beetz of Amboy; grandchildren Tawny (Shelby) Miller of Como, Gatlin (Mikeila) Eastabrooks of Dixon, Connor Pearson and Sommer Pearson of Milan, Dristin Beetz of Dixon and Brooke Beetz of Springdale, Ark., and one great-grandchild, Lily Beetz of Springdale, Ark., siblings Denis (Ella) Erbes, Ed Erbes and Arlette (Dan) Senn and brother-in-law, Bill (Chris) Beetz of Sarasota, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Jolene Lindenmeyer and brother-in-law Robert Lindenmeyer, nephew Matthew Beetz and mother-in-law Lois Beetz.



Marlys enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and family, and loved going on fishing and camping vacations.

Memorials may be directed to the family. Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Kenneth J. Robbins

Sept. 19, 1930 - March 10, 2022

STERLING — Kenneth J. Robbins, 91 of Sterling, died on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at Morningside of Sterling.

He was born on Sept. 19, 1930, in Amboy, and was the son of Chauncey and Vida (Boehle) Robbins. Ken was a farmer and rural mail carrier for over 20 years. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, a member of the Amboy American Legion and Amboy Lions Club. Ken married Bernadine Worrell on Aug. 28, 1954 at St. Patrick Church in Dixon.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Bernie, on Oct. 5, 2009. Ken is also preceded in death by his infant son Jeffrey Kenneth Robbins, son-in-law Rick Slater, brother Dale Robbins, and sister Lois Anderson.

He is survived by his two daughters, Marnie Slater, of Sterling, Lynette (Bob) Mackay, of Evergreen, Colo.; five granddaughters, Malia Nielsen, Marissa Slater, Mackenzie Mackay, Cassidy Mackay, Peyton Mackay; and one great-granddaughter, Laetyn Nielsen. Ken is also survived by his sister, Yvonne Reynolds, of



Gladstone, Mo., brothers, Dean (Alice) Robbins, of Galt, and Roger (Michele) Robbins, of Dixon.

Ken loved to tell stories and laugh. One of his favorite stories was that his entire Army career was spent in Hawaii where his orders had him appearing as an MP (his real Army job) in the movie, From Here to Eternity—or starring in it with Frank Sinatra, as he often told it. Even in the last few days, he made us laugh. He had dental surgery scheduled, and he told us with a grin that said he was really getting away with something that he didn't have to do that anymore. He was right.

Funeral services were held on Monday, March 14, 2022 beginning with a 10:30



a.m. prayer service at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy followed with a 11 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy. Burial with military honors will follow at St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy. Visitation was held on Sunday, March 13, 2022 from 2 to 5 p.m., at Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy with a saying of the Rosary to be held at 1:30 p.m. before the visitation.

Memorial donations can be made to the Amboy Library, Depot Museum, and Teen Turf.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Online condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.

Antique show returns to Oregon

OREGON — The fourth weekend in March is the much-anticipated return of the Oregon Antiques Show, Sponsored by the Oregon Woman's Club.

This year the event is on March 26 and 27. Hours will be 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. The show is located at the Blackhawk Center, 1101 West Jefferson St., one block south of Rt 64 (Washington Street), Oregon. Watch for directional signage.

The show will feature quality antiques from the early 1800's through the retro era of the 1950's includes all areas of collecting — furniture, glass, china, pottery, toys, primitives, textiles, jewelry, dolls, silver, decorator items and more.

You will be amazed at the selection available. There will be items for all collecting tastes and budgets, for both the new and advanced collector.

The Oregon Woman's Club, a member of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs, sponsors this show as a major fundraising event and uses the proceeds to help fund

various community projects and charities. As in past years, the show will be held at the Blackhawk Center Sports Arena, located on the Oregon public school campus.

The facility offers ample parking, handicap accessibility and a huge area for our more than 40 Midwest antique dealers to display their merchandise for sale.

The food concession will be provided by the Chana United Methodist Ladies. The menu will include 'Homemade Chicken & Noodles', plus a selection of sandwiches, chips, beverages, and delicious desserts.

On Sunday, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Hacks Auction will offer verbal appraisals of your small treasures for \$5 per item. Please supply photos of large items. If a written appraisal is needed, discuss details with the agents.

Entry to the show is \$6 per person, which is good for the weekend. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day, both days of the show.

For additional information visit www.oregonil.com.

Phidan Art Club seeks entries for annual art show

DIXON — The Phidian Art Club of Dixon, has announced a call for artists to register for their annual Phidian Art Show. After a two-year absence, the Phidian Art Club has made a big change with the venue moving from the Loveland Community House & Museum to The Next Picture Show art gallery at 113 W. First St., in Dixon.

The exhibit of original artwork is on display on the gallery walls from April 1-22. Due to remaining COVID concerns, the Phidian Art Club is forgoing the in-person awards presentation this year. All awards will be announced on April 1.

The show is open to the public during regular gallery hours, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local artists will vie for over \$3,500 in cash awards. The public has the opportunity to choose a "People's Choice Award" by voting for their favorite entry from April 1-14, after which the People's Choice award will be announced.

"The Phidian Art Show is eagerly anticipated by both artists and patrons," remarks Gloria Nusbaum, this year's committee chair. "Artists can pick up an entry form at The Next Picture Show art gallery or download the form located on the "Art Applications"


page on The Next Picture Show's website."

Artists must live within 35 miles of Dixon and be 17 years of age or older. Only two-dimensional paintings or drawings, in any medium, will be accepted. Artwork must be original, not produced under the direction of an instructor, no more than five years old, and never have been entered in a previous Phidian Show. Photography, crafts, sculptures, digital art, or three-dimensional work is not eligible for this show. All work must be ready for hanging by wire, no larger than 48" in width, or exceeding 25 pounds.

Artwork will be received at The Next Picture Show, Saturday-Monday, March 26-28, from 2-6 p.m. each day. The entry fee is \$15 for one artwork and \$25 for two artworks with a two artwork limit. Artwork is on display at The Next Picture Show through April 22. Entry forms are available in-person at The Next Picture Show at 113 W. First St., Dixon, or by download on the gallery's website.

The entry fee is \$15 for one artwork and \$25 for two artworks. There is a two-artwork limit.

For more information, guidelines, and entry forms, please contact Gloria Nusbaum at 815-631 3560, or email her at gloria.nusbaum@gmail.com.



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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>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>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 additions program from 7-9 p.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>St. Mary Church Fr. John Gow 912 Walton Rd., Walton 815-857-2670 Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm</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>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>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>St. Flannen Church Fr. John Gow 213 S Second St., Harmon 815-857-2670 Mass: Sunday, 9 am</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>St. Mary's Church Rev. Randy Fronek West Brooklyn Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday - 5:30 p.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>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>St. Patrick Church Rev. Randy Fronek - Maytown Mass - Fri. 8 a.m., Sun. 8 a.m.</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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SOCIAL NEWS

Local nature
and historyBy Jim "Mazie"
Long

Paradise on the Prairie

The early settlers of Lee County, having discovered a wealth of plants and animals near Amboy, declared themselves to have found "paradise" on the prairie.

Amboy's first settlers called this area Palestine Grove. The area along Green Wing Road was called East Palestine. Sublette road was then called South Palestine. Anything west of Rocky Ford was simply West Palestine. Green river was called Inlet Creek.

The original Wasson Road is Amboy's main street today. It was one of the origi-

Jim "Mazie"
Long

nal roads and still has many turns and twists from Binghamton to Rocky Ford. Division Street is a true East and West line, but Main Street is on a diagonal. The road was here before many of the roads were moved to section lines, long before the

Sterling Road, part of which is called Wasson Road today. The original town in our

area was Inlet Grove, where a stage stop was established between Galena and Chicago. Most of the original inhabitants were "sooners" or squatters who came here before the land was surveyed. The government did not object to squatters; they wanted the land to be occupied as soon as possible. The first lodgings were crude buildings made from logs or sod. These would suffice until your land was surveyed and you had legal claim to the land before you would build a suitable home.

It appears that most of the first settlers came from New York state, from an area that was originally all wooded. It was their belief that prairies grew only grasses and forbs that were not fertile – believing only woodlands were fertile. They all looked for a section of land that was mostly wooded, with only enough prairie for pasture. No one wanted to live on the prairie. They believed that the air of the open prairie was unhealthy. This belief was fostered mainly by the fact that malaria was a common malady of the pioneers. If it hadn't been for the availability of quinine, still a defense against malaria, many descendants of our pioneers would not be here today.

It is hard for us to appreciate the extreme effort made by Amboy's first settlers, so that we could live in comparative comfort. Every town should have a memorial to its pioneers.

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

Related Resources:

Recollections of the Pioneers of Lee County, Library of Congress / Lee County Columbian Club

<https://archive.org/details/recollectionsofp00lee/mode/2up>

History of Lee County, Illinois

<https://www.ahgp.org/ill/history-lee-county-illinois.html>

https://archive.org/stream/historyoflee-count_01stev/historyoflee-count_01stev_djvu.txt

Lee County Genealogy and History

<http://genealogytrails.com/ill/lee/index.html>



Rita Glenn

Glenn to mark 90th
birthday March 23

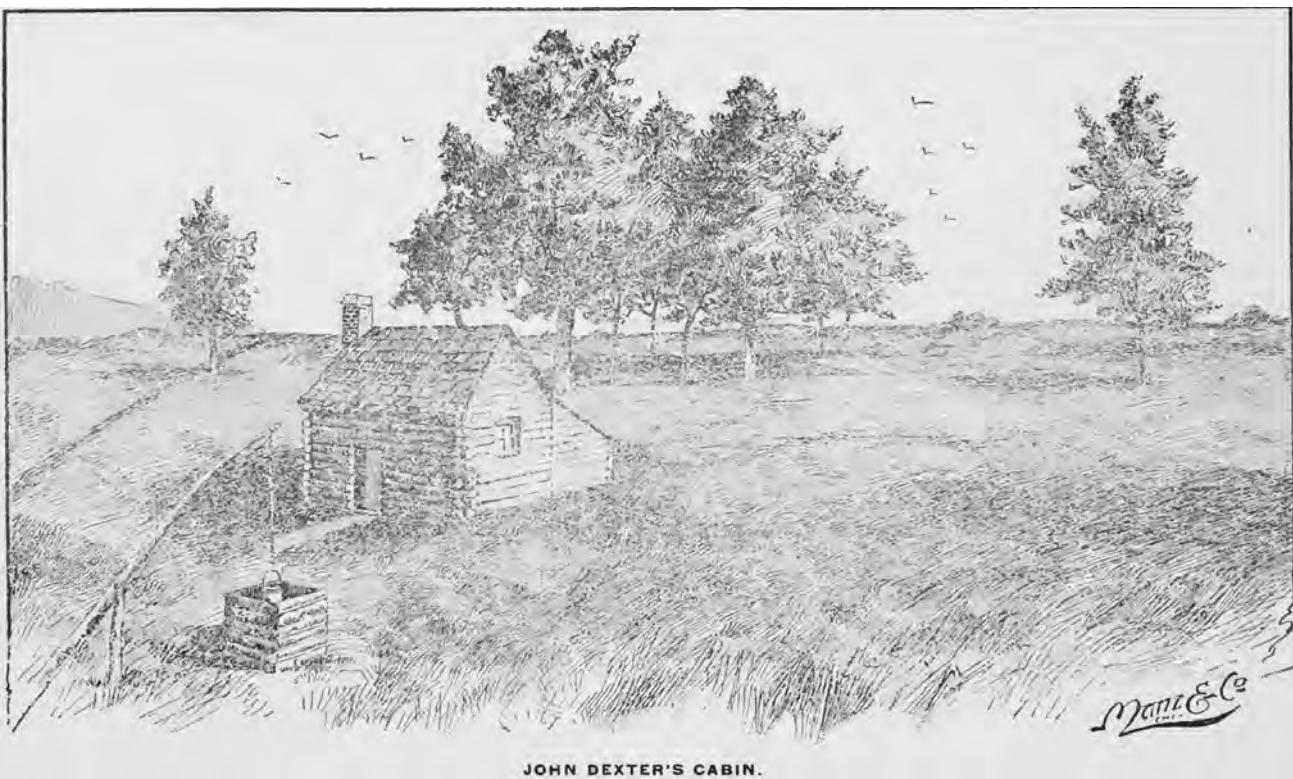
AMBOY — Rita Glenn of Amboy will celebrate 90 blessed years on March 23, 2022. She was one of 13 children born to the late William and Aileen Morrissey.

Rita was married to Alvin Glenn for 24 years before he passed in 1999.

Rita retired from teaching youth within the Amboy and surrounding communities. She also had an in home preschool/daycare program for many years.

She is a member of St. Patrick parish of Amboy where she was a Religious Education Director for many years.

Birthday greetings may be sent to 16 N. Mason. Ave., Apt. 1, Amboy, IL 61310.



John Dexter Cabin

Among the first settlers in our area, the John Dexter family in 1835 erected a twelve-foot square cabin located along the Green River, just east of today's Binghamton. Source: Lee County Columbian Club, 1893; Library of Congress.

The Book Nook

By:

Tatjana Kazan

The Dreamer

David Winkler, the protagonist of Anthony Doerr's first novel "About Grace," is an ordinary guy, in fact, "if there was anything to notice about him, it was his big eyeglasses. Thick coke bottle lenses in plastic frames. Behind them, his eyes appeared unsubstantial and slightly warped, as if he peered not through a half centimeter of curved glass but through ice." Yet he has an extraordinary gift that will become his unraveling. He has premonitory dreams of disasters, "the vertigo of the future aligning with the present."

Winkler, a hydrologist, lives in Anchorage where his job is measuring groundwater. But his love, indeed his obsession, is with the formation of snow crystals. We learn that snowflakes vibrate like crazy as they freeze, and he thinks those vibrations give them their individual shape. He eagerly tells Sandy, his future wife, "that on the outside the crystal looks stable but on the inside it's like an earthquake all the time."

When he was boy, Winkler witnessed a bus hitting a man and killing him. He realized that he had dreamed every detail of the accident. His mother believed him, but no one else ever did. Prophets, as we know from the Bible, are not the most popular members of the community. They can quickly become pariahs. The dream – Winkler called them dreams, not auguries or premonitions – that undid him was

of a flood in which he had to save his two-year-old daughter Grace. Doerr's description of the disaster is masterful. (All his descriptions are moving, lyrical, and closely observed.) In the dream Winkler failed to save Grace. Thus when the storm came he fled to escape fate. He returned twenty-five years later.

Winkler lands on the island of St. Vincent in the Caribbean. He is befriended by Felix, a Chilean cook and his wife, Soma, both exiles from Chile's violent coup d'etat and subsequent repression. Winkler lives in a dilapidated shed, works odd jobs, and writes daily to Sandy. It is Naaliyah, Felix and Soma's little girl, who befriends him and sustains him with her insatiable curiosity about insects. She studies entomology at university and hopes to go to graduate school in the United States. When Winkler dreams her violent death by drowning and no one believes him, he stalks her until the fateful night. He rescues her and emerges a hero. A proxy redemption, and soon after a ticket home.

After learning that Sandy had died, Winkler undertakes a rather harrowing and futile odyssey in search of his daughter Grace. He ends up in the Yukon where Naaliyah is studying insects in a remote, drafty lodge during a long winter of twenty below temperatures and six feet of snow. Doerr's description of the landscape in winter is magnificent, and by far my favorite part of the book.

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Thursday – A.) Turkey burger wgr wheat bun, sweet potato fries, broccoli and apple crisp. B.) Tuna salad/chicken rice.

Friday – Egg muffin sandwich wgr English muffin, hash browns, spiced peaches.

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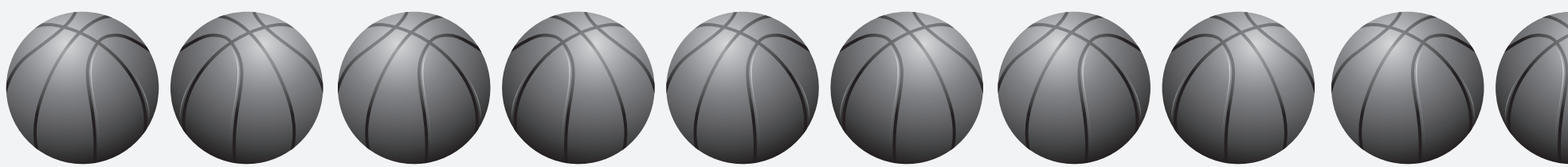
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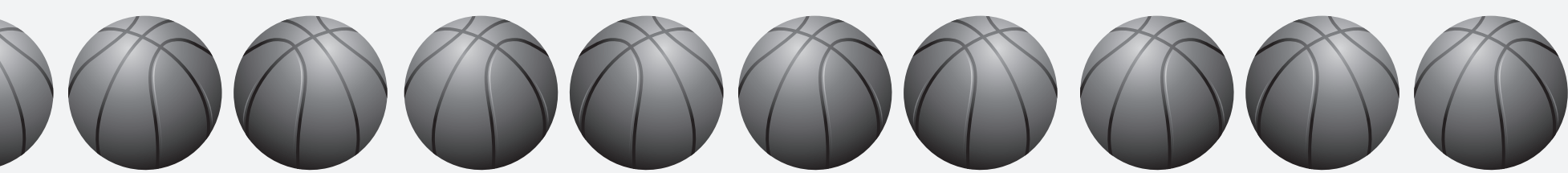
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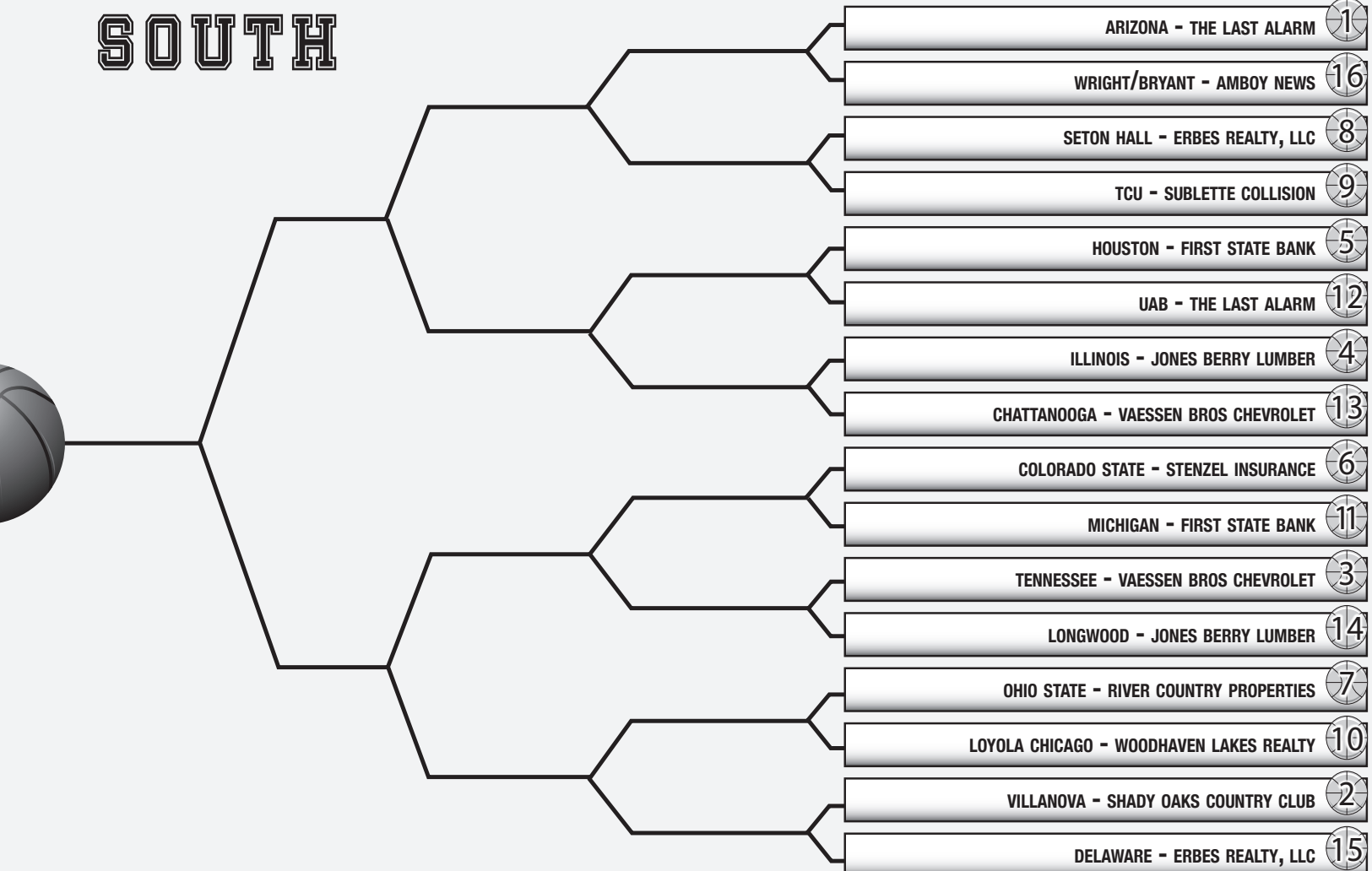
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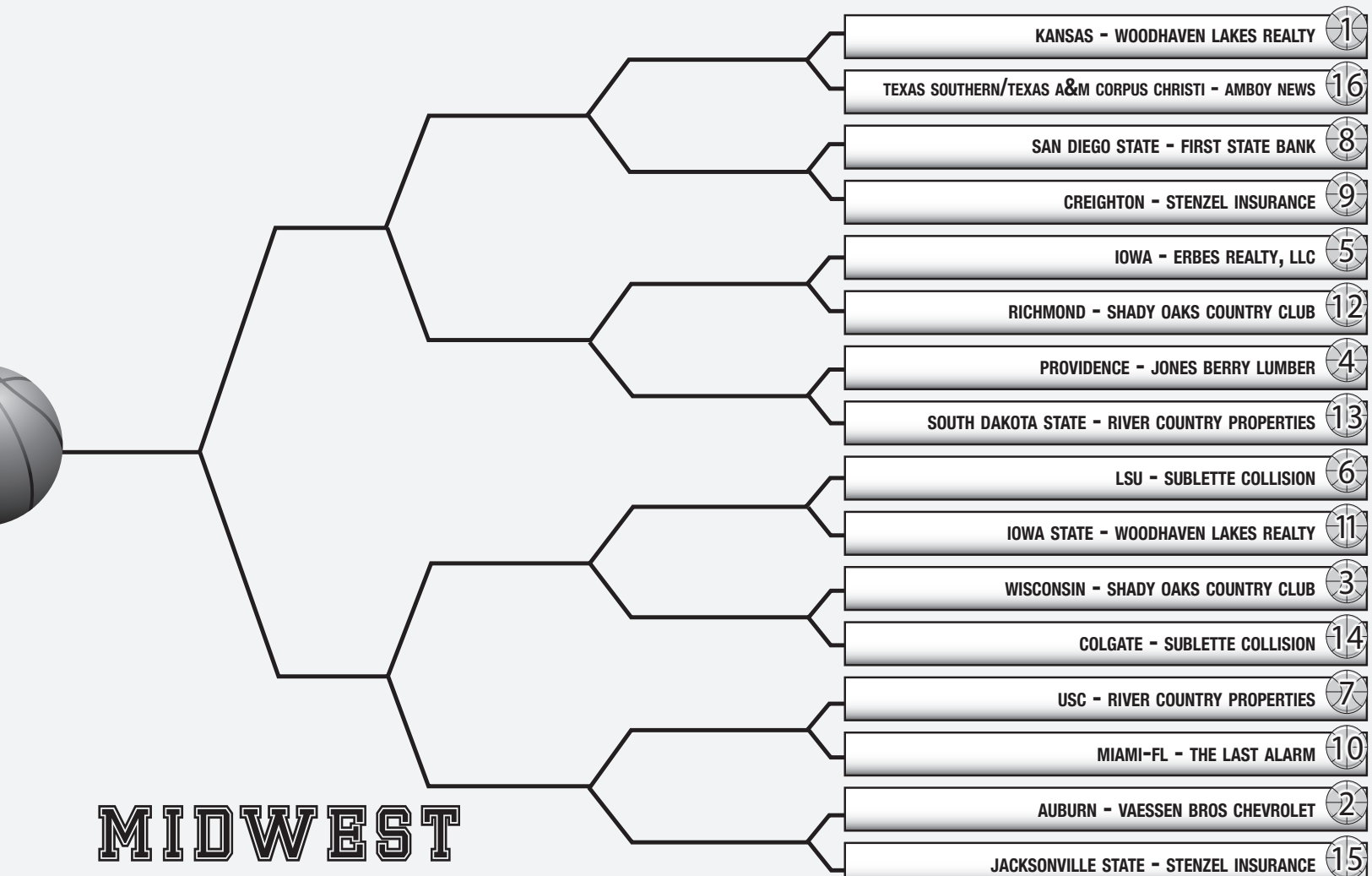
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SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

AHS F-S Baseball

March 16 – at Morrison – 4:30
 March 17 – at Bureau Valley – 4:30
 March 19 – at Pearl City – noon
 March 22 – Pecatonica – 4:30
 March 24 – St. Bede – 4:30
 March 26 – Fulton – 3:30
 March 31 – Indian Creek – 4:30
 April 2 – at Freeport Aquin – 1:30
 April 9 – River Ridge – 1
 April 12 – at Ashton-Franklin Center – 4:30
 April 14 – Ashton-Franklin Center – 4:30
 April 16 – at Newark – noon
 April 19 – Forreston – 4:30
 April 21 – at Forreston – 4:30
 April 23 – Lena-Winslow – 1
 May 7 – Marquette – noon
 May 9 – at Oregon – 4:30
 May 11 – Newman – 4:30

AHS Girls' Track

March 21 – Clinton, Ill. Indoor at IWU – 4
 March 25 – F-S Indoor Invite @ Westwood – 4:30
 March 30 – at Newman Indoor – 4:30
 April 5 – at Forreston – 4
 April 9 – at Mendota Invite – 10
 April 12 – at Bureau Valley – 4
 April 14 – Home Meet vs. TBA – 4
 April 16 – at Hall Invite – 10
 April 19 – at Fulton – 4:15
 April 22 – at Rock Falls Invite – 4
 April 25 – at Bureau Valley – 4:30
 April 28 – at Pecatonica Invite – 4
 May 5 – NUIC Varsity @ TBA – TBA
 May 11, 12 or 13 – Sectional
 May 16 – NUIC F-S @ Milledgeville – TBA

AHS Boys' Track

March 19 – at Byron Indoor – 1
 March 25 – F-S Indoor Invite @ Westwood – 4:30
 March 29 – at Newman Indoor – 4:30
 April 5 – Mendota, Kewanee – 4
 April 9 – at Mendota Invite – 10
 April 12 – at Fulton – 4:15
 April 14 – Home Meet vs. TBA – 4
 April 16 – at Hall Invite – 10
 April 18 – at Forreston – 4
 April 22 – at Rock Falls Invite – 4
 April 25 – at Bureau Valley – 4:30
 April 29 – at Oregon Invite – 4
 May 3 – at Pecatonica Invite – 4
 May 12 – NUIC Varsity @ Lena-Winslow – TBA
 May 16 – NUIC F-S @ Milledgeville – TBA
 May 18, 19 or 20 – Sectional

Kishwaukee College keeps tuition rates flat for second straight year

MALTA — The Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees voted unanimously to maintain the College's current tuition rate of \$147 per credit hour for the 2022-2023 academic year.

"One of the goals of the Board is to keep tuition as affordable as possible," said Bob Johnson, Chair of the Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees. "The College has worked

hard over the course of the pandemic to keep costs down while increasing the programs and services offered to support the changing needs of students and our communities."

Relief money from both the federal and state governments has allowed the College to provide financial and other student support services to help learners continue to attend college during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Holding the tuition rate steady for the last two years is one of several initiatives by the College to maintain affordability. Additional student support services include direct cash payments and free textbooks, childcare and transportation.

"Kish continues to focus on the needs of our students and offer a quality, affordable education. We are fortunate to have additional

resources to continue to support our students, including keeping our tuition the same since the beginning of the pandemic," said Dr. Laurie Borowicz, President of Kishwaukee College.

For more information on College programs, scholarships and support services, please visit kish.edu.

SVCC earns 2022-2023 Military Friendly® School designation

DIXON — Sauk Valley Community College announced that it has earned the 2022-2023 Military Friendly® School designation.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2022-2023 survey with 665 earning special awards for going above the standard.

The 2022-2023 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in the May and October issue of G.I. Jobs magazine and can be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Victory with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and

military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for Student Retention, Graduation, Job Placement, Loan Repayment, Persistence (Degree Advancement or Transfer) and Loan Default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

"We are honored to be designated as a Military Friendly School once again for the 2022-2023 aid year. We are dedicated to providing the best services to our veterans in our school and community," said Eric Valdez, Financial Assistance Advisor and Coordinator of Veteran Services.

"Military Friendly® is committed to transparency and providing consistent data-driven standards in our designation

process. Our standards provide a benchmark that promotes positive outcomes and support services that better the educational landscape and provide opportunity for the Military Community. This creates a competitive atmosphere that encourages colleges to evolve and invest in their programs consistently. Schools who achieve awards designation show true commitment in their efforts, going over and above that standard." - Kayla Lopez, National Director of Military Partnerships, Military Friendly®.

For more information on SVCC's Military Friendly® School designation, please contact Jenn Schultz at jennifer.a.schultz@svcc.edu.

For questions on Veteran Services, please email Eric Valdez at eric.p.valdez@svcc.edu.

Illinois spring trout fishing season opens April 2

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 — will open 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 from March 14 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.

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 – Henepin 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)

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MARKETPLACE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LEE COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

To Whom It May Concern:
On February 4, 2022, Z-BEST Enterprises, Inc., an Illinois corporation with its principal place of business is located at 1749 Winding Road, Amboy, Lee County, Illinois filed a Petition for Special Use Permit ("the Petition") with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting that it be granted a special use for certain real property located in Lee County, Illinois, more particularly described in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference ("the Property") for the construction and operation of a mini warehouse. The Property is presently zoned Industrial/1-1. A copy of the Petition is on file with the Lee County Zoning Office. Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the Petition at 6 p.m., on April 7, 2022, at the Lee County Old Courthouse Building, 112 East Second Street, Dixon, Illinois 61021. Please be advised that the meeting will also be streamed online in real time via YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=239154?pwd=bG96UjN5YR0PSjRURUx2UFJjWxWOT09> Meeting ID: 915 3923 9154 Password: 209840 The sole officer and shareholder of Z-Best Enterprises, Inc., is Jerad Zellhofer, 1749 Winding Road, Amboy, Illinois 61310. The Petitioner is acting for itself. Dated this 8th day of March, 2022. Z - B E S T ENTERPRISES, INC., Petitioner E H R M A N N GEHLBACH BADGER & CONSIDINE, LLC By Courtney E. Kennedy Courtney E. Kennedy Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Considine, LLC 114 E. Everett Street, Suite 300 Dixon, Illinois 61021 (815) 288-4949 (815) 288-3068 FAX kennedy@egbclaw.com EXHIBIT A 02-1 S-26-200-005 Part of the former Illinois Central Railroad in the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of Section 26 in Township 20 North (T20N), Range 10 East (R10E) corner of U.S. of the Fourth Principal Meridian (4th PM), Lee County, Illinois, Route 52 and Dry bounded and described as follows, to wit: Gulch Road, Lee County, Illinois Beginning at the intersection of the North line of said Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of Section 26 and the Southwesterly line of said former Illinois Central Railroad, said point being South 89 Degrees 35 Minutes 07 Seconds East, a distance of 272.43 feet from the Northwest corner of said Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of Section 26; thence South 89 Degrees 35 Minutes 07 Seconds East, along said North line, a distance of 272.43 feet to the Southwesterly Right-of-Way of .A. Rte 694-U.S. Rte 52, according to the deed recorded as Document No. 2000-06298 in the Office of the Lee County Recorder; thence along said Right-of-Way the following courses, South 53 Degrees 52 Minutes 46 Seconds

East, a distance of 16.01 feet; thence South 42 Degrees 28 Minutes 35 Seconds East, a distance of 328.67 feet; thence South 54 Degrees 45 Minutes 53 Seconds East, a distance of 165.52 feet; thence South 44 Degrees 17 Minutes 55 Seconds East, a distance of 245.00 feet; thence South 40 Degrees 36 Minutes 11 Seconds East, a distance of 163.40 feet; thence South 34 Degrees 54 Minutes 15 Seconds East, a distance of 164.20 feet; thence South 13 Degrees 30 Minutes 12 Seconds East, a distance of 92.21 feet; thence South 49 Degrees 21 Minutes 54 Seconds East, a distance of 155.56 feet; thence South 45 Degrees 54 Minutes 03 Seconds East, a distance of 285.83 feet; thence South 39 Degrees 45 Minutes 23 Seconds East, a distance of 11.60 feet; thence, leaving said Right-of-Way, South 69 Degrees 25 Minutes 40 Seconds West, a distance of 112.24 feet to said Southwesterly line of the former Illinois Central Railroad; thence North 45 Degrees 54 Minutes 38 Seconds West, along said Southwesterly line, a distance of 1,755.76 feet to the Point of Beginning; containing 6.096 acres, more or less. 02-15-23-300-007 Certain property forming a portion of the right-of-way of Illinois Located Central Gulf Railroad Company's abandoned Amboy Districts aid immediately south property situated in the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter and adjacent to U.S. the East One-Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 23, Township Route 52 and 20 North, Range 10 East Lee County, Illinois, is described as follows: approximately First all that triangular part of said Southwest Quarter of the Southeast 1,577 feet, more or Quarter lying Southwest of a line parallel with and 150 feet normally less, east of Dry distant northeasterly from the center of Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Gulch Road, Lee Company's main track as originally located; and second, a 200 foot wide County, Illinois strip of railroad right-of-way lying 50 feet to the Southwest and 150 feet to the Northeast of the center of Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Company's main track as originally located, and extending northwesterly across said East Half of the Southwest Quarter approximately 1840 feet as measured along said main track center .. from 1 EXHIBIT A The East line of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, to the West line of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; E X C E P T I N G HEREFROM the following described tract a parcel of land situated in the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter in Section 23, Township 20 North, Range 1 0 East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Lee County, Illinois said parcel of land being all that part of the original 200 footwide strip of former railroad right-of-way that was acquired by W.H. Fredenhagn, Jr. from the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Company by deed dated April 13, 1987, that lies Northwest of the center of an 80 foot wide easement for roadway purposes as granted by the former Illinois Central Railroad Company to Amboy Township, Illinois by document dated November 21, 1967 ALSO EXCEPTING THEREFROM a parcel

of and in the East Half of the Southwest Quarter and in the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 23, Township 20 North, Range 10 East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Lee County, Illinois, described as follows: Commencing at the South Quarter corner of said Section 23; thence Easterly on the South line of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 23, said line having a bearing of South 89degrees 34 minutes 32 seconds East a distance of 131. 721 meters (432.15 feet) to the Point of Beginning of the hereinafter described parcel of land; thence Northwesterly on a line having a bearing of North 53 degrees 52 minutes 1 seconds West a distance of 45.608 meters (149.63 feet) to a point thence Northwesterly on a line having a bearing of North 45 degrees 54minutes 0second West a distance of 100.000 meters (1328.08 feet) to a point thence Northwesterly on a line having a bearing of North 43 degrees 36 minutes 35 seconds West a distance of 25.020 meters (82.09 feet) to a point thence Northwesterly on a line having a bearing of North 45 degrees 54 minutes 01 second West a distance of 75.000 meters (246.00 feet) toa point thence Northwesterly on a line having a bearing of North 44 degrees 45 minutes 16seconds West a distance of 50.010 meters (164.07feet)to a point thence Northwesterly on a line having a bearing of North 43 degrees 36 minutes 35 seconds West a distance of 50.040 meters (164.17 feet) to a point thence Northwesterly on a line having a bearing of North 45 degrees 54minutes 0second West a distance of 250.000 meters (820.21 feet); thence Northwesterly on a line having a bearing of North 44 degrees 45 minutes 16 seconds West a distance of 50.010 meters (164.07 feet) toa point thence Southwesterly on a line having a bearing of South 55 degrees 02minutes 31seconds West a distance of 35.236 meters (115.60 feet) to a point thence Southwesterly on a line having a bearing of South 58 degrees 53 minutes 51 seconds West a distance of 22.158 meters (72.70 feet) to a point in the Southwest line of the premises conveyed to Fredenhagen Family Partners from Water S. Fredenhagen, J r. by Warranty Deed recorded September 2, 1997 as Document Number 1997-05667i n Book 9709 at Page 61 in the Recorder's Office of Lee County; thence EXHIBIT A Northwesterly on the Southwest line of said premises so conveyed, said line having a bearing of North 45 degrees 54 minutes 0l seconds East a distance of 24.926 meters (80.79 feet) to a point in the Northwesterly right-of-way line of a public road designated Dry Gulch Road; thence Northeastly on said Northwesterly right-of-way line, a distance of 9.402 meters (30.85 feet) on a non-tangential urve to the right having a radius of 94.172 meters (308.96 feet), a central angle of S degrees 43minutes 13 seconds and the long chord of said curve bears North 40 degrees 03 minutes 03 seconds East a chord distance of 9.398 meters (30.83 feet) to a point of tangency; thence Northeastly on said Northwesterly right-of-way line, said line havinga bearing of North 42 degrees 54 minutes 38 seconds East a distance of 51.596 meters (169.28 feet) to a point in the Southwesterly right-

of-way line of a public highway designated FA Route 694 (US 52); thence Southeasterly on said Southwesterly right-of-way line, said line having a bearing of South 45 degrees 54minutes 0l second East a distance of 687 .665 meters (2256.12 feet) to a point in the South line of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 23; thence Westerly on the South line of said Southeast Quarter, said line having a bearing of North 89 degrees 34 minutes 32 seconds West a distance of 5.240 meters (17.19 feet) to the Point of Beginning. For the purpose of this description, the South line of the Southeast Quarter of Section 23 has been assigned the bearing of South 89 degrees 34 minutes 32 seconds East all situated in the County of Lee and State of Illinois. Containing 7.61 acres, more or less. Legal No. 0306 (3/16 2022)

PUBLIC NOTICE
For Sale Build-able lot with utilities at 338 W. Division Street, Amboy IL. The City of Amboy has lots for Sale at 338. W. Division Street. The sale is for 2 ½ lot/parcel. The property is zoned residential and has been cleaned up by the city. The city will take bids for this property. Bids are due by April 15th at 11am-city hall. Contact City of Amboy for more information 815-857-3814. No. 0305 (Mar. 9, 16)

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IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
LEE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
ESTATE)
OF) C a s e
Ledford)No.
Korey)2022
Davis,)PR 9
deceased)
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Ledford Korey Davis of Sublette, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 24, 2022 to Richard Kelly Davis of 615 E. Swords, Edelstein, IL 61526 as Independent Administrator whose attorney is Guilfoyle & Stevenson, LLP, 1316 Meriden Street, Mendota, IL 61342 Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Lee County Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Lee County Courthouse, 309 S. Galena Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021, or with the representative or both on or before September 20, 2022 and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within ten days after it has been filed. Legal No. 0307 (3/16, 3/23, 3/30 2022)

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ESTATE)No
OF)2022
VIOLET PR 10
AGNES)
KASTNER,)
a/k/a)
VIOLET)
GIANNETTO)
KASTNER,)
Deceased.)
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of VIOLET AGNES KASTNER, a/k/a VIOLET GIANNETTO KASTNER, of 817 Chestnut Avenue, Dixon, Lee County, Illinois on December 24, 2021. Letters of Office were issued on March 1, 2022, by the 15th Judicial Circuit Court of Lee County to the representatives and Independent Co-Executors, DIANE ELANA KALLAS CORNWELL, 503 E. McKenney Street, Dixon, IL 61021 & KARL JOSEPH KASTNER, 921 North Riverhills Drive, Temple Terrace, FL 33617. The attorney for the representatives and Independent Co-Executors of the estate is Robert J. Thompson, 119 West First Street, Ste. 200, P.O. Box 1016, Dixon, Illinois 61021. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Lee County Services building, 309 South Galena Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021, or with the representatives, DIANE ELANA KALLAS CORNWELL, 503 E. McKenney Street, Dixon, IL 61021 or KARL JOSEPH KASTNER, 921 North Riverhills Drive, Temple Terrace, FL 33617, within six (6) months from the first publication of this Claim Notice, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of specific notice to known creditors, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that time period is barred. Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and/or to the attorney within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed. BY: DIANE ELANA KALLAS CORNWELL & KARL JOSEPH KASTNER, Representatives/Co-Executors. Robert J. Thompson 119 West First Street, Ste. 200 P.O. Box 1016 Dixon, IL 61021 (815) 284-7705 phone (815) 284-7707 facsimile bobthompsonlaw@gmail.com Legal No. 0308 (3/16, 3/23, 3/30 2022)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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FIND NEW ROADS



Opinion

No individual attention or help with dyslexia as a child

The tears still flow. I met Chip Gass for lunch at a Springfield diner March 4. I hadn't seen him for decades, but we have something in common that places us in a unique community: those with dyslexia.

I first met Chip 30 years ago when I was a young reporter in the Quad-Cities and he was a political operative helping people get elected to city councils and the Rock Island County Board.

When we met at the diner, he left his Mercedes sedan in the restaurant's parking lot. He has a salary north of \$100,000 and a title of "executive" within a state agency. But he is still haunted by his childhood struggles in school.

The Springfield man said as he munched on his horseshoe that teachers didn't appreciate his struggle. Tears raced down his face as he recalled being held back in the second grade and the toll it took on his self-esteem.

But no one in Rock Island schools diagnosed or sought to address his dyslexia. The story was much the same for me. When I was in the third grade, I encountered a cruel teacher who would pick me up like a rag doll and shake me when I struggled to recognize a word. Never once did she offer any individual attention or help — only threats and punishment.

If I made a mistake I'd expect to be shaken. It was a pretty rough way to deal with a 7-year-old. Her mantra was continuous: "You're just not trying."

My mother didn't buy into this nonsense. She could see how much I tried. So, she spent two hours a day reading with me all through the third grade. I would read one page of the library book and she'd read the next.

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



Then the teacher decided I would only be allowed to check out picture books from the school library. What a pedagogical gem she was.

My mother then hauled me weekly to the public library and within a year and a half, I was not only a proficient reader but in love with it. Today, I read three or four newspapers a day and a book a week.

Other teachers had to know what was going on in that classroom. But they did nothing. The principal was aware, but he did little to alleviate the situation.

My parents took me for an evaluation at the University of Iowa Hospitals and came back with a diagnosis: dyslexia. Still, the school district did nothing. Their reasoning? My IQ was too high to receive special help.

Although I was diagnosed in the third grade, the first time one of my teachers discussed with me whether I was dyslexic was my junior year of college.

And the professor had a degree in journalism — not education. It's tempting to throw the same words back at teachers that they once threw at me: "You're just not trying."

But that would be unfair. Many do care but they operate within systems that fail to equip them to recognize dyslexia or act upon it when they see it.

Anne Brewster is the director of the Children's Dyslexia Center in Springfield, a charitable endeavor of the Scottish Rite Masons. Historically, the center has offered its services at no cost to children.

Specially trained tutors at the center help words come alive for youngsters. Reading proficiency often follows.

"You don't see the word dyslexia used that often in the

school settings," Brewster said. "And I think that that might have to do with misconceptions and confusion around exactly what it is. And maybe it's because there is not a really clear diagnostic tool that says you're dyslexic or you're not dyslexic. I think sometimes people actually think it's just fake or made up or not real. Or they just think only rich people have dyslexia because a lot of people in schools don't get support for it. So, they seek private tutoring because it's not always acknowledged or addressed in schools as dyslexia."

I'm left thinking of a family friend, Larry Chadwick. He was a brilliant optometrist in my hometown of Galesburg and a friend of my father's. He died last month at the age of 90.

In his obituary, I read these words: "His education began in a one room elementary school where he excelled in math and did not learn to read. His unconventional mother took matters into her own hands and began to search for a school that could teach her brilliant son how to read. She found a reading expert at Roosevelt Military Academy who taught dyslexic students how to read before dyslexia was even understood or diagnosed. At age 13, Larry boarded a train from Detroit to Aledo, Illinois, where he began the next stage of his life. Larry learned to read, then excelled in school."

I'd never realized that Dr. Chadwick and I had the same condition. It makes me admire him all the more.

But I can't help but wonder, "If they were successfully treating kids with dyslexia in the 1930s, why do so many youngsters fail to get the help they need today?"

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

On March 17, people around the world will come together to celebrate the Irish holiday of St. Patrick's Day. It's always a good time to wear your green attire and partake in local festivities with friends and enjoy a cold beer. That's why Anheuser-Busch, Bud Light and G&M Distributors are encouraging you to not just have the "Luck of the Irish" on your side this year but to have a plan for you and your friends to celebrate safely.

St. Patrick's Day and raising a glass with friends go hand in hand. If you choose to enjoy a cold Bud Light this St. Patrick's Day, be sure to plan ahead for a safe ride home to help keep our roads safe. Whether you designate a driver, use a ride-share service, or take public transportation, the best

way to get home safely is to 'Decide to Ride.'

G&M Distributors has joined forces with Anheuser-Busch, MADD and Uber to help put an end to alcohol-impaired driving by encouraging everyone to 'Decide to Ride' if you are drinking. When you plan ahead at the beginning of the day, it makes it easier for you to make smart decisions at the end of the night.

So, on March 17, don't forget to wear green, but even more importantly, don't forget to 'Decide to Ride' and make a plan to get home safely.

Sincerely,
Mary Adolphson
Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator



On This Day in History

100 Years Ago March 17, 1992

F.N. Jewett's Ford sedan was stolen from the street in Dixon Sunday evening between eight and nine o'clock. Mr. Jewett's son Fred had the car, with a party of friends, and parked it on Second Street, near Peoria Ave. Returning about nine o'clock they found no car there.

A lively runaway started somewhere north of Main Street Wednesday morning with "Bob" Atkinson's team hitched to a load of milk and driven by his nephew, became unmanageable. They dashed across the Main Street, south past the Entorf Filter Company plant, toward the condensery.

The site of the new township high school is a busy looking place. A large quantity of lumber, brick and other material is on the ground, hoisting machinery is in place, the ground plan is marked out, excavations have been made for foundation walls and a large part of the cement for the foundation has been poured.

75 Years Ago

March 20, 1947

The Senior Class at ATHS will present their play, "Here Come The Brides," in the auditorium of Amboy Township High School Friday evening, March 21.

Miss Josephine Egan, librarian of Pankhurst Memorial Library, delivered a very interesting history of Amboy at the meeting Monday evening of last week. The history will be printed in serial form in the Amboy News.

One of the largest crowds to attend a dance at St. Patrick's Hall in this city in recent years was present Monday evening for the Old Time St. Patrick's Day dance. Manning's Orchestra was heartily applauded by the dancers who kept them busy until 12:30.

50 Years Ago March 16, 1972

Walter Weber, president of the Lee County Cold Storage Company, presents a watch for 25 years of service to Wayne Weidman, manager of the Amboy locker plant. This presentation was made at the Cold Storage Co., annual meeting held March 9 at the Lee County Farm Bureau

auditorium in Amboy.

Ann Witten Auer, a junior at Amboy High School and a member of the sixth hour journalism class, has written an article on 18-year-old voters at the request of the Amboy News editor.

25 Years Ago March 13, 1997

A check for \$1,000 was presented last week by Mary Wagner from the now consolidated Aurelia Rebekah Lodge of Amboy and Holtslander Rebekah Lodge of Sterling, to the Amboy Depot Museum Historical Commission Chairman Louise Hargitt.

Jake Leffelman is the Central School Spelling Bee Champion. Jake, a fourth grade student in Mrs. Karlson's class, became the winner by successfully spelling the word "illustration." He is the son of Dale and Paula Leffelman.

Amboy High School's fine arts department will present its spring musical "Meet Me In St. Louis," March 21-23. The cast of 32 is lead by Tim Christofferson as John Truitt, Brian Shippert as Douglas Moore, Betsy Reck as Rose and Annah Marshall as Esther.

Established In 1854

The Amboy News

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SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Former teammate and friend, Blair McCaffrey, shared; "TC was a great teammate. He always gave 100 percent and in many peoples

Words cannot do justice for any of these highlights, their actions and memories made are what sets them

I believe TC was impacted by our program as we all have been. But I believe even more that our program acted as an accelerant to all of the intangibles that TC innately had. His character.



So, to #3, Mr. Linebacker, TC Olsen, thank you for your contributions to Amboy Football. This highlight is long overdue and has brought back great memories for all that played with or watched you play. No matter what you did between the hash marks, in high school or college.

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.

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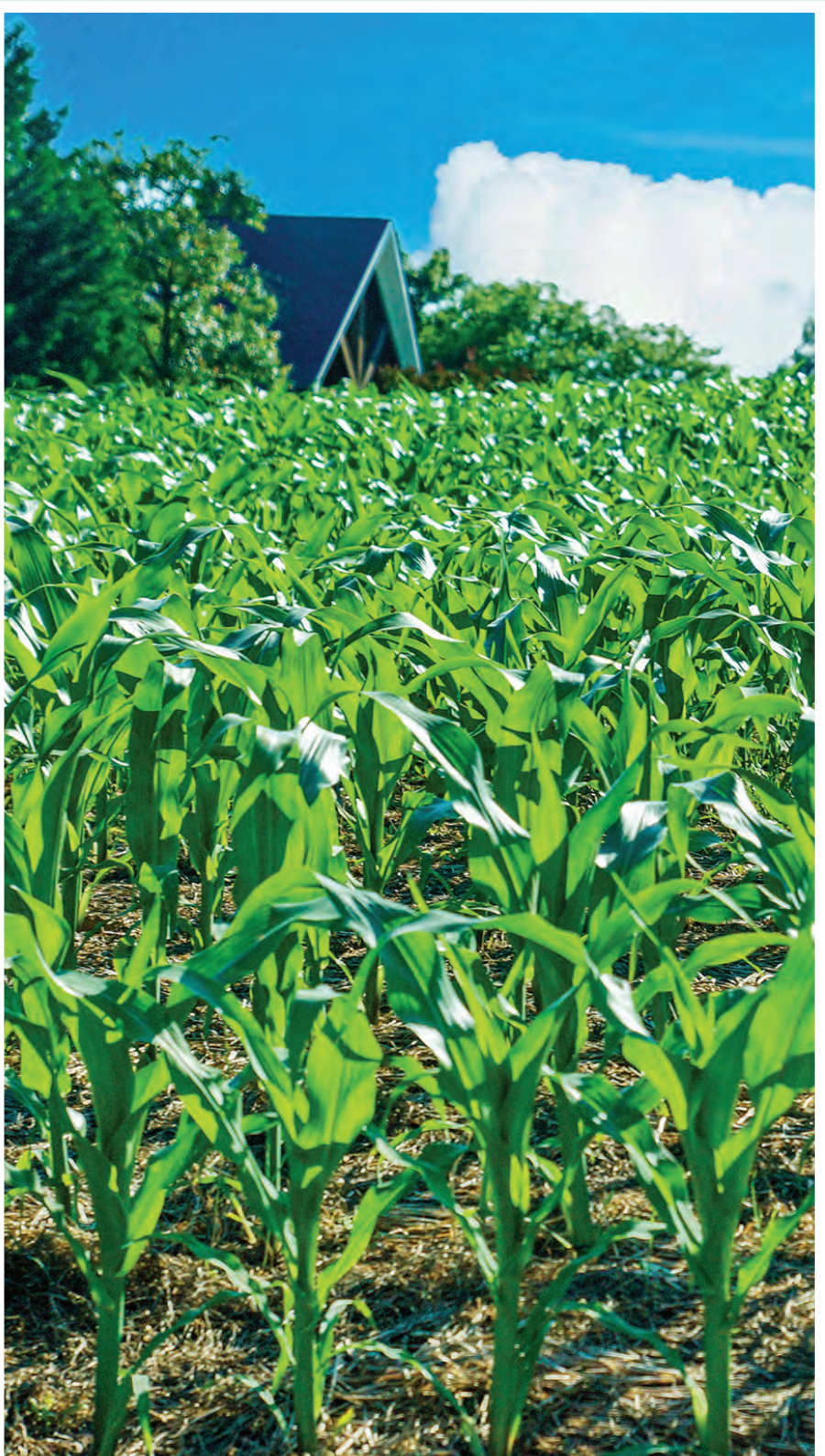


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AG OUTLOOK 2022

Streator ag students gain real-life skills, life lessons from pig project

By KAY SHIPMAN
FarmWeek

Two sows are teaching Streator Township High School ag students and many other people, including 4,800 Think OINK fans on Facebook.

For a sixth year, agriculture teacher Riley Hintzsche is providing agriscience students hands-on lessons about hog production from artificial insemination to farrowing to moving weaned pigs from the school's temporary nursery. By providing their sows, Mark and Sara Mitchell of Brockman Farms are also educating others about the pork industry.

"The Think OINK project has taught me real-life skills by showing us how a pig is born and teaching us how to care for a pig, how to keep a pig healthy and keep it alive," said Zach Walkling, an agriscience student.

This year, students are comparing experiences with two sows for the first time and learning about animal differences as well as a variety of lessons. But the images and lessons about animal husbandry and livestock care extend far beyond the school grounds.

Over the years, the sow celebrities have drawn visits from school board members, administrators and students who aren't in ag classes. Thousands watch and comment on videos, photos and updates on the Think OINK Facebook page. Visit facebook.com/ThinkOINK40.

Sara Mitchell explained she and her husband value the opportunity to teach young people and demonstrate the work and care needed to raise hogs. "Everyone in the pork industry has a way to impact the livestock industry," she said, adding that Think OINK has been their chance to represent the industry "even though we're a small, niche producer."

Hands-on experiences

In September, Hintzsche's 16 students, mostly sophomores, helped artificially inseminate a sow on Brockman Farms. A second sow later joined the project. About a week before the pigs' due date, they were moved into the school's greenhouse that was transformed into a nursery by the students.

Since arriving in January, student ag teacher Gwen Heimerdinger has witnessed excitement among students, faculty and the community. "This project brings exposure to students that may have never touched a pig, while at the same time, teaching the real-life decisions pork producers have to make on their farms," Heimerdinger said.

The pigs "draw a new audience for us" and help recruit students to study ag, said Hintzsche, a 2021 National Teach Ag Champion, one of only three across the U.S.

To share responsibilities for the sows and their litters, the students divide work among spatial, feeding, cleaning and piglet committees. Just as on a farm, extra jobs pop up.



Agriscience students and visitors watch a sow and her litter at Streator Township High School. The students transformed the school's greenhouse into a nursery where two sows farrowed. Students are caring for the little pigs until they are weaned and moved to Brockman Farms. (Photo by Riley Hintzsche)

Students stepped up to bottle feed three pigs that weren't thriving among one sow's initial litter of 18.

The class will wean the pigs at three to four weeks before returning them to Brockman Farms at four to five weeks of age.

In the interim, Mitchell and Hintzsche help students learn about processing piglets. While students handle tasks like notching ears, a local veterinarian castrates the animals, Mitchell explained.

Demonstrating animal care

When Think OINK was new, Facebook posts surfaced thousands and thousands of questions and comments, including negative ones, according to Hintzsche. "Now a lot of questions and comments come from people who have watched for years," Hintzsche said. "Maybe some who were against it are now advocates because they've seen the care (given to the pigs) and understand."

Mitchell continued: "Now we have an army of educated students. They have posted the animals are stress free because

they are well cared for, and they refute negative comments."

If an ag student wants to own a pig, the Mitchells work with that individual. "We've had students get Think OINK pigs who never had ag before," she said. "Some were successful, and others learned pigs are a lot of work and didn't repeat that again."

Think OINK has also benefited Brockman Farms. Mitchell said they gained customers who bought pork directly from their operation and were able to connect consumers with other local hog farms.

For ag students like Walkling, knowledge is the biggest reward. "This project has taught me so many different things to use in the real world," he said, "and I am so grateful to have two awesome teachers (Hintzsche and Heimerdinger) who give us the opportunities to do things like this."

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

Illinois Conservation Fund launches program to help young farmers 'starting from scratch'

The Center Square
SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Conservation Fund has kicked off the Working Farms Fund program to enable new and young farmers to secure farmland for local food production.

Because land is expensive and scarce, too many farmers are leaving the profession and small and medium farms are being converted to other uses, said Emy Brawley, state director for the Illinois Conservation Fund.

"Inability to access farmland is the number one reason that people are leaving agriculture," Brawley told Illinois Radio Network.

The goal of the Working Farms Fund is to help young farmers find affordable land, while at the same time protecting threatened farmland, she said.

"Illinois continues to lose high-quality farmland in metro-influenced counties to urban and rural development," Brawley said.

In the past 20 years, half the farmland in metro Chicago that had been growing food was converted to other uses.

"That land close to the metropolitan market is the land that grows food and it's the land that young farmers want," Brawley said.

The majority of new and young farmers in Illinois today are not legacy farmers. Seventy-five percent of them come from non-farming families.

"The people who are looking for land are not inheriting a farm. They are starting from scratch," she said.

This new generation of farmers is interested in being close to metro markets where they can work value-add, higher margin farms, Brawley said.

Demand for local food is growing every year. In the past 10 years, local food sales have increased from \$5 billion to \$20 billion nationwide.

The Illinois Conservation Fund's Working Farms Fund is designed to be an innovative solution. The Fund acquires small and mid-sized local farms (20 to 500 acres) that are threatened by development and matches the land with farmers. The farmer gets a patient pathway to eventual ownership, while a conservation easement protects the land. A revolving loan fund then rolls the purchase dollars forward to the next farm.

The goal is to protect 10,000 acres of farmland in the next 20 years and support 150 farm businesses as they become successful and independent.

"We are very excited about this model," Brawley said. "It has the potential to protect farmland near metro areas from conversion to non-farming uses. It will also help ambitious and diverse farmers scale up their operations and meet the demand for food in our population centers."

Even though Illinois has some of the best farmland in the world, only 4% of food consumed in the state is grown there. The pandemic has reinforced the importance of local food for national security, Brawley said.

"A more local food system, anchored to the city, is much safer in times of shock," she said.

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AG OUTLOOK 2022

Gene important in soybean protein content found after 30-year search

URBANA – Soybeans outmatch all other legumes as the protein powerhouses of the plant kingdom, providing a key protein source for humans and livestock around the world. And now, after 30 years, University of Illinois scientists have identified the gene with the largest impact on seed protein in soybean.

“Soybeans are around 40% protein, and this gene increases that about 2%. It doesn’t sound like a lot, but compared to any other seed-protein gene that’s been mapped for soybean, it’s at least double,” says Brian Diers, the Charles Adlai Ewing Chair of Soybean Genetics and Breeding in the Department of Crop Sciences and co-author of the study in *The Plant Journal*.

Co-author Matt Hudson, Professor of Bioinformatics in Crop Sciences, adds, “If we could put the high protein form of the gene into commercially grown varieties, we would be looking at a significant increase in protein for livestock and humans worldwide as even a single percentage point increase in protein concentration would represent millions of tons of protein. That’s quite significant.”

In 1992, then-graduate-student Diers published the first seed protein map for soybean. Although he identified the region of the genome where the gene might be located, it took three decades, many technological advances, and the publication of two

soybean genomes to nail down the specific gene: Glyma.20G85100, a gene without a known function but closely related to “clock and circadian timing” genes.

“It’s satisfying to make the journey from being an eager young grad student, all excited about this finding, to finally determining what the gene is,” Diers says. “But if I go back to myself 30 years ago, I could never have imagined it would have taken this long. But better late than never.”

Pinpointing a gene like this is complicated because it’s one of many quantitative trait loci: locations within the genome contributing to continuous traits like plant height, yield, or in this case, protein content.

Researchers have to grow the plants, measure protein content, and then drill down into the genome to find correlated genetic differences among plants with different amounts of protein. Those genetic differences might not be detectable, or they might only be traceable to large sections of the genome.

Diers says he originally mapped the gene to a section of a chromosome several million base pairs of DNA long. But by testing generation after generation of plants carrying the gene within smaller genetic regions, he slowly narrowed it down.

“We had to screen thousands and thousands of plants and then evaluate them with markers to see if we found an association. It was very

laborious, and we had many students and postdocs working on this over the years,” Diers says.

Like most genes, Glyma.20G85100 comes in multiple forms, or alleles. Depending on the allele found in a particular soybean line, seed protein content can be high or low. And, as it turns out, most commercial soybean lines contain the low-protein allele.

“Unfortunately, we found the high-protein allele has a deleterious effect on yield. So elite varieties, which are bred for high yield, generally have the low-protein form,” Diers says.

The discovery of the gene is complicated by a murky link between the gene and its role in increasing protein content.

“We were hoping that when we finally found the gene, it was going to be involved in something obvious, for example, nitrogen fixation or nitrogen metabolism,” Diers says. “But it turns out it really isn’t what you would expect for a gene controlling a protein.”

Instead, the gene appears to be part of the soybean plant’s circadian machinery; the way the plant keeps track of time to maximize photosynthesis during the day, figure out when to flower and set seed, and many other processes.

“It’s absolutely a standard part of the circadian clock that’s conserved between nearly all plants. It looks like a transposon, or a jumping gene, landed in that circadian

clock gene and inserted a whole bunch of new amino acids in the middle of the conserved domain,” Hudson says. “It could be that the gene is involved in moving photosynthesis products into the seed or it could be some completely unrelated pathway. It’s weird, and we really don’t know.”

Regardless of how it works, identifying the gene with the biggest single contribution to soybean protein content could have major consequences for global food security.

“If we can understand the mechanism, that should give us some clues as to how we can increase protein without decreasing yield,” Diers says.

Hudson adds, “There are significant issues with protein deficiency in many parts of the world. Even a modest increase in protein could go a long way.”

The study, “Fine mapping and cloning of the major seed protein QTL on soybean chromosome 20,” is published in the *Plant Journal* [DOI: 10.1111/tpl.15658]. The work was partially supported by soybean check-off funding from the United Soybean Board and the North Central Soybean Research Program, and by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The Department of Crop Sciences is in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

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AG OUTLOOK 2022

Illinois farms gain new options to sell foods directly

By KAY SHIPMAN
FarmWeek

The new year opened new markets and options for Illinois farmers and food entrepreneurs to sell their homemade products directly to consumers.

The changes make it easier for those who make food or drinks in their home kitchen, or an appropriate kitchen located on the farm, to sell directly to consumers. The Home to Market Act rules took effect Jan. 1 and were signed into law by Gov. JB Pritzker last year.

"There are way more avenues than there were in 2021," said Mary Liz Wright, a University of Illinois Extension nutrition and wellness educator. Wright discussed the rules during the Illinois Specialty Crop Conference in January.

Previously limited to selling at farmers markets, farms and home bakers may now sell at fairs, festivals and pop-up events, according to Wright. They may also sell non-perishable products online directly to consumers within Illinois. Out-of-state online sales are prohibited.

Wright emphasized a direct-to-consumer focus underscores the law's underlying principle of product traceability back to its origins. She explained that is why the rules do not allow sales to restaurants, grocery stores or distributors that would sell to customers.

What homemade foods and drinks can be sold? Wright said the rules specify which ones are prohibited.

Prohibited foods and drinks include:

- Meat, poultry, dairy and eggs, except dairy and eggs used as ingredients in nonhazardous baked goods
- Garlic in oil or oil infused with garlic
- Low-acidic foods, such as soups, vegetables or food combinations

USDA announces Supplemental American Rescue Plan funding available

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced supplemental American Rescue Plan Act funding for the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP).

The program will receive a total of \$130 million in supplemental American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funding to promote competition and create more and better markets for local and regional food producers by expanding and strengthening opportunities to sell to institutions, such as universities, hospitals, and settings operated by local, tribal, and state governments. The supplemental ARP funding is divided into \$65 million for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 each.

In fiscal year 2022, LAMP will receive a total of \$97 million in competitive grant funding to help local and regional food entities develop, coordinate and expand producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets and local food enterprises. The total includes the first \$65 million of supplemental ARP funding and \$32 million in funds provided through the 2018 Farm Bill.

Of the \$97 million, LAMP's Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP) will receive \$57 million and the Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) will receive \$40 million.

"Through these grant programs we are able to maximize opportunities for economic growth and ingenuity in the local and regional food system. These grants have generated new income sources for small, beginning and historically underserved farmers; increased local food access across rural and urban communities; and provided platforms for value-added and niche products to shine," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This year, we are excited to further develop market opportunities for producers by focusing on farm to institution. Expanded access to and local food purchasing within institutional markets could be a major boon for small and mid-sized producers located throughout the country."

FMLFPP is implemented through two funding opportunities: the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) and the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP). FMPP supports direct to consumer markets like farmers markets and CSAs and the LFPP supports indirect to consumer markets like food hubs and value-added product incubators. Both programs require a 25% cash or in-kind match of the Federal portion of the grant.

- Wild, harvested mushrooms
- Alcoholic beverages and kombucha.

Wright explained home cooks may acidify low-acid foods they plan to sell. A list of acidified or fermented foods would include tomatoes, pickles, sauerkraut and chilled coleslaw. For example, an acidified tomato recipe would include a tablespoon of bottled lemon juice or two tablespoons of vinegar or one-fourth teaspoon of citric acid.

"We encourage people follow a tested USDA or Cooperative Extension recipe," Wright added.

Home to Market Act rules specify home-canned foods for sale must be done in a proper, safe manner with boiling water, a vacuum-sealed mason jar with a two-piece lid. Jars must be sterilized in boiling water for 10 minutes.

State-approved canning methods for low-acidic foods are a boiling water bath or pressure canning. "This is to kill potential deadly bacterium," Wright noted.

The new rules also expanded sale opportunities for frozen and chilled foods and drinks. Chilled products must be kept at a temperature of at least 41 degrees Fahrenheit. Wright suggested that could be accomplished with dry ice or chunks of ice. Frozen foods must be maintained at a temperature of 32 degrees or lower.

The new rules update state labeling requirements to ensure important information is included for consumers and that the labels are prominent on packages and at the point of sale.

Wright emphasized each label must provide the required information. "This is essential and what health departments will look for," she said.

A label must include the seller's name, county of operation, the product's common food name, the processing date and the seller's health department registration number.

Every label must also include the following language: "This product was produced in a home kitchen not subject to public health inspection that may also process common food allergens. If you have safety concerns, contact your local health department."

Labels must list all ingredients, including any food coloring, artificial flavors and preservatives. Those must be listed in descending order by weight as common names. In addition, allergen information, such as milk, eggs or wheat, should be included as specified in federal labeling requirements.

Wright explained posting label information on a placard at the point of sale as well as a product label. For online sales, the information needs to be posted online in a spot where consumers will see the product.

Potential customers may sample the product under the new rules. Wright explained two options for offering samples. Prepare and pre-package samples at home and bring them to the site. Samples may be made on-site, but the seller needs to first get a certificate from the local health department and meet sanitation requirements.

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

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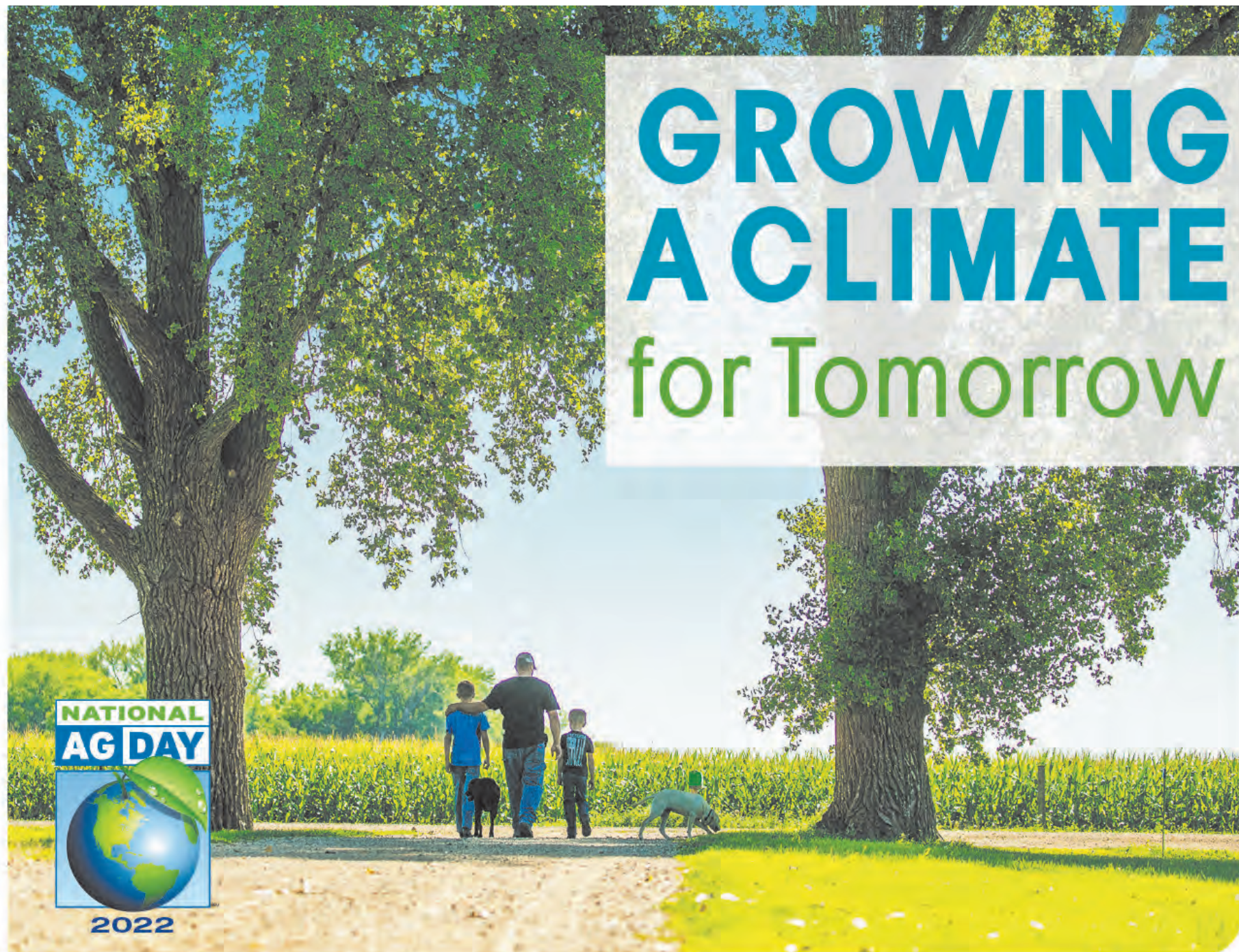


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