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The Depot Museum

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School districts in region struggle with teacher and substitute teacher vacancies

By GRACE KINNICUTT

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD—Schools were struggling filling teaching positions before the COVID-19 pandemic reached Illinois nearly two years ago.

The challenges of educating students during a prolonged health crisis has been an “added stress” for teachers in north-west Illinois schools, said Chris Dvorak, superintendent of the LaSalle, Marshall and Putnam County Regional Office of Education.

“I believe things have continued to get worse from the standpoint of COVID,” Dvorak said. “I think it created more of a problem than where we were before.”

The 2021 Illinois Educator Shortage survey released recently by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools shows that 86 percent of school districts in the northwest region reported that shortages of teachers and substitute educators continue to worsen. The region spans from Jo Daviess County to Rock Island County to LaSalle County to Winnebago County.

The study noted that the top reason reported for educator vacancies has been retirement.

Chris Tennyson, superintendent of Lee, Ogle and White-side County Regional Office of Education, noted that one of the big things with teachers retiring early seemed to be the added stress of dealing with COVID.

“It just made them think about maybe [retiring] quicker only because when they signed up for teaching, none of us ever imagined that we’d have two years like this,” Tennyson said. “It’s really nothing that you can prepare for.”

The most common strategy for covering vacancies is combining classes followed by outsourcing to third-party vendors and utilizing long-term substitutes. But, 96 percent of school districts statewide reported minor to serious problems with substitute shortages.

Regional superintendents reported that COVID-19 has made finding substitutes more difficult since those who have regularly filled those positions tend to be retired teachers who now do not want to come to a school and risk getting the virus.



“We had a good workforce of retirees, people that had worked in the classroom that were willing to come back and work within the district that they retired from,” Dvorak said. “A lot of those people pulled back and said, ‘Not knowing if it’s safe or not, I don’t want to put my health and myself at risk.’”

Not having substitute teachers to depend on, districts reported pulling instructors from class preparation time to cover for absences elsewhere. They also have been using administrators to teach, and have combined classes.

Joshua Nichols, superintendent of Amboy Community

Unit School District 272, said the district there had to move Spanish classes online, combine classes and move teachers around to address staffing shortages.

“It’s very difficult because you’re trying to fill one hole and you’re trying to find the highest need,” Nichols said.

Being in a rural area, Nichols noted that staffing can be difficult, but the district has managed to do so by hustling to find people – especially those who just graduated with a teaching degree.

See **SHORTAGE** page A3



DEPOT DAYS CAR SHOW DONATION - BUDDY BAGS

Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee Treasurer Ginger Daniels, right, presents a check for \$4,500 to Brooke Weidman of the Buddy Bags program. The Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee will be donating about \$46,000 to local organizations this year.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



DEPOT DAYS CAR SHOW DONATION - LEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

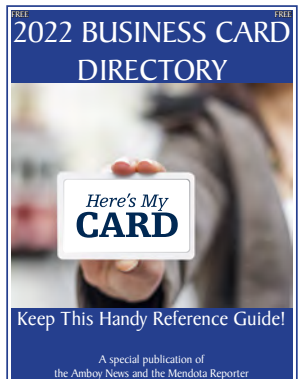
Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee Treasurer Ginger Daniels, right, presents a check for \$500 to Jan Konkrite, President of the Lee County Historical Society. The Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee will be donating about \$46,000 to local organizations this year.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



FARMER'S REPORT

SPECIAL SECTION



BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

SPECIAL SECTION

Obituaries

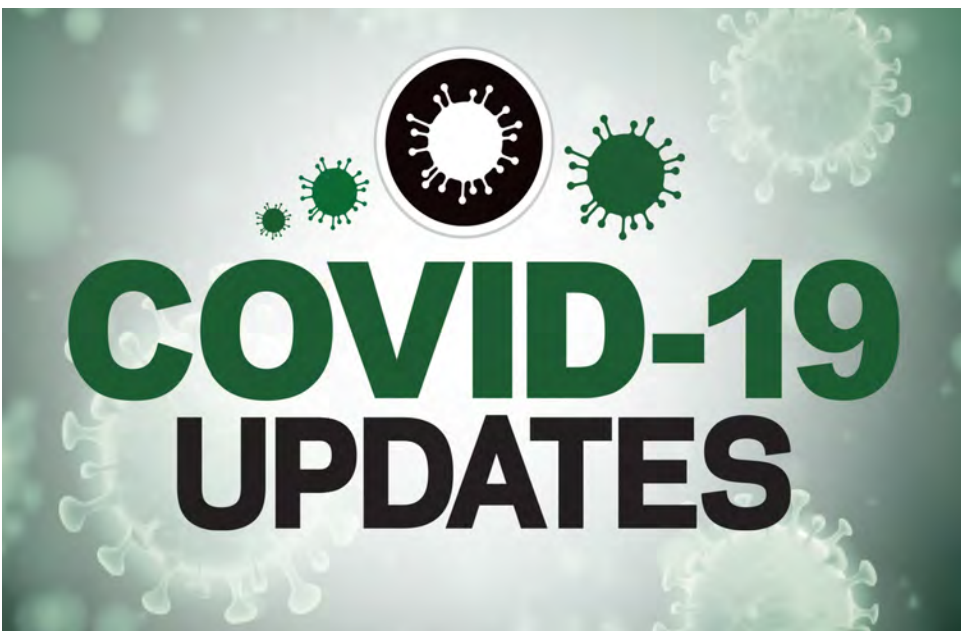
Anna Prendergast
Roy White

Index

Community Calendar.....A3
Church Directory.....A4
Obituaries.....A4
Social News.....A5
Opinion.....A6
Classifieds.....A8
Sports.....A10-11

Inserts

Snyders



Lee County Jan. 17 COVID update

LEE COUNTY—The Lee County Health Department announces 644 new positive cases between Jan 11-17, 2022. They also are saddened to report the deaths of two male residents—one in his 40’s & one in his 70’s.

Here are the ages that were reported: 96 12 and under, 82 in his or her teens, 105 in his or her 20s, 103 in his or her 30s, 95 in his or her 40s, 73 in his or her 50s, 54 in his or her 60s, 20 in his or her 70s, 9 on his or her 80s, and 7 in his or her 90s. A total of 12 residents are hospitalized. The county also reported that the number of cases in unvaccinated individuals is 524 of the 644 cases.

The Lee County Health Department’s

website has a COVID-19 section, including information for people who have tested positive. See www.LCHD.com/Covid19 for more.

Vaccine

As of Jan. 21, according to IDPH 48,111 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Lee County, and a total of 19,371 people in Lee County are fully vaccinated, which is 56.60 percent of the population. A total of 21,064 have received at least one dose of the vaccine. A total of 9,872 people have received the vaccine booster shot.

To get scheduled for the vaccine, go to www.LCHD.com and click on the COVID-19 vaccination to self-schedule.

BBB reveals Top 10 local scams of 2021

ROCKFORD—The new annual Scam Tracker report from the Better Business Bureau reveals the menacing problem of online purchase scams still dominates the #1 position for the second year in a row by a wide margin. Related to online purchases, phishing scams moved up the top 10 to the #2 scam reported locally.

In the ever-evolving era of remote working, employment scams were the #3 reported scam for the second year in a row.

Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional Office of the Better Business Bureau says, “Scammers have been notorious for taking advantage of current events and what’s in the news, and unfortunately, the pandemic has been no exception. This has been an opportunity for fraudsters to prey on people’s emotions and the huge increases in remote working and online shopping.”

Rounding out the top 5 are counterfeit products (related to online shopping), and new to the list are fake invoices and supplier bills, which have increased in the remote workplace.

The remaining five scams in order are identity theft, sweepstakes and lottery scams, debt collections, tech support, and the rising threat of cryptocurrency scams. Cryptocurrency has remained in the headlines and the BBB Risk Monitor Index rates these types of scams high because people tend to lose a larger sum of money.

It should be noted that there is catch-all category called “Other,” which contains a garden variety of scams.

Top 10 Scams of 2021:

1. Online Purchase – (#1 for second year in a row – most often fake websites – often Pets)
2. Phishing Scams – (Clicking on scam links can lead to malware -- imposter scams)
3. Employment – (Scam job offers – often work from home)
4. Counterfeit Products (Clothing, electronics, shoes, purses, etc.)
5. Fake Invoice/Supplier Bill (Sent to businesses who sometimes pay without checking)
6. Identity Theft

See **SCAM** page A2



LOCAL NEWS

State Representative Spain launches re-election bid for IL House

PEORIA — State Representative Ryan Spain, an Assistant Republican Leader in the Illinois House, officially launched his re-election bid for the Illinois House this week. Spain will run for re-election in the new 73rd Illinois House District, which is where his home in Peoria, is located.

“I was proud to be one of three Republican legislators to lead the petition to investigate the actions of Michael Madigan and begin to end the stain of Democrat Machine corruption in our state government. Policy challenges with the new Speaker remain, but so does my resolve to improve the lot for Illinois families who want nothing more than to raise their families and see better opportunities in Illinois,” said Spain, who will seek the Republican party’s nomination in the June 28 Primary Election.

“While my representation may be new to many voters in this district due to the new gerrymandered map boundaries drawn behind closed doors by Democrat politicians through a corrupt process which I led the charge against, I look forward to introducing myself and earning the support of voters who yearn to put Illinois on a better track. Voters in Central and North Central Illinois

deserve full-throated conservative leaders to thoughtfully and strategically go to bat against the flawed policies which have driven our state into the ground,” Spain continued.

A lifelong Peorian, Spain graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a double degree in political science and speech communication and Bronze Tablet Honors. Spain also holds an MBA from Bradley University. He is employed at OSF Healthcare System as the Vice President of Economic Development. Spain and his wife Ashley have two school-aged daughters, Vivienne and Eleanor.

Spain has received high marks for his voting record from the Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Tooling & Manufacturing Association, Leading Age Illinois, Illinois Health Care Association and more. He was named a Champion of Free Enterprise by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the 2018 Leadership Award for improving telehealth policy from the Illinois Telehealth Initiative.

The new 73rd District consists of all or parts of Bureau, Henry, Lee, Marshall, Peoria, Rock Island, Stark, Whiteside and Woodford counties. In Lee County, the district includes Sublette.

Tax filing season began Monday

CHICAGO — The Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) will begin accepting 2021 state individual income tax returns on Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, the same date that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) begins accepting federal individual income tax returns.

“We encourage taxpayers to file their taxes electronically and choose direct deposit, as early as possible in the tax season, to ensure the fastest processing and issuance of any refunds,” said IDOR Director David Harris. “Taxpayers may file their electronic returns for free with MyTax Illinois, our free online account management program. Electronic filing is also available through third party software or with most tax preparers.”

If a taxpayer electronically files an error-free return, they should receive a direct deposit refund in approximately four weeks, if

applicable. Last year, IDOR received 5,609,000 electronically filed returns. About 88 percent of returns were filed electronically, while 12 percent were filed using paper returns.

The 2022 tax filing deadline is Monday, April 18. Illinois Governor JB Pritzker recently announced, however, that victims of severe storms, straight-line winds and tornadoes beginning Dec. 10, 2021 have until May 16, 2022, to file various individual and business tax returns and make income tax payments.

IDOR works to safeguard and protect taxpayers from identity theft and will continue to coordinate with the IRS and other states to strengthen protections. Taxpayers are encouraged to do their part by protecting their personal information and staying alert to phone scams or phishing emails.

“We remain highly committed to protecting tax-

payers’ information and by verifying information on tax returns before issuing refunds, IDOR prevented over \$56 million in fraudulent or erroneous refunds from being issued in the last year alone,” Harris said.

In addition to free filing of Form IL-1040 through MyTax Illinois, individuals may also utilize the site to make payments, respond to department inquiries, and check the status of their refunds using the Where’s My Refund? link. Taxpayers may also look up IL-PINs, amounts of any estimated tax payments made, and (when necessary) amounts reported on Form 1099-G with MyTax Illinois.

For the most up-to-date information, forms, schedules, and instructions for the 2022 tax season, please visit IDOR’s website at: tax.illinois.gov.

SCAM

continued from page A1

7. Sweepstakes and Lottery Scams (new)
8. Debt Collections
9. Tech Support Scams (new)
10. Cryptocurrency (new)

BBB urges anyone encountering a scam, whether they lose money or not, to report it to the BBB Scam-tracker. When you alert others, you help protect your community.

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

Please visit bbb.org for more information.

Trivia night to support Amboy FFA Alumni

AMBOY — What year did FFA begin? is just one question that may be asked at the first Trivia Night hosted by the Amboy FFA Alumni & Supporters. Doors open at 6 p.m., on March 5 at the Amboy Community Building.

Steve Hartley, the first state officer from the Amboy FFA Chapter will serve as the night’s moderator. Eight rounds of questions will cover a variety of topics including FFA trivia. Prizes will be given for High Team Score, Low Team Score, Best Team Name and Best Dressed Team. Food, cash bar, dessert auction and other opportunities to support FFA will be available. Spectators are welcome.

Trivia Night benefits Amboy FFA Alumni and their efforts to support Amboy FFA members through scholarships to conferences and conventions as well as attendance at colleges and trade schools.

Team registration for up to eight players is \$200. Online registration can be found at Amboy FFA Alumni Trivia Night on Facebook. Event Sponsors include \$100 to sponsor one round of questions or \$300 to sponsor the event. For more information, call Katie Pratt, Amboy FFA Alumni secretary at 815-285-3158.

For up to date details about the event like Amboy FFA Alumni & Supporters on Facebook.

The Amboy FFA Alumni contributes positively to current activities and programs supporting the development of premiere leadership, personal growth and career success in Amboy FFA members through agriculture education.

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TEEN TURF

Homemade Pie auction

Katie Dickinson has graciously donated her time and talent in making pies for our auction in our certified kitchen. There will be Ten 10-inch pies with homemade crust available: Dutch apple; Peach; Strawberry Rhubarb; Pecan; Lemon Meringue; Pumpkin; Banana Cream; Double Crusted Apple; Cherry; and Chocolate. The auction will be on Facebook and will begin on Friday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. and end Saturday, Feb. 5, at 8 p.m. Increments will be \$1 only and each pie will begin at \$10. Pie Pick up is Friday and Saturday, Feb. 11 and 12, at Teen Turf 235 West Main, just in time for Valentine's Day.

Our free after-school program for third - eighth grade 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

Thank you to the following people who donated to us: The Morrissey family for the cookies; Katie Dickinson for the cakes; Laurie Johnson for various items; Judy Schmidt for the snacks; Donna Wellman for her wonderful treats; Eileen and Irene Ramsdell for the meat, cheese, bread, and wonderful cupcakes; and we are grateful for our volunteers this week-Sandy, Donna, Chris, Candy, Caden, Trevyn and Caylee.

Needs

100 Cup coffee machine and Fruit

Final Word

"Dear Lord, today we offer you ourselves. Come breathe your life into our working day. Cause us to awake, to embrace the moment, and to go in Your name. Today, thank you that we can run without fear, serve with kindness, and walk with You in this great adventure."

SHORTAGE

continued from page A1

Fifty-two percent of districts statewide said the location of their schools negatively impacts the ability to recruit new teachers, the number one reason noted in the survey.

Over the past five years, superintendents continue to report fewer qualified applicants for teaching positions.

Dvorak noted that when he was a school principal, numerous applications would file in, but when he talks to schools around the district, they are happy if they get one or two qualified candidates.

"The question is going to be when we get out of (COVID) is how can we think and work to create some allowances where districts have the ability to put qualified people that are good with students in these positions when emergencies occur," Dvorak said.

In the study, the IARSS recommends an effective strategy to address shortages is through local solutions such as connecting middle and high schools to early education pathway networks, partnering with community colleges and offering educator preparation programs that would provide them with a student teacher experience.

Anji Garza, director of professional learning and education services for Lee, Ogle and Whiteside County Regional Office of Education, has focused on expanding the college and career education pathway program with the help of grants received from the state board of education.

School districts can work with local businesses and colleges to provide students with a hands-on learning experience, along with offering incentives and tuition scholarships for students with a college and career pathway endorsement.

"We started having conversations about how we could address some of the pipeline issues and really grow our communities," Garza said.

Through the CCPE program, Garza said that high school juniors and seniors have been able to receive a student teaching experience. The district has partnered with Northern Illinois University and Western Illinois University, along with Sauk Valley Community College, in offering dual credit classes.

Partnering with Illinois State University and local community colleges in his region, Dvorak said, provides some remote classes so students don't have to drive. Dvorak noted districts also do a lot of advertising and are constantly looking at potential candidates and trying to hire them if they are interested.

"So many educators that I talked to can give me one or two teachers in their life that got them thinking about education or made a difference in their life or ignited that passion," Tennyson said. "And that's what we need to remember - that we're the best sales people for our profession."

(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.)

Email news items to
tgreenfield@amboynews.com

ON August 20th "HB 2864" was signed into law, effective January 1 2022. HB 2864 creates an EMS System Medical Direction exemption to the credentialing process to allow Registered Nurses, Physician Assistant's, and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to apply to serve as volunteers who perform the same work at EMT's. With 20 hours of pre-hospital recognition and 8 hours of observant riding time, RNs/PAs, and APNs can help volunteer with EMS agencies in Illinois with a rural population of 5,000 or less. Even if you are not already in the medical field our community still needs you!

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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.

DIXON-The Lee County Health Department Walk-in Covid Vaccine Clinic at the Sauk Valley Community College, 173 IL Route 72, Dixon, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 28. This clinic will have first shots, second shots and boosters available. Call 815-284-3371 for more information. Visit lchd.com for updates on Covid Vaccine Clinics.

DIXON-Youth grades third and up will learn basic camera skills and experience the excitement of learning to take their own artistic pictures in a winter wonderland. Join Lee County 4-H for Photography 4-H SPIN Club on Mondays starting Jan. 31 through Feb. 28, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., at the Ruth Edwards Nature Center at Lowell Park in Dixon. Dress warm. We will spend time inside learning but will also explore the outside world to take pictures. Cameras will be provided. Reserve your spot today by registering online at go.illinois.edu/leephoto. Cost is free for current 4-H members and \$20 membership fee for non-members.

MENDOTA - OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center has announced a time change for the Grief Support Group offered at the hospital. The group will meet on the first and third Thursday of the month in conference room C, from 3 to 4 p.m. The Grief Support Group is an informal gathering to provide a forum to share feelings, experiences with others who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one.

DIXON- Kids & K-9's is a survey class that will introduce you to all facets of training including obedience, rally, agility, and showmanship. It is also designed to help your dog become a more integral part of your family. Open to youth ages 8-18 beginning Saturday, Feb. 5 and running select Saturdays through June. Beginners will take place at 11 a.m. with advanced classes following at 1 p.m. The fee will be free for 4-H members and \$20 for non-4-H members. Register online at go.illinois.edu/kidsk9

DIXON-The KSB Hospital, in partnership with the Lee County Health Department is offering a Babysitting Academy for youth ages 12-18, on Saturday, Feb. 5, in the third floor atrium of

Town Square Center, 101 W. Second St. Dixon. Check in is at 8:45 a.m., with classes from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. This class is designed to prepare youths who are planning to babysit with the important skills and knowledge necessary to responsibly and safely care for infants and children. The cost is \$20. To sign-up visit www.ksbhospital.eventbrite.com or call KSB Community Wellness at 815-285-5836. Class size is limited to 12 and masks will be required.

AMBOY-The City of Amboy committee meetings will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 7, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

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

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

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

DIXON-The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive from 1 - 5:30 p.m., on Wednesday, Feb. 9, at the Dixon Home of Hope, 1637 Plock Road, Dixon. Appointments are preferred; walk-ins welcome upon availability. For appointments, please call 815-288-9622 or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

LEE CENTER TWP-The Lee Center Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 11, at the Township Building, 2202 Shaw Rd., Amboy.

SUBLETTE-The Sublette Village Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 14, at the Ellice Dinges Center, 202 S. West St.

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

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

DIXON-The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at the Elks Lodge, 1279 Franklin Grove Road, Dixon. Appointments are preferred; walk-ins welcome upon availability. For appointments, please call 815-288-9622 or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

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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 day-

time telephone number for verification purposes.

The newspaper reserves the right to publish, edit,

condense, revise or reject any submissions.

OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Anna Elizabeth "Betty" Prendergast

March 31, 1922 - Jan. 18, 2022

SUBLETTE — Anna Elizabeth "Betty" Prendergast, 99, of Sublette, died on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022 at Franklin Grove Living and Rehab.

She was born on March 31, 1922 in Troy Grove Township in LaSalle County, the daughter of Theodore and Elizabeth (Roetzel) Sondgeroth. Betty was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Sublette, the St. Anne Sodality, the Idle White Card Club for over 60 years and had been a 4-H leader. Betty was also a seamstress and loved to bake. She also loved hosting her family for holidays.

She married Arthur Prendergast on June 19, 1940 in Sublette. He preceded her in death on March 23, 1986.

Betty is also preceded in death by her daughter, Janet Wagner; grandson, Jeff Marschang; five sisters, Hattie

Rapp, Cora Jones, Helen Leiser, Florence Sondgeroth, and Dolores Setchell.

She is survived by her children, Judy (David Setchell) Marschang, of Sublette, Sheila (Michael) Brady, of Amboy, Tom (Julie Deutsch) Prendergast, of Dixon, Steve (Cheryl) Prendergast, of Dixon; 11 grandchildren, Mike (Lynn) Wagner, Debi (Chad) Bromenschenkel, Doug (Sarah) Marschang, Brenda (Pete) Prevenas, Nathan Berk, Andrea Berk, Timothy (Carolina Vidal) Prendergast, Bridget (Clint Reed) Prendergast, Alicia (Tyler) Price, Jason Prendergast, and Sarah (Alex) Hoffmann; 17 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Betty is also survived by her sister, Evelyn Kritz of Peewaukee, Wis.

A family Mass of Christian Burial will be on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022 at Our Lady



of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Sublette. Burial will follow at St Mary Cemetery in Sublette. A memorial has been established to the Sublette Fire Department. A public memorial Mass and celebration of life will be held later in the year.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.

Roy Roland White

March 2, 1949 - Jan. 22, 2022

AMBOY — Roy Roland White, 72, of Amboy, passed away on, Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital in Dixon.

He was a lifetime farmer in the Lee County Area prior to his passing.

Roy was born March 2, 1949, in Amboy, the son of Roland and Clara (Alcorn) White. He married M. "Cathie" Roland on Sept. 26, 1968, in Amboy. Roy served in the United States Army Reserves. He was a member of the Living History Antique Equipment Association, Corn Collectors Association and Split Pits. Roy received the American Farmer Award for the State of IL in 1969. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, but most of all cherished spending time with his children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife M. "Cathie" White of 53 years; three sons, Ryan (Heidi) White, of Bloomington, Rory (Jena) White, of Sublette, Clark (Kelly) Weaver, of Powell, Wyo.; seven grandchildren, Aubrie White, Megan White, Dylan White, Alexis White, Lorelei White, Kyle Weaver, Cory Weaver; three nieces, Tricia Sprenger, Kayla Colwell, Tammy Weaver; and along with a host of nieces and nephews.

Roy was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Mark Allen White; and one sister Carolyn Colwell.

Visitation will be from 2 p.m. until time of funeral service at 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, at the Preston-Schilling Funeral Home, Ltd., Dixon, with his brother-in-law Lennie Roland,



officiating. Cremation rites will follow the services.

Memorials may be directed to Ashton Franklin Center FFA or Lee County 4-H Center.

Arrangements were completed by Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon.

Condolences may be sent to www.prestonschilling.com.

Dixon man dies in one-vehicle accident

LEE COUNTY — On Jan. 21, at 12:13 a.m., the Lee County Sheriff's Office responded to a one-vehicle rollover crash on IL Route 30 near Harmon Road, rural Harmon.

A GMC Sierra pickup, driven by Charles Williamson, 22, of Dixon, was traveling eastbound on IL Route 30 when his vehicle went

off the roadway and rolled over. Williamson was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Dixon Rural Fire Department and the Lee County Coroner's Office.

The crash is still under investigation.

PAW Patrol Live comes to Rockford in April

ROCKFORD — Nickelodeon and VStar Entertainment Group present PAW Patrol Live! "The Great Pirate Adventure," an action-packed, music-filled production. The PAW Patrol is back and on a roll in person and live on stage. Ryder and your favorite pups have been

working hard to get back on the road and they are ready to roll to Rockford for two shows on April 19 and 20 at 6 p.m. In this production, the heroic pups from the top-rated animated preschool series Paw Patrol, produced by Spin Master Entertainment and airing on Nickelodeon, embark on a pirate-themed adventure to uncover hidden treasure. Do not miss this pawsome opportunity to see the whole pack in this live touring stage performance. Tickets for both performances are on sale Friday, Jan. 28 at 10 a.m., and may be purchased at pawpatrollive.com, ticketmaster.com, in-person at the BMO Harris Bank Center box office and Coronado PAC box office and by phone

at 815-968-5222.

In Paw Patrol Live, "The Great Pirate Adventure," Mayor Goodway is getting everything shipshape for a big Pirate Day celebration in Adventure Bay. When Cap'n Turbot falls into a dark and mysterious cavern, it's Paw Patrol to the rescue. Chase, Marshall, Rubble, Skye, Rocky and Zuma save Cap'n Turbot and discover a secret pirate treasure map that leads them on an epic adventure. Things get ruff when Mayor Humdinger wants to find the treasure first for Foggy Bottom. The pups need all paws on deck for this pirate adventure, including help from the newest pup who's all ears... Tracker. Using their heroic rescue skills, problem solving and teamwork, the pups set sail to save the day. No job is too big, no pirate pup is too small.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p>St. Patrick Church Fr. John Gow 32 N Jones, Amboy 815-857-2315 • www.stpatrickamboy.org Masses: Tuesday - Friday Daily Mass 8 am Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 7:30 am & 10 am Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 pm Wednesday, 5:30-6:15 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday, 8am-5 pm</p>	<p>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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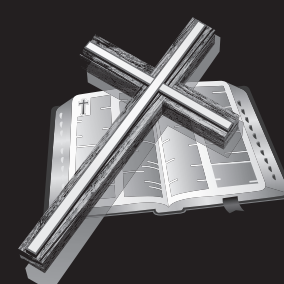
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SOCIAL NEWS



THE PASTOR'S PEN

HONORING OUR COMMUNITY SERVANTS

BY PASTOR JOHN KALEBAUGH

The Apostle Paul said, "Give to everyone what you owe them... give respect and honor to all to whom it is due" Romans 13:7.

This article may appear to be a departure from the usual Pastor's Pen (but it's just a slight departure, if any). But I write this as a member of our community in order to express appreciation to all of our First Responders; the Amboy Fire Protection District (AFPD), Sublette Fire Protection District (SFPD) and Amboy Police Department (APD), Lee County Sheriff's Department (LCSD) and all of our men and women who serve as Fire Fighters and EMT's and Law Enforcement Personnel for the outstanding work they do on a regular basis in service to our community.

Almost every one of us who has lived in the community has either needed their services or knows someone who has. For instance, just last year alone AFPD went out on 398 calls. And even though the station has coverage 24 hours a day seven days a week, most of the time volunteers come from their homes to assist those on call. This means they interrupt their personal lives in order to help those in need. The calls rarely come at a "convenient time" (if there is such a thing) for they come at all times day and night.

When they are not on a "call" then

they are often training (and they train a lot) so as to be better prepared for when the calls do come in. This past Jan. 16 serves as a prime example in which members of the department gathered on a Saturday at Amboy Community Building for "Amboy Firefighters Symposium". The theme was "Winning the Fireground" and it was a very inspirational time of instruction led by out-of-state veteran Firefighters Cody Trestrail and Justin McWilliams. There were roughly 30 firefighters in attendance from both our department and others who were invited to participate. It is not an unusual thing to find members of other fire departments from the surrounding area come to Amboy to receive training, as Chief Bryant and his top-notch team of leaders often invite, and always welcome, other departments who would not otherwise have the opportunity to receive this kind of quality training.

One of the themes that was reinforced that day was, "We will come for you!" These words should be a comfort to everyone in our community because... they do! It doesn't matter what time it is day or night. Whether it be at 2 a.m. or a frigid January morning or 8 p.m. on the 4th of July... or any holiday for that matter. They will wake up from a sound sleep in the middle of the night, they will leave lunch sitting on the table,

leave their family and their home... and they will come for you. Whether it is for lift assistance, cardiac arrest, or a car accident. Whether it is for an out-of-control brush fire, a shed fire, or house fire – they will come for you. Whether it is making our roadways safe from a dangerous driver or bringing peace to a domestic issue. And they will do all they can to help you, your family, and your neighbors in keeping our community safe.

I have always had a lot of respect and appreciation for local Fire Departments and EMT personnel from Amboy, Sublette, and the surrounding towns. And certainly, our amazing Law Enforcement personnel – (who are often on the scene for both medical and fire emergencies)! And since I have had the privilege of getting to know many of them personally my respect and appreciation for them has only skyrocketed.

We are truly blessed to have all of them – both men and women in our community. So when you see them out and about (either in uniform or wearing a shirt or jacket with the department logo) please take the time to "...give honor to those whom it is due." Please remember to tell them "Thank you" for their service.

God bless them all... and our community.

Pastor John

Woodlawn to support Penguin Project of the Sauk Valley with NEA grant

STERLING – Woodlawn Arts Academy is the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) and will use the money to expand funding for their partner program The Penguin Project of the Sauk Valley.

The Penguin Project is a unique theatre experience that provides individuals with special needs the opportunity to participate in the performing arts. Cast members have the opportunity to experience the process of putting on a show: auditioning, rehearsing, and finally taking to the stage to perform a modified version of a well-known Broadway musical. Cast members are joined on stage by peer mentors who work alongside them during the entire show process.

Christy Zepezauer, executive director for Woodlawn Arts Academy, said the Academy is a proud partner of The Penguin Project of the Sauk Valley. "What an honor to receive the National Endowment of the Arts grant to assist and expand upon our performing arts offerings to individuals with special needs in our community," she said. "Thanks to the efforts of The Penguin Project of the Sauk Valley, the NEA grant and the support of the Sauk Valley area, Woodlawn will continue to grow and live by our motto of 'Where the Arts are for Everyone.'"

Besides helping with production costs such as costumes and sets for the group's annual musical theatre productions, the grant will be used to start a choir for adults with special needs.

"On behalf of the of the directors and board members of Penguin Project of the Sauk Valley, we wanted to say thank you to Woodlawn Arts Academy for not only being such a supportive partner to our program, but also for helping us get this grant," said Dawn Arndt, program director for Penguin Project of the Sauk Valley. "We are so excited that not only will we be able to create a magical show for our actors with costume upgrades and screen projections, but will be able to use part of this grant to partner with Woodlawn to create a choir for adults with special needs."

The NEA is committed to equity, access and fostering mutual respect for the diverse beliefs and values of all individuals and groups. Applications for funding demonstrated a commitment by the arts and culture sector to provide more equitable and accessible pathways for arts engagement.

"These National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grants underscore the resilience of our nation's artists and arts organizations, will support efforts to provide access to the arts, and rebuild the creative economy," said NEA Acting Chair Ann Eilers. "The supported projects demonstrate how the arts are a source of strength and well-being for communities and individuals, and can open doors to conversations that address complex issues of our time."

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic

sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America.

A total of \$1.785 million in grants was awarded to 88 recipients in Illinois.

Woodlawn Arts Academy is an agency of United Way of Whiteside & Lee Counties, and programs are partially funded by grants from the Illinois Arts Council Agency and The Chicago Community Trust. Visit WoodlawnArtsAcademy.com for details on classes, private lessons and upcoming events. The Penguin Project of the Sauk Valley will present Disney's "Alice in Wonderland Jr." in November. To learn more about The Penguin Project of the Sauk Valley, or to find out how to participate or become a peer mentor, visit penguinprojectsv.com.

Email news items to tgreenfield@amboynews.com

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Thursday – A) Lemon pepper chicken, wild rice, broccoli, wgr dinner roll, applesauce. B) Ham/vegetables

Friday – Citrus baked ham, sweet potatoes, scan. blend veggies, wgr dinner roll, diced peaches.

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Opinion

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances ~ The First Amendment

Letters get results

I mail letters to get results. This month, I noticed a leak under my kitchen counter and called a plumber. He told me how much it would cost and asked for payment in advance. Over the next week, plumbers visited our house multiple times but the project was never quite done. My wife and I were sick of the continual visits without resolution. So, I went to the hardware store, bought some parts and finished the project myself. I then sent a letter to the CEO of the Collinsville-based plumbing contractor relating our experience and asking to be reimbursed for the cost of the \$23 in parts I purchased. He did me one better and mailed a \$400 check compensating me for the inconvenience of the multiple visits and my own labor. My dad taught me about the power of letters many years ago. When he was a young farmer in the 1960s, railroad workers would clean out boxcars near our field. Swarms of rats would leave the trains and devour rows of our crops. Dad went to the Galesburg Public Library and looked up the name and address of the CEO for the Burlington Northern railroad. He typed a letter explaining the problem and asked for it to stop. The crews quit cleaning out the railcars at that spot and the rats disappeared. Sometimes you just need to ask. In July, I took my family on a trip. We arrived at the airport early but the person at the ticket counter was new and couldn't quite figure out how to check our luggage. We stood at the counter for more than an hour and eventually missed our flight. We also were charged for 15 or 20 bags when we only had five. We ended up driving from Springfield to O'Hare Inter-

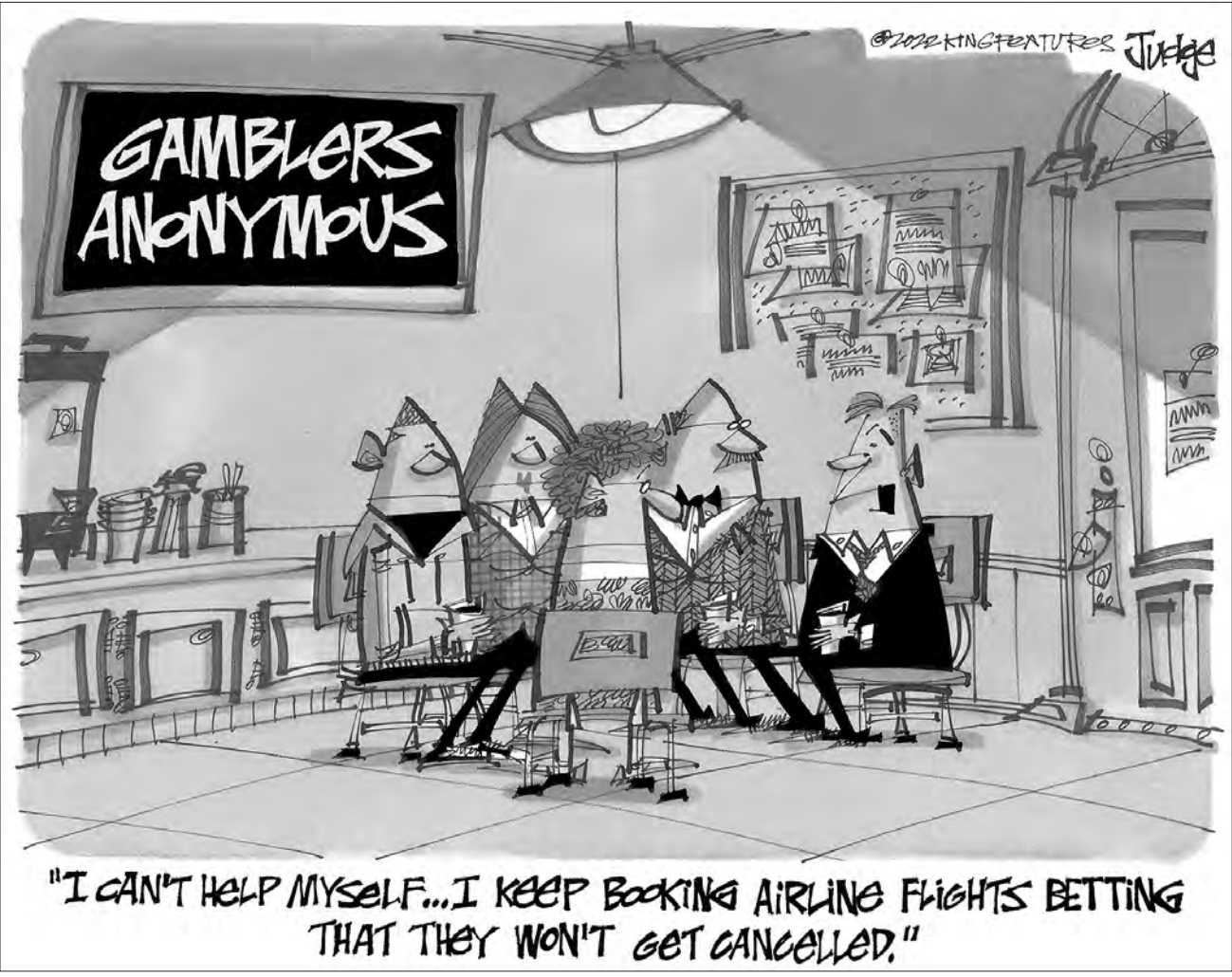
Guest Column
By Scott Reeder



national Airport to catch an alternate flight. I wrote a letter to the CEO of United Airlines explaining the situation and was reimbursed \$3,000 for our trouble. In 2020, our two Labrador retrievers became violently ill after eating dog food. They were vomiting blood. My wife, a veterinarian, thought they could die. They ended up spending two nights in an intensive care unit. We believe a toxin caused by mold was in the bag of dog food. So, I sent a letter along with the vet bills to the CEO of a giant pet food company. They responded with a check for \$3,000. These experiences happened in a little over a year and they illustrate the power of letter writing. Here are my rules on how to write a letter that gets results:

- Aim high. Write the letter to someone with the power to solve your problem – and that usually isn't anyone in customer service. I start with the CEO or owner of the company and let them delegate.
- Always write a letter – not an email, text message or social media post. Send an honest to goodness epistle in an envelope adorned with a stamp. When it comes through the U.S. Mail, it is taken more seriously and is less likely to be ignored.
- Stick to the facts and present them in a reasonable, non-emotional manner.
- Never threaten legal action. If you do, the letter will be shuffled off to the legal department where the jackals will use it to line their litter box.
- Bolster your case with supporting evidence and attach corroborating documents such as receipts and medical records.
- Make sure the letter is typed and the grammar and spelling are excellent.

I'd also suggest that one not only write letters to help themselves but to help others. Back in 2019, I upgraded my hearing aids to ones that are compatible with my cell phone. I offered the old ones to anyone in need and ended up giving them to a woman suffering a 50% hearing loss who cleans houses for a living and cares for her elderly mother. Unfortunately, the store where I bought them wanted to charge \$650 to reprogram them for her to use. So, I sent a note to Bentonville, Ark., to one John Furrer, the CEO of Sam's Club. I explained my predicament and my desire to help someone. The next morning, I received a call from his assistant informing me they would waive the \$650 fee and would provide a gift card to cover the cost of six months' worth of batteries for the woman in need. A well-placed, persuasive letter can benefit many people. Also, I write letters to CEO's not just to complain but to praise when things go well. Last summer, a nurse at my doctor's office really went out of her way to help my family through a predicament. I thanked her and sent a letter to Ed Curtis, CEO of Memorial Health System. He contacted her and praised her for her conscientious effort. For that nurse, I'm sure that letter from the boss, carried more weight than anything I would have written. Letters get results. Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.



On This Day in History

100 Years Ago
Jan. 27, 1922

The weather, which has been so mild hitherto that Illinois people had no cause to seek a southern climate for the winter, took a sudden change Wednesday night last week. The Burlington is receiving bids for a total of 55 locomotives – heavy passenger and heavy and light freight engines.

75 Years Ago
Jan. 30, 1947

Carol and Kathleen Flaherty entertained "The Happy Round Up" Club at

their home Friday evening. The club was organized and officers installed. Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Conderman, recent newlyweds, were honored at a charivari and miscellaneous shower at their home Wednesday evening, Jan. 15. About 60 friends and neighbors were present.

50 Years Ago
Jan. 27, 1972

Susan Bothe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bothe, has been selected by her fellow classmates and the faculty of Amboy High School as the recipient of the DAR award for 1971-72 school

year. Susan resides on a farm northwest of Amboy.

25 Years Ago
Jan. 23, 1997

Amboy Mayor Hank Gerdes will face no challengers in his bid to win reelection to a second term. The deadline for filing petitions for city offices was 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Gov. Jim Edgar signed legislation last week that ended one-vote straight-party balloting in Illinois. Illinois joins 31 other states in requiring voters to at least look at all of the seats or offices being contested before voting.



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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LOCAL NEWS

Educational Briefs

WIU GRADUATION FALL 2021

MACOMB/MOLINE — A total of 528 students earned academic degrees or post-baccalaureate certificates after the Fall 2021 semester at Western Illinois University.

Local student earning the degree is:
Jacob M Rhodes, of Dixon, Bachelor of Science, Law Enforcement & Justice Administration

Bachelor's degrees were awarded to 308 graduates, including 43 Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degrees.

Academic distinction was awarded to baccalaureate graduates who achieved high grade point averages. This includes: Summa Cum Laude, 3.90 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale; Magna Cum Laude, 3.75-3.89 GPA; and Cum Laude, 3.6-3.74 GPA. Master's degrees were earned by 178 graduates.

VAESSEN NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

BOURBONNAIS — Reece Vaessen, of Amboy, was named to the dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University during the recently completed fall 2021 semester. To qualify for inclusion on the dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts university offering more than 140 areas of undergraduate and graduate study, including the Doctor of Education in ethical leadership. Olivet's 275-acre park-like main campus is in Bourbonnais, Illinois, 45 miles south of Chicago. From Oxford to Tokyo, hundreds of Olivet students also experience the global classroom each year through study abroad opportunities, internships and worldwide mission trips.

AREA STUDENTS RECEIVE DEAN'S LIST RECOGNITION

GREENVILLE — The following students were placed on the Dean's List at Greenville University for the Fall 2021 semester.

Local students include:
Shauni Warner, Senior, of Dixon.
To qualify for the GU Dean's List, a student must successfully complete a minimum of 12 hours for the semester. Freshmen (0-29.5 credits) must have a semester GPA of 3.5 or above. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors must have a semester GPA of 3.7 or above.

Greenville University is an accredited Christian liberal arts university with more than 1,100 students, including traditional undergraduate, graduate, and adult degree completion students. Founded in 1892 and affiliated with the Free Methodist Church, the University is located in Greenville, Illinois, 45 miles east of St. Louis, Missouri. Visit www.greenville.edu.

NIU FALL 2021 GRADUATION LIST

DEKALB — Almost 1300 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in June. Included among the graduates were the following students from your area:

Ashton

Shane McConkey, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology
Compton

Michael Zurbuch, Master of Business Admin, Business Administration MBA

Dixon

Jonathan Drilling, Bachelor of Science, Accountancy
John Grzywa, Master of Accounting Science, Accountancy
Annalee Kelly, Bachelor of Science in Educ, Elementary Education: Reading Teacher

William Lee, Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering
Andrew Masters, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science - Software Development

Steward

Hailey Herrmann, Bachelor of Science, Public Health - Health Administration

Northern Illinois University is a student-centered, nationally recognized public research university, with expertise that benefits its region and spans the globe in a wide variety of fields, including the sciences, humanities, arts, business, engineering, education, health and law. Through its main campus in DeKalb, Illinois, and education centers for students and working professionals in Chicago, Hoffman Estates, Naperville, Oregon and Rockford, NIU offers more than 100 courses of study while serving a diverse and international student body of about 19,000. The 17 NIU Huskie athletic teams compete in the Mid-American Conference at the highest NCAA Division I level. For more information, visit www.niu.edu.

MCNALLY MAKES DEAN'S LIST AT MONMOUTH COLLEGE

MONMOUTH — Timothy McNally, a elementary education major from Paw Paw, has made the Dean's List at Monmouth College for the Fall 2021 semester. Students on the list achieved a grade-point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale while taking at least three full academic credits.

Founded in 1853, Monmouth College is a nationally ranked liberal arts college. Affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the birthplace of the women's fraternity movement, the college offers 38 majors, 42 minors, 17 pre-professional tracks, and two innovative Triads in Global Food Security and Global Public Health.

LOCAL STUDENT(S) NAMED TO SPRING 2021 DEAN'S LIST

DEKALB — Northern Illinois University announces its fall 2021 Dean's List students. To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Students from your area who achieved this honor include:

Amboy

Tyler Stewart, College of Engineering Dean's List, Mechanical Engineering, Amboy High School

Ashton

Austin Bogle, College of Business Dean's List, Accountancy, Ashton Franklin Center HS

Samantha Smith, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Environmental Studies - B.S., Ashton Franklin Center HS
Emalie Vogeler, College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean's List, Art Studio-Design & Media Arts, Ashton

Franklin Center HS

Jared Warner, College of Business Dean's List, Accountancy, Ashton Franklin Center HS

Heather Winterland, College of Education Dean's List, Physical Education, Stillman Valley High School

Dixon

Alyssa Bonnette, College of Education Dean's List, Early Childhood Education, Dixon High School

Jozi Dever, College of Health & Human Sciences Dean's List, Communicative Disorders, Dixon High School

Jonathan Drilling, College of Business Dean's List, Accountancy, Rochelle Township High School

Sarah Fane, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Psychology - B.S., Dixon High School

Morgan Hoffman, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Psychology - B.A., Dixon High School

Jessica Lopez, College of Health & Human Sciences Dean's List, Family Rel, Prev & Wellness, Sterling High School

Brian Podkulski, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Psychology - B.S., Faith Christian School

Dakota Shuck, College of Education Dean's List, SPED-LBSI with PEL, Dixon High School

Franklin Grove

Madison Runkle, College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean's List, Art and Design Education, Ashton Franklin Center HS

Lee

Kaitlyn Builta, College of Education Dean's List, ELED-Bilingual/ESL, Dakota Jr-Sr High School

Jilliann Headley, College of Health & Human Sciences Dean's List, Nutrition, Dietetics, & Wellne, Indian Creek High School

Paw Paw

Anthony Castaldo, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, Chemistry-Biochemistry, Paw Paw High School

Steward

Kelsey Kinne, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's List, International Politics - B.S., Rochelle Township High School

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SHERMAN NAMED TO MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY'S FALL 2021 DEAN'S LIST

MILWAUKEE — Ethan Sherman of Dixon, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2021 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sherman is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

To make the Dean's List, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the fall 2021 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The GPA threshold varies by college - for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean's List.

The undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

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Breaking up my electric train sets for sale. 3 HO Gauge includes a Coca-Cola 2004 Holiday Edition. 3 0-27 gauge includes Coca-Cola Limited Edition. Please call (815) 562-2582 and leave a message. BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 8AM-NOON ONLY. SEE RECEPTIONIST AT FRONT COUNTER Rochelle News-Leader.

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2019 Chevy Crew Cab LT Z71 4x4, 1-Owner, 63K miles, Gray.....\$41,900	2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT 4x4, Leather, 1-Owner, 41K miles, White.....\$38,900
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-TUCK
adopted 05-04-11

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adopt

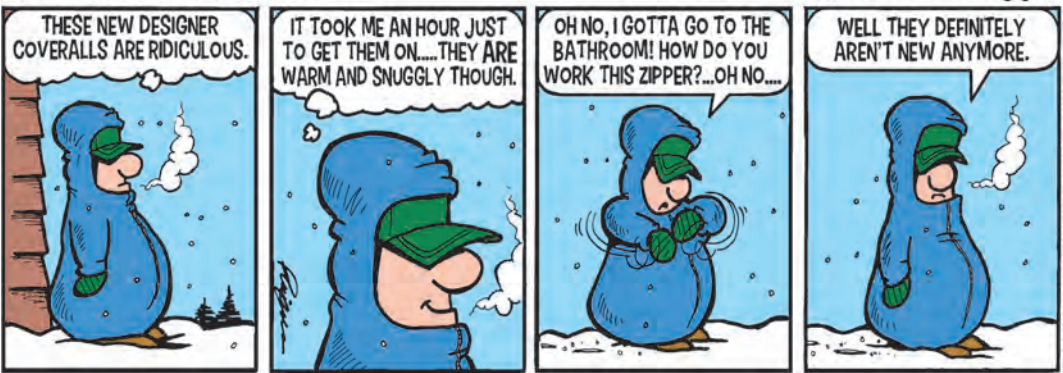
theshelterpetproject.org



LOCAL NEWS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



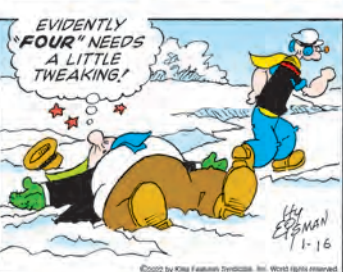
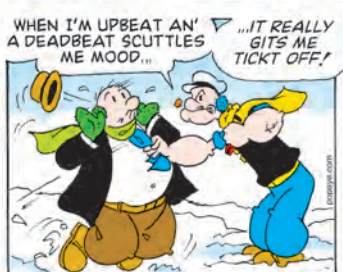
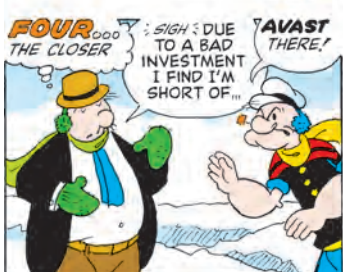
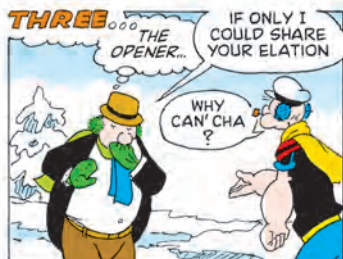
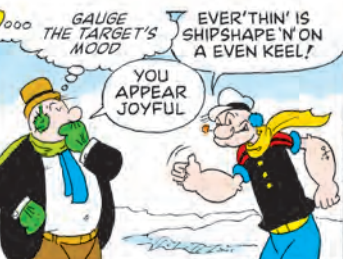
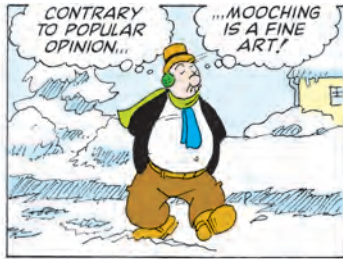
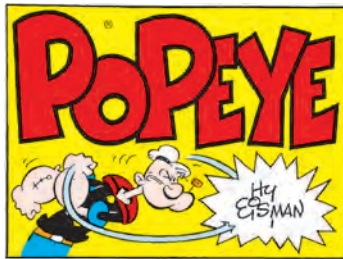
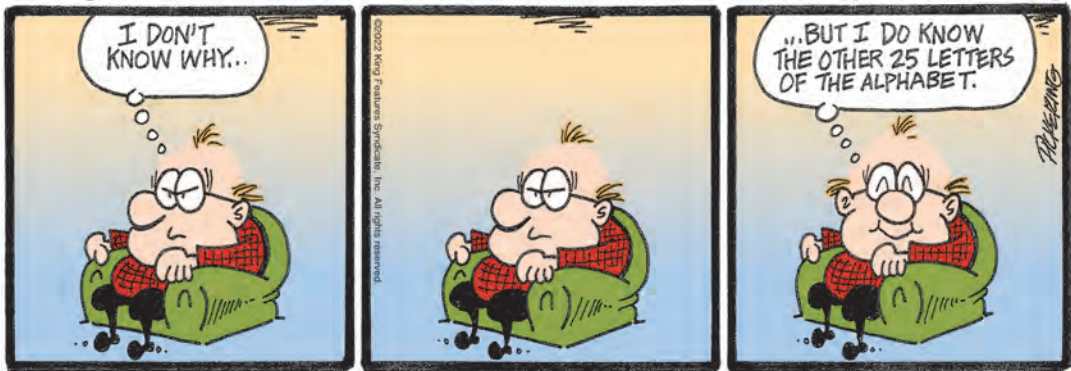
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



SCRAMBLERS

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

Swap
DATER
Warrior
PARANTS
Unrelated
TALENT
Static
AIRDO

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

January 24, 2022 Posting Date

ACROSS

- 1 Shade
4 Frontiersman
Crockett
8 Pocket bread
12 100 percent
13 Dutch cheese
14 Pedestal
occupant
15 Cowboy's
sweetie
16 Do math
18 Slowpoke
20 Hydrocarbon
suffix
21 Cushions
24 Persian Gulf
emirate
28 Nutritional
label info
32 Flamingo's
color
33 Copper head?
34 Lauder of
cosmetics
36 Summer on
the Seine
37 Guns the
engine
39 Toe of Italy's
boot
41 Fashion
43 Hit with a stun
gun
44 Ms. Thurman
46 Gossip
50 Baseball's
"Iron Man"
55 Deluge refuge
56 Now, in a
memo

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16			17			
18			19			20				
			21		22	23		24		25
28	29	30				31		32		
33				34			35		36	
37			38		39			40		
41				42		43				
			44		45			46		47
50	51	52				53	54		55	
56					57				58	
59					60				61	

- 57 Cowboy's
neckwear
58 Luau bowlful
59 Quick swims
60 Winter blanket
61 Novelist Rand
8 Accumulate
9 Hollywood's
Lupino
10 Nanny's
charge
11 Hearty quaff
17 German con-
junction
19 Wall St. debut
22 Platter
23 Attack
25 Coffin stand
26 Con
27 Furniture
brand
28 2006 Pixar
film
29 Help a hood
30 Tax
31 Actress Ward
35 "Calm down!"
38 Drinks noisily
40 Spell-off
42 Brit. record
label
45 LAPD alerts
47 Wine valley
48 Helen's home
49 Related
50 Scoundrel
51 "— was say-
ing ..."
52 Napkin's
place
53 "— -Tiki"
54 "Evil Woman"
band

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

1			6		9		
		2		7	3		
	6		2		5		1
	3		5				4
7	2			4		8	
		5			6		7
	1		8		4		2
		9		3		6	
8			7				1

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

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Trivia test

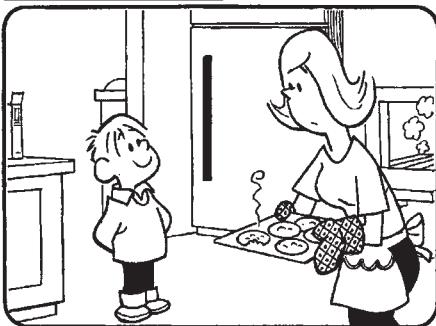
by Fifi Rodriguez

- ANATOMY: How many ribs are in the human body?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of animal is a flying fox?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which body of water does the island of Malta lie?
- U.S. STATES: What animal is featured on the state flag of Louisiana?
- TELEVISION: What was the name of the fictional airline whose jet crashed on an island in "Lost"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president ran on the slogan "Vote Yourself a Farm and Horses"?
- MOVIES: What is the name of Thor's hammer in the earlier "Avengers" movies?
- FOOD & DRINK: The "Iron Chef" TV cooking show originated in which country?
- HISTORY: In what year did the Cold War end?
- SCIENCE: What weather condition is measured in millibars?

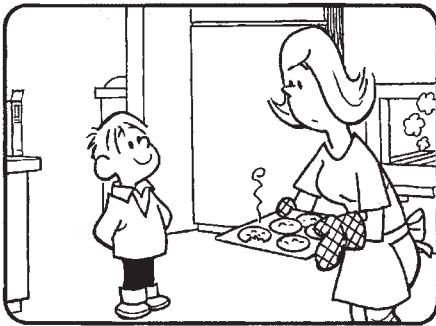
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLITNOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cabinet is moved. 2. Neckline differs. 3. Handle is missing. 4. Gloves are different. 5. Apron is different. 6. Pants are different.

SPOILED

Today's Word

1. Trade 2. Spartan
3. Latent 4. Radio

SCRAMBLERS

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: K equals G

KXW TCVOFTWTJ IF GFDI FXI IQT

SFBUYXGHBK HBYF KPIQTDJTJ FB

DTSFB CHGGHFBG:

PB HBITO VDFSTGGFD.

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1. 24
2. A type of bat
3. Mediterranean Sea
4. A pelican
5. Oceanic Airlines
6. Abraham Lincoln
7. Mojito
8. Japan
9. 1968
10. Atmospheric pressure

N	A	V		W	O	N	S		D	I	P	S
A	O	A	P		O	L	O		A	S	A	P
I				B	O	K	E		C	A	L	R
				N	E	N			I	P	I	R
				Y	E	N	T	A		U	M	A
				T	A	S	E		S	T	A	S
									R	E	S	
									A	B	E	
									C	A	L	
									R	I	E	S
									P	I	N	K
									P	A	D	S
									D	O	U	B
									A	N	E	
									G	A	L	
									C	A	L	
									I	D	O	L
									E	D	A	M
									D	A	V	
									P	I	T	A

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

8	5	4	7	6	2	3	1	9
2	7	9	1	3	5	6	4	8
3	1	6	8	9	4	7	5	2
4	9	5	2	8	6	1	7	3
7	2	1	3	4	9	8	6	5
6	3	8	5	7	1	2	9	4
9	6	7	4	2	3	5	8	1
5	8	2	6	1	7	4	3	6
1	4	3	6	5	8	9	2	7

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Cryptoquip
Guy employed to sort out the
confusing info gathered on
recon missions.
an intel processor.

SPORTS

Clipper Highlights: Class of 2008

Over the next three weeks we will highlight three Clippers from the class of 2008. I have expressed my bias and admiration for all in the class of 2008 in this segment several times, therefore, it is no surprise we would feature three of the very best of the class of 2008.

As Freshman, the class of 2008 were a part of a Fr/So Conference Championship team posting a 9-0 record. As Sophomores, a tie for second place in the conference was earned with a 7-1-1 record.

As Junior's during the 2006 season, the class of 2008 would be a great compliment to the athleticism of the Senior class of '07. The combination of two of our most talented classes of the modern era was sure to usher in Clipper success. With several Juniors playing both ways and special teams, the rigorous Big Rivers campaign produced a 7-2 regular season, including a huge win on Homecoming against Newman. Enter the 3A playoffs and we earned victories in each of the first two rounds including the impressive road win at Hampshire. I will spare the repetitive detail as it was only four weeks ago we highlighted the 2006 season and all our familiar with its end coming at the hands of the Plano Reapers.

With great experience

gained by so many impactful Juniors during the '06 campaign, no lesser of an outcome would be the expectation in 2007. My grade (2009) and the class of 2008 were always close growing up as kids in our program. The class of 2008 had the talent, seriousness, and leadership to make us conform to their standard. However, we brought the levity to their seriousness, attention to their leadership, and a supreme respect for their talent. Amongst us Juniors at the time, it was a greater sin and greater disappointment to let one of those Seniors down than it was to lose a contest. That deep care was formed before practices began. I remember vividly, being called out to Coach Nauman's house for a mandatory team meeting before the start of doubles. I was unsure the nature of the mandatory meeting but when we all arrived, it was clear what the message would be. We ate, watched the 1984 State Championship video, and bonded as a team. The night ended with the greatest pre-season speech I have ever been a part of by Coach Nauman and the 2007 season was underway.

The season began with an opening victory at home against St. Bede, a team that always plays us very tough. After an aerial clinic put on by past highlights, Travis Nau-

Clipper Highlights

By Spencer Morrissey



man and Anthony Wells, we made victory look easy over a worthy foe. The following week would bring vengeance as we would host the Storm of Bureau Valley. Given the outcomes with the Storm the previous two seasons, we set sail to ride the Storm out. Not only did we earn the victory but shut out the highly touted Storm offense, posting a 28-0 victory improving our record to 2-0. The next week we improved to 3-0 after coming out victorious at Erie-Prophetstown in the classic "mosquito game." The mosquitoes were so bad that evening that even while playing we were getting bit. Week four we returned home to host undefeated Fulton. A Fulton team, that was supposed to resemble some of their successful teams of the

90's, sailed into The Harbor and were sunk without difficulty, 44-14. Sailing onto a 4-0 record, we stayed at the docks of The Harbor to host Morrison. Ranked near the top in the state in 2A, and us being ranked within the top ten in 3A, it was going to be a battle. The Mustangs had too much fire power for us that night and went onto a 43-14 victory. There was no time for sulking in defeat as the following week we would travel to the Coliseum for a date with arch rival Sterling Newman. Up at half and into the 3rd quarter 14-0, we felt we had the Comets right where we wanted them. However, the toll our strength of schedule took on our team was shown the remaining 16 minutes of the contest. Already without our first string Quarterback and Running Back, most of us playing both ways, the Newman, 3 yards and a cloud of dust, offense began to wear us down. Newman scored 32 unanswered points to take the contest and gave us our second loss of the season. Strength in togetherness and strength in great leadership never changed our minds as to who we were.

Posting three victories over Ottawa Marquette, a hard fought battle at Riverdale, and big win over River Valley we closed the season at 7-2. We returned our starting Quarterback and Running Back in the final three games and we were healthy heading into the first round of the 3A playoffs.

We went south in the draw as we would open up with Hamilton West Hancock. A much bigger opponent, we were unfazed by their size as we knew they didn't play the caliber of football we had all season long. They learned what Big Rivers football was all about that day at The Har-

bor as we routed the Titans that afternoon, 31-0. It was then onto face the best the South had to offer in PORTA. The Blue Jays were highly touted, looked incredible on film, and came into the contest 10-0. It's rare, but that day we saw the heroics of so many great Clippers. The class of 2008 bred the mindset in all of us that the adversity our opponent presented was no match for our talent, our brotherhood, and our will to win. We broke the charter bus curse and won the day, 24-13. With the police escort back into town, it was all business as there were more football games to win. A Quarterfinal matchup with the Don Beebe led Aurora Christian Eagles was set. What I did not find out until I went to Aurora University, was that Don Beebe had the choice to play at five venues closer than the chosen venue of Melrose Park's Ralph "Babe" Serpico Field. Taking us as far away from our element as he could, Beebe and Aurora Christian failed to understand that our environment came with us every week, no matter the distance. It was the greatest game to be a part of and the hardest to see end. Even though we had made mistakes that may have produced a different outcome, the game was taken from our hands. We lost the Quarterfinal match 32-26. It was a devastating loss. To see so many of the men I bled with, men I called brothers be taken to their knees with grief. The toughest teammates I've ever had were weeping because it wasn't just a loss. It was a bitter end to all we worked for in our young lives to that point.

I've made my admiration for the class of 2008 known throughout these Clipper Highlights. It was an honor being a member of that 2007 Clipper team. By far the most

fun I have ever had playing football and the best football team I have ever been a part of. I am fortunate today to continue to know their friendship.

A tribute to the class of 2008 would not be complete without the highlight of three of their finest. Without these three Clipper Linemen, what's written above would read differently. I am so honored to announce these Clipper Highlights; #74 Toby Glenn, #64 Jacob Stewart, and #63 Jordan Willstead.

Teammate and friend, Taylor Kaleel, shared the following about our Week 82 highlights;

"Jordan, Jacob, and Toby were guys you want on your side going into battle on the football field, and they were all some of the toughest guys around. It was an honor to be able to spend them years together playing all the way from Jr. Tackle until our very last down in Melrose Park. Our greatest memories were made playing together. It's guys like that you know you can put your trust into. Our class had a bond to one another that was always based on never giving up, and always fighting to win. Super proud to be able to call them boys, teammates, classmates, and great friends."

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.

Lee-Ogle-Whiteside Regional Spelling Bee planned for Feb. 24

DIXON — The Lee-Ogle-Whiteside Regional Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, Feb. 24, at Dixon High School. Sponsors are Sauk Valley Media, The First National Bank in Amboy, and Lee-Ogle-Whiteside Regional Office of Education. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Spelling Bee will not be open to the public but only to parents of participants. There are 32 finalists from the Lee-Ogle-Whiteside elementary and middle school students in grades fifth through eighth will compete for the regional championship.

The winner receives an all-expense paid trip to National Harbor, Maryland to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee at the end of May.

Prizes include Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Amazon.com gift cards, 2022 United States Mint Proof Set, Encyclopedia Britannica online subscription, the Scripps National Spelling Bee Scratch & Play book, medals, and pins.

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SPORTS

Amboy adds two to the lost column against Milledgeville, Stockton

AMBOY — Scoring droughts in the first and fourth quarters hindered the Amboy Clippers in a 55-40 loss to Milledgeville in varsity boys' basketball action on Jan. 18 at the AHS gym.

Connor Simpson's three-pointer in the first period was all the offense Amboy could muster in the eight-minute session as Milledgeville took an 11-3 lead to the second quarter.

The Clippers put two good back-to-back quarters together and were within striking distance heading to the fourth, 40-34, but they managed just two field goals and two free throws in the final stanza while the Missiles pumped in 15 points.

Tucker Lindenmeyer paced the Clipper scoring attack with 13 points, while Simpson and Brennan Blaine had eight points apiece. Ian Eller chipped in with seven markers.



The Amboy Clippers lost to Milledgeville at home on Jan. 18. Pictured top left, #4 Connor Simpson looks for an open player. Pictured top right, #14 Tyler McNinch looks down the court for the fast break.



Photos courtesy of Tina Eller

Amboy's offense struggled again in a 52-28 loss at Stockton on Jan. 22.

The Clippers hung tough through the first half, trailing 13-9 after one and 24-20 at

intermission. But Amboy managed only eight second-half points, including just one tally in the third period, while Stockton put up 28 points over the final

two frames.

Blaine (13 points) and Tyler McNinch (10 points) led the way for the Clippers.



Amboy's #14 Tyler McNinch goes to the basket against Stockton on Jan. 22. McNinch scored 10 points for the Clippers in the loss. Photos courtesy of Tina Eller



The Clippers defend the basket against Stockton on Jan. 22. The Clippers lost to Stockton 52-28.

Photos courtesy of Tina Eller

Lady Clippers add three to the win column

AMBOY — When the Amboy girls' basketball schedule first comes out, everyone looks to see when the team plays Eastland. So, on Jan. 19, the Lady Clippers traveled to Lanark, and as usual, the game was a tough one. And as usual, the game came down to the wire and Amboy pulled out a 41-39 victory over the Cougars.

Amboy struggled early and trailed 8-6 after one quarter, but outscored the home team, 12-7, in the second period to take an 18-15 half-time lead. The Lady Clippers played a good third quarter and were able to stretch the advantage to 28-17 heading to the fourth.

Eastland wasn't done, drilling six three-pointers in the final frame, but Amboy sank nine of 14 free throws in the stanza to pull out the exciting win. Elly Jones made two free tosses to put Amboy ahead by one and Maeve Larson's free throw

gave the team a two-point lead. Eastland launched a half-court shot that misfired at the buzzer to end another classic game between the two teams.

Olivia Dinges poured in 16 points, grabbed seven rebounds and added two assists, two steals and two blocked shots to pace the victory. Larson ended with 11 points, four caroms and five steals, while Jones and Courtney Orgiesen provided six points apiece. Jones also collected two assists and four steals, while Orgiesen hauled down six boards and added two assists and two steals. Olivia Miller chipped in with two points and two steals.

The Lady Clippers hosted Forreton on Jan. 21 and coasted to a 38-15 win. Amboy jumped in front early, 14-3, and never looked back.

Jones led the attack with 11 points, four assists and four steals. Dinges was next

with 10 tallies, eight rebounds and a pair of steals, while Larson had six points and four caroms and Orgiesen scored five points and had four boards. Also, Miller dropped in four points and swiped two steals and Lexi Ketchum added a bucket to round out the scoring.

Less than 24 hours later, Amboy entertained a quality Polo squad and the Lady Marcos pulled out a 63-58 victory on Jan. 22 at the AHS gym.

Polo zoomed out to a 23-8 first-quarter ambush and the Lady Clippers continued to struggle in the second period, trailing 34-18 at the break. Amboy roared back and pumped in 40 second-half points, but it wasn't enough to overtake the Lady Marcos.

Dinges had a career-high 26 points for the Lady Clippers, with 19 coming during the second-half comeback. She also yanked down 10 rebounds for her eighth dou-

ble-double of the season and had three steals. Jones netted 11 points, dished out six assists and posted three steals, while Haidyn Zimmerly also had a career-high 10 points. Eight of her points also came in the second half. Others contributing to Amboy's effort were Orgiesen (seven points, four rebounds), Larson (two points, six rebounds, three steals) and Ketchum (two points).

Amboy (14-7) finished the game with four starters getting whistled for four fouls. It had 21 total fouls compared to 13 for Polo. The real damage was at the free throw line. Polo shot 26 free throws, converting on 16, while Amboy was eight of 11 from the stripe. The Lady Marcos were great from the field, but Amboy outscored them from the field, 50-47.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Girls Basketball
Olivia Dinges & Haidyn Zimmerly

Boys Basketball
Brennan Blaine

Wrestling
Kaylee Scanland & Kole Beckham



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Wrestlers head to Sandwich for Regionals

SANDWICH — The Amboy High School wrestling team will participate in the Sandwich Class 1A Regional to be held Saturday, Feb. 5.

Other schools in the regional include Aurora Central Catholic, Elgin Harvest Christian Academy, Mendota, Mooseheart,

St. Bede, Plano, Sandwich, Somonauk and West Chicago Wheaton Academy.

First-, second- and third-place winners from each weight class advance to the Princeton Sectional scheduled for Friday, Feb. 11 and Saturday, Feb. 12.



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Monday, Jan. 31

AHS Boys Basketball (H) AFC-6 pm
AHS Scholastic Bowl (H) Fulton
AJHS 7th/8th Girls Basketball (H)
Dixon Catholic-4 pm
AJHS Girls Basketball @ Dixon Catholic-6th
5 pm/5th-6 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 1

AHS Boys Basketball (H) Fulton-6 pm
AJHS Girls Basketball @ East Coloma-8th
5 pm/7th-6 pm

Wednesday, Feb. 2

AHS Art Club-Room 210-3:30-4:30 pm
AHS Boys Basketball @ Forreton-5:30 pm
AHS Varsity Girls Basketball @ Earlville-5:30 pm
AJHS 5th/6th Girls Basketball (H) Montmorency
4 pm
AJHS Girls Basketball @ Sauk Valley Saints-8th
5 pm/7th-6 pm

Thursday, Feb. 3

AHS Boys Basketball (H) Forreton-6 pm
Central School Drawing Club (1st-4th)-Art Room
3:20-4:20 pm

Friday, Feb. 4

AHS Varsity Girls Basketball @ Milledgeville-6 pm

Saturday, Feb. 5

AHS Boys Basketball @ Rockford Christian Life-1 pm
AHS Girls Basketball (H) Newark-2 pm

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