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The Depot Museum

Amboy, Illinois

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New Amboy H.S. gym expected to be ready next week

BY BONNIE MORRIS

Editor

AMBOY — The last few finishing touches are steadily being completed at the Amboy Junior High/High School building project. Reporting at the Sept. 23 board of education meeting, Amboy Superintendent Joshua Nichols said the exterior painting is wrapping up and the roof over the storm shelter is now finished.

As for the high school addition, Nichols said the new gym is almost ready for students to use and if everything goes well, that should happen on Oct. 4.

“The good thing is that we are starting to get some forward progress on both production and delivery of some materials that have been hard to get,” he noted. “This is not everything, but some forward progress is being made.”

PRINCIPALS’ REPORTS

Amboy High School Principal Janet Crownhart congratulated Lauren Tarr, who was named Student of the Month for Sep-

tember.

Curriculum and School Improvement

• During the Sept. 14 School Improvement day teachers met to discuss the next chapter of the book study, “Significant 72.” They also worked on mandated trainings, getting SLOs set up and ready to go, and started to work through the Job Fair to be held in October. English Department teachers had training on StudySync in the afternoon.

• Crownhart and Katie Bulfer attended CPI refresher training in Byron on Sept. 15.

School Activities

• Crownhart said Homecoming Week began on Sept. 12 with the seniors winning the Powder Puff on Sunday afternoon. Throughout the week, there was also fresh/soph football, volleyball, cross country, and golf meets and games.

• The homecoming court was announced during a pep assembly on Sept. 13. The court included Natalie Pratt and Quinn Leffelman; Maeve Larson and Brennan Blaine; Courtney

Ortgiesen and Kelton Schwamberger; and seniors, Lauren Althaus, Abigail Christoffersen, Lexi Morgan, Baylie Nickel, Kenzie Nickel, Lauren Richardson, Jairon Hochstatter, Andrew Jones, Haden McCoy, Sam Russell and Hayden Wittenauer.

• On Thursday night, Haden McCoy and Lauren Althaus were crowned king and queen.

• The Homecoming Dance on Saturday night welcomed 216 students.

• Crownhart thanked the judges for floats, hallways and skits and announced the final results and overall places for Homecoming.

Hallway: Freshmen-4th, Sophomores-3rd, Juniors-2nd, and Seniors-1st.

Skits: Juniors-4th, Sophomores-3rd, Freshmen-2nd, and Seniors-1st.

Float: Juniors-4th, Freshmen-3rd, Seniors-2nd, and Sophomores-1st.

Overall Homecoming places were: Juniors-4th, Freshmen-3rd, Sophomores-2nd, and Seniors-1st.

• P.R.I.D.E Awards were given to those that

went above and beyond the expectations of high school students. The recipients include Kain Ketchum, Emily Sachs, Wes Wilson, Jarrett Dempsey, Brennan Blaine, Aislinn Zitelman, Tyrah Vaessen, Hayleigh Stenzel, Lauren Richardson, Serenity Munk, Mason Ely, Aaliyah Pointer, Sierra Rhodes, Elizabeth Malach, Dillon Merriman, Dana Merriman and Valeria Salgado.

Building Activities

• A Bus Evacuation Drill was held on Sept. 14.

Amboy Junior High Principal Andrew Full Curriculum and School Improvement

• On Sept. 1, the SIP Team met with Anji Garza from the Regional Office of Education to discuss budgeting funds for the EMPOWER 1003(a) grant, meeting calendar, department meetings, grade level meetings, STAR, Easy-CBM and RtI Handbook.

See SCHOOL page A3

On Solid Turf

BY GEORGE HOWE

Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY — Twenty-seven years ago, one woman’s vision and selfless desire to create something special in the Amboy community, has been a solid foundation for countless children and is still going strong today.

What started out as a bi-monthly dance, held in the basement of St. Patrick’s church for teen’s to have a place to meet, socialize and stay off the streets on Friday nights after football and basketball games, has prospered under the caring watch of Teen Turf Executive Director Eileen Piper, lovingly referred to as ‘Grandma’ by the kids.

“The dance floor was about 10 feet wide but the kids didn’t care,” said Piper. “We started out with 20 or so teens and every dance they kept coming until we had 200 kids. We would drag over pizza ovens, equipment to play the music, and we realized that we needed a place of our own.”

While working at Franklin Elementary, Piper noticed that they had a weekly after school program, and knew that one was needed in Amboy.

“I talked to the principal at our elementary school and mentioned that if Franklin could have one, and they are a smaller town than us, that



Teen Turf Executive Director Eileen Piper, lovingly referred to as ‘Grandma’ by the kids, had a vision and desire to create something special in the Amboy community.

Photo courtesy of Teen Turf

we should have one too,” she explained.

The program started to get a solid footing and praises from parents and teachers, but again Piper realized that they were outgrowing the space provided by the school. Bailey Implement, a longtime business in Amboy, had closed its doors and the property had come up for

sale. Piper had approached Mrs. Bailey, who eventually became Teen Turf’s Board President for many years, about purchasing the building.

“At first, the price was out of our reach,” said Piper.

See TEEN TURF page A5



The youth who attend Teen Turf pose for a picture.

Photo courtesy of Teen Turf



During the school year, children from third grade and up, start with a meal after school. Then play time to release some of the day’s energy built up from sitting in class.

Photo courtesy of Teen Turf

DONOR PLAQUE

The 272 KIDS donor plaque is located in the new Junior High School directly across from the new offices in the education wing. The businesses and individuals who made the passing of the referendum successful are recognized on the plaque. The individuals in the photo are Superintendent Joshua Nichols, 272 KIDS committee members, Matt Willahan, Angie Dallam, Nichole Stenzel, not pictured Allison Fox and Jessica Meusel. The donors listed on the plaque include: Platinum Donors: Amboy Education Foundation, Amboy Food and Liquor, Meusel’s Dairy Delite, The First National Bank in Amboy, and Dale and Anne Morrison; Gold Donors: Stenzel Insurance, Two Sisters on Main, Sherry and Nancy, Matt Willahan-Realtor; Silver Donors: Luke and Elsa Payne and family; Bronze Donors: Dinges Fire Company, Brian and Angie Dallam, Drs. Brandon and Kelly Klein, and Gerald and Linda Klein. Underneath the donors reads: The above individuals and businesses were instrumental in the successful passing of the bond referendum for the Amboy Community Unit School District #272. Their contributions and efforts are a true testament to the value of investment, ensuring that quality education has a place in our communities and the future is secure for the youth of Amboy Schools.

Photo submitted



Amboy Lions Draw Down a success

AMBOY — The Amboy Lions Club Draw Down held on Sept. 11 was a big success as it returned to its normal format this year. The food served by the Lee County Pork Producers was delicious and the attendees all had a good time. The big winners of the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Doug Klein and Mr. and Mrs. Nick Dinges. The Club wishes to thank the local residents for their support again this year and the area businesses and individuals who donated money and prizes to make the evening so successful.

In other news, a club member brightened up the Amboy

See LIONS page A2

Fall Get Together/ Customer Appreciation Event

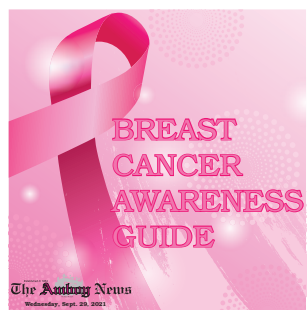
Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021 from 4 - 7 pm

242 E Main St., Amboy

Come join us for complimentary
hot dogs, brats, chips, cookies
and drink

Indian food sampling
Liquor sampling
Please RSVP to the event on the
Amboy Food & Liquor Facebook Page

AMBOY FOOD & LIQUOR



**BREAST
CANCER
AWARENESS
SPECIAL SECTION**



**CLIPPER
HIGHLIGHTS**

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Inserts

Snyders
Fall Savings Spec



LOCAL NEWS

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Welcome signs this week with fall decorations donated by Deb and Rick Cardot. Lion Jim Travi is finalizing plans for the Amboy Central School's annual fourth grade class pumpkin decorating event to be held in early October. Pfeiffer Farms Fresh Market of Ashton will be donating the pumpkins for this event.

Meusel's Amboy Dairy Delight donated tokens that the students will be able to redeem

for ice cream cones in the spring.

Lion Jeff Lilja is chairing a feasibility study committee to investigate adding all-inclusive playground equipment to one of the city parks. This playground equipment will be a major undertaking for the club and donations are welcome.

The Club invites anyone interested in the Lions to attend one of its meetings to learn more about the Club and how to join.

The club meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Amboy Community Building.

Follow us on Facebook or on the club's website.



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2021 Flu Clinics

LEE COUNTY HEALTH

Department

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
October 6, 2021	2:00pm—6:00pm	Lee County Health Department, Dixon
November 3, 2021	2:00pm—6:00pm	Lee County Health Department, Dixon

Self-Pay Cost: Adults: \$30 Hi-Dose: \$45 (age 65+, if available) Children: \$12 (0—18 years old)

Children 18 and under that are uninsured, have insurance that does not cover vaccines, or have Medicaid title 19 qualify for the VFC program and can receive a flu shot at the reduced cost of \$12.

All clinics are walk-in, no appointment necessary.

We bill insurance so please bring your Medicaid, Medicare, or other insurance cards.
State employees / Retirees must bring their state ID.
Credit Cards, Cash & Checks accepted. Please make checks payable to LCHD.

Questions? Call (815)284-3371 Extension: 2100

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of vaccines, however you should always check with your insurance company before visiting your health care provider to ensure services are covered. Payment for vaccines not covered by insurance will be the responsibility of the patient and due at the time of service.

LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Upcoming Events

We will be having our Fish Fry Drive-Thru on Saturday, October 23rd. It will be from 4-6 p.m. Price T.B.A.

Our free after-school program for third-eighth grade began Tuesday, Sept. 7th from 3:30-5 p.m. We have a few students on the waiting list. 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.

Donations

We have been receiving some donations. However, they do not have any names attached to them. Mrs. Piper is asking to let us know. You can tell us not to thank you, but we would like to do it in private. Thank you!

Thank You's

We are blessed to have the following folks help us and we thank them: Johnson Tractor Supply and Tim Dewale and Curt Vincent coming to our rescue for the homecoming parade; Leroy Dukes helping with the float; Alice Dukes and her donation of the plant; Anonymous person who donated grocery bags and soap; the children who helped at the homecoming parade-Michael, Matthew, Lila, Liam, Kylee, Gianna, Hayden, Anthony, and Charlotte; Mark Grossman for driving our float; Mark and Veronica Grossman for the items; Those that donate the cans; Susan Erisman for the cookies; Irene and Eileen Ramsdell for the meat, cheese, cupcakes, and napkin; the children who helped at Walton Fest-Maddy, Syd, Hayden, Michael, Matthew, Lila, and Kimber; and all of our afterschool volunteers-Candy, Kathy, Shannon, Chris, and Donna.

Needs

Snack crackers and granola bars

Final Word

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us and reminding us of Your Truth. Help us keep my eyes on You, especially in times of rejection. May we remember that You can use all things for our good and Your glory. Give us a heart that trusts, and take away the desire to lean on our own understanding. Thank You for Your protection, provision, and presence! In Jesus' name, Amen.

SCHOOL continued from page A1

• On Sept. 8, each grade level met for two class periods to discuss students, data and upcoming events.

• During the Sept. 13 SIP Day, the ELA teachers participated in a Wit & Wisdom training. Other content areas were able to meet as departments and time was given to complete mandated trainings.

• On Sept. 15, Scotlyn Schabacker and Kaylee Jones attended a training on the use of Bridges, and Katie Bulfer attended a training on CPI at OCEC in Byron.

PBIS

• On Aug. 24, students went through Basic Training to learn what is expected of them regarding their actions/behaviors in certain parts of the school and on the bus.

• On Sept. 13, the first PBIS assembly was held and the following awards were handed out:

Students of the Month

5th Grade- Landon Jackson and Kinsley Pogue

6th Grade- Faith Fenwick and Amylia Bump

7th Grade- Lily Leffelman and Aaron Costner

8th Grade- Tucker McCoy and Olivia Ketchum

P.E.- Landon Roath and Rylan McNinch

Clipper P.R.I.D.E.- Kaylee Zimmerman, Mason Morris,

Michael Hood, Bradley Schmidt, Anthony Sus, Macie Muro, Owen Dallam, Ellie McLaughlin, Kaitlyn Dempsey, Henry Nichols, Gavin Spinelli, Landon Donna, Charlotte Patterson, Aaron Costner, Jasmine Scott, Hope Lauzon, Aiden Spinelli, Caylee Hummel, Aubrey Wells, Jose Lopez, Liam Ketchum and Julius Arteaga.

On Sept. 17, students received their first orders by purchasing items in return for the Clipper P.R.I.D.E. good behavior tickets.

School Activities

• During the PBIS assembly, Full said the SEL groups presented their service learning projects for this year. The projects include:

5th Grade- Selling candy to raise money for animal shelters.

6th Grade- Sponsoring good day Fridays. Handing out candy and playing upbeat music on the Friday after SIP days.

7th Grade- Putting together care packages for servicemen and women.

8th Grade- AJHS Newsletter, purchasing plants for each classroom and hosting a Relay for Life in the spring.

• The AJHS 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams competed at the Montmorency Tournament. Seventh grade finished 3rd and 8th grade finished 1st.

• During the week of Sept. 13, students participated in a Spirit Week that coincided with AHS Homecoming.

• Students completed their fall benchmark testing on STAR and EasyCBM the week of Sept. 13.

Central Elementary Principal Joyce Schamberger School Improvement/Professional Development

• K-4 English Language Arts teachers attended a Zoom training on Wit & Wisdom.

• Benchmark testing on all students K-4 was scheduled for the week of Sept. 20-27.

PBIS

• The Prize Closet for Central School students to purchase items using Camp Cash is being stocked by suggestions from students and teachers. Central School PTC supports

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.

HARMON-The Harmon Methodist Church, 202 N. Grove St., will hold their Annual Bazaar on Saturday, Oct. 2, from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Masks will be required.

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

AMBOY-The Amboy American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Monday, Oct. 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Long Branch Saloon. All are invited to attend. Joyce Schamberger will be the hostess. Social distancing and masks will be required. Any questions, call Joyce Schamberger at 815-973-4691.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood

Drive from 7:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 6, at Do It Best Corporation, 816 W. Progress Dr. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

AMBOY-The Class of 1953 Reunion will be held at Noon on Friday, Oct. 8, at Sunset Inn, RT 52 and RT 34. Everyone will order from the menu.

AMBOY-The Amboy Fire Protection District will meet at 8 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 11, at the Fire Station.

AMBOY-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 11, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. Anyone interested in joining is invited to attend.

SUBLETTE-The Sublette Village Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 11, at the Ellice Dinges Center, 202 S. West St.

EAST GROVE TWP-The East Grove Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 12, at the

East Grove Township Hall.

Download the Blood Donor App.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 13, at Dixon Home of Hope, 1637 Plock Rd. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate.

AMBOY-The Amboy Township Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 13, at the township building, 106 S. Prospect.

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Rain Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021 Noon Start

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(Check Facebook for updates)

The Amboy News

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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.

the PBIS program.

• During the Sept. 13 assembly, students were recognized for Camper of the Month. Reading teacher Kathleen Russell spoke to students about the yearlong Book-It theme and reading goals. The assembly ended with a sing-a-long camp song led by Schamberger.

• Central also had a dress-up week in honor of AHS Homecoming.

School Activities

• Second Step presentations are taking place each week, in-person with Edie Peterson of the YWCA of the Sauk Valley. This program presents programs on Social Emotional Learning.

• Joe Jahn trained students in bus evacuation as part of the required drills. Central also held a fire drill.

• Art teacher Vanessa Goslin started a Drawing/Art Club. There are four sessions for students and all sessions are full. The emphasis of the club is on drawing, not crafts.

• Central PTC will hold a "Donuts with Dad" on Wednesday, Oct. 6 from 7:15-8:15 a.m. on the blacktop area outside. Coffee, donuts, milk/juice will be offered with a free will donation. This is open to all VIPs for students from Preschool through 4th grade.

• Central held a fundraiser called Book Blast. Families and friends were invited to make donations for library books to be used by students and the school.

OTHER BUSINESS

• Following a public hearing, the board adopted the 2021-2022 budget, which covers the time period from July 1, 2021 through June 31, 2022. Nichols said the Amboy School District is doing well as far as managing finances, which is reflected in the budget.

PERSONNEL

Following closed session, the board accepted the resignation of Robert Wissinger as a counselor at Amboy High School, effective Sept. 17; Christine Nowacki as cafeteria cook at Central, effective Sept. 29; and Megan Bus as credit recovery advisor for the 2021-22 school year.

They hired Michelle Wilhelm as cafeteria cook at Amboy Junior High, effective Aug. 20 and approved Danielle Benesh as credit recovery advisor for the 2021-22 school year and Joe Heavner for fall play scenery this school year.

The next regular board meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 19 at Central School. All meetings are open to the public.

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Guy "Butch" Horton, Jr.

April 4, 1945 - Sept. 20, 2021

AMBOY — Guy "Butch" Horton, Jr., 76, of Amboy, died on Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 at KSB Hospital in Dixon.

He was born on April 4, 1945, in Sterling, the son of Guy and Fern (Shultz) Horton. Butch worked as a Chemical Applicator in the Shabbona area and maintenance at Prairie Repose

Cemetery for several years. He was a member of the Shabbona Lions Club and

Shabbona Fire Department. Butch is preceded in death by his parents, and step father Roy Isenberg.

He is survived by his three sons, David Horton, Darrel Horton, Danny Horton; sister, Dory (Dale) Lawson, of Dixon; two brothers, Marion (Kathy) Horton, of Dixon, Larry Horton, of Texas. Butch is also survived by his long time companion Sue Jones, of Amboy and her family, Sam (Judy) Jones, Willie

(Betsy) Jones, Andy (Karen) Jones and their families, all of Amboy.

There will be a graveside service at 2 p.m., on Friday, Sept. 24, 2021, at Prairie Repose Cemetery in Amboy. Memorial donations in Butch's memory can be made to St. Jude Children Hospital.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.

Howard Duane Bonnell

Aug. 14, 1947 - Sept. 17, 2021

AMBOY — Howard Duane Bonnell, 74, of Amboy, passed away Friday, Sept. 17, 2021, at his winter home in, Benton, Ky.

His strong work ethics started at a young age. When he was in seventh grade, he was chosen by his principal to clean and maintain the Lee Center School at the end of each day. Following his service in the military he worked for the State of Illinois as a civil engineer. He then worked as a maintenance director for Amboy and Dixon School Districts, and retired in maintenance at the Dixon YMCA. Howard was also an entrepreneur; he owned and operated many companies through out his life time.

Howard was born Aug. 14, 1947, in Amboy, the son of Leo and Wandalee (Myers) Bonnell. He married Elaine Herwig on Sept. 9, 1967, in Dixon.

Howard served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He received a Purple Heart, a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars; Howard ended his military

career as a Major in the Army Reserves. Howard was a member of the Elks and VFW. He enjoyed traveling and camping all over the United States. Howard was an avid gun enthusiast and a member of the NRA. Most of all he enjoyed the time spent with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Elaine Bonnell, of Amboy; three children, Michael (Christine Dewey) Bonnell, of Amboy, Dion Bonnell, of Carson, Wash., and Angela Schrock, of Harmon; 11 grandchildren, Tylor Bonnell, Keaston Bonnell, Nathan Schrock, Jace Bonnell, Braedon Bonnell, Collin Schrock, Garrett Bonnell, Mason Bonnell, Tanner Schrock, Nicholas Dewey, Lindsay Dewey; one great-grandchild, Miayah Dempsey; two brothers, Leslie (Karen) Bonnell, of Steward, Alvin (Sheryll) Bonnell of Jefferson, Wis.; one sister-in-law, Christine Bonnell of Troy Grove; and many nieces and nephews.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents; and two siblings, Lowell Bonnell and



Arlene Jacobs.

Visitation was held from 4-8 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, at Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon. Funeral Service was held at 11 a.m., Friday, Sept. 24, 2021, at Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon. Burial followed at Woodside Cemetery in Lee Center, with Military Honors.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to Wounded Warrior.

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

Condolences may be sent to www.prestonschilling.com.

William J. Dempsey

Oct. 18, 1927 - Sept. 19, 2021

DIXON — William J. Dempsey, 93, of Dixon, formerly of Walton, died on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021 at KSB Hospital in Dixon.

He was born on Oct. 18, 1927, in Amboy the son of Lawrence and Gertrude (Fitzsimmons) Dempsey.

William was a lifelong farmer and actively farmed until he was 86 years old in the Walton area. Even in his retirement he enjoyed trips to the farm which he loved with all his heart.

He was a lifetime member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Walton, and was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He will be greatly missed by his family and will be remembered by his strong will and kindness.

William married Regina M. Finn at St. Mary Catholic Church in Walton on June 20, 1951.

He is preceded in death by

his wife on March 10, 2014; his sons, Mitchell and Stephen Dempsey; sisters, Mary Trumble, Rita Schindler, Lenore Knoll, and Arvilla Brechon; and brothers, Earl and Joseph Dempsey.

William is survived by his daughters, Lisa Magnafici, of Dixon, Tosca (Rocky) Schultz, of Amboy; grandchildren, Sean Dempsey, Paul (Sara) Magnafici, Jaime (Bryan) Monk, Tess Magnafici, Hayli (Justin Shippert) Schultz, Whitney Schultz, Nick Schultz; and great-grandchildren, Bryson and Koven Shippert, Mia and Ellie Monk, and Mary Jo Magnafici. He is also survived by one sister, Joan Christofferson, of Dixon.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m., at St. Mary Catholic Church in Walton. Burial with military honors



followed at St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the American Diabetes association.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Online condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com

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Old engine

A 1914 Case steam engine from a family in Holcomb was part of the Antique Power Days that was held on Sept. 24-26 at Mendota Hills Campground between Sublette and Amboy. A spectacular spark show was held on Saturday night that lit up the night sky. Other events included a parade, sawmilling, steam power and hay rides.

Photo contributed

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

St. Patrick Church

Fr. John Gow
32 N Jones, Amboy

815-857-2315 • www.stpatrickamboy.org

Masses: Tuesday - Friday Daily Mass 8 am
Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 7:30 am & 10 am

Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 pm
Wednesday, 5:30-6:15 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Friday, 8am-5 pm

St. Mary Church

Fr. John Gow
912 Walton Rd., Walton

815-857-2670

Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm

St. Flannen Church

Fr. John Gow
213 S Second St., Harmon

815-857-2670

Mass: Sunday, 9 am

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.

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.

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

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.

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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

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Church Phone 857-2682

www.fbcamboy.com

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Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.

Evening Service - 6 p.m.

Wed. prayer meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

King's Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday

Reformers Unanimous addictions program

from 7-9 p.m.

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.

St. Mary's Church

Rev. Randy Fronek

West Brooklyn

Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m.

Saturday - 5:30 p.m.

St. Patrick Church

Rev. Randy Fronek - Maytown

Mass - Fri. 8 a.m., Sun, 8 a.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor Barb Otten
960 U.S. Route 52

Phone 857-2225

Sun. Worship - 9:00 a.m. Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:40-10:15 a.m.

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.

Refuge Church

Pastor John Kalebaugh

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10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows

Harmon United Methodist Church

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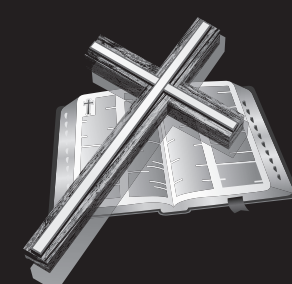
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SOCIAL NEWS

TEEN TURF continued from page A1

After some prayer and reflection, Mrs. Bailey agreed to sell the building in 1998, which sits on Main Street and is called Bailey Youth Center-Teen Turf.

The brick and mortar organization relies on monthly fundraisers and donations from the community, and receives funding from the United Way and AmeriCorps to sustain after school programs at a high level.

"Both organizations have seen our growth and continue to believe in our mission of building strong caring adults for the future," said Piper.

During the school year, children from third grade and up, start with a meal after school. Then play time to release some of the day's energy built up from sitting in class. Two staff members Pam Thomas, Piper's assistant is a whiz on the computer according to Piper and handles emails and donation requests to name just a couple of her duties, and Gabby Ketchum, who started in the program in fifth grade and graduated high school last year, oversee a group of volunteers, many former member's of teen turf to help with homework and

any other projects.

"I'm able to keep a watchful eye and provide a helping hand to anyone that needs it," shared Ketchum. "I know how important and what it meant to me that someone cared enough to assist me and I'm glad to do the same."

Once the final school bell rings for the year, the Summer Splash program kicks into high gear. Pre-school to high school kids participate in activities such as swimming, sports, learn crafts, and get some valuable gardening knowledge at the local community garden from friends of the University of Illinois Extension Program. If you our out driving in town, you no doubt have seen the kids cleaning up trash on the roadsides, in the parks, or weeding by businesses and landmarks such as the Depot Museum.

"Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Mrs. Piper, kids know that this is a safe place to come to like going to 'Grandma's house,'" said Thomas. "There is the ability to learn and grow, to understand how to help others, to follow the rules, and if you don't 'Grandma'

will make sure to call you out on it, but it's always done with love."

During the height of the Covid epidemic, the program was closed down for just a short period of time, as per the Governor's directive. Piper and her staff sprang into action and created a 24 hour, 7 days a week food pantry for the citizens of Amboy to help in their time of need.

"We were given 'Covid Money' from Dixon Bank, and filled our front hallway with essentials like paper products, canned goods and some bakery items," she said. "We were very grateful to Dixon Bank."

The recurring theme and mission statement of Teen Turf is a direct result of the influence, dedication and hard work of its founder, 'Grandma Piper.'

"My dream and goal is and will continue to be is for every child that has and will come through the program, is that they don't put out their hand looking for something for nothing, but extend giving hands of assistance to their community or wherever life takes them," Piper said.

Amboy Civic Organization to hold meeting

AMBOY—Amboy Civic Organization members are invited to gather at Teen Turf building, 235 W. Main St., Amboy, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, at 10 a.m., for group chair-exer-

cises and walking.

Our first sessions will begin Sept. 28 and 30.

Our next monthly ACO meeting will be Oct. 5, at Maria's with optional socializing/dinner at 6 p.m.,

and meeting at 7 p.m.

If you have not sent in your annual dues yet, they may be submitted at next meeting or mailed to Carole Benson, P.O. Box 96, Amboy, IL 61310. Annual

dues are \$10 for single membership or \$15 for couple membership.

ACO is a Pankhurst Memorial Library benefactor.

Stewart reschedules Dixon Regional Town Hall

FREEPORT—After receiving notice late Tuesday night regarding a policy change at Sauk Valley Community College that would require guests to show proof of vaccine or present a negative COVID-19 test, State Senator Brian Stewart (R-Freeport) has announced he will reschedule his Sept. 23 in-person Dixon Regional Town Hall.

Stewart's rescheduled Regional Listening Tour Town Hall will now take place on Tuesday, Nov. 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Dixon Elks Lodge 779,

1279 Franklin Grove Road, Dixon. The event was originally scheduled to take place on Thursday, Sept. 23 in the Jerry Mathis Theatre at Sauk Valley Community College.

"The vaccine-or-test requirement at the venue for its guests has the potential to severely limit who is able to attend my event," said Sen. Stewart. "I want to ensure that every constituent has the ability to have their voice heard and address the concerns that matter most to them, which is why I have decided

to reschedule the event at a venue that would accommodate all constituents.

"My staff has worked hard to ensure this event protects the health and safety of all attendees and they will continue to do so for the rescheduled event."

The rescheduled event will still feature special guests, State Senators Sue Rezin (Morris), Dave Syverson (Rockford), and Win Stoller (German-town Hills).

U. OF I. EXTENSION NEWS

Every year, National 4-H Week sees millions of youth, parent, volunteers and alumni come together to celebrate the many positive youth development opportunities offered by 4-H. The theme for this year's National 4-H Week is Find Your SPARK.

Illinois 4-H is building empowered,

skilled, and confident young leaders who learn by doing with fun, hands-on activities in over 60 interest areas like animal sciences, creative arts, public speaking, STEM, and more. Find your spark in Illinois 4-H. We're the place where kids and teens ages five to 18 belong, lead, serve and learn - and we

can't wait for you to join.

Youth interested in 4-H can contact the local University of Illinois Extension office in Carroll (815-244-9444), Lee (815-857-3525) and Whiteside County (815-632-3611), or search for more information on-line at go.illinois.extension/clw

The Book Nook

By:
Tatjana Kazan

A Midwestern Adolscence

Without exaggeration, a writer once called William Maxwell "one of the great under-appreciated authors of the 20th century." In his novels and short stories, Maxwell focused primarily on his Midwestern roots. He was born in 1908 in Lincoln, Illinois, attended Senn High School in Chicago, and graduated with honors from the University of Illinois. As fiction editor for forty years at the New Yorker magazine, he was mentor to many famous American writers, including John Updike, J. D. Salinger, and Eudora Welty, who said of him, "For fiction writers, he was the headquarters."

At the conclusion of his novel, "The Folded Leaf," (originally published in 1945), Maxwell turned to what mattered most: "If you live on a prairie you see the whole of the sky. It is all there; and buildings, people, and trees, often ugly in themselves, have the saving grace of unimportance." The novel is about the friendship of two boys: Lymie Peters, who lost his mother in the 1918 flu epidemic (as did Maxwell when he was ten) and Spud Latham, who was transplanted from Wisconsin to Chicago when his father lost his job.

The boys are an unlikely pair. Whereas Lymie is skinny, unathletic, poetic, and brainy, Spud is a decent student, adventuresome, and good at all sports - they almost meet when Spud saves Lymie from drowning during a water polo match. Lymie, whose father carelessly neglects him, is thrilled to have a friend. He becomes utterly devoted to Spud. And when Spud's family treats him as one of the family, Lymie flourishes. (The novel's title is from a Tennyson poem: "Lo! in the middle of the wood,/The folded leaf is woo'd from out the bud/With winds upon the branch, and there/Grows green and broad,...")

It is October 1923, and Miss Frank's English class is a tad bored: "And all the while Miss Frank was making clear the distinction between participles and gerunds, their eyes went round and round the room, like sheep in a worn-out pasture." The way home from school leads Lymie past LeClerc's pastry shop: "The girls in LeClerc's were like wonderful tropical birds, like parrots and flamingos, like the green jungle fowl of Java, the ibis, the cockatoo, and the crested crane... And their eyes, framed in mascara, knew everything."

The boys attend the University of Illinois. They room together, fall in love with the same girl, but grow apart when Spud pledges a fraternity. Lymie cannot comprehend Spud's increasing coldness, but once the crisis is over, he has learned that "All woods are the same—these few acres that were between open fields, the pine forests around Vienna, the damp, nightmare jungles of Asia and South America. They are always the same. They are enchanted ground, places of solitude and of safekeeping."

Have an idea for a feature story? Email it to George at ghowe@amboynews.com

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Opinion

Paid silence is troubling in Hastert case with James Doe

So who is “James Doe?” That’s the pseudonym assigned to a man who accused former U.S. Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert of sexual assault. The man alleges that when he was in school decades ago, Hastert, then a wrestling coach, molested him.

More than 30 years later, in 2010, when Hastert was raking in the dough as a lobbyist, Doe threatened to publicly expose the abuse he says he suffered unless Hastert paid him hush money.

The two men reached a verbal agreement that the former politician would dish out \$3.5 million in exchange for Doe’s silence.

I can empathize with Doe’s pain. When I was 12, a man sexually assaulted me on my family’s farm. More than 40 years later, I still bear psychological scars. And I have some familiarity with the deep-seated rage Doe must feel.

I’m glad James Doe was financially compensated for some of the pain Hastert inflicted on him.

But is shaking someone down for hush money ever an honorable action?

He agreed to stay quiet about a man who was once second in line to the presidency. The paid silence is troubling. Hastert made cash payments to Doe amounting to \$1.7 million.

Each cash withdrawal was beneath the \$10,000 threshold that banks are required to report to the federal government. Nonetheless, the feds found out, learned it was hush money and discovered at least three other victims of Hastert’s besides Doe.

The statute of limitations for the sex crimes had long since

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



passed. But prosecutors were able to charge the once powerful politician with a financial crime related to how he structured the bank withdrawals.

Hastert admitted to “mistreating” Doe and three others and pleaded guilty to the financial wrongdoing. A federal judge sentenced him to 15 months in prison.

But now Doe is suing Hastert for \$1.8 million - the outstanding balance in hush money that the Illinois Republican agreed to pay the man in 2010. The case was supposed to go to trial September 20. But a tentative, confidential settlement has been reached.

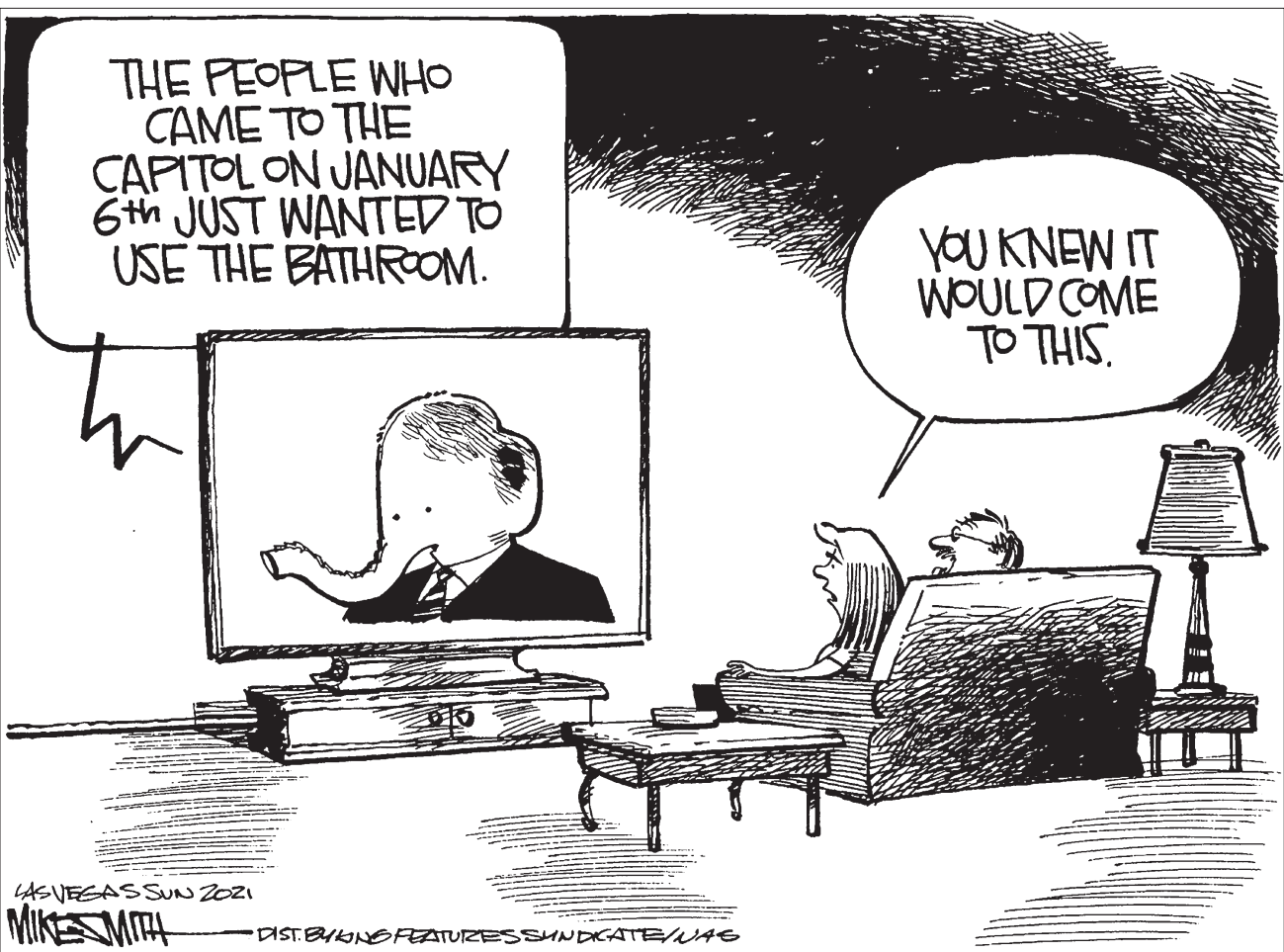
Kendall County Chief Judge Robert Pilmer ruled if the case went to trial, Doe would be stripped of his pseudonym and publicly identified. This may have created an incentive for reaching a settlement ahead of time.

That settlement came as a surprise. I was planning to travel to Yorkville to watch the beginning of the trial and learn the identity of the accuser. I wanted to get a sense for his motivations and, to be honest, who he is as a human being. Is he a good person or a bad one?

“I don’t think we should think of him as either a good guy or a bad guy,” said Carrie Ward, CEO of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault. “He’s a sexual assault survivor trying to come to terms the best way he knows how.”

Ward added it is often harder for male victims to come forward because society is less likely to believe them.

“People think a man should have been able to fight someone off and that they really can’t be victimized. But, of course, that isn’t true,” she said.



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On This Day in History

100 Years Ago Sept. 30, 1921

Mrs. Clayton Elliott and daughter Doris from near West Brooklyn, were Amboy shoppers Saturday.

Mrs. Carl Hegert and daughters Helen and Elizabeth attended the fair at Mendota Friday.

Mrs. Julia Cullar, who spent the summer with relatives in Ohio and New York, arrived home Wednesday.

75 Years Ago Oct. 3, 1946

Vernon Whitver has returned from Durango, Colo., and is assisting his brother, Ivan, who operates the Whitver Radio and Electric Shop.

Mr. and Mrs. John Stouffer, Marvin Sisler and Kenneth Stouffer were among those who attended the Illinois-Notre Dame football game in Champaign Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Schultz, Mary

Margaret and Jimmy Schultz, of Amboy, Marion Johnson and Douglas Shimmer of Mendota attended the ball game at Wrigley Field in Chicago Sunday. In the evening they enjoyed dancing at the Aragon ballroom.

50 Years Ago Sept. 30, 1971

Rick Haefner has been named Homecoming King and vying for Homecoming Queen are Pam Garland and Renee Hart. Members of the Homecoming Court include Denice Braggio, junior, Beth Nusbaum, sophomore and Jane Dinges, freshman.

Five Amboy boys were first and second place winners in the Punt, Pass and Kick competition held in Dixon under sponsorship of Don Mullery Ford for the Ford Motor Company. They are Dean Powers, second, age eight, Bob Weir, second, age 10, David LaRette, second, age nine, John Klausen, first, age 13, and Greg Wilhelm, second, age 13.

Three Amboy High School products are on the Carthage College’s unbeaten football team at Kenosha, Wis. The Amboy gridders are John Blackburn, Rick Lamb, and Bernie Jones.

25 Years Ago Sept. 26, 1996

1996 Amboy High School Homecoming Attendant Nominees:

Freshman: Brandy Harris, Amy Marsili, Jamie Blaine, Kaylie Schier, Amy Jo Zinke, Brandon Klein, Craig Florschuetz, Nathan Schamberger, Brian O’Malley and Randy Ullrich.

Sophomores: Gina Stevenson, Cammie Cook, Liz Considine, Terri Huene, Jill Shaw, Noah Shaddick, Brian Shipert, James Fleming, Eric McLaughlin and Jason Bonnell.

Juniors: Molly King, Andrea Quest, Amanda Novak, Katie Partington, Lori Welker, Nick Inden, George Burks, Jason Leffelman, Adam Lusz and Brian Marsili.



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

But one of Hastert’s victims, Scott Cross, did come forward three years ago and spoke publicly about being victimized by his wrestling coach. He’s the brother of former Illinois House GOP Leader Tom Cross.

Tom Cross, unaware of his brother’s experience with Hastert became a protégé of the future U.S. Speaker of the House.

Scott Cross has successfully lobbied the Illinois General Assembly to eliminate the statute of limitations for sexual abuse cases.

NBC News at the time reported him saying that he’s tormented that he didn’t speak out against Hastert earlier. “The guilt kills me, that I could have perhaps saved other victims,” he said.

But his work to get the law changed has served as some consolation, he said.

“I just hope this gives an outlet for other victims to feel like they should come forward no matter how long they have waited,” he said at the time. “I just felt it was the right thing to do.”

Cross is not receiving money from his former coach while Doe is. That’s hardly fair.

Then again, Cross used his experience to change the law and protect others. Perhaps, his compensation is the satisfaction of knowing he did the right thing.

Scott Reeder is a staff writer for Illinois Times.

Established In 1854

The Amboy News

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SOMETHING TO SAY?

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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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NOTICE
State of Illinois Lee Co. Circuit Court
An Eviction Complaint has been filed by Plaintiff: Joseph Jackson against Defendants: Aaron Bratek & Amanda Johnston, who reside at 410 East Provost St. #410 Amboy, IL. 61310, to Evict the defendants from the 410 East Provost St. #410 Amboy, IL apartment for non-payment for rent in the amount of \$4600. Aaron Bratek and Amanda Johnston are to appear at a hearing to be had on the matter at the Lee Co. Circuit Court 309 S Galena Ave. Dixon, IL. on October 13, 2021 at 1:30 PM.
Case # 2021 LM 00045 No. 0903
(Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 2021)

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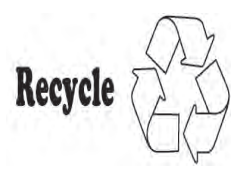
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SPORTS



Amboy's Caden Wittenauer (#10), Jordan Gulley (#4), Levi McKinnley (#52) take down a Milton player during the game on Saturday, Sept. 25 at Milton.

Photo courtesy of Tina Lindenmeyer

Clippers lose a close one on the road in Milton

MILFORD—The Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio varsity football team let a lead slip away late in the game and fell to Milford-Cissna Park, 48-46, on Sept. 25 at Milford.

The Clippers were on top by a seemingly comfortable 40-28 margin in the final frame, but Milford-Cissna Park staged a huge rally by scoring 20 points in fourth quarter to pull

out the victory.

The Clippers (2-3) will hit the road again for their next contest when they travel to Kirkland Hiawatha to take on the Hawks on Friday, Oct. 1. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. Kirkland Hiawatha sports a 3-2 record, with its most recent win a 56-0 shutout over Ashton-Franklin Center.



Amboy's Tucker Lindenmeyer hands off the ball to Joe Quest during the Sept. 25th game against Milton at Milton.

Photo courtesy of Tina Lindenmeyer

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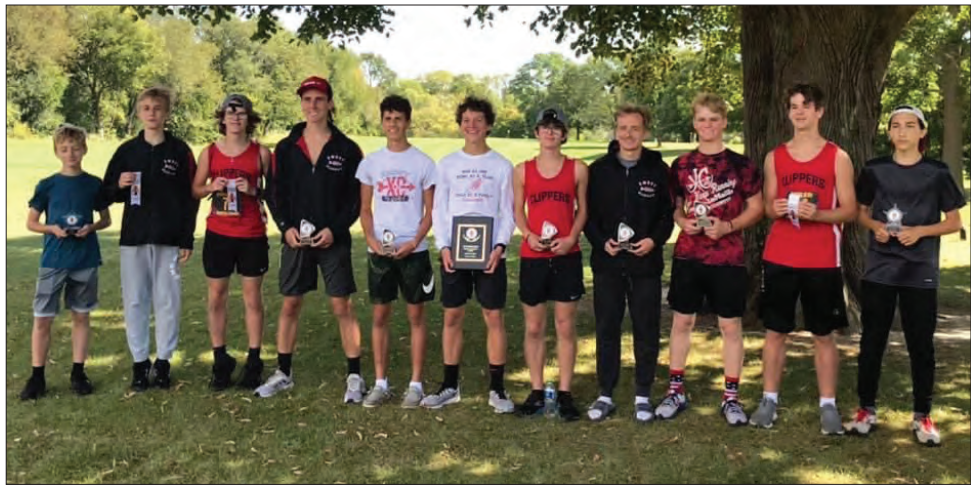


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The Amboy boys cross country team poses with their trophies after placing first at the Kewanee Boiler Invitational on Sept. 25.

Photo courtesy of Heather Loftus

Clipper runners take top spots at meet

AMBOY — Amboy had the top runner in the boys' and girls' race in a meet at Mendota on Sept. 21.

Brock Loftus took the top spot for the boys in a time of 15:41, while Ian Eller finished second at 17:20. Also placing in the top 10 for the Clippers were Wyatt Lundquist (5th, 18:10), Charlie Dickinson (6th, 18:35), Andruw Jones (7th, 18:43), Kelton Schwamberger (8th, 18:46) and Garrett Pertell (10th, 18:57).

Rounding out the lineup of Clipper competitors were Atticus Horner (12th, 19:04), Ryan Dickinson (15th, 19:13), Hayden Zacharias (16th, 19:26) and Jaden Haley (23rd, 23:02).

Amboy grabbed the team title with 21 points, followed by Mendota with 46 and Princeton with 69.

In the girls' event, Amboy's Lauren Althaus was first through the chute in a time of 21:01. Other runners for the Lady Clippers were Bailey Ellis (4th, 23:07), Addison Pertell (6th, 25:13) and Natalie Pratt (7th, 25:51). Princeton had 15 points to claim the team title.

The Amboy harriers traveled to Kewanee for the Boiler Invitational on Sept. 25.

Amboy's boys won the team championship with 26 points.

See RUNNERS page B3



Amboy's Kelton Schwamberger, Wyatt Lundquist and Andruw Jones advance on other competitors during the Kewanee Boilermaker Invitational on Sept. 25.

Photo courtesy of Heather Loftus

Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Cross Country
Kelton Schwamberger & Bailey Ellis

Volleyball
Lexi Ketchum

Football
Joe Quest

Golf
Brysen Full & Andrea Buhrows



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SPORTS

Clipper Highlights: #1 Garrett Zinke

This week we feature a Clipper from the incredibly talented class of 2007. Size, speed, crazy athleticism, strength, and intelligence were all characteristics of this week's Clipper. Atop those great attributes as an athlete, his leadership, humility, and commitment are what makes him one of our greatest Clipper athletes of the modern era and arguably all time. I am honored to announce this week's Clipper, #1, Garrett Zinke.

Garrett was a 2007 graduate of Amboy High School and three sport Clipper athlete (Football, Basketball, and Baseball).

From as far back as I can remember, Garrett was always playing sports. Growing up, Garrett was always the kid you wanted on your team, whether it was on your 3 on 3 team at basketball camp, your little league team after the coaches draft, or in your station group at mandatory conditionings. Athletically, Garrett could do it all. His fundamentals and techniques may only have been rivaled by his supreme intelligence on every field/court he played on.

Garrett was a two-way starter on the 2005 Clipper team. Garrett played Wide Receiver and Defensive End which, in its own right, was a great example of Garrett's versatility. When you think of a 3A Wide Receiver, you think of a 5'10" lanky kid with good hands and speed. Garrett broke the stereotype as he played at 6'1" and weighed 185+. As a Junior, Garrett knew his roles to his team; keep the play turned in defensively, be a sure tackle if the ball was run to his side, be a force at blocking downfield from the Wide Receiver position, and be a threat in the Clipper passing game. Garrett opened up his Junior season sacking Bureau Valley Quarterback, Garrett Barnas, for a loss in the second quarter of the Week 1 matchup (Pictured). For those that remember the Bureau Valley game to open the 2005 season, it was one of the most painful losses of any Clipper team I can remember.

Garrett shared, "that first game against Bureau Valley was brutally tough and could have changed our season."

The 2005 Clippers would go 6-3 losing to BV, Morrison, and Newman. A first round playoff date with the Wilmington Wildcats would be had and en route to the hostile Wilmington environment we sailed. Wilmington ran out to their field through the woods with fireworks and smoke machines going off. For three and a half quarters we were able to keep the game close until a screen pass broke our back and broke the game open. I can remember that game like it was yesterday as I watched my brother, Wes, play his final snap as a Clipper. As the class of 2006 season and career ended, I got to witness leaders like my brother, Aaron Setchell, and Nick Kaleel pass the torch to Garrett and his classmates. Garrett was amongst the first to embrace the Seniors ahead of him in a hug, with tears in his eyes.

Clipper Highlights

By Spencer Morrissey



"Those guys ahead of us were great leaders. To start both ways and play every special team was an honor given the talent of that team," Garrett shared.

Garrett finished his Junior year earning Honorable Mention All Conference honors.

Garrett and I spoke of the transition into his Senior season and it was the beginning of a new era. Not only did we sport new uniforms, it began a new era of Amboy Football. For what we may have lost in overall toughness, we made up for in athleticism and football IQ. This would be the identity of the Clippers for years following Garrett's class. The 2006 Clippers returned many Junior Letterman from the 2005 season and would welcome a talented group from the class of 2008. The 2006 campaign began with the first two games being on the road. Week 1, we went down to St. Bede on a hot, muggy Friday night and proved to be too much for the Bruins to handle. It was a good first test but the biggest matchup would come the following week at #1 ranked Bureau Valley. With the outcome from the 2005 season burned in the memory of every Clipper in the program, the Bureau Valley week was personal. The Storm were too strong for our sails that evening and the first loss of the season was sustained, losing our #8 state ranking. The voyage home would produce a dominating win against Erie-Prophetstown before it was back to unsteady seas to Fulton for Week 4. It was Week 4 against Fulton when the Clipper aerial attack broke out. Garrett had his best offensive game that night as he had over 100 receiving yards and a couple of touchdown receptions. Following the Fulton game, Garrett gained a lot of interest from Monmouth College and became a top recruit based on his stellar performance.

Sitting at 3-1, Garrett and the Clippers would meet the first of two rivals at Morrison. The Clippers were battling some injuries that week but battled through.

Garrett shared, "Going into Morrison, we knew how good they were but also knew how good we were too. We hated them but respected them."

The game was back and forth and the Clippers decided to take a gamble and call a fake punt. Prior to the play, Coach Powers grabbed Garrett and shared some words of encouragement and



#1 Garrett Zinke

motivation. Whatever was said worked as Garrett caught a pass between two Morrison Defenders to move the chains and keep the drive alive for the Clippers. However, the Mustangs would run past our ships that Friday night by the score of 30-20. The following week, Homecoming Week, the Clippers would take on arch rival, Sterling Newman. There was no time to hang your head or pout as this was one of the most intense weeks of practice I have been a part of.

Garrett recalled the atmosphere in practice that week, "That week was crazy. Practice was intense. We made some adjustments on the defensive line that would really pay off for us but the coaches were all over us that week. Also, at breakfast that Friday morning, we had our breakfast paid for by a Clipper fan."

The entire community was behind the Clippers that Friday night and there may have been more people at The Harbor that evening than the total population of our small town.

"We knew what they were going to do because we had prepared so well for them that week. Coach Powers yelled short reverse on one of their opening plays and immediately as he yelled that I stepped up and hit Nate Murray for a seven yard loss. We knew we were too good to be 3-3 and it showed that night," Garrett shared.

The Clippers would beat Newman at The Harbor on Homecoming marking our first win over the arch rival in four seasons. The Clippers would finish the remainder of the season playing their best football with big wins over Ottawa Marquette, Riverdale, and River Valley. Week 1 of the 3A playoffs, the Clippers would host West Carroll in which we would cruise to victory with little difficulty. The second round was highly touted and the chatter of how good the Whip-Purs of Hampshire were rang in the ears of each Clipper that week. The second round started with a 6-0 deficit within the first few seconds of the game. However, it was almost a blessing in disguise as it provided the fuel needed to not only win,

but hang half a hundred on the Whip-Purs on their home field. The sail was set back home for The Harbor to host the Quarterfinal matchup. It's my opinion, and a shared opinion with many my age, that the 2006 Clippers' opponent in the Quarterfinal matchup, the Plano Reapers, was the greatest football opponent our program has ever competed against. Big, physical, lightning fast, and NASTI, the Plano Reapers came in and almost matched the Clipper crowd that day, which is almost impossible to do. I remember getting ready for the game with the remainder of the underclassmen and saw, what I believed to be a giant, walking the hallway of Amboy High School. The specimen was All Stater, Nick Nasti.

Garrett spoke of the Plano game, "When you're young, 18, you don't fully understand how good another team is, especially then as the game is so much more advanced now with the improvements of social media and film. I remember we were hopeful because their good running back, Ferguson, had mono the week before. Our doubts were silenced when he broke a 65 yard touchdown run to start the game."

The best play for us that day came in the first half when the game was still close. Garrett read a pass play beautifully and instead of getting deeper toward the quarterback, stayed home and nearly had an interception that he could have walked into the end zone. The outcome of that day wouldn't change if you replayed it 100 times. The 2006 Clippers couldn't be anything but proud of their season and accomplishments and a town could not be more grateful and excited for Clipper Football for years to come. Garrett ended the regular season ranked 4th for sacks with 5.5 but after playoffs totaled 8 sacks. Garrett's final receiving stats were 19 receptions for 564 yards and 6 touchdowns. An impressive statistical year for a Wide Receiver in a run dominated offense which produced an All-State Running Back (Daniel Saunders). Garrett would earn Second Team All Conference Honors on both sides of the ball, ending his

Clipper gridiron career.

Three of Garrett's best friends to date were asked to provide statements for this article. All great accounts from great Clippers and great friends.

Travis Nauman shared, "Zinke was awesome to throw to. He was always where he needed to be and had as sure of hands as you could find. He was definitely a leader of our team my Junior year and brought it every down as a Defensive End. He's a Clipper through and through and is very deserving of being Clipper of the Week."

Derek Lovgren shared, "Garrett was one of my best friends growing up and still is to this day. He was one of the smartest players I ever played with and had a knack for always being at the right place at the right time. I've never known him to make a mistake, at any sport and then as today, you can always count on him."

Taylor Kaleel shared, "Just like all those guys we grew up with, we all were committed to playing. Football was the priority in all of our lives. It was always more about not letting your team down than anything else and Zinke really held that together. He's now my brother in-law and we are even closer now. I can't think of any mistakes he made or remember him messing up which is hard to find in a high school athlete."

The meaning of Amboy Football to Garrett was just as much a part of him as his own beating heart. Garrett shared the story of traveling to Orion to watch the 2012 Clippers second round playoff game.

Garrett shared, "I remember going to that game at Orion and playing catch with Travis and Derek before the game to get the nerves out. The nerves and feelings were still there even five years out of high school."

Garrett was one of the most natural, instinctual, and competitive athletes in our history. He made difficult plays look easy and stiff competition look uncoordinated. I have witnessed him make unbelievable plays in each of the sports he played. One of my

favorite memories is a play he made to open the Regional Championship game against Princeton in our home gym his Junior year. Garrett came around a screen, the ball was lofted in the air, and Garrett went up and laid it in for a layup giving us an early lead. I remember the gym going nuts after that play. Garrett was also one of the biggest reasons for our 2007 Boys Basketball Regional Championship as he was an All-Conference/Area Basketball player also. Garrett would go to St. Ambrose University and continue his basketball career as a Fighting Bee. I remember Garrett being just as important on the baseball diamond. Whether it was in the field or at the plate, Garrett simply was always a guy who could make a play to lift his team. To this day, Garrett is still just as competitive and knowledgeable about sports. Football, Basketball, or Baseball, chances are, Garrett knows it. A true gamer, a fierce competitor.

So, to Multi-Sport, All-Conference Clipper athlete, #1, Garrett Zinke (Zinker), thank you for your contributions to Amboy Clipper Football. As proud, honored, and at times awe-struck, to watch some of your best moments as a Clipper, I am most proud to call you family today. Which leads me to the following question; What do you get when one of the best male Clipper athletes and one of the best female Clipper athletes, of the modern era, tie the knot and have little Clippers? The answer is easy, a bright future for Amboy athletics and a scary future for the competition in the Sauk Valley. Sail on!

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

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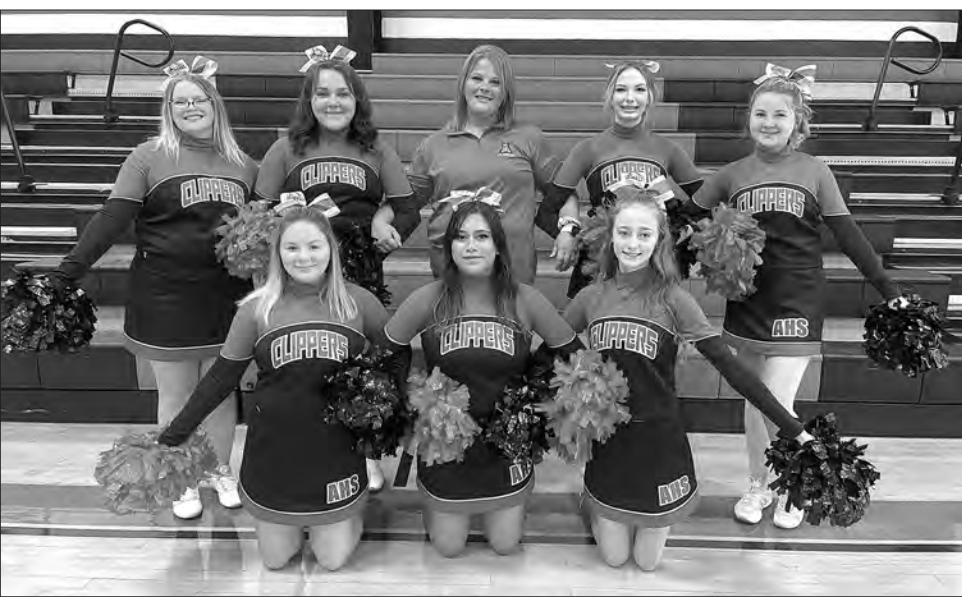
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SPORTS



Amboy Golf

Front row, left to right, Emma Dinges, Greta Horner, Andrea Buhrow and Gracie Homegren. Middle row, left to right, Logan O'Brien, Ethan Pratt, Hayden Wittenauer, Wesley Wilson, and Carson Barlow. Back row, Jordan Harris, Griffin Bushman, Luke Corcoran, Jackson Rogers, Bryson Full, and Coach Zach Ross.



Amboy Varsity Football Cheer

Front row, left to right, Aly McKendry, Saddy Herrera, and Sophie Nelson. Back row, Courtney Lachat, Nicole Latta, Coach Faith Sachs, Alexzandra Vaessen and Kora Garren.



Senior Night:

Ian, Andruw, Lauren, Brock & Wyatt

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5:00 Boys**

RUNNERS continued from page B1

The next three teams in the standings were Chillicothe IVC (66), Lowpoint-Washburn (82) and Orion (112).

The Clippers were led by Loftus, who was first overall in 16:35, and Eller, who grabbed the third-place position in a time of 17:20.6. Other AHS runners were Charlie Dickinson (7th, 18:36), Lundquist (12th, 18:53), Schwamberger (15th, 18:57), Jones (17th, 19:04), Horner (21st, 19:21), Ryan Dickinson (28th, 19:38) and Garrett Pertell (29th, 19:43).

For the girls, Althaus was the first AHS runner to finish the course with a clocking of 22:14.69. Next was Ellis in 24th place

(23:20.53), Addison Pertell in 35th (24:52.85) and Pratt in 64th (38:20.11).

Lydia Snider of Tremont was the individual champion with a time of 20:29.45.

The team championship went to Chillicothe IVC with 40 points. The rest of the top five were Tremont (49), Stark County (65), Henry-Senachwine (97), Oneida ROWVA (128) and Ottawa Marquette (128).

Two Clippers competed in the freshman-sophomore boys' event. Zacharias was sixth in 20:00.26 and Haley was seventh in 20:04.21.

Lowpoint-Washburn was the top team.

Lady Clippers lose two road games

AMBOY — The Amboy Lady Clippers were defeated by Fulton, 25-7, 25-11, in volleyball action on Sept. 20 at Fulton.

AHS traveled to Ashton-Franklin Center

on Sept. 21 and fell by a 25-15, 25-22 count. Elly Jones collected seven assists, four digs and two kills, while Lexi Ketchum and Chloe Heath had three digs apiece.

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THE FARMER'S REPORT



AEM reported sales increased 13.7% for farm tractors and 12.6% for combines the first half of the year compared to the same stretch in 2020.

Tractor sales are increasing despite supply chain issues

By DANIEL GRANT
FarmWeek

BLOOMINGTON – Supply chain issues continue to impact equipment manufacturers, like most other industries.

But that hasn't stopped farmers and others from buying ag equipment, based on the Association of Equipment Manufacturers' (AEM) mid-year tractor and combine sales report.

AEM reported sales increased 13.7% for farm tractors and 12.6% for combines the first half of the year compared to the same stretch in 2020.

The sales pace also remains above the five-year average, although it did drop below last year's run from May to June.

"The (sales of) row crop tractors have been really solid since about October of last year moving forward," Curt Blades, AEM senior vice president of ag services and forestry, told the RFD Radio Network. "You look at commodity prices and farmer attitudes and that gives you a pretty good indication of where ag is. I think this (sales trend) is real and not pandemic driven."

Four-wheel drive tractor sales jumped the most of any category with a gain of 38.2% the past six months compared to last year.

"You don't buy a combine or a tractor on a whim," Blades said. "For farmers to make the purchase, they've got to feel pretty good about what their business looks like."

AEM's monthly tractor and combine sales reports showed an increase in tractor sales that took off around June and July of last year, although it was to a slightly different market.

"We really started to see strength in the tractor and combine market (at the beginning of summer 2020)," Blades said. "This was driven very much by under-40-horsepower tractors. It was a unique thing that had to do with people investing in their homes and property (during the pandemic). That's driven the market the last year and a half (prior to the surge in ag sales)."

The uptick in sales continues even as the equipment industry deals with ongoing issues in the supply chain, ranging from a shortage of everything from microchips, steel, labor and transportation to uncomfortably tight supplies of foam seating.

"The supply chain issues are real," Blades said. "Fortunately, since ag is considered an essential business, a lot of those disruptions we've been able to plan for, but it doesn't make it any easier."

(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.)

Bump in beef sales to China expected to continue

By DANIEL GRANT
FarmWeek

BLOOMINGTON – Substantial growth of U.S. beef exports to China this year could be the start of a new, long-term trend rather than just a flash in the pan, according to a Rabobank report.

U.S. beef sales to China increased more than 1,000% in volume and value (\$622.5 million) the first half of the year. And the market shows no signs of slowing, according to Don Close, senior vice president of RaboResearch and Animal Protein.

"It's been an incredible story," Close told FarmWeek. "If you look at the strength in cattle and beef prices globally, it all points back to just how much beef demand in China is driving the market."

How did beef consumption become so much more popular in China, the world's top producer and consumer of pork? Close believes several factors came together to enhance the shift.

"What's driving it has been, first off, ASF (African swine fever). It drove hog and pork prices to levels that narrowed the price spread in China between beef and pork and stimulated a lot more (beef) sales," Close said. "And then with COVID, people learned to start cooking (beef) at home, and that's where consumption really ratcheted up. Traditionally, beef consumption in China was away from home."

Improved market access under the Phase One Economic and Trade Agreement also helped position the U.S.



U.S. beef exports to China increased more than 1,000% in the first half of the year. RaboResearch and Animal Protein Senior Vice President Don Close expects the upward trend to continue. (Illinois Farm Bureau file photo)

as a greater player in the Chinese beef market. And, the Rabobank report predicts strong beef sales to China will continue.

"Given the circumstances of changing eating habits and changing taste preferences in China, and their inability to substantially increase their own cattle and beef production, (the Chinese) will be a major import player on the beef side for quite some time," Close said.

Overall, U.S. beef exports increased 18% the first half of the year, compared to the same time last year, valued at a record \$4.64 billion.

U.S. beef sales to the top two markets, Japan and South Korea, also increased while sales to Mexico, a critical destination for rounds

and other underutilized cuts, increased 15% in volume the first half of the year, the U.S. Meat Export Federation reported.

Exports equated to about \$351 per head of fed slaughter in June and could help drive better cattle price opportunities.

"There's no doubt there's been tremendous frustration in the domestic market. It all has to do with leverage," Close said. "The available supply of market ready cattle overpowered our slaughter capacity and the leverage vastly shifted in favor of the packer. If you take the July cattle on feed and inventory reports, we've finally worked through the huge backlog of cattle and we've had three months of lower placements,"

he continued. "As we get to the third and fourth quarters, the available supply of cattle will show a noticeable contraction," which should support cattle prices.

Rabobank's China beef market report also found the Chinese generally view cattle as a "sustainable superstar," Close said.

"They're placing cattle with small producers as income enhancements," he added. "And they're paying them to feed a lot of forages and field waste that they traditionally burned."

(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.)

University of Illinois Feed Technology Center open for business

By Lauren Quinn

URBANA – After nearly two years of construction, the new Feed Technology Center at the University of Illinois is complete and open for business. Bringing this facility online cements the university's role as a national leader in animal nutrition innovation and signals its active collaboration with the grain, livestock, companion animal, and feed industries.

Instead of an in-person grand opening, a behind-the-scenes video series and fact sheet share the facility with students, alumni, donors, and potential users, regardless of location. A first-look video, featuring leaders from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at Illinois, as well as facility sponsors, is now available on the Feed Technology Center's web page. Additional videos, highlighting the center's capabilities and research impacts, will be posted in the coming months.

"The Feed Technology Center is a game-changing asset that elevates our ability to live into our land-grant mission," said Kim Kidwell, dean of the College of ACES. "This facility

"This facility not only expands our ability to conduct innovative research and train the next generation of leaders in animal nutrition, it gives us a new avenue to reach out to industry stakeholders and provide continuing education opportunities."

–Kim Kidwell, dean of the College of ACES

not only expands our ability to conduct innovative research and train the next generation of leaders in animal nutrition, it gives us a new avenue to reach out to industry stakeholders and provide continuing education opportunities."

The \$20-million facility on South Race Street in Urbana replaces the 1920s-era feed mill on St. Mary's Road, originally built to process university-grown grain and feed university-owned livestock. The new Feed Technology Center's capabilities go far beyond that intent, with state-of-the-art processing and sensor technologies delivering standard and specialized small-batch research diets, as well as unparalleled hands-on educational opportunities for students across the College of ACES.

More than 20 companies, commodity groups, and private individuals

donated funds or equipment to the project as part of a unique public-private funding model, fast-tracking the build after decades of planning. The project invites additional donations.

"The companies, organizations, and individuals supporting the project partnered with us to continue the university's preeminence in animal nutrition and feed manufacturing. This facility and ongoing partnerships will move the entire industry forward," said Kimberly Meenen, assistant dean for advancement in the College of ACES. "We continue to seek financial support of the Feed Technology Center and welcome other stakeholders to join us in this investment."

The 12,000-square-foot facility is optimized with leading-edge equipment, including smart sensors to monitor feed ingredient quality in real time; digital

automation tools to ensure precise diet formulations; a standalone extrusion line to create high-quality pet and livestock feeds; current safety and sanitation features; and more.

"We have incredible opportunities here at the Feed Technology Center, for students, researchers, and industry partners alike," said facility manager Michaela Braun. "The equipment not only makes it possible for students to gain exposure to the complete modern feed-production process, from whole grain storage to pelleting and extrusion, but also makes real-time data available to researchers at multiple points in the process. It's all here to advance the animal agriculture industry."

In addition to developing and testing novel feeds and pet foods, the facility will allow students to safely gain first-hand experience with the latest feed technologies, positioning them as future leaders in the industry. Real-time sensor data will be uniquely leveraged in new courses in precision agriculture, digital agriculture, bioinformatics, and courses within the new Computer Science + Animal Sciences degree.

"Working with our generous donors to turn the Feed Technology Center from a dream into reality has been a career highlight for me," said Rodney Johnson, head of the Department of Animal Sciences at U of I. "I am so excited to have finished on time and on budget. Our faculty and students are excited to utilize the facility to work on the industry-relevant research our partners count on us for."

To catch the entire video series, check the website often or follow us on social media. And, for more details on the facility's capabilities, see our fact sheet.

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THE FARMER'S REPORT



Mike Evans, lead volunteer with the McHenry County Conservation District, demonstrates how volunteers take water samples from the woodchip bioreactor. The samples are then frozen until they can be delivered to the lab in Champaign for testing. Evans took part in an event in Woodstock that was part of Illinois Farm Bureau's Nutrient Stewardship Field Days. (Illinois Farm Bureau photo by Raelynn Parmely)

Bioreactor technology emerges as powerful tool for nutrient stewardship

By CHRISTOPHER HEIMERMAN

For Illinois Press Assoc.

WOODSTOCK — Corn and soybean farmer Michael Ganschow was an easy recruit for Lauren Lurkins, the Illinois Farm Bureau's director of environmental policy, as she was encouraging farmers to install woodchip bioreactors on their farms.

"I met Lauren in 2016, and less than two years later, she's showing up at my farm with equipment, digging a hole and filling it with woodchips," Ganschow said to a crowd of farmers, agriculture leaders and state and national representatives and staff Tuesday morning at the latest in the IFB's series of Nutrient Stewardship Field Days.

Ganschow is a sixth-generation farmer in Bureau County, and his grandfather was among the first Illinois farmers to implement no-till practices.

"Conservation has always been a big part of what we do," he said.

A woodchip bioreactor might sound like something straight out of Marvel Comics. In reality, it's essentially a trench filled with woodchips that filter out nitrates that would otherwise pollute tile drainage water, and then streams, and then the Mississippi River, and then the Gulf of Mexico. You get the idea.

Once a pipe system directs drainage water through control structures and into the bioreactor, bacteria in the woodchips eat the nitrates from fertilizers that go unused by crops, and then convert those nitrates into nitrogen gas that's just as safe for the environment as the 78 percent of stable nitrogen in the air we breathe.

"It sounds like something out of 'Iron Man,' but really it's a trench full of woodchips with a little bit of plumbing," said Laura Christianson, assistant professor with the University of Illinois' Department of Crop Sciences, which monitors 15 of the 50 or so bioreactors around the state.

The McHenry County Conservation District, in partnership with the local and state Farm Bureaus, installed a 30-by-30-foot bioreactor last summer just north of Woodstock, where nearly 100 people gathered Tuesday to learn about the technology.

State Reps. Steve Reick, R-Woodstock, and Tom Weber, R-Fox Lake, attended the event, along with staff from Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton's office and the office of U.S. Rep. Lauren Underwood, D-West Chicago.

"Our farmers are always asking three questions: How much does it cost. How hard is it to maintain it? And does it work?" Lurkins said.

First things first, it cost nearly \$10,000 to build the McHenry County bioreactor, and there will be another investment 10 or 15 years down the road, when the woodchips need replacing — or recharging, as Christianson calls it.

But does it work? Absolutely, according to the water

samples MCCD volunteers had collected, frozen and sent to Christianson for analysis since May 1.

The bioreactor converted about 80 of the 150 pounds of nitrate into nitrogen gas — roughly 53 percent.

"It's working, and it's working well," Christianson said, adding that the state's bioreactors on average remove about 25 percent of nitrates.

Most of those other sites followed the federal government's rectangular blueprint for a bioreactor, which local Natural Resource Conservation Service offices use when they help farmers design their trenches.

Christianson and her team, weighing myriad factors at the McHenry County site, custom-designed a square trench that works like a dream.

The bioreactors are relatively new technology, so it's being rapidly developed through experimentation. Ganschow's trench, for instance, is wide open. Most others are sealed with a plastic sheet and then graded, so you might not know you're standing on top of it.

He was joined on a panel Tuesday by Jeff Kirwan, an IFB Board member who's considering installing a second bioreactor at his Mercer

County farm near the Quad Cities, and a third corn and soybean farmer, Brian Corkill, whose Henry County farm splits the distance between Peoria and Moline.

Whereas Ganschow and Kirwan had plenty of inside knowledge because of their close work with the bureau, Corkill began the process the way Christianson recommended all farmers do: He reached out to his local NRCS office.

The bioreactor was the next logical step for Corkill, given his commitment to stewardship through no-till farming, cover crops, and only fertilizing as much as necessary.

Reick asked the panel how many woodchip bioreactors would be needed to reach the nation's conservation goals.

Christianson said it will take 60,000 bioreactors and better stewardship across the board to turn the tide.

"We need every practice, and wide use of every practice," she said. "But it starts one bioreactor at a time."

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Jeff Kirwan, a Mercer County farmer, speaks during an event in Woodstock about the value of a woodchip bioreactor to his operations. He said he's considering installing a second bioreactor on his farm. (Illinois Farm Bureau photo by Raelynn Parmely)

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Male piglets less resilient to stress when moms get sick during pregnancy

By Lauren Quinn

URBANA — When pigs get hit with significant illnesses during key stages of pregnancy, their immune response may negatively affect developing piglets, making them less productive on the farm. New research from the University of Illinois shows that when those piglets — especially males — experience a second stressor in early life, they are at higher risk of neurodevelopmental and other neurological anomalies, putting them at an even greater disadvantage in production settings.

"With more information about maternal illness, what we call maternal immune activation, we can make better decisions about how to handle these types of immune challenges within animal production settings," said Marissa Keever-Keigher, doctoral student in the Department of Animal Sciences at Illinois and lead researcher on the study.

Studying brain development in the domestic pig is relevant on the farm, of course, but pig studies can also inform human neurodevelopmental research. That's because the pig's development, genetics, brain structure, and more are very similar to our own.

In previous pig studies looking at the effects of maternal immune activation, Keever-Keigher and her colleagues showed important genetic changes occur in the piglet amygdala, a brain structure that plays an important role in learning, social behavior, and stress response in both humans and pigs.

The researchers also knew from primate and rodent studies that a second immune challenge, known as a double hit, can further disrupt typical brain development in young animals. To test the double hit hypothesis in pigs, the team chose weaning as the second challenge.

"While weaning is not itself an immune challenge, it is an extremely stressful time during a piglet's life and can elicit an immune response," said Haley Rymut, doctoral student in animal sciences and co-author on the study. "Piglets have to deal with a broad array of stressors, including physical stressors from being handled and moved, and emotional stressors from being taken away from the mom and placed with their peers. Any of those physical or emotional stressors can kick off an immune response."

The researchers looked at a combination of factors for piglets in the study:



whether or not their moms were infected with porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV) during gestation, and whether or not they were weaned at 21 days of age, the typical age in production settings. They also noted the sex of the piglets, as their earlier research indicated male piglets showed more changes in the amygdala as a result of maternal illness.

"Using high throughput sequencing technologies, we were able to monitor the levels of more than 16,000 genes in the pigs. We uncovered more than 100 genes and molecular pathways affected by either maternal immune activation, weaning, sex, or a combination of factors in the amygdala on day 22 for all piglets. The effect of pre- and postnatal stressors on neuroepitope genes confirms the plasticity of the infant brain during development to respond and adapt to challenges," said Sandra Rodriguez-Zas, professor in animal sciences and faculty advisor to Keever-Keigher and Rymut. Rodriguez-Zas is principal investigator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded study.

Many of the genes expressed at higher or lower-than-typical rates in weaned piglets from virus-infected mothers have been associated with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and schizophrenia spectrum disorder (SSD) in previous studies. But genes relevant to other neurological disorders were affected too.

"We also found changes in expression of genes associated with neurodegenerative diseases like Huntington's and Alzheimer's disease," Keever-Keigher said.

As in the scientists' previous work, the double hit affected male piglets more than females, with greater dysregulation of genes in the amygdala. The researchers found evidence of more protective pathways in female brains, giving them an advantage in handling stressful events.

The study provides valuable clues for researchers studying ASD, SSD, and neurodegenerative disorders in humans, even though some aspects might not translate directly.

Rymut said, "For most children, weaning isn't nearly as stressful as it is for pigs in a production setting. But many other traumatic events early in childhood could set up that double hit."

On the farm, pigs from virus-infected mothers often show anti-social behaviors. Because pigs are typically group-housed and fed via communal feeders, pigs that don't like being around their peers are often last to feed and generally more stressed, leading to slower growth rates and lower overall body condition scores.

"The lesson for swine producers, I think, is to be really mindful of stressful conditions in the production cycle, and try to mitigate those as much as we can in order to create the most productive and healthy livestock animals and benefit producers' bottom lines," Keever-Keigher said.

Rymut added, "Also, knowing how the different sexes respond could help producers manage animals that are less likely to be productive as a result of maternal immune activation."

The article, "Interacting impact of maternal inflammatory response and stress on the amygdala transcriptome of pigs," is published in G3 Genes/Genomes/Genetics [DOI: 10.1093/g3journal/jkab113]. The research was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Dual Purpose for Dual Benefit" program (grant number 2018-67015-27413). Rod Johnson, professor and head of the Department of Animal Sciences is co-investigator on the grant and co-author on the G3 paper.

The Department of Animal Sciences is in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois.

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