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The Amboy News

The Depot Museum

Amboy, Illinois

Volume 166 - Number 37

www.AmboyNews.com

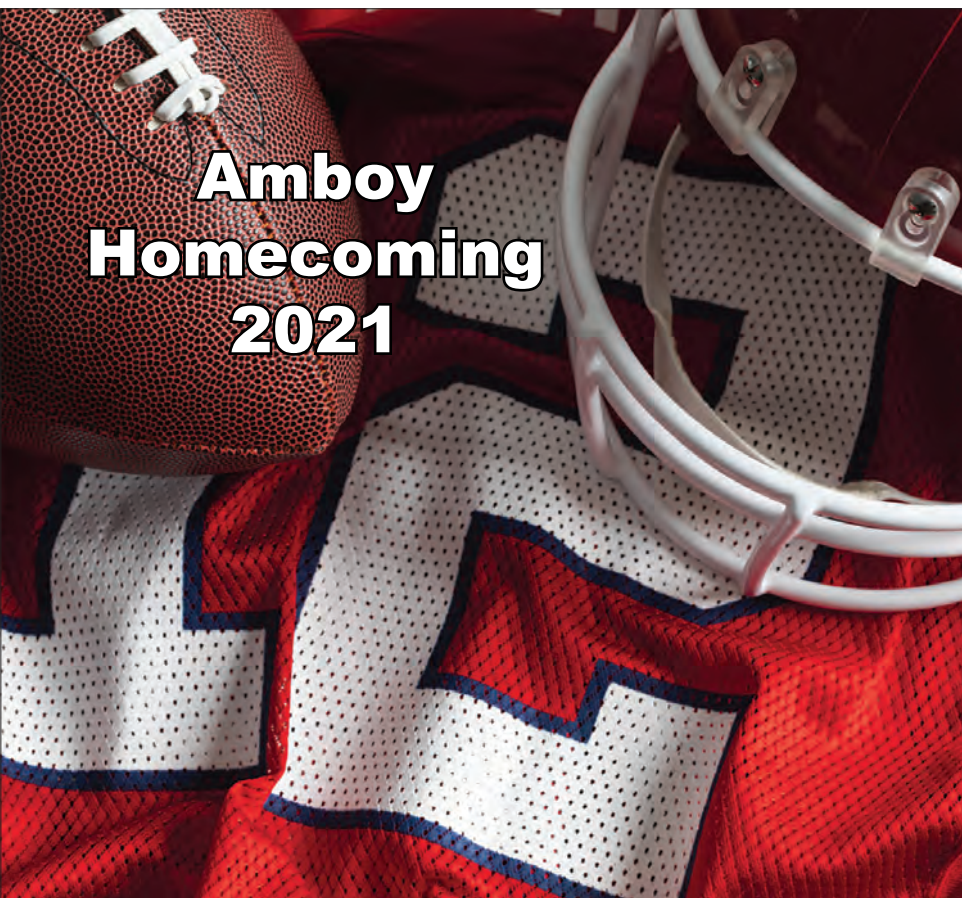
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SUBLETTE COUNTRY CAR SHOW

The annual Sublette Country Car Show took place on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in a new location, downtown Sublette. Owners of any type of antique and unique cars, trucks, farm equipment and other vehicles were invited to showcase and register their cars. An extensive Kaiser-Frazer collection, in addition to Hudson-Nash and Willys-Overland vehicles, was on display. There was no judging of vehicles.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



New parade route, new venue for skit night at this year's Homecoming festivities

AMBOY — Amboy High School is celebrating its Homecoming Week.

The Homecoming football game will be played on Friday, Sept. 17.

Skit Night will be held on Sept. 16, at 7 p.m., on the football field. This is a change of venue this year.

The Homecoming Parade will start at 2:15 p.m., on Sept. 17, with line up beginning at 1:30 p.m. Not the time change.

There is a new parade route this year. The route that was published in last week's paper

was incorrect. The new route will start at the south side of the high school on Bacon Street going east to Metcalf, go south on Metcalf to Provost, then west on Provost to East Avenue, then south on East Avenue to Main Street, then west on Main Street to Jones Street, then north on Jones Street to Bacon, back to the start.

If people have questions about any events or want to register a float in the parade, please email Jessica Arellano at jarellano@amboy.net or call the school 815-857-3632.



Kim Leffelman and Laura Jackson help serve free cupcakes to the campers at Woodhaven Lakes on Sept. 4th.

Courtesy photo

Sublette serves birthday cupcakes at Woodhaven Lakes

SUBLETTE — The Sublette community recognized the 50th anniversary of Woodhaven Lakes on Sept. 4 by serving birthday cupcakes at the campground to thank the Woodhaven campers and staff for supporting Sublette

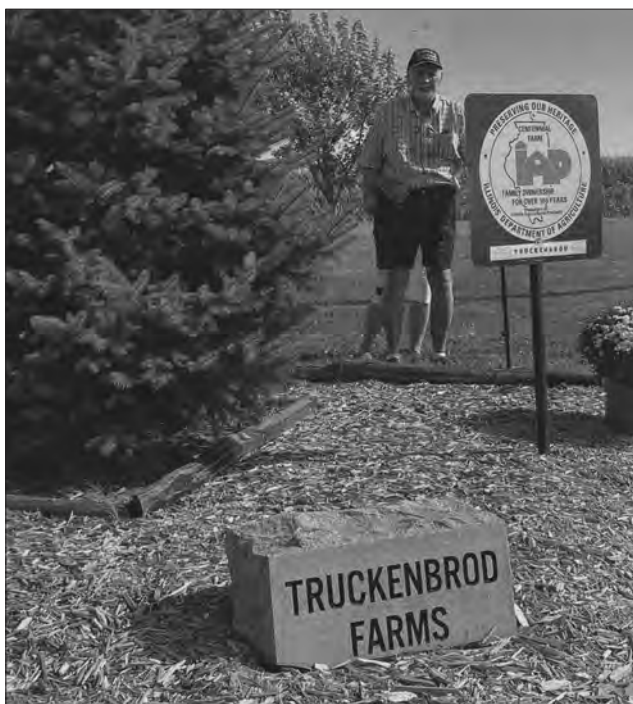
over the years.

The celebration was sponsored by the Sublette Business Association, the Village of Sublette, Woodhaven Realty and the Woodhaven Association.

The cupcakes were baked

by Local Cup and Cake and served by Kim Leffelman and Laura Jackson.

Other Sublette business people were on hand to greet Woodhaven guests.



Sublette farm named Centennial Farm

SUBLETTE — Larry Truckenbrod is happy to announce that this year his Sublette farm is becoming a Centennial Farm.

His grandfather, John Truckenbrod, purchased the farm Feb. 21, 1921. It then passed to his Dad, Norvel Truckenbrod and upon his death, went into a trust with brothers Larry, Stan and Sid. Larry purchased the farm from his brothers and in 2007 built a new home on the family farm where he resides today. The only original building still standing is an old tool shed. Time has damaged most of the original trees, so Larry has planted several new ones.

When Larry was three years old, he fell into the farm well. His father rescued him with a ladder, and when they reached the top, Larry slipped out of his hands and fell back into the well. His mother was pregnant with their second child Alice and dropped to her knees and prayed. The second time was successful and Larry only sustained a lump on his jaw. It was a miracle that such a small child could keep floating in 12 feet of water.

Larry's name was read during the Illinois State Fair commemorating all of the farms that acquired Centennial status this year. He received the sign for his yard and a certificate.

Larry Truckenbrod poses with a sign that names his farm a Centennial Farm. Larry's name was read during the Illinois State Fair commemorating all of the farms that acquired Centennial status this year. He received the sign for his yard and a certificate.

Photo submitted



PAGES B1-4



CLIPPER HIGHLIGHTS

This week's column features #8 Ben Leake
PAGE A10

Obituaries

Edwin Blake
Edna Sullivan

Index

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

Inserts

Snyders



Energy bill heads to Pritzker, who says he will sign it

BY JERRY NOWICKI

Capitol News Illinois
jnowicki@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Senate put the final legislative stamp on an energy regulation overhaul bill Monday, sending it to Gov. JB Pritzker, who says he will sign it.

It's the culmination of years of negotiation, and it marks a policy win on one of Pritzker's biggest outstanding first-term campaign promises as the 2022 campaign heats up. The measure passed by a 37-17 vote, with Republicans Sue Rezin, of Morris, and John Curran, of Downers Grove, joining Democrats in support.

"After years of debate and discussion, science has prevailed, and we are charting a new future that works to mitigate the impacts of climate change here in Illinois," Pritzker said in a statement after the bill's Senate passage. "(Senate Bill) 2408 puts the state on a path toward 100 percent clean energy and invests in training a diverse workforce for the jobs of the future. Illinois will become the best state in the nation to manufacture and drive an electric vehicle, and equity will be prioritized in every new program created."

See **ENERGY** page A3



LOCAL NEWS

Sublette News

Antique Power Days, other events planned for Sublette

From Sept. 24-26, a new event is being planned in Sublette—Antique Power Days. This will be held at Mendota Hills campground on U.S. 52 northwest of Sublette. The event will feature steam power, parades, hay rides, sawmilling and much more.

After a long period with few activities in town due to COVID, the village of

Sublette is making plans to bring back many of its former events.

The annual Country Car Show was held on Sept. 11 in downtown Sublette. This was a new location for the event.

On Sept. 12, the annual Pullin' in the Park was held behind the Ellice Dinges Center in Sublette Centennial Park. This included a tractor and truck pulling contest as well as lots of children's activities. Food was available on the grounds.

October will feature Halloween events and December will bring the

annual "Christmas in the Village."

January will start off with the Machine Shed Classic Golf Tournament.

Recently, the Sublette 365 committee met and it is planning activities for 2022. This will include Dueling Pianos, Hops & Harmony, the 2022 car show and Pullin' in the Park.

Other organizations are planning the 2022 Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show in March, the Memorial Day Service in May and the Sublette One-Day Tractor Drive in August.

Broadway in Rockford announces its 21-22 season

ROCKFORD – The Coronado Performing Arts Center and Nederlander National Markets are thrilled to announce the return of Broadway with our 2021-2022 Broadway in Rockford presented by Savant Wealth Management. The season features the record-breaking musical spectacular, CATS; The Simon & Garfunkel Story, an immersive concert-style theater show that chronicles the amazing journey shared by the folk-rock duo Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel; and the Tony Award®-nominated, Anastasia, the gorgeous stage musical based on two beloved movies. Sales for new and renewing subscriptions began Monday, Sept. 13. On-sale dates for individual tickets will be announced at a later date.

"We are thrilled to be able to raise the curtain of the Coronado Performing Arts Center once again and give the community the chance to see a season of Broadway's best productions here in Rockford. After a long intermission that began in March 2020, we have implemented health and safety protocols in accordance with Winnebago County Health Department, the State of Illinois, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure audiences will be able to enjoy the final shows of the 2019-2020 season – Waitress and Blue Man Group – at long last, and the new productions that promise to be nothing short of magical," said Gretchen Gilmore, Coronado Performing Arts Center General Manager. "We have missed the collective joy in sharing live theatre and music over these many months apart and look forward to welcoming our Broadway in Rockford audiences back to the Coronado Performing Arts Center in January 2022."

Broadway in Rockford 2021-2022 Season


CATS: Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022

The Simon & Garfunkel Story: Friday, Feb. 18, 2022

Anastasia: Monday, May 9, 2022

In addition to the titles in the 2021-2022 series, the rescheduled performances from the 2019-2020 season of Waitress will play Sunday, March 27, 2022, and Blue Man Group will play Monday, April 25, 2022.

The only way to guarantee seats to this incredible lineup is to subscribe to a season subscription package, starting as low as \$110 for all three shows. Waitress and Blue Man To subscribe, call the Subscriber Hotline at 815-968-5222 Monday-Friday from 9a.m.-5p.m., or visit www.coronadopac.org/Broadway.



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LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Upcoming Events

We will be having our Fish Fry Drive-Thru on Saturday, Oct. 23. It will be from 4-6 p.m.

Our free after-school program for third-eighth grade began Tuesday, Sept. 7, 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.

United Way of Lee County Week of Caring

We had a fabulous turnout and a lot of work done. The following volunteers painted our picnic tables and benches: Rebecca Johanning of Sinnissippi; Edie Peterson of YWCA; Seth Wetter; Michael Shehorn; Matthew Servering and PJ Cobane. We are so appreciated of the time and energy they gave.

Goodfellows of Lee County Sign-up date for 2021 Family Christmas Giveaway

Each Christmas Season, Goodfellows of Lee County gathers gifts and food for needy families. Goodfellows will be offering sign up opportunity at Teen Turf 235 West Main in Amboy on Saturday, Sept. 18, from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thank You's

We are always blessed to have the community help us: Nate and Kim Girton for the cake; Pastor Fritz and Carol for the fruit snacks and wipes; Alice and Leroy Dukes for the fruit and Veggies; Fran Kessel for the food; Anonymous for the drinks in the hallway; Cheryl Collum for the antibacterial wipes, and our afterschool homework volunteers: Donna Wellman; Candy Robinson; Shannon Nichols; Katie Dickinson and Kathy Gardner. We couldn't run anything without them.

Needs

Juice boxes and bagged snacks.

Final Word

Father God, many of us need healing. We need healing for past hurts, random physical pains that we allow to waylay our days and Spiritual healing for various reasons. We reach up to You to receive this healing so that we may be whole and that we may be able to, then minister to others in a way that brings You fullness of glory. How wonderful to be able to worship You without stain or blemish and to be totally healed. Show others Your healing power so that they may also be healed and walk in wholeness. In the precious name of Jesus. Amen!

U. OF I. EXTENSION NEWS

Goblins, Ghosts, and Ghouls! Oh My!

Is your trick or treat a cute fuzzy tiger or a scary ghost or goblin? A fantastic make-up is just as essential as the costume itself. Join University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners on Oct. 11 at the Sterling Library from 2-4:00 p.m. and learn how to make your own Halloween make-up using common pantry items and take a sample with you. Define your inspiration, create your Halloween masterpiece!

Registrations will be limited to COVID 19 guidelines. Please register by calling the library at: 815-625-1370.

Please register by Oct. 4, 2021

This program will take place at the Sterling Public Library. Due to the uncertainty of COVID 19 status and the weather, this program may be cancelled. Please call the library for program status. Masks are required, please practice social distancing.

Learn to Sew at New 4-H club in Amboy

Youth ages 8 and up will have the opportunity to learn a lifelong skill at University of Illinois Extension's beginner sewing SPIN club starting in September. A six session SPIN club runs Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Nov. 2 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Lee Extension Office in Amboy.

The workshop will train youth in basic sewing machine skills and youth will apply these skills to create their own drawstring bag, book pillow, pajama pants, masks and an item to donate. The office will provide the sewing machines and iron/boards.

There is a \$20 membership fee for non-4-H members and pre-registration is required for all due to limited spaces - please register by Sept. 21 at go.illinois.edu/leesewing or by calling 815-857-3525. For a fun and safe experience, we will be following health and safety guidelines including face masks, hand washing, and social distancing.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

AMBOY-The Amboy CUSD #272 Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16, at Central School Gym.

AMBOY-The Amboy Farmer's Market will be held from 8 a.m. until noon on Friday, Sept. 17, in the

Depot Museum parking lot. Vendors are welcome. Call Alice Dukes with questions at 815-857-4015.

AMBOY-The Amboy Fire Protection District will sponsor a Fall and Winter Vendor Expo and Bake Sale from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Fire Station. A pulled pork lunch will be available.

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

AMBOY-The Amboy American Legion will meet

Monday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. at the Old NAPA Building, 399 N. Metcalf.

STERLING-The U of I Extension Educator Karla Belzer will lead Wits Fitness from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 23, at the Whiteside Extension Office, 12923 Lawrence Rd. This program is designed to exercise the brain. Register online at go.illinois.edu/witsfitness.

AMBOY-The Amboy Farmer's Market will be held from 8 a.m. until noon on Friday, Sept. 24, in the Depot Museum parking lot. This will be the last Farmer's Market of the season. Vendors are welcome. Call Alice Dukes with questions at 815-857-4015.

AMBOY-The U of I Extension will host the Wits Fitness virtual class from 10 to 11 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 27. Challenge your brain to keep your wits fit. Registration is required to receive log on instructions. This is a free

class open to the public. Register online at go.illinois.edu/witsfitnessonline.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 27, at the American Legion Hall, 1120 W. First St. 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 Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 27, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

SUBLETTE-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 28, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Hall, 202 S. Locust St. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

ENERGY

continued from page A1

The final proposal forces fossil fuel plants offline by 2045, spends billions of dollars to subsidize renewable and nuclear energy to prevent plant closures, incentivizes the adoption of electric vehicles, funds workforce training programs, and requires union labor on the installation of renewable infrastructure.

Advocates hailed it as a nation-leading climate bill, while downstate Republicans warned of its impact on consumer bills and energy grid reliability.

Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, said it sets the state on an "aggressive and progressive" path toward decarbonization and renewable energy adoption, while leaving pathways for future General Assemblies to reassess the state's energy needs through follow-up legislation.

"Our goal all along was to enact reliable renewable and affordable energy policies that put Illinois in a position as the nation's leader. That's exactly what we're doing here today," Harmon said in closing floor debate. "Now, don't get me wrong, there will be more votes, there will inevitably be changes. Innovations that we can't even imagine today will happen tomorrow and we or some other future group of legislators will act accordingly."

Investments, cost increases

The measure, Senate Bill 2408, aims to put Illinois on a path to a carbon-free energy future by 2050 by doubling the state's ratepayer investment in renewable energy and further subsidizing the state's nuclear fleet. It aims to increase the portion of the state's energy produced by renewables from less than 8 percent to 40 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

The main provision in the bill that would push the state toward those ambitious goals is a massive increase of more than \$350 million annually to the pot of money funding renewable projects. It also provides that more than \$300 million already collected for renewables will be spent for such projects instead of being refunded to ratepayers despite previous deadlines having passed.

The bill also provides \$694 million in total over a five-year period to subsidize three nuclear plants owned by Exelon Corporation, preventing the closure of a plant in Byron that Exelon said it would take offline Monday in the absence of legislative action. It issued a statement after the bill's passage saying it would begin the refueling process.

Other expenditures include a \$180 million annual investment in equity-based and "just transition" programs aiming to diversify the renewable industry and to provide out-of-work fossil fuel employees with a pathway to renewable energy jobs.

The bill also provides subsidies to convert coal-fired plants to solar or energy storage facilities at about \$47 million annually starting in 2024.

While the subsidies and investment programs are staggered in their implementation dates, the Citizens Utility Board estimates that it will cause an increase to ratepayer bills of about \$3 to \$4 a month over the next five years.

In terms of percentages, bill sponsor Sen. Michael Hastings, D-Frankfort, said residential electric bills would increase by about 3-4 percent, commercial bills by about 5-6 percent, and industrial bills by about 7-8 percent.

The senior advocacy group AARP estimated that number could be as high as \$15 monthly for ratepayers, but advocates for the bill cite estimates in the CUB range.

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September 20 -24

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Tuesday - BBQ chicken breast, au gratin potatoes, seasoned green beans, whole grain dinner roll, fruit cocktail
Wednesday - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, Calif. blend veggies, whole wheat bread, apricots
Thursday - Sweet & sour meatballs, fluffy rice, blended veggies, whole grain dinner roll, diced pears
Friday - A) Tuna noodle casserole, broccoli/carrots, pineapple tidbits, whole grain dinner roll B) Soup & Sandwich, tomato & chicken salad

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

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The Amboy News

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 Mary Mays, Office Manager
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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.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Edwin "Ed" Blake

April 8, 1946 - Sept. 8, 2021

HENDERSON, Nevada — Edwin "Ed" Blake, 75, of Henderson, Nevada, (formerly of Amboy), died Sept. 8, 2021, after a brief illness.

Ed was born April 8, 1946 in Amboy, the youngest son of Allison and Winona Blake. After graduating from Amboy High School he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era.

On June 25, 1966 he married his high school sweetheart Katherine "Kitten" Lilves. In 1973 he found his passion and began a distinguished 24 year career as a Deputy Sheriff with the Lee County Illinois Sheriff's Department. He retired in 1997 after having attained the rank of Captain.

He also worked as the Director of Security at the Westward Ho Casino in Las

Vegas. His hobbies included harness horse racing and later in life golf and B-I-N-G-O.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Karlene Koch, Sue McCormick; brother, Larry Blake; and an infant brother.

He is survived by his loving wife, Kathy; and daughter, Anisa (Robert) Behmer, of Stillman Valley, son Jeffery Blake, and daughter Melissa (Dale) Simpson, both of Henderson, Nevada. Seven grandchildren, Desiree Kierczynski, Tristen (Jessica Blake), Isiah Blake, Lucas Blake, Cameron (McKenzi Ketchum) Simpson, Shannon Simpson, Bristol Simpson; and two step-grandchildren, Alexis Ferguson and Morgan (Caylan Phillips) Ferguson; two great-grandchildren, Andi Blake, Kellen Blake;



and two step-great-grandchildren, Jaxen and Jacey Phillips.

Cremation rites have been accorded and burial will take place at St. Patrick's Cemetery, in Amboy, at a later date.

Arrangements were completed by Palm Mortuary Las Vegas, Nevada.

Edna Matilda Sullivan

May 27, 1929 - Sept. 7, 2021

ROCKFORD — Edna Matilda Sullivan, 92, of Rockford, formerly of Dixon, passed away, Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021, at Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center in Rockford. She worked for Lee County ASCS Office as an Office Manager and retired in 1990.

Edna was born May 27, 1929, in Dixon, to Mary (Pitzer) Benoodt Moeller and Prosper Benoodt. She married John E. Sullivan, Jr. on Dec. 10, 1949, in Franklin Grove. Edna and John farmed together until his passing on Nov. 22, 1984. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Dixon. Edna enjoyed being involved in church activities and with Habitat for Humanity. In her later years Edna traveled with her cousins and friends on cruises and train trips. She spent many winters in Arizona enjoying the sunshine. Edna loved spending time with her grandchildren and

great grandchildren. She was very proud of all of them.

She is survived by her, daughter, Judy (Randy) Carlson, of Rockford; three grandchildren, Sarah (Ross) Chiger, Dan (Stefanie) Carlson, Josh (Gina Marra) Carlson; four great-grandchildren, Maddie Chiger, Raegan Carlson, Lincoln Carlson, Quinn Carlson; several cousins and many nieces and nephews.

Edna was preceded in death by her parents; husband, John E. Sullivan, Jr.; one son, John "Butch" E. Sullivan, III; and one sister, Alberta Gall.

Mask and social distancing guidelines will be followed. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until time of service at 11:30 a.m., on Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, at the First Baptist Church in Dixon, with Rev. Bunyan Cocar, officiating. Burial will follow at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon.



A special thank you to her caregivers at Swedish American Hospital Orthopedic Unit, Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center and Northern Illinois Hospice.

Memorials may be directed to First Baptist Church of Dixon and Friends of the Children Medical Mission to Haiti.

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

Condolences may be sent to www.prestonschilling.com.

Amboy News Obituary Policy

The Amboy News will print DEATH NOTICES (approximately 50 words including name, age, date of death, time/date of services) free of charge. OBITUARIES will be printed at a cost of \$25 to be billed to the arranging funeral home or prepaid with cash, check or credit card. Please submit obituaries or death notices to tgreenfield@amboynews.com.



Left to right: Debbie Ward, Fran Piper, Carol Vaessen, Marilyn Weeks, Marilyn Blaine and Joyce Peterson.

Photo submitted

Church sewing group sews dresses and shorts for Christmas boxes

MAYTOWN — The sewing group from St. Patrick's Parish of Maytown recently gathered with Debbie Ward and Joyce Peterson, representatives from Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child, who had requested donations of dresses and shorts for their Christmas boxes. These boxes are sent all over the world to children in need. The

Maytown sewing group donated 50 dresses and 37 pairs of shorts at this time.

The group meets weekly in the parish hall for sewing and fellowship. Established in 2011, the group, with the help of others, have made 5600 dresses and hundreds of shorts. Feel free to contact Marilyn Weeks at 815-638-2202 for more information.

International Day of Peace Celebrations planned, Church of the Brethren giveaway announced

FRANKLIN GROVE — The Franklin Grove Church of the Brethren is celebrating the International Day of Peace by giving away custom-made peace bookmarks and Dove-brand mini ice cream bars.

Peace Day this year is Tuesday, Sept. 21, and members of the Church of the Brethren will be stationed at Casey's General Store in Franklin Grove, 203 E. Lincoln Highway, on that day, giving away ice cream and bookmarks, from 11 a.m. until supplies are depleted. This year, the day has special meaning; church member and Dixon businessman Ken Novak, who died in July, had asked as one of his last wishes to the church that they do more to promote peace this year than ever before.

The Dixon Church of the Brethren, 215 N. Court St., is collaborating with Franklin Grove. Their giveaway is the same day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Oliver's Corner Market, 748 N. Brinton Ave., Dixon.

Based in the Anabaptist and Pietist faith

traditions, the Church of the Brethren is a historic Peace Church, celebrating its 300th anniversary in 2008. The Franklin Grove Church of the Brethren, located at 121 W. North St., was established in 1845; Dixon Church of the Brethren opened its doors in 1908.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. In 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire. The 2021 theme for the International Day of Peace is "Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world."

The Church of the Brethren Office of Peacebuilding and Policy works in Washington, D.C. to advocate for Brethren values like peace and simplicity in the context of U.S. policy. For more information, call Pastor Diana at 815-456-2422.

Dixon Lioness Lions to host annual Chinese Auction Oct. 5

DIXON — Dixon Lioness Lions will be having their annual Chinese Auction at the Loveland Community House in Dixon, on Oct. 5.

Bar-b-que sandwich with chips, relish tray, dessert and drink will be served for a

donation of \$7.

Dinner starts at 4:30 p.m. and the Auction starts at 6:15 p.m.

Tickets for the auction are 5 for \$1 and 30 tickets for \$5.

Come join us for the fun.

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.
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!

First Baptist Church
Pastor Rocky Fritz
24 N. Mason Avenue
Church Phone 857-2682
www.fbcamboy.com
Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
Wed. prayer meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
King's Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday
Reformers Unanimous addictions program from 7-9 p.m.

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 Fronек
West Brooklyn
Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m.
Saturday - 5:30 p.m.

St. Patrick Church
Rev. Randy Fronек - 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 Fronек
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
Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52
Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930
10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows

Harmon United Methodist Church
Pastor Leanne Keate
202 N. Grove, Harmon
Phone 359-7302
Worship - 8:30 a.m.

*The Following
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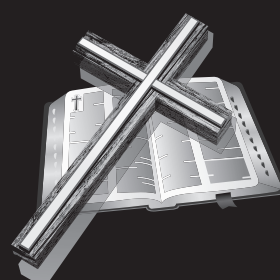
First National Bank
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Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet
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KSB Medical Center
815-857-3044

The Amboy News
815-857-2311



SOCIAL NEWS



THE PASTOR'S PEN

The Book Nook
By:
Tatjana Kazan

The Blessings of Family

BY PASTOR RICK WULF
East Grove Union Church

I recently shared with our church about the importance of the nuclear family and how it compares to the church family, and I feel led to share this message with you. Family, God's special gift to humanity. When God created our world, we read in Genesis that God said it was all "good." But on the Sixth Day when He created Man, His evaluation was, "it was very good." Life on this Earth was "very good," for however long it lasted, until Satan got in there and threw that proverbial "monkey wrench" into the works. For us as Christians, we believe the Biblical account that Adam and Eve suffered greatly because of their disobedience toward God.

Where once they were existing in perfect and permanent fellowship with God, after sinning against their holy God, their lives were destroyed. Their "happy little family" ceased to exist. As we continue to read in Genesis 4, the sad account of that "happy little family," where one brother kills another, we see the tragic result of sin. Paul gives us the sad but true evaluation of sin in Romans 6:23a, "For the wages of sin is death."

Unfortunately, the human race has been plagued with this problem from the very beginning and will be until God says, "Enough is enough." It is hard for us to understand why this is so, but it is our faith in God that carries us through these difficult times in which we live. Harper Lee, in her book, "To Kill a Mockingbird," made an interesting and sometimes true statement, "You can choose your friends but you sho' can't choose your family, an' they're

still kin to you no matter whether you acknowledge 'em or not, and it makes you look right silly when you don't." Family is the greatest gift, and we need not take it for granted. The intention of God is to bring honor to Himself and blessings to us through our families. It is awesome when families can live in love and harmony. It is such a blessing to each member and honoring to God! Likewise, it is truly sad when there is no harmony in the family, but bitterness and distrust. You may not have to go too far to see it, sadly. This past summer we watched on TV, a few of the "Judge Shows," and so many of the episodes dealt with family issues and many of those matters sadly showed the horrible relationships that some families are in. I feel that this must hurt the heart of God.

We need to work with all our hearts to keep God's love as the focus of our family relationship. "We love Him because He first loved us!" (1 John 4:19). Because of this amazing truth, and in light of Jesus' command in John 13:34, 35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another," we are to show love and acceptance to all. What is true for our earthly family is true for our spiritual family, the Church, as well. Knowing the hard truth that none of us is perfect, we have to learn to love others as God loves us, unconditionally. Sometimes that may seem too hard to do, but remember the Apostle Paul's belief, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," (Philippians 4:13).

We had a really blessed time with

our family together for the first time in 3 1/2 years. The grandkids just grow too fast. The definition of the fastest week is vacation. For those of you who like us, don't have family nearby, you know how difficult it is sometimes when you can't see them or be with them regularly. I suppose that when that time does come it makes it much more precious.

Now, for those reading this article and say, "Well, that's not my experience. You would not believe my story. My family experience is not at all as you described." And so, proves the Bible's point about the nature of mankind. It is a sad commentary to where our society has gone. To say how things have changed is quite an understatement. Take heart friends, God understands and has the solution to the world's problems, His name is Jesus. Jesus came into this world to restore the broken relationship between God and man, and also, between people as well! God has given the World the Church to accommodate that process.

Yes, the Church is not perfect because it is made up of imperfect people, but it is God's gift to the world, and we are in the process of being perfected by God. If you are struggling with your family relationship, call out to God and seek Him with all your heart and get your help from the church if you are not already to do so.

My prayer for you is that the Creator God, who is also the Sustainer of life, will continue to bless you and help you to be all of the person that He created you to be, so that you will be able to be the blessing to others, especially your family, that He wants to you to be and that others need you to be. May God be honored and glorified.

Strangers Saved Us

In 2015, the Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature to Belarusian writer Svetlana Alexievich "for her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time." Alexievich is an oral historian who for 40 years has refused to allow Soviet history to be written without the voices of people who suffered and died in places like Chernobyl, Afghanistan, and World War II. Alexievich is considerably more popular outside Belarus and Russia than inside. Her Nobel Prize "was greeted with outrage in the state-controlled Russian media, which claimed that she had won it only on account of her anti-Putin views."

Oral history is Alexievich's passion: "I've been searching for a literary method that would allow the closest possible approximation to real life. Reality has always attracted me like a magnet, it tortured and hypnotized me, I wanted to capture it on paper. So I immediately appropriated this genre of actual human voices and confessions, witness evidences and documents." Her book "Last Witnesses: An Oral History of the Children of World War II" (adapted for Young Adults) is composed of 100 human voices, each recorded in short chapters. Only the speaker's name, age during the war, and present occupation are given.

These witnesses are the survivors of a massive carnage; over one and a half million children died in the Soviet Union during the war. Entire villages were torched. A girl recalls seeing the families of partisans hanging from trees, frozen stiff, the bodies tinkling as they swung in the wind. In the 900-day siege of Leningrad, over half a million people starved to death, mostly women and children.

"Around us there was killing, killing, killing... People, horses, dogs... during the war all our horses were killed. All the dogs. True, the cats survived."

Dirt became a prized commodity: "At the market, we could buy dirt. Dirt with sunflower oil spilled on it was particularly valued, or dirt soaked in burned jam. Those two were too expensive."

A ten-year-old girl remembers her family and their neighbors eating one another's pets during the siege, as they could not bear to eat their own.

Loss runs through nearly every account. Loss of a father, a sibling, pets, but above all and most tragically, loss of a mother. Countless orphanages proliferated throughout the Soviet Union. The survivors never forgot the inhuman savagery of the Germans. The laughter of the soldiers as they carried out atrocities was sickening. Yet there are also stories of people whose saved children.

A woman who was six at the time asks, "What do I have left from the war? I don't understand what strangers are, because my brother and I grew up among strangers. Strangers saved us. ... All people are one's own."

Educational Briefs

NIU NAMES ITS AUGUST GRADUATES
DEKALB — Over 580 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in August. Included among the graduates were the following students from your area:

Amboy
Demi Becker, Bachelor of Science, Finance

Dixon
Kelsey Boll, Bachelor of Science, Human Development & Family Sciences: Family Social Services
Rachael Oswalt, Bachelor of General Studies, General Emphasis
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.

Email news items to
tgreenfield@amboynews.com

BUSINESSES & SERVICES



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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

Employees reluctant to come back and work holidays and weekends

Leann Fox would seem to have most everything a small business owner would want: loyal customers, an established location and a recognized brand.

But one thing the owner of Leann's Parkway Café doesn't have enough of is employees.

"We've had to temporarily close because we just haven't been able to hire enough people. I'm eager to open up soon. But I just can't find enough workers," she told me Monday.

Now, before you write off Fox as an upstart naïve in the ways of business or someone unwilling to pay enough to attract good employees, it's worth noting she has owned and operated her popular café on Springfield's north side for 28 years and she offers competitive pay and benefits.

Unfortunately, her story is not a unique one. Throughout, Illinois, "Help Wanted" signs adorn stores, restaurants and other enterprises.

Some businesses have curtailed services and hours. For example, Panera Bread on Springfield's west side has shut down its drive thru because it lacked sufficient employees to staff it along with its dining room. Retailers such as the Dollar General in Riverton have cut back hours because they don't have enough employees to fill their schedule.

Fox said she chose to temporarily close her business over the summer because she believes it would have hurt it more in the long-run to have kept the doors open.

"When people have a bad experience at a restaurant, they remember it. If I don't have enough waitresses, cooks and dishwashers to do a good job, I wouldn't want my customers to have to deal with it. Because they would remember it—and

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



not come back."

Despite not having any revenue coming in, Fox has continued to pay her employees during the past three months.

"I pay them \$20 an hour for the average number of hours they worked each week before the pandemic," she said. "I don't want them to suffer while we're shut down—and I also don't want to lose them. They're good workers and I want them to come back when we reopen."

She had hoped to reopen on August 28. Fox had scheduled 17 people to come in for interviews but only six showed up.

"And of those six, there really weren't any I wanted to hire," she said. "You look at a work history and see that someone had quit their last six jobs. I'd ask, Why? And the person would say something like, 'They were all mean to me.'"

By any measure Fox is a progressive employer. Not only does she offer pay and benefits well above what state and federal law require but she hires people other employers avoid.

"I'm the queen of second chances. Just because someone has made a mistake in the past doesn't mean I'm not going to give you a chance," she said.

In fact, two of the employees she has kept on the payroll through the summer have done prison time.

She opened the business on the northside of Springfield in 1993, when she was in her mid-20s. And for decades her business has been packed every day at noon. The Parkway is famous for its ham and bean. I'll admit it. The soup is almost as good as what my mother used to make.

Just why there is a worker shortage is a bit of an open

question. When daycares were closed and schools were distance learning, many parents, particularly single ones, found it difficult to work outside the home. And before COVID-19 vaccines were readily available, fear of viral exposure was pervasive.

But with public schools again teaching in-person, daycare centers open and vaccines widely available, some now blame enhanced pandemic unemployment benefits as acting as an incentive for people not to work.

We'll soon find out if that is the underlying cause. Because this past week enhanced benefits ended for Illinoisans.

In the Land of Lincoln, the 263,000 people who received unemployment payments through the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program and the 189,000 people through Pandemic Unemployment Assistance saw their benefits end Sept. 4.

But Fox is skeptical whether competition with generous government benefits are the only reason there is a worker shortage.

"During the pandemic people stayed home and spent more time with their kids and family. They liked that. And now they are reluctant to come back and work weekends and holidays. That's when customers expect to eat and some people may be saying 'That's not what I want to do.'"

Scott Reeder is a veteran journalist. He works as a reporter in the Springfield area. He can be reached by email at Scottreeder1965@gmail.com.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The past couple of weeks we have read editorials from Mr. Nowlan, a Republican, and Mr. McCarver, a Democrat. I would like to convey my perspectives as a human and not as a politically labeled and charged citizen.

There was a Democrat and a Republican who agreed to meet privately in the halls of Congress to discuss policy and rule of law. The Republican had already decided that every Democrat was a stubborn donkey, while the Democrat refused to even recognize the elephant in the room. So, there they sat silently. Their desire for power and control and their inflated egos and negative attitudes got in the way of dialogue and nothing got done. And they each left, resenting each other even more than when they entered that room.

Is that what we humans have consigned ourselves to be, political tools and pawns to be exploited and lied to and then super-charged with fears and emotions that divide us as a nation? Indeed, as a species? I would loudly proclaim my own independence and declare to everyone that, I will not, I refuse to be, labeled as a "what," an object. And if the truth were to be revealed, I also believe that most humans would prefer not to be statically charged with labels by politicians, right and left, who fail to accurately represent us in those once sacred, now blemished, halls of democracy. We humans are so much more than the monikers placed upon us by those who have heaped contempt prior to investigation upon us based

upon our race, our national origin, our gender, our sexual orientation and identity, our religions, faiths, spiritual paths, socio-economic backgrounds, or our political affiliations.

Perhaps I am deluded to believe that most of us want peace, love, justice, hope, and equality. But I think not. Do you? If these wonderful altruistic values are to be materialized in our nation and world, then the change must begin with me. I am so much more than a "what." I am a "Who." The Creator of my own understanding has placed these beautiful values within me, just as the Creator of your understanding has placed them gently within you. I am of a very adamant and strong opinion that, whenever powers and principalities of humankind dare to deny these rights to any of our fellow humans, then there is only one conclusion; the U.S. Declaration of Independence is full of hollow, meaningless words. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men (people) are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." And, in this case, truth is not a relative term, but it has certainly been hard to find the past few decades.

"Mitakuye oyasin" in the Native American language of the Sioux means, "We are all related." That is a wonderfully beautiful philosophy for all of us to recognize, whether you are the donkey or the elephant in the room

Jamie Terra Hawk
Amboy

Dear Editor,

The Amboy Depot Commission would like to extend our thanks to several volunteers who contributed their time or talent this past year on helping us with updating the museum, building items for us or giving of their time during Depot Days. First, we are appreciative of all the help Jeremy Wittenauer, Public Works Manager, and his city staff has done in moving many items in the museum for us and recently for their assistance in the painting and roofing of the ticket booth. Also, a shout out to Melissa Eisenberg for the extra things she assists us with at City Hall when called upon.

Secondly, big thank you to Bill Burke, who volunteered two months of his time in rebuilding the ticket booth when he thought he was just going to have to repair a few boards. Along, with Bill's help, we appreciate the monetary support of the 1st National Bank in Amboy in this project as well. They supported us 30 years ago when it was first built. Another thanks to Les Wilson and John Koch in building some bookshelves on the first floor to house the books for the Norma Shapiro Resource Center. Gary Mason, A.I.P. Painters, generously offered to stain these shelves for us, once he read it on Facebook that we were looking for some help.

Third, we could not have operated the museum and other buildings during Depot Days if not for the extra volunteers

that offered their time. Jack Dempsey and Leroy Dukes, who manned the 50/50 booth much of the time and drove our float in our parade and loved every minute of it. Neil Brinkmeier, Bill Burke, Bill Disney, Diane and Larry Eisenberg, Tammy Loomis, Dave Shaw and Kelly Foster and Chris Noble (who both dressed up in costume for Palmer School) spent more than their two hours in the buildings assisting guests. Kathy Schier offered to help Molly in the ticket booth.

A continued thanks each year to Pete and Kirstin Donna and their Dreamscapes by Dennis employees for their generosity in always adding the new memorial bricks that come in throughout the year to our brick pads.

Lastly, I personally want to thank Mari Velasquez and Theresa Piller, who work at the museum and keep it cleaned and greet everyone with a friendly hello. They work every weekend all spring and summer to keep the museum open for our town and tourists.

I would be amiss if I did not thank the terrific team on the commission board, Peggy Horstman, Amanda Walter, Kevin Chandler, Molly Haseman and Don Stebbins, that continues to support the betterment and preservation of the Amboy Depot Museum.

Linda Disney,
Chairman of the Amboy Depot Museum

On This Day in History

100 Years Ago Sept. 16, 1921

Fred Wohnkey of Dixon visited Monday with his sister, Miss Louise Wohnkey.

Wayne Dickey, Miss Lucile Keefer and Miss Addie Jones left Sunday for Normal, where they will attend school this year.

Arthur Rose went to Chicago Thursday where he is entering his third year in the DePaul law school.

Rev. Fred Baldus, pastor of the Amboy Baptist Church started for Missouri Monday where he is taking a two weeks' vacation.

75 Years Ago Sept. 19, 1946

The new 5-cent air mail postage becomes effective Oct. 1.

Kenneth Plume has enrolled at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor,

Mich., for a course in chemical engineering.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Woodarchak and little daughter of Rockford spent the weekend at the J.A. Tait home.

Robert Smith, Tim Smith, Lyle, Glenn and John Searls enjoyed a fishing trip to Savanna Friday.

Earl Barnes, Dick Kelly and Sylvan Leffelman, who are attending the University of Illinois this year, are all staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Sauer, formerly of Amboy.

50 Years Ago Sept. 16, 1971

Former Marine Cpl. Denton E. Eller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Eller, Amboy, received the Silver Star medal for gallantry in action in Vietnam, in a recent special ceremony in Rockford.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kitzmiller, Sublette, were Friday evening visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar

Kerchner.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Wall and Mr. and Mrs. George Danhaus spent last weekend in Canton, Ohio, where the men toured the pro-football Hall of Fame.

25 Years Ago Sept. 12, 1996

Matt Albee, son of Arthur and Deb Albee of Amboy, has earned the honor of being Title 1 Reading Student of the Year for 1996. Matt was chosen as the student of the year, because of the tremendous improvement he made in reading last school year.

The Amboy Clippers suffered a disheartening 6-3 loss at home Friday night against the Stillman Valley Cardinals. The game was scoreless after the first half of play. Amboy's only score came with less than three minutes to play in the third quarter when Jason Cook kicked a 25-yard field goal.

Established In 1854

The Amboy News

The Depot Museum

Publisher
Tonja Greenfield
tgreenfield@amboynews.com

Editor
Bonnie Morris
bmorris@mendotareporter.com

Reporter
George Howe
ghowe@amboynews.com

Account Executive
Jamie Stanford
jstanford@mendotareporter.com

**Office Manager/Circulation/
Commercial Printing**
Mary Mays
mmays@amboynews.com

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.

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SPORTS

Net Gain for the Future

BY GEORGE HOWE
Amboy News Reporter
AMBOY — Let's face it, in our society we are programmed and expected to win. Watch a TV show or movie nowadays, and ultimately there is a victorious heroine or winning team hoisting the trophy skyward. The old saying goes; 'no one likes a loser.'

Yet, in any contest there is always a team or individual that comes up short. The question that needs to be asked is what did you learn from it?

Often, on any level of sports, sometimes there can be a painful learning curve as more experienced players get traded, retire, and in high school they graduate leaving underclassman the tough task of competing in actual games against veteran juniors and seniors. This is exactly what is currently going on for the Amboy Girls Volleyball team. For this squad made up

of one junior, seven sophomores, and eleven freshman, second year Varsity Head Coach Ashley Dunlap must keep moral high and emphasize the positives despite not too many victories in the win column for now.

"Obviously, losing isn't fun," shared Dunlap. "I'm a very upfront person and told my team about realistic expectations. I also feel that we have the upper hand because our girls are getting the experience early of what it takes to play at the varsity level, but also at a disadvantage because we are so young and making freshman mistakes."

"Last year at this time most of my girls were in grammar school. It's a big jump," she continued. "We are taking baby steps; I already see improvement and we are learning from our mistakes. We will weather the storm."

Dunlap herself, a decorated player was part of the

Lakeland High School back-to-back state champions in 2008 and 09, and learned a lot from her legendary coach Kristy Parris, the third all-time winningest high school coach in Illinois history.

"Kristy instilled an attitude of confidence that we could take with us on and off the court," said Dunlap. "We have a competitive, scrappy group of girls here and along with the coaching staff everyone has bought in to our culture of developing a competitive and successful program."

After college, Dunlap decided to move to Amboy and started teaching third grade during the day at Central and coaching the varsity after school. Her coaching philosophy is simple, stress the fundamentals of the game.

"Our new girls will learn to be aggressive, along with knowing how to be smart with the ball," explained Dunlap. "Proper rotation, quicker in

the middle and ball control spreading it around the net is so vital, along focusing on what's next."

Courtney Ortgiesen, a junior and the only upperclassman on the Lady Clipper's roster has seen a positive change in the overall attitude of the team thanks to Dunlap's approach.

"Coach never allows us to get down or think too long about a mistake," said Ortgiesen. "She's always striving for us to give our best. Everyone just wants to play hard for her."

With an eye on the future in order to rebuild and revitalize the program, Dunlap established for the first time ever this year, a fifth and sixth grade girls' team. Along with the seventh and eighth grade squad the instruction should help ease the players into high school.

"It will take some time, but I like where we are going," said Dunlap. "In a couple of



Coach Dunlap (black top) giving instruction at practice.
Photo submitted

years, we should have the kinks worked out and should be a sound machine."

"It's heartbreaking to walk into our gym and see just one winning volleyball banner

from 1980," Dunlap shared. "Our goal as a coaching staff is to win a title and get the community to invest in our program. We will be a team to watch out for."

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SPORTS

Clipper Highlights: #8 Ben Leake

Happy Friday Clippers! This week I get to highlight another Clipper I've never personally met, but have watched since I was 14 years old. Alike Dan Etheridge, I always looked up to this Clipper. His toughness, his tenacity, but more importantly who he was as a teammate and great leader. It makes me beyond proud and honored to announce this week's Clipper, and now someone I can be fortunate enough to call a friend, #8, State Champion, Ben Leake.

Ben was a 1985 graduate of Amboy High School, three sport athlete, and 2nd Team All State Defensive Back.

For what I believe to be a vast minority that don't know, Ben filled in as the Clipper Signal Caller after Clipper Great, Dan Etheridge, was sidelined with injury. Amboy is typically not known for being a highly productive, highly touted Quarterback program. Although we have had few in our history who have challenged the status quo, (Considine, Nauman, Powers, Etheridge, McLaughlin to name a few) the 1984 Clippers could not have been gifted two better at the greatest position in all of sport.

The 1984 Clippers had it all, a very football intelligent pocket passer in Etheridge and a rough and gritty, three yards and a cloud of dust, run and gun style quarterback in Ben. To show the depth of the

that team, that fateful season, Kyle Walters was also a great Quarterback. Walters' stats superseded Ben's at times that season and he could have easily started on most, if not all, 2A schools.

This Clipper's story begins much before the pact made at the Jr. High lunch table but in 3rd grade. A group of some of the greatest, most looked up to, and most humble men our program has seen.

"We were always playing football. It didn't matter if it was before school, after school, or during school, we were always playing. We would even pick up the soccer ball and carry it like a football. That's how much we loved it," Ben shared.

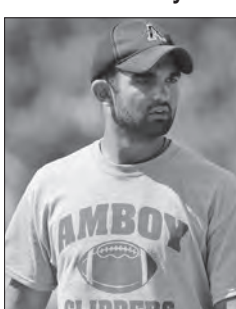
Ben spoke of the 1984 season's opponents and remembers they all had "a guy" that was keyed on or game planned for.

Ben shared, "We never had 'a guy' that was keyed on. We had a lot of guys that could beat you and teams didn't know what was coming."

Ben spoke of his feelings of safety and comfort knowing his teammates were around him. Truly a group of young men just doing their jobs for one another and the greater goal of team success. I would say that level of comfort and safety turned to confidence as Ben would come under center, look at the opponents' biggest, baddest linebacker and tell him, "We are coming right at you....

Clipper Highlights

By Spencer Morrissey



#8 Ben Leake

stop it."

The successful traits of a championship football team are not hard to find if one watches enough football. Togetherness, hard work, discipline, toughness (mental and physical), a belief in a goal greater than oneself's achievements, and a greater fear of letting a brother down than losing or poor performance are the qualities that make up all great teams. Ben exemplified all of these qualities and, with the help of his classmates, made sure all 44 Clippers were bought into those qualities too. In typical Clipper fashion, Ben gave his credit to his teammates. Ben spoke as highly as any Clipper Back of his offensive line, "I always thanked my offensive line, they made it all happen."

As much as he wouldn't want me to, let's look at Ben's contributions to his



Championship team. A 1st Team All Conference, 2nd Team All State selection at defensive back. A stand in, stand out at Quarterback with a 300+ yard performance against Prophetstown and accounting for each of the two touchdowns in the State Championship victory (one passing, one rushing). With as much as I have heard of Ben as a teammate and leader, I don't believe the yards, touchdowns, or statistical contributions equaled who he was to that team. Always on, always smiling, and always ready to hit someone for a Clipper victory, Ben was the ultimate teammate.

Friend and former teammate, Dennis Ely, shared, "Ben is a hell of a man. He got stuff done because he had his mind set on it."

Ben's former teammate and friend, Sam Jones, shared, "Ben was a great teammate. He did everything and did it all well. He stepped up for us and never would hesitate to sacrifice his body for our success. Ben never talked about things he just went out and did it."

Friend and fellow Quarterback, Dan Etheridge shared, "Sure. Ben was just a good all around athlete with quick feet. When he

played cornerback, he took pride in shutting down the other receivers and laying big hits whenever he could. As a punt returner he had no fear. He had a great hands and shifty speed. He had a way of making guys miss.

"When he took over the offense after I got hurt. He stepped up big time. He was a great leader and would keep the players loose with his goofy humor. When he took over at QB, we essentially had 4 running backs in the backfield. He could make the pass completion when needed as well. We were lucky to have him, to step in and keep the run going, to win state. That was what was so great about that team, we were so deep and had good players to step in."

Friend and teammate, Brad Goy, shared, "I can picture the smile on his face now. We grew up together playing backyard football until dark most nights. Ben was as fearless as they come. He would wait until the last second to pitch the ball on the option, take a hit, and get back up to go throw himself in front of couple defenders. He was such a fast and shift back too. He was a jokster and always had us laughing. Ben is an all around great guy

who would do anything for the team."

Ben and I spoke at length about our program, the championship season, and the position that we shared. As good as Ben was at the position, he would have much rather wanted to deliver that de-cleating block or played defense full time. Ben and his classmates only lost one time in their high school football careers. That loss came in the first round of the playoffs against Ottawa Marquette during the 1983 season.

To Ben, the meaning of Amboy Clipper football today is, "brotherhood."

Ben shared, "in the moment I never looked at how big it all was. I was just a part of that team. To look back now on all these memories is humbling and is proof the brotherhood remains."

Ben concluded, "Amboy Clipper football, back then, was your identity. I wasn't just me, I was a part of that team. We followed the rules, we got good grades, and did things right all for football."

So, to State Champion, #8, Ben Leake, thank you for your contributions to Amboy Football. More than being a Clipper Quarterback, more than being a State Champion, you're known for who you are as a man, teammate and nothing short of a fearless competitor. 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.

Clippers battle highly-touted Polo

AMBOY — The Amboy Clippers gave highly-touted Polo all it could handle before falling to the Marcos, 36-28, in varsity football action on Sept. 10 at the AHS field.

The Clippers got another superb game from quarterback Tucker Lindenmeyer, who kept Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio in the game with his arm and his legs. The junior signal-caller rushed for 133 yards and threw for 40 more yards while scoring a touchdown each way. Also scoring TDs for the Clippers were

Joe Quest on a 1-yard run and Jordan Gulley on a 65-yard kickoff return.

The Clippers (1-2) are back in action on Friday, Sept. 17 when they entertain Biggsville (West Central) in a 7 p.m. kickoff at the AHS field.

West Central ran its record to 3-0 on the season with a 38-0 whitewash of previously undefeated Bushnell-Prairie City. It will be the Homecoming game for Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio.

Lady Clippers lose conference matches

AMBOY — The Amboy Lady Clippers played their first two volleyball games of the season in the Northwest Upstate Illini Conference and they suffered a pair of losses.

Amboy was beaten by Forrester, 25-12, 25-16, on Sept. 7 at Forrester. No other details were available.

The Lady Clippers hosted Polo on Sept. 9 and the Marcos came out on top, 25-10, 20-25, 25-14. Lexi Ketchum and Chloe Heath had four kills apiece for AHS and Alexa Morris added three kills. Elly Jones contributed three ace serves, 13 assists and two digs, while Ketchum provided three digs.



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SPORTS



Amboy boys cross country team placed second at the Oregon Cross Country meet on Sept. 8.

Photo courtesy of Heather Loftus

Amboy runners bring home second, first place finishes

AMBOY — Amboy's cross country runners had a busy week, competing in a meet at Oregon on Sept. 8 and running in the Gary Coates Princeton Invitational on Sept. 11 at Princeton.

At Oregon, the Clipper boys took second place in the team standings with 30 points, three points behind Newman. Rochelle (84) and Oregon (115) also competed. The Clippers had the top two runners with Brock Loftus finishing first in a time of 16:44 and Ian Eller placing second in 18:15. Also finishing in the top 10 were Charlie Dickinson in seventh place with a clocking of 19:37 and Wyatt Lundquist in eighth place in 19:47.

Amboy had seven other runners in the competition. They included Kelton Schwamberger (12th, 20:18), Andrew Jones (15th, 20:38), Atticus Horner (16th, 20:40), Garrett Pertell (17th, 21:03),

Hayden Zacharias (18th, 21:07), Ryan Dickinson (21st, 21:24) and Jaden Haley (32nd, 24:40).

The Lady Clippers had four runners in the event, with Lauren Althaus placing third overall with a time of 22:35. Elly Jones was next for Amboy in sixth place with a time of 23:42, followed by Bailey Ellis (10th, 26:09) and Addison Pertell (15th, 28:48).

Oregon topped the team standings with 33 points, Newman was second with 43 and Rochelle had 51.

Amboy's boys took the top spot in the Coates Invitational with 66 points. Sandwich (74), Newman (85), Morris (111) and LaSalle-Peru (118) rounded out the top five in the 21-team event.

Loftus crossed the finish line first in the boys' race with a time of 16:25.08, while Eller occupied the fourth position in 17:03. Other Clip-

pers traversing the course were Charlie Dickinson (19th, 18:17.92), Schwamberger (30th, 19:00.68), Garrett Pertell (31st, 19:01.12), Andrew Jones (34th, 19:09.89), Lundquist (37th, 19:37.07) and Horner (42nd, 19:51.65).

Three Lady Clippers ran the race, with Elly Jones earning the 20th spot in a time of 22:20.21. Ellis (35th, 23:39.64) and Addison Pertell (51st, 24:56.49) also competed.

Joy Dudley of Morris won the race in a time of 19:57.54.

The top five in the team standings were Morris (28), Aledo Mercer County (53), Sandwich (90), L-P (167) and Princeton (191).

Two Amboy boys ran in the freshman-sophomore race, with Zacharias taking third (11:53.84) and Haley finishing 16th (12:45.64).

Lowpoint-Washburn won the meet with 27 points.



Amboy's Lauren Althaus finished third at the Oregon Cross Country meet on Sept. 8.

Photo courtesy of Heather Loftus



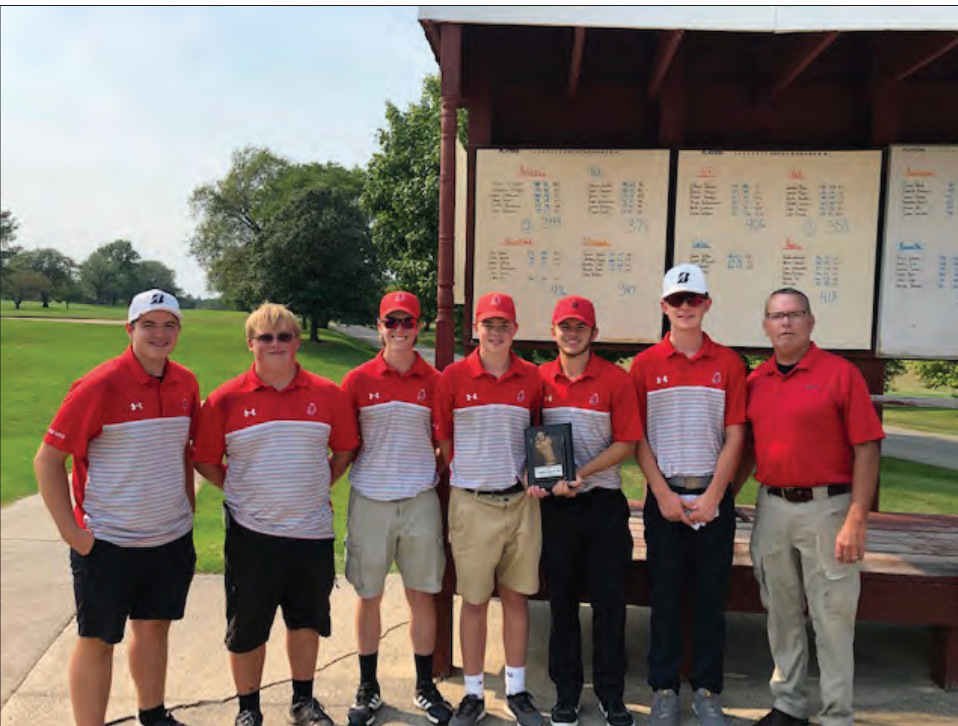
Pictured left, Amboy's Brock Loftus finished first at the Oregon Cross Country meet with a time of 16:44. Pictured right, Amboy's Wyatt Lundquist finished eighth at the Oregon Cross Country meet with a time of 19:47.

Photos courtesy of Heather Loftus



Amboy boys cross country team poses with the team plaque for coming in first place at the Coates Invitational in Princeton on Sept. 11.

Photo courtesy of the Ellers



Amboy Golf team, pictured left to right, Griffin Bushman, Ethan Prat, Luke Corcoran, Wes Wilson, Hayden Wittenauer, Jackson Rogers, and Coach Zach Ross.

Photo submitted

Clipper golfers finish second at Kewanee Invitational

BY GEORGE HOWE
Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY — On Saturday Sept. 11, the Amboy Boys Golf Team finished runner-up at the Kewanee Invitational. The Clippers fired an impressive 349 to winner Rock Ridge 341.

Team members Wes Wilson shot an 80 to lead the team and finished fourth. Hayden Wittenauer placed sixth shooting a 83, and rounding out the top ten, Jackson Rogers shot an 85 for ninth.

"I was proud how after a couple of our guys had a rough start, they battled," said Head Coach Zach Ross. "The players stuck to our philosophy of; play the golf course and not your opponent."

The Clippers are 6-3 in conference and 7-4 overall so far. Upcoming matches include Forreton, and next Saturday at the River Sale Invitational.

"My guys are starting to understand the course management part of the game,"

explained Ross. "We are a young team with no Seniors, so the future looks bright."



Pictured above are Wes Wilson, Hayden Wittenauer and Jackson Rogers.

Photo submitted

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Volleyball
Tyrah Vaessen

Golf
Boys Varsity Team

Football
Tucker Lindenmeyer



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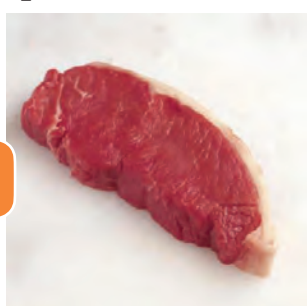


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HARVEST SAFETY

Firemen at the Ready

BY GEORGE HOWE

Amboy News Reporter

AMBOY — With harvest season upon us grain bin accidents can happen, and the Amboy Fire Department is prepared to come to the rescue.

More than 400 firemen from 80 departments from the Northwest and North Central regions of Illinois participate in the one-day training held at the Amboy Fire House. The instruction is aimed at enhancing skills to go along with the existing certifications that the firemen already have including tractor rollover, combine and grain elevator rescue. With more and more silos going up commercially for food and fuel production, Amboy Fire Chief Jeff Bryant stresses the importance of being prepared.

“We’ve been blessed that we’ve had very few accidents, (one every 10 years) but I’m confident that as a result of our training, everyone will have the knowledge and confidence to handle it,” said Bryant.

A grain bin simulator is used in training, some silos can be 100 feet tall, as a result, this

rescue is considered a large-scale accident. A student is put into the bin as if trapped, and one of the first things needed for getting the victim out is for a wall to be built around the bin. Then, a portable auger is brought in to help remove the corn, with an average silo holding 330,000 bushels. Next, while strapped into a safety harness, the firemen slowing and precisely begin the process of lifting the injured party out of the grain bin.

“This is where we get to see the training kick in,” said Bryant.

State Line Farm Rescue out of Orangeville, conducts a Farm Medic class every four years as part of a national program. Thanks to the generosity of private donors and funding from the Lee County Farm Bureau these Agriculture related rescue training courses can continue to be offered.

“We’ve been very fortunate to receive some grants and along with the donors as a department we are very grateful to continue to have our people in a position to provide the most up to date safety related procedures,” Bryant said.



During the training, while strapped into a safety harness, the firemen slowing and precisely begin the process of lifting the injured party out of the grain bin.
Photo courtesy of the Amboy Fire Department



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During the training, a student is put into the bin as if trapped.
Photo courtesy of the Amboy Fire Department



A grain bin simulator is used in training, some silos can be 100 feet tall, as a result, this rescue is considered a large-scale accident.
Photo courtesy of the Amboy Fire Department



The Amboy Fire Department has also been trained to handle tractor rollovers and combine rescues.

Photos courtesy of the Amboy Fire Department

Please watch for farm equipment on the roadways

Email news items to
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HARVEST SAFETY



Farm Safety Yields Real Results: National Education Center for Agricultural Safety announces National Farm Safety and Health Week 2021

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 2019 data for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 573 fatalities, or an equivalent of 23.1 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry.

For this reason, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week. This annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944.

National Farm Safety and Health Week is led by the National Education Center for

Agricultural Safety (NECAS), the agricultural partner of the National Safety Council.

"Farm Safety Yields Real Results" is the theme for the National Farm Safety & Health Week celebration scheduled for September 19-25.

The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) is dedicated to preventing illnesses, injuries, and deaths among farmers and ranchers, agricultural and horticultural workers, their families and their employees.

NECAS offers safety and rescue training programs for a variety of topics and provides webinars to increase awareness for agricultural safety.

Information about NECAS is available at www.necasag.org.

Safety essentials when visiting a farm

The nursery rhyme does not state, "Old MacDonald had a farm and on this farm there was a bunch of dangerous things." But maybe it should?

Farmers perform an essential service, providing food and other products that consumers commonly take for granted. The inner workings of a farm are something to treat with respect. Most of the families who live and work on a farm understand the potential hazards of such an environment. However, individuals visiting a farm may be unaware of these dangers. Understanding farm safety helps keep everyone safe.

According to the organization Kids Health, the age groups at greatest risk for injury on farms are children ages 3 to 4 and teenagers ages 13 to 14. Most injuries can be prevented, though, with a little education and precautionary measures.

Machinery

There are many different forms of machinery on a farm to help keep it working efficiently. These items can pose serious safety risks. Although tractors are the type of farm equipment that causes the most injuries, some adults still think it is safe to allow children to ride along.

Injuries that may result from farm machinery include pinching of clothing or parts of the body, where a person may become trapped in the gears or components of equipment; cuts from equipment that shears crops; bruising or cuts from projectiles thrown by mowers or other field equipment; and crushing or trapping injuries from machinery that falls or tips over.

Animals

Part of the excitement of visiting a farm is seeing and petting the animals. Although many animals may be docile and domesticated, they can still be unpredictable.

Animals that are startled by yelling or loud noises also may become restless and dangerous.

Children should understand that animals may unintentionally cause injuries. It may be in a horse's defense mechanism to kick when it is scared. To avoid such injuries, never approach animals from behind. Also, when baby animals are present, a female may be protective of her brood and go on the defensive.

Another inadvertent injury that may occur is from bacteria or viruses from the animals. Animal feces may contain bacteria, and there may be other microorganisms on the animals themselves. It is a smart idea to always wash your hands after handling a farm animal to prevent the spread of disease.

Here are some other precautions that can be taken when visiting a farm.

- Don't allow children



to wander around unsupervised.

- Rides on farm equipment should be discouraged.

- Before starting machinery, operators should locate children and other guests and clear them from the work area.

- Don't allow children near machinery.

- Children under the age of 16 should not be allowed to operate any farm vehicles.

- Watch for hand tools or other equipment, and keep children away from them.

- Do not touch animals unless a farm worker allows it. Then follow his or her instructions.

- Don't provoke farm

animals or attempt to startle them.

- Supervise children around ponds, feeding troughs or manure lagoons. It only takes a few inches of water to pose a drowning risk.

Farms are interesting places to visit, especially for children.

Farmers urged to watch electrical hazards during harvest

URBANA - The rush to harvest can reap grim results — electrocution. Missing important safety steps results in many farm workers being killed and hundreds injured each year when farm equipment makes contact with overhead power lines. Safe Electricity, the statewide safety awareness program of the Illinois Electric Council (IEC), urges farm workers to review farm activities and work practices that take place around power lines to prevent tragic accidents.

"Take note when moving equipment like portable grain augers, oversized wagons, and large combines. Everyone who works on the farm should know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them," says Molly Hall, director of Safe Electricity. "The minimum 10-foot distance is a 360-degree rule — below, to the side, and above lines. Ensuring proper clearance can save lives."

"Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest," said Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Agricultural Safety Specialist. "Moving portable grain augers poses the greatest risk because those who are on the ground moving the equipment would provide a direct path for electricity if there's a contact with overhead wires."

"Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it's only a few feet. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result," Aherin said. "Use extreme caution when raising the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. A spotter or someone with a broader view can help."

Farm workers also are advised not to use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins and to use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

Some other equipment safety considerations:

- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level - under 14 feet - before moving or transporting; use care when raising them.

- When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter, or someone to help make certain that contact is not made with a line.

- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.

- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

"It's also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power line," Hall says. "It's almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off."

"If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result," Aherin said. "Even if a power line has landed on the ground, the potential for the

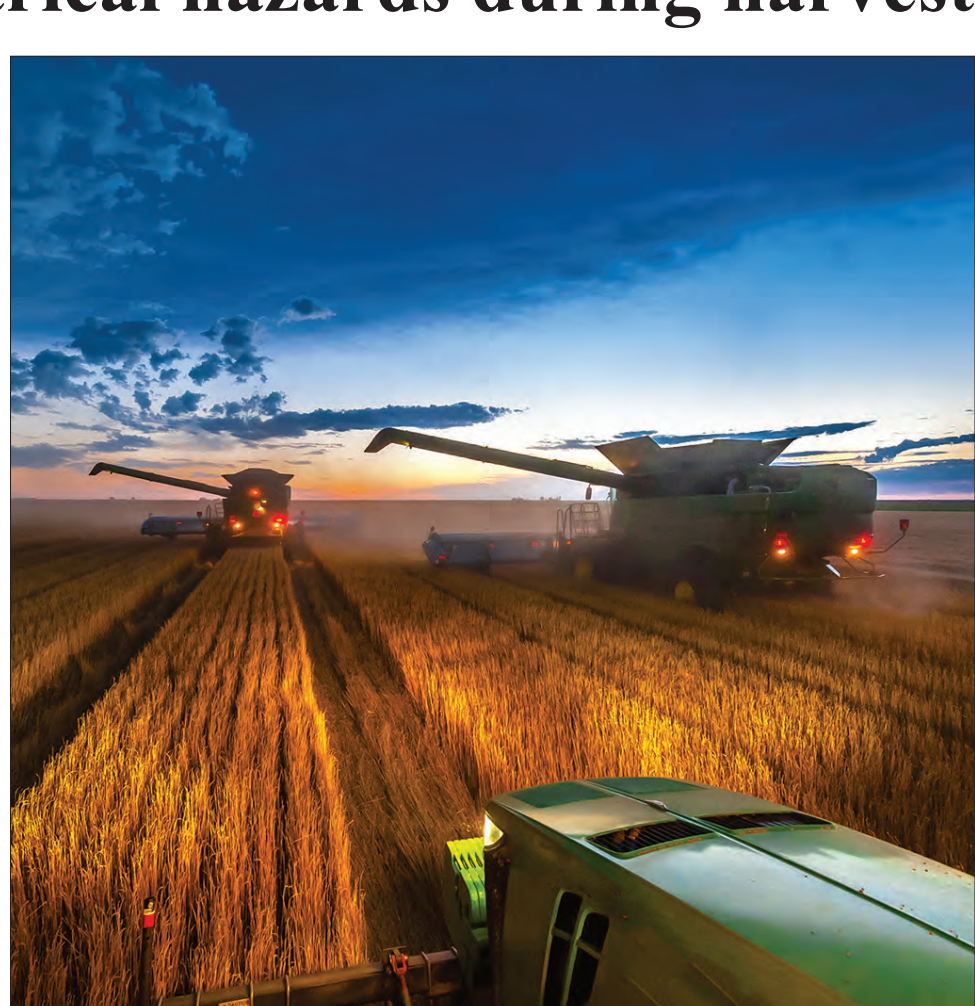
area nearby to be energized still exists. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire."

In that case, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.

The overhead electric wires aren't the only electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral; but, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Don't do it yourself. Always call the electric utility.



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HARVEST SAFETY

Illinois Farm Bureau, NECAS celebrate National Farm Safety and Health Week

BLOOMINGTON — Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) is again partnering with the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) to promote farm safety and health during National Farm Safety and Health Week, themed, 'Farm Safety Yields Real Results,' Sept. 19-25, 2021.

"We're excited to help promote and support NECAS's efforts in keeping farmers and farm families safe," said Danelle Burrs, manager, Lee County Farm Bureau. "Harvest season can be particularly dangerous for farmers with long hours and stress of weather delays, equipment breakdowns or high operating costs, and this year's activities will reinforce the importance of organizations like ours working together to ensure farmers make it home safely to their families at night."

Each day of the week has a designated topic of focus to promote various aspects of farm safety:

Monday, Sept. 20—Tractor Safety & Rural Roadway Safety

Tuesday, Sept. 21—Overall Farmer Health

Wednesday, Sept. 22—Safety & Health

for Youth in Agriculture

Thursday, Sept. 23—Agricultural Fertilizer & Chemical Safety

Friday, Sept. 24—Safety & Health for Women in Agriculture

The 2019 data for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 573 fatalities, or an equivalent of 23.1 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. For this reason, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week.

"Farmers are notorious for their work ethic and determination, both qualities that also can be a detriment when it comes to safety," said Burrs. "While farm safety is top of mind every week for farmers, their families and their employees, National Farm Safety and Health Week is an opportunity to spotlight safety reminders that keep those both inside and outside the agriculture industry aware and mindful during the busy harvest season."

Safety reminders during fall harvest season

With the urgency felt by farm families during the fall season, here are some safety reminders.

Equipment

Unfortunately, many farmers use older equipment during the harvest season that does not have recommended safety features. Keep your equipment in good condition and check to ensure all guards are properly positioned. Check to make sure that you have the recommended lighting on your tractor and

implements especially when traveling in the early mornings or evenings.

Rest and Breaks

During the harvest time, it is very easy for farm family members to not get adequate rest, take breaks, and even eat meals. In order for you to remain alert during harvest, you cannot sacrifice rest and nutrition. When doing fieldwork, take short breaks throughout the day to get out of the tractor to stretch. Stay hydrated and pack nutritious snacks or meals so that you

during harvest, a person may sometimes accept help from a neighbor, family member, or friend. However, it is important for you to provide that person with farm safety training related to the task that they will be helping with on the farm.

Youth Safety

If you have youth (either your own, hired, or volunteers) working for you during the harvest season, evaluate the job they are doing to ensure they are not taking on more responsibility than they are mentally, cognitively, and physically able to accomplish. Always provide training for youth workers prior to doing any work and check in with them on regular intervals to check on their progress and safety.

Body Mechanics

Not all harvesting is done with tractors and combines. Some fall crops require hand harvesting and heavy lifting. Remember it is better to make multiple trips with lighter loads than to strain your body by lifting or carrying too much. When carrying an object, hold the object as close to your body as possible and lift with your knees rather than your back.

Sleep

Do not ignore your health during the harvest season. As hard as it might be, try to get adequate sleep which will help you rejuvenate from a hard day and prepare you for the next busy day.

Accessing the Tractor

During chopping, a person can get on and off the tractor numerous times to hitch and unhitch wagons. Consider using a hitching system to reduce the number of time you need to get on and off the tractor. If it is unavoidable, maintain 3 points of contact when getting on or off the tractor and avoid jumping off of the tractor or tractor steps to improve your safety and to protect your joints over time.



6 simple tips for a safe harvest season

Safety should be a major concern for all farmers during harvest, but as the season goes on, it can be easy to miss details or neglect safe practices that can put you or others at risk. Here are six simple safety tips to maintain throughout the season to keep yourself and your crew out of harm's way.

1. Keep your machine's safety features, mirrors and windows clean both in and out of the field

Grain carts are one of the most commonly used pieces of equipment during harvest, but they also have the most potential for blind spots. With few lights on the back of the cart and large areas of obstructed visibility, it's important to keep the safety features available in good working order. Check your cart's turn signal and brake lights prior to leaving each field to ensure safe operation down the road.

Be sure to regularly wipe any dust or debris from safety reflectors, lights and mirrors on your grain cart both in the field and on the road, as well as those on your combine, tractor and gravity wagons. If your cart or wagon doesn't come with turn signal lights, a backup strobe like this one can be used to make your implement more visible in low light situations. Keep glass cleaner and paper towels or rags in your cab to clean your machine daily, and prevent accidents that can occur from not seeing a car or other obstacle on the road.

2. Inspect your PTO's safety shields for all operation

The Power Take Off (PTO) can cause severe injury without proper safety precautions. NEVER step over the PTO shaft, either while it is running or when it is not in operation. This includes a tractor and grain cart combination as well as a tractor attached to an auger against a grain bin. It is always better to take a few extra seconds and walk around the equipment.

Inspect the guards on the PTO shaft every season. With the tractor turned off and the

key stored in the operator's pocket, use one hand to spin the shield 360°. If the guard can spin without stopping or turning the power drive train, the shield is working properly. If the guard does catch or rub at any point in time, the guard should be repaired or replaced before being put back into service. Don't forget to check the PTO shafts on the combine head as well to prevent crop from getting tangled around the shaft.

3. Look out for stray metal and other debris

After the derecho storm earlier this month, pieces of metal and other debris may have found their way into your fields. Be observant as you harvest your fields and watch out for large debris that could seriously damage your machines and slow down your harvest. If you do experience a plug in your corn head, follow this procedure to safely remove it.

Bring the combine to a stop and back up a few feet so the head of the combine is located over harvested crop.

Bring the combine's threshing element to a slow speed on idle.

Open the deck plates as wide as they will go.

Using the reverser switch for the head, lightly bump the switch in reverse a few times to see if the plugged material becomes dislodged. If the material does not become dislodged, stop running the head. Constant running of the head can cause damage to the slip clutch, making it weak and creating excess heat.

Follow the combine lock-out procedure before ever working around or under a raised combine head. Make sure all hydraulics and shafts are removed from the combine and safety cylinder block/stops are applied.

Using cut resistant gloves, grab a handful of material at a time and slowly begin pulling it out of the snapping rolls. Be careful; there is likely to be something lodged in the snap rolls and it could be sharp objects such as nails

or sheet metal.

4. Be aware of your crew's location

A good practice is to honk the horn of the combine or tractor three times before starting the machine or engaging the components so other members of your crew know the machine is moving, and to give them time to move out of the way and remove themselves from moving parts.

5. Check your tow ropes and chains when extracting stuck equipment

While not every area in the state may have this problem each season, it's important to know how to stay safe when pulling out a stuck tractor or combine. When possible, use tow ropes in good condition instead of chains. If only chains are available, inspect them to make sure both ends are in good condition and the chain itself does not have any broken, bent or weak links. Be sure that the machine you pull with and the chains are large enough to tow the weight of the stuck machine. Never stand between a stuck vehicle and the implement towing it. Chains and ropes can break and will seriously injure anyone in their path. It's best to stand far away and communicate with the operator of the equipment using either cell phones or two-way radios.

6. Be conscious of your mental health and seek help when necessary

There is a growing concern about mental health in the agriculture and farming community, and a harvest season with unusual circumstances like this year can cause additional stress. Be mindful of your own mental health, as well as that of your employees, co-workers and family.

Continue to keep up with these practices as you go through the harvest season. By using these tips and maintaining awareness of your surroundings, you can protect yourself, your investment and others on the road and in the field for a safe harvest season.

New grant bolsters Illinois agriculture, rural mental health initiatives

WRITTEN BY EMILY STEELE

URBANA — Farmers are stewards of the soil, their livestock, and their crops, but caring for the land means they often do not take time to care for themselves. Depression, anxiety, and suicide are more common in agricultural populations than the general public.

With the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, as a backdrop, officials announced that Illinois was awarded a \$500,000 federal grant that it is investing in mental health initiatives for the agricultural community.

The grant will allow for the expansion of Illinois' efforts as part of the North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center through Illinois Extension. This includes providing agricultural

literacy training for mental health providers, a voucher program for farmers to access free professional behavioral health services, and expansion of Mental Health first aid program offerings.

The grant will also provide funding to expand the Farm Family Resource Initiative, led by SIU School of Medicine, from a six-county pilot project in Central Illinois to a statewide program. Funds will increase their farmer assistance telephone helpline, available 24/7 at 1-833-FARM-SOS, to include text and email.


With unpredictable weather and markets and dangerous conditions, farming is inherently stressful and the continuing uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 have been an added stressor going into harvest season.

Dr. Courtney Cuthbertson, Extension specialist and assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, is excited that the grant will now allow the center to start offering vouchers for agriculture producers to have access to care at no cost to them.

"With the vouchers, people can be linked up to a professional behavioral health counselor — maybe that's a social worker, a psychologist, a licensed professional counselor — in their area either for in-person services or through telemedicine," Cuthbertson says.

Cuthbertson will co-host a free webinar about the substance use crisis and services that are available in rural and medically underserved areas in rural Illinois on Sept. 30.

Illinois Extension previously received a \$7.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that led to the May 2021 launch of www.FarmStress.org, a comprehensive website that provides the agricultural community with mental health resources. Extension also has the free online course Rural Resilience: Farm Stress Training available at go.illinois.edu/RuralResilience.







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National Farm Safety & Health Week

September 19-25, 2021



These local businesses care about the health and safety of the farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers they serve. As we recognize National Farm Safety & Health Week, please take a moment to review these simple tips designed to protect your health and safety on the job.

- Stay alert, and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Never allow extra riders on machinery. No seat, no rider!
- Never attempt to unplug equipment when power is engaged.
- Carry a fire extinguisher on each piece of powered equipment.
- Designate a safe play area for kids that is a safe distance from machinery.
- Plan an escape route when working around animals in tight areas.
- Wear protective equipment like masks and goggles to safeguard your lungs and eyes.
- Review and enforce basic safety rules for employees and family members, and set the example by following them yourself.



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