



The crowds were back at the 2021 Amboy Depot Days Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show on Sunday, Aug. 29.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News

# Good size crowds, and blue skies for most of the weekend of Amboy’s Depot Days 2021

**AMBOY** — The 2021 Amboy Depot Days started out with the crowning of the 2021 Miss Amboy. Dana Merriman was crowned 2021 Miss Amboy and Lexi Morgan was first runner-up. There were four contestants vying for Miss Amboy 2021: Merriman, Morgan, Haley Sus and Liberty Sheaves. There were 15 contestants for the little and junior royalty pageants. Winners were: Little Miss: Brooklyn Larson Little Mister: Dalton Willstead Junior Miss: Joivvee Hirsch

On Saturday, the day kicked off with the inaugural Sylvan Shuffle held by the Amboy Education Foundation. The annual Tractor Show was held downtown and the Amboy Lions Club presented their annual parade on Saturday afternoon. Sunday brought a little unexpected water event in the morning when the city experienced a water main break. But that didn’t stop the people from attending the Amboy Depot Days Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show and buying 50/50 raffle tickets.

See **DEPOT DAYS** page A2



Dana Merriman is all smiles as she is crowned Miss Amboy 2021 on Thursday night.

Mary Mays/Amboy News



The AHS choir sang The Star Spangled Banner prior to the start of the Sylvan Shuffle on Saturday morning.

Mary Mays/Amboy News



Miss Amboy 2021 Dana Merriman leads the Amboy High School band during the annual Amboy Lions Depot Days parade on Saturday.

Mary Mays/Amboy News



Amboy High School Class of 1971 celebrated its 50th high school reunion with a float during the annual parade.

Mary Mays/Amboy News



## CITY EXPERIENCES WATER MAIN BREAK

Amboy City Crews spent Sunday working a water main break in front of Sensient. At 7 a.m. the water supply to town was shut off so these repairs can be made. The City of Mendota assisted Amboy with their Vac-Truck. A 48-hour boil order is in effect. The city announced that water will be discolored and there will be air in the lines.

George Howe/Amboy News

# School’s open: Amboy students return to the classroom

BY BONNIE MORRIS

Editor

**AMBOY** – With Amboy students returning to their classrooms last week, the district’s three school principals reported a successful start to the year during the Aug. 24 Board of Education meeting. Amboy High School Principal Janet Crownhart, Amboy Junior High Principal Andrew Full and Central Elementary Principal Joyce Schamberger, each praised everyone’s hard work in getting the buildings ready for students and for helping with the move to the new junior high building. Superintendent Joshua Nichols also thanked all of the staff, board members and others who came in and helped with the move to the new junior high. “There were a lot of last minute details to get done but we got it accomplished,” he said later in the week. “It’s great to finally have kids in the building - we’re very glad to have them here.” Nichols said he expects most of the outside work on the building project to be done by mid September, barring any unforeseen problems. The new high school gym is basically done, as well, but they still have to wait a couple weeks for the floor to cure before it can be used. Nichols noted that the high school will have their volleyball season but for now, practices are taking place in the old gym. The other unfinished area in the new building is the storm shelter, which includes the junior high cafeteria and offices. Nichols said they are still waiting for the storm rated

windows, which are supposed to arrive soon. The other missing item is a heavy glass door (storm rated) that will complete the area, but it is still on back order. “Right now, we’re not sure how long that will take, so at this point it’s just a supply concern,” he said. In the meantime, the junior high offices are set up in the old high school office area and tables are set up in the old gym at lunchtime for junior high students to eat. “We’re staggering lunch times and making adjustments to make it all work for now,” Nichols said. **PRINCIPALS’ REPORTS** Amboy High School Principal Janet Crownhart congratulated Nick Tarr, who was named Student of the Year for 2020-21. Curriculum and School Improvement • Crownhart reported that seven AHS seniors and four juniors are attending SVCC and then AHS for four classes; four students are attending SVCC, then WACC; three are in the academy at SVCC; there are five co-op students; and 48 attend AHS in the morning, then WACC in the afternoon. • Four summer school classes were held for English, Geography, Algebra and Health. • Math and English classes will use a new curriculum this year. Some of the teachers piloted the curriculum last year and Crownhart said they were happy with the selection. • Spanish will be taught virtually this year through Educere online.

See **SCHOOL** page A4

# Amboy Fire awarded federal grant

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) announced that three rural fire and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies in Illinois have been awarded a total of \$381,091 in federal grant funding. This federal funding was created by Durbin’s Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs (SIREN) Act, which was signed into law in 2018. Today’s funding supports EMS agencies in responding to the opioid epidemic, COVID-19 pandemic, and other rural health challenges, including by training and recruiting staff, conducting certification courses, and purchasing equipment. “Across our state, rural EMS agencies are on the front lines of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the opioid crisis, and treating the emergency needs of an aging population. Yet many face workforce and geographic challenges in their communities and lack steady funding to support their operations. That’s why I first introduced the SIREN Act and continue to work to provide much needed funding to our rural communities,” Durbin said. “Congratulations to the three Illinois agencies awarded today and I thank our first responders for their tireless work serving our communities.” See **GRANT** page A4

# Masks mandated indoors in Illinois; vaccines required for some workers

BY JERRY NOWICKI

Capitol News Illinois  
jnowicki@capitolnewsillinois.com

**SPRINGFIELD** – The statewide mask mandate indoors is back, and educators and health care professionals will be required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, Gov. JB Pritzker announced Thursday, Aug. 26 amid an ongoing surge in the pandemic that first arrived in Illinois in March 2020. Beginning Monday, Aug. 30, people will be required to wear masks indoors, Pritzker announced. The vaccine requirement, which goes into effect Sept. 5, will apply to “all P-12 teachers and staff, all higher education personnel, all higher education students, and health care workers in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, nursing homes, urgent care facilities and physician’s offices,” Pritzker said at a news conference in Chicago.

See **MASK** page A4



## CLIPPER HIGHLIGHTS

This week’s column features #44 Scott Montavon **PAGE A10**

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# LOCAL NEWS

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*The crowds waited in line to purchase their 50/50 raffle tickets on Sunday morning. After the stubs were filled out, they then waited in line to toss them into the 50/50 drum.*

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



"This year will be a year to remember for sure," was posted by the Amboy Depot Days 50/50 Drawing Facebook page on Sunday. "Our biggest sales days are always Saturday and Sunday of Depot Days. On Saturday we had a natural gas leak that caused downtown Amboy to be evacuated for several hours. This morning, Amboy woke up to a huge water main break

that shutdown the entire city water supply 100 feet from our ticket trailer. Cell phone service was almost nonexistent for most of the afternoon from being overloaded and we had a brief downpour with lightning in the middle of selling our tickets. "But, we persevered and overcame our 2019 giveaway by \$155. Unfortunately, the cell service kept us from up-

dating right as the sales were getting good plus Facebook Live was not able to happen. I apologize for that but things happen that are simply out of our control. Technology is great when it works."

Tim Hord, of Dixon, was the grand prize winner of \$105,580 in this year's 50/50 raffle.

Because the Amboy Depot Days Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show celebrated its 30th Anniversary this year, they gave away an additional \$3,000 to 10 lucky winners. Those winners were: Brandon Hess, Hinckley, Tim Whelan, Central Point, Okla., Marsha Scheiber (no town listed), Robert Martin, Princeton, John Taets, Tampico, Melissa Galbard, Rochelle, John Becker, Aurora, Robert Pennell, Popular Bluff, Jess Enas, Walnut, and Tracy Ranken, Dixon.

"Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets because without your support this simply wouldn't happen. There will be many local charities and non profit organizations that will benefit from your ticket purchases," posted by the Amboy Depot Days 50/50 Drawing Facebook page on Sunday.

**\$10 REBATE FORM**

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Get \$10 back per gallon container and \$50 back per five-gallon container. Maximum rebate is \$60.

Offer valid on purchases with dated sales receipt between September 3-September 12, 2021. Valid on submissions entered on or before October 12, 2021. Offer valid only at independent Cabot retailers. See back for complete details.

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## LOCAL NEWS

## TEEN TURF

## Upcoming Events

We will be having our Fish Fry Drive-Thru on Saturday, Oct. 23. Time will be announced.

Our free after-school program for third -eighth grade will begin Tuesday, Sept. 7 from 3:30-5 p.m. We have a number of students who have pre-registered already. Like last school year, we are only taking a set amount. We are almost full and only have a few spots left. 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. If spots are full, then they will be placed on a waiting list.

## Volunteers Needed

If you have a positive attitude and would like to make our community a better place, Teen Turf is the place for you. Please call 815-857-4800 or stop by the Boehle Youth Center (Teen Turf building-235 West Main in Amboy)

## Thank You's

We are always blessed to have the community help us: Monica and Thomas Scorby for the monetary donation; Barb and Frank Lowery for the jello and fruit snacks; Sandra Morrissey and Dennis Donna for the school supplies; Ned and Carol Ely for the goldfish snacks; Katey Dickinson for her monetary donation via Lori Erbes; Judy Marsili for the pop and Tammy, Scott, and Brooklyn Strub for the parade candy and dog biscuits. Also thank you to everyone who donated cans.

## Needs

Juice boxes and bagged snacks.

## Final Word

Loving Lord, we bring to you all those in the military who are serving away from their homes and families. Protect each one we pray, guard and guide each one in the decisions they make, and keep them from becoming hard and cynical in the tough training and life in which they are required to participate.

Bless each one and protect their families while they are separated in the defense of their countries. Bring each one back home into the arms of their loved ones, we pray. Keep our allies and confidants safe as well.

Amen

## Sublette woman found dead in cornfield after searching for lost dog

BY AMBOY NEWS STAFF

**OTTAWA** – The body of Rhonda Politsch, 62, of Sublette was found in a cornfield near Ottawa on Saturday, Aug. 28 after being reported missing around 10 p.m. the night before. Ottawa Police were informed that a woman, later identified as Politsch, had her dog run away from her and into a cornfield earlier in the day in the area of Farm and Fleet in Ottawa.

Ottawa Police responded to the area, located Politsch's vehicle unoccupied and immediately began their investigation and a search. The LaSalle County Sheriff's Office was contacted and also responded to the scene along with the Utica Fire Department. The ground search continued into the early morning hours.

Additional help was provided by the Illinois Search and Rescue Council (ISAR) and the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS). The LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office offered technical assistance, and the Illinois State Police provided aerial surveillance during the search. Help was also provided by multiple volunteer search groups that responded from across the state.

Police said Politsch was last seen at Farm and Fleet around 11 a.m. on Friday by members of the public, who assisted her in searching for her dog inside the cornfield. Police were notified that Politsch may be missing later that night, when an acquaintance was unable to get in touch with her after seeing a Facebook post about Politsch's missing collie, Quinn.

Politsch was located deceased in the cornfield by a search team around 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. The missing dog was found on Monday and taken to a veterinary hospital for treatment.

The incident remains under investigation by the Ottawa Police Department and the LaSalle County Coroner's Office. They expressed their appreciation to each agency, group and person that assisted in the search.

Politsch was a long-time employee of Pioneer State Bank in Sublette, formerly Sublette Farmers State Bank.

## Stoller's S.A.L.T. deduction bill becomes law

**PEORIA** – Nearly 400,000 small business owners could potential see tax relief thanks to legislation sponsored by State Senator Win Stoller (R-Germantown Hills) that just became law.

"We live in a state which has one of the highest overall tax burdens in the entire nation," said Stoller. "While we still have more work to do when it comes to alleviating our state's high tax problem, I'm proud to have passed legislation that will ease some of that burden for our struggling small business community."

Senate Bill 2531 utilizes an IRS-approved method that allows pass-through businesses, such as S-corporations and partnerships, to avoid the \$10,000 cap on the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction that was created by the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017. Until now, owners of pass-through entities reported their share of business income on their individual income tax return. This meant that they were subjected to the

\$10,000 deduction cap on state and local taxes. With a simple change to the state's tax code, SB 2531 allows up to 400,000 Illinois small business owners to save thousands of dollars on their federal taxes.

"This legislation is a common-sense approach to help out our state's small businesses as they deal with the effects of the ongoing COVID recession," said Illinois Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Todd Maisch. "Senator Stoller's bill has the potential to help thousands of Illinois business owners while they try to recover."

Stoller's S.A.L.T. deduction bill allows a small business to elect to be taxed at the entity level, instead of letting the income pass through to their personal return. The owner would then claim an offsetting credit on their state return. While the new law has the potential to save thousands for struggling small business owners, it would have no cost on the state of Illinois.

**Recycle! Recycle!**

## 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](http://www.lchd.com) for a list of services available.

**AMBOY**-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive sponsored by the AHS Student Council from 1 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 1, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

**PAW PAW**-The American Red Cross will hold Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 2, at Paw Paw Elementary School, 511 Chapman. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

**AMBOY**-The Amboy Farmer's Market will be held from 8 a.m. until noon on Friday, Sept. 3, in the Depot Museum parking lot. Vendors are welcome. Call Alice Dukes with questions at 815-857-4015.

**ASHTON**-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1:30 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 3, at Ashton-Franklin Center High School, 611 Western. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

**MAYTOWN**-A Mass will be offered at 10 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 6, Labor Day, at St. Michael's Cemetery-Sandy Hill, located south of Sublette Rd., east of Rockyford Rd. Bring your own lawn chair. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

**STERLING**-The U of I Whiteside County Extension Office will host the

Whiteside County Master Gardener Mulching Workshop from 10 a.m. until noon on Wednesday, Sept. 8. Participation is limited to 10. Registration is required. Call Mary Nelson at 815-632-3611.

**AMBOY**-The Amboy Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 8, at the Township Building, 106 S. Prospect.

**MAYTOWN**-The May Township meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 8, at the township maintenance building.

**AMBOY**-The U of Extension Webinar Series Everyday Environment, will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9, with Soil, Climate and Carbon. There is no cost. Register online at [go.illinois.edu/everydayenvironment-webinars](http://go.illinois.edu/everydayenvironment-webinars).

**AMBOY**-The U of I Extension will present the Lessons for Living Monthly Webinar Series at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9. Register online at [go.illinois.edu/2021HCElessons](http://go.illinois.edu/2021HCElessons).

**LEE CENTER TWP**-The Lee Center Township meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9, at the Township Building, 2202 Shaw Rd., Amboy.

**AMBOY**-The Amboy Farmer's Market will be held from 8 a.m. until noon on Friday, Sept. 10, in the Depot Museum parking lot. Vendors are welcome. Call Alice Dukes with questions at 815-857-4015.

**AMBOY**-Amboy High School Class of 1952 will hold their reunion at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10, at Sunset Inn, US RT 52 & RT 30. Classmates and their guests are welcome. Everyone will order from the menu.

**AMBOY**-The Amboy Lions Club Drawdown will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. See a Lions member for tickets.

**GRANDETTOUR**-The 72nd Grand Detour Arts Festival will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12, at the John Deere Historic Site, 8334 S. Clin-

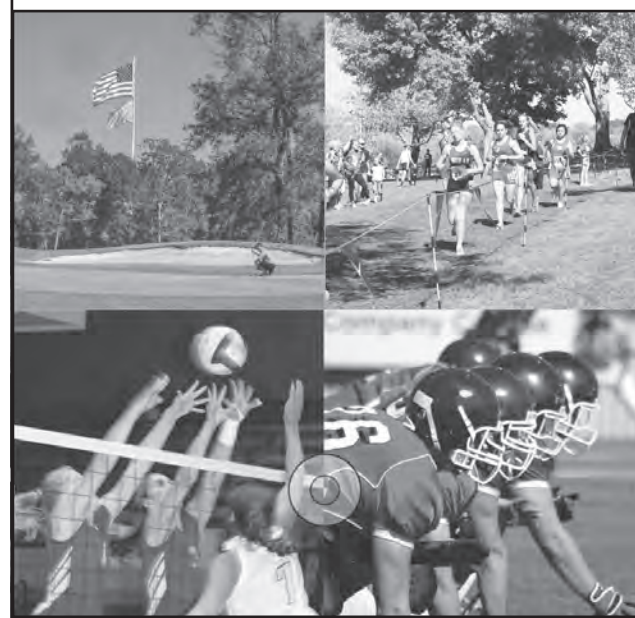
ton St. More information is available at [facebook.com/granddetourartsfestival](http://facebook.com/granddetourartsfestival).

**AMBOY**-The Amboy Fire Protection District will meet at 8 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 13, at the Fire Station.

**AMBOY**-The U of I Extension will present the

webinar "Mental Health First-Aid for the Agriculture Community" on two dates, Sept. 13 and Oct. 21. The training will be online from 8 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Register online and choose a date at [illinoisaces.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4lqy-1BqCMTXngv](http://illinoisaces.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4lqy-1BqCMTXngv).

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Monday – No Meals Served – Labor Day Holiday  
Tuesday – Chicken patty w/whole grain bun, peas & carrots, potato wedges, pineapple  
Wednesday – Spaghetti w/meat sauce, green beans, cauliflower, whole grain garlic bread, apricots  
Thursday – A) Hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes/gravy, winter blend veggies, whole grain bread, cherry crisp; B) Soup & Sandwich, ham & chicken noodle  
Friday – Cheesy beef taco, whole grain tortilla, lettuce/tomato, Spanish rice, beans, fresh fruit, taco sauce  
Meals served Mon.-Fri. at 11:00 am Reservations needed 10:00 am day before  
**Amboy Community Center**  
280 W. Wasson Road • 1-815-963-1609, reservations

**2nd AMBOY FIREFIGHTERS Vendor Expo & BAKE SALE**  
**Fall & Winter Theme!**  
**Saturday, Sept. 18, 10 am - 3 pm**  
**25 N. East Ave., Amboy**  
Pulled pork lunches for sale  
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\*Bring your own tables and chairs  
\*Expo will be outside on the blacktop  
If weather indicates moving inside, spots will be reduced to 8'x8'

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Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854  
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**All Editorial Deadline: 4 p.m. Friday**  
**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.



# LOCAL NEWS

## SCHOOL continued from page A1

- Crownhart welcomed Katie Henkel to the high school staff. Henkel is a junior high teacher who will teach one course at the high school to help with the high school's missing special education teacher.
- School Activities**
  - Freshmen and new student orientation took place on Aug. 17 with the help of Student Council members. There were 54 freshmen and new students present. They received tours of the building, played games, learned cheers and had pizza.
  - Fall sports are underway with football, golf and cross-country maintaining their co-op agreements from last year and volleyball adding a co-op agreement with Ohio.
- Building Activities**
  - Mr. Metz, Mrs. Challand and the summer custodial crew did a fantastic job preparing the school for the students' return. "With the construction it has been challenging, but they worked hard to get it done," Crownhart said.
  - Staff members are completing a book study titled "Significant 72" by Greg Wolcott.
  - AHS is starting work on an Education Pathway through a grant provided by the Regional Office of Education. The process will take a couple years to get rolling, but the goal is to give students who wish to go into the field of education a chance to help teachers in the classroom while still in high school.
  - First day of school activities were held

on Aug. 23 with classes playing Rock-Paper-Scissors, egg toss, marble run, Alleyball, kickball, and ending with tug-of-war. Miss Bus's homeroom won the class competition.

Amboy Junior High Principal Andrew Full Curriculum and School Improvement

- Throughout the summer the School Improvement Team met with Anji Garza from the Regional Office of Education to discuss various topics including schedule, discipline handbook, RtI, PBIS, Staff Binders, SEL, Significant 72, Xello, and others.
- Faculty and staff met Aug. 13 and Aug. 17 for Teachers' Institute and various topics were discussed (welcome back, return to school, faculty meetings, Pathways Grant, Wit and Wisdom, data collection, mandated trainings, and building update).

**PBIS**

- The PBIS team met over the summer to discuss an overhaul of the program. PBIS will move from punch cards to more of a monetary system in which students can earn tickets to purchase items monthly.

**School Activities**

- 5th-8th grade volleyball has started with coaches Ashley Platz and Jackie Owensby.
- Faculty, staff and students went through the Significant 72 during the first three days of school.
- Full thanked all the summer workers, custodians, and student help for making the

move to the new building much easier for the faculty and staff of Amboy Junior High.

Central Elementary Principal Joyce Schamberger

**School Activities**

- Schamberger thanked the summer crew and custodians for getting the building in top shape with clean, shiny new floors and rooms.
- Preschool classes began Aug. 26 with 40 preschoolers and a waiting list.
- Central's Boot Camp was held for one week from 8:30-11 a.m. Camp leaders were Kim Payne, Lisa Moore, Joanie Zimmerly, Jenny Shafer, Ashley Dunlap and Emilie Henkel. Schamberger gave a special thanks to Eileen Piper and all the Teen Turf students who came to help and noted that the camp could not have happened without all their help.
- Book-It - Each month beginning in September, activities will be planned for students who meet their monthly reading goals. The theme this year is Welcome to Camp Central!
- Back Pack Night was held on Aug. 17 from 4-6 p.m. Parents and students were able to come in and meet their teacher.

**School Improvement**

- During Teachers' Institute Days, staff members met and continued their work with learning the new ELA and math curriculums, technology trainings and expectations.
- This year, the focus for K-4 will be on student growth. Grade level teams will meet

daily to collaborate and plan. Guided reading will continue for K-4th grades and RtI will also continue to help close the gap for students who are not at grade level.

**PBIS**

- Clipper Cash will be used at Central to reward positive behaviors. The yearlong theme is "Camping."
- The PBIS team will meet and make plans for the upcoming year's quarterly celebrations.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- The revised Return to Learn Plan was approved by the board.

**PERSONNEL**

Following closed session, the board accepted the resignation of Kristy Willstead as a paraprofessional. They hired Sara Krabbenhoef as 6th grade ELA teacher for the 2021-22 school year; Amy Keener as 240-day custodian, effective Aug. 16; Robert Beaty as a bus driver, as of Aug. 11; Lorna Bonnell as bus driver, as of Aug. 19; Sarah Jo Hindriks as bus aide, as of Aug. 16; and they approved the updated high school extra-curricular positions.

The next regular board meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 23 at Central School. All meetings are open to the public.

## GRANT continued from page A1

"Federal investments like these help Illinois's dedicated rural EMS workers serve on the front lines in their communities," Duckworth said. "First responders across our state need support to make their important work possible, and I'm proud to announce this infusion of federal funding alongside Senator Durbin."

The following Illinois EMS agencies have been awarded funding:

- Amboy Ambulance & Fire Protection District (Lee County): \$116,432
- Nauvoo Fire Protection District (Hancock County): \$115,835
- Jersey Community Hospital District (Jersey County): \$148,824

Durbin helped to secure a \$500,000 increase in the Fiscal Year 2021 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, for a total of \$5.5 million, for SIREN Act grants to rural fire and EMS agencies. Each year since the SIREN Act was signed into law, Durbin has led efforts in the annual federal

appropriations process to fund this program.

In 2019, Durbin visited the Nauvoo Fire Protection District to discuss passage and implementation of the SIREN Act. He was joined by Mark Kennedy, a paramedic for the Nauvoo Fire Protection District and Chair of the Illinois chapter of the National Association of EMTs, whose advocacy efforts helped with passage of the SIREN Act.

A decline in primary care and hospital service availability, great distances between health care facilities, and low insurance reimbursement for transport and emergency treatment have all strained rural EMS agencies. At the same time, EMS agencies today are tasked with ever-greater responsibilities—addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, preparing for natural and manmade disasters and bioterror threats, supporting the chronic and emergency care needs of an aging population, and responding on the front lines of the opioid epidemic.

## MASKS continued from page A1

"Effective Sept. 5, individuals working in these settings who are unable or unwilling to receive their first dose of vaccine will be required to get tested for COVID-19 at least once a week, and IDPH and (the Illinois State Board of Education) may require more frequent testing in certain situations, like in an outbreak," he said.

Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said the state is seeing 220 hospital admissions per day, a number on par with a surge in May. Pritzker said 98 percent of cases, 96 percent of hospitalizations and 95 percent of deaths since January have been among unvaccinated people.

While vaccines are the best defense, Ezike said, "wearing a mask continues to be one of the simplest, cheapest ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19."


Intensive care bed availability in southern Illinois is at 3 percent, he said.

"That's because the regions with the lowest vaccination rates are the regions where there are fewer hospitals, and lower hospital capacity," Pritzker said. "And those hospitals are sometimes the least well equipped to handle cases as they become more acute."

He added, "We are continuing to rely on experts at the (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and (Illinois Department of Public Health), but you don't need to be an epidemiologist to understand what's going on here. This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated."

The current vaccination rates — nearly 53 percent of the state's population is vaccinated — "are not enough to blunt the ferocity of the delta variant," which has led to hospitals "again fighting the battle that we had hoped would be behind us by now."

Republicans, meanwhile, continue to call on the governor to further involve the General Assembly in his COVID-19 response.



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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p><b>St. Patrick Church</b> Fr. John Gow 32 N Jones, Amboy 815-857-2315 • <a href="http://www.stpatrickamboy.org">www.stpatrickamboy.org</a> Masses: Tuesday - Friday Daily Mass 8 am Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 7:30 am &amp; 10 am Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 pm Wednesday, 5:30-6:15 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday, 8am-5 pm</p>	<p><b>First Congregational United Church of Christ of Lee Center</b> Pastor Jack M. Briggs 1140 Inlet Road, Lee Center <a href="http://www.LeeCenter-UCC.org">www.LeeCenter-UCC.org</a> Phone 815-732-7032 Family Worship - 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> Pastor Rocky Fritz 24 N. Mason Avenue Church Phone 857-2682 <a href="http://www.fbcamboy.com">www.fbcamboy.com</a> Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m. Morning Service - 10:30 a.m. Evening Service - 6 p.m. Wed. prayer meeting &amp; Bible Study 6:30 p.m. King's Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday Reformers Unanimous addictions program from 7-9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Immanuel Lutheran Church</b> Pastor Barb Otten 960 U.S. Route 52 Phone 857-2225 Sun. Worship - 9:00 a.m. Fellowship - 10:00 a.m. Sunday School - 9:40-10:15 a.m.</p>
<p><b>St. Mary Church</b> Fr. John Gow 912 Walton Rd., Walton 815-857-2670 Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Grace Fellowship Church</b> Amboy-Sublette Pastor Brian McWethy 500 W. Main Street, Sublette Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. <a href="http://www.graceisforyou.com">www.graceisforyou.com</a></p>	<p><b>St. James Evangelical Congregational Church</b> Robert Dunbar, Pastor US Route 52 &amp; Red Brick Rd., Dixon 815-288-2447 Sunday 10:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Ladies Bible Study, Wed. 9 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church</b> Rev. Randy Fronck Locust Street, Sublette Phone 815-849-5412 Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass - 10:30 a.m. Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. Thursday - 8:30 a.m.</p>
<p><b>St. Flannen Church</b> Fr. John Gow 213 S Second St., Harmon 815-857-2670 Mass: Sunday, 9 am</p>	<p><b>East Grove Union Church</b> 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 &amp; 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 &amp; Fellowship Game Night for the Whole Family!" Come as you are and join us on the journey!</p>	<p><b>St. Mary's Church</b> Rev. Randy Fronck West Brooklyn Tuesday &amp; Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday - 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Refuge Church</b> Pastor John Kalebaugh Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52 Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930 10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows</p>
<p><b>United First Church of Amboy</b> Pastor Mark Glenn East Main &amp; Jefferson 815-440-0745 Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m. Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>St. Patrick Church</b> Rev. Randy Fronck - Maytown Mass - Fri. 8 a.m., Sun. 8 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Harmon United Methodist Church</b> Pastor Leanne Keate 202 N. Grove, Harmon Phone 359-7302 Worship - 8:30 a.m.</p>	

<p><i>The Following Community Businesses Sponsor Area Church News:</i></p>	<p><b>Sensient Flavors, LLC.</b> 815-857-3691</p> <p><b>First National Bank</b> in Amboy Member F.D.I.C. 815- 857-3625</p>	<p><b>Mihm-Jones Funeral Home</b> 815-857-2611</p> <p><b>Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet</b> 815-849-5232</p>	<p><b>KSB Medical Center</b> 815-857-3044</p> <p><b>The Amboy News</b> 815-857-2311</p>
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## SOCIAL NEWS

## The Book Nook

By:

Tatjana Kazan

## The Green-Eyed Monster

I suppose I should have avoided a thriller that has its own ad in the title. In Freida McFadden's novel "The Wife Upstairs: A Twisted Psychological Thriller That Will Keep You Guessing," the twists are predictable and the ending isn't much of a surprise. Sylvie Robinson, the heroine of this tale, is so exceedingly unaware (to put it charitably) to

what is going on around her, irritation rather than engagement with her story takes over early on.

We meet Sylvie in a small diner in New York City where she saves an old woman from choking on a sausage. The woman is outraged by Sylvie's good deed, she's sure one of her ribs is broken. To the rescue comes the tall, dark stranger in the person of Adam Bennett. With eyes "the exact color of freshly cut grass" and an irresistible crooked smile, Adam is moreover a best-selling author, as Sylvie discovers later on: "There are articles online that say he's one of the best modern writers of our time. The next Stephen King." Sylvie is bashful: "I bite my lip to keep from mentioning I was always a solid C student – and that was in a good year. I dropped out of high school, and although I did eventually get my GED, I never would have considered college, even if it were an option."

Adam is of course very rich. How serendipitous that a millionaire sits in a dingy diner waiting to offer our down-on-her-luck heroine a job at \$1,500 a week. He would like to hire Sylvie as a live-in caretaker for his invalid wife. The

mansion in Montauk on Long Island is not described – there is no atmosphere to speak of in the novel – but for a twisting white staircase. Victoria, Adam's wife, once beautiful and sophisticated, now lame in a wheelchair, unable to articulate more than one word per day, accidentally fell down the staircase. Adam is the saintly husband who will do anything for her. Victoria soon insists that Sylvie find her diary. The diary in which cultured Victoria sounds exactly like uneducated Sylvie, describes Adam as a monster, starting on their wedding night in Las Vegas. Evil personified, or rather jealousy personified: the green-eyed monster.

Blithely unconcerned, Sylvie spends evenings with Adam eating TV dinners in front of the TV. Why super-rich Adam buys TV dinners rather than hire a chef is a mystery, though Sylvie reports, "I'm sure Adam thinks TV dinners are low-brow food, but it's sort of a treat for me." Naturally, she sleeps with him. Even the plot of Adam's breakout best seller does not alarm her. Victoria describes it in her diary. It's called "All in the Family" in which the hero murders his parents. I couldn't help but think of poor Archie and Edith Bunker.

## Amboy Civic Organization hosts its annual Membership Drive

AMBOY — It's that time of the year again. It's time to recruit new members and to renew annual ACO memberships. Though we have not been able to socialize at our usual once-a-month meetings, due to Covid-19 restrictions and concerns, we can still maintain our organization's purpose. The Amboy Civic Organization

(ACO) has supported community projects, mainly the Pankhurst Memorial Library, for over 20 years. Our members also support/participate in an annual American Red Cross Blood Drive, Host a Street (memorial sign) and other local projects.

Quite often, when someone is asked to join, they say, "I'm too busy." Great

- that's a prerequisite for membership, as busy, active, involved people will fit right in with our group.

"It's for women." Not really. The library, reading and learning are for everyone. P.S. We do have male members.

"I don't live in Amboy." If you care about Amboy's library, you can live anywhere and your support will

be welcome.

"I don't know anyone in the group." That's a perfect reason to join. It's a great way to meet people and to make new friends.

"I hate clubs." Annual membership does not require monthly participation. "They only want my money." Wrong, but it will be most welcome.

"I can't be active." Fine. Support the library with your membership, and if you can join us at any time - meetings, dinners, special events - that would be great. You will not be badgered to participate at any time.

"I wasn't asked." If you are reading this, you are being asked.

Annual membership dues are \$10 for one person and \$15 for a couple. Dues may be mailed to Carole Benson

at P.O. Box 96, Amboy, IL 61310. Checks should be made out to "Amboy Civic Org."

Prior to Covid restrictions, the ACO met the first Tuesday of the month at Maria's at 6PM. After dinner together, we would conduct our business meeting. After our meeting, most ladies remained for more socializing. In lieu of meetings, in December and June, we usually planned a special outing or celebration. The ACO group takes a break in July and August, starting back up in September.

The ACO officers are: President-Christine Noble, Vice President-Kathy McLaughlin, Secretary-Jane Lovgren and Treasurer-Carole Benson.

Join the ACO. Show your support. You'll be happy you did.

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, our Fall start-up will be at Maria's Pizza and Family Restaurant. We will comply with Illinois mask mandates in place at that time. Prior to the 7 p.m. meeting, you have the option to join us for dinner at 6 p.m. Those attending place their own orders and pay their own bills.

For discussion at meeting: donations to Pankhurst Library and donating services to a blood drive in Amboy, etc.

After the meeting, members are welcome to stay and socialize over Bunco. If possible, we ask that you bring your own three dice, for your sole use.

However, we will have some dice available for use and will have sanitizing wipes on hand.

We look forward to seeing you. It's been awhile.

## Harrison family hosted reunion at Amboy City Park

AMBOY — The annual family reunion of the Harrison family was held on Sunday, Aug. 29, at Amboy City Park. Those present to enjoy the day were:

Amboy, IL-  
Cecil and Shirley Harrison  
Curt Harrison  
Lisa and Brad Goy  
Drew and Nicole Goy  
Scott and Kathy Harrison  
Mary Lou Harrison  
Sterling, IL-  
Dorothy Cheshier  
Deborah Cheshier  
Beth Summers  
Heather Jenkins and daughter  
Randy Harrison and Jamison  
Chris and Angie Harrison  
Caitlin Seeley and family  
Lyndon, IL-  
Melanie Fowler  
Prophetstown, IL-  
Megan Larson and family

Cherry Valley, IL-  
Tim & Cynthia Haug  
Oregon, IL-  
Diana Clausen and Connor Olalde  
Mary Mead-Cantrell  
Princeton, IL-  
Rosetta Baumgartner  
Brad Harrison  
Aurora, IL-  
Jim Weiland  
Sycamore, IL-  
Andy and Amy Barton  
Steve Leffelman  
Rick and Joanie Leffelman  
Hinsdale, IL-  
Jackie Hayden and daughter

Rock Falls, IL-  
Michela Cheshier and daughter  
West LaFayette, Ind.-  
Gerry and Maryann Harrison  
Brodhead, Wis.-  
Buck and Jan Fenwick

Milwaukee, Wis.-  
Stan and Mary Harrison  
Luke and Erin Harrison and family  
Catherine Harrison and daughter  
Shorewood, IL-  
John and Susan Harrison  
Orlando, Fla. -  
Deanna Snethen  
Rossville, Ind. -  
Matt Haan  
Grand Detour, IL-  
Aaron and Melissa Harrison and Tammy  
Fort Wayne, Ind. -  
Lori Baumgartner  
Scottsdale, Ariz. -  
Joe and Karen Leffelman  
Sandy, Utah -  
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# Opinion

## For some families, the cost of war can be immeasurable

As Americans fled Kabul and desperate Afghans sought to follow, Jerry and Brett Young stood in the yard of their rural Rochester home Friday and remembered their boy who never got to see his 26th birthday.

"He loved to skateboard when he was younger. And he loved all kinds of music. He especially liked jazz, the blues and hard rock," Brett recalled of her son Chad.

His father Jerry pointed to two road signs hanging on a nearby shed.

One designated a portion of Illinois 4 as the "Cpl. James 'Chad' Young Memorial Highway."

Another recognized him as a 2003 Glenwood High School graduate killed in that distant land.

This nation honors its war dead, as well it should. I admire the willingness of our servicemen and women to sacrifice for this great nation. But I'm left wondering if our nation is too willing to send men and women into harms' way.

I'm not a pacifist but I find myself often skeptical of our government's intentions.

Jimmy Carter, perhaps the best person to be president in my lifetime, annoyed many when he said the U.S. is the most warlike nation in history. That's a tough pill to swallow. But it's worth noting that of the 245 years the nation has existed, we have been at war 226 years.

A Brown University study found that since 9/11 the U.S. has spent more than \$6.4 trillion on military actions in the Middle East.

Think how many schools, highways, bridges and parks

### Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



could have been created with that money.

Of course, those figures understate the cost of war. For families such as the Youngs, the cost has been immeasurable. Tears still flow freely 11 years after his death. And his was one of nearly 7,000 American service men and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At least 801,000 people have been killed by direct war violence in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and Pakistan. Many were civilians.

"You know all politicians lie," Jerry Young said. "They will say things that aren't true or they will vote for something they really don't believe in because someone did them a favor."

While he had a strong opinion about the integrity, or the lack of it, exhibited by our elected officials, his opinion on the Afghanistan war is muted.

"I really don't have an opinion on what is happening over there other than it's sad. It's like when Osama Bin Laden was killed, some reporter called and wanted our opinion. What are we supposed to say? We are glad he's dead?"

For Rock Island native Tyler Carroll, the war was almost half his lifetime ago. The 41-year-old, was one of the first soldiers to fight in Afghanistan after 9/11.

"I had friends killed over there and I know others who were badly wounded. And others came home with mental issues," he said.

The Afghanistan war is the longest in U.S. history.

"It's not affecting me as much as others," Carroll said. "It was so long ago for me. Was it worth it? Well, our initial mission was to destroy Al Qaeda and make sure the Taliban

was not in control. Al Qaeda was damaged, Osama Bin Laden has been killed but the Taliban is back in control. Perhaps they weren't ready for democracy. But many of the people we interacted with there seemed to want it."

Democracy runs in Carroll's blood. He's a scion of a Quad-City political dynasty. His grandpa is former state Sen. Denny Jacobs, his great grandfather was state Rep. Oral Jacobs and his uncle is former state Sen. Mike Jacobs.

Still, he is skeptical whether the U.S. should impose democracy on other nations.

One shouldn't be surprised. Most wars end in ambiguity. We honor the abstract causes for which men and women fought -- freedom, patriotism, service -- but we can also question the wisdom of policies that deployed them into harm's way.

When I was a child in the 1970s, I didn't think much about war. I was in 4th grade when Saigon fell in April of 1975.

Not long after that, I was canoeing down a river with my parents and we met another family paddling downstream -- a husband, wife and two little girls.

The man in the other canoe had no legs.

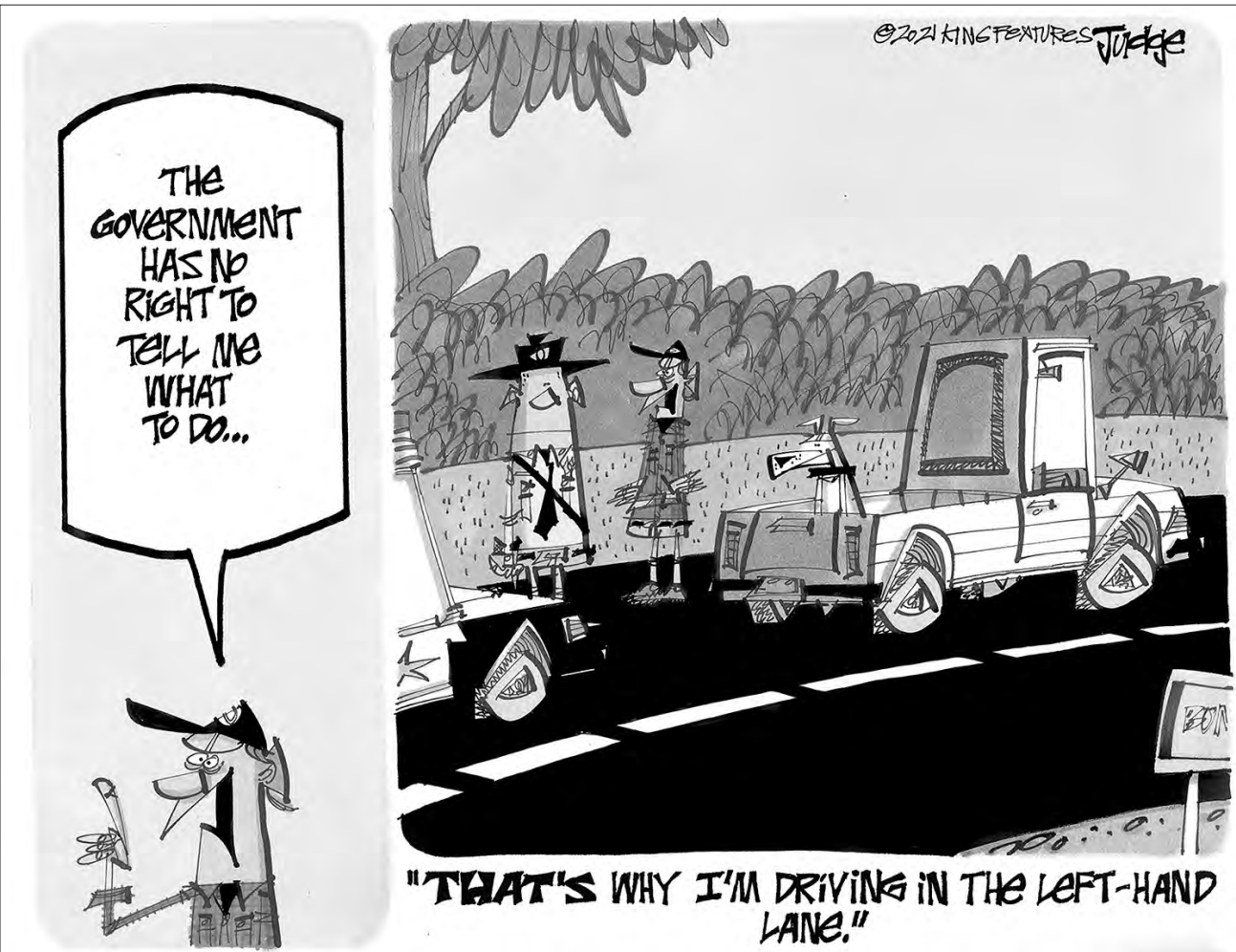
For the rest of the trip my mother was quiet and contemplative.

Finally, I asked her, "Why doesn't that man have any legs?"

Her voice cracked and she said, "He lost them in that awful, awful war. We should never have been there."

Last week, when I saw the hurt in Chad Young's parent's eyes and heard the reports from Kabul, I couldn't help but think the same thing.

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](mailto:Scottreeder1965@gmail.com).



## On This Day in History

### 100 Years Ago Sept. 2, 1921

Mrs. Sadie Biggart has opened a restaurant in the Briggs block where the Thrasher Brothers were formerly located. The restaurant will be open both day and night.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lewis and little son Daton, started Thursday on a motor trip to Minnesota.

John McGowan, Glen Ersfeldt and Chas. Allen motored to Freeport Sunday and spent the day with friends.

Paul Doty has resigned his position in Chicago and has accepted the position as bookkeeper at the Amboy Milk Products Company.

### 75 Years Ago Sept. 5, 1946

Miss Rose Marie Faivre returned to her work in the office at Amboy Milk Products Company Monday after a three weeks absence while she was recuperating from surgery.

Mrs. Harry Lally has been caring for her mother who has been ill, at her home.

Mr. and Mrs. Arlyn Ullrich left Friday evening for Boston, Mass., where they are attending the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary.

### 50 Years Ago Sept. 2, 1971

Thirteen senior lettermen have reported for football at Amboy High School. "We're on the verge of improving

our last year's record," Coach Don Fritz told the Amboy News Tuesday morning as he reported a total of 63 candidates for berths on the varsity and frosh-soph teams. Last year's record was three wins, four losses and one tie.

More than 200 attended the Lee County Livestock Feeder Tour Aug. 19 in the Sublette area. The tour started at Earl Buettner's farm west of the Henkel Bridge. He has doubled the size of his cattle feeding operation in the last

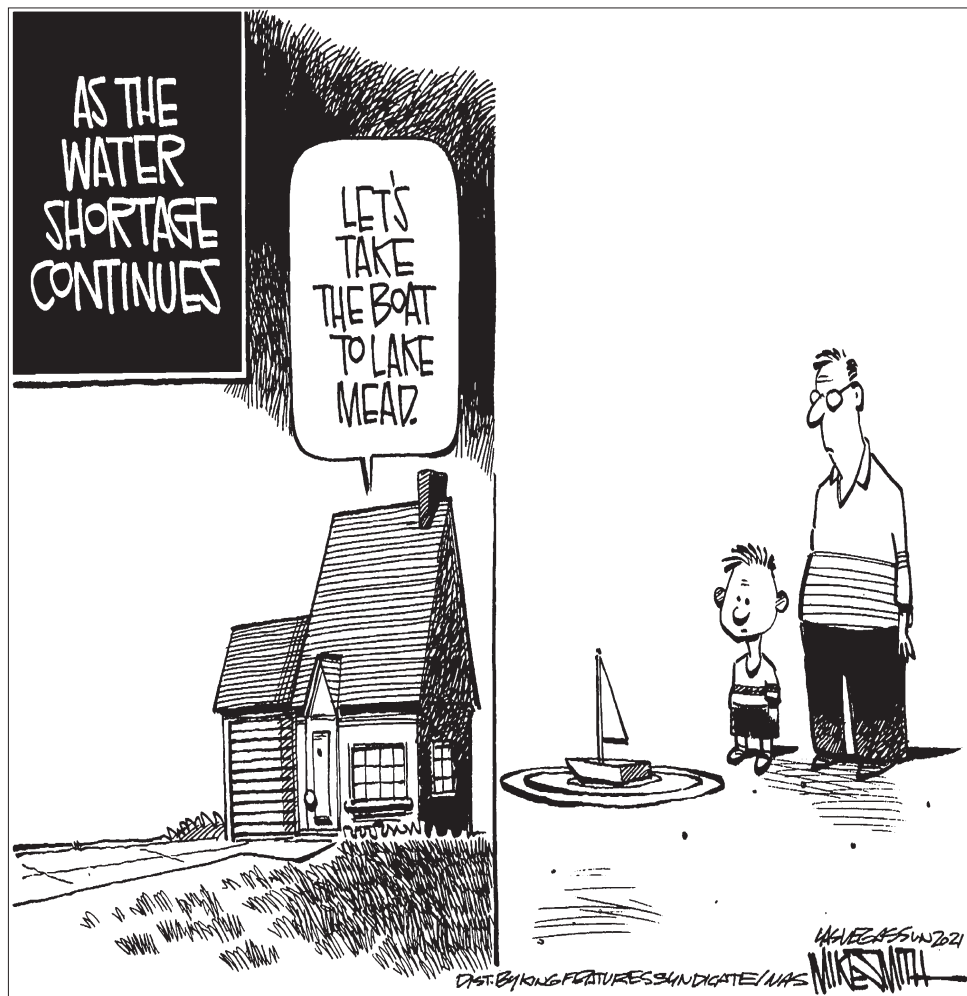
few years and has a confinement hog finishing barn with a liquid manure system. Gene Sondgeroth's was the second stop. Gene has a new type sealed cement silo that has a bottom unloader.

### 25 Years Ago Aug. 29, 1996

The bright lights of the carnival, the smell of corn dogs and barbecued ribs, the sun glinting off the flawless paint of a custom automobile,

and sounds of Elvis and Glenn Miller, and the thrill of the mile-long parade were only a few of the sensational sights and sounds of Depot Days.

Thirteen Amboy Firemen joined firemen from all over Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin for the Annual Monroe Fire School. The third weekend of every August, Monroe, Wis., hosts this fire school, which is one of the largest in the country.



Established in 1854

## The Amboy News

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## SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# LOCAL NEWS

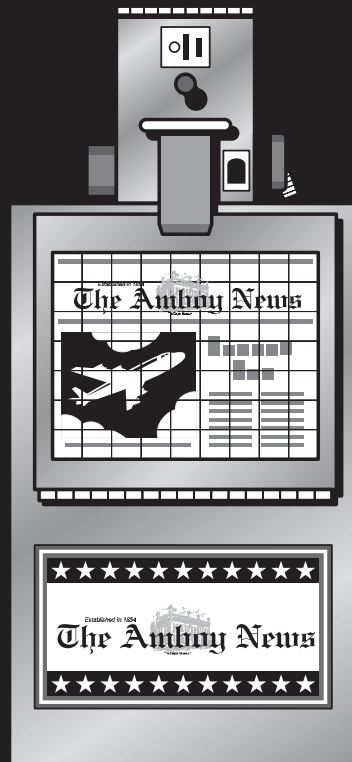


## TRAVI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

*The Travi family is proud to announce the recipients of their 3rd annual Travi Family Scholarship. This year's recipients are Madelyn McLaughlin and Brooklyn Whelchel. Madelyn will be pursuing a career in Elementary Education and Brooklyn plans to pursue a career in radiology. The Travi family wishes both recipients the best of luck as they take the next step toward their educational goals.*

Photo submitted

## Early Deadlines



The Amboy News will have  
**EARLY DEADLINES**  
for our issue on Sept. 8 due to Labor Day.

The advertising deadline will be Thursday, Sept. 2 at noon.  
The editorial deadline will be Friday, Sept. 3 at 9 a.m.

The office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6 to celebrate Labor Day. Open again on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 8 a.m.

08252021

# COMMUNITY MATTERS

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**Dr. Brandon Klein, D.D.S.**  
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815-857-2015

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**Vaessen Implement Repair**  
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**First State Bank**  
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815-628-3121  
Firststatebank.biz  
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### 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

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facility that is licensed  
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over our  
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Immediate opening for full time BSA  
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# SPORTS

## Clipper Highlights: #44 Scott Montavon

This week's Clipper epitomizes one of our most iconic positions in our program's history. Toughness, hard-nosed, and selfless are qualities that made this Clipper one of the best at this storied position in our program. I am honored to announce the week's Clipper, State Champion, Fullback, #44, Scott Montavon.

Scott was a 1985 graduate of Amboy High School. In speaking with Scott, I had asked him the reason for wearing #44.

Scott shared, "I liked that number and it fit the tradition of great Fullbacks we had in our program to that time."

Scott would not only add to that tradition, but his play, alike that of Kaleel and Lyons before him, would serve as a benchmark in our program for decades of great fullbacks. The iconic position and number would be shared the following year with Clipper great Dennis Nauman, and again years later with other Clipper great, Brandon Miller.

Scott's Junior season, he rotated in at Linebacker on one of the greatest Clipper Defenses in our history.

"It was incredible to be a part of that defense. It was made up of a good combination of Juniors and Seniors," Scott shared.

That defensive unit was made up of some of the toughest Clippers to wear the uniform. Sadly, Scott broke his hand during the final regular season game of his Junior season which sidelined him, out of uniform, for the first round playoff game against Ottawa Marquette. This injury leads to Scott being, potentially, the only Clipper in our history to never lose a football game in any contest he played in, was suited up for, or on the field for. Being a neat statistic is all it holds to Scott to this day as he and I agreed that given a couple factors being different that Wednesday night in Amboy, our 1983 Clippers could also be State Champions.

We spoke of the summer going into his Senior season at length.

"It was full of electricity. It was really something special," Scott shared of the Amboy community prior to the 1984 season. Being as close to the "Friday Night Lights" feel as any of us, it was all football, all the time, in Amboy.

Scott shared, "People who you didn't know, knew who you were as a Clipper and there would be yard signs all through town and all the way out to the country. They stayed up all year round."

Scott was only able to make a couple of the pre-season workouts as he was relied on at the family farm.

"My dad said, 'if you have time go in there you have time to do extra chores around the farm, and I guarantee you I can get you in better shape than workouts could,'" Scott said.

Scott came into the 1984 season at 200 pounds and ready to earn the Clippers four yards and a cloud of dust with every carry.

The 1984 season opened against Spring Valley Hall and it was in the first possession of the game that Scott knew just how powerful the Clipper offense would be. Scott got one of the opening handoffs and was head down ready to run through a group of Red Devil defenders. There was just one (good) problem, the defender's weren't there. The Clipper offensive line opened a hole so big that Scott saw nothing but green grass.

"I was head down but looked up briefly and saw a gigantic hole. I ended up falling down because of my momentum was forcing me down, I got some grief for that one," Scott shared. The semi-truck size hole was an indication of the success to come. Scott remembers games where he may have

### Clipper Highlights

By Spencer Morrissey

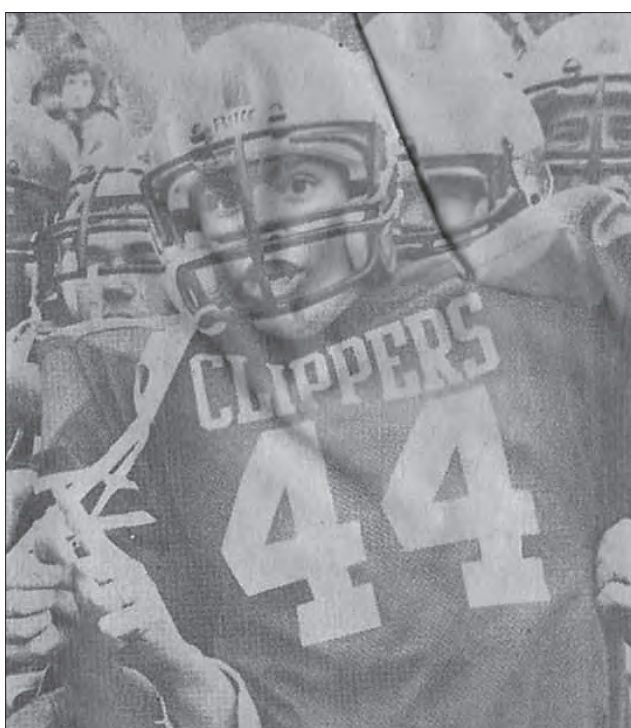


only had four or five carries but compiled 85-90 yards. One of Scott's best statistical games came in the playoffs against Kewanee Wethersfield as he rushed for 130 yards and two touchdowns. Midway through the season, Scott, a 200 pound Fullback, began returning punts and hardly ever let the ball hit the ground. Scott was the returner in the State game against Paxton where the infamous punt hit the Paxton player's helmet and then ruled Paxton football. Scott shared the official who made the call, later admitted to making the wrong call.

Scott ended the perfect, State Championship season, earning 1st Team All Conference, Second Team All Area, and Honorable Mention All State honors. However, what most may not know, and one of the greatest compliments to an Offensive Line, is that RB Dennis Ely averaged 7.7 yards per carry and Scott averaged 7.6 yards per carry. As I've said in previous highlights, as a Fullback, in a "three yards and a cloud of dust" offense, 7.6 yards per carry is unheard of.

Scott has been the only State Champion Clipper that I asked to compare/contrast the two, incredible, feelings. The first of which being the palpable buzz that made all 205 Amboy School District square miles feel like an electric force field at the beginning of the 1984 campaign. The second feeling being the bittersweet, overwhelming satisfaction, joy, and accomplishment that came with bringing the State Championship home.

Scott answered astutely, "The feeling before the season was unreal but at that time we were still untested and unproven. We gained confidence and momentum each week. When we got to State, we felt we belonged there. That was our attitude, there was no one on the team that was happy to just be there. When we won, I couldn't believe all the community support. I remember coming home to the miles long caravans and police escorts into town. It was amazing all



#44 Scott Montavon

of the community support. I remember older members of the community coming up to all of us and saying 'you'll all have this and remember it forever.'"

Former teammate, friend, and backfield partner, Dennis Ely, shared, "Scott was a good, strong, powerful fullback. He broke through the line and was a great blocker for me. He was a great teammate and we all got along. I remember one play, it was a Power I, 23 power, and Scott and I hit this big Kewanee lineman so hard that he did a summersault. I'll never forget it because he was a big guy and both of us hit him, hard, at the same time."

Former teammate and friend, Scott Meadows, shared, "What can I say about 'Mot' He has been a great friend both during our days playing football and still to this day! He like all of us on that championship team played for each other, no I in team. Mot knew he had a job to do and he got it done. I don't recall his stats, but I know Mot ran hard when his number was called and was definitely a huge part of our success that season. He also was a great lead blocker as well. Congratulations Mot for making this weeks pick. You definitely deserve it and I'm very happy for you."

Former teammate and lifelong friend, Dan Etheridge, shared, "Scott was one of my best friends in school and to this day. Scott was just a natural all around athlete. Scott was a prototypical fullback. He ran like a tank. He would run over the first would-be tackler, then had the speed to outrun the rest. He had several breakaway runs for touchdowns. He was one of the fastest on the team. He was a great lead blocker for the Ely tandem. Scott also had great hands. He had soft hands as a receiver and

the tradition to the standard that they had met and set."

I've never personally met Scott, but like the 60+ Highlights thus far, Scott spoke highly of all of his teammates. Scott spoke at length about their unbreakable bonds, not only on the field, but off as well.

Scott shared, "We were just a phenomenal group. There was never any animosity or jealousy amongst any of us."

It's been frequent where we have highlighted a member of the 1984 Championship team, as our only championship team it's to be expected. Their success not only produced the hardware in the trophy case or the wall of fame at AHS. Their success teaches something, something more powerful than a football game or a season. The two greatest qualities a team or person can possess were held, acted upon, and passed down in our program from that season forward; first, the ability to stare adversity in the face, wink at it, and tell it "I'm coming right here, stop me" and second, a selflessness that makes the team or collective greater than any individual glory or pride. Our success as a program has been hinged on these principles.

Amboy Football to Scott as a Senior in high school meant everything, "It was the reason to go to school, the reason to get good grades, the reason to stay in shape, and the reason to come together

as young men."

Today's meaning is shown in Scott's continued friendship with his teammates. Scott admitted it's not always the topic of discussion but the memories of that season are discussed whenever he and his former teammates get together.

So, to State Champion, All-State Honorable Mention Fullback, #44, Scott Montavon, thank you for your contributions to Amboy Football. As fond as you are of the great tradition in our program, whether it is listening to Queen postgame in the locker room after a big win, a jersey number, or the great support from the Amboy community, your own exploits have inspired tradition within your position. With Fullbacks and Running Backs being among the best, most decorated players, in our program, it would be a hard argument to keep your name anywhere other than near the top of the list. Sail on!

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



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## PULLIN' IN THE PARK



**Tractor & Truck Pull**  
**Presented by Sublette Park Board**

**Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021**

**Behind Ellice Dinges School**

**Check In - 8 am • Pull Starts 11 am**

**Lots of Kid's Activities: Bounce House • Games**

**For more information call:**

**Chris - 815-849-5171 • Steve - 815-712-1832**

**CLASS A - 6500#**

**CLASS B - 8000#**

**CLASS C - 4750#**

**CLASS D - 6500#**

**CLASS E - 10000#**

**CLASS F - 12500#**

**Class G - 5000#**

**Class H - 6000#**

**CLASS I**

**CLASS J - 7000#**

**CLASS K - Superstock Truck**

**4WD STOCK GAS PICKUP**

**4WD STOCK DIESEL PICKUP**

**LOCAL STOCK TRACTOR**

**LOCAL STOCK TRACTOR**

**NO BLOWER**

**WITH TURBO**

**NA Superstock ISP Sanctioned**

**NA Class ISP Sanctioned**

**TOO HOT TO FARM CLASS**

**NON ISP SANCTIONED**

**NON CLASS ISP SANCTIONED**

**NON CLASS ISP SANCTIONED**

**\$20.00 Entry Fee - No Refunds**

Must be 16 to pull. Under 18 must have signed parent consent form. Trophies & prizes will be awarded. Food concessions. \$5 admission. 12 & under free.

09012021

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

**Cross Country**  
Ian Eller and  
Lauren Althaus  
**Football**  
Joe Quest

**Volleyball**  
Elly Jones  
**Golf**  
Wes Wilson



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*Where you come first*



## SPORTS



Amboy runners kicked off the high school cross country season by competing in the Rock Falls Invitational on Aug. 24. In the boys' race, the Clippers finished second in the team standings with 59 points.

Photo courtesy of Heather Loftus

## Clipper runners finish third, fourth at Rock Falls Invitational

ROCKFALLS—Amboy runners kicked off the high school cross country season by competing in the Rock Falls Invitational on Aug. 24. In the boys' race, the Clippers finished second in the team standings with 59 points. Rockford Christian took the top spot with 31 points. Other competing schools were Sterling Newman (76), Rock Falls (99), Erie-Prophetstown (115), Orion (198), Kewanee (203), Eastland (236), Genoa-Kingston (238) and Oregon (264).

Three Amboy runners finished in the top eight. Ian Eller crossed the finish line in third place with a time of 17:24 and Brock Loftus was right behind in fourth at 17:32, while Kyler McNinch occupied the eighth position with a clocking of 18:05.

Other competitors for Amboy were Charlie Dickinson (22<sup>nd</sup>, 19:13), Andruw Jones (28<sup>th</sup>, 19:55), Wyatt

Lundquist (32<sup>nd</sup>, 20:27) and Ryan Dickinson (43<sup>rd</sup>, 21:11). Weston Forward of Rockford Christian was the overall individual champion with a time of 17:18.

In the girls' race, six runners took to the course for the Lady Clippers, who finished sixth in the team standings with 136 points. Rockford Christian grabbed first-place honors with 60 points, followed by Rock Falls (67), Erie-Prophetstown (82), Ridgewood (91) and Oregon (134). Placing behind

Amboy were Newman (162), Genoa-Kingston (172) and Eastland (193).

Lauren Althaus was the first Lady Clipper to cross the finish line and was 10<sup>th</sup> overall with a time of 22:21. Elly Jones was next in 18<sup>th</sup> place in 24:29, while Bailey Ellis placed 30<sup>th</sup> in 26:29. Addison Pertell (51<sup>st</sup>, 28:48) and Natalie Pratt (60<sup>th</sup>, 31:18) also raced for Amboy.

Miranda Reed of Ridgewood was the first runner through the chute in a time of 20:38.



In the girls' race, six runners took to the course for the Lady Clippers, who finished sixth in the team standings with 136 points.

Photo courtesy of Nicole Jones



Amboy's Kaysi Schaeffer, left, and Courtney Ortgiesen leap up for a block attempt of a spike by Mendota's Bailey Baird on Aug. 26 at the Mendota gym.

Amboy News photo

## Lady Clippers start season with losses to area teams

AMBOY — Amboy traveled to Earlville for the season-opener in volleyball and the home team came away with a 25-10, 25-11 win over the Lady Clippers.

Courtney Ortgiesen had a pair of kills for AHS, while

Elly Jones had five kills and Chloe Heath added one ace.

\*\*\*

Serena handed the Lady Clippers a 25-10, 25-20 loss on Aug. 25 at the AHS gym.

Jones had two kills and two assists. Ortgiesen picked

up five aces and Tyrah Vaessen added a pair of assists.

\*\*\*

The Lady Clippers dropped a 25-12, 25-5 decision at Mendota on Aug. 26.

## Clippers begin eight-man football, by pummeling Peoria Heights

AMBOY — The Amboy-LaMoille Clippers played their first game in eight-man football and pummeled Peoria Heights, 52-0, on Aug. 27 at the AHS field.

Quarterback Tucker Lindenmeyer had a big game for the Clippers as he scored a

pair of rushing touchdowns and passed for another. The junior signal-caller picked up 91 yards rushing and connected on two of his four pass attempts for 44 yards.

Other offensive stars for Amboy-LaMoille were senior running back Joe Quest

with 60 yards rushing and two touchdowns, and sophomore running back Kye Koch with 45 yards on the ground and a pair two touchdowns.

The Clippers will travel to Milledgeville on Friday, Sept. 3 with kickoff scheduled for 7 p.m.

## The 2022 From The Heart Cash Calendars are NOW AVAILABLE!!

The proceeds of the sale of the calendars benefit our From The Heart recipients: Pegasus Special Riders, Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, HOPE, Focus House, Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center, CASA, Rochelle Area Community Foundation, Hub City Senior Center & Rochelle Rotary.

**OUR CHARITIES NEED OUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

For Just \$20 you have a chance to be one of **365 DAILY WINNERS TOTAL CASH PRIZES \$18,250** PLUS Each Calendar Has VALUABLE LOCAL COUPONS

Here are 3 Ways to Purchase Your 2022 From The Heart Cash Calendar!

- **ONLINE:** Go to <http://fromtheheartrochelle.org> and click on **PURCHASE CALENDARS**. Once the calendar is purchased we will mail it out to you! Shipping and processing fees will be added to cost.
- **IN PERSON:** You can pick up a 2022 From The Heart Cash Calendar **TODAY** at the following locations:  
In Rochelle at: First State Bank, Stillman Bank, HOPE Chest  
In Oregon at: Merlin's  
In Dixon at: Shining Star  
In Amboy at: Amboy News Office
- **BY MAIL:** Fill out the form below and send it in to us and we will mail a 2022 From The Heart Cash Calendar to you! Shipping fees are added to cost.

**YES! Send me my 2022 From The Heart Cash Calendar!**

(Please Print)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF CALENDARS: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail this form along with \$22 (\$20 per calendar plus \$2 per calendar postage) to:  
**Rotary Calendar, PO BOX 372, Rochelle, IL 61068**

Email news items to [tgreenfield@amboynews.com](mailto:tgreenfield@amboynews.com)

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**Granny Rose - Smokey**

Smokey is a very quiet gentle guy. He arrived at the shelter from animal control with an unknown background. Since he was already neutered, he must have been someone's pet at one time. This gentle boy would like to have a quieter home with adults to pamper him with love and affection. He is so lovable! To see Smokey, call Granny Rose Animal Shelter at 815-288-PETS(7387) or visit [www.grannyrose.org](http://www.grannyrose.org).

Photo contributed

## Clipper Fans . . . The Game's on us!

Follow the entire FALL Season of Amboy Football on WRCV River Country FM 101.7



Join us every week for Amboy Clipper Football!  
Friday, Sept. 3  
at Milledgeville

7pm start with Josh Dillon and Brian Weidman

LIVE online at [nrgmediadixon.com/wixn-home](http://nrgmediadixon.com/wixn-home)

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**2/\$5**

### Russet Potatoes

5 lb. bag



**\$2.29** /ea.

### Seedless Watermelon



**\$3.99** /ea.

### Little Potatoes

(Oven, Grill or Microwave - 16 oz.)



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10 oz.



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### Steakcut Mushrooms

8 oz package



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**\$3.99** /lb.  
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Family Pack



**\$1.49** lb.  
Reg. Price 2.99 /lb.

AMBOY DELI

### Kingsford Charcoal

16 lb. bag



**\$9.99**  
Reg. Price \$13.99.

### Jack's Pizza

Assorted



**\$2.99** /ea.  
Reg. Price \$4.49 /ea.

### On-Cor Entrees

Assorted 24-28 oz.



**\$2.99**  
Reg. Price \$3.99 ea.

## WEEKLY SPECIALS

### Food Club Waffles

12.3 oz.



**\$1.39**

Reg. Price \$1.89 ea.

### Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ Sauce

Assorted 14-18 oz.



**\$1.99**

Reg. Price \$2.49 ea.

### Ocean Spray Cocktail

64 oz. assorted



**\$2.99**

Reg. Price \$3.99 ea.

### Cascadian Farm Vegetables

15-24 oz. Assorted



**\$2.99**

Reg. Price \$3.99 ea.

### Farm Rich Appetizer

Assorted 15-24 oz.



**\$5.99**

Reg. Price \$7.59 ea.

### Simply Juice

52 oz. Assorted



**\$1.99** ea.

Reg. Price \$3.29 ea.

### Dean's Dip

16 oz. assorted



**\$1.99** ea.

Reg. Price \$2.49 ea.

### Daisy Sour Cream Squeeze

14 oz.



**\$1.99** /ea.

Reg. Price \$2.69 /ea

### Philadelphia Cream Cheese

8 oz.



**\$1.99** /ea.

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### A-1 Steak Sauce

10 oz.



**\$4.99**

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7-15 oz.



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Reg. Price \$3.99 ea.

Sale goes through Sept. 7, 2021

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