Volume 166 - Number 27

#### www.AmboyNews.com

## Amboy Fire 150th **Anniversary Celebration**



The Amboy Fire Department hosted its 150th Year Community Celebration on Saturday, July 3, in downtown Amboy at Main St. and N. East Avenue. Included in the celebration were activities for the whole family. Pictured above, Whimsy Pixie Face Paining adds some colorful decorations to faces.

Mary Mays/Amboy News



Families lined up to take a ride on the back of the fire engine.

## **Leader of Tomorrow**

BY GEORGE HOWE Amboy News Reporter SUBLETTE — It seems that few 20 year olds these days have a firm grip about their career path and goals. Margaret Vaessen is the exception.

Born and raised in Sublette and the youngest of four daughters to Michael and Brenda, Vaessen earned a unique opportunity while attending Amboy High School, one that will benefit her for years to come.

During her junior and senior years, Vaessen got involved with the Illinois Future Farmers of America, now referred to as the

National FFA Organization. She successfully ran and held the position of state Chapter Officer and Reporter, and later was elected Amboy FFA President, where she represented 12 chapter schools in Northern Illinois.

As a reporter, Vaessen had many responsibilities in her one year term. "I facilitated conference

chapter visits and meet and greet with students," Vaessen explained. "Additionally, my personal priorities included; sorting photos for the videography used for social media, virtual and live presentations, along with content and speech writing.

"I also got the chance to write a monthly article for the AgriNews where I did a recap of our FFA team activities. The editor Martha Blum taught me a lot." "I was impressed with

Margaret's ability to deal with challenges during a year that was significantly impacted by COVID-19," said Blum. "I enjoyed working with her as she learned skills to write for a newspaper. I look forward to seeing her future career accomplishments." This youth agricultural leadership program, centers around preparing



erected in her honor as FFA State Reporter for the year

Photo submitted

young leaders of America for tomorrow. The core values of career readiness, personal growth, and premier leadership are learned early on and expected to be shared by all FFA officers.

"Our goal is to help others attain confidence and knowledge through the career development events such as public speaking and mock job interviews," Vaessen shared. "You can also learn skills about food science, dairy meat and livestock judging training. We aren't just concentrating on cows,

plows, and sows." For the past two summers, Vaessen has been employed by Pioneer State Bank and this fall will be attending the University of Illinois in Champaign Urbana, majoring in Agriculture Consumer Economics with a concentration in Agrifinance where she hopes to graduate in three years. "FFA has been exciting and rewarding," said Vaessen. "My experiences and training have definitely given me the confidence and readiness that I don't think I would have without it.'



#### BUILDING COMES DOWN

On June 28 at 7:30 p.m., the Amboy Fire Department was called to the scene of the old Beggs' Certified Foods Store, located in the 100 block of Division Street. The building was unoccupied and none was injured. Pictured above, on June 30, demolition of the building began. Division Street between Metcalf and Jones were closed and the alley between Metcalf and Jones were also partially blocked off.

Mary Mays/Amboy News



Tommy Patel of Amboy Food and Liquor, left, poses with Jeff Gerdes of the Amboy Depot Days Car Show committee by the drum that holds all of the 50/50 raffle tickets. The Amboy Depot Days 50/50 Raffle Tickets went on sale July 1. Completed raffle tickets may be dropped off into the drum at Amboy Food and Liquor.

Photo submitted

## **Amboy Depot Days 50/50 Raffle** Tickets now on sale

**AMBOY** — Depot Days 50/50 tickets are now on sale.

Again, this year the Depot Days 50/50 raffle will see a

total of 11 different winners. The first place, big money winner will always receive half of the amount generated from the of tickets sold. Due to COVID, the 2020 Depot Days was canceled. In 2019,

the top winner took home

\$105,425. Ten more lucky second place winners will be drawn. Those winners will each take home \$3,000 cash.

Tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5 or 12 for \$10, or 24 for \$20.

The drawing will take place on Aug. 29, in downtown Amboy.

The proceeds from the annual Depot Days 50/50 raffle will go to local charitable organizations.



#### **BEAUTIFICATION**

About 25 members of Teen Turf did clean-up and sidewalk decorations on several downtown streets on Wednesday, June 30, in preparation for the holiday weekend festivities. Director Eileen Piper said, "I am so proud of the job they are doing for our town." Everyone was treated to a cold drink at Revolution Wellness when clean-up was complete.







#### **CLIPPER HIGHLIGHTS**

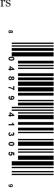
This week's column features #52 Levi Kaleel PAGE A11

#### **Index**

a '. a. 1	
Community Calendar	A3
Church Directory	A4
Social News	A5
Opinion	A6
Classifieds	A8
Sports	
· ·	

#### **Inserts**

Snyders



#### Amboy Fire 150th Anniversary Celebration

Pictured top, even Captain America and Wonder Woman enjoyed the inflatables during the Amboy Fire Department's 150th Year Community Celebration on Saturday, July 3, in downtown Amboy. Pictured below, this youngster caught some air coming down one of the inflatables.

Mary Mays/Amboy News

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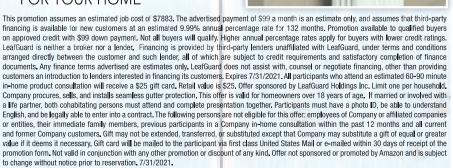
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## TEEN TURF

#### **Upcoming Events**

We will be having our annual Pancake Breakfast at the Lee County 4H fair on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 23-July 25. More info to come.

#### **Summer Program**

Our summer program is in full swing. Our older kids are doing roadside cleanup, working in the garden, assisting the younger kids in the program. Last week we cleaned the sidewalks uptown and did some sidewalk chalk drawings. Our younger kids learned about U.S.A. The third and fourth graders did experiments in their STEAM program-Thank you 4-H Team Teachers and Martha. We are grateful for Bruce, Martha, and Karen (Master Gardener) from University of Illinois Extension for teaching our kids.

#### Thank You's

We are always grateful to those that assist us: The Kaleel family (Mark and Renee, and Lindsey and Nick) for all the snacks and drinks; Susan Erisman and Megan Chetham for the yummy treats for Mrs. Piper's birthday; Tammy, Scott, and Brooklyn Strub for Mrs. Piper's birthday cake and tea; Amboy Lion's Club for the pizza and Jim Travi for delivering them; City of Amboy for treating kids to Revolution Wellness; all those that wished Mrs. Piper a Happy Birthday; and Jamie Zimmerly for all the snacks.

If possible, we need small prizes for Bingo and other games. **Final Word** 

Loving Lord, we are seeking to draw close to you. We are learning to receive strength and help from you. Direct our attention to things that will bless us. Direct our attention to the encouragement that you stra-

tegically place in our day. Direct our attention to the beauty of this world that it may delight us and refresh us.

Direct our attention to inspiring music that has the ability to capture our emotions and carry them upward.

Direct our attention to the little miracles of joy and the xplosions of laughter that you want us to experience. Direct our attention, Lord.

summer reading club

WOODHULL—State Representa-

tive Dan Swanson (R-Alpha) announced

the official launch of his Fifth Annual

Summer Reading Club Program for

first through fifth grade students who

live within the 74th Legislative District.

Rep. Swanson's theme this year for the

program is "Readers are Winners." The

program is offered to encourage students

to read over the summer and promote

"This is a great way to encourage

young people in our region to read over

their summer breaks from school. Stu-

dents who do not read over the summer

are much further behind, academically,

the lifelong benefits of literacy.

## 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 Lee Center ing, 2202 Shaw Rd.

AMBOY-The Amboy Farmer's Market will be held from 8 a.m. until noon on Friday, July 9, in the Depot Museum parking lot. No market during Depot Days. Vendors are welcome. Call Alice Dukes with questions at 815-857-4015.

Concert Series continues at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 10, this free concert.

Fire Protection District will meet at 8 a.m. on Monday, July 12, at the Fire Station.

than their classmates who continue read-

ing during summer break," said Swan-

son. "This year, as with last, reading at

home is all the more important for our

an interview with Naomi Law, local chil-

dren's book author of The Adventures

of Orie the Orpheum Mouse: A journey

through the Orpheum Theatre. Naomi

Law will also attend Rep. Swanson's

Summer Reading Club Party to sign a

book for each child in attendance at the

ically to schools and libraries, and paper

Pamphlets were distributed electron-

reading program conclusion.

Swanson launched the program with

students to keep up."

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Monday, July 12, at the Elk's Lodge, 1279 Franklin Grove Rd. 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, July 12, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. Anyone wishing to join is invited to attend.

SUBLETTE-The Sublette Village Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 12, at the Ellice Dinges Center, 202 S. West St.

#### EAST GROVE TWP-

The East Grove Township meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, at the East Grove Township

AMBOY-The Amboy Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, at the Amboy Township building, 106 S. Prospect.

MAY TWP-The May Township meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, at the township maintenance building.

PRINCETON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the First united Methodist Church, 316 S. Church St. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit Red-CrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate.

AMBOY-The Summer Concert Series will continue at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 17, with Robbie LaBlanc at the downtown bandstand. Bring a chair and a friend and enjoy this free concert.

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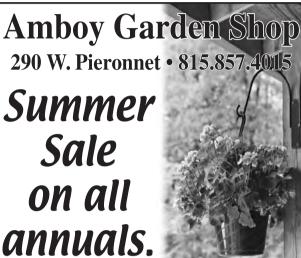
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## The Amboy News

Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854 Kip Cheek, Publisher Tonja Greenfield, General Manager

Bonnie Morris, Editor Published weekly on Wednesday by The Amboy News 245 E. Main St., Amboy, IL 61310

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Classified Advertising Deadline: 10 a.m. Monday

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.

Township meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, at the Township Build-

AMBOY-The Summer

with Rusty and Friends at the downtown bandstand. Bring a chair and a friend and enjoy AMBOY-The Amboy

Swanson hosts Readers are Winners

forms are also available via direct mail upon request or online at repswanson. com. Participation in this program can overlap with any other summer reading program offered through area libraries, schools, or other organizations. Students may return their forms before Aug. 2 via US Mail or electronically at rep-

Participants in the program will also receive a Certificate from the Illinois House of Representatives. To request a brochure or confirm your residency in the 74th District, Rep. Swanson's office can be contacted at 309-334-7474 or swanson@ilhousegop.org.

#### Granny Rose - Henry

Meet Henry. This good-looking cat is just a year old with the energy and playfulness of a kitten. He is a short hair orange and white with the "spotted" pattern intead of stripes. Henry came to the shelter from animal control and was quickly adopted. His personality is to be super friendly and lovable with people he meets. Recently, he was returned because his activity level was too high. Henry does love to play and is not picky about toys - he loves them all. He has lived with a dog in the past and they played together. He might adjust to another cat, but it is unknown. He is a confident young neutered male that has a lot of energy. Henry's new owners should be willing to play with him as he loves the interactive toys. Henry is active and just adorable. To see Henry, call Granny Rose Animal Shelter at 815-288-PETS(7387) or visit www.grannyrose.org.

Photo contributed





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## Beware of texts, emails requesting personal info

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois Department of Transportation is reminding the public to be on the alert for text and email scams asking for personal information. Over the last several weeks, IDOT has been made aware messages sent fraudulently on its behalf, attempting to defraud the public.

"If you receive a text or email that appears to be from IDOT asking for your personal information, you can be sure it's a scam," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. "Please know that we are aware of this issue and are working with the Illinois Attorney General's office to protect you from these fraudulent schemes.

While the messages might look official, IDOT will never request personal information, such as Social Security numbers or banking information, via text or email. If you receive such a message, delete it. Do not provide any information or click any links. Doing so could install malware on your device or computer.

To protect your personal information, take the following precautions:

• Delete unsolicited emails and texts requesting personal information or promising state driver's licenses or IDs. Do not click on any links contained in such emails or texts, as they may place malware on your computer or devices.

• Hang up on any calls, including robocalls, that ask you to take immediate action or provide personally identifiable

 Ask to use other types of identifiers besides your Social Security number.

• Keep your software up to date, including operating systems and antivirus protection programs on your computer, phone and other devices. Most can be set to update

If you have questions about phishing scams or identity theft, please call the Illinois Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotline in Chicago at 800-386-5438 (TTY: 800-964-3013), Springfield at 800-243-0618 (TTY: 877-844-5461) or Carbondale at 800-243-0607 (TTY: 877-675-9339). Spanish speakers may call 866-310-8398.

## Amboy Police

**Domestic battery** 

On June 29, at 3:54 p.m., Nicholas N. Schultheis, 36, of Franklin Grove, was arrested for domestic battery, unlawful restraint, interfering with the reporting of domestic violence, Reckless Driving, and speeding 100 mph in a 30 mph zone. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.

## Illinois Department of Transportation reminds public to stay safe around flood waters

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation is reminding the public to stay alert for potential flooding and anticipate that travel could be impacted with more rain in the forecast this week. The department continues to monitor weather conditions and will respond as necessary to flooding situations as they occur.

"A few inches of water might seem harmless but can be powerful enough to carry away a person or vehicle,"

said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. "Do not attempt to drive through flooded roads. Turn around, don't drown." IDOT reminds motorists to take the

following precautions: • Even if water covering a road seems

shallow, do not attempt to cross it.

• Seek higher ground if your vehicle stalls in a flooded area. Do not attempt to push your vehicle out of the water.

Anticipate longer driving distances

and travel times to get to your destination if roads are flooded or closed.

• Follow any posted detours.

• Keep your cell phone charged.

· During inclement weather, ask

yourself if your trip is necessary or could be postponed.

For regular updates on statewide road conditions 24/7/365, visit www. gettingaroundillinois.com. You also can follow IDOT on Facebook and Twitter.

### Franklin Grove welcomes new business

BY MONETTA YOUNG Special to the Amboy

#### FRANKLIN GROVE

- In 2019 two local men joined together in a partnership to open a bar/restaurant and gaming in the village of Franklin Grove, ending the 75-year drought in the village. They started with two months of demo in the summer of 2019. They then decided to do the business in stages.

Rooney's opened recently with the first stage of the business, a quaint bar that is full of local history. It pays homage to the history of the small farming community. The building was built in 1868 by P. C. Rooney, who was a founding member of the local Masons, housed the Masonic Hall on the upper level of the building.

Over the course of time, the partners, Ron Horn and John Lauer, discovered just how much history that building held. They are enjoying the fulfillment they have had from doing much of the work themselves, with the help of Matt Hunt, an Ashton resident, who worked side by side every day with Lauer on the renovation. Horn and



Buisness partners Ron Horn and John Lauer behind the bar at Rooney's in downtown Franklin Grove. The 75 year drought has ended thanks to these two friends.

Photo submitted

Richard Major, an Oregon resident, made deliveries of building materials, installed insulation, assembled all the tables, chairs and barstools, and kept the job site clean and organized.

They have incorporated much of the history into the décor. The bar is made from the original hardwood floors, the under side of the bar area are planks that came out of and barn on Lauer's property, the original stone walls have been uncovered in many areas, a steel beam that was used to shore up the building when another building was built next door still has the original recipients name, F. D. Kelley, painted on it.

The wooden arches behind the bar were found on the upper level, they had been painted and were in disrepair, but they are restored to their natural beauty for all to enjoy. Local historian, Scott Spangler, has provided a display of several photos and history pieces for visitors to check out. Many visitors have shared stories of the days of yesteryear in the Rooney building and the surrounding businesses. Rooney's is a great place to stop by for a cold drink and visit with friends. They are open Monday thru Wednesday 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Thursday 11 a.m.-midnight, Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-1 a.m. and

Sunday 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Future plans include a kitchen, which is scheduled to open in the fall. They partners are hoping to create an event space on the upper level of the building. It will be a spacious area, again steeped in local history, a perfect place for a small gathering of friends for a class reunion or a family get together.

They have also agreed to help revive the Summer Harvest Festival; they were approached by some of the committeemen after they had a very successful grand opening a few weeks ago. So look forward to hearing more about that in the coming

## 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.

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

St. Patrick Church Rev. Randy Fronek - Maytown

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Pastor Barb Otten** 960 U.S. Route 52 Phone 857-2225 Sun. Worship - 9:00 a.m. Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.

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

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Rev. Randy Fronek Locust Street, Sublette Phone 815-849-5412 Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass -10:30 a.m.

Wednesday - 8:00 a.m.

Thursday - 8:30 a.m. Refuge Church Pastor John Kalebaugh Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52 Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930

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

10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows

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

The Following Community Businesses Sponsor Area Church News:

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**KSB Medical Center** 815-857-3044

The Amboy News 815-857-2311



## **SOCIAL NEWS**

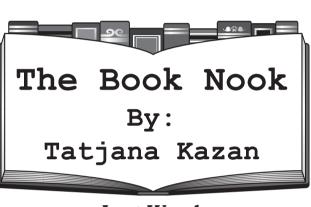


## Stenzel to celebrate 80th birthday

SUBLETTE — Patricia (Pat) Stenzel of Sublette will celebrate her 80th birthday July 15, 2021.

She was born July 15, 1941 and was married to the late Harold Stenzel. She has four children, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to 1792 Todd Road, Sublette, IL. 61367.



#### **Last Words**

ussell Banks is the author of some very fine novels, including "Continental Drift," "Affliction," and "The Sweet Hereafter." His latest novel, 'Foregone," his first new book in ten years, is about Leo Fife, a famous leftist Canadian documentary filmmaker who is dying of cancer. He is known as "the Ken Burns of the North." A draft dodger who fled to Canada in 1968, Leo lives in an upscale Montreal apartment with Emma, his wife of 40 years, and has managed to be "both materially comfortable and morally righteous.'

A CBC film crew, headed by one of Leo's ex-students, arrives to interview him about his exposés of corporate polluters, his Viet Nam documentaries, and the celebrities he knew back when, including Joan Baez and Bob Dylan.

Leo will have none of it. "For forty-five years, all my years in Canada, from the day I went out and bought my first sixteen-millimeter camera, I exposed corruption, mendacity, and hypocrisy in government and business. Now, with your camera, I'm exposing myself. My corruption, my mendacity, my hypocrisy." However, the cancer that has ravaged his body along with powerful painkillers have "dissolved chunks of his temporal lobe" and addled his mind. More often than not, it is up to us readers to sort out truth from dreams in Leo's chaotic rush to finally confess all.

Leo comes from a poor home outside of Boston. At 16, in the first of many attempts to escape, he drives in a stolen Pontiac with his best friend to Amarillo, Texas. At the YMCA, he is molested by a blind man and drinks himself into unconsciousness trying to forget. By 19, having run off to Florida, Leo meets Amy, gets her pregnant, marries her, and abandons her. His second marriage to a Virginia heiress lasts several years, but ends the same way. Leo flees to Canada as a draft dodger, though he has already managed to get rejected by an army recruiter in the States. He is welcomed by the Canadians as a brave resister and consequently manages to build a reputation as an ethical and fearless documentarian based on this falsehood.

Has Leo's confession redeemed him? Banks replies in an interview, "Only at the very end did he understand that he did not live a good life. And he tried to confess it at the end. So that, to me, is redemptive." A more interesting comment on the novel comes from author Marilynne Robinson, "In the rages of a sick old man profound questions arise – what is a life? A self? And what is lost when truth destroys the fabrications that sustain other lives?"

#### Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!



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#### JOHNPASTORKALEBAUGH

...Happy are the people whose God is the Lord." Psalm 144:15

his year the United States of America celebrates her 245th Birthday. In recent years there has been much discussion and debate as to whether or not our country is, or ever was, a "Christian" nation. In times past, however, this was a non-issue. By-in-large our citizens were free to either practice their religious faith or refrain from religious practices altogether if they so choose. One thing which cannot

be denied however, is the theistic and Judeo/Christian influence and content of the

#### Celebrating Our Nation's Birthday None of these people

oirs, diaries, and correspon-

historical documents, mem-

dence of important figures who played prominent roles in our country's settlement, founding, independence, and progression. Much of their public and private writings acknowledge a belief in God, Jesus Christ, and an awareness of His divine providence. These people include common folk (teachers, blacksmith's, farmers...) as well as lawyers, judges, politicians and presidents. Even our Declaration of Independence, which was written by Thomas Jefferson and signed by 56 members of the Continental Congress, refers to God as "their Creator" and "the Supreme Judge of the world."

were perfect. They all had their flaws – but that is part of being human. They often realized their flaws and often acknowledged them in their personal writings. Yet the realization of their own limitations seemed to strengthen their resolve to trust in God to help them, and were willing to "count the cost" themselves. The Declaration of Independence concludes with these words, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection

of Divine Providence, we

mutually pledge to each other

our lives, our fortunes, and

our sacred honor..." Even the Star-Spangled Banner which was written by Francis Scott Key during the Battle of Fort McHenry on September 13, 1814, and became our national anthem on March 4, 1931, affirms the dependency our young nation felt toward God. Most of us probably know the first verse by heart, but it's the last verse which acknowledges God as our nations' foundation.

Oh Thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand

Between their loved home and the war's desolation!

Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land,

Praise the Power that

hath made and preserved us Then conquer we must,

when our cause it is just, And this be our motto: "In

God is our trust."

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave

O'ver the land of the free and the home of the brave!

This year, as we celebrate our nation's 245th Birthday, let us join with our forefathers in giving thanks and placing our trust in the God whom they also acknowledged. And let us also pray for our nation. In the same way that "common people" were instrumental in the founding of our country through trusting God (and by electing good and godly people of integrity to represent them). "We, the people" here in Midwest U.S.A. can still do our part.

## From The Heart Calendar winners

#### June 2021 From The **Heart Calendar Winners**

June 1 - Missy Heisner, Ashton, \$25

June 2 - Rajni and Prem Sud, Rochelle, \$25

June 3 - Ann O'Donnell, Rockford, \$25

June 4 - Alissa Bchog, Rochelle, \$25

June 5 - Michelle Glen, Rochelle, \$25

June 6 - Rochelle Christian Food Pantry, \$50

June 7 - Josh Albright, DeKalb, \$25 June 8 - Anita Bowers,

Byron, \$25 June 9 - Larry Hageman,

Rochelle, \$25 June 10 - Bob Caron,

Rochelle, \$25 June 11 - R. Arch Millotte,

Rochelle, \$25 June 12 - Johnson Tractor, Rochelle, \$25

June 13 - Benjamin Wein-

stein, Deerfield, \$50 June 14 - Patrick Johnson,

Rochelle, \$25 June 15 - Donna Chick,

Paw Paw, \$25 June 16 - Nancy Carr,

Davis Junction, \$25 June 17 - Crystal Fiegen-

schuh, Princeton, \$25 June 18 - Sarah Flanagan,

Rochelle, \$25

at ghowe@

Have a story idea? **Email George** amboynews.com

ers, Rockford, \$25 June 20 - Cassie Cecil, Rochelle, \$500

June 19 - Patricia Rodg-

June 21 - Amy Hatfield, Rochelle, \$25 June 22 - Jane Cassidy,

Rochelle, \$25 June 23 - Patricia Mahan,

Illiopolis, \$25 June 24 - Anne Aubry,

Whitefish Bay, Wis., \$25 June 25 - Spencer Hayden,

Rochelle, \$25 June 26 - Diane May, Volvo, \$25

June 27-Emily Shrimplin, West Brooklyn, \$50

June 28 - Cheri McGee, Rochelle, \$25

June 29 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25 June 30 - Tom Ellis, Steward, \$25

Checks to winners will be mailed out at the end of each month.



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## pinion

By Scott Reeder

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

## So much needs to be done to improve Illinois schools

remember the students presenting our fifth-grade teacher with the "gift" like it Guest Column his head to a side, gave it a perplexed look and probed the parcel with his fingertips. He then .was yesterday.

Several girls emerged from a restroom with a package wrapped in a brown paper towel bound up in scotch tape and presented it to our science teacher.

He was a socially awkward fellow, bereft of any ability to keep order in a classroom. And his pedagogical skills were marginal at best.

Fifth graders ate him alive.

There was the day that a student found a box of several hundred Styrofoam balls in a classroom closet and suddenly hundreds of orange balls were flying as students pummeled one another with these would-be components of model solar systems.

Amid the interplanetary warfare, he waved his arms about unable to capture the attention

Often amid the daily classroom disorder, he'd exclaim: "If I give you 2.54 centimeters you'll take 1.61 kilometers." (Yes, he even converted the inch and mile in the old adage to the metric system.) As I have written before, I'm dyslexic. I remember to this

day him glancing over my shoulder and telling me I was lazy because I sometimes formed letters backwards. Or once I drew a picture with a backward plowshare. Any teacher with any semblance of competence should

have seen I was a child that needed help -- not ridicule. Anyway, back to the "gift."

When the youngsters gave him his "present" he cocked

became visibly upset. The girls had wrapped up a sanitary napkin.

I was thinking about the teacher and the surprise offering this month after the Illinois Legislature voted to require Illinois schools to distribute tampons, and panty liners at no cost in restrooms used by both girls and boys in grades 4 through 12.

"This is really important for young menstruators who are not able to purchase products and they need this for emergency situations," state Rep. Barbara Hernandez, D-Aurora, said. But some Republicans said putting tampons

into the boys' bathroom made no sense. Hernandez argued a boy could fetch them

for a female friend in an emergency.

Oh yeah, that's going to happen. Wives have enough trouble getting their husbands to buy them at the grocery store. How many junior high boys will willingly fetch one for a female classmate? For that matter, how many girls, too shy to go to the nurse's office, will ask a boy to retrieve a maxi pad for them?

But state Rep. Kathleen Willis, D-Chicago, said tampons in the boys' restroom could also be used by transgender students who use a boy's bathroom but still menstruate.

My prediction? A few tampons in the boys' room will end up in the hands of transgender students. The rest will be used to plug toilets or get soaked in the sink and turned into interesting "wall art."

Your tax dollars at work

As for transgender students, I believe everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. I question whether a junior high boys' restroom is a place where that is often found.

Perhaps the nurse's office or a faculty restroom might be a more respectful place for a transgender student facing a menstruation emergency.

Now, let me be clear. I'm ok with schools providing free

tampons and sanitary napkins. They ought to be in the nurse's office or in a teacher's bottom desk drawer where a student in need can retrieve them. Speaking as the father of three girls, these are expensive

products. Let's not waste resources where they can be used to vandalize rather than help. But more significantly, I'm frustrated with the legislature

debating whether tampons should be distributed in bathrooms rather than nurse's offices; but not tackling more important issues like teacher quality.

After all, this legislation was one of the most high-profile "school bills" of the last session. That's unfortunate. So much more needs to be done to improve Illinois schools.

We need to be offering financial incentives to attract the best and brightest college students to enter teaching. It needs to be easier to replace underperforming teachers.

And more parents, particularly those in low income neighborhoods, need access to scholarships to ensure their children are not trapped in failing schools.

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



"BECAUSE WE HAVE TO PREVENT THE ELECTION FRAUD THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN IN 2020 FROM EVER HAPPENING AGAIN."

## On This Day in History

#### 100 Years Ago July 8. 1921

Adam Vaupel and son Glenn visited over the Fourth at the home of his son, J.A. Vaupel.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Reinboth, Misses Sue Hanson and Helen Waters picnicked in Lowell Park Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hegert and daughters Helen and Elizabeth went to Chicago Saturday morning to visit over the Fourth.

#### 75 Years Ago July 11, 1946

Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Simcox have purchased the William Ollman residence on North Jefferson Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Berthier Phillips drove to Lake Bloomington Sunday to take their son, Donald, Dick Wagner and Ronald Ellis who are camping there this week with a group of boys from the Congregational church.

Ed Whitver and John Stouffer went to Chicago Sunday to see the Cubs-Cincinnati ball game.

#### 50 Years Ago July 8, 1971

Lee County Assistant Extension Adviser Ron Pierce, congratulates Dan Leffelman, winner of the Master of Ceremonies contest at the Lee County 4-H Share The Fun Night July 1, as Donnetta Petrie first alternative, looks on. Leffelman, a member

of East Grove Cubs, will represent Lee County at the state contest at the Illinois State Fair.

If the Illinois Central Railroad property is cleaned up – if weeds and nuisance trees are cut and debris removed along the right of way - Amboy's City Council is willing to let the ICRR discontinue use of their gates at the Main and Division Street crossings.

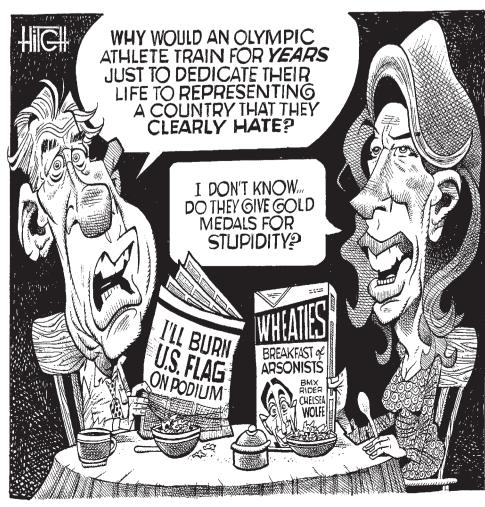
Although the Fourth of July fireworks had to be postponed until the night of July 5, Amboy's Volunteer Firemen drew a crowd estimated to be equally as large as the one that attended the show last year.

#### 25 Years Ago July 4, 1996

Amboy Fire Chief Rocky Sensenig accepts a new defibrillator unit from Chris Abel of the Prudential. Also taking part in the presentation ceremonies were Amboy Fire

Protection Board Members Jack Carlson and Larry Hawes. The Prudential donated \$2,500 toward the cost of purchasing the unit.

Mount St. Clare College inducted Joan Myers Dinges of Sublette into the college's Hall of Fame at a reunion held earlier this month. Dinges has worked as a medical assistant and parish secretary for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church for over 25 years.



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#### Something to say?

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

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

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

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

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

Political endorsements will be published, however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the Amboy News office, 245

E. Main Street, mailed to the Amboy News at PO Box 162, Amboy, IL 61310, or emailed to tgreenfield@amboynews.com

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

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## **Educational Briefs**

#### Local students graduate from Marquette University

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — This past spring, local students graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis-

Mitchell Etheridge, Bachelors, Finance Justin Sherman, Bachelors, Operations and Supply Chain

Kennidy Summers, Masters, School Counseling

A total of 2,301 students graduated from Marquette in May. The university celebrated its 140th Commencement with a series of events, including Graduate Recognition Ceremonies at American Family Field and a Baccalaureate Mass on campus. Learn more about the weekend.

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university that draws nearly 8,500 undergraduate and 3,300 graduate and professional students from nearly all states and more than 60 countries. In addition to its nationally recognized academic programs, Marquette is known for its service learning programs and internships as students are challenged to use what they learn to make a difference in the world. Find out more about Marquette at marquette.edu.

#### Local students named to President's and Deans' lists at Drake University

DES MOINES, Iowa — The following local students have been named to the Deans' and President's Lists at Drake University. Dixon

#### Margaret Oswalt, Dean's List

To be eligible for the Deans' list students must have earned

a GPA of 3.5 or higher during the Spring 2021 semester at

To be eligible for the President's list students must have earned a perfect 4.0 GPA during the Spring 2021 semester Drake University is a midsize, private university in Des

Moines, Iowa, enrolling nearly 3,000 undergraduate and more than 1,800 graduate students. Students choose from over 70 majors, minors, and concentrations and 20 graduate degrees offered through seven colleges and schools. Drake students, faculty, and staff take advantage of the wealth of cultural, recreational, and business opportunities found in Iowa's capital city. In return, Drake enriches the city through its own cultural offerings, considerable economic impact, and many service-learning endeavors, which channel the talent and energy of the Drake students toward meeting the needs

#### NIU Spring 2021 Graduation List

**DEKALB** — Over 2400 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in June. Included among the graduates were the following students from your area: **Amboy** 

Kellylyn Wood, Bachelor of Science, Medical Laboratory Sciences

Compton

Joseph Gehant, Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering Dixon Savannah Barker, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Physical

Jordan Bonnette, Bachelor of Science, Early Childhood Education with Preschool Special Education Approval

Sarah Crowe, Bachelor of Science, Environmental Studies Ryan Dewey, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art Studio and Design

- Design and Media Arts

Mitchell Dixon, Bachelor of Science, Finance

Katie Fredericks, Bachelor of Science, Business Admin-

Megan Howard, Master of Arts, Communicative Disorders Speech-Language Pathology

Elizabeth Ohme, Bachelor of Science, Fashion Merchan-Kaylee Rhodes, Bachelor of Science, Human Development

& Family Sciences: Child Development

Chantelle Ritzert, Bachelor of Arts, English

Madeleine Stauter, Bachelor of Arts, World Lang & Cultures: Spanish & Hispanic Studies

Sarah Griffin, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Physical Therapy

#### Paw Paw

Julia Hoelzer, Bachelor of Science, Management - Human Resource Management Alexis Prendergast, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences:

Alexandra Soto, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences:

General

#### Steward

Kelly Wakefield, Bachelor of Science in Educ, SPED -Visual Impairments with PEL

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

#### Howard and the White Boys Play the Mt. Morris Jamboree July 9 MT. MORRIS — Chicago Blues Band,

Howard and the White Boys make their debut performance on the Band Shell Stage on July 9 from 7-9 p.m. Howard and the White Boys are considered

one of Chicago's finest live blues acts of the last two decades. Mentored by Buddy Guy (who has taken the band on several Midwestern tours as his opening act, and appeared on their third CD, "The Big \$core"), HWB's new CD, "Rosa's Lounge", bears witness to the power and raw energy of the group when they perform live on stage.

Howard & the White Boys began jamming together just for fun, but their fast-growing popularity soon convinced them they could make a career of it. After only a few months, they got their first big break by opening for B.B. King. Their reputation grew in Chicago and they began performing with the biggest names in blues: Koko Taylor, Otis Rush, Albert King, Junior Wells, Lonnie Brooks,

Luther Allison, Bo Diddley, and Chuck Berry.

Be sure to come uptown early to visit the nearby Mt. Morris Community Farmers Market, open from 4-7 p.m., every Friday through October. Please bring a blanket or chair, or enjoy the new benches and join the fun on our beautiful, historic campus in the center of Mt. Morris, two blocks south of IL Route 64 on Wesley Ave and enjoy the free Blues concert. In the event of rain, the whole show moves to the Pinecrest Grove Community

Center, located at 500 Evergreen Lane, seven blocks south of IL Route 64 on McKendrie St. at the same times.

Have a story idea? Email George at ghowe@ amboynews.com



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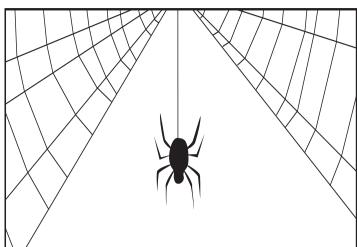
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Twain's response: "Finding a spider is neither good luck nor bad. The spider was merely looking over our newspaper to see which merchant was not advertising, so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door, and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever afterward."

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specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in it's care.

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BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 8AM-SEE NOON ONLY. RECEPTIONIST AT FRONT COUNTER Rochelle News-Leader. Lift Chair For Sale.

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Email: mmays@amboynews.com Address: 245 E. Main Street, Amboy Mail:

815-857-2517

Fax:

P.O. Box 162, Amboy, IL 61310

#### **DEADLINES:** Mondays at 10 a.m

(Deadlines subject to change during holiday times)

All classified marketplace line ads will appear in the following 7 print publications and on 5 hightraffic newspaper websites: Rochelle News-Leader 
 Ogle County Life 
 Rochelle Shopping News • Ashton Gazette • Amboy News Mendota Reporter Mendota Money Saver

Call for pricing that starts at \$32.99 for private party ads and \$44.60 for commercial business ads and \$7.50 for garage

#### **DISCLAIMER:** your advertisemen

be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and will only credit customer for

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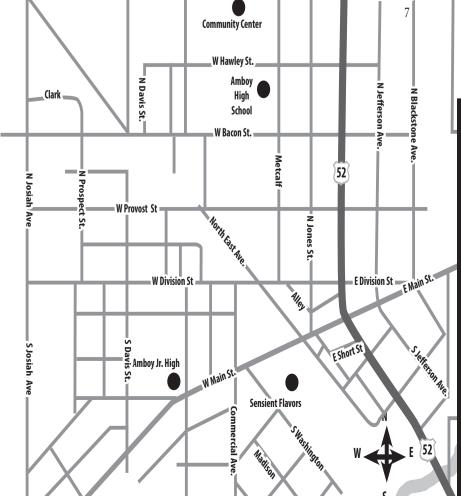
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Wasson Ro

#### WANTED

FREON WANTED: We pay 5\$\$ for cylinders and cans R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient Certified Professionals, Call 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com



Don't be left out of the Amboy News' **Depot Days Garage** Sale Map!

SPECIAL DEPOT DAYS

\$7 for 20

#### words

and your ad will appear in the Amboy Depot Days section on August 18th and be featured in the Classified pages of the August 25th edition of the Amboy News.

FIRM DEADLINE: 10 am on

HI GERLAD, WOULD YOU MIND IF I TOOK A TURN USING THE BALL?

WHO LET THE

YUP. THEY SAY A MAN'S

HOME IS HIS

CASTLE ...

DOGS OUT?

**Amber Waves** 

THAT NEW GIRL KEEPS LOOKING OVER HERE WAITING TO GET HER HANDS ON OUR KICKBALL.

Out on a Limb

R.F.D.

DID A BIT OF REMODELIN'

EH, JOE?

The Spats

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE I WAS THE

TEACHER'S PET

NEW GYM TOGS 'N' EV'RYTHIN !

EXERCISE!

OK, THAT'S TRADE-IN VALUE, BUT HOW MUCH

EXTRA ARE YOU ADDING IN FOR SENTIMENTAL

VALUE? I MEAN, JUST LOOK AT HER FACE!

COMMENCING THIS MORNING AND EVERY MORNING THEREAFTER...

Just Like Cats & Dogs

14

33

49

52

55

36

## LOCAL NEW

Posting Date July 5, 2021 King Crossword

13

16

32

47

51

54

21 Club -

23 Like some

exclusive

ponents

35

12

15

18

34

50

53

#### **ACROSS**

by Dave T. Phipps

GIMME A BREAK. OBVIOUSLY SHE USED SOME TYPE OF MIND CONTROL I'M NOT USED TO.

by Gary Kopervas

KORRAS

by Mike Marland

94

SHE KEPT ME

IN A CAGE

TOMORROW I SHALL DO ANOTHER!

by Jeff Pickering

WHO?

AH HECK, WE WERE ALMOST DONE WITH IT ANYWAY, RIGHT? IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO.

WHO?

33

WHOP

**BUTUS** 

FARMERS

KNOW

WITNESSED THE FIRST OF MANY PUSHUPS!

by Dave T. Phipps

GOOD FER YOU!

HAT AIN'T TRUE.

- Pack cargo 5 Billboards
- 8 On with
- 12 Vagrant 13 Old
- Oldsmobile 14 TV's "Warrior
- Princess"
- 15 Actress Falco 16 Rep.'s rival
- 17 Apple product
- 18 Criminal's "why" 20 Latin love
- 22 Whiskey vari-
- 26 Dishonor 29 Succor
- 30 Blue 31 Runner's
- tempo 32 Greek H
- 33 "Three
- Sisters" sister 34 Last (Abbr.)
- 35 Nay undoer
- 36 Void
- couples
- 40 Bedouin 41 Boston ath-
- lete 45 Wrinkly fruit
- 47 Dhabi preced- 6 Actor Billy -
- 49 "- la Douce"
- 50 Thaw
- 51 Allow
- 52 Pants part

53 Adams and Schumer 54 Grant's foe

40

55 Vegas game

46

- **DOWN**
- 37 Outing for two 1 Son of Noah
  - 2 Commotion 3 Life story
  - 4 "Alas ..." 5 "As You Like 24 Cabin com-It" setting
  - Williams
  - 7 Neighbor of
  - Kenya
  - 8 Self-evident
  - truth

- 9 Pre-game morale boost-
- e.g. 10 Year in Spain 35 Carte lead-in
- 36 Chowed 11 "Awesome!" 19 Compete
  - down

33 Washington

Monument,

- 38 Londoners, e.g.
- 39 Keen
- communities 42 Nest setting 43 One-named supermodel
  - 44 Roman cen-

-Rodriguez

#### 25 "— the night before ...' 26 Tater 45 Actress 27 Head light? Thurman 28 In reality 46 Tiara sparkler 32 Size up 48 Spell-off © 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

1. GEOGRAPHY: How many states

2. LITERATURE: The character of Miss Havisham appears in which

3. ASTRONOMY: What is the name of the boundary between Earth's atmo-

4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What creature was a hood ornament on the 1933 Hudson Essex Terraplane car?

are in Australia?

19th-century novel?

sphere and outer space?

## Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle 2 0

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

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

#### **DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦ ♦ ♦

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging

5. TELEVISION: What were the names of the boys on the 1990s sitcom "Home Improvement"? 6. MUSIC: The Jug saloon was the setting in which Lynyrd Skynyrd song? 7. MOVIES: What was Charlie Sheen's nickname in the 1989 movie "Major League"

8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are the offspring of echidnas (Australia) called? 9. U.S. STATES: What is the state

flower of West Virginia? 10. FOOD & DRINK: Which country produces Gouda cheese?

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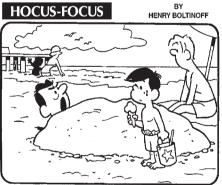
2. "Great Expectations," Charles Dick

10. The Netherlands 9. Rhododendron 8. Puggles gnidT bliW . $\Gamma$ 6. "Gimme Three Steps" 5. Brad, Randy and Mark

niffing A.4

Answers

3. The Karman line



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Birds are moved. 2. Cloud is smaller. 3. Trunks are different. 4. Pier support is removed. 5. Ice cream is different. 6. Umbrella is missing.

#### **CHEAP**

Today's Word 3. Throne; 4. Endear 1. Pistol 2. Cater;

uoiznios SCRAMBLERS

## **CryptoQuip**

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

JVM NPBLZMR CPHZY'L FZL RZMHZG UZMWPY RPVRPUZ.

FJV XJVEG RPF LCZ NVMRL BR

FZL LJ XJWZ.

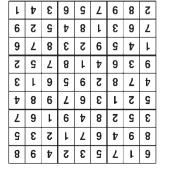
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## 用[O]M A = | 크|V| I | T | O| M

Solution time: 25 mins.

**Answers** 

Kind Crossword —



Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

yet to come. You could say the wurst is served German sausage. Our waiters haven't yet CryptoQuip

Serve REACT Royalty HORNET გე එරි Cherish EARNED €D JOHUN "Husbands love it — it's **TODAY'S WORD** 

LAFF-A-DAY

"Try to finish everything. We're all out of doggie bags."

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

## SVCC honored outstanding alumni during may commencement

**DIXON** — Sauk Valley Community College Alumni Association recognized three outstanding alumni at the 55th annual commencement ceremony on May 14 on the SVCC campus.

The alumni association nomination committee selected recipients based on peer recommendations and notable accomplishments. Lifelong educator, with indisputable leadership skills, Betty Obendorf '72 was chosen as the Distinguished Alumni recipient. This award honors a particular achievement of noteworthy value, a series of such achievements or a career of noteworthy accomplishments that bring honor to the College. Betty graduated from SVCC with an Associate of Arts degree. She completed her undergraduate studies in Science-Education at Northern Illinois University, graduating magna cum laude where she also earned her M.S. Ed.

Obendorf taught in the Polo Unit School District for over 20 years. After her retirement, she became the volunteer curator at the Polo Historical Society where she educates visitors and continues to teach and assist students with research. She writes a weekly history column for the Tri-County Press which she has done since 1997. In addition, she authored two historical books, The Gallant 15th of ILLINOIS History of a Civil War Volunteer Infantry Regiment and Abolitionist Railroad in Buffalo Grove.

Obendorf demonstrates an ongoing commitment to community service through her involvement in organizations like the Polo Economic Development Group—the new Polo Fresh Food Market is one example of the group's success. She is a member of Chapter DW PEO Sisterhood. She was bestowed the Buffalo Grange Community Citizen Award in 1999 and Polo's Citizen of the Year in 2001. In the words of her nominator, "She is often described as a wealth of information and has the wisdom to share her knowledge with all she meets.

Accepting the Alumni Achievement Award is Britni Dvorak '12. This award recognizes alumni 35 years old and younger whose achievements, public service and/or volunteer activities bring honor to the College. Dvorak attended SVCC through a scholarship after graduating from Amboy High School and earned her Associate of Science Degree before transferring to Northern Illinois University where she received her undergraduate degree in Textiles, Apparel and Merchandising with a minor in business marketing.

Dvorak is currently the owner of Pam's Hallmark in Dixon. She was the youngest owner in the Hallmark franchise and also owns Fresh Finds Hallmark in Princeton. She has been involved with the United Way of Lee County and received the 2020 Small Business of the Year award. She is very active in event planning with the Dixon and Princeton Chambers of Commerce and believes strongly in supporting her community and local charities including: Goodfellows of Lee County, St Anne's and St Mary's Catholic schools, YWCA, Toys for Tots, Shining Star, youth baseball and softball leagues, and many others.

The Future Alumni Award recipient is Anah Chamberlain. This first annual "rising star" award is accorded to a current SVCC student who seeks out opportunities for personal and

educational growth; endeavors to better their communities and College through participation in civic and college organizations, clubs, or initiatives.

Chamberlain is the 2020-2021 Student Government President. She demonstrated motivation to reach her personal and educational goal setting a great example for students academically and through her involvement in student organizations. During 2019-2020, she was the Vice-President of Service for Phi Theta Kappa; was an active member of the Science Club, Rotaract Club, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Informed Student Voter Coalition Club; and served as a student ambassador. Her nominators shared, "Anah is very responsible and hardworking. She has led and volunteered for many events, always providing excellent guidance to other students and encouraging students to get involved."

Nominations for SVCC alumni awards are accepted year-round. Please contact linda.s.osborn@svcc.edu at the SVC Foundation with any questions about this or other Alumni Association programs.

## Email news items to tgreenfield@ amboynews.com

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Firststatebank.biz

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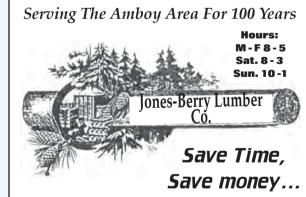
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The Amboy News

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#### PHOTOGRAPHY

On 3 Photo

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Jori McRae, Broker/Owner 815-973-1197 • www.rivercountryproperties.net

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#### **RESTAURANT**

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#### VETERINARY CARE

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## **SPORTS**

## Clipper Highlights: #52 Levi Kaleel

beyond proud to announce this week's Clipper, #52, "The Harbor Monster," Levi "Boom Truck" Kaleel.

Levi was a 2010 graduate of Amboy High School, three sport athlete, and three year Varsity starter in football, wrestling, and baseball. Levi wasn't a Sophomore just bumped up to each athletic team to provide more depth, inter-squad competition, or to fill in. Levi was bumped up because, even as an underclassmen, he was one of the best athletes on each team.

There was no doubt

during the summer of 2007 that Levi would be promoted to the Varsity ranks to anchor, one of the most impressive and talented, offensive lines of recent memory. Levi was among Clipper greats; Jordan Willstead, Drew Goy, Jacob Stewart, Travis Ullrich, Jeremy Wolf, and Colby Fordham. Accompanying Levi at the Varsity level were two other Super Sophomores in Westin Montavon and Cody Richardson. Levi started both ways his Sophomore season at Offensive Guard and Inside Linebacker. Offensively, Levi was one of the most well-rounded Offensive Lineman our program has seen. Naturally athletic, quick, and fundamental, Levi's vital role to our team became pivotal in our success as he was taking on some of the best Linebackers the Big Rivers Conference produced.

ond level and putting pads on a Linebacker, so whichever talented Clipper ball carrier could cut directly off his block. However, as gifted offensively, Levi made his name on the Clipper Defense. At 5'10230 pounds, we think purely of brute strength, shutting down the inside running game of any opponent. Levi defied the stereotype. Levi's lateral speed, primal instinct to read the field, and ability to fly to the football was as smooth and impressive as I have ever seen anyone do it at the high school or Division III college level. There was a play against

Yes, he was getting sec-

Ottawa Marquette his Sophomore season he was the inside linebacker to the field (wide) side. Marquette ran a sweep to the field side and Levi hit the ball carrier for a threeyard loss. I don't know the exact yardage from Levi's starting position to when he made the tackle, but the distance covered, and speed displayed was astonishing. For those that remember that play can still hear the roar in Levi's voice in celebration.

Even as a Sophomore, no matter the opponent, it was always Levi's field. The 2007 season came to an end with two triumphant playoff victories over Hamilton West Hancock and undefeated Petersburg PORTA and one painful Quarterfinal loss against Aurora Christian. However, it's my belief like thank Levi for their State Championship that season as in the State Semifinal, Aurora Christian Quarterback, Jordan Robert's (a DI talent), couldn't complete a pass due to a hip injury suffered at Levi's hands in the Quarterfinal game. Levi ended his Sophomore season earning Second Team All-Conference Honors at Offensive Guard.

Two past highlights and Clipper greats shared the following on their time with

Travis Nauman shared, "I got to play with Levi my senior year, his sophomore year. He was a big part of our success that year. For only being a sophomore, he definitely played like an upperclassman. Someone that always did his job and you could always depend on him to make a play. I am glad I got the opportunity to play with him.'

Brother, Taylor Kaleel shared, "I was fortunate enough to get to play football with both of my brothers and a lot of my cousins. While my memories of them days are all great, the easiest to remember are the ones playing with Levi. Levi was a sophomore, two-way starter my senior year and the kid was a beast. He wasn't just called up to fill some needed positions, but rather one of the best players on the field. Strong as an ox with a natural ability to find the ball. I know the game meant as much for him as it did for myself because it came from the same place, our dad. Levi left it all on the field, every play, every game, which is what makes great players great! It was honor to play with Levi."

As the 2008 voyage began, Levi was not only among the top linemen in the Big Rivers but in the entire Sauk Valley area as he was named to the Pre-season All Area team before his Jr. season. The only difference moving into the 2008 season was that Levi would move down to the defensive line, alongside Colby Fordham. Levi's experience from the previous season along with his incredible strength and athleticism was key to any/all success our 2008 team had.

He was not the most vocal but would often make his opinions known if someone could play better or work harder. I can recall quite a few poorthrows/decisions I made throughout the 2008 season that I was held accountable by my younger cousin. I did get to return the favor against Ottawa Marquette during the 2008 campaign. I broke a (rare) 35-yard touchdown run on a 42 option, only for it to be called back because of a holding penalty called against Levi. Needless to say, I had a few choice words for him in the huddle before the next play. Another standout memory during the 2008 season came against Morrison.

## **Highlights**

By Spencer Morrissey



We won in triple overtime, 41-40. What many may not know is that at some point in the 4th quarter Levi broke

Levi shared the following, "Another game I remember very well was Morrison my junior year when we went three overtime's I think and breaking my hand sometime in the fourth quarter but I knew my team needed me and you didn't give up on your team even if you had to play through a little pain, it was all worth it. And there was no going to the doctor because we had Newman the next week. Wrap it up and get back out there. I still look at that bone that sticks out of my hand to this day and it takes me back to the glory days."

Levi ended his junior season earning both All Conference and All Area honors offensively and defensively.

Friend and former teammate, Matt Fuller, shared, "I think the biggest compliment you can pay a player is saying that it was just a flat-out luxury to have him. Having Levi playing at the varsity as a sophomore was just that. You weren't just rolling the dice with an underclassmen on the varsity level with him. And when the '09 class were seniors, having Levi again as a junior, was even better. A year bigger, stronger, and more experienced, he was always a direct factor to our success on the field. He was a football player to his core and was absolutely groomed to do it. He was also the strongest football player I've ever played with. He was built like an ox, and nobody pushed him around. Ever."

With two, successful, years of Varsity experience under his belt, Levi began his final season and last season for a member of our family to strap up in Clipper red. Earning another Pre-season All Area honor at Defensive Line. With five home games at The Harbor, a reloaded Offensive Line, and key skill position players, the 2009 Clippers would post our best record since the 1986 season. Levi and the Clippers took down #1 ranked Bureau

Valley Week 2. The Clippers continued to roll until a matchup with fellow undefeated Morrison. The Clippers lost the contest at The Harbor in what would be the first of their two mud

lowing week, the Clippers would travel to The Coliseum to meet archrival, Sterling Newman. What would be the second mud game of the season ended victorious for the Clippers. With a huge victory over Newman the Clippers would go on to complete the regular season with an 8-1 record and second place Big Rivers finish. The 2009 season we

would also bump down to 2A with a lower overall enrollment. The Clippers hosted Oneida ROWVA first round and notched one of the most dominant Clipper wins I've ever witnessed. One thing about that game that I'll never forget is the wildcat package. Richardson in the shotgun and Levi being the big, bruising fullback. As much as "Boom Truck" would have loved just one carry, he loved laying people out that much more.

The Clippers would end their season the following week with a loss to 2A Powerhouse, Annawan Wethersfield. The 2009 Clippers would finish with a 9-2 overall record. Levi earned All-Conference/All Area honors again on each side of the ball.

In speaking of his Senior season, Levi shared, "What stuck out the most my senior year was just playing with all my buddies and just having fun doing it. I'll never forget those days. Just living for Friday nights and we were fortunate enough to play on Saturday afternoons.

Friend and former teammate, Steven Apple, shared the following, "Levi was one of those guys that walked into the weight room for the first time and was already stronger than most in there. He was always pretty stout growing up so was on the line from the beginning but was faster than some of our backs. He used to pull on one of our 37 wham plays and sometimes he would take three to four guys out down the field and still be out ahead of the slot back. The one thing you always knew about Levi is that he was going to work his butt off every play. Our senior season he re-broke something in his hand and he never skipped a play. I think that hand still looks like there is a golf ball in it. He was hands down the toughest and most talented lineman I ever played with."

Friend and former teammate, Westin Montavon, shared, "Levi exemplified what it takes to not only be a Clipper but the leader of a Clipper team. He was one of the hardest working players and inspired others to work as hard as he did. Levi has

Have a story idea? **Email George** at ghowe@ amboynews.com



a unique way of bringing people together with his personality and was the heart and soul of our team. I couldn't be more proud to have been able to share our time playing football together." The interview with Levi

was mostly via text this week as our schedules conflicted. However, it works to the benefit of this highlight given his quotes throughout. In speaking of the meaning of Amboy Football, Levi shared the following, "What did Amboy football mean to me? Well, it was a big part of life 'it's just what we did' no questions asked. Back then we were thinking about Amboy football year-round and what we had to do to get better each year. Whether it be spending more hours in the weight room, going to speed camps, or just learning how to play the game better, faster, and stronger. That's what we did and what it means to me today is still the same mentality. I'd give anything to get back out there. As I watched our Clippers, this past spring, play I had the hairs standing up on the back of my neck all night wishing to be out there. That's what Amboy Football does to me.'

For a Clipper whose lineage as is as deep as our playoff history, Levi set his own sail. No matter the game, the opponent, the score, the age, Levi was, more often than not, the best athlete on the field at any given time. Yet, Levi's athleticism is not his best quality. Levi's personality is what makes him one of the very best of us. Stern but gentle, fierce but calm, and humble but confident are what defines Levi's character. He's one of the only people in my life that I have never heard anyone voice any negativity or outright dislike. As his older cousin, I have nothing but pride in saying, I've looked up to him, I've depended on him, and I've been indebted to his sacrifices he's made for our Clipper teams. You are the epitome of an Amboy Clipper.

So, to one of our best, The Harbor Monster, #52, Levi "Boom Truck" Kaleel, thank you for your contributions to Amboy Football. Loved by many today as you were all those years ago on the field is all the summation, we need in order to know your character. Friday nights and Saturday afternoons have come and gone. The memories will always remain but what I most look forward to are the ones we still have yet to make. 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.



## Early Deadlines

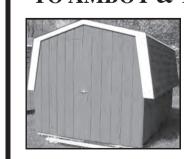


Due to Upcoming Vacations, the Amboy News office will have an early deadline for the issue of July 21st.

All editorial and ad copy must be turned in by 4 p.m., on Thursday, July 15. The paper will print first thing on Monday, July 19th.

Regular deadlines will resume for the issue of July 28 and Aug. 4th.

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"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken." – James Dent

Sale Prices Valid July 7 – July 13, 2021 – Limited Quantities – While Supplies Last

PRODUCE & WEEKLY SPECIALS

# Cabo Fresh Guacamole 12 ounces \$399 /ea. Reg. Price \$4.59 ea.



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#### **WEEKLY SPECIALS**

## Boca Meatless Products





















