



## EASTER BUNNY VISITS

*The Amboy Lions hosted an Easter Bunny Drive-Thru at the Amboy City Park on Saturday, April 3. Children received a treat bag, some with special surprises, as they were driven through the park. The Easter Bunny was available for pictures, as well as a cut-out scene boards. The Lions are looking forward to having a traditional egg hunt in 2022 but wanted children to be able to have some fun in 2021.*

Mary Mays/Amboy News

# Illinois taking aggressive action to address first signs of possible resurgence

**SPRINGFIELD** – To address a concerning possible trend in increasing COVID hospitalizations and case rates, the State of Illinois is launching Rapid Response Vaccination Teams to five counties and expanding vaccine eligibility where demand appears to have waned.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has seen vaccine demand slow in several counties throughout the state, with early signs of unfilled appointments and increased vaccine inventory. IDPH is authorizing those communities to begin vaccinating all residents 16 and older at their immediate discretion, in order to use the vaccine doses they currently have available.

“Recent increases in hospital admissions and test positivity are concerning new developments and we don’t want to go down the same path we’ve seen before and experience a resurgence in the pandemic, which is why Governor Pritzker directed us to use all our resources to halt

these upticks,” IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said. “We cannot move forward if our metrics are going backward. The vaccine will help get us to the end of the pandemic, but we need to continue to reduce spread of the virus by wearing a mask, avoiding large crowds, keeping six feet of distance, getting tested after seeing others, and getting vaccinated as soon as possible.”

### Expanded Eligibility

The federal government is projecting that Illinois will receive nearly 1 million doses next week for distribution, an all-time high. Steady vaccination operations are the best tool to keep Illinois residents safe. Reductions in demand result in inventory that could be unused, and all inventory should be used as quickly as possible to protect residents.

Residents should contact their local health department to learn whether they have expanded eligibility.

“The number one goal for the state is to get as many people vaccinated, as

quickly and safely as possible in order to stay ahead of variants,” Dr. Ezike said. “This shift is similar to what we saw when expanding vaccine eligibility from Phase 1B to Phase 1B+ where some parts of the state were ready to move forward, while others were not. Each county is different and local health departments know better how to vaccinate people in their communities as soon as and as equitably as possible.”

While all communities will continue to receive their baseline allocation of doses, new doses above that baseline will be allocated to high-demand areas where at-risk eligible residents face long waits for appointments.

### Rapid Response Vaccination Teams

To bend the trend in a region seeing increased vulnerability and protect vulnerable residents, several teams are being deployed for rapid operations.

See **STATE** page A4

*Illinois State Senator Win Stoller stopped in Amboy on Wednesday at the Lee County Farm Bureau office. Picture above are Adam Henkel, Win Stoller, Danelle Burrs, Don Meyer, and John Fritts.*

Photo submitted

# Stoller visits districts, discuss redistricting

**BY TONJA GREENFIELD**

General Manager

And

**By PETER HANCOCK**

Capitol News Illinois

**AMBOY** — Illinois State Senator Win Stoller was in Amboy last Wednesday visiting the district and stopped into the Amboy News to discuss topics going on in the state legislature.

Stoller was elected to the Illinois Senate in 2020 and represents the 37th Senate District which includes all or parts of Bureau, Henry, Knox, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Mercer, Peoria, Stark and Woodford counties.

After each census, every 10 years, the state of Illinois redraw their legislative and congressional district maps. Stoller said that the state’s majority party are currently in the process of redistricting but using bad data as the current data is not available yet.

The Census Bureau has said that the data needed for congressional redistricting will be available by April 30. But the more detailed, block-level data that most states need for legislative redistricting won’t be available until the end of September.

But the Census Bureau has also said it will have the more detailed data available in another, less user-friendly format – what’s known as the Legacy Format Summary Redistricting File – by mid- to late-August.

Democrats, who control both chambers of the General Assembly, have suggested they can meet the constitutional deadlines by using population estimates from the Census

Bureau’s American Community Survey. But Republicans are objecting to that idea, saying that data is flawed because it is based on only a sample of all households.

“It’s critical we get it right,” Stoller said. “It’s a 10 year map.”

Stoller and his Republican colleagues have introduced a bill calling for an independent commission that would be required to use official Census Bureau, rather than survey estimates, to draw the maps. The bill introduced on March 30, as an amendment to Senate Bill 1325, mirrors a proposed constitutional amendment bill that was introduced in 2019 by Democrat Senator Julie Morrison of Deerfield. That resolution garnered 37 co-sponsors in the Senate including 18 Democrats. That proposal died in the 101st General Assembly without receiving a hearing.

The latest bill would give the Illinois Supreme Court the power to appoint 16 independent, citizen commissioners to the Independent Redistricting Commission within 30 days of becoming law. The makeup of the Commission would be required to reflect the ethnic, gender and racial demographics of the state. The Commission would be required to hold at least 10 public hearings throughout the state before adopting a plan, with at least four hearings after a map is proposed. The commission will release a map within 30 days of receipt of the census redistricting data.

The idea of turning the redistricting process over to an independent commission, often referred to as the “Fair Maps” proposal, has enjoyed broad, bipartisan support in the past.

See **SENATE** page A4

# Pritzker announces \$7 billion in federal funding to support K-12 students returning to classrooms

**SPRINGFIELD** – Governor Pritzker announced Illinois K-12 school districts are receiving \$7 billion in federal funding to support students as they return to the classroom after distance and hybrid learning due to COVID-19.

With this unprecedented level of funding, Governor Pritzker asked education experts to share best practices and recommendations to best support students, including academic and behavioral counseling; out-of-classroom experiences like high-value tutoring, after school programs and summer camps; and creating individualized student profiles to craft the best plans for all students.

Recommendations are available online through the P-20 Council’s Learning Renewal Resource Guide, which is being released to all school districts today. The 180-page guide is filled with ideas from experts and stakeholders from across the state to help school districts renew learning and provide ongoing feedback.

The guide is a living document, designed with input from more than 300 stakeholders, to support school districts as they develop their own local ideas and homegrown initiatives for the unprecedented federal funding they will be receiving. The administration is committed to an ongoing dialogue with school administrators and local leaders across the state and encourages districts to invite teachers, students, community organizations, and especially parents to be a part of this process.

“If you’re a parent, I know you’ve spent most of this pandemic worried about how your kids are learning – with all the screens and Zooms, sometimes you’re worried about whether they’re learning at all,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “My administration is taking a little bit of that worry off your plates. I’m committed to making sure that Illinois leads the nation in assisting schools to make this new \$7 billion count over the next several years to overcome the pandemic’s effects on our students, parents and educators.”

See **SCHOOL** page A2

# Lee County COVID-19 Update: April 7, 2021

**LEE COUNTY** — Between March 30-April 5, the Lee County Health Department has reported a total of 87 new cases have been reported, with one case from the Dixon Correctional Center. Here are the ages that were reported: 6 under the age of 12, 2 in his or her teens, 13 in his or her 20s, 18 in his or her 30s, 9 in his or her 40s, 16 in his or her 50s, 13 in his or her 60s, 5 in his or her 70s, and 4 in his or her 80s.

This brings the total number of cases to 3,511 as of April 6. They also reported as of April 6, 12 residents have been hospitalized and 66 residents have died. The latest death is a female resident in her 70s.

The Lee County Health Department’s website has a COVID-19 section, including information for people who have tested positive. This provides guidance as you wait to hear from one of the health department’s contact tracers.

See **HEALTH** page A3

# Kinzingher announces 2021 Art Contest

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

– Congressman Adam Kinzinger (IL-16) announced the start of the 2021 Congressional Art Competition. As the competition celebrates its 40th year in operation, the Office of Congressman Kinzinger is pleased to begin accepting submissions from all high school students that live in the 16th Congressional District of Illinois.

In making this announcement, Congressman Kinzinger released the following statement:

“Every spring, we have the wonderful opportunity of celebrating the talent and creativity of students from across the United States. The Congressional Art Competition is a favorite event here on Capitol Hill and a joy for all who walk the halls where these works of art are prominently displayed. I continue to be impressed by the quality of artwork we receive each year and look forward to seeing what the students of IL-16 produce for this year’s competition.”

The Congressional Art Competition offers high school students from across the country to showcase their artistic abilities and creativity.

See **ART** page A3

## CLIPPER HIGHLIGHTS

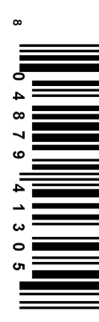
This week’s column features  
#21 Spencer Johnson  
**PAGE A11**

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## Inserts

Snyders





# LOCAL NEWS

## Name the Street Sign fundraiser seeking bids until April 16

**AMBOY** — A tradition started in 1997 to honor a loved ones memory by naming a street for one year after that person is being done again this year.

The A.C.O. is taking sealed bids to name the street north of the business district until Friday, April 16, 2021.

The sign will be hung on May 1 and remain there for one year. The sign will then be given to the successful bidder. Currently the street is named after Pat Weller.

Previous honorees were Allen Zip

Sensenig, Avery Lovgren Jake Metzen, Gary Hart, Howard & Ruth Shaw, Douglas Blaine, Louis Grasser, Doug Antoine, Dave Yentzer, James “Mort” Hinkle, James Mead, Bob Smith, Lisa Nauman, Dave Payne, Dale Etheridge, Elmer “Rocky” Sensenig, Arnie Stahr, Bob Machen and Jeff “Bodine” Bonnell.

The money raised will be given to the Pankhurst Memorial Library. The minimum bid is \$200 and will be accepted at the Amboy City Hall.



### T-Shirt Fundraiser

*The Lee County Farm Bureau Young Leader Committee is selling t-shirts as a fundraiser to raise money to donate to local food pantries. The committee is accepting pre-orders for shirts and expect that pick-up will be available in June. Shirts are \$20 each. For more information or to place an order you may contact the Lee County Farm Bureau at 815-857-3531 or leecfb@comcast.net.*

Photo submitted

## SCHOOL continued from page A1

The latest round of unprecedented federal funding for schools, through the American Rescue Plan, allocates more than \$5 billion for pre-K through 12th grade education in Illinois, 90 percent of which will flow directly to school districts. Illinois’ education system has been awarded more than \$7.8 billion in federal pandemic relief funding in total over three rounds of

the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund program, with \$7 billion flowing directly to school districts over the next three years.

School districts can also leverage regular federal grants to support learning renewal for students in the greatest need, such as low-income students, English Learners, and students with disabilities. Additional-

ly, higher education institutions in Illinois will receive \$1.3 billion from the third round of federal support, for a total of \$2.5 billion across the three rounds of funding primarily from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

In Lee County, these schools are receiving funding:

Amboy Community Unit School District – Total ESSER 1 \$102,687; Total ESSER 2 \$392,680; Total ESSER 3 \$881,478; for grand total \$1,376,845

Ashton Franklin-Center Community Unit School District – Total ESSER 1 \$85,369; Total ESSER 2 \$341,832; Total ESSER 3 \$767,334; for grand total \$1,194,535

Paw Paw Community Unit School District – Total ESSER 1 \$40,948; Total ESSER 2 \$157,170; Total ESSER 3 \$352,811; for grand total \$550,929

Steward School District – Total ESSER 1 \$23,281; Total ESSER 2 \$8,303; Total ESSER 3 \$18,639; for grand total \$50,223

“Black people have suffered from systemic racism for far too long, so I am proud that I led the effort to change Illinois’ educa-

tional system for our Black students,” Senate Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) said. “The law we passed required the state’s P-20 Council to make recommendations on how to address the impact of COVID-19, resulting in the Learning Renewal Guide. It will help our state’s schools and universities make the best use of the more than \$7 billion they’re receiving in federal aid. This funding is especially important for schools in disproportionately affected Black communities.”

“The beauty of the Education and Workforce Equity Act is that it addresses our education system as a whole, starting with barriers to achievement both inside and outside of the classroom that have been exacerbated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,” said House Majority Conference Chair Carol Ammons (D-Champaign). “I’m pleased that our holistic approach is reflected in the Learning Renewal Guide, which will help to ensure that federal aid is utilized in an equitable way. It’s going to take bold, comprehensive action to fully overcome learning loss and close racial equity gaps, and I am thankful to Governor Pritzker and his administration for their dedication to that mission.”

The P-20 Council developed the Learning Renewal Guide to provide school districts with reliable, proven ideas to develop solutions that work best for their communities. The guide was developed through extensive stakeholder engagement, in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), and the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD) and support from A Better Chicago and Advance Illinois.

go and Advance Illinois.

The Learning Renewal Resource Guide details 12 strategies – each supported by research, stakeholder feedback, and case studies – that districts and higher education institutions should consider to equitably address the pandemic’s short- and long-term impacts. Each of the 12 strategies contain underlying initiatives, implementation guidance, and estimated costs and impacts. Altogether, the guide envisions a road to renewal that starts with maximizing in-person learning opportunities for students through a reimagined school calendar and includes investments to identify and meet each student’s individual needs from preschool through college and career.

“We have an unprecedented opportunity through this federal funding to transform the quality of learning opportunities for all our students,” said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala. “This guide provides a roadmap for how our education system can emerge from the pandemic stronger, with even greater capacity to close gaps and achieve equity. That journey begins with getting students back into the classroom as soon and as much as possible.”

“The effects of COVID-19 have significantly impacted student opportunities and well-being, and we know parents and educators across the state are focused on supporting students going forward,” said Advance Illinois President Robin Steans. “With the release of this guide, local leaders – who have given so much over the past year – now have a comprehensive, user-friendly, and field-vetted resource that will enable them to make the best possible use of federal relief and local dollars as they craft learning renewal plans to meet this moment.”

“We hope that the Learning Renewal Resource Guide will support local leaders across the state as they leverage critical federal resources to address the immediate needs of our young people, including holistic supports inside and outside the classroom,” said CEO of A Better Chicago Beth Swanson. “Ideally, this guide will also inspire the philanthropic sector to invest in the strategies outlined and partner in this critical work to create an equitable education system where all of Illinois’ young people can thrive.”

The P-20 Council convened working teams, representing over 300 different stakeholders, to develop the guide. The group also derived content for the guide from administrator, educator, student, and caregiver focus groups, as well as evidence-based research, survey responses, and feedback from agencies, teachers’ unions, and other education organizations. The document will continue to evolve and includes a link to a feedback survey for anyone interested in providing input as well as additional resources and information on how to get involved in future focus groups.

In addition to the guide, Illinois state education agencies will focus on four major goals to support schools:

High-impact tutoring, with a focus on aligning tutoring with classroom instruction throughout the school year and during the summer.

Social and emotional learning community partnerships, including with the Center for Childhood Resilience (CCR), housed at Lurie Children’s Hospital.

Interim assessment, intended solely for diagnostic purposes, to provide reliable measures for understanding the impact on student learning so educators can target their responses to students’ needs.

Bridge/transition support, to encourage enrollment in both early childhood programs and higher education.

To support the administration’s work to expand quality early childhood education, the governor is pleased to receive the Illinois Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding’s report of findings and recommendations. The administration looks forward to working closely with commission members and stakeholders across the state on a number of key initiatives in the coming years, including building out regional support systems for early childhood providers.

The complete guide is available online at the P-20 council’s website.

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For Sublette Village Trustee

Paid for by Julie Kessel

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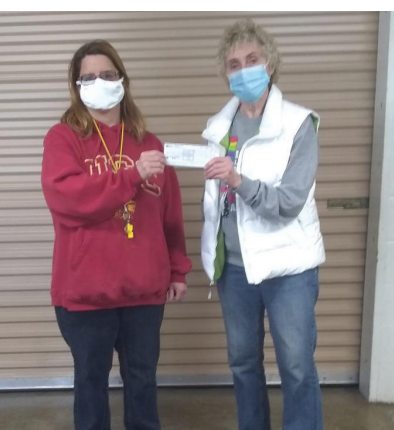
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## LOCAL NEWS

## TEEN TURF



## DONATION

*Pictured left is Pamela Thomas, on behalf of Teen Turf, receiving a check from Carolyn Leake. Leake chose Teen Turf to receive part of her stimulus check.*  
Photo submitted

## Fish Fry Thank You

We could not have had a successful Fish Fry without the following people: Mike Girton; Mark and Veronica Grossman; Greg Girton; Dave Montez; Pete Rood; Larry Piper; Roxy and Al Stenzel; Deb and Art Albee; Tammy and Scott Strub; Sue Leffelman; Sue Stephenitch; Kim and Mike Stram; Fran Kessel; Michelle Cheshire; Janine Huffman; Jeremy McGuire; Donna Wellman; Shannon Nichols; Jillian Rieskamp; Barb Harrison; Shelli Bump; Cindy Phillips; Kim Slenn; Brooke and Denny Weidman; Justine Jones; Erv and his famous potato salad, Maddy Thomas; Sydney Thomas, Brooklyn Strub; Kaylee Scanland; Karona Gall; Chloe Vaupel; Kylie Vaupel; Liam Rieskamp; Lila Rieskamp; Hayden Thomas; Matthew Farrar; Henry Nichols; our afterschool kids and parents.

We could also not do it without the help from Thrivent Financial and their monetary donation for supplies.

We could not also do it without the folks and organizations who donated monetarily: Pam and Bill Weir; Brooke and Denny Weidman; Paw Paw Lions Club; and Sandra Morrissey and Dennis Donna.

Phil Sorkin and Kathy Cruise who purchased tickets for seniors to enjoy the Fish Fry. They appreciated it very much.

We also could not do it without those who purchased tickets.

## Thank You's

We are blessed to receive the following: anyone who donates cans; Sandra Morrissey and Dennis Donna for the granola bars; and anonymous person who donated money; and Carolyn Leake who donated part of her stimulus money to Teen Turf.

## Needs

Juice Boxes or Bottled Juice Drinks

## Teen Turf

We are now open; however it is not like any year before. Students had to pre-register before coming and we are limited on space due to Illinois State guidelines. Please do not send a child without speaking to Eileen Piper at 815-440-8195

## Final Word

Just for today, help us, God, to remember that our life is a gift,

that our health is a blessing, that this new day is filled with awesome potential,

that we have the capacity to bring something wholly new and unique and good into this world.

Just for today, help us, God, to remember to be kind and patient to the

people who love us, and to those who work with us too. Teach us to see all the beauty that we so often ignore, and to listen to the silent longing of our own soul.

Just for today, help us, God, to remember You.

Let this be a good day, God, full of joy and love. Amen

## HEALTH

continued from page A1

There is sometimes a delay between residents receiving their positive results and the report getting to the health department; additionally, they are experiencing a surge in cases and likely have a good number of people already on their list to be contacted in the order received. See [www.LCHD.com/Covid19](http://www.LCHD.com/Covid19) for more.

## Vaccine

As of April 2, according to IDPH 15,267 does of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Lee County, and a total of 5,782 people in Lee County have received both does of the vaccine.

## ART continued from page A1

First-place winners will have their artwork displayed in the Cannon Tunnel leading to the U.S. Capitol for one full year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Congressional Institute was unable to host an in-person reception in 2020. If one is possible this year, the winner will be awarded two tickets to Washington, D.C. to attend the official art show opening and a subsequent reception.

The submission deadline for the 40th Annual Congressional Art Competition is Friday, April 30 at 5 p.m. CT in the Ottawa District Office. All high school students living in Illinois' 16th Congressional District are encouraged to participate.

For more information on the Congressional Art Competition, please see the attached flyer and visit the Congressman's website here. If you have any additional questions, please call Congressman Kinzinger's Ottawa District Office at 815-431-9271.

## 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.

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

**AMBOY**-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 12, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

**SUBLETTE**-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Parish Hall, 202 S. Locust. 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.

**MAY TWP**-The May Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, at the township maintenance building.

**AMBOY**-The U of I

Extension Webinar Series, Get Savvy-Grow Your Green Stuff, will be available from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14. This free series topic is Student Loan Repayment. Register <https://forms.uofillinois.edu/sec/1279302>.

**DIXON**-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 2 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, at Dixon Liberty Court, Friendship Lodge 7, 1409 N. Galena Ave. Call Kelly Shroyer at 815-677-8126 or 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.

**STERLING**-The U of I Extension Master Gardeners will host "Mums the Word" from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, April 17, at the Whiteside Extension Office. Discover how to grow and care for these colorful members of the daisy family. Register at: [go.illinois.edu/WhitesideMums](http://go.illinois.edu/WhitesideMums). Call Mary Nelson at 815-632-3611 for more information.

**AMBOY**-The Amboy American Legion will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 19, at the Old NAPA Building, 399 N. Metcalf Ave.

**AMBOY**-The City of

## White unveils new organ/tissue donation campaign

**SPRINGFIELD** — Secretary of State Jesse White unveiled a new ad campaign today featuring White Sox All-Star relief pitcher and longtime radio voice of the team, Ed "Farmio" Farmer, who died last year. The campaign marks the beginning of National Donate Life Month in April.

"We lost an extraordinary person with the passing of Ed Farmer," said Secretary White. "I was proud to partner with Ed on organ/tissue donation awareness campaigns in the past and saw first-hand his passion and commitment to this lifesaving program. I am proud to feature Ed in this campaign -- a man who dedicated himself to giving back to this lifesaving program. Ed was a true hero."

In the public service announcement (PSA), Ed says, "I always say, heaven knows you can't take them (organs) with you." To view the spot in English, visit <https://youtu.be/PXFBdT4bbMk>, to view the Spanish link, visit <https://youtu.be/oTqA7-FVG-E>.

For more than a decade, Ed, joined by White Sox players, participated in events at the James R. Thompson Center and Guarantee Rate Field to encourage organ and tissue donation with the Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Registry. As an advocate for donation, Ed served on the board of directors for the Polycystic Kidney Disease Research Foundation and testified in 1995 before the U.S. House of Representatives on the issue. In 2014, Ed was honored with a Champions Award from Donate Life America for his outstanding advocacy of organ donation.

Currently, there are 7.1 million people registered to become organ/tissue donors in Illinois and approximately 4,000 people are on the waiting list. About 300 die each year waiting for an organ transplant.

The PSA encourages people to enroll in the Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Registry. The television, radio, digital display and social media ads will run in English and Spanish statewide throughout the month.

During this month, Secretary White will participate in organ/tissue donor initiatives that celebrate reaching the milestone of having more than 7 million registrants in Illinois. In addition, organ/tissue donor staff will host informational tables, distribute organ donor materials, and host training sessions.

"We encourage all Illinoisans to join the organ and tissue donor registry," said White.

Illinoisans can register with the Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Registry at [LifeGoesOn.com](http://LifeGoesOn.com), 800-210-2106 or by visiting their local Driver Services facility.

Amboy Council will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 19, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

**DIXON**-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 9 a.m. until 6

p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, at the Elk's Lodge, 1279 Franklin Grove 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.

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### Amboy Lions Club



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## The Amboy News

Established In 1854



Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854

Kip Cheek, Publisher

Tonja Greenfield, General Manager

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10072020



# LOCAL NEWS

## White reminds residents to conduct business online when possible

**SPRINGFIELD**—Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White issued a reminder urging the public to visit his office's website at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) to conduct transactions online when possible instead of visiting a Driver Services facility. Over the last nine months, more than 3.8 million transactions have been conducted online, an increase of 75 percent.

In addition, White has extended all driver's license and ID card expiration dates an additional two months. All expired driver's licenses and ID cards, as well as those expiring over the next four months, are now valid until Aug. 1, 2021. This extension does not apply to commercial driver's licenses (CDL) and CDL learner's permits.

"Renew online and avoid waiting in line," said White. "More Illinoisans have taken advantage of our office's online services, and we are encouraging others to do the same. For those who must visit a facility, we ask they be patient as we are experiencing a high volume of customers."

Some online transactions include:

- Purchasing license plate stickers and
- Renewing driver's licenses and ID cards for those who qualify.

To renew license plate stickers online:

- Residents will need a registration ID and PIN, which are located on the renewal notice and registration card – which most people keep in their vehicle's glove compartment.
- Vehicle owners may then visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) and click on "License Plates Renewal" under Online

Services.

In addition, White has expanded online renewals for driver's licenses and ID cards. Not everyone qualifies, particularly those who are required to take a written or road test. Those who qualify for online renewal will receive a letter containing their PIN approximately 90 days before their driver's license expiration date.

Customers may check their eligibility status for online driver's license and ID card renewal by:

- Visiting [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) and clicking on

"Read more on how to renew your driver's license or ID card online" near the top of the main page.

• Then click on "Check your eligibility now" where they will be prompted to enter their driver's license or ID card number and the last four digits of their social security number.

"My goal remains serving the public to the best of our ability during the pandemic, and reducing facility wait times while prioritizing the health and safety of customers and employees," said White. "Those who conduct business online help shorten the line for those who must visit a facility."

## OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center receives reaccreditation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center

**ROCKFORD**—OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center further establishes its position as the number one hospital for stroke and aneurysm care in Rockford with DNV-GL reaccreditation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. OSF Saint Anthony was the first hospital to receive Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC) designation in the Rockford region in 2018 and is now the longest accredited hospital in the Rockford area for stroke and aneurysm care.

DNV-GL is a surveying, accrediting body, that partners for safer health care, providing quality driven accreditation and clinical excellence certifications to America's hospitals. The DNV-GL Comprehensive Stroke Center Recertification is the result of a thorough two-day audit at OSF Saint Anthony. This audit reviewed all aspects of the well-established comprehensive stroke program and all related treatments at OSF Saint Anthony.

"This is important to the region

and the people of Rockford," said Sue Fischer, vice president of ambulatory and procedural services for OSF Saint Anthony. "We provide the latest and best technological advances in health care. So, if you have a loved one or family member suffering from a stroke or brain aneurysm, you want them to be brought to OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center."

A Comprehensive Stroke Center like OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center has the capability of providing the most specialized care for patients with complex strokes, 24/7 – 365 days per year. OSF Saint Anthony cares for patients with all types of stroke – blood vessel blockages, as well as hemorrhagic (bleeding) strokes – often caused by ruptured brain aneurysms.

Patients have 24/7 access to minimally invasive catheter procedures to treat strokes. In 2017 OSF Saint Anthony invested \$4 million in a state-of-the-art neuro-intervention suite, a

dedicated neuro-intervention team and thorough stroke treatment protocols. The neuro-intervention surgical suite allows surgeons to capture 3-D imaging of vasculature leading to, and within the brain, and is further utilized to treat ruptured and non-ruptured brain aneurysms safely. The neuro-intervention suite also enables physicians to accurately see the blood clot causing the stroke and treat it safely and effectively by entering the brain with a catheter and removing the clot. If this procedure is performed soon after the patient's symptoms occur, the procedure can prevent the more serious effects of stroke and greatly improve recovery.

Additionally, the Comprehensive Stroke Center designation indicates OSF Saint Anthony has a dedicated neuro-intensive care unit for stroke patients, as well as a robust team of neurovascular and neurosurgical providers. These features allow OSF to support outlying primary stroke centers across the region.

## SENATE

continued from page A1

A 2020 survey by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University found that 64 percent of those responding favored redistricting reform, including 40 percent who "strongly" favored it.

Stoller said that he is calling on the Democrats in the legislature to support this bill.

He added that he is meeting with all of the state senators on a one on one basis to get to know them and get a deeper understanding of their positions. Stoller said even if they are opposing parties, they won't argue on all issues. He is hoping this will help bridge the divide between the parties.

## STATE

continued from page A1

Mobile rapid response vaccination teams have been deployed in five counties in Region 1 where IDPH epidemiologists have determined there is a need to administer doses quickly to blunt increasing trends.

These doses are on top of the allocation to the local health departments. These mobile teams will be providing single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine to county residents. Appointments will be coordinated by the local

health department.

Residents of Region 1 are also encouraged to visit the existing mass vaccination site set up in Winnebago County.

### Bridge Phase Update

Since March 8, Illinois has seen 10 days of increases in the seven-day rolling average for hospital admissions. The COVID-19 test positivity on March 10 was 2.5%. The March 26 reported test positivity is 3.3%.

While these rates are certainly significantly lower

than the peak, they represent a potential early warning sign about a possible resurgence.

Chicago has seen its daily case rate increase by nearly 50% since last week, along with six days of increases in test positivity. Suburban Cook County has seen its daily case rate increase more than 40%, along with nine days of increasing hospital bed usage. Region 1, the Northern portion of the state including Rockford and surrounding communities, has

seen eight days of increasing hospital bed usage and six days of increasing test positivity.

To advance into the Bridge Phase that is the final step before the full reopening, the entire state must achieve several metrics:

- 70% of residents 65 years and older must have received a first dose;
- Hospitals must maintain 20% or greater ICU bed availability;
- Hospitalizations for

COVID-19, admissions for COVID-like illness and deaths must hold steady or decline over a 28-day monitoring period.

As outlined in the March 18 update to the Restore Illinois plan, IDPH will evaluate statewide performance against the metrics by looking back at the data from the preceding 28 days.

While Illinois is on pace to reach 70% first doses for residents 65 years and older in the coming days, IDPH is

monitoring an increase in new hospital admissions for COVID, which will need to be appropriately addressed and resolved before moving into the Bridge Phase. IDPH epidemiologists will continue to focus on the most recent 10 days to monitor any acute trends that prevent the state from reaching the Bridge Phase.

Information regarding vaccination locations as well as details on how to book an appointment to receive the vaccine can be found at the state's COVID website, [coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://coronavirus.illinois.gov). Residents who don't have access to or need assistance navigating online services can call the toll-free IDPH hotline at 833-621-1284 to book an appointment.

The hotline is open 7 days a week from 6 a.m. to midnight with agents available in English and Spanish.

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

### St. Patrick Church

Fr. John Gow

32 N Jones, Amboy

815-857-2315 • [www.stpatrickamboy.org](http://www.stpatrickamboy.org)

Masses: Tuesday – Friday Daily Mass 8 am

Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 7:30 am & 10 am

Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 pm

Wednesday, 5:30-6:15 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Friday, 8am-5 pm

### St. Mary Church

Fr. John Gow

912 Walton Rd., Walton

815-857-2670

Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm

### St. Flannen Church

Fr. John Gow

213 S Second St., Harmon

815-857-2670

Mass: Sunday, 9 am

### United First Church of Amboy

Pastor Mark Glenn

East Main & Jefferson

815-440-0745

Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

### First Congregational United Church of

Christ of Lee Center

Pastor Jack M. Briggs

1140 Inlet Road, Lee Center

[www.LeeCenter-UCC.org](http://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](http://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.

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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](http://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 Fronck

West Brooklyn

Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m.

Saturday - 5:30 p.m.

### St. Patrick Church

Rev. Randy Fronck - Maytown

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

### Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor Barb Otten

960 U.S. Route 52

Phone 857-2225

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

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

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Rev. Randy 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.

### Refuge Church

Pastor John Kalebaugh

Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52

Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930

10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows

### Harmon United Methodist Church

Pastor Leanne Keate

202 N. Grove, Harmon

Phone 359-7302

Worship - 8:30 a.m.

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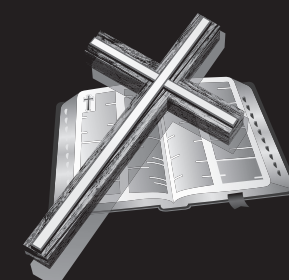
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## SOCIAL NEWS

## U. OF I. EXTENSION NEWS

## Northern Illinois 4-H Summer Day Camp – Change Your Child's Life!

Registration for 4-H Day Camp 2021 is open. 4-H Day Camp is set for June 15, 16 and 17, 2021 at Rock River Christian Camp, Polo. Sign up today to get your child in on all of the amazing fun. Youth may choose to participate in all three days of camp, or attend the dates that work best in their schedule.

2021 4-H Camp is a day camping experience that is conducted cooperatively by University of Illinois Extension staff in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties and the professional staff at RRCC.

Historically, parents have sent their children to 4-H Camp for a variety of reasons: to have fun, to make new friends, to develop new skills, to be physically active and to appreciate nature. 4-H Camp is about way more than a few days of fun. Sending your child to 4-H Camp will allow them to create memories they will carry with them through adulthood. 4-H camp teaches youth to make good decisions, build their self-confidence, become independent and gain the ability to work well with others. These skills will help youth develop into strong adult leaders. In addition, 4-H camp counselors devote much of their personal time to ensure today's campers have the same great experience they did as children.

Campers at 4-H Camp will check-in daily at 9 a.m., and daily checkout beginning at 8:00 p.m. During camp week, youth will engage in a variety of activities designed to challenge, educate and entertain. Two or three free-choice periods will be offered daily and will include options such as hiking, shooting sports, arts and crafts, crate stacking, team building challenges, zip-lining, swimming, and more. Early evening activities will be provided by the 4-H camp counselors and

include campfires, a games night and an adventure night. It is guaranteed to be a blast.

4-H Camp is open to all boys and girls, ages 8-14 by June 15, 2021. 4-H membership is not required; however, all participants will be expected to comply with the same high behavior standards expected of 4-H'ers. Youth need to be interested and excited to have a day of outdoor fun, away from television and technology.

Cost each day is \$60. All camp fees must be paid in full by May 3, 2021. Download a camper application on-line at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo/northern-illinois-4-h-camp> or you can register online at: [go.illinois.edu/4HSummerCamp](http://go.illinois.edu/4HSummerCamp). You may also call an office near you: Jo Daviess County at 815-858-2273; Ogle County Extension at 815-732-2191; or Whiteside Counties at 815-632-3611.

## 4-H Teens to teach Digital Skills in Whiteside County

In Whiteside County, local teen leaders are working with Whiteside County 4-H, community members, and Microsoft to develop targeted digital skills trainings. The training sessions will cover key topics from computer basics to social media and more.

The 4-H Digital Ambassadors are excited to bring a series of trainings to adults of all ages on the following dates: April 24, May 15 and 22, June 5 and 12, and July 17. Trainings will take place at the Whiteside County Extension Office, 12923 Lawrence Rd. from 8 - 9:30 a.m. each day. Each training will cover a different topic and will have a short question and answer time built in. Participants are encouraged to register to reserve a seat, as there is limited space and equipment. You may register by calling the Whiteside County Extension Office, 815-632-3611 or by going online at [go.illinois.edu/Whiteside4HDigital](http://go.illinois.edu/Whiteside4HDigital).

## The Book Nook

By:  
Tatjana Kazan

## Red Widow

Alma Katsu's spy thriller "Red Widow" is so terrific that even though I was in the throes of March Madness, I could not put it down. I am a big fan of John Le Carré, especially the Hunt for Karla Trilogy, and "Red Widow" compares well with that great classic. It too is a riveting hunt for a mole within the CIA rather than British Intelligence, but it is just as impenetrable, despite 2018 technologies.

Katsu was an intelligence analyst for some 35 years at the CIA and NSA, as well as RAND, the global policy think tank, and the novel feels like an insider's take on the Agency. (Katsu said she based her novel on a true story.) The two protagonists, Lyndsey Duncan, the internal investigator, and Theresa Warner, the "Red Widow," are fearless contenders in a brutal game of high-stakes espionage.

Lyndsey has recently been recalled from Lebanon for violating an Agency rule. She is on administrative leave when a Russian asset is poisoned on a flight to Washington. Years ago Lyndsey made her reputation as his handler in the Moscow Field Station. Her colleagues called her the human lie detector, a left-handed compliment considering how notoriously unreliable polygraphs are. When two more Russian assets are killed, it quickly becomes clear that a mole is at work in the CIA's Russia Division. The chief of the Division asks Lyndsey to head the internal investigation and she gratefully accepts.

Intelligence analyst Theresa Warner, the elegant wife of a former director killed in Russia during a failed mission, is the infamous "Red Widow." Most everyone in the Russia Division avoids Theresa, but when she makes an effort to befriend Lyndsey, an unlikely friendship blossoms. Theresa's knowledge and experience proves invaluable for Lyndsey's investigation. Yet Theresa inevitably becomes Lyndsey's prime suspect. It is at this point that Katsu focuses on Theresa as the novel's second protagonist who stumbles upon a key revelation. She is the consummate daredevil who takes on both burly Russian agents who talk about "the Hard Man" (Putin) and willing American traitors, as we learn bits of fascinating spycraft in the process.

In an interview, Katsu was asked about having two women as protagonists of a spy novel. The field is notoriously male dominated. In other words, "Is there room for true sisterhood in a nest of vipers?" She replied that it is a myth that women can't get along. Half the Agency is made up of women. Yet she did worry that the readership of spy novels is predominantly male. I firmly believe that a novel of such high caliber will always find its readers.

## From The Heart Calendar winners

## March 2021 From The Heart Calendar Winners

March 1 - Rochelle Foods (Matt Thimjon), \$25

March 2 - PDG Scott and Adriane Shore, Granville, \$25

March 3 - Kim Montgomery, Rochelle, \$25

March 4 - Jerry Schabacker, Ashton, \$25

March 5 - Cody Starr, Rochelle, \$25

March 6 - Rupesh Manek, Rochelle, \$25

March 7 - Julie Dilling, Rochelle, \$50

March 8 - Mari Fout, Rochelle, \$25

March 9 - Kelly Payne, Amboy, \$25

March 10 - Sandy Sullivan, Rochelle, \$25

March 11 - Sandy Gould, Steward, \$25

March 12 - Bruce Norkus, Rochelle, \$25

March 13 - Tina Vincent, Rochelle, \$25

March 14 - Anne Broderson, Stillman Valley, \$50

March 15 - Robert Eckhardt, Rochelle, \$25

March 16 - Bev Bartmess, Franklin Grove, \$25

March 17 - Gail Pyne, Sycamore, \$250

March 18 - Valerie Seiler, Stillman Valley, \$25

March 19 - Timothy Remsen, Maple Park, \$25

March 20 - Vince Carney Community Theater, \$25

March 21 - Guillermo Martinez, Rochelle, \$25

March 22 - Juan Salinas, Rochelle, \$25

March 23 - Camryn Whitaker, Rochelle, \$25

March 24 - Kelly Morris, Rochelle, \$25

March 25 - Michele Hardcastle, Rochelle, \$25

March 26 - Tina Saylor, Mendota, \$25

March 27 - Kari Andrist, Rochelle, \$25

March 28 - Rotary, Rochelle, \$50

March 29 - Rhonda Rupert, Paw Paw, \$50

March 30 - Adriana Milan, Rochelle, \$25

March 31 - Marian Austin, Rochelle, \$25

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

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

**SPRINGFIELD** — The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services today joined Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, the Poshard Foundation for Abused Children, Jackson County States Attorney Joe Cervantez, Associate Judge of the First Judicial Circuit Court Christy Solverson and John A. Logan College President Dr. Kirk Overstreet at a virtual press conference to commemorate Child Abuse Prevention Month. The online event, livestreamed from John A. Logan College in Carterville, kicked off a month-long observance to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness messages and promote prevention efforts across the country.

"This year has been extremely difficult for all of us, but it's also been a year of people and communities coming together to support each other," said Illinois DCFS Acting Director Marc D. Smith. "By texting a friend to ask how they are doing, delivering groceries to a neighbor in need or staying on a video call for a few extra minutes so a child can tell you about their day we are all doing our part to strengthen families — and when families are strong, children are safer."

"We are truly in unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on each of us and continues to impact our children and families. We've all experienced increased stress and disruption in our normal routines," said Denise McCaffrey, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Illinois. "This year more than ever, it is important that we raise awareness about child abuse prevention and create positive supports for parents and caregivers. April is the perfect time to share the message that all children deserve happy, healthy childhoods and we all have a responsibility

and a role in protecting children."

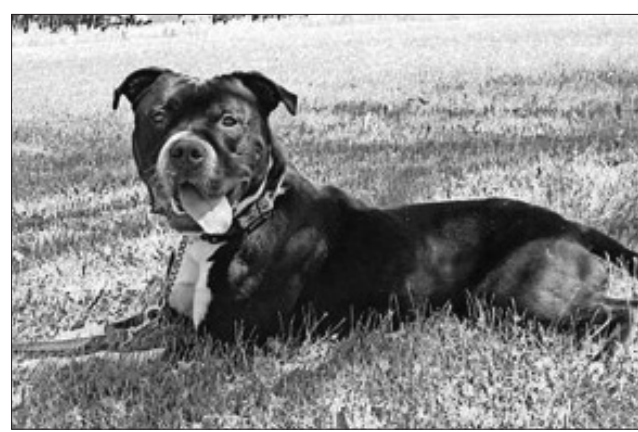
All Illinoisans can get involved and show their commitment to ending child abuse by wearing blue on April 9 and posting pictures on social media with the hashtags #GreatChildhoods and #GoBlueIllinois.

A recording of the kickoff will be made available on the DCFS Facebook page: [Facebook.com/IllinoisDCFS](https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisDCFS).

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, call the Illinois DCFS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE (800-252-2873). In a non-emergency situation, visit the Online Reporting System at <https://dcfsonlinereporting.dcf.illinois.gov/>. The user-friendly online system is an easy and convenient way for anyone to report suspected child abuse or neglect using any mobile device. Calls and online reports may be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

About the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Founded in 1964, DCFS is responsible for protecting children from abuse or neglect by responding to calls received on the Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873).

With the goal of keeping children safe, DCFS strengthens and supports families with a wide range of services. When keeping a child safe means removing them from the home, DCFS makes every effort to reunite them with their family. When the best interest of the child makes this impossible, DCFS is committed to pursuing adoption by loving families to provide children with a safe and permanent home. DCFS is also responsible for licensing and monitoring of all Illinois child welfare agencies.



## Granny Rose - Tank

Tank is a handsome Pit Bull Terrier that originally came to the shelter from animal control. He was adopted, but recently returned as it was not a good fit. His age is approximately 5 years old and he is neutered and fully vaccinated. He has a short black coat with white marking and weighs 80 pounds. This big boy is solid built and has a very friendly disposition. Tank loves attention from people and enjoys playing with toys-especially the squeaky ones! He might enjoy a larger dog companion, but he is not good with cats or smaller dogs. Tank seems housebroke and his manners are fairly good, although he does pull on the leash. To see Tank, call Granny Rose Animal Shelter at 815-288-PETS(7387) or visit [www.grannyrose.org](http://www.grannyrose.org).

Photo contributed

Illinois Valley House of Prayer\* presents:

**Dean Braxton**

A man who was dead for 1 hour & 45 minutes

**Friday, April 9**

Two Presentations:

4:30 p.m. seating begins at 4:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. seating begins at 6:30 p.m.

at the Mendota Civic Center

1901 Tom Merwin Dr., Mendota, IL

\* We will be following Illinois Covid guidelines and social distancing.

RSVP for seat reservation. Seating is limited. RSVP via Eventbrite-

Link on: <https://www.facebook.com/crossroadshouseofprayer>

\* formerly Crossroads Coffee House

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# Opinion

## Beverly Cleary revolutionized children's literature

I was in the third grade sitting on the sofa, reading a book with my grandparents when my grandma glanced out the window and gasped.

The horse in our pasture had given birth to a foal. The problem was no one knew she was pregnant.

Moments later we stood in the grass gawking at the newborn filly, wondering where and when the mare encountered a stallion and what on earth we ought to name this little horse.

I glanced at the novel in my hand, "Ramona the Brave" and said, "let's call her 'Ramona.'"

Beverly Cleary, the author of "Ramona the Brave," and 39 other books, died last week just two weeks shy of 105.

She revolutionized children's literature.

"Before Beverly Cleary, children were portrayed as very proper. Beverly Cleary changed that. The kids in her books could be messy and would fuss. She never denigrated any of her characters, but she didn't portray them as perfect either," said Michelle H. Martin, a University of Washington professor specializing in children's literature.

Nikki Kalantzis said she was nicknamed "Ramona" as a child because of the Cleary books.

"I'm 33 and my Dad still calls me 'Ramona.' It was so great reading a book with a character who was like me: a tomboy who wore overalls, annoyed her sister and got into trouble. And now, I have a 3-year-old of my own and I'm

### Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



reading those books to him, said Kalantzis, a Chicago yoga instructor.

The misadventures in Cleary's books are ordinary problems.

"My favorite story was when Ramona saw her family had bought a bunch of apples and to find out which one tasted the best she took a bite out of each one. The family's response was, 'Oh well, we'll just make apple sauce.'"

I could identify with Ramona as well. She was the kindergartener who struggled to write her name. When her teacher told her to put a cat's tail on the letter "O" to form the "Q" in her last name of "Quimby," Ramona liked the tail so much that she gave the letter cat ears and whiskers, too.

The teacher was not impressed.

I suspect I was a bit like Ramona growing up — always pushing the boundaries with the adults around me and wanting to know: why?

As I've mentioned in the past, I'm dyslexic. So, school was often a struggle for me. Too often teachers hold children with learning differences in contempt. They can't quite understand why some youngsters don't respond in the same ways as "typical" children.

I certainly felt that educator disdain when I was in the third grade. That's also when I began reading Cleary's books with the adults in my life. I could relate to the Ramonas of the world because I was one.

Cleary wrote her first book in 1950 when a little boy came into the library, where she worked, and demanded books "about kids like us."

Her first book was about Henry Huggins, a fictional boy who saved for a new football by collecting worms and selling them to fishermen for a penny a piece. (It was the sort of entrepreneurial activity I could easily see my father suggesting for me.)

Politically charged terms like "cancel culture" are often bandied about these days regarding older texts. But that hasn't been the case with Cleary's works.

They remain popular — and delightfully dated.

In the books, Ramona and her sister still walk six blocks unchaperoned to the park. Henry Huggins goes to the butcher to buy horse meat for his dog. And no, there isn't a cell phone or video game in sight.

But the challenges faced by families aren't all that different. For example, when Ramona's mother took a fulltime job, becoming the family's sole breadwinner, she didn't have time to sew her daughter's Christmas pageant costume. So, Ramona showed up in pajamas.

It's a tale most any working parent can relate to.

When dealing with a child such as Ramona, you just don't know what to expect.

So what better name to give a horse no one anticipated, than Ramona?

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](mailto:Scottreeder1965@gmail.com).



## On This Day in History

### 100 Years Ago April 8, 1921

A bill has been introduced at Springfield to change the name of the Northern Illinois State Normal, at DeKalb, to the Northern Illinois State Teachers' College of DeKalb.

Earl Antonine and Floyd Searls returned from a trip to Chicago Tuesday evening.

Miss Josie McKeever is back at her duties in Aschenbrenner's Drug Store after an illness of several weeks.

Mrs. A.H. Menzimer, Mrs. Holly Smith and daughters and Mrs. H.L. Fisher motored to Dixon Saturday.

### 75 Years Ago April 11, 1946

Grant White McGill, Jr., of Little York, has been appointed as assistant farm adviser in Lee County.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Spencer and children have moved to the Edwards house on Metcalf Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. William Andorfer were here from Freeport Sunday afternoon visiting friends. They moved to Columbia, Mo., Wednesday of this week to make their home.

### 50 Years Ago April 8, 1971

Theresa Elliott as Rosie and Kent Koppien as Albert are at odds over Mother. They are the leads on Friday and Sunday in the original "Bye Bye Birdie" presented at Amboy High School.

Lawrence R. "Larry" Morrissey, a newcomer in local politics, won the office of Amboy Township Supervisor Tuesday by a vote

of 579 to 415. He defeated the incumbent Supervisor Marvin "Ted" Miller, who was appointed by the Town Board less than a year ago to serve out the unexpired term of the late Supervisor E.F. Barnes who held the office for a number of years.

Second Ward Alderman Ted Ethridge Tuesday night complained of the large number of dogs running loose in the City of Amboy and was firm in his insistence that the police check this out thoroughly.

Approximately 100 parents and teachers were present Tuesday evening for the regular meeting of the School District No 272 board of educators. All available chairs

were occupied and many stood throughout the three hour session which ended when the board went into executive session which reportedly lasted several hours.

### 25 Years Ago April 4, 1996

After more than 10 hours of closed-door deliberations spanning two weeks, the Amboy School District 272 Board of Education unanimously approved contract renewals for the 1996-97 school year for High School Principal Kevin Holland, Jr., High School Principal Don Wyzgoski and Central School Principal Dennis Weidman. The majority of time the

Board spent in Executive Session, which is not open to the public, apparently focused on Holland and alleged problems with the administration at Amboy High School.

The Amboy Junior High School Junior Academic team won first place in the IESA Scholastic Bowl Regional 17 meet in Tampico on March 20. The team advanced to sectional competitions on March 25 at Metamora, but did not qualify for State. Regional team members were: Colleen Dickinson, Jessica Harrison, Megan McCoy, Susan Kerr, Chad Greskiwicz, Bryce Lynch, Aaron Krager, Brandon Klein, Jason Quick, Tyler Hardy and Kim Bonnell.



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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The Amboy News is in no way responsible for errors in copy furnished by the Customer. Adjustment or republication in the next available issue will be made for that amount of space involved in errors resulting from failure of the Amboy News to correct errors plainly noted on proof. Customers shall notify the Amboy News of errors in time for correction before the second insertion.

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## LOCAL NEWS

## IDNR NEWS BITS

## IDNR launches new website to encourage habitat protection

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced the launch of the new CICADA (Conservation Inclusive Construction and Development Archive) website, an online resource which aims to engage the public and private sectors in habitat protection, restoration, and biodiversity conservation through voluntary actions.

The site, which can be viewed at <https://cicada-idnr.org>, serves as a one-stop-shop for residential and private landowners, as well as commercial and industrial sectors, to find guidance and ideas to make their properties or development projects more wildlife friendly.

"With approximately 97 percent of land in Illinois in private ownership, it will take

everyone working together to help address these challenges," said IDNR Director Colleen Callahan. "From adding small pollinator gardens and nest boxes in backyards, to improving habitat on larger private properties, to implementing environmentally-responsible construction practices, CICADA has something for everyone to engage in habitat conservation."

"The IDNR and partners developed CICADA in recognition that habitat loss, degradation, and biodiversity conservation are major challenges facing current generations in Illinois and around the world," said Nathan Grider, manager of the IDNR Impact Assessment Section, which spearheaded the project. "Together, we pulled information from a variety of IDNR and partner programs

to make the site as accessible and user-friendly as possible."

The website features a clean, modern design organized by various audiences and topic areas. Within each conservation topic, those who click onto CICADA will find short, fun-to-read introductions and "how-to" conservation and habitat management guidance documents, as well as more in depth, technical documents.

CICADA users also will be linked to assistance programs for landowners, conservation tax-deductible donation opportunities through the Illinois Conservation Foundation, and much more.

The CICADA website also features a project showcase page where habitat-friendly projects can be submitted by the public for

consideration and viewed by website visitors to provide inspiration and share ideas. Information also is provided on how to certify habitat projects with various organizations.

"The CICADA website has something for everyone to engage more in conservation and have fun doing it," Grider said. "The timing couldn't be better with so much increasing public interest in these important topics."

IDNR partnered with The National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, a division of Lewis and Clark Community College, and 2WAV software developers for the project.

Funding was provided through the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund dedicated for preserving, protecting, perpetuating, and enhancing non-game wildlife in the state.

# Illinois 2021 spring trout fishing season opened April 3

**SPRINGFIELD**—The 2021 Illinois Spring Trout Fishing Season will open Saturday, April 3 at 57 ponds, lakes and streams throughout the state.

An early opportunity at select trout sites – the Spring Catch-and-Release Fishing Season – will open March 20. No trout may be kept during the catch and release fishing period, but anglers can keep trout after the opening of the regular season beginning April 3.

The Illinois Catchable Trout Program is funded by those who use the program through the sale of Inland Trout Stamps. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted during the spring season. An additional 80,000 trout will be stocked for the Fall Trout Fishing Season, which begins in October.

For the 2021 spring trout season, no trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites from March 15 until the season opens at 5 a.m. April 3.

Anyone attempting to harvest trout before the legal harvest season opening will be issued citations.

All anglers – including those who intend to release fish caught before April 3 – must have a fishing license and an Inland Trout Stamp, unless they are under the age of 16, blind or disabled, or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces. The daily catch limit for each angler is five trout.

For more information on trout seasons and other Illinois

fishing opportunities, check the website at [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org).

Illinois 2021 fishing licenses and Inland Trout Stamps are available now at IDNR license and permit locations, including many bait shops, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets. For a list of locations, check the IDNR website at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov).

Fishing licenses and trout stamps also can be purchased online. Find the link on the IDNR website at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov).

For information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Not all sites open at 5 a.m. on opening day. Anglers are reminded to check the opening time of their favorite sites prior to the open date.

Among the locations that will be open for the spring trout season are:

- Hennepin Canal Parkway-Bureau County
  - Big Lake, Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area (SFWA)-Kendall County
  - Illinois and Michigan Canal Lock 14, LaSalle-LaSalle County
  - Lake Mendota, City of Mendota-LaSalle County
  - Pine Creek, White Pines Forest State Park\*\*-Ogle County
  - Centennial Park Pond, Rock Falls-Whiteside County
- (\*\* Denotes site open for Catch-and-Release Early Spring Season fishing)



## Granny Rose - Chase

*Chase is a Chihuahua/Rat Terrier mix with a short white and black coat. He is neutered. This tiny guy at 9 pounds can have a pretty big attitude! He's only 2 1/2 years old. Chase has never lived with children or other dogs and we would not recommend it. This cutie is housebroke and knows how to sit when asked. Strangers are scary and threatening. He must slowly be introduced to new people. Otherwise, he might nip out of fear or protectiveness of his person. Chase can be very loving and willing to snuggle or cuddle. He acted like a little "show dog" posing for his pictures!*

To see Chase, call Granny Rose Animal Shelter at 815-288-PETS(7387) or visit [www.grannyrose.org](http://www.grannyrose.org).

Photo contributed

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT  
LEE COUNTY,  
ILLINOIS  
ESTATE OF  
Donna J. Gilmore,  
deceased  
Case No. 2021-P-38  
CLAIM NOTICE  
Notice is given of the  
death of Donna J.  
Gilmore of Compton,  
Illinois. Letters of

Office were issued  
on March 25, 2021 to  
Scott E. Gilmore of  
2853 Chicago Road,  
Compton, IL 61318  
and Steven F. Gilmore  
of 221 West Chestnut  
Street, Compton, IL  
61318 as Independent  
Co-Executors whose  
attorney is Guilfoyle  
& Stevenson, LLP,  
1316 Meriden Street,  
Mendota, IL 61342.  
Claims against the  
estate may be filed in

the Office of the Lee  
County Circuit Clerk,  
Probate Division, Lee  
County Courthouse,  
309 S. Galena Avenue,  
Dixon, IL 61021, or  
with the representative  
or both on or before  
October 15, 2021 and  
any claim not filed  
within that period is  
barred.

Copies of a claim filed  
with the Clerk must be  
mailed or delivered to  
the Representative and  
to the Attorney within  
ten days after it has  
been filed.  
March 31, April 7, 14,  
2021  
No. 0317

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice of Public  
Hearing Township  
Budget  
Notice is hereby given  
that a Tentative Budget  
and Appropriation  
Ordinance for the  
Sublette Township,  
Lee County, Illinois,  
for the fiscal year  
beginning April 1, 2021  
and ending March 31,  
2022, will be on file and  
conveniently available  
to public inspection at  
445 LaMoille Rd Sublette,  
IL 61367 from and after  
6 P.M. on April 1, 2021.  
Notice is further given  
that a public hearing  
on said Budget and  
Appropriation  
Ordinance will be at 7  
P.M. on May 11, 2021,  
at Sublette Township  
Bldg. Sublette, IL and  
that final action on this  
ordinance will be taken  
at a meeting to be held  
at Sublette Township  
Bldg. Sublette, IL at 7  
P.M., May 11, 2021.

Dated this 1st day of  
April, 2021.  
Daniel Stephenitch,  
Supervisor  
Deborah A. Schultz,  
Clerk  
No. 0401  
April 7, 2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice of Public Hearing  
Road District Budget  
Notice is hereby given that  
a Tentative Budget and  
Appropriation Ordinance  
for the Sublette Road  
District, Lee County,  
Illinois, for the fiscal year  
beginning April 1, 2021  
and ending March 31,  
2022, will be on file and  
conveniently available to  
public inspection at 445  
LaMoille Rd Sublette, IL  
61367 from and after 6  
P.M. on April 1, 2021.  
Notice is further given that  
a public hearing on said  
Budget and Appropriation  
Ordinance will be at 7  
P.M. on May 11, 2021, at  
Sublette Township Bldg.  
Sublette, IL and that final  
action on this ordinance  
will be taken at the public  
meeting.  
Dated this 1st day of  
April, 2021.  
Daniel Stephenitch,  
Supervisor  
Deborah A. Schultz,  
Clerk  
No. 0402  
April 7, 2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT  
LEE COUNTY,  
ILLINOIS  
ESTATE )  
OF )Case  
Eugene )No.  
A. )2021  
Leffelman, )P 37  
deceased )  
CLAIM NOTICE  
Notice is given of the  
death of Eugene A.  
Leffelman of Sublette,  
Illinois. Letters of Office  
were issued on March  
24, 2021 to Scott A.  
Leffelman of 1939 Ole

Hickory Rd., Amboy, IL  
61310 as Independent  
Executor whose  
attorney is Guilfoyle  
& Stevenson, LLP,  
1316 Meriden Street,  
Mendota, IL 61342.  
Claims against the  
estate may be filed in  
the Office of the Lee  
County Circuit Clerk,  
Probate Division, Lee  
County Courthouse,  
309 S. Galena Avenue,  
Dixon, IL 61021, or  
with the representative  
or both on or before  
October 15, 2021 and  
any claim not filed  
within that period is  
barred.  
Copies of a claim filed  
with the Clerk must be  
mailed or delivered to  
the Representative and  
to the Attorney within  
ten days after it has  
been filed.  
April 7, 14, 21, 2021  
No. 0403

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does  
not knowingly accept  
fraudulent or deceptive  
advertising. Readers  
are cautioned to  
thoroughly investigate  
all ads, especially those  
asking for money in  
advance.

## 105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

"This publication does  
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or operating under a  
permit issued by the  
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## 305 GARAGE/RUMMAGE SALES

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Moving Sale, Saturday  
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Ogle County Life • Rochelle  
Shopping News • Ashton  
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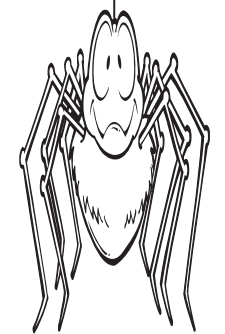
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2019 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab, LTZ, 4x4, Sunroof, Z71, Gray.....	\$49,900	2017 Chevrolet K-1500 Crew 4x4 LT, Leather, Pepperclust, 63K miles..	\$32,900
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The Rochelle News-Leader newspaper, a twice-weekly publication serving a progressive, friendly and close-knit community in northern Illinois, has an immediate opening for a managing editor who will also report, write, photograph and paginate for every issue.

The News-Leader is recognized as one of the Rochelle area's top hometown news sources and focuses on providing a variety of pertinent and interesting articles about local happenings in both print and digital fashion.

Serious candidates must have a strong nose for news and the passion to report on and write in-depth news stories and features, while also possessing good writing, communication, organization and social media skills. Applicants with InDesign pagination experience put themselves in a stronger position.

We offer a competitive salary commiserate with experience, a pleasant working environment, paid vacation, paid sick time, excellent medical benefits and a 401K investment plan.

Rochelle is located approximately 85 miles west of downtown Chicago, 25 minutes south of Rockford, 20 minutes west of Northern Illinois University, and less than an hour from the Wisconsin border. Many popular state recreational parks and entertainment venues are within a short drive, as is the scenic Rock River. Two major interstate highways intersect near Rochelle and make regional travel convenient.

Qualified applicants willing to reside in Rochelle and become immersed in the community, should post their resumes to this site as instructed, but they may also email their resumes and any clips to News-Leader general manager Mike Feltes at mfeltes@oglecountylife.com or mail them to P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068.

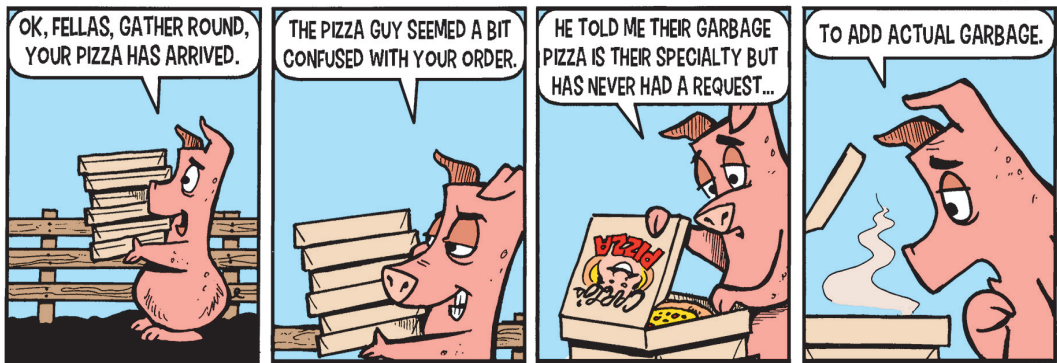
ROCHELLE  
**News-Leader**



# LOCAL NEWS

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



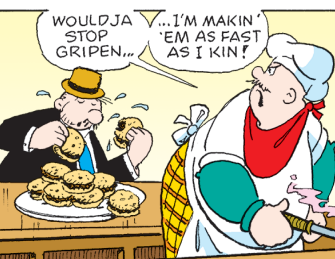
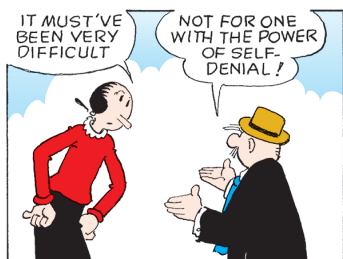
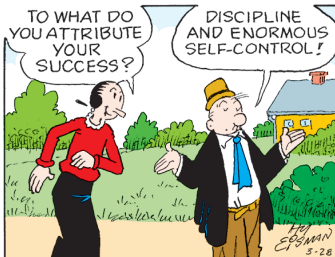
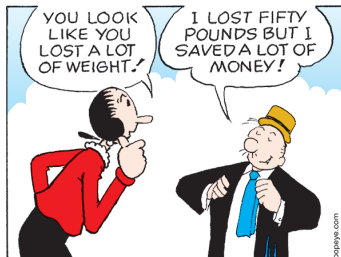
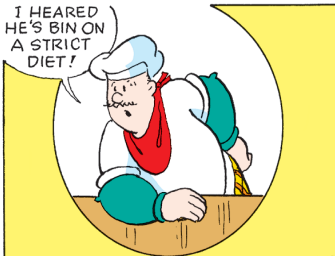
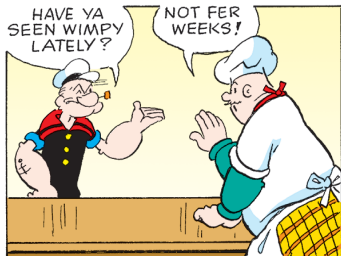
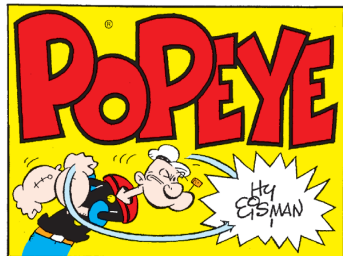
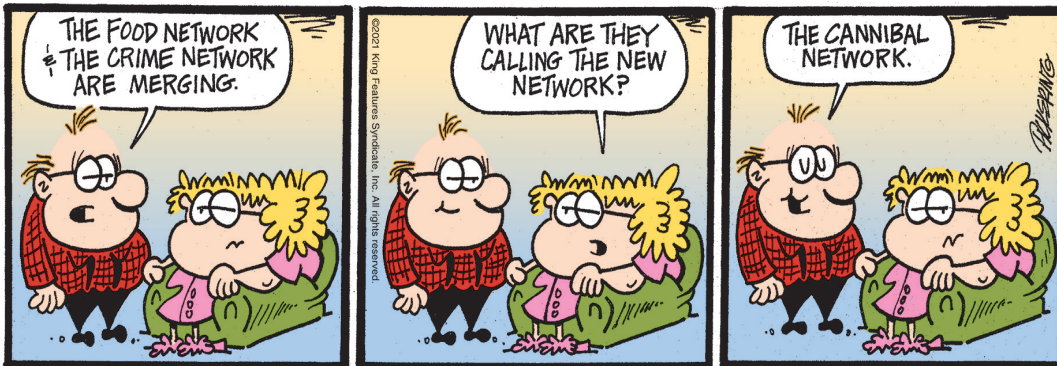
## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



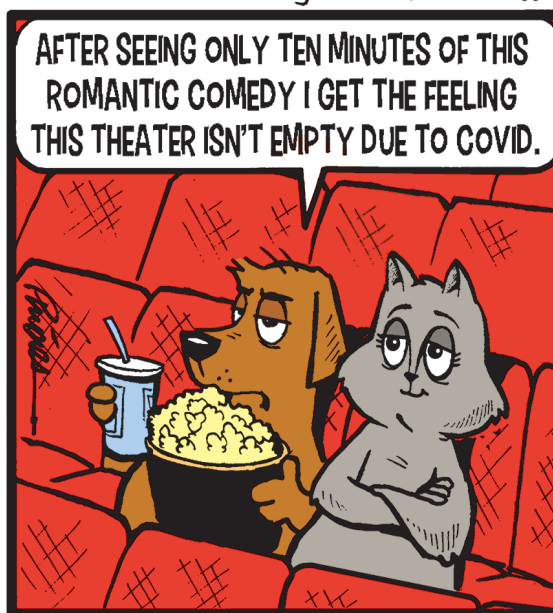
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## LAFF-A-DAY



## SCRAMBLERS

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

Waver  
ARTFEL

Bird  
AGLEE

Explore  
REEKES

Emanate  
DEUXE

## TODAY'S WORD

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## King Crossword

Posting Date April 5, 2021

### ACROSS

- 1 Zilch  
5 Male swan  
8 "Ditto"  
12 Mideast air-line  
13 Glacial  
14 "Let's go!"  
15 Pattern  
17 Help a hood  
18 Old photo tint  
19 Walks with pride  
21 Yuletide tune  
24 Archipelago unit (Abbr.)  
25 Verifiable  
28 Carton sealer  
30 Mimic  
33 Hostel  
34 Goes belly up  
35 Water tester  
36 "Acid"  
37 French 101 verb  
38 Quick look  
39 Online address  
41 Ump's call  
43 Steak choices  
46 Toy bricks  
50 Actor McGregor  
51 Intensify  
54 Damon of Hollywood  
55 Essen exclamation  
56 Grand tale

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18							19	20				
				21		22	23		24			
25	26	27			28		29			30	31	32
33					34					35		
36					37				38			
			39	40			41		42			
43	44				45		46		47	48	49	
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

- 57 On the briny  
58 Fish story  
59 Take five
- 9 Walk  
10 Champagne brand  
11 Tolkien creatures  
16 Thai language  
20 Cravats  
22 Coup d' —  
23 Hideaways  
25 Up to  
26 ER workers  
27 Move in waves  
29 Entreaty  
31 "The Raven" writer  
32 "A mouse!"
- 34 Fedora fabric  
38 Kitchen gadget  
40 Oscar de la —  
42 Ga. neighbor org.  
43 Disaster aid  
44 "As — saying ..."  
45 Barking critter  
47 Be slack-jawed  
48 Elevator name  
49 Faction  
52 High school subj.  
53 "Evita" role

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

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## Trivia test

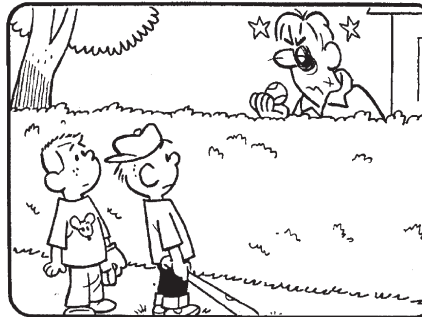
by Fifi Rodriguez

- LANGUAGE: What is the word for "M" in the international alphabet code used in radio?
- TELEVISION: What was the real first name of the character Fonzie in the comedy "Happy Days"?
- SCIENCE: Which country has the greatest number of tornados annually?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Australia?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are the only two known mammals that lay eggs?
- LITERATURE: What was the name of the first monster in "Beowulf"?
- MOVIES: What was the name of the villain in the movie "Three Amigos!"?
- U.S. STATES: What is the nickname of Wyoming?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the color of envy, culturally speaking?
- BUSINESS: Which country's basic currency is the sol?

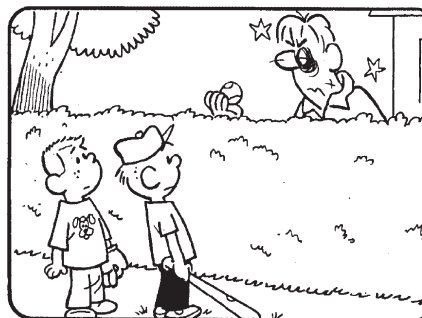
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.



Differences: Cap is reversed; 2. Star is moved; 3. Sleeve is shorter; 4. Hand is moved; 5. Collar is missing; 6. Shirt is different.

## REFLEXES

Today's Word

1. Falter 2. Eagle;

3. Seeker; 4. Exude

## SCRAMBLERS

Clue: R equals S

## 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: R equals S

JP Y FYO ISZBM ISFT VS Y ISRVZFT

AYUVQ MUTRRM YR Y DOJPT, XT'M

BSSD UTYBBQ RXYUA.

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

Answer

## Weekly SUDOKU

If a man could come to a costume party dressed as a knife, he'd look really sharp.

answer

CryptoQuip



# LOCAL NEWS

## Illinois Department of Insurance announces ACA Marketplace enrollment deadline is extended to Aug. 15, 2021

**CHICAGO** – Eligible Illinoisans now have more time to sign up for ACA Health Insurance Marketplace plans. President Biden has extended the deadline for the Special Enrollment Period in Response to COVID-19 from May 15 to Aug. 15.

According to the most recent federal CMS numbers, more than 5,300 Illinois consumers purchased and enrolled in health plans since February when President Biden signed an executive order to open the ACA Marketplace for the Special Enrollment Period. Unlike other SEPs, consumers are not required to provide proof of a qualifying life event, such as getting married, having a baby, or losing

job-based coverage to enroll.

“We’re grateful to President Biden for giving people additional time to find affordable health coverage, and we look forward to the ACA Marketplace enrollment numbers going up,” said IDOI Acting Director Dana Popish Severinghaus. “Also, under the American Rescue Plan, more Illinoisans may receive help to lower the cost of their monthly insurance premiums.”

The American Rescue Plan offers increased savings for many consumers who buy health insurance directly through the ACA Marketplace. Starting April 1, 2021, consumers enrolling in ACA Marketplace coverage

through [getcoveredillinois.gov](http://getcoveredillinois.gov) and Health-Care.gov are eligible to receive increased tax credits to reduce their insurance premiums. An estimated 130,500 uninsured Illinoisans are now eligible.\*

IDOI recommends Get Covered Illinois, the state’s official health marketplace, for up-to-date information about the Special Enrollment Period and deadline extension. “Get Covered Illinois is a trusted resource for Illinoisans seeking to shop and enroll in an ACA Marketplace plan,” said Executive Director Laura Pellikan. “We understand that people may need guidance to find the best health insurance option for their family.

So, we encourage consumers to visit [www.getcoveredillinois.gov](http://www.getcoveredillinois.gov) to get free enrollment assistance to compare plans and find out if they qualify for financial help.”

Get Covered Illinois (GCI), a division of the Illinois Department of Insurance, is the official health marketplace or “exchange” for Illinois consumers to purchase quality, affordable health insurance, facilitated by the federal government through the ACA Marketplace.

For more information on the 2021 Special Enrollment Period in Response to COVID-19 deadline extension for the ACA Marketplace, visit [www.getcoveredillinois.gov](http://www.getcoveredillinois.gov).

## IDOT asks drivers to think before you throw out the trash

**SPRINGFIELD** – With the arrival of spring, the Illinois Department of Transportation is reminding drivers to be on the lookout for crews picking up litter and asking the public to do its part by properly disposing trash and saving taxpayers millions of dollars a year in unnecessary costs.

“While IDOT is committed to maintaining a positive impression of Illinois by having our maintenance teams collect litter from our roadsides, we need your help,” said Acting

Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “If the warmer temperatures make you tempted to toss that food wrapper or pop can out your car window, please don’t. Trash is more than just an eyesore. It has real, negative impacts on both the environment and our communities.”

Other litter facts:

- Last year, IDOT spent approximately \$6.1 million on litter pickup, the equivalent of resurfacing 30 miles of road or purchasing 40 new maintenance trucks that also plow

snow in winter.

- Items tossed onto the road cause distractions, crashes and even hurt people. They also put workers who have to pick them up later at risk.

- Littering is illegal, subject to a fine of up to \$1,500. If convicted of littering on a highway, the violator may, in addition to other penalties, be required to maintain litter control for 30 days over a portion of that highway as well.

- Litter kills plants and animals.

- It’s unsightly – no one likes to live where there’s litter.

- Littering is a problem that’s easily controlled. Use a trash can instead.

- Remember: Think before you throw.

After limiting activities in 2020 due to COVID-19, IDOT’s Adopt-A-Highway program is resuming normal operations. The program partners IDOT with volunteer groups to help keep the state’s non-interstate roadsides clean.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Clipper Highlights: #21 Spencer Johnson

This week we highlight another Clipper who is among one of our elite Clipper Running Backs. I'm honored to announce this Week's Clipper, #21, Spencer Johnson.

Spencer was a 2013 graduate of Amboy High School and two year Varsity starter at Running Back.

What most of us in this group don't know is that Spencer spent his first two high school football seasons at Dixon high school.

"My first two years in high school we didn't win a game. My sophomore year my dad, a former Clipper, took me and my older brother Tyler to the 2010 first round playoff game, Amboy vs. Newman. It was a great football game. I watched the fight, the grit, and the passion Amboy played with and that next week my brother and I transferred to Amboy," Spencer shared. Spencer knew from that game that he wanted to be a part of our program.

To just be "a part of" is an understatement when it comes to Spencer's career as a Clipper. He not only is one of the best Clipper Running Backs in the modern era, but displayed all that is Clipper football by his hard work, toughness, and "buy in" to our Clipper program.

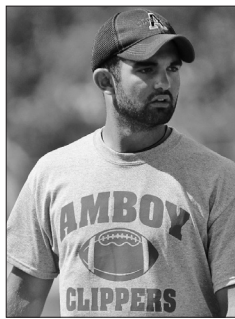
Spencer's Junior season he started both ways at Running Back and Defensive Back. The 2011 Clippers were young, talented, often undersized, and eager to continue our Playoff streak. A tough campaign led to a 4-5 record without a playoff berth.

Spencer shared, "we could have been 5-4 or 6-3 if a couple things go different for us." Spencer finished his Junior season earning Second Team All Conference at Running Back, Most Valuable Clipper Back, and Team MVP.

Former Teammate and friend, Mike Stephenitch shared the following, "Spencer (SJ) moved to Amboy his Sophomore year. We had just suffered a heartbreaking loss to Newman in the first round of playoffs my Junior year. I didn't know Spencer at all at that time. Throughout that school year and into the following years football season, we became great friends. SJ was one of our most reliable

### Clipper Highlights

By Spencer Morrissey



two way players his Junior year, playing running back and cornerback. Spencer, as a Junior, was undersized compared to other running backs in the conference. However, his quick feet and mindset made him special. He got hit hard a lot that year. He always got up and put it all on the line every single week. By the end of that football season, my respect for SJ as a person and a teammate grew to new heights. Spencer had a good Junior year and I knew he was poised to have a great Senior year. It was a pleasure to go into battle every Friday night with SJ."

Forward to summer 2012. There was a new buzz around town. The 2012 Clippers were loaded with experienced talent and ready to set the ship's course once again. Bearing a striking resemblance to the great 80's teams, the 2012 Clippers were right up there with the best Clipper teams of the modern era. Spencer and his teammates not only put work in for the mandatory weight lifting sessions or the scheduled practices. A vast number of Clippers made the commitment to their team by going to speed camp on top of their mandatory program commitments. As a returning starter and Senior leader, Spencer was at the forefront of that hard work. Spencer was named pre-season All Area by the Sauk Valley News.

The 2012 Clippers started out red hot posting a 5-0 record before sustaining their first loss to Newman. Spencer led a stable of running backs making the Clipper power and option running game as deadly as its ever been. The Clippers finished

the regular season posting a 7-2 overall record. Their losses came against Newman and St. Bede. However, they have some impressive victories, Spring Valley Hall, Kewanee, Riverdale, Morrison, Fulton, and Bureau Valley. A display of a rigorous Big Rivers Conference schedule.

The 2012 Clippers clinched a home playoff game against Winetka and took care of business at The Harbor. The following week, the Clippers sailed to Orion and came out with a big win. It was said that Amboy had just as many people, if not more, in the stands as Orion did. The Clippers would return home to The Harbor for a Quarterfinal matchup with #1 ranked Mercer County. A back and forth, hard fought contest would end in defeat for the Clippers. For a kid who didn't begin his career as a Clipper, Spencer etched himself in Clipper history forever.

Spencer finished the 2012 season earning Second Team All Conference at Running Back and the Mark Smith Team Award.

Clipper Quarterback, teammate, and friend, Tyson Powers shared the following, "Spencer was not only a great running back on our teams for two years but he was a great leader as well. There was a state of uncertainty about who was going to play running back for us our junior year and Spencer stepped in and took the reigns and had a great year as a junior setting the stage for a big senior season. The offseason going into our senior year, you could argue, Spencer was one of the hardest workers we had that whole offseason. That work carried over to the playing field as he led our trio of running backs that all rushed for over 1000 yards. Spencer was not only another great running back in a long line of Clipper running backs but he was an even better teammate and friend."

Former Clipper lineman, teammate, and friend, Emmitt Hicks shared, "When I was asked to give a quote about Spencer the first memory that came to my mind was from my junior year which was Spencer's senior year. It was from a home game we were playing against Kewanee and we were about

30 yards out from the end zone. Spencer ran the play into the huddle and said 26 power to the house and we all kinda looked at him and then Tyson turned to the rest of us and said you heard him 26 power to the house. And sure enough he did it to he ran around the corner and took it in the end zone. Spencer was a big part of the 2012 Amboy Clipper team that season and he worked hard for it to. He was always trying to go the extra step to better himself and his team and do whatever it took to get better. Blocking and playing alongside Spencer for 2 years are memories that I will never forget."

Former teammate and friend, Damon Quest remembers that same moment as he shared, "Spencer was always a great teammate and friend. He was always willing to put the work in on and off the field to put his best foot forward. He was one of the guys that was always at the high school during the off-season and before/after practice putting in work. I'm sure I'm not the only one you will here this from if you talk to anyone else on the offensive unit but he ran a play in to the huddle once and said '26 power to the house' and Tyson said 'well, you heard him 26 power to the house run it.' And we did. To the house."

The 2012 Clippers not only bore an on field resemblance to some of the greatest Clipper teams, but shared a great bond with one another, a closeness that couldn't break.

"We all believed in one another, held each other accountable, and trusted one another. It didn't matter if it was on the football field or not, we always had one another's back," Spencer concluded.

Spencer displayed the toughness, grit, supreme confidence, work ethic, and athleticism that all of our greatest Clippers have before him. To think he spent time in another color uniform in high school is shocking as the Clipper Red is right where he belongs. His style reminds me a little of Clipper Great, Dennis Ely. Undersized but tough as nails and an attitude that doesn't quit.

Spencer shared, during our conversation, "I take that same attitude and discipline



#21 Spencer Johnson

learned from the roots of our community and our program into my life today. It's helped me as a Soldier and continues to aid me in life."

Needless to say, Clipper football means everything to Spencer to this day.

So, to two-time All Conference Running Back, #21, Spencer Johnson, thank you for your contributions to Amboy Football. You earned your sails, as all of us have, in the two short years of your Clipper career but you've proven, by your exploits, work ethic, and character that being a Clipper is where you

belong. 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.

## Lady Clippers pick up three more wins

AMBOY — The Amboy varsity volleyball team picked up three more wins last week to improve its record to 5-1 overall and 4-0 in the conference.

Amboy traveled to Sandwich on March 29 and came away with a 22-25, 25-22, 25-22 win.

Gabby Jones led with 27 assists and two ace serves. Mallory Powers and Brooklyn Whelchel each picked up three blocks, while Powers also had 15 kills and 14 digs. Eden Lindenmeyer paced the team with 21 digs and Madelyn McLaughlin chipped in with seven kills.

\*\*\*  
The Lady Clippers needed three sets to dispose of Milledgeville 13-25, 27-25, 25-13 on March 30 at the AHS gym.

Leaders in kills were Olivia Dinges (6) and Powers (4). Topping the team in digs were Lindenmeyer (8), Powers (6)

and McLaughlin (6), while Gabby Jones had three ace serves and 15 assists.

\*\*\*  
Amboy and Milledgeville met up again on April 1 at Milledgeville and the Lady Clippers won on straight sets 25-17, 25-23.

Powers put down eight kills and dug up five digs to lead the club, while McLaughlin posted 18 assists and three aces. Ely Jones aided the cause with four kills and three assists.

## Steward Grade School announces its third quarter honor roll

STEWART — Steward Grade School announces its third quarter honor roll.

**Highest Honors**  
(97%-100%. No individual grades below 90%)

Morgan DeLille, Braylon Wells, Elizabeth Hayes, Reese Wells, and Brynndyl Mellor

**High Honors**  
(94%-96%. No individual grades below 85%)

Aiden Connolly, Raylan Davis, Matilda Gonser, Evi O'Rourke-Silva, Lucas Smardo, Benjamin Hayes,

Tenley Ramsey, Christopher Lopez, Ryley Ginn, Derik Maertz, Gavyn Foster, Barbara Palmer, Logan Frye, Jack Tarvestad Tyson Pavlak, and Derek Swartz

**Honors**  
(90%-93%. No individual grades below 80%)

Garrett Davis, Diana Lopez, Finnigan Powell McKenzie Smith, Carter Gittleston, Jamie Riddell, Alayna Smardo, Isaac Gittleston, Bryson Wells, Angel Hueramo, and Elyzabyth Jensen

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

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## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

**Football**  
Sean Fitzpatrick

**Volleyball**  
Madelyn McLaughlin

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### Portabella Mushrooms

6 oz. package

**\$2.89**

ea.



### Tomatoes on the Vine

**\$1.89**

/lb.



### Green Onion

**69¢**

/sleeve



### Cantaloupe

**\$2.49**

ea.



### Yukon Gold Potatoes

5 lb. bag

**\$3.99**

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### Cauliflower

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### Yellow Sweet Onions

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24 pack cans Assorted

**\$8.99**

ea.

Reg. Price \$9.99 ea.



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ea.

Reg. Price \$4.49 ea.



## WEEKLY SPECIALS

### Any Party Size Chips

Assorted

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ea.

Reg. Price \$4.79-\$5.29 ea.



### Creamette Pasta

Assorted 16 oz.

**\$1.29**

ea.

Reg. Price \$1.79 ea.



### Oscar Mayer Weiner or Smokies

Assorted 16 oz.

**\$2.99**

ea.

Reg. Price \$3.79 ea.



### Sugardale Bacon

16 oz

**\$5.99**

ea.

Reg. Price \$6.49 ea.



### A-1 Steak Sauce

10 oz

**\$4.99**

ea.

Reg. Price \$5.89 ea.



### Oscar Mayer Bacon Bits

Assorted 2-3 oz

**\$1.99**

ea.

Reg. Price \$2.69 ea.



### Food Club Peppers

Assorted 16 oz

**\$1.99**

ea.

Reg. Price \$2.69 ea.



### Pillsbury Toaster Strudles

Assorted 11.7 oz

**\$2.39**

ea.

Reg. Price \$2.79 ea.



### Florida Natural Orange Juice

52 oz

**\$3.29**

ea.

Reg. Price \$3.79 ea.



### V-8 Splash Juice

Assorted 64 oz

**\$2.29**

ea.

Reg. Price \$2.69 ea.



### Dean's Dip

Assorted 16 oz.

**\$1.99**

ea.

Reg. Price \$2.39 ea.



Sale goes through April 13, 2021