



AMBOY LIONS GET TO WORK PLANNING ROSE DAY

The Amboy Lions Club met Monday night for the first time since Sept. 14, 2020. Pictured left to right are Treasurer Edy Pfeiffer, Jim Travi, President Dave Kemp and Larry Eisenberg. The club meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. The club's main topic of discussion on Monday night was the Annual Rose Day Sale. Delivery this year will be on Saturday, March 27.

Mary Mays/Amboy News

Lee County provides rapid COVID tests for Amboy students

BY BONNIE MORRIS

Editor

AMBOY—Rapid tests for COVID-19 are now available in Amboy schools. Reporting at the Feb. 18 board of education meeting, Superintendent Joshua Nichols said thanks to the Lee County Health Department, the district now has 80 rapid tests. The tests can be used on students who are showing symptoms, as long as parental consent has been given, and results are ready in 15 minutes.

"We are very excited to have these tests available and the county said we should be able to get more tests if needed," Nichols told the board.

The continued cold weather in recent weeks caused a number of heating and maintenance problems in all three school buildings. Although all of the issues appeared to be fixed for now, Nichols said the severe cold had taken its toll.

"With all the problems at the junior high especially, the sooner the heating season is over, it won't be soon enough," he said.

See **BOARD** page A9

Lee County Sheriff warns of COVID vaccine scams

LEE COUNTY — The Lee County Sheriff's office has been made aware of a new scam.

Citizens are reporting they are receiving calls from someone identifying themselves as the Lee County Health Department. The caller asks for the other parties social security number to complete COVID vaccine paperwork.

Please note that these calls are NOT from the health department. They will not ask for social security numbers

over the phone.

The sheriff's office know people are anxious to get their vaccine; therefore, wanted to get this information to the public to hopefully avoid anyone falling subject to this scam.

Please share this information.



UNDEFEATED

The Lady Clippers continue their undefeated season

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CLIPPER HIGHLIGHTS

This week's column features #68 Mark McCaffrey

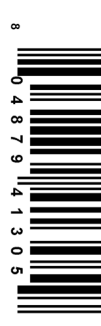
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James Dickison
Mary Louise Branigan

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William and Betty Kidd Scholarships available

BY MARK BECKER

Amboy Education Foundation

AMBOY—At the risk of overusing an old cliché, but "Sometimes it is too easy to forget how blessed we are."

The truest example of this is the ability/honor to formally announce the William and Betty Kidd Scholarship. William and Betty has entrusted the Amboy Education Foundation (AEF) with a substantial endowment to provide scholarships to the students of Amboy CUSD #272.

Their generosity is just another example of the caring and supportive community we live in. This endowment will have a positive impact on numerous Amboy students for decades to come.

As many are aware, William and Betty were lifelong farmers and lifetime residents of the Amboy community, attended the United Methodist Church and lived a quiet, peaceful life. In essence, they were bona fide members of the group we call the greatest generation.

Everyone I asked about them described them with high regard and the nicest couple. Another insight was they were known to have a soft spot for those in need and wanted to help kids get an education that might not be able to attend college without a little help.

William was a veteran of World War II and a proud alumni of Cornell College in Mt Vernon, Iowa. They have asked preference be shown to any Amboy

High School graduates attending his alma mater.

This year we have allocated \$40,000 to scholarships. Scholarships are available for Vocational/Trades colleges as well as Community Colleges and Universities.

There are also small scholarships for students attending the Whiteside Vocational Career Center of Sauk Valley Community College under the Dual Credit program.

Interested students can contact Mr. Wissinger or Mrs. Crownhart.

The Amboy Education Foundation is grateful for the trust extended by William and Betty Kidd to help carry on their legacy.

Region 1 sees decrease in number of vaccines available

NORTHERN ILLINOIS — Whiteside County announced on Feb. 17, that Whiteside County, Region 1 and the entire State is experiencing a significant decrease in the supply of COVID-19 vaccine received for administration in the next few weeks. The majority of doses being distributed this week and next week are intended for 2nd doses. This decrease in vaccine may cause delays or cancellation of some vaccination appointments.

The Ogle County Health Department addressed the issue on Facebook on Feb. 17 saying they are using all current allocations to complete 2nd doses, and that they are not able to schedule any 1st dose appointments at this time due to a 75% reduction in allocations. This reduction is expected at a minimum for

the next three weeks. The weather has caused some delay in the receipt of vaccine as well.

The Ogle County Health Department went on to say, the decrease in vaccine may cause a delay or cancellation of some vaccination appointments and that they will work with those impacted. "Our partners at KSB and Rochelle Community Hospital receive their allocations from the Ogle County Health Department, so they will be impacted as well," the message continued.

They continued that due to the size of phase 1b and the current allocations, they are asking everyone to please be patient at this time, as demand for the vaccine far exceeds doses being received from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

See **VACCINE** page A3

Lee County COVID-19 Update: Feb. 22, 2021

LEE COUNTY — Between Feb. 13-22, the Lee County Health Department has reported a total of 48 new cases have been reported, including two cases from the Dixon Correctional Center. Here are the ages that were announced: 1 under the age of 12, 3 in his or her teens, 5 in his or her 20s, 9 in his or her 30s, 6 in his or her 40s, 11 in his or her 50s, 7 in his or her 60s, 1 in his or her 70s, and 1 in his or her 80s.

This brings the total number of cases to 3,049 as of Feb. 22. Of the 3,049 cases, 2,539 have recovered. They also reported as of Feb. 22, 5 residents have been hospitalized and 60 residents have died.

Vaccine

As of Feb. 19, according to IDPH 6,180 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Lee County, and a total of 1,882 people in Lee County have received both doses of the vaccine.

See **HEALTH** page A3

Lee County Board votes no to solar farm project

BY MONETTA YOUNG

Special to the Amboy News

LEE COUNTY — Lee County will not be getting a new solar project in the county after the county board voted against allowing the company a special use permit.

The Lee County Board met during its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 18.

On the agenda, the Lee County Zoning Board presented a resolution

to the county board to approve a special use permit for a 3,800-acre South Dixon Solar project.

The zoning board noted special conditions that would need to follow including: construction activity hours; an archeological assessment to be taken; decommissioned at the end of the 35-year lease; and holding Lee County and its official harmless from and against claims and expenses (including attorney's fees) arising

out of the acts or omissions of South Dixon Solar, LLC's operation.

After reviewing the proposal and expressing concerns that perhaps the residents in the area had not been properly informed of the project and the concerns that the property values would be affected, the county board voted 18-4 to reject the motion, with one board member absent and one abstaining.

Other solar farms have been

approved by the Lee County Board in the past.

In other board news:

Lee County Sheriff John Simonon approached the board and requested that they approve a resolution to send to the governor to ask him to reject the HB 3653 which will affect law enforcement in the county and state in a negative way.

Madigan resigns from Illinois House effective immediately

BY SARAH MANSUR

Capitol News Illinois

smansur@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — Former House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, 78, announced Thursday he will step down from the state House of Representatives after 50 years in office.

"I leave office at peace with my decision and proud of the many contributions I've made to the state of Illinois, and I do so knowing I've made a difference," Madigan wrote in a lengthy emailed statement.

His initial statement said he plans to retire by the end of the month, but by the end of Thursday the letter he submitted to the clerk of the Illinois House said his resignation was effective immediately, a spokesperson confirmed. His current term, which

he won in November, would have ended in January 2023.

Madigan, who was the longest serving state House speaker in the country, failed to earn enough support to win another term as speaker, resulting in the election last month of Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch. Madigan's support within the Democratic caucus began to fracture after federal prosecutors revealed last July that utility giant Commonwealth Edison admitted its executives were bribing associates of Madigan in a yearslong scheme in order to ensure legislation favorable to the company.

Although he has not been charged and he denies wrongdoing, Madigan was forced on the defensive after Republican lawmakers launched a special committee to investigate his involvement in the scheme. That com-

mittee ended with a partisan finding that Madigan did not commit conduct unbecoming of a lawmaker.

"It's no secret that I have been the target of vicious attacks by people who sought to diminish my many achievements lifting up the working people of Illinois. The fact is, my motivation for holding elected office has never wavered. I have been resolute in my dedication to public service and integrity, always acting in the interest of the people of Illinois," Madigan said in the statement.

Madigan, who was raised in the Clearing neighborhood on Chicago's southwest side, is a graduate of Notre Dame University and Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

In 1969, just two years after graduating law school, Madigan was elected the Democratic committeeman for

the city's 13th ward, and slated as a delegate to the 1970 constitutional convention. In 1970, he was first elected to represent the 22nd district, which covers a portion of the southwest side of Chicago.

Madigan has served as a partner in his Chicago tax appeal law firm, Madigan & Getzendanner, since he co-founded the firm in 1972.

He was first elected Speaker of the House in 1983 and served, for all but two years, until January 2021. In 1998, he was elected to serve as state Democratic Party chair, a position he continues to hold.

His term as party chair ends in March 2022. A spokesperson for Madigan did not comment on his plans for that role.

See **RESIGNATION** page A2

LOCAL NEWS

White calls on drivers to move over for stopped emergency vehicles

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is issuing an urgent reminder to motorists to adhere to the state's Move Over Law, also known as Scott's Law, designed to protect law enforcement and emergency responders who are stopped on the side of roadways.

White also underscored the importance of not driving while distracted—with a special emphasis on avoiding texting while driving at all times.

"Since the beginning of the year, 10 Illinois State Police troopers have been victims of Scott's Law-related crashes," said White. "I am issuing a call to action: Pay attention while driving. If you see a stopped emergency vehicle on the side of the road, reduce speed and change lanes if possible."

White has taken steps over the last few years to increase public awareness about protecting those who protect us. His

office added a reminder about the Move Over Law to driver's license and vehicle registration renewal notices, produced an educational brochure and added a test question to the written driving exam. In addition, he initiated a law that further strengthened the state's efforts to combat texting while driving.

"We have a responsibility to drive safely," said White. "And we have a duty to protect those who protect us by moving over when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle with lights flashing. Aside from that, it is the law."

Motorists convicted of violating the Move Over Law face a minimum fine of \$250 up to \$10,000, and the offense goes on their driving record. Driving privileges can be suspended for 24 months in the event of a fatality and six months for a crash causing personal injury.

In addition, White called on motorists to avoid distracted

driving and to stop texting while driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), a motorist traveling at 55 mph takes his or her eyes off the road on average for five seconds when sending or reading a text. This equates to driving blindly for the length of a football field.

White initiated a July 1, 2019, law that further cracked down on texting while driving by classifying first-time offenses as moving violations. Under the previous law, which took effect in 2014, second and subsequent texting while driving offenses were treated as moving violations, while first offenses were treated as nonmoving violations.

Scott's Law is named after Chicago Fire Lieutenant Scott Gillen who was struck and killed Dec. 23, 2000 while responding to a traffic crash.

Girl Scouts get creative in selling cookies during pandemic

Northern Illinois — From Feb. 26 through March 21, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) will support the world's strongest and youngest female entrepreneurs as they host Girl Scout Cookie booths in innovative ways during a worldwide pandemic.

For those who prefer contactless cookie sales and delivery, girls and troops can market virtual cookie booths where customers order cookies directly through a girl's cookie business website and have cookies shipped to their homes. If girls want to remain local and still connect in-person with customers, families may host pop-up cookie booths at the end of their driveway or block.

Girls can also participate in traditional, in-person cookie booth sales held at community locations outside local businesses and stores. Interested customers can download the Cookie

Finder App for Android and iOS systems on their device's app store. Cookie Finder directs consumers to in-person cookie booths closest to them. Girl Scouts staffing in-person cookie booths will abide by COVID health guidelines, including wearing a mask and social distancing as appropriate.

This year's delicious cookie lineup features refreshing Thin Mints (vegan), caramel-y Samoas, peanut butter-stuffed Tagalongs, crunchy Do-si-dos, buttery Trefoils, sweet S'mores, tart Lemon-Ups, and toffee-chipped Toffee-tasties (gluten free). All Girl Scout Cookies are on sale for only \$5

per package.

Don't know a Girl Scout? Customers may visit www.girlscoutsnorthernillinois.org/buycookies to purchase cookies directly or be connected to a local Girl Scout entrepreneur looking for cookie customers. During Girl Scout Cookie season, each local Girl Scout sets out to sell delectable cookies while also building entrepreneurial and business skills imperative for leadership and future success.

All the net revenue raised—100 percent of it—stays within our northern Illinois area.

RESIGNATION continued from page A1

As party chairman, Madigan remains in control of the Democratic Party of Illinois' committee fund, which has nearly \$2 million on hand.

Even after he leaves the House, Madigan will also still control two other massive political committee funds: the Friends of Michael J. Madigan, which stands at more than \$13.5 million and the 13th Ward Democratic Organization, which has more than \$2.6 million.

Kent Redfield, an emeritus professor of political science at the University of Illinois at Springfield, said Madigan can continue to accept contributions to the Friends of Michael J. Madigan and the 13th Ward group and distribute money from those committees to other candidates' committees.

Redfield said Madigan's sources of power came from controlling the legislative process in the House, and

"being able to aggregate and distribute money, which gave him huge control over who ran for office, as well as his having an impact on those campaigns."

"That was the key to the power that he had," Redfield said. "Losing the speakership and resigning from the legislature—he's in a significantly weakened position, and it's not clear how much influence he's going to exercise over the (Democratic Party of Illinois)."

Madigan's oversight of an enormous campaign war chest as the Illinois Democratic Party's chair, as well as his unilateral power over the House chamber, led some, especially Republicans, to demonize him as a corrupt machine boss who, with the support of organized labor and trial lawyers, controlled Illinois' state government.

Former Gov. Bruce Rauner, who campaigned on busting unions in Illinois, regularly ran ads during his single term, which was plagued by a two-year budget impasse, that characterized Madigan as a power-hungry puppet master.

Republican House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, who initiated the special committee investigation into Madigan, echoed this characterization of Madigan, describing the former Speaker's tenure as an "autocratic rule" that "has

not made Illinois a more prosperous nor competitive state."

Durkin said in his written statement that Madigan's resignation represents a "new day" in Illinois that he has been looking forward to for many years.

"I urge the Democrats in both Chambers and the Governor to reflect on how we can use this opportunity to improve Illinois," Durkin said. "Our state is in shambles—financially, structurally and ethically. New ideas and sincere collaboration between the parties is the only pathway forward."

During his five decades in the General Assembly, Madigan has overseen significant legislative achievements that include the passage of a same-sex marriage law and raising the minimum wage to \$15 by 2025.

Welch, D-Hillside, said in a written statement that he appreciates Madigan's contributions and wishes him well.

"Under him, we've had strong, sustained Democratic leadership in Springfield. We legalized same-sex marriage, abolished the death penalty and solidified abortion rights. Illinois also became the first state in the Midwest to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. These laws gave underserved populations a new sense of hope," Welch said.


"Now we must build on that with a new generation of leadership focused on racial and gender equity in all dimensions, improving government transparency, and leading with the kind of conviction, compassion and cooperation expected by our constituents."

Gov. JB Pritzker also expressed his gratitude for Madigan's service, and thanked his family too.

"One thing I will say is that when you serve as long, and in as dedicated a fashion in terms of just the sheer number of hours that the man put into the job, his family can really suffer," Pritzker said in an unrelated public appearance in Belleville Thursday.

"It's a challenge for the spouses and children and grandchildren of somebody who's put that much into public service and I really just want to call them out today and say, they really deserve kudos for the public service that former Speaker Madigan did because it's the family that often suffers, the fact that he's not home when they would like him to be."

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.



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LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Thank You's

We are blessed to have the following folks assist us: We are grateful for all those that donated to Teen Turf in memory of Pat Burke; Tom and Stacie Wachtel for their monetary donation in memory of Pat Burke; Brian Burke for his monetary donation in memory of Pat Burke; Maureen and Jim Eckert for clothes and books; all those that have donated aluminum cans; to the family who has plowed the sidewalk for our kids to walk to Teen Turf and First National Bank of Amboy for their monetary donation from their jeans campaign.

Needs

We are in need of the following items: Granola Bars and Sanitizing wipes.

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

God, our Protector, we keep our eyes on You, through this furious storm. Our soul trusts in You, and we know it will be well. We ask You to protect our home and my family from the elements. We rely on Your grace, Your mercy, and Your love. Amen.

U. OF I. EXTENSION NEWS

In 2020, more than 400 Illinois 4-H competitive events, exhibitions, and shows went virtual, providing a positive youth development experience while protecting our members, volunteers, and staff. While the 2021 4-H exhibition season will be shaped by the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic, we are working hard to find solutions that balance the safety of our communities with the benefits our youth gain from participating in face-to-face judging experiences.

For summer 2021, we are exploring strategies that support a safe return to in-person 4-H exhibitions. As the youth development program of University of Illinois Extension, our events must abide by the guidelines of both campus and the Illinois Department of Public Health. As we evaluate options and apply innovative thinking to our event management processes, it is important to note that Illinois 4-H will continue to follow all relevant public health guidelines.

We've learned a great deal since the summer of 2020 and we believe there is a path forward that will allow us to step back into in-person exhibitions. Illinois 4-H staff are diligently researching and designing a variety of program formats and structures. Our goal is to provide options so that each county can make their own program decisions based on current local conditions. New safety protocols will play a significant role in our return to in-person programming, so we ask for your help in preparing your family and your community for what that may look like. Specific details will be announced later this spring and will reflect the best practices in place for managing COVID-19.

By working in partnership with the local public health department and other organizations in our communities, we are hopeful that our youth may be able to participate in one of the hallmark experiences of being a 4-H member – 4-H exhibitions and shows. We remain committed to pacing our decision-making process in coordination with available data and safety protocols, but we are making plans that could allow for a return of in-person judging for 4-H exhibitions in summer 2021.

VACCINE

continued from page A1

The Lee County Health Department posted on Facebook that, "We are receiving a very large volume of calls and messages inquiring about our COVID vaccine list. If you registered, you are on the list. You may have registered weeks ago and not been called yet. Due to the limited supply of vaccine we are currently receiving, the list is moving very slowly.

"We understand that many of our residents are anxious to receive the vaccine. We are anxious to get it to you. Most people are cordial, but we've seen an increase in the number of unfriendly messages and calls. Please don't take your frustration out on our staff. We've now been working overtime on pandemic response for over a year.

"Being unpleasant only adds to the ongoing stress we are under, and does nothing to increase our allocations of vaccine. We are thrilled with the interest in and demand for vaccine, but we ask for your patience as we continue working through our waiting list as quickly as supply allows. We appreciate the ongoing support we've received from so many of you."

Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!

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

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25, at the American Legion, 1120 W. First St. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

STERLING-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1701 16th Ave. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 12 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26, at Borg Warner, 1350 Franklin Grove Rd. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate.

HEALTH

continued from page A1

Illinois is currently in Phase 1b for COVID-19 vaccine receipt. Persons qualifying to receive vaccine in this phase include:

- residents 65 years and older, as well as specific groups of workers including:
- Education Sector-Congregate Child Care, pre-K through 12th grade school staff
- Food and Agriculture- Processing, plants, veterinary health, livestock services
- Manufacturing-Industrial production of goods for distribution to retail, wholesale or other manufacturers
- Corrections Workers & inmates
- United States Postal Workers
- Public Transit Workers-Flight crews, bus drivers, train conductors, taxi drivers, para-transit drivers, in-person support, ride sharing services
- Grocery Store Workers-Baggers, cashiers, stockers, pick-up, customer service
- Shelters/Adult Day Care-Homeless shelter, women's shelter, adult day/drop-in programs, sheltered workshop, psycho-social rehab

If you qualify for 1b based on the above criteria, you can use this link: <http://bit.ly/39GTrMS>. Once you've signed up at this link, you are placed on our call list. You will be contacted when we have an available appointment for you. The Lee County Health Department understand that many residents are very anxious to receive their vaccine, but asks for your patience.

This will be a lengthy process as long as counties continue to receive limited allocations of vaccine each week. Good news: there will likely be additional vaccine providers in our community in the near future.

The Lee County Health Department asks that residents refrain from calling or messaging us to see if you are on the list. If you complete the form on the link, you are. They are inundated with calls and messages, and when people double check, it slows us down even more. There will be vaccine available for anyone who wants it eventually.

The Lee County Health Department also asks if you qualify based on your profession, please check with your employer before registering, because we are currently coordinating with many employers for all their staff who want the vaccine.

The Lee County Health Department thanks the community for its continued support.

Email calendar items to mmays@amboynews.com

The Amboy News

Established In 1854



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Kip Cheek, Publisher

Tonja Greenfield, General Manager

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Published weekly on Wednesday by The Amboy News

245 E. Main St., Amboy, IL 61310

Phone: 815-857-2311 Fax: 815-857-2517

Periodicals postage paid at Amboy, IL

Publication Number USPS 016820

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:

The Amboy News, PO Box 162, Amboy IL 61310

Subscriptions: \$39.50 yearly in Lee,

LaSalle and Bureau counties.

\$45.00 yearly elsewhere in the United States.

Display Advertising Deadline: 10 a.m. Monday

Classified Advertising Deadline: 10 a.m. Monday

All Editorial Deadline: 4 p.m. Friday

Letters Policy: The Amboy News encourages letters from readers on current issues. Letters should be brief and must be signed, with a street address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes. The newspaper reserves the right to publish, edit, condense, revise or reject any submissions.

Download the Blood Donor App.

ASHTON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Monday, March 1, at Ashton-Franklin Center High School, 611 Western. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

AMBOY-The City of Amboy committee meetings will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 1, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 7 a.m. until 12 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, at Do It Best Corp., 816 W. Progress Dr. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

PAW PAW-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, at Paw Paw Elementary School, 511 Chapman. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

POLO-The 36th Annual Polo Farm Toy Show will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 6, at Centennial Grade School, 308 S. Pleasant Ave. Sponsored by the Polo Lions Club. For dealer table info, call Irene at 815-946-3730 and for 50/50 tickets, call Ryan Shetler at 815-499-0176.

ROCK FALLS-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 2 to 6 p.m. on Monday, March 8, at the East Coloma Elementary School, 1602 Dixon Rd. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org.

org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

AMBOY-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 8, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

SUBLETTE-The Sublette Village Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 8, at the Ellice Dinges Center, 202 S. West St.

MAY TWP-The May Township meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, at the township maintenance building.

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NOTICE OF VOTE BY MAIL AND EARLY VOTING For April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election

Nancy Petersen, Lee County Clerk and Recorder would like to announce that

VOTE BY MAIL and EARLY VOTING is being conducted in the Election Department of her office, first floor of the Old Lee County Courthouse.

VOTE BY MAIL ~ will take place from Thursday, February 25th through Thursday, April 1st and is available for properly registered Lee County voters. Applications are available on the website or by contacting the Election Department of her office.

EARLY VOTING ~ will take place from Thursday, February 25th through Monday, April 5th and must be conducted in person. Early voting is available Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. and Saturday, April 3rd from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in the Election Department of her office.

PLEASE NOTE: LEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021.

The votes cast during this time will not be counted until Election Day. Once a ballot has been cast it cannot be rescinded.

Website: www.leecountyil.com

Email: election@countyoflee.org

Phone: 815-288-3309

Nancy Petersen
Lee County Clerk & Recorder

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Emory Richard Johnson March 26, 1941 - Feb. 7, 2021

BURLINGTON, Wis. — Emory Richard Johnson, of Burlington, Wis., went home to see his Lord and Savior on Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021 with his wife by his side.

Emory was born March 26, 1941, in Dixon. He was the son of Emory Willis and Audrey J. (Weems) Johnson. He graduated from Amboy High School where he met and married the love of his life, Carol A. Hardy, on Nov. 6, 1960, at the First Baptist Church in Amboy.

Emory was a member of the Mukwonago Baptist Church, in Mukwonago, Wis.

Emory was preceded in death by his parents, Emory and Audrey Johnson; his three sisters, Pat, Jean and Carol Louise (Jack Kelly); and his great-grandson, Knox.

Emory will be leaving behind his wife of 60 years and their five children, Cheryl (Greg) Stine, Richard (Karen), Jeff (Courtney)

Johnson, Brenda Leipzig, and Amy (Boyd) Aldrich; a sister, Lois Bearman, of Dixon; sister-in-law, Nettie Poulos, of Dixon, Sharon (Delbert) Yocum, of Franklin Grove; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren, with 3 arriving this year; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Emory was held on Feb. 16, 2021, at the Mukwonago Baptist Church with Pastor Robert's officiating.

James Everett Dickison June 24, 1950 - Feb. 15, 2021

ROCKFORD — James "Jim" Everett Dickison, 70, passed away peacefully Monday, Feb. 15, 2021.

He was born June 24, 1950, in Rockford, the son of Marion (Coleman) and Richard "Dale" Dickison. He grew up in Amboy, earned the nickname "Moose," and excelled in sports and creating merry mischief.

Jim married Anna Race on Sept. 12, 1982, in Rockford.

From Chicago Bears football and dart tournaments to computers and gun clubs, Jim enjoyed his life passions to the fullest, while making great friends along the way. His sense of humor, contagious laughter, and sweet personality will be missed by so many.

He was proceeded in death by his mother, Marion, his father, Dale, his stepfather, Irvin Leuscher, and half-brother, Michael Leuscher.

He is survived by his wife, Anna; daughter, Anne Dickison and two grandchildren, Beckett and Evie Dickison of Amboy; and siblings, Duane (Connie) Dickison, of Amboy and Kathy (Tim) Schutz, of Dixon.

We're all so grateful for the time we had with him and know that he's up there somewhere bringing joy wherever he goes.

A walk through visitation will be held from 1 - 2 p.m., on Monday, Feb. 22, at Fitzgerald Funeral Home & Crematory, Mulford Chap-



el, 1860 S. Mulford Road, Rockford. Private family service and burial. Masks and social distancing are required.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family for a cause to be determined.

Share online condolences at www.fitzgeraldfh.com.

Mary Louise Branigan Feb. 18, 1926 - Dec. 25, 2020

AMBOY — Mary Louise Branigan a wonderful sister, a beloved aunt and great aunt died Dec. 25, 2020.

Mary was the third of four girls born to Kathryn and Frank Branigan on Feb. 18, 1926, in Amboy. She graduated from North Central College in Naperville, and soon after moved with her family to Phoenix. Her first job was teaching physical education at Coolidge High School.

Subsequently, she taught at Phoenix Union High School, West High School, and was on the first faculty of Central High School in Phoenix. During her tenure at Central she served as a teacher, guidance counselor, and Dean of Girls. Additionally, she was a vice principal at Alhambra High School.

Mary's passions included owning the latest cars, playing bridge, following the Chicago Cubs, and hitting the fairways. No doubt, her interest in cars was ignited while working at the family's Ford dealership in Amboy. She especially relished taking their Model A to college and driving all over Naperville with friends hanging out of the rumble seat.

Mary's interest in golf was certainly fueled by her abundant skill. She won many tournaments over the years at courses in Phoenix and Munds Park. Her winning streak at the Maryvale Golf Course extended for 13 years as Club Champion in the women's league.

Not only was she a good player, but she fostered the golf habit in family and friends. Of course, she still wanted to beat everyone. When LPGA player Shirley Spork brought her "Diamonds in the Rough" classes to Phoenix, she invited Mary to be an assistant.

Always staying busy, Mary enjoyed helping friends and family with projects like wallpapering and painting. A martini sufficed as payment.

Mary was predeceased by her parents, and sisters, Helen Glessner and Joanne Branigan.

She is survived by her sister, Kathleen Branigan; nieces, Karen Timberlake (Dale), of Phoenix, Ariz., Linda Disney (Bill), of Amboy; and nephew, Jack Glessner (Debbie), of Flemington, New Jersey. She also is lovingly remembered by three great nieces, two great



nephews, and their children. Special appreciation goes to Mary's excellent caregivers Berthe and Beth.

The memorial Mass will be held at St. Francis Xavier Church where Mary was a parishioner for over 60 years. Due to the pandemic, the service will be private. Mary will be interred at St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy.

A memorial fund has been established at Grand Canyon University Golf Course for a bench overlooking the third hole where Mary scored a hole-in-one. In addition, donations can be sent to St. Vincent de Paul Dining Rooms (stvincentdepaul.net).

Condolences may be expressed at www.whitney-murphyfuneralhome.com.

Amboy News Obituary Policy

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

Red Cross calls for healthy blood donors following severe weather

ILLINOIS — Record-breaking cold and winter storms across much of the U.S. have had a significant impact on blood [and platelet] donations.

The American Red Cross is urging healthy individuals, especially those with type O blood, to give now to ensure

blood products are available for patient emergencies when help can't wait.

Extreme winter weather has forced the cancellation of hundreds of Red Cross blood drives in about 30 states and caused more than 15,000 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected.

Every day thousands of patients rely on lifesaving blood donations. The need for blood is constant, even during snowstorms and the COVID-19 pandemic. To help ensure lifesaving patient care isn't impacted, individuals are urged to make appointments to donate in the

coming days and weeks by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Tina Rocco knows firsthand how important it is

to have blood on hospital shelves. After welcoming baby Gemma by cesarean section, she began hemorrhaging badly and was rushed back into the operating room.

"I was later told it was several pints of blood and an amazing doctor that saved my life," Rocco said. "That

allowed me to hold my first daughter and go home all together as a family of three."

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions — including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff — have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance.

Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

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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
New Mass Times Begin Sept. 1st
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
New Mass Times Begin Sept. 1st
Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm

St. Flannen Church
Fr. John Gow
213 S Second St., Harmon
815-857-2670
New Mass Times Begin Sept. 1st
Mass: Sunday, 9 am

United First Church of Amboy
Pastor Mark Glenn
East Main & Jefferson
815-440-0745
Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Lee Center
Pastor Jack M. Briggs
1140 Inlet Road, Lee Center
www.LeeCenter-UCC.org
Phone 815-732-7032
Family Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Grace Fellowship Church
Amboy-Sublette
Pastor Brian McWethy
500 W. Main Street, Sublette
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
www.graceisforyou.com

East Grove Union Church
Pastor Richard Wulf, 815-440-5321
449 Reuter Road, Amboy
Phone 815-376-6661
1/2 Mile East of Route 26 on Union Rd.
Sun., 9:00 a.m. Morning Service
Youth Church, ages 3-Grade 4
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Ages 3 - Adult
6:00 p.m. Evening Service
Wed., 6:00 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study
First Sunday night of each month, 6:00p.m.
First Sunday Family Film Night
Fourth Saturday of each month, 6:00p.m.
"Fun & Fellowship Game Night for the Whole Family!"
Come as you are and join us on the journey!

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

St. James Evangelical Congregational Church
Robert Dunbar, Pastor
US Route 52 & Red Brick Rd., Dixon
815-288-2447
Sunday 10:45 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Ladies Bible Study, Wed. 9 a.m.

St. Mary's Church
Rev. Randy Fronек
West Brooklyn
Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m.
Saturday - 5:30 p.m.

St. Patrick Church
Rev. Randy Fronек - Maytown
Mass - Fri. 8 a.m., Sun, 8 a.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Pastor Barb Otten
960 U.S. Route 52
Phone 857-2225
Sun. Worship - 9:00 a.m. Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:40-10:15 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
Rev. Randy Fronек
Locust Street, Sublette
Phone 815-849-5412
Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday - 8:00 a.m.
Thursday - 8:30 a.m.

Refuge Church
Pastor John Kalebaugh
Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52
Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930
10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows

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

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815-857-2611

Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet
815-849-5232

KSB Medical Center
815-857-3044

The Amboy News
815-857-2311





THE PASTOR'S PEN

Another Year Has Passed

BY PASTOR RICK WULF

East Grove Union Church Of Rural Amboy

Hi, Friends,
Well, another year has passed on the calendar and for me as I celebrated my 66th birthday two weeks ago. I continue to marvel at how fast time seems to pass. It is interesting to think about the nature of time. For us in this present world, as we know, time is a constant. As we read in Genesis 1 when God began His act of creation, time was set in motion. Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31 all record, "And there was evening, and there was morning—the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth day." God who is eternal and timeless, is the Author of time. It is fascinating to think about that truth. For us as created beings, we know that we live one day at a time. We can look back at the past, and hopefully learn from history and not repeat any mistakes, and maybe repeat those positive actions for the good of others. We can look forward to the future and make plans for what we would perhaps like to do. We must remember, however, that tomorrow is never guaranteed to us. That is why it's been said, "If you want to hear God laugh, tell Him your plans." Now, we must remember that because we do not know the future, we still make plans for our lives. It's also been said, "if we fail to plan, we plan to fail." It has likewise been said, "if we have nothing to shoot at, we will it every time, 'nothing.'" It is important for us as humans to have goals in life.
It sometimes may seem laborious

to us as we face life, day in and day out. Especially as we age, life many times changes and we are affected by that change. As strong as we attempt to be, many times we may become overwhelmed with the cares of life. Jesus understands that, and that is why He gave us these words of hope and courage, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV). Jesus is a Man of His word and we can trust Him! Because Christ is the Creator and Sustainer, we can trust Him! We need to come to the place in our lives that we do trust Him, for all that we need. Sometimes in our human thinking, we may get confused with what is happening around us. There seems to be so much uncertainty these days. Questions like, "Why are things happening the way they are?" or "Why aren't things happening the way that we think they should happen?" When we come to the place in our lives that we understand that we are not God and do not really have total control over our lives, we will be much better off. If we allow it, life may become meaningless and futile. To withstand going to that place, we once again have to look to Jesus. In John 10:10b, Jesus said. "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (NIV). When we are looking to Jesus for meaning and purpose in life, He will do what He promises. He can be trusted.

To finish this thought about time out, see what the Apostle John wrote in Revelation 21:1-5, 22-27: "Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."
Trust God and believe His Word, one day He will make all things new, perfect and good. He has time for you.
In His amazing love and grace.

The Book Nook

By:

Tatjana Kazan

Shakespeare's Family Tragedy

Like Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall Trilogy, Maggie O'Farrell's "Hamnet: A Novel of the Plague" (2020) is a brilliant historical novel of astonishing beauty. "Hamnet" is the story of immeasurable grief when the world's most famous playwright and his wife lose their only son, 11-year-old Hamnet, to the bubonic plague in 1596. (The playwright's name is never mentioned – in an interview, O'Farrell said she had terrible vertigo putting words in Shakespeare's mouth.) Four years after Hamnet's death, Shakespeare wrote "Hamlet," and O'Farrell uses the possible connection between the boy's death and the play for the novel's astonishing ending. (Hamlet and Hamnet are used interchangeably in parish records of the time. They were, essentially, the same name.)

The novel opens with Hamnet desperately searching the house for someone to help his suddenly very ill twin sister Judith. Only Hamnet's grandfather, a brutal, debt-ridden glove maker, is in his workshop. The boy's mother Agnes (O'Farrell renames Anne Hathaway because her father called her Agnes in his will) is tending her beehives a mile away. Unlike Agnes's treatment for centuries by Shakespeare's male biographers and historians, where an aging spinster (Agnes is eight years older than Will) entraps a naive youth and a loveless, mostly long-distance marriage ensues, O'Farrell, who said she did not go against anything that was known, depicts Agnes as a luminous, free-spirited young woman, a gifted healer, uncannily intuitive. She is the heart of the novel.

The 18-year-old Shakespeare, Latin tutor to Agnes's stepbrothers, mistakes Agnes for a boy when he first sees her stride out of the forest, a falcon on her gloved hand. He is not much of a marriage prospect, whereas she stands to inherit. Their courtship is as joyous as their future marriage is complicated, sorely tested by misfortune. In lush, lyrical prose, O'Farrell's brings to life the Shakespeare household – they have a small apartment in Shakespeare's father's house – the smells and texture of the hides in the glover's workshop, the hot cookhouse, Agnes's plants and potions with which she ministers to the people of Stratford-upon-Avon, the unrelenting daily toil of an Elizabethan household.

When she finally comes home, Agnes manages to save her daughter, but recognizes too late that it is her son who is close to death. "Hamnet" vividly captures the life-changing power of motherhood in its many stages — from childbirth to the unappeasable grief of the loss of a child. Hamnet's death shatters the family. Agnes is beyond consolation: "Every life has its kernel, its hub, its epicenter, from which everything flows out, to which everything returns. This moment is the absent mother's: the boy, the empty house, the deserted yard, the unheard cry. ... It will lie at her very core, for the rest of her life."



Granny Rose – Roy

Roy is a young neutered male that was rescued from outside. He would not have survived on his own very long. He is thought to be about 1 year old and just the sweetest cat ever. He is an orange tabby shorthair cat. Roy is a mellow cat most of the time, but since he is a young cat, he does have times when he is very active and playful! Roy loves lots of attention, petting, and snuggling. It is unknown if he would tolerate living with another cat or dog. Roy would be upset and intimidated if another animal was mean or bullied him. Roy loves people! This handsome healthy cat is ready for adoption!

To see Roy, call Granny Rose Animal Shelter at 815-288-PETS(7387) or visit www.grannyrose.org.

Photo contributed

Educational Briefs

UW-PLATTEVILLE ANNOUNCES CHANCELLOR'S LIST

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announced its Chancellor's List, honoring those with perfect 4.0 grade-point averages for the fall 2020 semester.

Students from this area who earned the 4.0 grade-point average include:

Dixon

Riley Kavanaugh, Elementary Education

UW-Platteville, founded in 1866 and located in Southwest Wisconsin, is home to approximately 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students. In addition to the Platteville campus, the university has campuses in Richland Center and Baraboo. In 2020, UW-Platteville was named the best public institution in Wisconsin for annual return on investment for the fifth consecutive year by Payscale and the best public university in the country for job placement, according to Zippia.

For more information on the university visit www.uw-platt.edu.

QUINCY UNIVERSITY RELEASES FALL 2020 DEAN'S LIST

QUINCY — Quincy University released its Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. Honorees must earn a semester grade point average of at least 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) to be included in the biannual Dean's List. In total, 361 students received the honor during the Fall 2020 semester. The local honoree is listed below:

Bailee Highbarger of Amboy

Founded in 1860 by Franciscan friars, Quincy University is celebrating 160 years as a small Catholic university emphasizing the sciences, liberal arts and the professions. Quincy University offers undergraduate, graduate and adult education programs integrating practical experience and Franciscan values. Faculty and advisors work with students to design customized success plans to help them graduate on time, find their passion and prepare them for life. QU is a member of NCAA Division II for intercollegiate athletics. For more information, please visit www.quincy.edu or contact the Office of Community Relations at (217) 228-5275 or communityrelations@quincy.edu. Quincy University. Success by Design.

GREVE NAMED TO THE BLACKBURN COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

CARLINVILLE — Joshua Greve, of Dixon, was named to the Blackburn College Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. Students named to the Dean's list must earn a grade point average of 3.6 or higher for the semester.

Founded in 1837, Blackburn College is a four-year, Presbyterian-related, co-educational liberal arts college located in Carlinville. One of only nine federally-recognized World Colleges, Blackburn has the only program in the nation fully managed by students. Balancing academic rigor and experiential learning, each student at Blackburn gains tangible experience and develops critical skills while contributing to their community and building a resume while earning their degree. In their 2020 Best Colleges Rankings, U.S. News & World Report recognized Blackburn College as one of the top 10 best Liberal Arts Colleges in the Nation for Social Mobility. The Center for Education & the Workforce at Georgetown University ranked Blackburn as a top performer for Earnings-Price Return - 209% (#1 in IL, #10 in the U.S.) and Net Price (#1 in IL; #11 in the U.S.). The Washington Monthly twice ranked Blackburn as the best baccalaureate college in Illinois.

FALL 2020 UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE DEAN'S LIST

DUBUQUE, Iowa - The University of Dubuque congratulates the following students on being appointed to the Fall Semester 2020 Academic Dean's List.

To be named to the dean's list, a student must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale for that semester.

Locally, Adam Hart, of Amboy, was named to the Dean's List.

The University of Dubuque is a private university offering undergraduate, graduate, and theological seminary degrees as well as other educational opportunities with the intention of educating and forming the whole person. Founded in 1852, UD is home to around 2,300 students. Visit www.dbq.edu.

DIXON NATIVE NAMED TO MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY'S FALL 2020 DEAN'S LIST

MILWAUKEE Wis. — Justin Sherman of Dixon, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sherman is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Operations & Supply Chain Management.

To make the Dean's List, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the fall 2020 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The GPA threshold varies by college - for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean's List.

The undergraduate GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university located near the heart of downtown Milwaukee, Wis.

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tgreenfield@amboynews.com

Opinion

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances ~ The First Amendment

Wrongful convictions are a persistent problem in our justice system

I once spent Valentine's Day on Illinois' death row.

I couldn't help thinking about the strangest Valentine's experience I've ever had. I spent Feb. 14, 2000, in the death row visitor's room at the Pontiac Correctional Center.

I was there to interview a mentally-ill death row inmate who had become lost in the system. His schizophrenia had incapacitated him to such a degree that he couldn't assist with his appeals.

When making arrangements for the interview, I hadn't thought about it being Valentine's Day. The realization hit me when I walked through the prison gates and surveyed the visitor's room.

Women from across Illinois were there dressed in their nicest clothes, visiting their husbands and boyfriends on that day set aside for romance.

And make no mistake, folks, there was love in that room. Our society doesn't like to talk about this. It's far easier to vilify those a judge and jury have ruled so worthless that they shouldn't be allowed to live.

But the more striking thing about the room was how ordinary the men were, their faces could blend in at most Illinois diner -- or my high school yearbook.

I shared this observation with actor Mike Farrell, who played Captain B.J. Hunnicutt on the old MASH series. Farrell, an opponent of the death penalty, has spent a lot of time visiting those sentenced to death.

"You know, Scott, these guys don't have horns growing out of their heads," he told me during a phone interview.

My view on the death penalty has evolved. When I was younger, my trite philosophy on capital punishment was: "Some people just don't deserve to live."

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



But then I met a man named Gary Gauger. He was wrongly convicted of murdering his parents in rural McHenry County. He served two years on Illinois' death row before his conviction was thrown out.

I met Gauger back in 2000 when he dropped by my office, which was then in the Illinois statehouse. He told a tale of wrongful conviction and left me speechless. He wasn't released on a technicality. He was freed because someone else did the crime.

In recent decades, Illinois sentenced 13 men to die who were factually innocent. And those are just the mistakes we know about. Wrongful convictions are a persistent problem in our justice system.

In the past two decades, I've personally met more than 100 people convicted of murders they did not commit. Most had spent decades

behind bars before a judge determined a mistake had been made. Courts and police departments are like any human institution: they're prone to making mistakes.

My faith commands me to speak up. After all, Christianity is a religion that had its beginning with an unfair trial, a wrongful conviction and a horrendous execution.

My political philosophy is libertarian, which means I support limited government. And let's face it, there is no greater intrusion of government than when it chooses to kill one of its own citizens.

For these reasons, I'm glad Illinois no longer has capital punishment.

The ending of this abhorrent institution can be credited to two governors: George Ryan and Pat Quinn.

Quinn signed the legislation outlawing the death penalty. It was a position different than the platform he ran for office

on, but in hindsight I'm glad he changed his mind. Illinois is a better place without capital punishment.

Gov. George Ryan also deserves credit. During his four years in office, he moved from being a supporter of the death penalty to being the nation's most vocal opponent of capital punishment. He is the man who emptied Illinois' death row when he commuted 167 death sentences.

When he did this, many family members of victims were angry. They said they wanted the "closure" that they believed would only come if the person who killed their loved one was also killed. I'm sorry, but how can one death erase the pain of another death?

Three years ago, I was reporting in Santa Fe, Texas, where a gunman entered a school and killed 10 people and wounded a dozen more. Repeatedly, I heard those who had lost a family member bemoan the fact that the killer was only 17, which meant he was not eligible for the death penalty in Texas.

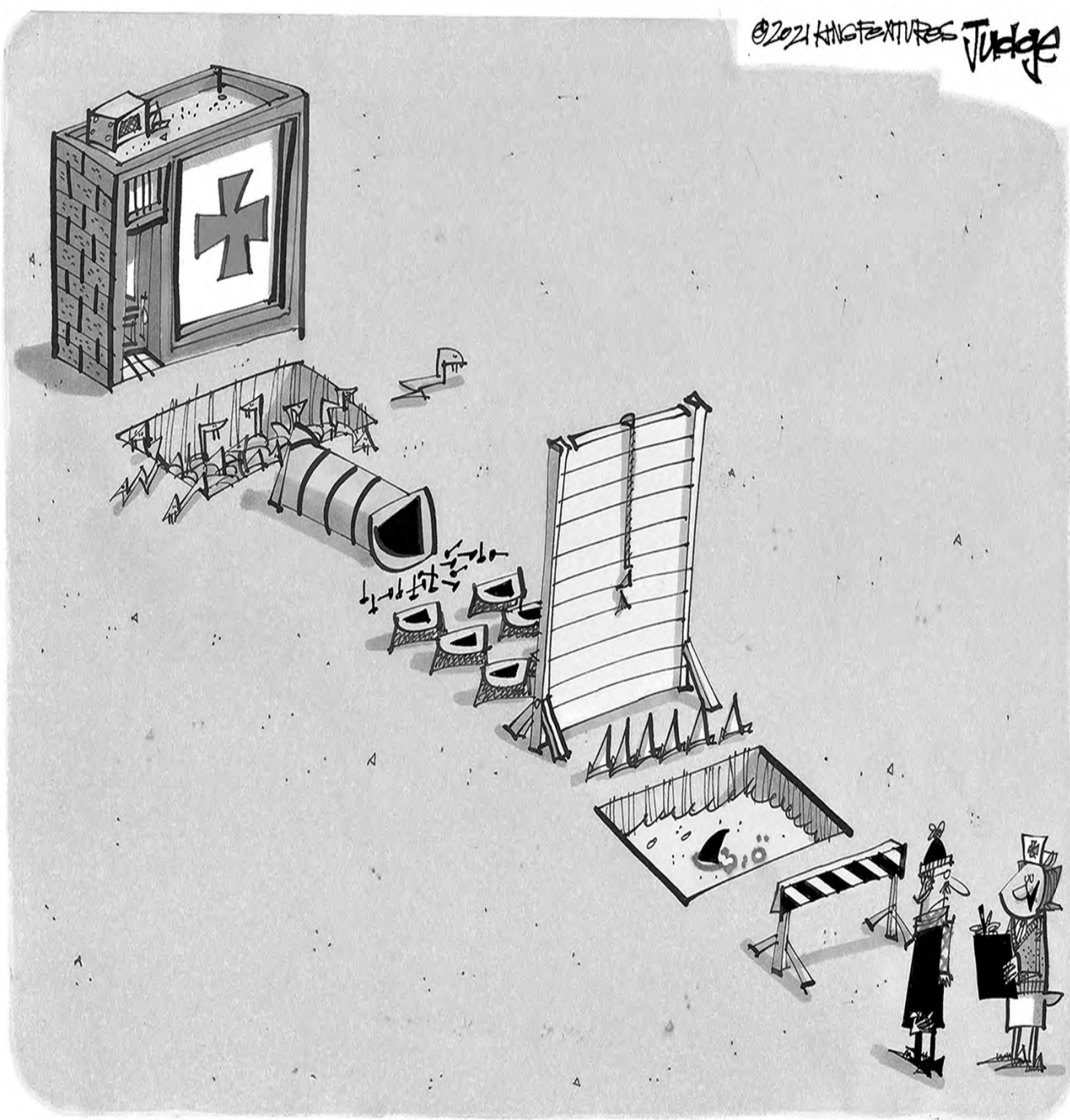
Would killing him somehow bind up the community's wounds and make the pain go away? It's doubtful. But that's part of the mythology that surrounds capital punishment.

I'm not naïve. I know there are bad people among us who should be banished forever from society. That's a sad reality. And that is what prisons are for.

What does society gain by killing its own? Retribution? Justice?

Well, it's time to temper justice with a bit of mercy.

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.



"WELCOME TO THE COVID-19 VACCINATION SYSTEM."

On This Day in History

100 Years Ago Feb. 25, 1921

Andrew Meyer, Frank Hegert, Rev. Joseph Burrows and James Keefer attended a Masonic school of instruction which was held at Galesburg this week. Mrs. Jennie Long and Mrs. Ed McCormick of Harmon have been visiting their mother Mrs. James Harvey.

O.M. Moon has sold his place on the Chicago Road a few miles this side of Dixon and is moving this week to the Willis Reigle farm of 200 acres just north of Franklin Grove.

Mrs. Emma Saguin and daughter Miss Glendora spent Tuesday in Dixon.

Rev. and Mrs. L. G. Krebs went to Prophetstown Monday evening to visit relatives.

75 Years Ago Feb. 21, 1946

Columbia Pictures presents Rosalind Russell and Lee Bowman in "She Wouldn't Say Yes," at the Amboy Theatre Sunday and Monday.

Mrs. George Ikens returned last Wednesday from a few days' visit in Oak Park.

Mrs. Christine Lair is visiting in Oakland, Calif., with her son Ralph Trenholm.

50 Years Ago Feb. 25, 1971

Amboy High's varsity Clipper basketballers dropped two ball games last weekend to wind up their regular playing season. Friday night they went to Oregon and lost 62-55. Erie came here Saturday night and edged Amboy 70-68.

Morris Kessinger, Amboy, was elected Secretary of the Sauk Valley College Foundation board of Trustees at the Foundation's sixth annual meeting held on Tuesday evening of last week at the college.

Amboy Public Hospital is "just barely operating in the black" according to reports given Tuesday evening at the annual meeting of stockholders. Heavy expenses incurred during the past year to meet state and Medicare requirements and to put on a new roof were reported.

25 Years Ago Feb. 22, 1996

The Feb. 13 Bloodmobile sponsored

by the Amboy Civic Organization met its goal of 61 participants. In addition, 49 people volunteered to be included in the national bone marrow registry.

At a dinner meeting last week, Amboy Mayor Hank Gerdes was elected President of the Rock River Development Commission. Serving along with Gerdes are Don Sheets, Mayor of Dixon, Vice President, and Bob Logan, Mayor of Franklin Grove, Treasurer.

B.J. Fenwick announced this week the relocation of Green River Cyclery at 44 East Main Street, Amboy, to a new location in Dixon. Fenwick cited increasing requirements for space and need to be closer to client base as the primary reasons for the move.

With two key road victories the Amboy Clippers clinched at least a tie for the Three River Conference title. Then the unexpected happened... Savanna (1-12 in the conference) defeated Sterling Newman (12-1) by a score of 68-66. This gave Amboy first place by themselves with their 13-1 record. This also gave this year's Clippers the best conference record for an Amboy team.

Established In 1854

The Amboy News

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Office Manager/Circulation/
Commercial Printing
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SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING POLICY

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.

The Amboy News shall not be liable to the Customer for any loss that results from the incorrect publication of its advertising. The Customer agrees to assume responsibility for all errors in copy proofread by Customer when the advertisement printed corresponds to the returned proof.

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|----------------------------------|------------|--|---------|
| Lee, Bureau and LaSalle Counties | | | |
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| | auto pay | | \$37.50 |
| 10 weeks | manual pay | | \$10.50 |
| | auto pay | | \$9.50 |
| Non-local | | | |
| 1 year | manual pay | | \$45.00 |
| | auto pay | | \$32.00 |
| 10 weeks | manual pay | | \$11.75 |
| | auto pay | | \$11.00 |

OFFICE HOURS
8 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.,
Monday, Tuesday
9 a.m. - noon on Friday
 .Closed Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday,
 Sunday and major holidays.

Phone **815-857-2311**
 Fax **815-857-2517**
 Website **www.amboynews.com**

LOCAL NEWS

Posting Date February 22, 2021

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 June honoree
4 Say it's so
8 Pretzel topper
12 Past
13 Travel permit
14 Done with
15 Brock of baseball
16 Alaskan city
18 Heron's kin
20 Army address
21 Dalai —
24 Slow, in music
28 Right to vote
32 Cash advance
33 201, in old Rome
34 Heat to near boiling
36 GOP org.
37 Priestly vestments
39 Cheap ride section
41 "Yum!"
43 Novelist Hunter
44 Steal from
46 Cowboy's workplace
50 Spur on
55 Tic-tac-toe win
56 Nerd's kin
57 Hostels
58 Hooting bird
59 Big wind

DOWN

- 1 Valley
2 Awestruck
3 Gloomy
4 Online images
5 Sportscaster Scully
6 Computer key
7 Stadium cheers
8 Reddish-brown horse
9 "Selma"

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 3 | | | | | 14 | | | |
| 6 | | | | 17 | | | | |
| | | | 20 | | | | | |
| | 22 | 23 | | 24 | | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | | | 31 | | 32 | | | |
| 4 | | | | 35 | | 36 | | |
| | 39 | | | | 40 | | | |
| 2 | | 43 | | | | | | |
| | 45 | | | 46 | | 47 | 48 | 49 |
| | | 53 | 54 | | | 55 | | |
| | 57 | | | | | 58 | | |
| | 60 | | | | | 61 | | |

- 60 Track tipster
61 Carrier to Amsterdam
10 Table support
11 Three, in Rome
17 Texas tea
19 Sprite
22 PC alternatives
23 Marble type
25 Asta's feeder
26 Tart flavor
27 As soon as
28 "Shoo!"
29 Bruins' sch.
30 Little lies
31 Mountain ht.
35 Most loved
38 Painter's motion
40 Genetic letters
42 Thee
45 Telly watcher
47 Cranny
48 Batman's hood
49 Actress Celeste
50 Early bird?
51 PBS funder
52 Cartoon frame
53 Yucatan year
54 Wildebeest

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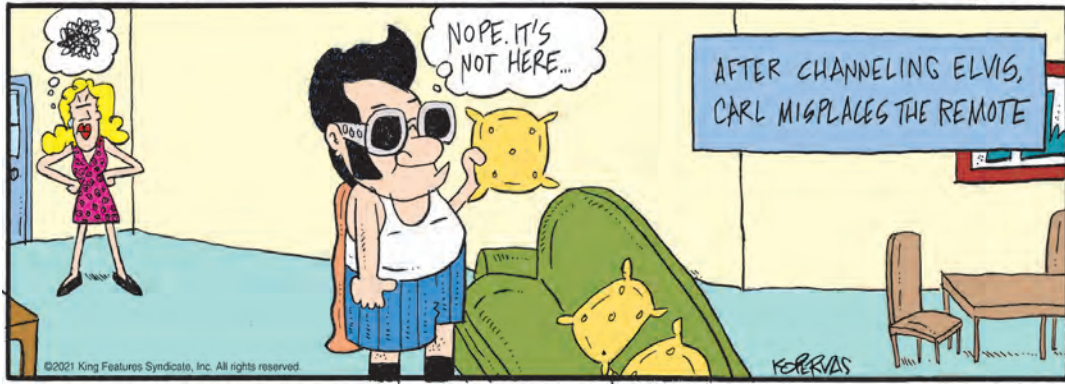
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



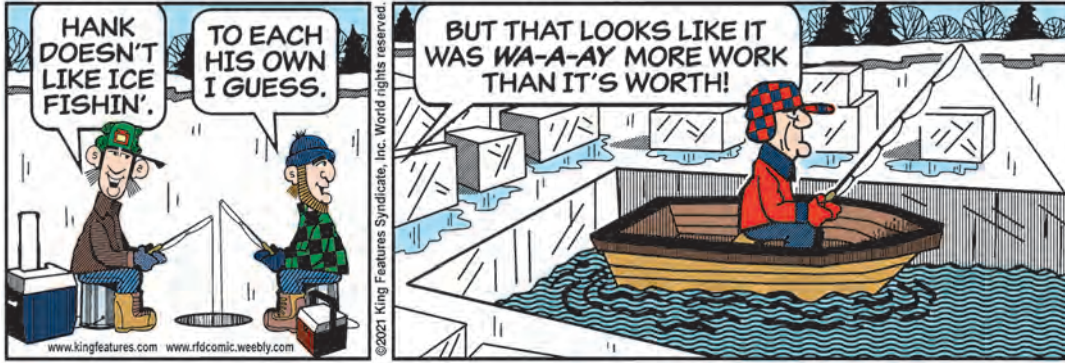
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



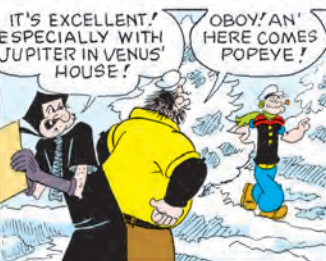
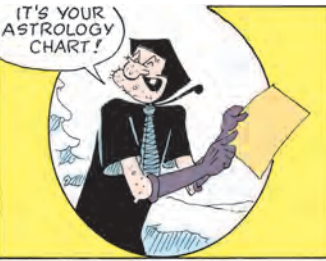
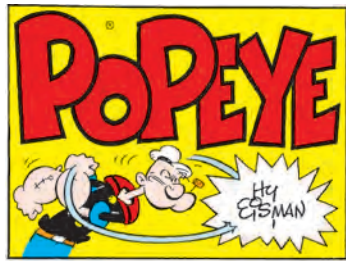
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Sweater has decoration. 2. Door knob is missing. 3. Boots are taller. 4. One shovel is gone. 5. Fence is higher. 6. House is missing.

ELOPED

Today's Word

3. Certify. 4. Precise
1. Collide 2. Profess
solution

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: J equals R

P XNHPNON PV QLYNLTN

ANYLHPQENQ S JLLV, EN

QELFHA BNC PT CJLFXHN

VLJ NSONQAJLRRPTB.

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GAMES: Which chess piece can only move diagonally?
2. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Nevada?
3. LANGUAGE: What is a lexicon?
4. HISTORY: What was the first sport played on the moon?
5. LITERATURE: In his will, what gift did Albus Dumbledore give to Ron Weasley in the Harry Potter book series?
6. MOVIES: What was the first Disney song to win an Academy Award for best original movie song?
7. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Bermuda?
8. INVENTIONS: Who first invented a successful vaccine for rabies?
9. ASTRONOMY: Which two planets in our solar system do not have moons?
10. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals MDC-CCXII?

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- Answers
1. Berlin, Germany
 2. The truth shall set you free
 3. Dino
 4. When the sun is directly overhead and objects cast no shadow
 5. Eight
 6. A dazzle or zeal
 7. Charles Dickens
 8. Meow Mix
 9. Connecticut
 10. England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| M | K | L | M | T | O | T | E | L | E | |
| W | O | S | N | N | I | | | | | |
| O | O | | | | | | | | | |
| H | C | H | A | V | A | | | | | |
| S | V | A | | | | | | | | |
| A | L | B | S | | | | | | | |
| C | O | | | | | | | | | |
| N | A | | | | | | | | | |
| O | | | | | | | | | | |
| L | A | M | A | | | | | | | |
| E | G | R | E | T | | | | | | |
| L | O | | | | | | | | | |
| A | G | O | | | | | | | | |
| A | V | E | R | | | | | | | |

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

CryptoQuip
answer
I believe if someone demonstrates a roof, he should get in trouble for eavesdropping.



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!

Strike

DOCILLE

Affirm

FORSEPS

Endorse

TERYFIC

Accurate

RECIPES

TODAY'S WORD

Classified Marketplace

FREE!

Sell your household items for free.
Total value of item must be \$200 or less. (15 words
- one week - 7 publications - price must be listed)



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101 LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE-OF WYONNE C. HUENE, 2021-P-10
Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of WYONNE C. HUENE. Letters of Office were issued to Rosalind Pate, Sharon Leesman, and Terry Huene, 1294 Hickory Street, Eldena, IL. as Co-Executors, whose attorney is David T. Fritts, 217 N. Dement Ave., Dixon, IL. 61021
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Lee County, 309 S. Galena Avenue, Dixon, IL. 61021 or with the Executor, or both on or before September 12, 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 Executor and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Date: February 17, 2021
Rosalind Pate, Sharon Leesman, Terry Huene, Co-Executor
DAVID T. FRITTS

ARDC # 0888672
ATTORNEY FOR CO-EXECUTORS
217 N. DEMENT AVENUE
DIXON, ILLINOIS 61021
815-284-1841
No. 0204
Feb 24, March 3, 10, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
ViaSat, Inc. is proposing a new build, Satellite Access Node (SAN) Facility near 204 N Jefferson Ave, Amboy, Lee County, IL 61310. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to, Environmental Resources Management, C/O Emily Tucker-Laird, Wireless Projects, 3300 Breckinridge Blvd., Suite 300, Duluth, GA 30096, or by email ERMVS3RegulatoryTeam@erm.com, or by phone 1-678-781-1366.
No. 0205
(Feb. 24, 2021)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LEE COUNTY,

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IRS Registered Tax Practitioner

402 N. Jones • Amboy, IL 61310

Home Office (815) 857-2471

203 HELP WANTED

JOB OPENING:
Maintenance position at St. Patrick Church, Amboy!

Please contact the
Parish Office 815-857-2315
for more information.
This is a part-time,
25 hour position.

02242021

511 STORAGE UNITS

Amboy & Sublette
10 x 20 inside
storage & outside
storage for
semi-trucks/trailers,
boats, campers, etc
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08172016

Be Your Own Boss!!

**You choose the hours
you work.**

**Do you have clientele but
don't have anywhere to
perform your services?**

**Downtown Amboy salon has
chair rental/space available
for Barber, hair stylist, and/
or nail technician.**

**Call Kirsten at
815-994-6323.**

02242021

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

RECEPTIONIST AT
FRONT COUNTER
Rochelle News-Leader.

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE
advertised herein is
subject to the Federal
Fair Housing Act,
which makes it illegal
to advertise any
preference, limitation
or discrimination based
on race, color, religion,
sex, handicap, familial
status, or national
origin, or intention
to make any such
preferences, limitation
or discrimination. We
will not knowingly
accept any advertising
for real estate which
is in violation of the
law. All persons are
hereby informed that
all dwellings advertised
are available on an
equal opportunity basis.

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

2005 Silver Chevrolet
Malibu For Sale. New
Tires, Auto Start,
117,000 Miles. \$2600
OBO. Call 224-325-
9597. (02-24-21)

203 HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER
CARRIERS Wanted.
(Rochelle) Several
Routes Open. Call 815-
561-2112 For More
Information.

205 SITUATIONS WANTED

LOOKING to LEASE
Deer Hunting Property
for 2021, In Ogle or
Stephenson County.
Please Contact Bob
Kunesh 630-306-7454.
(02-28-21)

301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY:
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Signs, Milk Bottles &
Local Advertising, Oak
Icebox, Iron Door Stop
and Antique Lighting...
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I pay cash for antiques;
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iron toys, sterling silver,
decoys. If it's antique,
I'm interested in looking!
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307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper
-\$3 per Bundle. End
Roll- Cost Depends on
Weight of Roll. Available
Monday-Friday 8AM-
NOON ONLY. SEE



INFORMATION

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Monday and Tuesday 8 a.m. - noon, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - noon
Closed Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday

Phone:

815-857-2311

Fax:

815-857-2517

Email:

mmays@amboynews.com

Address:

245 E. Main Street, Amboy

Mail:

P.O. Box 162,
Amboy, IL 61310

DEADLINES:

Mondays at 10 a.m.
(Deadlines subject to change during holiday times)

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

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

DISCLAIMER:

If your advertisement appears incorrectly, notify us immediately. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and will only credit customer for one insertion.

HEALTH

GASTRIC BYPASS SURGERY FOR WEIGHT LOSS? If you or a loved one had this surgery and suffered serious injury or death? You may be entitled to compensation. Attorney Charles Johnson 1-800-535-5727

WANTED

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

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

2020 Buick Enclave Avenir AWD



GM Certified with leather interior, heated/cooled seats, dual sunroof, touch screen radio display, and much more! 19k miles, Black

\$45,900

CHEVROLET CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

- 2-Year/24,000-Mile Standard CPO Maintenance Plan
- 12-Month/12,000-Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty

- 6-Year/100,000-Mile Powertrain Limited Warranty
- 24/7 Roadside Assistance
- 172-Point Vehicle Inspection and Reconditioning Process
- 3-Day/150-Mile Customer Satisfaction Guarantee

2020 Chevy Tahoe LT 4x4
Loaded, DVD, Sunroof
Nav, 21K Miles\$49,900
2020 Buick Enclave Avenir
AWD, Loaded, GM Exec
Black\$45,900
2019 GMC Terrain SLT
AWD, 14K Miles\$27,900
2019 Buick Encore Preferred
FWD, 10k mi, White. \$17,500
2018 Chevy Traverse AWD
Premier, 54K Miles
Silver.....\$30,500

2018 Chevy Equinox LT
FWD, White.....\$18,500
2018 Chevy Equinox LT
FWD, Gray.....\$17,500
2018 Chevy Equinox FWD LT
Sunroof, 62K Miles
Black.....\$17,500
2018 Chevy Malibu LT
Black.....\$16,900
2018 Chevy Equinox LT
FWD, Blue\$16,900
2018 Chevy Malibu LT
45K Miles, Tan\$15,500

QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2018 Chevy Traverse 3LT, AWD
Leather, Gray.....\$26,900
2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab
4x4, LT, Maroon.....\$30,900
2016 Chevy Traverse AWD
2 LT, Leather, 75K mi
Maroon.....\$18,500

2015 Chevy Traverse AWD
LTZ, 90K mi, White.....\$18,900
2015 Chevy Equinox 2 LT
FWD, White.....\$14,500

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are cautioned to
thoroughly investigate
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asking for money in
advance.

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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advertising. Readers
are cautioned to
thoroughly investigate
all ads, especially those
asking for money in
advance."

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee
Loans or Credit Offers
Companies that do
business by phone
can't ask you to pay for
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SPORTS

Clippers sandwich wins around loss to talented Milledgeville squad

AMBOY — The Amboy varsity boys' basketball team sandwiched a pair of wins around a loss to a talented Milledgeville squad.

The Clippers turned back Ashton-Franklin Center for the second time this season, 48-41, on Feb. 12 at Ashton.

Amboy trailed at the conclusion of the first three quarters, including 25-15 at halftime. The Clippers managed to trim five points off of their deficit in the third quarter, and then they exploded for 20 points in the fourth frame

and held AFC to just eight to complete the comeback victory.

Connor Simpson led a balanced Amboy scoring attack with 13 points. Tucker Lindenmeyer was next with nine points and Ian Eller contributed eight tallies.

Amboy stayed close to Milledgeville for one quarter before the Missiles pulled away for a 59-27 triumph over the Clippers on Feb. 18 at Milledgeville.

The Missiles held an 11-7 lead after the first quarter, but then poured it on in the second period and took a 30-13 advantage to the locker room. The home team led 46-23 with three quarters in the books.

Preston Henkel and Andruw Jones dropped in six and four points, respectively, for Amboy.

The Clippers got back on the winning track with a 49-37 decision over Kirkland Hiawatha on Feb. 20 at the AHS gym.

Amboy benefited from a fast start and opened a double-digit lead after one, 14-4. Hiawatha cut into the Clipper lead by three points at the break (27-20), but Amboy stretched the margin back to double figures in the second half.

Henkel had the hot hand for the Clippers with 17 points. He connected on a pair of shots from three-point range. Simpson was next on the scoring chart with eight tallies, while Eller chipped in with seven markers.

BOARD continued from page A1

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Amboy High School Principal Janet Crownhart congratulated February Student of the Month Erin Latta.

Curriculum and School Improvement

• NHS started offering virtual tutoring after school for remote students who need extra help. Students are able to access a Google Meet from the school website. The link has also been shared with students and staff.

• Crownhart thanked Country Village Meats for supplying animal parts to the anatomy class for dissection and internal cow organs for ag classes.

• Two medical students from U of I Chicago met virtually with students on Feb. 10 to teach them about the effects of caffeine on the teen body. Students took a pretest and will take a post test this week.

School Activities

• The Academic Team took part in multiple virtual meets and performed well in each of the events.

• Boys and girls basketball are underway. Home games are streamed through the district website.

• The kitchen now has a kiosk in the hallway near the entrance for breakfast service and Crownhart said participation numbers are slowly climbing.

• Students took the 5-Essentials survey on Feb. 11 during homeroom.

• Students are starting to select their classes for next year.

Amboy Junior High Principal Andrew Full

Curriculum and School Improvement

• On Feb. 3, the School Improvement

Team met with Anji Garza from the ROE to discuss the IAR Schedule, 5 Essentials, Student Retention, Student Success Plans, and School Improvement State Reports.

• On Feb. 8, the School Improvement Team met with Anji Garza to discuss and update the IQF for Amboy Junior High School.

• On Feb. 9, Full attended an Administrator Academy via Zoom on the topic of time management.

PBIS

• On Jan. 25, the monthly PBIS celebration/assembly was held over Google Meets and the following awards were handed out:

Students of the Month

5th Grade- Brysen Deery and Gabby Miller.

6th Grade- Madison Althaus and Colt McCoy.

7th Grade- Ellie McLaughlin and Bella Yanos.

8th Grade- Carson Barlow and Tyrar Vaessen.

P.E.- Hayden Hunsberger and Amelia Moan.

Clipper P.R.I.D.E.- Jake Dinges, Mylee Hochstatter, Kaitlyn Dempsey, Addi Blaine, Brandon Campiran, Landon Carter, Gavin Nichols, Abel Valdez, Atticus Goff, James Eisenberg, Kaylee Zimmerman, Brysen Full, Elizia Preston, Cierra Kessel, Emily Sachs, Lexi Moan, Eddie Jones, Ava Cline, Alyvia Whelchel, Janella Gallagher, Chloe Porter, Tanner Welch, Lainey Davis, and Andrew Scott.

Faculty and Staff Recognition Winners- Yvonne Vicks and Aaron Fassler.

School Activities

• Academic Bowl practices have started and Ms. Vicks is coaching the 7th/8th grade and Mr. Fassler is coaching the 5th/6th grade.

• Full congratulated Gavin and Henry Nichols, Carli Grennan, Anthony Linder and Michael Ackert for receiving a runner-up award for the national STEM competition in which they created a game. There were two grand prize winners and eight runner-ups.

• Boys and girls basketball started on Feb. 10 with coaches Jeff Christoffersen, Chris Payne, Shauna Dinges and Adri Whitney.

• Volleyball is scheduled to begin on March 1.

• On Feb. 8, students took the 5 Essentials Survey.

• AJHS Student Council raised \$310 for the PADS Homeless Shelter through their Penny Drive during the month of January.

Principal Joyce Schamberger, Central Elementary

School Improvement

• K-4 teachers held training meetings with Mrs. Zinke in the afternoon of the SIP day. The training involved the program Freckle, which can be used to supplement science and social studies.

PBIS

• During the monthly SIP Assembly, awards were handed out for Mystery Students of the Week. Book-It Reading Goals for February will be celebrated on Feb. 26. Students who meet this month's reading goals will be able to watch a Scooby Doo movie.

School Activities

• Valentine's Day Parties were held on Feb. 12.

• Central School's PTC Breakfast is

scheduled for March 7 and will be done as a carry out meal/breakfast. Ticket sales are going on now.

• Preschool screenings will be held on April 7 and 8 at Central School.

OTHER BUSINESS

• Building construction update - Despite the cold temperatures, masonry work continued last week along with plumbing and electrical work. With warmer weather expected this week, Nichols said they hoped to be able to pour concrete again.

• The board accepted a proposal from OSF Saint Paul Medical Center, Mendota, which will provide drug and alcohol testing services for the 2021-22 school year.

• A lease agreement with CDW-G for Dell Chromebooks was approved.

• The board approved an expense of \$27,216, which is District 272's share of replacing the boiler for the Whiteside Area Career Center Coop. As a member of the Coop, Nichols said Amboy is obligated to pay 4.8 percent of the total \$567,000 cost as a Health Life Safety issue.

PERSONNEL

Following closed session, the board approved Tonia Warner as a health aide at Amboy High School, as of Feb. 1 and Kennedy Dinges as freshman volleyball coach and Joe Heavner as freshman boys basketball coach, both for the 2020-21 school year.

The next regular board meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 18 at Central School. All meetings are open to the public.

Kish celebrates CTE Month as demand for technical education grows

MALTA — February marks Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month and Kishwaukee College, along with institutions across the state of Illinois, are celebrating the initiative.

CTE focuses on providing students with the skills and training necessary to fill in-demand roles in the local workforce. Support for CTE is critical as technical and vocational careers are anticipated to play a large role in helping the economy recover from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. CTE programs can

be adapted to local workforce demands, and Kishwaukee College has already played an active role in modeling its courses based on the needs of the community.

Kish actively works to create and offer vital health science programs as demand for skilled health care employees — such as nurses or medical assistants — continues to rise. The College created a Contact Tracer program when more people were needed to track the spread of COVID-19 infection. Kish is adjusting its Computer Information Systems

courses to better meet the job skills needs for today's information technology environment.

During the last major economic downturn in 2008, many displaced workers chose to change industries when re-entering the job market, and the demand for CTE courses steadily increased. Today, many who lost jobs because of the pandemic are considering career changes with a majority of American workers saying they prefer skill-based education and training to enhance their employability.

Both nationally and locally, CTE students have shown strong employment results upon graduating or earning a certificate from a program. After completing their program, 86% of adult CTE learners in the U.S. either continue their education or are employed within six months, according to the U.S. Department of Education. At Kish, 73% of CTE graduates have found work in a related field as of 2020, according to a Technical Graduate Survey, and 96.6% of those graduates are employed within the state of Illinois.

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SPORTS

Clipper Highlights: #68 Mark McCaffrey

I am, again, overcome with pride to announce this week's Clipper, #68, All State Defensive Tackle, Mark McCaffrey.

Mark was a 1980 graduate of Amboy High School and a two year Varsity starter on the offensive and defensive lines.

From the moment the class of 1980 became freshman they bought into the Clipper program and looked out for one another. Mark shared, "as underclassmen we watched a really good Clipper team finish 7-2 and miss the playoffs. It was unspoken but understood what we had to do if we wanted to make the playoffs."

Mark's Junior season ended with a 4-5 record. However, Mark and the rest of the Juniors learned from the lessons taught during the 1978 season and used it as fuel going into the 1979 campaign.

The 1979 season brought together two of the most talented football classes to come through Amboy High School. Some of the very best of us to put on the Clipper uniform wore it during those seasons. Even though the result was something that all of them would love to be different, those Clippers pioneered an attitude, a drive, a standard for Amboy football that would last through the generations. Mark was one of the many leaders on the 1979 Clipper team and a huge reason for the Clippers' toughness and attitude on defense.

"We went out and took it one game at a time," Mark shared.

Mark shared several stories during our conversation but two stick out more than

others. Mark shared the following about the Week 2 matchup vs. Mendota.

"We just beat Mendota and were on the bus going back to the high school from the Junior High field. Someone from Amboy, not a parent or relative of anyone on the team, came aboard the bus and started saying how happy he was we beat Mendota as he had not seen Amboy beat Mendota to that point," Mark said.

Mark's second story came from the first round playoff game at Forrester.

"We were working in one end zone and all of our Amboy crowd moved behind the snow fence in that end zone, it had to have been 10 people deep. After we won, it was like a military operation, everyone was over that snow fence celebrating with us."

Two great stories to show, at each point in the season, how everyone's passion for Amboy Football grew. Most of us know the 1979 season would end by defeat in the 2A State Championship game against Decatur St. Theresa, a team that most likely could have competed in 3A-4A that year. Mark ended the season earning 1st Team All Conference honors at both offensive and defensive tackle, 1st Team All State Defensive Tackle, and voted as the Most Valuable Clipper Lineman.

Friend and former teammate, Dennis McCoy shared the following, "Griz was one of the meanest and toughest guys I played with. He would take on two or three guys up front and made our job as linebackers easy. He would set them up for us to clean them up. He always wore a red bandana on his ankle

Clipper Highlights

By Spencer Morrissey

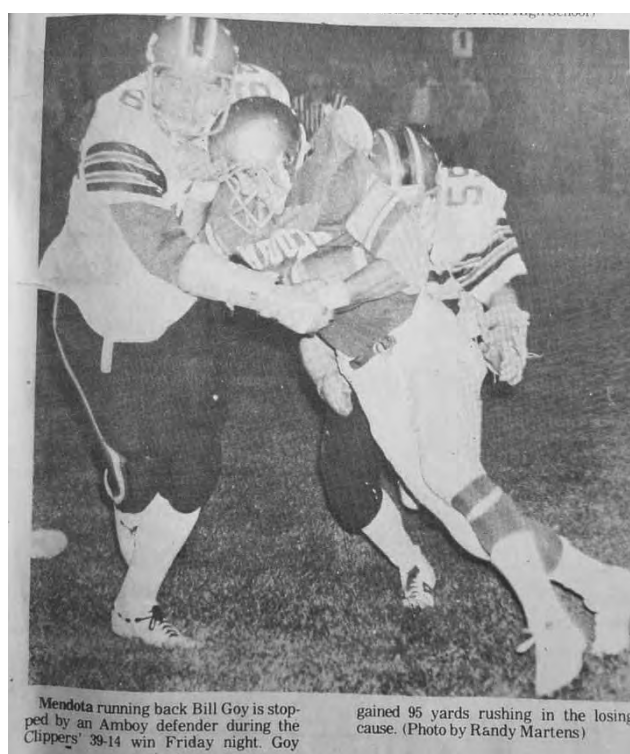


every game to wipe his nose or wipe some blood off his face. He always worked hard and was a great teammate."

Friend and former teammate Mark Kaleel shared, "Mark is a great guy. He always had a nose for the football and always knew where it was going. I lined up next to him defensively and most teams ran away from us. He was such a hard worker and a big reason our defense was as tough as it was that season."

Mark not only got to share one of the most memorable seasons in our programs' history with his best friends but also his younger brother, Carl McCaffrey. Carl shared the following,

"Mark was always quiet but always took football seriously, even early on. He had a 'take care of business' mentality. That attitude went for everything he did whether it was lifting weights, on the field, or as a vocal leader for the Clippers. Mark had great techniques and fundamentals for the game as they were drilled in all of us the day



Mendota running back Bill Goy is stopped by an Amboy defender during the Clippers' 39-14 win Friday night. Goy gained 95 yards rushing in the losing cause. (Photo by Randy Martens)

we entered the program. Opponents had to game plan for Mark as he was a force on each side of the ball, whether being double teamed on defense or having to block two guys while on offense, opponents couldn't find a way to take him off his game. Getting to play that season with him was so great and a lot of fun. If you were a starter on that team you had earned it because from the top down we were loaded with talent and so deep. On top of that those seniors were all so close and had the leadership to achieve great success. My brother added to that leadership but also provided great humility as he always let his actions on the field do his speaking."

Great words from all three former Clippers who remember that season well and shared the gridiron with a fellow Clipper great in Mark.

Mark and his classmates

long and we played as one," Mark said.

He continued, "size didn't matter at all. We knew we were going to be smaller in most games but that didn't matter. We had the heart to compete against the biggest and baddest opponents."

The meaning of Amboy Football is unchanged for Mark from his time as a player to now.

"My blood runs red. It means the same to me today as it did then. Family members and close friends have went through both before and after me so to me it means everything," Mark said.

So, to #68, All State Defensive Tackle, Mark "Griz" McCaffrey, thank you for your contributions to Amboy Football. Thank you for all the blood, sweat, and tears poured into that red bandana that show the sacrifice you gave to contribute to your team's success. Your toughness, work ethic, and humility has left a lasting impact on our program as I hope the stories of your gridiron exploits continue to be shared. 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 remain undefeated with back to back victories

AMBOY — The Amboy Lady Clippers remained undefeated on the season with back-to-back victories over Milledgeville to move to 6-0 overall and 4-0 in conference play.

Amboy hosted the Lady Missiles on Feb. 17 and came away with a 67-24 victory.

The AHS seniors decided because of COVID, they would move Senior Night up on the schedule to make sure they would get a Senior Night. Amboy has six seniors that have dedicated themselves to the sport of basketball. They are Eden Lindenmeyer, Brianne Blaine, Madelyn McLaughlin, Gabby Jones, Abi Payne and Mallory Powers.

The Lady Clippers jumped out to a 21-4 first-quarter lead and built it out to 39-8 at intermission.

Four players scored in double figures. Payne led the attack with 19 points, while she added five assists and four steals. Jones made all but one of her eight shots for 14 points, and she chipped in with four rebounds, three steals and two blocked shots. Powers contributed 12 points and led with nine rebounds, while she dished out three assists and swiped four steals.

Olivia Dinges dropped in 10 points and added seven caroms, three assists, three steals and three blocks. Also, Blaine had four points and three assists, McLaughlin had four points and four boards, Lindenmeyer added two points and two assists, and Elly Jones had two points.

Amboy traveled to Milledgeville on Feb. 19 and shot down the Lady Missiles again, 83-34. AHS exploded to a 35-4 first-quarter lead and held a 54-15 halftime advantage. It was 75-27 after three.

Gabby Jones was perfect shooting the basketball, making all 11 of her shots from the field and both of her free throws to end with 24 points. She managed this in about two quarters of playing time. Jones also had three steals. Powers was a close second in scoring with 23 points on 10 of 15 shooting from the floor. She completed her line with four rebounds, six assists and three steals.

Payne had her usual steady game with 14 points, six assists



Senior Abi Payne takes a shot against Milledgeville on Feb. 17.

Photo courtesy of Kirsten Donna



The Lady Clippers jumped out to a 21-4 first-quarter lead against Milledgeville on Feb. 17, and built it out to 39-8 at intermission.

Photo courtesy of Kirsten Donna



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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

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THE FARMER'S REPORT

Online anhydrous ammonia safety training program launched

SPRINGFIELD – Certified Grower Training is now available on the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) website.

Under a new state regulation (8IAC215), anyone who works on a farm and handles anhydrous ammonia must complete Certified Grower Training by April of 2022 and once every three years thereafter. This includes not only farm workers who apply the nitrogen fertilizer to fields, but also those who transport nurse tanks to and from suppliers and those who maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment.

“Although the requirement doesn’t take effect until 2022, I encourage everyone who must complete the training to do so as soon as possible,” IDOA Acting Director Jerry Costello II said. “Anhydrous ammonia is potentially dangerous if not handled properly, and the safety lessons taught in this training could prevent serious injury or even death.”

The training program can be accessed through a link posted on the website’s homepage. It directs visitors to a portal that includes step-by-step instructions for creating a user account and viewing the training. Other useful information such as answers to frequently asked questions and a copy of the new state anhydrous ammonia regulations are also posted on the homepage.

Plans are to offer a classroom version of the training as well. However, the coro-



navirus pandemic has put in-person courses on hold.

The Department and supportive farm groups are currently looking for qualified trainers to teach the in-person classes. Once face-to-face meetings are safe to resume, Train-the-Trainer sessions will begin to equip these volunteers with the materials they need to present the class.

Trainers must possess the following qualifications:

- Minimum 5 years of experience in the anhydrous ammonia industry; practical experience with storage, application and equipment operation, inspection and maintenance;
- Comfort speaking in groups and ability to relate to growers and answer their questions;
- Experience using a computer, projector and microphone and have access to suitable meeting rooms or outside venues to conduct training;
- Good organization and communication skills and

an ability to maintain and transmit training rosters to the IDOA;

• Capability to become a Certified Competent Attendant and commit to attend this IDOA-sponsored training annually.

Persons who meet these requirements and are interested in becoming a trainer should contact Jeff Squibb at the Illinois Department of Agriculture (217-785-8212; jeff.squibb@illinois.gov), John Rebholz at the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (309-827-2774; john@ifca.com), Travis Deppe at the Illinois Corn Growers Association (309-557-3257; tdeppe@ilcorn.org), Mike Levin at the Illinois Soybean Association (309-808-3606; levinm@ilsoy.org), or Lauren Lurkins at the Illinois Farm Bureau (309-530-0398; llurkins@ilfb.org).

Regardless of whether the training is online or in-person, it must be offered to participants at no cost.

IDOA announces its dicamba decision for 2021 growing season

SPRINGFIELD -The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) has registered the following dicamba products for the use on soybeans for the 2021 growing season: XtendiMax with Vapor Grip Technology, Engenia Herbicide, and Tavium Plus Vapor Grip Technology. The new federal label for dicamba was issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on Oct. 27, 2020.

The new federal label requirements for these products include:

- Requiring an approved pH-buffering agent, also known as a volatility reducing agent, be tank mixed with dicamba products prior to all applications.
- Requiring a downwind buffer of 240 feet and 310 feet in areas where listed endangered species are located.
- Additional recordkeeping items.

The approved federal label also includes a cutoff date of June 30 for application of these products on soybeans. However, IDOA will be utilizing its authority pursuant to Section 24(a) of FIFRA and relevant provisions of the Illinois Pesticide Act to impose a cutoff date of June 20 for application on soybeans. In addition to the June 20 cutoff date, IDOA also intends to include the following additional applica-

tion restrictions for application of these products on soybeans:

- Temperature restriction of 85 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Requirement to consult the Field Watch sensitive crop registry <https://www.fieldwatch.com> before application.
- Prohibiting application if the wind is blowing toward any Illinois Nature Preserves Commission site that is adjacent to the proposed field of application.
- Prohibiting application when the wind is blowing toward an adjacent residential area.

“This decision was made after evaluating several factors, including the reduction of pesticide misuse cases involving the use of dicamba on soybeans from 2019 to 2020,” said Acting Director Jerry Costello II. “In 2020, the Department included an 85-degree temperature restriction in addition to the June 20 cutoff date, resulting in an 80% decrease in dicamba misuse complaints.”

Dicamba is a herbicide commonly used on soybeans and cotton. Illinois ranks first in the nation for soybean production producing 532 billion bushels of soybeans per year. The July 30 cutoff date for application of these products on cotton will not be affected.

USDA extends General Signup for Conservation Reserve Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup period, which had previously been announced as ending on Feb. 12, 2021.

USDA will continue to accept offers as it takes this opportunity for the incoming Administration to evaluate ways to increase enrollment. Under the previous Administration, incentives and rental payment rates were reduced resulting in an enrollment shortfall of over 4 million acres. The program, administered by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for 10 to 15 years for land devoted to conservation purposes, as well as other types of payments.

Before the General CRP signup period ends, producers will have the opportunity to adjust or resubmit their offers to take advantage of planned improvements to the program.

“The Conservation Reserve Program provides a tremendous opportunity to address climate change both by retiring marginal cropland and by restoring grasslands, wetlands, and forests,” said Robert Bonnie, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary. “CRP has a 35-year track record of success beyond just climate benefits, by providing income to producers, improving water quality, reducing erosion, and supporting wildlife habitat and the hunting and fishing opportunities that go along with it. By extending this signup period, we’ll

have time to evaluate and implement changes to get this neglected program back on track.”

As one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States, CRP provides both economic and conservation benefits by taking land out of agricultural production. Program successes include:

- Sequestering in soils and plants over 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), or about the same amount that the entire state of Delaware emits annually.
- Preventing more than 2 billion tons of soil from being blown away by wind erosion over the life of currently enrolled acres.
- Reducing phosphorus reaching streams by almost 85 million pounds, nitrogen by nearly 450 million pounds, and sediment by over 160 million tons in 2020 alone.
- Creating more than 2.3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting more than 177,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, enough to go around the world seven times.
- Establishing over a half million acres of dedicated pollinator habitat and nearly 15 million more acres of diverse plantings that provide forage for pollinators.
- Increasing populations of ducks and other game birds, prairie chickens, and such grassland songbirds as Baird’s Sparrow. CRP in the Northern Great Plains supports an estimated 8.6% of the grassland bird population.
- Increasing habitat that supports economic opportunities, such as job creation, related to hunting and fishing activities.

This signup for CRP gives producers an opportunity to enroll land for the first time or re-enroll land under existing contracts that will be expiring Sept. 30, 2021. All interested producers, including those on Indian reservations and with trust lands, are encouraged to contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines.

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Winter Hours
Monday-Saturday, 7 am – 9 pm
Sunday, 8 am – 8 pm

Amboy Deli Hours
Mon-Sat 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sun 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sale Prices Valid Feb. 24-March 2 – Limited Quantities – While Supplies Last

PRODUCE & WEEKLY SPECIALS

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Dole Iceberg Cello Lettuce  \$1.39 ea. | Extra Large Green Bell Peppers  \$1.39 ea. | Fresh Mango  \$1.29 ea. | Baby Bella Mushrooms 8 oz Package  \$1.79 ea. |
| Asparagus  \$1.99 lb. | Idaho Potatoes 3 lb bag  \$1.29 ea. | Hass Avocado  \$1.29 ea. | Food Club Frozen Vegetables Assorted 12 oz  \$1.29 ea. Reg. Price \$1.89 ea. |

HOT BUYS

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| AMBOY DELI BBQ Butterfly Pork Chops  \$2.99 lb. Reg. Price \$4.99 lb. | AMBOY DELI New York Strip Steaks  \$8.99 lb. Reg. Price \$12.99 lb. | AMBOY DELI Golden Plump Chicken Drumsticks or Thighs Family Pack  \$1.49 lb. Reg. Price \$2.99 lb. |
| AMBOY DELI 3 Tacos and 8 oz Cheesy Fiesta Potatoes  \$5.99 ea. | Doritos Assorted 8-10 oz Excludes Family or Party Size  2/\$5 Reg. Price \$4.29 ea. | Pepsi Products 12 Pack Cans Assorted  \$4.99 ea. Reg. Price \$5.99 ea. |

WEEKLY SPECIALS

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Keebler Townhouse or Club Crackers Assorted  2/\$4 Reg. Price \$3.99-4.19 ea. | Farmland Bacon 16 oz  \$4.99 ea. Reg. Price \$6.99 ea. | Sunny D Juice 64 oz  \$1.00 ea. Reg. Price \$1.99 ea. |
|--|---|---|

MIX AND MATCH \$1.00 EACH

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Food Club Fruits Assorted 14-15.25 oz  \$1.00 ea. Reg. Price \$1.79-1.99 ea. | Food Club Olives 5-6 oz  \$1.00 ea. Reg. Price \$1.89 ea. | Kraft Mac and Cheese 5-7.3 oz  \$1.00 ea. Reg. Price \$1.79 ea. | Food Club Peanut Butter Assorted 16 oz  \$1.00 ea. Reg. Price \$2.19 ea. |
| Food Club Salad Dressing Assorted 16 oz  \$1.00 ea. Reg. Price \$2.39-2.99 ea. | Food Club Peppers Assorted 16 oz  \$1.00 ea. Reg. Price \$1.79 ea. | Food Club Sour Cream 16 oz  \$1.00 ea. Reg. Price \$1.79 ea. | Food Club Saltine Crackers 16 oz  \$1.00 ea. Reg. Price \$2.39 ea. |

Sale goes through March 2, 2021