

# COVID-19 variant identified in Lee County case

*This is a joint news release issued by the Northern Illinois Rockford Region Public Information Officers (NIR-PIO). NIR-PIO serves Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago Counties.*

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS ROCKFORD REGION** –The first case of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) variant B.1.1.7 has been identified in the Northern Illinois Rockford Region, Region 1. The case is a resident of Lee County with unknown travel history as the disease investigation is ongoing.

The B.1.1.7 variant was first identified in the United Kingdom and has already been reported in other regions in Illinois including Chicago, Cook County, and Lake County.

According to Cathy Ferguson-Allen, Administrator of the Lee County Health Department, “the identification of this variant in the region was anticipated as the variant is known to spread more easily and had already been identified in Illinois in nearby regions. This case is a reminder that the community must be vigilant in practicing prevention measures to protect themselves and each other from COVID-19. It also highlights the importance of following quarantine recommendations and to get tested if you’ve been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.”

Protect Yourself, Your Family, and Your Community:

- **WASH-UP:** Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds frequently.
- **MASK-UP:** Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover or mask.
- **BACK-UP:** Keep at least 6 feet apart from others.
- **VAX-UP:** When it is your turn, get vaccinated for COVID-19.

Early indications are that the vaccine offers protection against the B.1.1.7 variant, however, information is preliminary and evolving. Local Health Departments (LHDs) in the Northern Illinois Rockford Region (NIR-HDs) are working hard to get the community vaccinated with the resources that are available. The vaccine supply continues to be limited.

While those in phase 1b, which includes frontline essential workers and those 65 and older, are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, there is not enough vaccine available to vaccinate everyone that is eligible.

Those in Phase 1b should know the following about vaccinations:

- Check your local health department’s website or social media page for instructions on how vaccines are being distributed in your county.
- While you may be eligible to get the vaccine, Phase 1b includes a large group of individuals, so it may take a while for your turn, but we will get to you.
- Your patience allows the NIR-HDs to focus limited resources on administering vaccinations.

For more information:  
Go to IDPH and State of Illinois websites on COVID-19 here:  
• <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19>  
• <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>  
For general questions about COVID-19, call the IDPH hotline at 1-800-889-3931

# Lee County Sheriff warns of social security scams


**LEE COUNTY** — Lee County Sheriff John Simon-ton would like to warn the citizens of Lee County of a phone scam that claims an individual’s social security number has been used fraudulently and will be suspended.

The scam is “spoofing” phone numbers to appear that it is coming from a local phone number when in fact, it is not. In some cases, the call has appeared to be coming from the courthouse.

Lee County Sheriff’s Office would like to remind citizens that a social security number is not suspended.

Social security numbers are not closed and re-issued as bank account or credit account numbers often are. Once issued, a social security number is your number for life.

If you receive a similar call, do not respond. It is a scam. Hang up the phone and/or report the incident to Lee County Sheriff’s Office at 815/284-6631 and/or Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).



# Lee County COVID-19 Update: Feb. 8, 2021

**LEE COUNTY** — Between Feb. 2-8, the Lee County Health Department has reported a total of 37 new cases have been reported.

Here are the ages that were announced: 2 under the age of 12, 5 in his or her teens, 1 in his or her 20s, 1 in his or her 30s, 2 in his or her 40s, 9 in his or her 50s, 3 in his or her 60s, and 1 in his or her 70s.

This brings the total number of cases to 2,972 as of Feb. 8. Of the 2,972 cases, 2,510 have recovered. They also reported as of Feb. 8, 5 residents have been hospitalized and 59 residents have died.

**Vaccine**

As of Feb. 5, according to IDPH 4,075 does of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Lee County, and a total of 828 people in Lee County have received both does of the vaccine.

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

# Illinois to ramp up vaccine distribution

**BY PETER HANCOCK**  
Capitol News Illinois  
[phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com](mailto:phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com)

**SPRINGFIELD** – The state will soon start ramping up the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines as part of its effort to further limit the spread of the disease.

In addition to receiving increased shipments of vaccine from the federal government, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced that it plans to redirect 97,000 excess doses of vaccine from the federal Pharmacy Partnership program, which is in charge of administering vaccines to residents and staff at nursing homes, to make them available to people eligible under Phase 1B of the vaccination program.

IDPH also said it will send out at least eight teams of nurses and volunteers to administer vaccines in assisted living centers, intermediate care facilities for people with developmental disabilities, and group homes.

Those efforts were announced one day after Illinois set a single-day record of 65,200 doses of vaccine administered, bringing the statewide total so far to nearly 1.1 million.

“In fact, Illinois is already running ahead of the Biden plan to reach 100 million vaccinations in 100 days,” Gov. JB Pritzker said during a media briefing Wednesday. “Last week, we administered more than 110% of our fair share to reach that goal and that does not include the record day (Tuesday).”

Pritzker spoke at a news conference in Champaign after touring a vaccination center that has been set up at the I Hotel and Conference Center in that city.

That site is one of hundreds of vaccination sites in Illinois being operated by local public health departments and retail pharmacies.

Pritzker also noted that on Tuesday, the Biden administration announced that it will launch a pilot program to distribute vaccines directly to about 6,500 retail pharmacies around the country. Those shipments will be in addition to those going directly to states and to Walgreens and CVS, the two pharmacy chains involved in the federal partnership to administer vaccines in nursing homes.

“That means 39,000 more doses available each week to Illinoisans and that number will grow within that program,” Pritzker said.

Illinois is currently operating in Phase 1B of the vaccination plan, which includes people over age 65 as well as frontline essential workers outside the health care setting. State officials estimate that about 3.1 million Illinois residents fall into that category.

That group also grew by 177 people on Wednesday after the Pritzker administration announced that state lawmakers can now be included in the Phase 1B group.

That decision drew sharp criticism from Republicans in the General Assembly who have also criticized Pritzker for including prison inmates in the 1B group.

See **VACCINE** page A2

# 1099-G forms available for recipients of unemployment insurance benefits in 2020

**SPRINGFIELD** – 1099-G tax forms are now available for claimants who received unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in 2020, the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today. Claimants who collected UI benefits last year need the 1099-G tax form from IDES to complete state and federal tax returns.

The form is necessary for individuals who received state or federal UI benefits. This includes claimants who received regular UI benefits and/or benefits under the new federal pandemic relief programs, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Lost Wages Assistance (LWA), and state Extended Benefits (EB).

Claimants who opted to receive their 1099-G tax form electronically, which is an option available when claimants establish an IDES account, will receive an email notification with instructions to access the document from the IDES website. Claimants who opted not to receive their 1099-G tax form electronically will receive a paper form via regular mail; these claimants may also access and print their 1099-G form online by visiting the IDES website (login required). Previous years’ 1099-G information is also available for claimants online for the prior seven years.

Additional information about the 1099-G form is available on the IDES website. Individuals who have questions about this form can contact the Department at 800.244.5631 and select the appropriate queue to speak with an expert.


Individuals who did not apply for or receive UI benefits in 2020 but receive a 1099-G tax form from IDES are asked to immediately contact the Department at 800-244-5631. Receiving this form without having applied for or received unemployment benefits is an indication of identity theft and that a fraudulent claim was filed using the personally identifying information (PII) of an individual. This PII was obtained through prior large-scale data breaches and cyber hacks (e.g. Equifax data breach in 2017 which compromised the PII of nearly 150 million; Target data breach in 2013 which compromised the PII of nearly 110 million; Yahoo data breach in 2014 which compromised the PII of nearly 3 billion) and is now being used by organized crime and fraudsters to illegally file for UI benefits and defraud state unemployment systems. IDES encourages all individuals to enhance the safety of personal information and cyber security where possible and never willingly share personal information online or under suspicious circumstances. More information about unemployment fraud and how to protect your PII can be found on the IDES website.


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See **HEALTH** page A2

AMBOY MINUTE





CLIPPER HIGHLIGHTS

This week’s column features #7 Eric McLaughlin

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Raymond Beggs

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## HEALTH

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- 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.

## Amboy High School announces its first semester honor roll

**AMBOY**—Amboy High School announces its first semester honor roll.

### HIGHEST HONORS Seniors

Brianna Blaine, Brady Jones, Erin Latta, Madelyn McLaughlin, Mallory Powers, Matthew Raymond, Calvin Seier, Carter Seier, Nicholas Tarr, Trevor Vaessen

### Juniors

Lauren Althaus, Olivia Dinges, Mason Ely, Saddy Herrera, Jairon Hochstatter, Connor Hummel, Andruw Jones, Dana Merriman, Lauren Richardson, Madalyn Shuck, Lauren Tarr

### Sophomores

James Curl, Charlie Dick-

inson, Courtney Lachat, Courtney Orgtiesen, Kelton Schwamberger, Alexzandra Vaessen, Wesley Wilson

### Freshmen

Elizabeth Clarida, Emma Dinges, Elly Jones, Alexis Ketchum, Maeve Larson, Kaylee Scanland, Austin Shugars

### HIGH HONORS Seniors

Joshua DeWaele, Preston Henkel, Gabrielle Jones, Caden Latta, Florian Mimini, Brian Murphy, Abigayle Payne, Zachary Winters

### Juniors

Jacob Bickett, Isaac Blodgett, Abigail Christofersen, Angela Daszkiewicz, Ian Eller, Jordan Gulle, Ingrid Larson, Nicole Latta, Alexis Morgan, Baylie Nickel, Kenzie Nickel, Chanlor Pohl, Samuel Russell, Caden Wittenauer

### Sophomores

Olivia Costner, Bradley Dinwiddie, Garrett Pertell

### Freshmen

Brennan Blaine, Gabriel Jones, Rylyn Karrow, Addison Shaw, Landon Whelchel

### HONORS Seniors

Darla Appleman, Lane Boehle, Bradley Gazza, Gabrielle Ketchum, Emma Lewis

### Juniors

Nicholas Corcoran, Haden McCoy, Autumn Norman, Justin Wicaryus

### Sophomores

Reed Barnes, Ryan Dickinson, Jose Herrera, Madison Huggins, Ana Guadalupe Lopez-Belmontes, Brian Moore, Ethan Pratt, Robert Raymond, Valentin Vazquez, Aislinn Zitelman

### Freshmen

Luke Corcoran, Zachary Dunne, Kennedy Johns, Kain Ketchum, Cole Larson, Landon Montavon, Alexa Morris, Madison O'Malley, Aallyah Pointer, Eliseo Vazquez-Tapia, Skyler Ware



Erin Latta

## Latta named AHS Student of the Month

**AMBOY**—Erin Latta, a senior at Amboy High School, has been named the Student of the Month for February. She is the daughter of Brad and Sue Latta.

GPA: 4.3 /4.0

Memberships and Involvement: I have been involved in the Spring Musicals and Fall Plays all four years. I play on the academic team, and have been on Stateline Quiz Bowl multiple times. I participate heavily in the music department with band and choir, doing marching band, parades, and concerts. Currently I am Treasurer of the National Honors Society and President of the Spanish Honors Society.

Awards and Honors: I've gotten Perfect Attendance all of high school, I've been drum major for three years and I've been in Highest Honors for my grades all four years.

Best Memories of AHS: My best memories have to be my time spent doing musicals. It is a lot of hard work, but I love being able to work with my friends and help each other develop as actors to put on the best show possible.

Future Plans: I plan to go to Sauk for two years for psychology, and then transfer to Northern Illinois University to finish up. It is a few years down the road, but my ultimate goal would be to obtain my doctorate in psychology.

## TAXES

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After fraudulent activity has been reported, the Department will investigate the matter and work with victims to get them a corrected form. Victims of identity theft will not be held responsible for repaying any benefits that may have been administered in their name by fraudsters, nor will they be held responsible for tax implications resulting from a fraudulent claim. To date, IDES has stopped more than 962,000

fraudulent unemployment claims since March 1, 2020.

IDES understands the urgency associated with tax season and is committed to ensuring Department resources are available to assist individuals with questions regarding the 1099-G tax form and filing process. For tax filing information, individuals are encourage to call the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at 800.829.1040 or visit their website at IRS.gov.

## VACCINE continued from page A1

"I don't agree with it," House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, said during an unrelated news conference Wednesday. "We need to wait our turn, and if we have members of the General Assembly who have preexisting conditions, they will have an opportunity to go before most of the public. But we should not leapfrog over anyone in this crisis."

Pritzker, however, defended the decision, saying it came at the request of some lawmakers after a number of them and their staffs contracted the virus during the recent lame duck session in January.

"It's not something that I am choosing to do, it's not something that the speaker of the House is choosing to do or that the Senate president is choosing to do now that we're all waiting our turn. But we need the state of Illinois and its legislature and its government to function well," Pritzker said.

News of the stepped-up vaccination efforts came as the overall infection rate in Illinois continued to decline.

IDPH reported Wednesday that 3,314 new confirmed and probable cases of the disease had been reported over the previous 24 hours out of 96,894 tests performed. That brought the state's seven-day rolling average case positivity rate down to 3.5 percent, its lowest

point since Oct. 7.

Also on Tuesday, IDPH announced that Region 8, which includes Kane and DuPage counties, and Region 9, which includes Lake and McHenry counties, were upgraded to Phase 4 mitigation measures, which allow limited indoor dining and drinking as well as youth and recreational sports activities and the opening of theaters, cinemas and performing arts centers.

That left only Region 4, the Metro East area outside of St. Louis, as the only region not yet in Phase 4. That region remained under the stricter Tier 2 mitigations as of Wednesday, but IDPH said it is on track to enter Phase 4 as early as Thursday.

IDPH also reported an additional 69 virus-related deaths over the previous 24 hours, bringing the statewide total since the pandemic began to 19,375.

As of late Tuesday, 2,469 people in Illinois were reported hospitalized with the disease, including 520 in intensive care units and 270 COVID-19 patients on ventilators.

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.

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

# BUSINESSES & SERVICES

<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold;">COMMUNITY CENTER</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">AMBOY COMMUNITY CENTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Available For <i>Receptions, Meetings, Fund-Raisers</i></p> <p>280 W. Wasson Rd. • Amboy, IL 61310 (815) 440-5784 • (815) 857-2324 Julie DeArmitt - Manager</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold;">REAL ESTATE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Woodhaven Lakes Realty</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Woodhaven Lakes Realty, Inc. PO Box 110 Sublette, IL 61367 815-849-5476 <a href="http://www.woodhavenlakes.com">www.woodhavenlakes.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold;">ELECTRIC</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold;">HILLIKER ELECTRIC</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">815.456.7036</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold;">GENERAC</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; font-weight: bold;">AVON</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Avon Independent Sales Representative <b>Betty Mezmarich</b></p> <p>576 N. 3859th Rd. Rt. 2 Mendota, IL 61342 815.343.4750 mezandmezzie@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">To Buy or Sell. 28 Years as an Avon Lady.</p>
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## LOCAL NEWS

## TEEN TURF

Teen Turf Facebook Valentine's  
Dessert & Basket Auction

Today is our last day of our first online auction, so please check our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/teenturf](http://www.facebook.com/teenturf) to bid. Final bids will be taken at 8 p.m. No bids will be taken after that. We are grateful to everyone who has made or donated an item(s). We will give an update of the event and thank everyone who has participated.

## Thank You's

We are blessed to have the following folks assist us: First of all we are grateful to the family of Pat Burke for asking for memorials in her name. We received monetary donations in memory of this wonderful person from the following people: Donna Wellman; Diane and Joseph Stewart; William and Eileen Twardowski; and George and Kay Sherrard. Thank you to others who helped us: Larry Piper for shoveling and recycling cans; Lori Hendrickson for giving us the games and food; Marty and Randy Bartelt for food; Diane and Joseph Stewart for the valentines items and the memorial for the Leffelman family; Everyone who donated cans; and Leon Poliquin and Pat Yoo for the bags.

## 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

Lord, please help us to remember the power of forgiveness, and please help us to extend this to anyone who we may not be able to forgive. We know what it means to forgive, and we know all of the things you have forgiven us for. Despite our feelings about those we need to forgive, please help us to remember that, like us, You love this person and care about his/her well-being. Please help us to find love in our hearts as well and to move past what was said and done. Please help us to move past this. In the name of Your son Jesus, we pray, amen.

Illinois DCFS offers  
college scholarships  
to current and former  
youth in care

**CHICAGO** – The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is currently accepting applications for the 2021 DCFS Scholarship Program. Through the program, 53 academic scholarships will be awarded to current and former youth in care for the upcoming school year, with four awards reserved for the children of veterans.

Scholarship recipients receive up to five consecutive years of tuition and academic fee waivers to be used at participating Illinois state community colleges and universities, a monthly grant of \$1,235 to offset other expenses and a medical card. On average, the department receives 200 application packets each year, and has awarded over 1,400 scholarships since the program began in 1971.

"It is imperative that every youth in our care has the tools they need to succeed," said Illinois DCFS Acting Director Marc D. Smith. "These scholarships give our youth the ability to concentrate on their studies and prepare for their futures without the stress of worrying about how they are going to pay for school."

The DCFS Scholarship Program is open to youth who have an open DCFS case, whose cases were closed through adoption or guardianship or who aged out of care at 18 or older. Youth who are at least 16 years old and not yet 21 on March 31 may apply.

"The information I received from the DCFS Scholarship Program about buying books, school contacts and job opportunities made my transition to college life much easier," said Maya, a 2020 scholarship recipient. "I am very grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the scholarship award. With this scholarship I don't have to worry about trying to manage a lot of work hours and my school schedule. The scholarship allows me to focus on my classes and study time and has made me more financially responsible. I review my expenses, pay my bills on time and balance my monthly budget."

Scholarship recipients are selected based on their scholastic record and aptitude, community and extracurricular activities, three letters of recommendation from non-relatives and a written statement illustrating their purpose for higher education.

Due to pandemic-related limited availability of ACT and SAT testing sites, ACT and SAT test scores will not be considered for any applicants in the 2021 selection process.

Applications are available at any DCFS regional office and on the DCFS website: [www2.illinois.gov/dcf](http://www2.illinois.gov/dcf) (Form CFS 438 under DCFS Features on the homepage). Students or caregivers may call the DCFS Office of Education and Transition Services at 217-557-2689 with questions about the application process or for more information.

## Recycle! Recycle!

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- 2) Model # 203 Georgia \$49,500...BALANCE OWED \$19,950
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- 4) Model # 403 Augusta \$42,450...BALANCE OWED \$16,500

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- Windows, Doors, and Roofing not included
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BBB A+ Rating

\*OFFER NOT AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN LOG HOME DEALERS\*

**SERIOUS ONLY REPLY.** Call (704) 602-3035 ask for Accounting Dept.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

**STERLING**-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 9 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11, at Sterling Bethel Reform Church, 230 E. 23rd St. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

**LEE CENTER TWP**-The Lee Center Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11, at the township building, 2202 Shaw Rd., Amboy.

**AMBOY**-The City of Amboy Council will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 15, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

**DIXON**-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive sponsored by KSB Hospital from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the Elks Lodge, 1279 Frank-

lin Grove Rd. Call Aaron Fox at 815-285-5836 or call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

**DIXON**-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at the Dixon Home of Hope, 1637 Plock Rd.. Call Joan Padilla at 815-288-4673 or call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

**DIXON**-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at Ken Nelson Auto Group Chevy Building, 1100 N. Galena Ave. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

**ROCK FALLS**-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 22, at the Rock River Christian Center, 1800 Prophet Rd. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

**AMBOY**-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 22., at

Carbon monoxide safety  
is key to staying safe and  
warm this winter

**SPRINGFIELD** — Cold winter winds continue to bring a chill to the state meaning many Illinoisans will be turning up their thermostats to stay warm for the rest of the winter season. The Office of the State Fire Marshal encourages residents to have their furnaces checked, change furnace filters and to make sure carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke detectors are functioning properly.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires in the United States. Local fire departments responded to an average of 52,050 fires involving heating equipment each year in 2012-2016, accounting for 15% of all reported home fires during that time. Annually, these fire lead to the loss of 490 civilians' lives, 1,400 civilian injuries and account for around \$1 Billion in direct property damage. Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January and February.

In 2019 according to National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), Illinois Fire Departments responded to over 23,000 calls about carbon monoxide in 2019 and were able to determine a CO leak at nearly 11,000 of those locations.

Symptoms of CO poisoning are very similar to the flu and include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness. Other signs of possible CO presence include condensation on walls and windows, house pets becoming sluggish and chronic odors from malfunctioning appliances. If you suspect you may be experiencing these symptoms, smell natural gas leaking in your home, or if your CO alarm activates, if you can evacuate the building, do so immediately. Only open windows on your way out if they are easily accessible. If someone is unable to leave the building, or is unconscious, open doors and windows to the outside in the area the person is located and stay as near to the open window or door as possible until first responders arrive. Close any doors that open to other areas of the building to isolate the room the person is in. Turn on any exhaust fans that may be present. Once you evacuate, then call 9-1-1 from outside your home or a neighbor's house.

Space heaters lead to countless fires due to improper use during the winter months. It's important to plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and not extension cords.

## The Amboy News

Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854

Kip Cheek, Publisher

Tonja Greenfield, General Manager

Bonnie Morris, Editor

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

the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. RSVP to LP Dave Kemp for an accurate count for food and set-up.

**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](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

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REGISTRATION

Nancy Petersen, Lee County Clerk, states that voter registration is open in the Election Department of her office. Notice is hereby given that March 9, 2021 is the last day registrations or transfers can be accepted. Please stop in the Election Department or call 815-288-3309 for registration information.

Anyone who has never registered in Lee County, has moved within the county, or has had a change of name since the last election must be registered and have the correct name and address if they wish to vote in this election. First time registrants shall (by April 6, 2021, Consolidated Election) have resided in their precinct for 30 days and must be 18 years of age on or before Election Day.

VOTE BY MAIL OR EARLY VOTING - AVAILABLE TO ANY  
REGISTERED VOTER - NO EXCUSE NECESSARY

Nancy Petersen's office complies with the federal voting accessibility laws. All properly registered voters are eligible to vote by mail or early vote. Applications for a mailed ballot are available on the website or by contacting the Election Department of her office. Upon receipt of a signed application, a ballot will be mailed to the voter. The last day a ballot can be mailed is April 1, 2021, five days before this election. In person early voting is available until April 5, 2021. Voting hours are Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. and Saturday, April 3, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Voting is closed on holidays.

To comply with the federal voting accessibility law, election judges are allowed to deliver a ballot to any voter who is not able to get into the polling place. A request must be made to the Election Department prior to Election Day to make arrangements for two judges to deliver a ballot to a voter within 50 feet of the polling place. To reach the Election Department please call 815-288-3309 during normal business hours.

Once a ballot is cast, it cannot be rescinded. All above dates apply for the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election.

NANCY PETERSEN  
LEE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER



# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## OBITUARIES

### Charles Frank Rhodenbaugh

May 30, 1947 - Feb. 2, 2021

**DIXON** — Charles “Chuck” Frank Rhodenbaugh, 73, of Dixon, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021, at his home.

He was a lifetime farmer in the Lee County area and also worked for Illinois Department of Transportation.

Chuck was born May 30, 1947, in Dixon, the son of Frank and Elma (McCarter) Rhodenbaugh. He married Dianne Lawson on July 4, 1970, in Freeport. Chuck served in the Army National Guard from 1968-1971. He was a longtime member of Harmon United Methodist Church in Harmon and the Masons including: Rock River Lodge # 612, Friendship Lodge #7 and the Nachusa Lodge. Chuck was also a member of the Lee County

Farm Bureau and a Lee County 4-H volunteer. Most of all he loved fishing and spending time with his family at “Lake Winnie” in Minnesota.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Dianne Rhodenbaugh, of Dixon; three children, Kimberly (Shawn) Gerster, of Carol Stream, Tracy (Jeff) Corcoran, of Belvidere and David (Michele) Rhodenbaugh, of Dixon; 15 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Edna (Donald) Fadden, of Issaquah, Wash.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held at a later date with a Masonic Service. Cremations rites have been accorded.

Memorials may be directed to Harmon United Meth-



odist Church and American Heart Association.

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

Condolences may be sent to [www.prestonschilling.com](http://www.prestonschilling.com).

### James Blackburn

Sept. 30, 1939 - Feb. 6, 2021

**FRANKLINGROVE** — James “JT” Blackburn, 81 of Franklin Grove, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021 at home surrounded by his loved ones.

He was born Sept. 30, 1939, in Dixon, the son of Thomas Francis Blackburn and Eva Elizabeth (Sondgeroth) Blackburn. He married Barbara North on Aug. 29, 1959, in Oregon. Barbara preceded him in death on July 24, 2000. He married Mary Ann (Chesley) Mauch on May 31, 2003.

James was a lifelong farmer, he also worked in the fertilizer and petroleum business for many years and received many awards for his service. He later worked as a federal crop adjuster until his retirement.

James earned his FFA IL State Farmer degree in 1957 and his FFA American Farmer degree in 1959. He was a member of the District 271 Board of Education 1979 - 1983 and was a past member of the Franklin Grove Lions Club.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, of Franklin Grove; sons, Jeff (Pau-

la) Blackburn, of Oregon, Tom (Kathy) Blackburn, of Wheaton, Rich (Molly) Blackburn, of Amboy, and Jeff (Meghan) Clark, of Ashton; daughter, Janet (Todd) Sutton, of Naperville; daughter-in-law, Cheryl (Bob) Allen; step-children, David (Wanda) Mauch, Larry (Beth White) Mauch, Denise (Tom) Bauer, Craig (Mary) Mauch, Darwin (Martha) Mauch and Jennifer (Maury) Wilmoth; step-brother John (Mary) Leffelman, of Amboy; 26 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

James was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Barbara; sister, Geraldine Heckman; son, James R. Blackburn; granddaughter, Joellen Mauch; and step-brother Sylvan Leffelman and his wife, Virginia.

The family would like to express their deep gratitude to all of the staff at Serenity Hospice & Home, and to his night time “Angel” Gwen Weidman.

Visitation will be from 4 - 7 p.m., on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, with the Rosary at 7 p.m. at the Jones Funeral



Home in Dixon.

Funeral services will be on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021, beginning with a 10 a.m. prayer service at the funeral home followed by a 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at St. Patrick Catholic Church with the Rev. Keith Romke officiating. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery in Dixon.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Serenity Hospice and Home, 1658 S. Illinois Route 2, Oregon, IL 61061 or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).

Online condolences can be left at [www.thjonesfh.com](http://www.thjonesfh.com).

### Raymond Beggs

Nov. 27, 1953 - Feb. 4, 2021

**AMBOY** — Raymond “Ray” Beggs, 67, of Amboy, found peace with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021.

Ray was born Nov. 27, 1953, in DeKalb, the son of Lowell Beggs and Katherine Cavalcanti.

Ray was raised a small-town boy who always had a smile on his face and joke on his lips. Shortly after graduation he enlisted in United States Navy just as his father did in his youth. It was in the service he found a love for travel and new experiences. When back home after his many years in the Navy he continued traveling and living between the west coast in California and his hometown in the Midwest. He spent over 30 years as an assistant manager at his father’s grocery store back home. He found a passion in missionary work

and spreading his love for God which led him to many trips to the Philippines. It was here he found a purpose and appreciation of love, life and happiness.

Ray will never be forgotten by his children, Raynette Irene (Jonathan) Villarreal, Angela Patterson, Zachary Lowell Beggs and Joshua Burright; he will always be remembered as the grandpa with the “mints” by his nine grandchildren, Blanca Monique Beggs, Joel Josue Marcos Tapia, Rosario Marie Beggs Tapia, David Lopez, Violet Lopez, Raziell Villarreal, Izriel Villarreal, Sabrina Lee Juarez and Raymond Anthony Harden; and older brother John Beggs and younger sister Nancy DiBiase

He will be reunited with his parents, Lowell and Lillian Beggs, and sister, Joanne



Biebel.

There will be no services at this time. Cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorials may be directed to American Heart Association.

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

Condolences may be sent to [www.prestonschilling.com](http://www.prestonschilling.com).

## Kish College to host Visit Day for prospective students and families on Feb. 15

**MALTA** — Kishwaukee College will host Visit Day on Monday, Feb. 15, for prospective students and their families. The virtual program will begin at 9 and end at 11:30 a.m.

“It’s important to find a college that’s right for you, and we want you to have all the information you need

to make that decision,” said Graciela Horta, Kish’s Student Outreach Coordinator. “Come to Kish’s virtual Visit Day and find out what we have to offer in a safe, welcoming environment.”

Visit Day will be a Zoom conference event with breakout sessions, allowing participants to select different sessions when they register. This flexible schedule will allow for a customized day with sessions that will most benefit individual participants.

Session topics include: College 101, Career Technologies Programs, TRIO Student Support Services, WIOA Youth Program, Disability Services, Student Involvement including Athletics, Financial Aid and Foundation Scholarships.

Register for Visit Day at [www.kish.edu/discoverkish](http://www.kish.edu/discoverkish). For more information on Kish’s Visit Day, contact student outreach at [student-outreach@kish.edu](mailto:student-outreach@kish.edu) or 815-825-9460.



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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p><b>St. Patrick Church</b> Fr. John Gow 32 N Jones, Amboy 815-857-2315 • <a href="http://www.stpatrickamboy.org">www.stpatrickamboy.org</a> New Mass Times Begin Sept. 1st Masses: Tuesday – Friday Daily Mass 8 am Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 7:30 am &amp; 10 am Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 pm Wednesday, 5:30-6:15 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday, 8am-5 pm</p>	<p><b>First Congregational United Church of Christ of Lee Center</b> Pastor Jack M. Briggs 1140 Inlet Road, Lee Center <a href="http://www.LeeCenter-UCC.org">www.LeeCenter-UCC.org</a> Phone 815-732-7032 Family Worship - 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b> Pastor Rocky Fritz 24 N. Mason Avenue Church Phone 857-2682 <a href="http://www.fbcamboy.com">www.fbcamboy.com</a> Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m. Morning Service - 10:30 a.m. Evening Service - 6 p.m. Wed. prayer meeting &amp; Bible Study 6:30 p.m. King’s Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday Reformers Unanimous addictions program from 7-9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Immanuel Lutheran Church</b> Pastor Barb Otten 960 U.S. Route 52 Phone 857-2225 Sun. Worship - 9:00 a.m. Fellowship - 10:00 a.m. Sunday School - 9:40-10:15 a.m.</p>
<p><b>St. Mary Church</b> Fr. John Gow 912 Walton Rd., Walton 815-857-2670 New Mass Times Begin Sept. 1st Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Grace Fellowship Church</b> Amboy-Sublette Pastor Brian McWethy 500 W. Main Street, Sublette Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. <a href="http://www.graceisforyou.com">www.graceisforyou.com</a></p>	<p><b>St. James Evangelical Congregational Church</b> Robert Dunbar, Pastor US Route 52 &amp; Red Brick Rd., Dixon 815-288-2447 Sunday 10:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Ladies Bible Study, Wed. 9 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church</b> Rev. Randy Fronck Locust Street, Sublette Phone 815-849-5412 Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass - 10:30 a.m. Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. Thursday - 8:30 a.m.</p>
<p><b>St. Flannen Church</b> Fr. John Gow 213 S Second St., Harmon 815-857-2670 New Mass Times Begin Sept. 1st Mass: Sunday, 9 am</p>	<p><b>East Grove Union Church</b> Pastor Richard Wulf, 815-440-5321 449 Reuter Road, Amboy Phone 815-376-6661 1/2 Mile East of Route 26 on Union Rd. Sun., 9:00 a.m. Morning Service Youth Church, ages 3-Grade 4 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Ages 3 - Adult 6:00 p.m. Evening Service Wed., 6:00 p.m. Prayer &amp; Bible Study First Sunday night of each month, 6:00p.m. First Sunday Family Film Night Fourth Saturday of each month, 6:00p.m. “Fun &amp; Fellowship Game Night for the Whole Family!” Come as you are and join us on the journey!</p>	<p><b>St. Mary’s Church</b> Rev. Randy Fronck West Brooklyn Tuesday &amp; Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday - 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Refuge Church</b> Pastor John Kalebaugh Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52 Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930 10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows</p>
<p><b>United First Church of Amboy</b> Pastor Mark Glenn East Main &amp; Jefferson 815-440-0745 Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m. Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 p.m.</p>		<p><b>St. Patrick Church</b> Rev. Randy Fronck - Maytown Mass - Fri. 8 a.m., Sun, 8 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Harmon United Methodist Church</b> Pastor Leanne Keate 202 N. Grove, Harmon Phone 359-7302 Worship - 8:30 a.m.</p>

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Home  
815-857-2611

Vaessen Brothers  
Chevrolet  
815-849-5232

KSB Medical Center  
815-857-3044

The Amboy News  
815-857-2311





## SOCIAL NEWS

## The Book Nook

By:

Tatjana Kazan

## No Mercy

Though the seventeenth century was known as the Age of Reason, it was also the age of massive witchcraft persecution. Around 100,000 persons were accused of practicing witchcraft, and 40,000–50,000 persons were executed, most of them by fire at the stake. One of the most intense persecutions took place in Finnmark, a county of 3,000 inhabitants in the extreme northeast of Norway, specifically in a hamlet called Vardo. Located on an Arctic Circle island, Vardo became notorious for executing 91 people (77 women and 14 men) in the course of the persecutions. Kiran Millwood Hargrave's very fine book "The Mercies" is a fictionalized account of what happened in Vardo.

It all began on Christmas Eve of 1617. The men of Vardo, forty in all, were fishing when a monster storm swallowed them in a matter of minutes. The women were watching the catastrophe from shore, among them Maren Magnussdatter who lost her father, brother, and fiancé. The women were left to fend for themselves. In their desperation they did the unthinkable. They took up fishing. When Maren's mother refused to eat the fish, Maren replied, "Grief cannot feed you, though it fills you."

The women of Vardo quickly learned the skills they needed to survive, including hunting and butchering reindeer. They were led by the charismatic Kirsten who wore men's trousers because you cannot butcher a reindeer in a skirt. Moreover, some of the women "slipped back into the old ways, grasping for anything solid." The forbidden old ways were those of the indigenous Sami people. But in 1617, King Christian IV, a rabid witch hunter, issued a decree whereby a witch was defined as one who was bonded to the Devil and who "shall be cast down on fire and incineration."

The storm had attracted the authorities and soon a Commissioner named Absalom Cornet appeared with his teenage wife in tow. He was there to root out the magic that he was certain caused the storm and continued to corrupt the women of Vardo. He was from Scotland where he had made a name for himself for burning witches. His wife Ursa who described him as "brutishness made palatable by touches of fineness and manners," happily befriended Maren and by the end of the novel their friendship had blossomed into romance.

Cornet looked for "oddities" and naturally arrested Kirsten. She was tortured for weeks, ending with the water test in which they broke the ice and then threw Kirsten into the sea with her hands and feet bound. Water, considered a sacred element, was thought to repel evil. Thus sinking was a sign of innocence and floating an indication of guilt. Kirsten floated. When she was burned at the stake, the women of Vardo chanted "Breathe deep, breathe deep" to have the smoke and not the fire kill her.

## Morrissey to celebrate 90th birthday

**PALM CITY, Fla.** — Jim Morrissey will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Feb. 14, 2021.

Jim is the son of the late James and Marie Morrissey. Jim is a 1948 graduate of Amboy High School.

He currently lives in Palm City, Fla.

## From The Heart Calendar winners

## January 2021 From The Heart Calendar Winners

Jan. 1 - Rochelle Foods, \$1,000  
 Jan. 2 - Chris Macklin, Chana, \$25  
 Jan. 3 - Judith Zeinz, Rochelle, \$50  
 Jan. 4 - Michele Perez, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 5 - Rochelle Rotary Club, \$25  
 Jan. 6 - Larry & Bev Flanagan, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 7 - Shane Ikens, Amboy, \$25  
 Jan. 8 - Rochelle Foods, \$25  
 Jan. 9 - Rochelle Rotary Club, \$25  
 Jan. 10 - Kevin Miller, Sublette, \$50  
 Jan. 11 - Stephen Liezert, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 12 - Cathy King, DeKalb, \$25  
 Jan. 13 - Brittany Ludwig, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 14 - Daneh Hines, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 15 - Isaiah Harper, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 16 - Watsana Thiravong, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 17 - Simandhar Tobacco, Inc., Rochelle, \$50  
 Jan. 18 - Katlyn Long, Maple Park, \$25  
 Jan. 19 - Rosalie Berogan, Dixon, \$25  
 Jan. 20 - Nancy Adams, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 21 - Thora Cliffe, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 22 - Lea Logan, Oregon, \$25  
 Jan. 23 - Adam Gabany, Glen Arm, \$25  
 Jan. 24 - Kathy Wills, Rochelle, \$50  
 Jan. 25 - Rack Bar & Grill, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 26 - Mabel Calderon, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 27 - Peter Mangan, Elgin, \$25  
 Jan. 28 - John Vandre, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 29 - Jeff Perry Chevrolet, Rochelle, \$25  
 Jan. 30 - Tessa Sturgeon, New Albany, Ind., \$25  
 Jan. 31 - Rochelle Community Foundation, Rochelle, \$50

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

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Hazel Reuter

## Reuter to celebrate 93rd birthday

**LEE COUNTY** — Miss Hazel Reuter, longtime farm owner in East Grove Township, Lee County, will be celebrating her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Feb. 23, 2021.

Hazel was born at home on Feb. 23, 1927 in East Grove Township.

She dedicated many years to restoring her prairie, and other wetlands, woodlands and prairies in the county. Hazel worked at the Lee County SWCD Office.

## Educational Briefs

## Delaney Wilhelm Earns Semester Honors at Edgewood College

**MADISON, Wis.** — Delaney Wilhelm, of Amboy, has earned Semester Honors for the Fall 2020 semester at Edgewood College. Fulltime students who achieve a 3.5 grade point average for the semester are eligible for this honor.

About Edgewood College

Located in Madison, Wis., Edgewood College is a liberal arts Catholic college in the Dominican tradition. We serve approximately 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The College offers more than 40 academic and professional programs, including master's degrees in business, education, and nursing, and doctoral degrees in educational leadership and nursing practice. For more information about Edgewood College, please visit [www.edgewood.edu](http://www.edgewood.edu), or call Ed Taylor in Marketing & Strategic Communications at 608-663-2333.

## St. Ambrose University Students on Fall Dean's List

**DAVENPORT, Iowa** — The following full-time students, who achieved a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, have been named to the St. Ambrose University Dean's List for the fall term.

Founded in 1882 by the Diocese of Davenport, St. Ambrose is a private, coeducational, comprehensive university with a firm grounding in the liberal arts, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association. For more information about St. Ambrose go to [www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu)

## Amboy

Megan Grady, Jaynee Prestegaard, Madeline Prestegaard  
Dixon

Kaitlyn Accardi, Madeline Blackburn, Madalin Blumhoff,  
Hallie Nelson, Kaylin Sarver

## Lee

Evelyn Witte

## Wilhelm Makes Dean's List at Edgewood College

**MADISON, Wis.** — Delaney Wilhelm of Amboy has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester at Edgewood College.

Fulltime undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students who earn a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher are eligible for the Dean's List after completing 24 credit hours of study at Edgewood College.

## Rod named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List

**WHEATON** — Wheaton College student Audrey Rod of Amboy, was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.

To earn Dean's List honors at Wheaton, an undergraduate student must carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher on the 4.0 scale.

For more information, visit [wheaton.edu](http://wheaton.edu).

Recycle!  
Recycle!

## A.C.O. hosts blood drive Jan 26

**AMBOY** — Neither a blizzard or a pandemic can stop the generosity of the Amboy and Sublette communities from donating blood. On Tuesday, Jan. 26, the A.C.O. and the Amboy High School sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive had 65 participants and 68 units of blood collected which will save 204 lives.

The following people made this event possible:

- Eddie Escatel and his high school staff and students, especially Dani Benesh, Lauren Tarr and Brianna Blaine for helping with registration and the students for making reminder phone calls and posting on Facebook.
- Maddison Full for disturbing the brochures.
- Maureen Oester and Christine Noble for the hospitality they showed at the Canteen.
- The First National Bank in Amboy and Shell Gas Station for advertising on their marquees.
- The Amboy News for publishing articles advertising the blood drive.
- The Amboy Community Building staff, Maureen Oester and Julia DeArmitt for the use of their beautiful building.
- Jeremy Wittenauer and the maintenance department for setting up and taking down chairs and tables and for shoveling snow.
- The churches of Amboy for putting a plea out to their congregations.
- The Red Cross for all their help.
- Darlene Henkel for all her mentorship and her many years of service to Amboy and the Red Cross. You are greatly missed.

Because the Red Cross prohibits the names of the donors, they are unable to post all of the donor's names. They would like to acknowledge all of those people who generously donated to this worthy cause.

Email news items to  
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## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

## Boys Basketball

Brady Jones

## Girls Basketball

Abi Payne and Mallory Powers



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# Opinion

## How do we teach our children not to repeat our mistakes?

It's not our problem.  
I hate those four words more than any others strung together in the English language.

It's an excuse for looking away.  
Decades ago, when I was a young reporter, I had just taken a new job with a newspaper and the staff was excited to soon be moving into a new building. One cold December night, a desperate woman called. She was in labor, and in that era before cell phones, couldn't get a hold of her husband who was working construction in the building we were moving into.

It was past midnight and she didn't know if we could reach him. I told my boss that I was caught up with my work and could drive the three blocks to the construction site to get him.

The boss looked at me and said, "It's not our problem." He ordered me to tell her we couldn't help.

More than three decades later, I'm haunted by that conversation. I had been on the job for all of six weeks or so. I should have told the boss "no." But I didn't. Instead, I sat at my desk until 1 a.m. knowing I had betrayed not only my own values, but those in which I had been reared.

I grew up in a home where I never heard that phrase. Early on, my parents taught my siblings and me that we are our brother and sister's keeper.

I remember when I was a teenager, my Dad was driving through a rough neighborhood in my hometown of Galesburg. He saw an older woman lying on a sidewalk. Cars were buzzing by her prone form. He stopped and found she had

### Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



fallen and broken her hip.

He took five pairs of clean coveralls from his truck and created pillows for her to be comfortable and had someone call an ambulance. He stayed with her until the paramedics carried her – and the coveralls – away.

Helping others means making sacrifices and getting your hands dirty. It's not always as antiseptic as writing a check to a charity, although sometimes that is part of the solution.

While we may disagree on how best to help someone, we should never delude ourselves that we don't have such an obligation.

Sometimes we have to say "No" to those in authority and pay the price. I should have done that decades ago but I didn't.

How did things end up for that woman in labor? I have no idea. That's what happens when you look away. You don't know how the

story ends. As for the editor who said "It's not our problem" he was out of journalism within a year.

My Millennial friends like to talk about "trigger words" that resurrect past traumas. I'll be honest, I've long thought that was New Age gobbledygook.

But then I heard someone say, "It's not our problem," and memories of that cold December night in 1989 returned to me. The most offensive part of that phrase is "our." It identifies a person with a group, a clan, a race, an employer – that sets itself apart from others. The inference in the statement is if the person was part of "our" group, they'd deserve help. But otherwise, "It's not 'our' problem."

The Bible story about the Good Samaritan isn't just about

helping others, it's about reaching across racial, cultural and economic boundaries to aid those from groups other than our own.

Today, I carry two gallons of gasoline, a jack and host of tools in the back of my pickup to assist stranded motorists.

Sometimes I'm able to help change a tire or give someone enough gas to make it to a service station. One time, I just sat with a young man while his car was engulfed in flames alongside Interstate 55. I couldn't help him much, but at least he knew someone cared.

When I think back 32 years to that woman whom I didn't help, I'm haunted by my inaction. A sin of omission is as bad as one of commission.

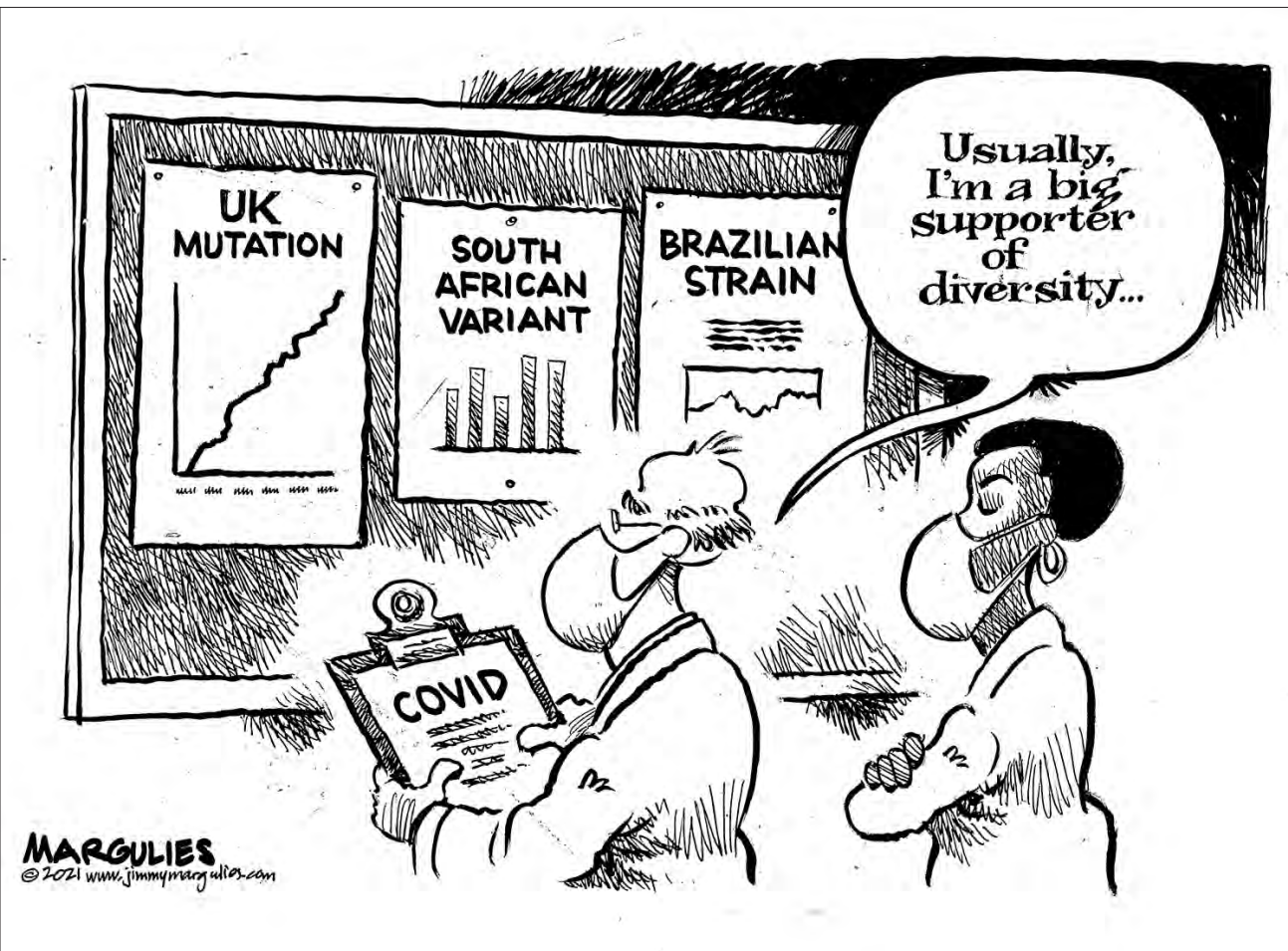
How do we teach our children not to repeat the kind of mistake I made? I've been wrestling with that as part of my 2021 resolutions. So, I asked my daughters if they would like to help stock mini-pantries or "blessing boxes" around Springfield.

They embraced the idea with enthusiasm. During this pandemic, many hard-working families are in need. Those who can, should help out.

Beginning this week, I'll take my girls to the grocery store to buy food that we'll leave at small stands across the city for families to anonymously use.

Why am I doing this? Well, we want to help others. But I also don't want my children to grow up to ever say, "It's not 'our' problem."

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



## On This Day in History

### 100 Years Ago Feb. 11, 1921

Names of the graduates of Amboy High School who are now students are the University of Illinois: Charles Gipson, David Gipson, Geraldine Heger, Ruth Smith, Mary A. Jones, Glen McCracken, Charles Brady, Rodney Spangler, Lyle Searls, Adelaide Welty, Richard Harry Doty and Cordelle A. Wood.

Mrs. Frank Hupach and Mrs. George Tuttle were Dixon visitors Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Smith, son Harold, and daughter Ruby and Miss Mary Barton spent last Friday in LaSalle.

### 75 Years Ago Feb. 7, 1946

Jack Carlson, MM3/c of the U.S. Navy Seabees, arrived home Friday to spend a 30 day leave with his moth-

er, Mrs. Earl Carlson. He came from Okinawa.

Frank Brady was made happy Sunday when eight of his children and 26 of his grandchildren arrived at his home to help him celebrate his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. V.C. Avenarius and daughter Mary moved Monday to Freeport where they will make their home.

### 50 Years Ago Feb. 11, 1971

The Amboy grappling Clippers captured the conference wrestling title last Saturday at Erie as they scored 105 points to Polo's runner up 83 points.

With the expected arrival of new decals yet this week, plans are underway for an intensive membership drive by the Amboy Chamber of Commerce. Directors, recently elected when the Chamber was reactivated, met Tuesday evening to map plans for the coming year.

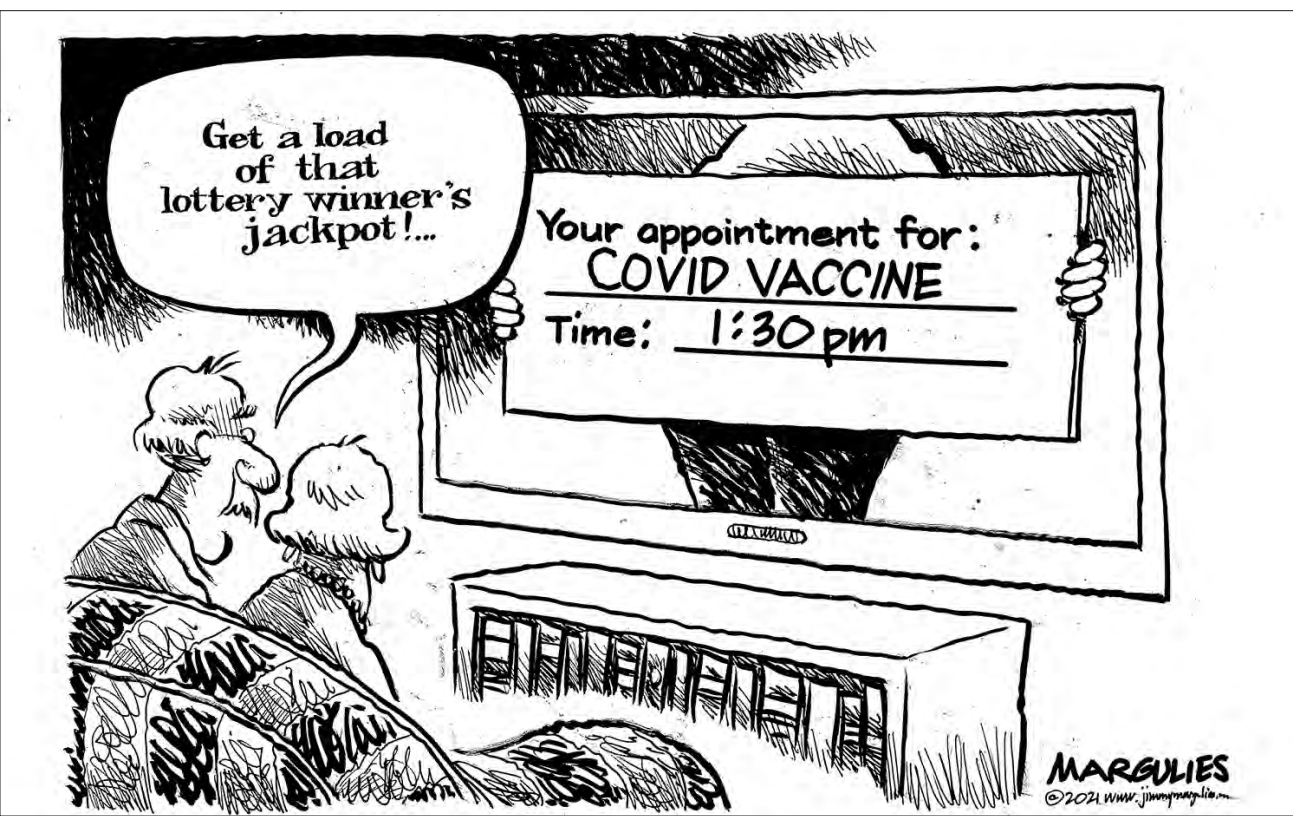
Mrs. Isadore Lauer and son, Ed Lauer and daughter Diane, Mendota, were Dixon visitors on Saturday and enroute home stopped in Amboy to visit Mrs. Leo Lauer.

### 25 Years Ago Feb. 8, 1996

Two new computers were purchased recently for the Agriculture Department at Amboy High School using funds donated by individuals and businesses in the Amboy area.

Cropmate Company of Amboy has announced that the positions of Plant Operations Manager and Crop Specialist-Salesman have been filled by Paul Henkel and Stephen Powell, respectively.

Amboy High School seniors Ryan Egler and Kelly Jo Malach were named Sweetheart King and Queen at the high school's Sweetheart Dance Jan 27.



Established In 1854

## The Amboy News

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## SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## SPORTS

## Clipper Highlights: #7 Eric McLaughlin

This week we go back into the Quarterback family as we highlight one of our "Top Notch" Clipper Gunslingers. I'm honored to announce our Clipper Highlight, #7, Eric McLaughlin.

Eric was a 1999 graduate of Amboy High School, two year Varsity starter at Quarterback, and multi sport athlete. Eric was the prototypical pocket passer with his 6'2" 170lb frame.

Eric's Clipper journey began his sophomore season as he and his family moved to Amboy from Oregon. Clipper Country not only gained quality athletes but quality people.

Eric's Junior season he took over as starting quarterback during Week 3.

"We had really good weapons that season and we tried to spread it around the field," Eric stated of the '97 Clippers' offensive philosophy.

The '97 Clippers had, I would argue, one of the most grueling schedules in our history. Playing juggernauts and perennial power's such as Stillman Valley, Newman,

Burlington Central, Fulton, Morrison, and Riverdale it made for a playoff like opponent week in and week out.

Eric's Senior season the Clippers faced another rigorous regular season schedule, swapping Burlington Central for St. Bede.

"We had many close games our Senior year, we just couldn't find a way to finish on top," Eric stated.

To put the caliber of competition in perspective during Eric's Senior season, Newman was the State Runner-Up in 1A, Stillman Valley lost in the Semi-finals in 2A by two points, Fulton lost in the first round in 2A to Morrison, and Morrison lost in the second round in 2A to Paxton Buckley-Loda.

Eric recalled his favorite memory of Amboy Football that he got to play his Senior season with his younger brother Jason as Jason was called up to Varsity.

In true Clipper fashion, Eric spoke highly of all his former teammates, one in particular, "Tony Magnafici, one of our tackles, was one of the best linemen we have had."

## Clipper Highlights

By Spencer Morrissey



Eric finished the season earning 2nd Team All Conference at Safety and Honorable Mention All Conference at Quarterback.

After high school, Eric coached in the Jr. Tackle program for three seasons. Eric coached, mentored, and influenced an entire new generation of Amboy Football. His commitment and care for Amboy Football could be seen in the way he coached. For someone who had only been in the Amboy community for a handful

of years, Eric's impact was immense.

Former teammate and current Head Coach, Scott Payne, stated, "I saw Eric play after I graduated and he had an absolute cannon for an arm."

Payne also coached with Eric in the Jr. Tackle program and shared the following, "Eric was a very good coach. He understood the offense so well and got along with everyone. I'd like to see him get back into it someday."

Eric's longtime friend and former teammate, Dr. Brandon Klein stated, "Eric was a fierce competitor. He always gave his best no matter the opponent and was always our most athletic guy on the field. A great leader also."

Klein not only worked with Eric for 8-9 years but the two would also marry into the same family.

Klein stated, "On a side note, I don't know how family Thanksgiving is going to be this year, being the only son/son-in-law not to be highlighted for Clipper of the Week."

Always good fun and proof the bond remains.

The bond we have as Clippers would rival any great football town in the state. The only greater bond two Clippers could share is playing side by side with a brother on the gridiron. Jason shared his memories of playing with Eric during his Sophomore season.

"I loved playing with Eric, it was one of the highlights of my career. I wanted to make him proud and not let him down his Senior season," Jason said. "I remember we lost to Erie/Prophetstown in a close game and we both were devastated. Eric threw me three touchdown passes that game, all on the 42 option pass. It was McLaughlin to McLaughlin all night, but the announcer couldn't pronounce are name right, he kept saying McGlocklin."

Eric and his Varsity teams may have not had the success of other Clipper teams but their contributions are just as equally important. Eric and his teams continued the tradition of toughness, hard work, and never quit. Those are the same qualities that Eric has built his successful business around. I know

of many former Clippers who were fortunate to work for Eric during the summer months prior to the start of the season. Those opportunities fortified the hard working, disciplined, blue collar mentality that's been a constant in our community and program.

So, to #7, "The Gunslinger," Eric McLaughlin, thank you for your contributions to Amboy Football. Thank you for your pride and service to our town and future Clippers. Above all, you're a great family friend and I look forward to your continued impact in our community. 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 begin season with 74-52 win over Sterling

STERLING – The Amboy Lady Clippers finally got to start their basketball

season and they began in impressive fashion with a 74-52 triumph over the

Sterling Golden Warriors on Feb. 5 at Sterling.

After one week of prac-

tice, Amboy was still able to score 21 points in the first quarter. The Lady Clippers outscored Sterling in every quarter to win by a comfortable margin. Amboy was in front, 40-26, at halftime. With the Lady Clippers in foul trouble, Sterling cut the margin to eight in the third period, but AHS built the lead back to 18 (57-39) heading to the fourth.

Amboy was led by their all-state guards, Abi Payne and Mallory Powers. Payne exploded for 11 points in the first quarter and finished with 31. She was six of 11 from the three-point arc and made all nine of her free throws. She

also dished out six assists and had five steals to pace the team in both categories.

Powers also had a great game with 26 points, including nine in the third quarter to help keep Sterling at bay. She shot 60 percent from the field and 75 percent from the charity stripe. The senior added five rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Olivia Dinges was next with seven points, five rebounds and three assists. She was in foul trouble in the second half and fouled out late. Brianna Blaine dropped in six points, had three assists and led the squad with six rebounds. Blaine's rebounds

were big with Gabby Jones also in foul trouble.

Amboy's front court players battled Sterling's three 6-footers the whole night while being whistled for 13 fouls. Jones finished with two rebounds and two assists.

Madelyn McLaughlin, Amboy's 'sixth starter,' contributed two points, three caroms and two assists. Freshman Maeve Larsen scored her first two varsity points.

Amboy shot 45 percent from two-point range, 60 percent from three-point land and 82 percent from the line.

## Tri-County Opportunities Council 2021 scholarships available

ROCK FALLS — At least 12 scholarships will be awarded by Tri-County Opportunities Council to income eligible students residing in the agency's service area. The scholarships are worth up to \$1,250 and have been made available by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCEO) through its Community Services Block Grant funds. All low-income students, racial or ethnic minorities and previous scholarship winners are encouraged to apply.

To be eligible for the scholarship competition:

- The applicant must be a member of an income-eligible household.

- The applicants must be attending an Illinois accredited post-secondary educational institution of higher learning during the fall of 2021.

- Applicants must be a resident of Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark or Whiteside County in Illinois.

- Students must be considered full-time (minimum

of 12 semester hours) to qualify for the full \$1,250 scholarship. Part-time students will be considered in the competition, however, scholarship awards will be pro-rated if they are selected as a winner.

Application deadline is March 26, 2021.

Further information and application forms may be obtained by contacting the office at 800-323-5434 extension 15 or on the website at [www.tcochelps.org](http://www.tcochelps.org).

## Amboy High School Girls' Basketball

Feb. 11 – at Ashton-Franklin Center – 6 p.m.

Feb. 13 – Freeport Aquin – 1 p.m.

Feb. 15 – at Durand – 1 p.m.

Feb. 17 – Milledgeville – 6 p.m.

Feb. 19 – at Milledgeville – 6 p.m.

Feb. 23 – at Eastland – 6 p.m.

Feb. 25 – Eastland – 6 p.m.

Feb. 27 – Lena-Winslow – 1 p.m.

March 3 – Forresteron – 6 p.m.

March 5 – at Forresteron – 5:30 p.m.

March 6 – Stockton – 1 p.m.

March 9 – Polo – 6 p.m.

March 11 – at Polo – 6 p.m.

## Amboy High School Boys' Basketball

Feb. 10 – Ashton-Franklin Center – 6 p.m.

Feb. 12 – at Ashton-Franklin Center – 6 p.m.

Feb. 16 – Milledgeville – 6 p.m.

Feb. 18 – at Milledgeville – 6 p.m.

Feb. 22 – at Freeport Aquin – 6 p.m.

Feb. 24 – at Eastland – 6 p.m.

Feb. 26 – Eastland – 6 p.m.

March 2 – Forresteron – 6 p.m.

March 4 – at Forresteron – 5:30 p.m.

March 8 – Somonauk – 6 p.m.

March 9 – at Polo – 6 p.m.

March 10 – Polo – 6 p.m.

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<b>Nasoya Egg Roll Wrappers</b> Assorted 12-16 oz  <b>\$2<sup>69</sup></b> ea.	<b>Steakcut Mushrooms</b> 8 oz  <b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b> ea.	<b>Asparagus</b>  <b>\$3<sup>49</sup></b> lb.	<b>Food Club Egg Noodles</b> Assorted 12 oz  <b>79¢</b> ea. Reg. Price \$1.69 ea.

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<b>Atlantic Cod Fillets</b>  <b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b> lb. Reg. Price \$6.99 lb.	<b>Kemp's Ice Cream</b> 128 oz Assorted  <b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b> ea. Reg. Price \$7.29 ea.	<b>Biscuits and Sausage Gravy Mix</b>  <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> ea. Reg. Price \$2.99 ea.

## WEEKLY SPECIALS

<div><div><div>Food Club Apple Juice</div><div>128 oz</div><div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$4.49 ea.</div></div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Newman's Own Pasta Sauce</div><div>24 oz</div><div><div>\$2<sup>49</sup></div><div>ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$2.99 ea.</div></div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Nestle Pure Life Water</div><div>24 pack</div><div><div>\$4<sup>99</sup></div><div>ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$5.69 ea.</div></div></div><div></div></div>	
<div><div><div>Kellogg's Poptarts</div><div>Assorted</div><div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div><div>ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$2.99 ea.</div></div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Florida Natural Orange Juice</div><div>52 oz</div><div><div>\$3<sup>29</sup></div><div>ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$3.79 ea.</div></div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Sunny D Juice</div><div>128 oz</div><div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div><div>ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$4.29 ea.</div></div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Pillsbury Toaster Strudles</div><div>Assorted 11.7 oz</div><div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div><div>ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$2.79 ea.</div></div></div><div></div></div>
<div><div><div>Kemp's Ice Cream Sandwiches</div><div><div>\$3<sup>49</sup></div><div>ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$5.99 ea.</div></div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Duncan Hines Pudding</div><div>4 Pack</div><div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div><div>ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$3.39 ea.</div></div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div><div>Cheez It Crackers</div><div>Assorted</div><div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div><div>ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$4.49 ea.</div></div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div><div>7-Up Products</div><div>6 Pack Bottles</div><div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div><div>ea.</div><div>Reg. Price \$3.99 ea.</div></div></div><div></div></div>

Sale goes through Feb. 16, 2021