



Alexis Morgan

Amboy High School student wins Red Cross scholarship

AMBOY — Alexis Morgan of Amboy, helped save lives by hosting an American Red Cross blood drive this past fall and earned a \$1,000 scholarship as a result of her lifesaving efforts.

As part of the Red Cross Leaders Save Lives program, the Amboy High School student hosted a blood drive at Amboy Community Building on Sept. 2, 2020, which collected 40 units of blood. As a result, Morgan was entered into a drawing to win a scholarship and was chosen as a winner. Morgan was also awarded a gift card.

“I wanted to host a drive for the Leaders Save Lives program because there is a need for blood, especially with everything going on in the world today. I am not able to give blood myself, so I wanted to find a way to help,” Morgan says.

She expresses how seeing everyone that donated or volunteered at the drive brought light into her life. It allowed her to see how everyone can make a difference. After high school, Morgan plans on attending college to receive a bachelor's degree in business.

See **SCHOLARSHIP** page A2

Lee County Spelling Bee set for Feb. 18

LEE COUNTY — The Lee-Ogle-Whiteside Regional Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, Feb. 18, at Dixon High School. Sponsors are Sauk Valley Media, The First National Bank in Amboy, and Lee-Ogle-Whiteside Regional Office of Education.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Spelling Bee will not be open to the public but only to parents of participants.

Five finalists from the Lee-Ogle-Whiteside elementary and middle school students in grades fifth through eighth will compete for the regional championship. The winner receives an all-expense paid trip to National Harbor, Maryland to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee at the end of May.

Prizes include Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Amazon.com gift cards, 2021 United States Mint Proof Set, Encyclopedia Britannica online subscription, medals, and pins.

2021 Illinois tax filing season begins Feb. 12

SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) will begin accepting 2020 state individual income tax returns on Friday, Feb. 12, the same date that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) begins accepting federal individual income tax returns. If a taxpayer electronically files an error-free return, they should receive a direct deposit refund in four to six weeks, if applicable. Last year, IDOR saw a 2.7% increase in the number of electronic filers; of the 6,443,623 individual income tax returns, 87% were filed electronically and 63% received refunds.

“Filing tax returns electronically and requesting direct deposit is still the fastest way for taxpayers to receive a refund,” said IDOR Director David Harris. “As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, I also encourage taxpayers to create a MyTax Illinois account. With a MyTax Illinois account, taxpayers will be able to respond to any filing inquiries from the department electronically, resulting in faster processing and issuance of owed refunds.”

The 2020 tax filing deadline is Thursday, April 15. IDOR remains highly committed to protecting taxpayers from identify theft and will continue to work with the IRS and other states to strengthen protections. Taxpayers are encouraged to do their part by protecting their personal information and staying alert to phone scams or phishing emails. For more tips and up-to-date information, taxpayers should visit IDOR's website.

Free filing of Form IL-1040 is available through MyTax Illinois. Individuals may also utilize MyTax Illinois to make payments, respond to department inquiries, and check the status of their Illinois Individual Income Tax refunds using the Where's My Refund? link. Taxpayers may also look up IL-PINs, amounts of any estimated tax payments made, and (when necessary) amounts reported on Form 1099-G with MyTax Illinois

For the most up-to-date information, forms, schedules, and instructions for the 2020 tax year, please visit IDOR's website at: tax.illinois.gov.

IHSA announces sports to resume

BLOOMINGTON — The IHSA Board of Directors met for a special board meeting on Jan. 27, where the Board provided an updated sports schedule and other guidance for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

“We understood the high level of anticipation surrounding today's announcement, along with the scrutiny that will accompany it,” said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. “Ultimately, the Board adhered to its stated goals throughout the pandemic: providing an opportunity for every IHSA student-athlete to compete safely this year and maximizing opportunities for traditional IHSA spring sports after they lost their entire season a year ago. I recognize that many schools and coaches could likely offer a tweak here or there that would have, in their opinion, made it ‘better’ for their school or sport. Our Board faced an impossible task with a litany of factors. They were conscientious in considering every possibility and I believe their decisions today are a positive step for the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of our students. We are excited to channel our energy into creating as many positive experiences for Illinois high school students as we can between now and the end of this extraordinary school year.”

The Board approved the following schedule for the remainder of the school year:

- Boys' & Girls' Basketball — Practice starts ASAP. Seven dates before first game. No state series. Season ends March 13.
- Football — Practice starts March 3. First game March 19. No state series. Season ends April 24.
- Girls' Volleyball — Practice starts March 8. Seven dates before first match. No state series. Season ends April 24.
- Baseball — Practice starts April 5. Seven dates before first game. State series TBD. Season ends June 19.
- Softball — Practice starts April 5. Seven dates before first game. State series TBD. Season ends June 19.
- Boys' & Girls' Track — Practice starts April 5. Seven dates before first contests. State series TBD. Season ends June 19.
- Wrestling — Practice starts April 19. Seven dates before first contest. No state series. Season ends June 12.

“The Board wants to do



everything in their power to prevent spring sports from going two consecutive years with no postseason IHSA play,” said Anderson. “There are obviously no guarantees, as risk levels by sport and local region mitigation statuses will factor significantly. Postseason could mean being limited to a Regional or Sectional level of competition, but we have not ruled out the idea of playing a full state tournament in these traditional spring sports if possible. The overwhelming feedback we have heard from athletic directors and coaches was that returning to play in all sports should be the main goal.”

With the exception of football, which requires individuals to participate in practice on 12 different days, all sports will be required to hold practice on seven different days prior to holding a contest.

See **SPORTS** page A2

Lee County COVID-19 Update: Feb. 1, 2021

LEE COUNTY — The Lee County Health Department is saddened to report 2 additional deaths in the county after confirming COVID as the cause. Age breakdown is a male in his 90s and a male in his 100s. This brings the total number of deaths in Lee County to 57.

The health department also reported 2 cases were from congregate living facilities with 2 Dixon Correctional Center.

Between Jan. 25 – Feb. 1, the Lee County Health Department has reported a total of 57 new cases have been reported including the cases listed above. Here are the ages that were announced: 1 under the age of 12, 3 in his or her teens, 15 in his or her 20s, 5 in his or her 30s, 10 in his or her 40s, 8 in his or her 50s, 9 in his or her 60s, 3 in his or her 70s, and 1 in his or her 80s.

This brings the total number of cases to 2,935 as of Feb. 1. Of the 2,935 cases, 2,435 have recovered. They also reported as of Feb. 1, 5 residents have been hospitalized.

Vaccine

As of Feb. 1, according to IDPH 3,161 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Lee County, and a total of 543 people in Lee County have received both doses 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
- 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/39G-TrMS>. 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 com-

plete 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.

Pioneer State Bank announces retirement of Jim Bann

EARLVILLE — Jim Bann, Director of NBE Bancshares, and Chairman and Director of Pioneer State Bank, has chosen to step down from these roles, effective in January 2021. Bann has served Pioneer State Bank, and before that, the National Bank of Earlville, since 1964 as an Officer, President and ultimately Chairman of the Board.

During that period, Bann oversaw the construction of what is now the Home Office of Pioneer State Bank along with the acquisition of the State Bank of Paw Paw by NBE Bancshares. Bann has guided the bank through economic periods both challenging and prosperous, and, his wisdom and expertise have helped to insure that Pioneer State Bank is the successful bank it is today.

In addition to his years of service to the Bank, Bann has also served the City of Earlville with great dedication, as a member of the IVCC Foundation Board, the Earlville Library Board,



Jim and Geri Bann

the Earlville School Board, as well as a member of the Earlville Lions Club for over 50 years.

Michael Stevens is replacing Bann as Chairman of the Board of Pioneer State Bank. Stevens, who has over 30 years of banking experience, has served as the CEO of Pioneer State Bank since 2013. During that time, Stevens oversaw the merger of the National Bank of Earlville and the State Bank of Paw Paw as well as the acquisition of Farmers State Bank of Sublette.

While Bann is retiring

from an active role with NBE Bancshares and Pioneer State Bank, he will serve in an advisory capacity as Chairman Emeritus of NBE Bancshares, advising the Board as needed. Pioneer State Bank wishes Bann, his wife Geri, and his family much happiness and health in the years to come.

Despite the challenges and difficulties of the past year, Pioneer State Bank remains both profitable and highly capitalized. As a true small town bank, Pioneer State Bank takes great pride in supporting each of the communities in which they serve.



CLIPPER HIGHLIGHTS

This week's column features #78 Jeremy Kessel

PAGE A9

Obituaries

Patricia Burke
Don Clark
Donald Hillison
Norma Shapiro

Index

Community Calendar.....A3
Church Directory.....A4
Obituaries.....A3-4
Social News.....A5
Local News.....A6
Classifieds.....A8
Sports.....A9

Inserts

Snyders



LOCAL NEWS

SCHOLARSHIP

continued from page A1

Blood donors from high school and college blood drives account for about 20% of donations given through the Red Cross during the school year. The Leaders Save Lives program encourages community-minded high school and college students to host blood drives to help maintain the blood supply for patients in need of lifesaving transfusions. As the pandemic wears on in 2021, blood donations remain essential to the health of our communities.

Students can sign up now to participate in the Leaders Save Lives spring program for drives now through May 31, 2021. For more information, visit RedCrossBlood.org/LeadersSaveLives.

Blood donation safety precautions

To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individuals who do not feel well or who believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone their donation.

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.

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information.

SPORTS continued from page A1

Holding multiple practices on a date does not impact that timeline. If student-athletes transition from basketball into football, they will need to participate in practice on 10 different days prior to their first contest. Winter sport contests could begin as early as Jan. 27, dependent on when a school's Region reached the appropriate mitigation status and when they began practices.

The IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) issued a statement reminding all student-athletes, coaches, and schools on the importance of acclimatization:

"The IHSA SMAC reminds member schools that student-athletes may need additional conditioning in order to participate in a full schedule this season. In addition to season/practice requirements, care needs to be given to each student's individual acclimation as they return to play. When building schedules, attention needs to be given to academic pressure, changes from in-person to remote learning, changes between tiers of mitigation, time spent traveling to events, appropriate time to practice/learn the sport between games, etc. to ensure the student experience truly enhances the academic day."

IHSA guidelines require all student-athletes to participate in masks (with the exception of swimming & diving, gymnasts on an apparatus and outdoor events where social distancing can occur) and for all game personnel not participating in the contest to also wear masks and adhere to social distancing.

"We still have regions of the state that need to make strides in order to be able to play basketball this winter," said

Anderson. "That underscores the importance of our schools following all the mitigations and precautions. We need to maintain a positive trajectory not only to get winter sports going, but to make sure we do not have any regions regress before spring and summer sports have their opportunity. We can all do our part by wearing a mask and socially distancing."

The Board also agreed to consider other participation opportunities for a given sport, like basketball, if the sport is unable to be played in a specific region.

"We have said from day one that if and when we were allowed to play again this year, the situation would be fluid," said Anderson. "We don't feel great about the notion of some schools falling behind based on their Region's status, but also recognize that we are running out of time and can't afford to hold back the Regions that can play."

In October, the Board ruled that students who play sports (football, boys' soccer, girls' volleyball) that were displaced from their traditional season could participate on high school and non-school teams simultaneously. The Board affirmed this position in Wednesday's meeting with additional sports moving out of their traditional seasons, and also ruled that girls' and boys' basketball players will need to cease non-school team participation within seven days of their first high school game.

All sports that are out-of-season can conduct contact days through June 4. Contact days are limited to three days per week per sport with a maximum of six hours of contact per week with no interscholastic competition.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Patricia A. "Pat" Burke July 10, 1946 - Jan. 29, 2021

AMBOY — Patricia A. "Pat" Burke died on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021 with her family present.

Pat was born in Geneseo, on July 10, 1946 the daughter of Dale R. and Lois (Ellenwood) Sherrard.

She graduated from Amboy High School, Amboy, and received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Business.

Education from Illinois State University, Normal. Pat taught school in Atlanta, IL, Plano, Franklin Grove, IL, and Dixon. Pat was Kendall County Teacher of the Year and Nominee for Illinois Teacher of the Year during the 1972-73 school year.

Pat married William L. "Bill" Burke on Sept. 2, 1967.

She was involved in Pro-Life Action League, was an in-home volunteer for several hospices in the area for over 19 years and was an active member and volunteer at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Amboy. Pat was a member of P.E.O., Amboy Civic Organization, the Red Hats, and St. Patrick Women's Organi-

zation. Pat enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and attending their events. She was a Chicago White Sox, Chicago Bears, and Amboy Clipper Fan.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Gary and sister, Virginia Wachtel.

Pat is survived by her husband; her children, Brian (Danielle) Burke, of Geneseo, Julie Burke, of Bloomington, and Brad (Janelle) Burke, of Hudson. Pat is also survived by grandchildren Tamara, Emma, Andrew, Kaden, Kellen, Kenley, and Kaiven, Aubrey, and great grandson Ze'heir; sisters, Kathy (Tom) Whitney, of Bloomington and Beth (Marion) Deeds, of Champaign; sister-in-law, Patsy Sherrard, of Normal and brother-in-law, Tom (Stacie) Wachtel, of Lincoln. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews along with special friends Eileen, Darlene and Mary.

There was a visitation from 4 - 8 p.m., on Monday, Feb. 1, 2021, with the Rosary at 7:30 p.m., at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home



in Amboy. Services were held on Tuesday 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 in Amboy. Burial followed at St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy.

Memorials in Patricia's memory to Teen Turf in Amboy, and to the Rock River Hospice Home.

The family of Patricia Burke would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Joe Welty for all of his support and to the nurses and staff at the Rock River Hospice Home.

Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.

Don Clark

April 28, 1935 - Jan. 19, 2021

SUBLETTE—Don Clark, 85, of Sublette passed away Jan. 19, 2021 at home surrounded by family and loving friends, and his faithful cat "Charlie."

Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Perpetual Help and committal service at St. Mary's Cemetery, Sublette will be private. Rev. Randy Fronek will officiate. Pallbearers will be Bryan, Bob and Jason Williams, Bob Stewart, John Kehoe and Skip Miller. Wasmer Funeral Home is privileged to assist the family.

Don was born April 28, 1935 in Sublette to Raymond Aubrey and Valeria Catherine (Kellen) Clark.

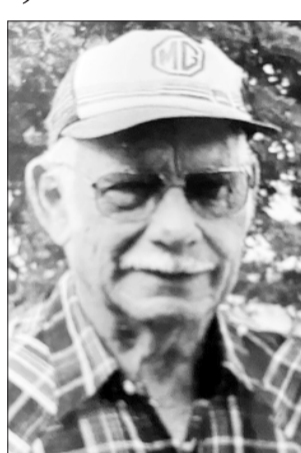
In Don's life, he was lucky enough to have two families, his biological family and his car family. He held both families close to his heart, and they made his life complete.

Survivors include two sisters, Cora (Ron) Williams of

Yorkville and Mary (Butch) Jones of West Brooklyn; three nephews, Bryan Williams, Jason Williams and Bob Williams; five nieces, Linda (Williams) Hernandez, Marjorie (Williams) Duerr, Jennifer (Jones) Huinker, Rachael (Jones) Wilson, and Elizabeth (Jones) Burgner; nine great-nephews; 10 great-nieces; one great-nephew and two great-stepnieces.

He was preceded in death by two brothers in infancy and his parents.

Don owned and operated his auto repair shop, Clark Auto Repair in Sublette for many years. He was well known throughout the community and beyond for his love of antique and classic cars. He had the talent and ability to restore cars deteriorated by age to original condition. His knowledge of engine repair and restoration was sought after by people from all across the country.



If Don did not know how to fix it, then no one could. His ingenuity and resourcefulness enhanced his reputation and people fully respected his knowledge and abilities, probably more than he ever knew.

Memorials may directed to the family, memorials will be established.

Condolences may be left at wasmerfuneral.com.



Megan Grady

Grady named athlete of the week

DAVENPORT, Iowa — St. Ambrose University's Megan Grady has claimed the first Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) Women's Indoor Track Athlete of the Week award for 2021, the league office announced.

Grady, a senior, authored the fourth-fastest time in the 3,000-meter run at the NAIA level this year with her winning time of 10:48.5 to gain CCAC Track Athlete of the Week honors. A total of five individuals made up the field in the event, which was part of the St. Ambrose Frigid Bee Invite. Grady is graduate of Amboy High School.

Amboy Police

Driving While License Suspended

On Jan. 23, at 10 p.m., Daniel Kessel, 28, of Amboy, was arrested for driving while license suspended. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

DIXON—The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6, at the National Guard Building, 412 W. Everett. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

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

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 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

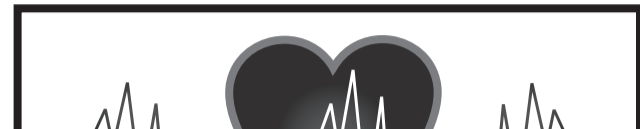
Email news items to tgreenfield@amboynews.com

at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 15, at the Community Center.

Donor App.

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 Franklin Grove Rd. Call Aaron Fox at 815-285-5836 or call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood

DIXON—The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 19, 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 to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.



American Heart Month

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men & women, but preventing & controlling it is in our hands. Have a heart-to-heart check up with your doctor to make sure you are doing all you can to keep your heart healthy. After you've taken that step, be sure to ask us about an insurance check-up to make sure all your insurance needs are also being taken care of.



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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.

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Donald E. Hillison

Jan. 25, 1929 - Jan. 29, 2021

FRANKLIN GROVE — Donald E. Hillison, 92, of Franklin Grove, passed away at Generations at Neighbors, Byron, on Jan. 29, 2021.

Don was born Jan. 25, 1929, in Amboy, the son of Henry E. and Mildred (Gleim) Hillison. He attended school in Lee Center.

Don married the love of his life, Dorothy J. Hussey on Sept. 14, 1948 at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin Grove and have been happily married for 72 years.

He was a life-long farmer in Franklin Grove area raising corn, soybeans and Charolais Cattle. Don enjoyed traveling with his wife and several very close friends. He especially enjoyed hunting and being a life-time member of the Ferrell's Northwinds Goose Club in Marian.

Don was a devoted husband to his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He spent many hours sitting on hardwood bleachers supporting local teams, his grandchildren and great-granddaughters.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; children, Tom (Susan) Hillison and Susan (Dave) Coers; grandchildren, Angie (John) Shrimplin, Shane Coers, Krista (Zach) Finifrock, Scott (Ellie) Hillison; great-grandchildren, Emily Shrimplin, Callie Jo Shrimplin, Henry Finifrock; and brother, Delbert (Connie) Hillison.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, and sisters, Fern Josephson and Marilyn Engelbarts.

A graveside service will be at held 11 a.m., on Thurs-



day, Feb. 4, 2021 with Pastor Jack Briggs, officiating at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established.

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

Condolences may be sent to www.prestonschilling.com.

Norma J. Shapiro

July 5, 1929 - Jan. 29, 2021

LIVINGSTON, Mont. — Norma J. Shapiro, formerly of Amboy, passed away at her home in Livingston, Mont. on Jan. 29, 2021.

Norma was born on July 5, 1929, in LaMoille, the eldest of five children of Marion and Bernice (McCray) Hall. She attended school there and was a graduate of LaMoille High School. She married David Shapiro on Sept. 15, 1947.

Upon completing dental school in 1952, Dave opened a dental practice in Amboy, and he and Norma, along with their daughters, Sarah and Debbie, moved to Amboy. While in Amboy, the family grew to include Peggy, Ned, Michael, Betsy and Daniel. While Dr. Shapiro was active with his practice and various civic affairs, Norma ran the household and was active in the community as well. She was a member and officer of the Amboy Woman's Club, the Amboy Hospital Auxiliary, PEO, Central School PTA (for over 25 years!), the Lee County Republican Women, and the Sauk Valley College Foundation Board.

Norma was instrumental in the establishment of the Amboy Depot Museum, and was both a volunteer and officer of the museum commission until she moved to Montana in 1986. Additionally, she was the ultimate cheerleader for her husband's political career and was by his side throughout his campaigning and his service in the legislature.

Norma's most outstanding achievement, in a life filled with outstanding achievements, was in her role as a wife and mother of seven. In her world food was love. Every evening, the family was served a gourmet meal, and then

before bedtime, she read a story aloud to her children. Sack lunches were prepared and packed each day, with sandwiches made from her homemade bread, topped off with desserts which she baked daily. Her daughters started each year of grade school with new dresses she made for them. She packed picnic lunches and organized bike rides to the park, taught her children card games and then spent hours playing with them, took them to the library and instilled in them a love of reading, planted and nurtured beautiful gardens, and ran a happy and organized household. Education and lifelong learning were key components to the life that Norma made. If you had access to a library card and the ability to read, you could figure out almost anything. She made sure her family lacked for neither. In her mind, there was never an excuse for being bored.

Norma was a finalist for "Mother of the Year" in 1983 at the University of Illinois Mom's Day celebration, but her family knew that in reality, she was the mother of not just a single year, but of all time.

After Dave's death in 1981, Norma served as an alderwoman on the Amboy City Council, continued her involvement with the Depot Museum and various other local activities, and was appointed to the Illinois State Board of Elections by Governor James Thompson. Prior to her move to Montana, the Governor proclaimed a "Norma Shapiro Day" in Illinois, in recognition of her many contributions to the state.

When she arrived in Montana, she once again became immersed in civic responsibilities. She was a member of the Friends of the Library, the Depot Museum, the Upper Yellowstone Defense Fund and PEO. She was politically involved, as a member of the county's central committee, and ran a bed and breakfast at her home. She enjoyed life in Montana to the fullest. Many a good day was spent with her dear friend Marge Warfield as they hiked the trails just outside Norma's front door,

and enjoyed a glass of wine afterward. On these treks and many other adventures, she was accompanied by one or more of her faithful, much-loved canine companions.

In recent years, illness had slowed Norma and robbed her of her ability to remain active in the community. Even so, she maintained an interest in the world around her, and enjoyed reading, (both new works and old favorites by Agatha Christie and P. G. Wodehouse), spending time with family and friends, and keeping in touch with far-flung relatives through regular phone calls. She also enjoyed occasional visits from her friends in the neighborhood. During the pandemic, she was able to enjoy regular zoom gatherings with her family.

Norma was preceded in death by her husband, Dave Shapiro, her parents and her siblings, Lois Guthrie, JoAnn Cassidy and Richard Hall.

She is survived by her brother, Robert (Judy) Hall; her children, Sarah Shapiro Hurlley (Sarge Hoem), Debbie (Mike) Pontarelli, Peggy (Jim) Horstman, Ned, Michael (Gloria Deason), Betsy (Bob O'Donnell) and Daniel; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Mike Cassidy; sisters-in-law, Beverly Hall and Vivian Shapiro; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank her dedicated caregivers for their care of and devotion to the wellbeing of Norma, and the equally wonderful hospice nurses and staff, particularly Alex Laughlin. Without their loving attention, she would not have been able to attain her wish to stay in her home.

A private memorial will be held when COVID-19 conditions permit.

May Norma's memory be a blessing for all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Donations may be sent in Norma's memory to the Amboy Depot Museum, for establishment of a research area named in her honor, at 227 E. Main Street, Amboy, IL 61310, or to the Pankhurst Memorial Library, 3 S. Jefferson Ave., Amboy, IL 61310.

TEEN TURF

Teen Turf Facebook Valentine's Dessert & Basket Auction

Save the Date! We will be holding a dessert and basket auction starting at noon on Friday, Feb. 5th running until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10 just in time for Valentine's Day. The pictures of

the items will be similar to the ones won. The items are made to order. We will call or message the lucky winners to pick up their items at Teen Turf. As of right now we will have the following items for auction: Pecan Pie, Mint Andes Cookies, Cream Puffs, Valentine's gift basket, Gift

Certificate, Cheese Popcorn, Thumbprint cookies, Dutch Apple Pie, Pumpkin bars and various pies. There may be other items donated, so please check our Facebook page www.facebook.com/teenturf on the Feb. 5th to look and bid. We are a non-profit Organization and receive no state or federal money. We have survived these many years based on the generosity of our community. Thank you for your support.

Thank You's

We are blessed to have the following folks assist us: Anonymous donor who donated their stimulus money to Teen Turf; Candy Robinson for her donation; Carrie and Steve Doege for cookies; and all of children and parents who support us.

The family of Virginia & Sylvan Leffelman would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy during this sad time.

We truly appreciate the cards, calls, texts, food, donations and thoughtful words. We are grateful for the support of the community and the tributes to Mom and Dad. Thank you to the Liberty Court staff, residents, and families. Mom and Dad received compassionate care, while enjoying many special friendships. We are also grateful to Dr. Joe Welty for his guidance and never ending commitment to all of his patients. Finally, thank you all for honoring Mom and Dad by spreading kindness!

Jan & Tom McConville
Phil Leffelman
Paul & Robin Leffelman
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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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

St. Patrick Church
Rev. Randy Fronek - 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 Fronek
Locust Street, Sublette
Phone 815-849-5412
Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday - 8:00 a.m.
Thursday - 8:30 a.m.

Refuge Church
Pastor John Kalebaugh
Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52
Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930
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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815-857-3044

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815-857-2311



SOCIAL NEWS

Dinges to celebrate 90th birthday

SUBLETTE — Delmer Dinges, of Sublette, will celebrate his 90th birthday on Feb. 11, 2021, with a card shower.

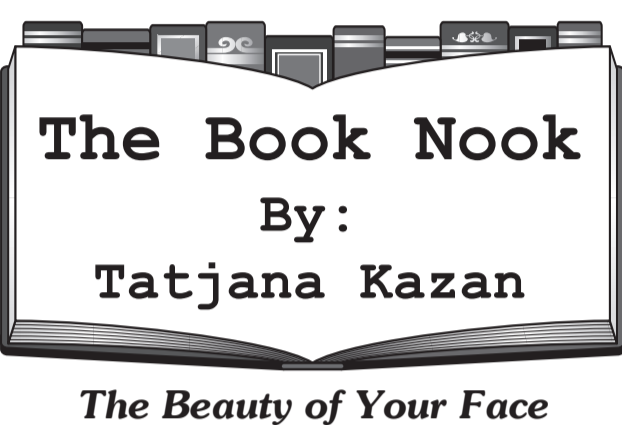
He was born Feb. 11, 1931 and was married to the late Joan Dinges.

He has five children, 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to PO Box 14, Sublette, IL 61310.



Delmer Dinges



In the opening of Sahar Mustafah's "The Beauty of Your Face," the ugliest of human crimes unfolds at the Islamic Nurriden School for Girls south of Chicago. Afaf Rahman, the school's principal, is in the middle of her afternoon prayer in a makeshift closet when she hears a pop that sounds like a firecracker. Except it's not a firecracker. A shooter is on a rampage and Afaf's daughter is in one of the classrooms. The event, described calmly without embellishment, brackets the novel, whose heart is the story of Afaf Rahman, a first-generation Palestinian-American.

Afaf's father was a singer who played the oud, a pear-shaped lute, when he came with his wife and baby daughter Nada to America in 1960. In Haifa, 10 years earlier, his

family had one hour to pack up and leave when Jewish settlers forced them out of their home. In Chicago, he waited tables and at night went to the jazz clubs looking for work, only to be told by the club owners, "You ain't singing in English, you ain't singing here."

Mama lives for Nada, the star of the family. Afaf and her younger brother Majeed are mere addendums. But in 1976, Nada, now seventeen, disappears one night, destroying every vestige of warmth and harmony in the family. Baba becomes a drunk, but it is Mama who shatters completely. She cannot bear Afaf. Mustafah said of her: "She's not the kind of mom that a child deserves. I was imagining her as someone incredibly broken. She's displaced from her country when they immigrate, and

then she loses her firstborn. So, grief takes its toll on her, and that trickles down to the relationship with Afaf."

Baba gives up drink after a car accident and finds deliverance in Islam. Increasingly embittered, Mama merely scoffs. But Afaf, who has coped with prejudice and hatred, both subtle and crude, who has spent her young life searching for belonging, finds shelter in the community of Muslim women, called Muslimahs. When Afaf decides to wear the hijab (head scarf), a brave act because she is now teaching at a Chicago elementary school, she is mostly glad not to have to deal with her unruly hair. At her hijab celebration, she thinks that "before she could fathom His great bounty, she had loved these women first, could touch and gather their kindness in her hands, could wrap herself in their grace until she could love herself again."

The confrontation between Afaf and the shooter ends this splendid novel. Mustafah gives us his point of view throughout, but wisely refrains from naming him or providing an explanation for his crime. "My endings are always in service to the experiences of my characters," she said, "I don't have answers."



Donald and Kathryn Bonnell

Couple to celebrate 65th wedding anniversary on Feb. 4

AMBOY — Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bonnell, of Amboy, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Feb. 4, 2021.

Donald and Kathryn Gilmore were married on Feb. 4,

1956, in St. Patrick's Church in Dixon. They have four children: Michelle Bonnell, of Sedalia, Mo., Jacqui Full, of Scottsdale, Ariz., Mark Bonnell, of Pleasant Hill, Iowa, and Jeff (deceased)

and Jan Bonnell, of Amboy. They have seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to the couple at 764 Dry Gulch Road, Amboy, IL 61310.

Educational Briefs

Local students named to the fall 2020 Dean's List at Aurora University

AURORA — Aurora University has named the following students to the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester. The Dean's List recognizes full-time undergraduate students who have earned a 3.6 GPA or higher. Students recognized with high honors (*) have earned a perfect 4.0.

Dixon

Sarah Wolf*, Bachelor of Social Work
Madalynn Wolfley*, History, Secondary Education

Lee

Jilliann Headley*, Human-Animal Studies, Health Science, BS

Aurora University is a four-year, private, nonprofit, fully accredited higher education institution offering students an excellent education while maintaining one of the lowest private school tuition rates in Illinois. Our campus is nestled in a tree-lined neighborhood in Aurora, the second largest city in Illinois, and located approximately 45 miles from Chicago. The university serves approximately 6,200 undergraduate and graduate students across more than 50 majors and programs

LeTourneau University Announces Fall 2020 Dean's List

LONGVIEW, Texas — The following students were named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at LeTourneau University. The Dean's List recognizes students who have achieved a grade point average between 3.50 and 3.99 for the semester.

Locally, Brandon Griffith, of Lee, Engineering, was named to the list.

LeTourneau University is the Christian polytechnic university where educators engage students to nurture Christian virtue, develop competency and ingenuity in their professional fields, integrate faith and work, and serve the local and global community. LETU offers more than 140 undergraduate and graduate degree programs online and at LETU's residential campus in Longview, Texas, located 120 miles east of Dallas, Texas, and 60 miles west of Shreveport, Louisiana.

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LOCAL NEWS



THE PASTOR'S PEN

Thinking beyond the 7th Generation

BY PASTOR MARK GLENN

Part of me hesitates to address this at all. In any case, I know that I have been wrong about many things in my life—and might even do a whole series in my church on “Stuff I Was Wrong About.” But for now, I will merely speak honestly about these things as I see them. I do not write as a Democrat or Republican. What I write here applies to both parties.

“Who am I to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls” (Rom. 14:4). We could disagree on all that and still bear with one another—knowing that all would be sorted out in God’s timing. This is a different situation from all of that. This is not about politics. This is about our country, about the rule of law, and about the sanctity of human life. The country must turn to God’s Word, our Constitution, to the founding principles of this nation, to address this. And, as Christians, we must be the people who are shaped and formed by the Word of God. As a teenager in a Pentecostal church, I was taught to evangelize using what was called “the Roman Road.”

Here are some thoughts from Romans. From the very onset Paul wrote about God’s holy judgment on “deceit” and ruthlessness. That includes those who know “God’s decree” on sin but nonetheless not only do such sins themselves but who “give approval to those who practice them” (Rom. 1:32). In establishing the sin that God judges, Paul wrote of those who “use their tongues to deceive” as well as those whose “feet are swift to shed blood” (Rom. 3:13-15).

Some will argue that any Democratic president will mean the loss of religious liberty forever, the inability to ever again protect the lives of the unborn, or some other outcome. Or, when former president Trump was in office, that racial injustice or wealthy elitism or whatever would ruin the country. Let’s just assume for a minute that such was true—it would still not justify violence from any person on the Left or the Right.

Paul wrote: “Let God be true though every one were a liar” (Rom. 3:4). And to those who suggest that “if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory why am I still being condemned as a sinner?” Paul charged them with “slander” and said that “their condemnation is just” (Rom. 3:8). He warned about those who would serve “their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery” deceive “the hearts of the naïve” (Rom. 16:18).

The truth is that many of the people making claims know they are false and think or thought that some outcome—raising money, establishing their political futures, appeasing their egos—would make deception all right. I know, you say, “What’s new? Politicians stretching the truth. I live in Illinois and I am used to it.” God forbid. Paul tells us that vengeance cannot bring about good because of the command: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom. 12:21).

Murder is wrong. Insurrection is wrong. Rioting is wrong. Terrorism is wrong. If someone says in response to the brutal attacks on innocent people on Sept. 11, 2001, “Yes, but try to understand the desperation of the people of Afghanistan,” they are wrong to do so. If someone says, “Yes, abortion takes

a human life, but poverty is worse,” they are wrong. And if someone says—when confronted with a violent insurrection on the nation’s Capitol, “Yes, but what about...” they are wrong. And if someone says—when confronted with violence in state capitols and retail shops because of racial injustice, “Yes, but what about...”

You cannot stand for “law and order” while waving away lawlessness. You cannot champion the pro-life cause while waving away murder. You cannot support police by the murder of police officers. You cannot support religious liberty by trashing the United States Constitution. Beyond that, good policy cannot absolve bad character. Character matters. Integrity matters. That is not just about “manners” or “self-righteousness” or “elitism” or “aesthetics,” but the ethics of Christ.

Evil means are justified by no ends. Thus, the Scriptures tell us, “Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good” (Rom. 12:9). Christians have sometimes disagreed about the meaning of Romans 13, but there is no interpretation of Romans 13 that would support some of the nonsense that has gone in on the Left and Right in the recent past and present. The powers-that-be, Paul wrote, are “instituted by God,” and are to operate within limits: “For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad” (Rom. 13:4), and the sword is to be exercised—not by Left or Right mobs—but by those legitimate authorities and only against “the wrongdoer” (Rom. 13:4).

The governing authorities do not have a choice as to whether or not to hold people accountable for inciting and carrying out any violence. To do otherwise would be to cease to be a just society, and to empower future evildoers to do the same.

You will hear people saying that for the sake of “unity,” we should quietly put such things away. God forbid. To hope that this all will just quietly go away and resolve itself is to incite future terrorists and is to do exactly what the Bible forbids—to “justify the wicked and to condemn the righteous” (Prov. 17:15). Unity demands accountability. Justice demands accountability. Without such, all we are left with is “lawlessness leading to more lawlessness” (Rom. 6:19).

Paul wrote, “Those of you who preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?” (Rom. 2:21-22). The lack of consistency is a lack of integrity, he warned, and that has consequences not just for one’s own conscience. “For, as it is written, ‘The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you’” (Rom. 2:24).

People are watching. People are overhearing. Some of them are your children. Every family I know is divided over today’s political and societal unrest. Every church I know is too. Friendships are broken for almost everyone I know. And, most importantly, every survey shows that the church is hemorrhaging the next generation because they believe that the Bible is used as a proof text for the excesses of the Left and Right movement. You may say, “Well, we can’t make decisions based on what people want.” Right. If I were speaking every week to people who are leaving because they

reject the Trinity or the Incarnation or the bodily resurrection or sexual morality or whatever, I would agree with you.

But if people are walking away not because we believe too much for them, but because they do not think we believe what we say we believe, what then? How can the witness of the church be rebuilt? What are the consequences? A start—a small but necessary start—is for the church to say, clearly, that violence and riots and murders and incitement are out of step with the Word of God and we will not—not one of us—spend one-second hemming or hawing about that.

If the world rejects us because of Christ and him crucified, so much the worse for the world. If the world rejects us because they think Christ is just a mascot for what we would already be supporting or doing even if Jesus were still dead, then God have mercy on us.

“Let us sin all the more that grace may abound” or “Let us lie our way into the truth” or “Let us riot our way to peace” or “Let us murder our way to life”—these things are all completely contradicted by the words of our Bible, by our gospel. The situation in this country looks bleak. We have been here before. The church at Rome to which Paul wrote would see the empire fall a few centuries later. At the time, they seemed pinned against the wall by Caesar and the imperial cult. For many, God seemed to be invisible in the promises he had made to Israel. And yet, Paul presented a gospel in which we “rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and that endurance produces character, and that character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame” (Rom. 5:3-5).

God is not unfaithful to his purposes, Paul wrote, but has always worked through a remnant (Rom. 11). Our hope of salvation starts with repentance, grieving over our own sins (Rom. 6:20-23). And our hope of the future glory in which we will share starts with our groaning by the Spirit, with the creation around us, that this is not the way it is supposed to be (Rom. 8:19-27).

The times look dark, and we are tempted to despair. But, in Christ, we are “more than conquerors” because nothing—not “rulers nor things present nor things to come, nor powers” can ever “separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:37-39).

On This Day in History

100 Years Ago Feb. 4, 1921

The most successful event of the winter for the Sublette Women’s Club was a cafeteria supper and entertainment given last Saturday night in the Armory Hall. The proceeds of the entertainment are to be equally divided between the library fund and the Club treasury.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hammond of Freeport visited over Sunday with Amboy relatives.

Mrs. J.A. Long is spending a few days with Misses Anna and Ruth Ayres.

Miss Goldie Albright returned to Eldena Tuesday after a visit at the E.N. Miller home.

75 Years Ago Jan. 31, 1946

Miss Mary Ellen Hinkle of N.S.T.C., DeKalb, spent the weekend here at the home of her mother, Mrs. Margaret

Hinkle and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Smith and daughter Marilyn visited the Trothing family and the Horton family in Rochelle Saturday.

Annual Firemen’s Ball, Community Hall in Sublette Feb. 6. Admission per couple, \$1.25 in War Stamps, Extra Lady, 50 cents in War Stamps.

Mrs. Emily Kohut returned to Chicago Sunday after spending a few days with her cousin, Miss Florence Smith.

50 Years Ago Feb. 4, 1971

Mr. and Mrs. Leo J. Dempsey and Atty. and Mrs. Edward M. Sullivan returned home Friday from Hollywood By The Sea, Fla., where they had been vacationing. The Dempseys drove to Florida, leaving the day after Christmas, and the Sullivans flew to Florida Jan. 14.

Justin Becker was honored Sunday at an 80th birthday party in his home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mead, Patrick, John and Mary of Genoa spent Monday visiting at the home of Mrs. Cecil C. Harrison and Mrs. John C. Mead in Amboy.

25 Years Ago Feb. 1, 1996

Lindsay Shaw has been selected to the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Band. She is the daughter of Les and Betty Shaw of rural Amboy and is a senior at Amboy High School.

Mrs. Huene’s first grade class celebrated the 100th day of school by counting 100 M&Ms, and eating a cake that had 100 candles on it.

Evelyn Heller, manager of Amboy Bottling, was featured in the January 1996 issue of “Winners” magazine published by the Illinois Lottery. Heller, a 12-year Lottery veteran, was one of the first Lottery businesses in the area to install an instant ticket dispensing machine.

U. OF I. EXTENSION NEWS

Brain health exercise program

Many people worry about their memory as they get older. Aging does not automatically mean the brain declines or gets weaker. There are many lifestyle factors that contribute to having a strong brain throughout life. “Many people think that with older age comes a weaker brain. And that is simply not true,” says Karla Belzer, Family Life Educator with University of Illinois Extension. “Getting good sleep, proper nutrition, and regular exercise are a few things that can keep the brain strong. But brains also benefit from challenges and puzzles.” Wits Fitness is a free monthly brain health exercise program offered by Extension in communities throughout northwest Illinois. Each monthly class is a little over an hour long and features several challenging

brain exercises.

Monthly sessions of Wits Fitness will be held at the York Township Library in Thomson on Feb. 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 16, July 7, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 11, and Dec. 2. Class starts at 10:30 a.m. Participants can join the class at any

time. Registration for Wits Fitness in Thomson is now available at go.illinois.edu/witsfitness2. Classes are also available in Sterling, Dixon, Oregon, and online. For more information on other class locations, visit University of Illinois Extension – Carroll, Lee, and Whiteside home

page at extension.illinois.edu/clw. Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

If you will need accommodation in order to participate, please email kbelzer@illinois.edu. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.



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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

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

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

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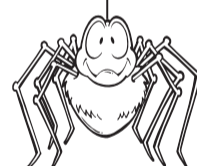
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SPORTS

Clipper Highlights: #78 Jeremy Kessel

This week's Clipper highlight is one of the best Offensive and Defensive lineman we have had and one of the biggest. I'm honored to announce this week's Clipper, #78 Jeremy Kessel.

Jeremy was a 2001 graduate of Amboy High School. Unlike most three year Varsity starters, Jeremy would play in the Rowboat contest and then again in the Varsity contest. Jeremy stated, "I was allowed six quarters for conference games and eight quarters for non conference games. I would play three quarters in each game in the conference and all eight quarters for non conference. Needless to say, I was beat out Friday night."

Jeremy recalled the home games his sophomore year, having to be bussed back and forth from the High School to the Boatyard after switching from the Rowboat uniform to the Clipper uniform. Jeremy accredited those nights as a sophomore to learning the speed of the Varsity game and also gained valuable knowledge on what it took to lead his teams.

Jeremy's Junior season the Clippers missed the 2A State Playoffs by 8 playoff points. There were only six classes at that time which would almost guarantee the 1999 Clippers a playoff spot in today's format. Jeremy finished his Junior season earning 1st Team All Conference honors at both Offensive and Defensive Tackle.

Jeremy also earned Honorable Mention All Area for Defensive Tackle. Jeremy also earned most valuable lineman for the Clippers as a Junior. Like all other Clipper greats, what excited Jeremy the most following the 1999 campaign was the amount of talent that would return his Senior season.

When the season preview came out, Jeremy was listed at 6'6" and 265 lbs. Playing alongside another trench monster, Aaron Weidman at 6'4" 240, the 2000 Clippers had it all. The Clippers finished the season 8-3 in the second round of the 2A State Playoffs, losing to eventual State Champion, Stillman Valley.

The 2000 Clippers' two regular season losses came by narrow margins to the top two teams in the Three Rivers Conference, Fulton (9-0) and Riverdale (8-1). Jeremy earned 1st Team All Conference honors for Offensive Tackle and 2nd Team All Area honors for both Offensive and Defensive Tackle. Jeremy added another most valuable lineman team award to his long list of accolades.

Friend and former teammate Josh Kant stated the following:

"I played with Kessel since seventh grade. He was an animal and when

Clipper Highlights

By Spencer Morrissey



Jason McLaughlin got behind Jeremy it was 5 yards guaranteed every time. He played both ways and lost about 10 pounds of sweat every game. I also had to scrimmage against him every day in practice and it was like trying to go around a boulder. He was always taking on double teams and got through most of the time. All in all he was a great teammate and leader, it was a privilege to play with him."

Former teammate, Cody Erbes, who was a couple years younger than Jeremy, shared his admiration of Jeremy's gridiron greatness.

"A man among boys doesn't even describe his dominance! I don't know how, but he didn't get the recognition he deserved via the local papers and area awards. There is no doubt that he should've been a candidate for All-State. I've played against and with All-State caliber players and he has to be on top of that list. Kessel had the whole package; the size, the strength, the quickness and speed. The only thing offenses could do against Kessel was to run away from him. Nobody could block him."

Jeremy's former quarterback and friend, Brian Jahn, provided the following statement;

"Jeremy always had a tenacious attitude, both on and off the field. Whenever we needed to get a few yards for a first down or get a stop on defense to put the offense back on the field, Jeremy always found a way to dig deep and find that extra effort to make the play or help the team. Everyone that knows Jeremy knows that he was one of the largest Clippers that has ever put on a jersey - but anyone can be 'big.' What made Jeremy stand out was how he used the physical gifts he was given in a different way. He had a



'next level' that wasn't always on, but when he turned it on, watch out and stay out of his way. Or you'd get flattened. I remember one series of plays that specifically stands out when I think back to Jeremy's playing days. In the 2000 season, we were playing at Morrison and we were struggling to score the entire game. As the game came down the wire, Morrison fumbled deep in their zone late in the fourth giving us one last chance to put up a TD for the win - we were losing 6-0 with under a minute left in the game. Being out of time outs, we knew we only had time for a few plays. In the huddle before the series, Jeremy looked at me and told me to run it to his side as he was going to flatten a few people and open a hole for us to put in our only TD of the game. So, we did - we went to Jeremy's side hoping he'd come through for us and he did exactly that - the size of the hole he created made it easy for Jason McLaughlin to walk into the end-zone untouched as time expired, ultimately earning us a 7-6 victory. Without Jeremy digging deep, finding that next level and giving it all he had and reaching that next level, we would have lost and our season could have gone entirely different. Instead, it was one of the most memorable games of the season for us and helped to propel us to the playoffs.

"Still to this day, whenever I make it home to see a game under the lights, Jeremy is frequently seen at the game supporting the Clippers and making his voice heard from the crowd. He was a passionate player and continues to influence Clipper nation in the back-ground."

Three great accounts from three great friends and teammates who still admire the way Jeremy played the game.

Size, speed, strength, natural athleticism are what stands out most when we think of Jeremy's time between the hash marks. What sticks out to me is Jeremy's ability to lead, something he continues to this day.

I remember it well, the Meet the Clippers night, mid-August 2000, the scrimmage was wrapping up with just a few plays left. Jeremy and the offensive unit were on the field and a penalty was committed. Jeremy's voice was heard loudest, the coaches didn't have to say or do anything. Jeremy commanded his teams' respect because they knew what it meant to him and they knew in return he gave it everything he had on every down, every Friday night.

Jeremy might have said it best when asked what Amboy football means to him. Even though his role now has changed from player to spectator, Jeremy stated, "The mentality is still the same, it's always great to be a Clipper, it means everything."

So to #78 Jeremy Kessel, thank you for your contributions to Amboy Football. Your hard work and sacrifice lead to your team success and also added to the individual success of others around you. Sail on.

Spencer Morrissey, is a former resident of Amboy

and 2009 graduate of Amboy High School. In April 2020, he created a private Facebook group specifically for Amboy Clipper Football Alumni. To have played Amboy football for any period of time, 1 year

or all 4 years, is the only membership requirement. The group features photos, stories, and memories of past Clippers and Clipper teams. The best feature of the group is every Friday, he highlights a former player.

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