

Statewide positivity rate reaches low not seen since summer

BY GRACE BARBIC
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SPRINGFIELD – The statewide seven-day rolling COVID-19 positivity rate dropped Friday to a low not seen since the summer as the state reached a record 95,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine administered the day prior.

The positivity rate was 3.1 percent Friday, a low last recorded July 21. The 95,375 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine administered Thursday topped the previous record set Feb. 4 by more than 20,000.

A total of 1.6 million vaccines have been administered in the state, including 231,814 for long-term facilities. The Illinois Department of Public Health reported 10 percent of people in Illinois have received their first dose of vaccine as of Friday. The seven-day rolling average of vaccines administered daily is 59,009 doses.

Gov. JB Pritzker and IDPH announced an expanded partnership with Federally Qualified Health Care Centers Friday as they toured Aunt Martha’s Chicago Heights Community Health Center, one of the FQHCs in Cook County.

“Starting in March – when we expect increased vaccine supply – Illinois plans to provide a specific increased set aside vaccine allocation for our federally qualified health centers as part of our continuing effort to reach those who may not have a primary care provider or who are most challenged when it comes to healthcare access,” Pritzker said.

See **RATE** page A3



Pritzker expects vaccine eligibilty expansion to occur by Feb. 25

By TIM KIRSININKAS
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SPRINGFIELD – Gov. JB Pritzker announced on Feb. 10 that the state plans to expand COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to individuals of all ages who have comorbidities and underlying conditions by Feb. 25.

Speaking at a news conference in Quincy Wednesday, Pritzker said the expansion of eligibility under Phase 1B of the state’s vaccine distribution plan comes as a result of increased availability of doses at the federal level.

Pritzker said the expansion of eligibility would include individuals with comorbidities as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, such as diabetes, cancer, lung disease or heart disease.

“My administration will be working with all local public health departments to fit these higher risk individuals into their community vaccination plans,” Pritzker said Wednesday. “As quickly as we receive enough vaccine supply, we need to waste no time protecting them.”

According to a Wednesday news release from the governor’s office, areas that have “substantially completed” their existing

Phase 1B population can move ahead with the vaccine expansion earlier than Feb. 25 at the determination of local public health officials and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

As of Wednesday, Illinois had administered over 1.48 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, equaling 69 percent of the 2.1 million doses allocated to the state thus far. A total of 62,923 doses were administered across the state Tuesday.

Pritzker said the state has secured a 5 percent increase in vaccines received per week from the federal government, and he expressed optimism that the state would continue to receive more vaccine doses as a result of increased production.

“I have implored the president and his administration to get vaccines flowing at a higher rate, and they’ve been responsive,” Pritzker said.

Pritzker praised President Joe Biden’s administration for invoking the Defense Production Act and said the White House also plans to launch a new Community Health Center vaccination program in the coming weeks to direct vaccines to populations “hardest hit” by the COVID-19 pandemic.

See **VACCINE** page A3

First Case of COVID South African variant in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced the first case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) variant B.1.351, which was first identified in South Africa. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the variant in a Rock Island resident. Illinois is currently reporting 22 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant, first identified in the United Kingdom.

“We expected to see more cases of variants detected in Illinois, including the B.1.351 strain,” said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. “These variants seem to spread more rapidly, which can lead to more cases of COVID-19 and even another surge. Our best path to defeating this virus as quickly as possible remains wearing our masks and getting vaccinated when it’s our turn.”

“Having this new variant in our community underscores the need to take personal precautions to prevent further spread. Please continue to wear your mask when away from home, watch your distance when around others and wash your hands frequently,” said Rock Island County Health Department Administrator Nita Ludwig. Cases of the B.1.351 were

first reported in the U.S. at the end of January. So far, studies suggest that antibodies generated through the current COVID-19 vaccines recognize these variants and may offer some protection. Additional studies are underway.

IDPH will continue to work with local health departments, academic partners, laboratories, and CDC to monitor for cases.

See **VARIANT** page A2

Lee County COVID-19 Update: Feb. 13, 2021

LEE COUNTY — Between Feb. 8-13, the Lee County Health Department has reported a total of 29 new cases have been reported. Here are the ages that were announced: 1 under the age of 12, 3 in his or her teens, 3 in his or her 20s, 3 in his or her 30s, 8 in his or her 40s, 6 in his or her 50s, 1 in his or her 60s, 1 in his or her 70s, 0 in his or her 80s, and 0 on his or her 90s.

This brings the total number of cases to 3,001 as of Feb. 13. Of the 3,001 cases, 2,498 have recovered. They also reported as of Feb. 13, 5 residents have been hospitalized and 60 residents have died, including a male resident in his 70s.

Vaccine

As of Feb. 12, according to IDPH 5,203 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Lee County, and a total of 1,212 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:

See **HEALTH** page A2

Heavy snow, bitter cold to make travel hazardous

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois State Police are warning the public that a major winter storm will create hazardous conditions across the state, urging drivers to strongly consider postponing any unnecessary travel. Throughout Illinois, intense periods of heavy snow and continued bitter cold should be anticipated, creating extremely slick conditions and poor visibility.

“As always, our team at IDOT will be out on the roads around the clock, but if you can stay indoors, please do, especially during the overnight hours,” said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. “Conditions at times could be treacherous, with the cold and wind reducing the effectiveness of the materials we use to treat snow and ice. Expect

extremely long travel times and always prepare your vehicle in the event you are stranded.”

The National Weather Service has issued a storm warning for Monday and Tuesday, predicting the heaviest snow to fall late this afternoon and evening. Between 6 to 12 inches are expected east of Interstate 57, with some of the heaviest amounts in Chicago, the Metro East and far southern Illinois. Along the entire Interstate 55 corridor, 5 to 8 inches are possible. In north-west Illinois, 1 to 2 inches are anticipated. Blowing and drifting snow throughout the state are likely due to the amounts and fluffiness of the snow combined with high winds.

Statewide, IDOT has available more than 1,800 trucks and equipment to treat



roads and respond to weather emergencies. If you encounter a plow or any maintenance vehicle during your travels, please slow down, increase your driving distance and

remain patient

“If you must travel, we ask that you allow additional time to reach your destination and ensure your vehicle is in a safe operating condition,”

said ISP Director Brandon Kelly. “Please obey all traffic laws and posted speed limits.

See **TRAVEL** page A2



CLIPPER HIGHLIGHTS

This week’s column features #12 Luke Payne

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Terry Politsch

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Snyders



LOCAL NEWS

SVCC to host virtual job fair Feb. 24

STERLING — Sauk Valley Community College will host a virtual job fair on Wednesday, Feb. 24. Area employers will be available, virtually, 9 - 11 a.m. and 2 - 4 p.m. for networking and discussing open positions.

The public is invited to participate and network with local healthcare employers during this virtual event. Learn about available job opportunities and interview on the spot! Registration is required for all job seekers.

Please visit svcc.edu/jobfair to complete the online form and learn more about opportunities during this event and future hiring events.

This particular event is geared toward the manufacturing industry; however, monthly job fairs will be held throughout the year. SVCC will host virtual job fairs the last Wednesday of every month. Area businesses are encouraged to represent their companies and find new talent through these virtual job fairs. If your company would like to participate, please fill out the employer form at svcc.edu/jobfair.

For event information, contact Dana Chacon 815-835-6294 or visit svcc.edu/jobfair

Kish reminds students to fill out the FAFSA during Financial Aid Awareness Month

MALTA — February is Financial Aid Awareness Month and Kishwaukee College is reminding students there is still time to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Every year, millions of dollars in financial aid goes unclaimed because students fail to fill out the FAFSA, which is the building block for all financial aid packaging for college students across the United States. Filing the FAFSA is the first step in determining what federal or state financial aid a student is eligible for, including grants and loans. Illinois now requires by law that all high school students complete the FAFSA as a prerequisite to receiving their diploma.

The 2021-2022 FAFSA application period opened in October and is ongoing. It will

determine financial aid for students during the Fall 2021, Spring 2022, and Summer 2022 semesters.


A student's financial aid is determined by their family's ability to pay for college. There are many different forms of financial aid students can qualify for, including:

Grants — A form of financial aid that does not have to be paid back. Various federal and state grants are available.

Work-Study Jobs — Students work a part-time job to pay for school through the Federal Work-Study Program.


Loans — Loans are borrowed money students will need to repay with interest.

Military Aid — Members of the military and their families can qualify for additional aid programs for their service.



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TRAVEL continued from page A1

“Remember, speed limits are set for clear conditions. Only drive the speed limit if it is safe to do so. And please watch out for emergency responders and highway maintainers who are doing their best to keep the roadways safe.”

Other tips if you must travel:

- Take it slow, especially when approaching intersections, ramps, bridges and shaded areas that are prone to icing.
- Make sure your gas tank is full.
- Keep a cell phone, warm clothes,

blankets, food, water, a first-aid kit, washer fluid and an ice scraper in your vehicle.

- Check the forecast and make sure someone is aware of your route and schedule.

- Carry a cellphone and dial *999 in the Chicago area for assistance in case of emergency.

- Reminder: Using handheld phones while driving is illegal in Illinois, unless it is an emergency situation.

VARIANT continued from page A1

IDPH has increased its surveillance for this and other variants using genomic sequence testing on an increased number of specimens.

Viruses constantly change and new variants are expected. In addition to the B.1.1.7 and B.1.351 variants, the P.1 variant has emerged in Brazil.

Public health experts are working to better understand the potential impact of this variant, including how the variant spreads and how it affects people who are infected. The same measures

that have helped protect Illinoisans from COVID-19 will also help protect residents from the variant. Wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, avoiding

crowds, ventilating indoor spaces, and washing hands frequently remain the best tools for preventing the spread of this virus, no matter the strain.

COVID-19 vaccine information and data can be found on the IDPH website at <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq>.

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- 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/39GTTrMS>.

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.



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LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Teen Turf Facebook Valentine's Dessert and Basket Auction Thank You's

Thank you to the following people who made winning bids: Matt Willahan; Lori Erbes; Barb Harrison; Kim Stram; Joyce Schamberger; Aubrey Burke; Danelle Burrs; Jennifer Lang; J.R. Stephenitch; Denise Burrs; Kim Becker; Nicole Jones; Julie Kessel and Meghan Schamberger.

Thank you to the following people/organizations who donated the baked items or items: Revolution Wellness; Cindy Phillips; Deb Albee; Mary Katherine Stenzel; Janine Huffman; Barb Harrison; Donna Wellman; Fran Kessel; Leah Stroud; Amber Horner; Shelli Bump; Joyce Schamberger; Katey Dickinson; Kimberly Watley; Amber Horner and Lisa Goy.

It was an amazing event, be on the lookout for a Drive-Thru Fish Fry at the building Friday, March 26 from 4-7 p.m. More info to follow.

Thank You's for helping us at Teen Turf

Thank you to the following people/organizations who help us: Kaleel's Clothing and Printing company for their monetary donation from their T-shirt drive; Kim and Mike Stram for the water bottles and Valentine's cards; Amber Horner and Bob Hafer for the ink and Irene and Eileen Ramsdell for the bread, cheese, meat, and yummy cupcakes. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers: Donna, Robert, Will, Maddy, Shannon, Maggie, and Amber.

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

Father, your loving devotion reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds. We come to you in gratitude for blessing us with family and friends. We thank you for how our life is enriched by the fun and companionship we have with them. We thank you for the support they give us—thoughtful advice, helping us with things, unconditional love, and even words of caution or correction. Help us to bless them as much as they bless us. Amen.

RATE continued from page A1

This partnership is building on a federal program developed to administer vaccines to underserved populations, including homeless people, migrant workers, public housing residents and those with limited English proficiency.

Prior to this program, local health departments would supply a share of their Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine doses from the state's allocation to FQHCs within their jurisdiction.

Now, the federal government will distribute a portion of vaccine directly to the state's FQHCs that will be separate from those allocated to the state.

"This is on top of what Illinois gets," IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said. "It's going to be rolled out slowly. Not every FQHC will get it immediately."

A select number of recently added Walgreens vaccination sites will also be receiving vaccine supply directly from the federal government in a newly launched program by President Joe

Biden's Administration.

Illinois has received a total of more than 2.3 million doses of the vaccine. Approximately 1.9 million doses have been delivered to providers in the state in addition to 445,200 doses that have been allocated for the Pharmacy Partnership program for long-term care facilities.

Pritzker also said the state has seen a 30 percent increase in vaccine supply from the federal government over the last few weeks. Providers across the state, outside of separate shipments to Chicago, can expect about 365,000 doses from the federal weekly shipment in the coming week, he said.

Pritzker anticipates supply to increase in weeks to come as the Biden administration secured an additional 200 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine and the Johnson & Johnson one-shot COVID-19 vaccine awaits approval for emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The additional 200 million doses are

enough to vaccinate every American adult, but according to the New York Times, that goal may not be met by the end of the summer, as previously reported, due to logistical concerns.

IDPH reported 2,598 new confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 Friday of 103,009 test results, with an additional 32 deaths.

As of Thursday night, 1,910 COVID-19 patients were reported to be in the hospital. Of those, 437 patients were in intensive care unit beds and 211 were on ventilators.

The state reported a total of 1.15 million cases of COVID-19 from 17 million total test results, and 19,873 total deaths since the pandemic started.

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.

McConchie said in a statement.

The Senate Health Committee will meet virtually at noon Thursday regarding the state's vaccination efforts. IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike and other public health officials have been called to testify.

The state's seven-day rolling positivity rate continued to hold steady at 3.3 percent Wednesday as IDPH announced 2,825 new cases out of 82,885 test results.

The positivity rate has not moved more than a tenth of a percentage point for the past week.

Public health officials announced 53 additional deaths due to COVID-19 Wednesday, bringing the statewide death toll to 19,739 since the pandemic began. Illinois has recorded over 1.1 million cases of COVID-19 to date.

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

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

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

donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 12 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26, at Borg

Warner, 1350 Franklin Grove Rd. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

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CLIPPER KIDDIE

This Week's Student of the Week is:
Harper Meusel

Student's Favorites:
Favorite Color – Purple
Favorite Animal – Giraffe
Favorite Food – Kraft Macaroni & Cheese
Favorite Book – Rapunzel
Favorite Game – Hot Lava
Favorite Song – We Will Rock You by Queen

VACCINE continued from page A1

A new single-dose vaccine by Johnson and Johnson could also be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in a hearing scheduled for Feb. 26. If approved, the company projects that 100 million additional doses could be made available to states by the end of June.

While production of existing vaccines continues to expand at the federal level, Pritzker urged "enormous patience" as the state works to build vaccination sites and expand its administration efforts.

"I wish I could make enough vaccine magically appear so that we could get all of our Illinoisans vaccinated right now," Pritzker said. "That will happen over the next coming months, but today we all have to exercise patience as more vaccine is being produced."

The state announced Wednesday that 134 additional vaccination sites have been opened across the state since Feb. 4, bringing the statewide total to 517 locations. Eligible residents can search for a vaccination site closest to them and make an appointment at

coronavirus.illinois.gov.

Some state lawmakers who have offered criticisms of the Pritzker administration's handling of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in recent weeks praised the eligibility expansion announcement Wednesday.

Senator Julie Morrison, D-Lake Forest, said she was "relieved" by the governor's announcement.

"We must take care of our most vulnerable people," Morrison said in a statement Wednesday. "Those in the developmentally disabled community are presented unique challenges that put their lives in danger each day."

Senate Republican Leader Dan McConchie, R-Hawthorn Woods, described the governor's announcement as "a light at the end of a very long tunnel" for Illinois residents in need of a vaccine.

"I hope Gov. Pritzker will create a more open dialogue with the legislature to build upon this improvement, to increase effectiveness of vaccine distribution, and to ensure the state is fair and equitable to all in need,"

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OBITUARIES

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Beverly P. Noble Sept. 13, 1935 - Feb. 13, 2021

AMBOY — Beverly P. Noble, 85, of Amboy, died Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021 at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born on Sept. 13, 1935 in Amboy, the daughter of Emery "Zeke" and Mary (Keyes) Lane. Beverly worked for USF&G, Ben Franklin and Beggs Grocery stores in Amboy.

She was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy and in her spare time she enjoyed knitting, crocheting, cooking, canning, and most of all spending time with her family.

On Nov. 24, 1955 she married James R. Noble in Amboy.

Beverly is preceded in death by her husband who passed away on Oct. 23,

1995; one daughter, Rhonda Sue Noble; her brothers, Robert and James Lane; and one sister, Mary Ellen Kenney.

She is survived by her children, Roger (Janelle) Noble, of Amboy, Raymond (Susan) Noble, of Potosi, Mo., Ronald (Christine) Noble, Roberta (David) Glenn, Roxanne (Al) Stenzel, Rebecca (Stan) Wheelchel, Robin (Jerry) Van Loo, all of Amboy. Beverly is also survived by 28 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, and special family Jeannine Otto.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021, at St. Patrick Church in



Amboy burial of cremains will be at a later date at St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy.

A memorial has been established in Beverly's memory.

Arrangements by Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Condolences can be sent at www.thejonesfh.com.

Terry L. Politsch May 23, 1940 - Feb. 10, 2021

SUBLETTE - Terry L. Politsch, 80, of Sublette, departed this life on Feb. 10, 2021 at OSF Saint Paul Medical Center, Mendota.

Visitation was held from 3:30-6:30 p.m. on Feb. 15 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota. A funeral service followed at 6:30 p.m. with Rev. Ken Gibson officiating. Cremation rites were accorded afterward and burial will be at Restland Cemetery, Mendota at a later date.

Terry was born May 23, 1940 in Sublette, the first-born son of Ivan and Lois (Pierce) Politsch. He married Christie Smith on April 16, 1961. They later divorced. He married his current wife, Mary Rodriguez, on Nov. 29, 1985.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; three daughters from his first marriage, Deb (Dan) Hochstatter and Darci (Gary) Kettleborough, both of Mendota and Darla (Eric) Stroyan of Bloomington; two stepsons, Dan (Jenny) Pakenham of Rochelle and Brian

(Cass) Pakenham of Colorado Springs; his beloved grandchildren, Brett (Sami) Hochstatter, Mallory (Josh) Martin, Alyssa (Brandon) Scheppers, Aaron (Paige) Kettleborough, Taylor Kettleborough, Emma, Ethan, and Ella Stroyan, Dillan (Allison) Pakenham, Kailee (Bill) Longmire, and Addison and Paige Pakenham; 10 great-grandchildren, Calvin, Eastyn, Josie, Hadley, Colton, Harrison, James, Tate, Noah, and Sophia; and one sister-in-law, Marie Politsch of Colorado.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Gary; the mother of his children, Christie; one sister-in-law, Marjorie; and one granddaughter, Taryn Pakenham.

Terry graduated from Amboy High School in 1958. Throughout his life he worked for Black Brothers Co. in Mendota and then later worked for Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet Sublette. He also worked alongside



his father on the family farm and continued farming throughout his life until his retirement. He took pride in maintaining his John Deere equipment and his Chevrolet vehicles. He enjoyed dining and socializing at many local restaurants. He was always eager to talk to people and tell it like it is, right or wrong, and most of the time he was right.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Online condolences may be left at www.merrittfh.com.

Educational Briefs

UW-Platteville announces Dean's List

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. - The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announces its Dean's List, honoring those full-time students who earned high honors in the fall 2020 semester.

College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture and the College of Liberal Arts and Education require grade-point averages of 3.75 and above for Dean's List honors, while the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science requires students to reach at least a 3.50.

UW-Platteville, founded in 1866 and located in

Southwest Wisconsin, is home to approximately 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Amboy
Mitchell McLaughlin, Agricultural Business

Ashton
Lexi Meurer, Agricultural Education

Compton
Marie Barnickel, Agricultural Business

Dixon
Anton Halla, Mechanical Engineering

Jacob Heiderscheit, Industrial Technology Management

Riley Kavanaugh, Elementary Education

Eric Rasmussen, Broad Field Science

Haley Verdick, Elementary Education

Paw Paw
Julia Penman, Elementary Education

U. OF I. EXTENSION

Life Story Writing Series offers chance to record life memories

"Remember the time when...?" Many family stories and shared memories start with this statement. Shared around the dinner table or at family gatherings, history, recollections, and precious memories are passed down to the next generation. Telling and writing a life story is something that everyone can – and should – do.

Research indicates that life review is a developmental process and a helpful tool to recollect, evaluate, and given meaning to the events in our lives.

By sharing our memories of the past, we can develop insight, engage our long-term memory, start family conversations, and even have a laugh. Life story writing also allows an opportunity to leave a legacy for future generations.

The series features education on how to

write a life and participants are provided with the opportunity to write a story each week.

Suggested writing topics vary from across the lifespan and participants receive support at encouragement from other class writers in sharing their written piece.

Weekly sessions of Share Your Life Story: A Writing Series start at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays starting March 17 through April 21. The class will be held at the York Township Public Library in Thomson. The writing series is free and open to the public. Social distancing, mask, and sanitation procedures will be followed.

Registration for the series is available at go.illinois.edu/lifestory2. If you will need accommodation in order to participate, please email kbelzer@illinois.edu.

Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow enough time to meet your access needs.

Our sincere thank you to all who visited Pat during her long illness and to all who brought so much food to the house; and plants and flowers, and phone calls to her. She very much appreciated all of this. Also to all those who sent cards of encouragement and the cards of sympathy; it was greatly appreciated.

We will miss her very much but she is in a much better place.

The Family of Pat Burke

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Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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815-857-2315 • www.stpatrickamboy.org
New Mass Times Begin Sept. 1st
Masses: Tuesday – Friday Daily Mass 8 am
Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 7:30 am & 10 am
Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 pm
Wednesday, 5:30-6:15 pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Friday, 8am-5 pm

St. Mary Church
Fr. John Gow
912 Walton Rd., Walton
815-857-2670
New Mass Times Begin Sept. 1st
Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Mary's Church
Rev. Randy 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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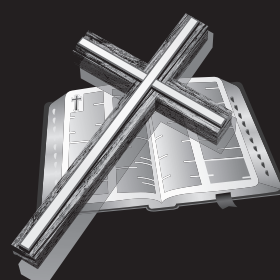
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815-857-3044

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815-857-2311



SOCIAL NEWS



THE PASTOR'S PEN

God knows us better than we know ourselves

BY PASTOR JOHN KALEBAUGH

Therefore... after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus... do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers... the eyes of your understanding being enlightened... (Ephesians 1:15-18a).

Our Christian life could very easily be considered an ongoing and lifelong process of coming to "know" the One whom we are in a relationship with – Jesus Christ. It only begins when we come to faith in Christ, whether young or old, and has the potential to grow and develop as we live out our time in this life. In this way it is similar to any other relationship we have in life. The longer we live and the more we invest in the relationship, the greater the opportunity to grow in that relationship in meaningful ways. Unlike other human relationships, however, this growth in depth and knowledge is a one-way street as our loving God already knows us completely!

In fact, He knows us with a perfect and complete knowledge. More than any person ever has or ever will. Case in point, if I were to ask you if you have ever heard of three famous brothers who were named, "Leonard, Adolph, and Julius" ... most, if not all would say, "No – I have never heard of them." But if I were to ask the same question only this time use their stage names, "Chico, Harpo, and Groucho" ... many of you would at least be familiar with them – whether you like their brand of comedy or not. Most people (over fortyish) have heard of the Marx Brothers. Maybe even seen some of their movies! But as I was reading about them, I discovered some information that I should have assumed all along... their own family and close friends did not call them by their "stage names", which they acquired later in life. Those closest to

them and knew them apart from stage performances, called them by their real names which were given at birth.

In a similar way, God already knows us completely. He knows us better and loves us more deeply than anyone else could ever begin to know us. He even knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows the "real" person we are deep down and apart from the stage performance we may present to other people. You know... the person we want other people to think we are, but deep down know that we really aren't. God knows who we really are when no one else is watching and even when no one else really cares. But the difference is... He cares. And He loves us unconditionally no matter what we have done, who we have become, or who we try to be. And He wants to give us forgiveness for our sins and failures and help us to become who He created us to be in the very beginning. The real you and me. Something which can only be realized by our Creator and our Savior.

And this is the fascinating part of it all – we come to know and understand ourselves and the world around us more fully not by focusing upon ourselves – but upon Him. Our Creator, Savior, and Lord. It is only through our growing relationship with God that we can truly understand who we are in reference to Him! No wonder the Apostle Paul prayed, "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know..." There is a richness and depth of God which takes a lifetime to learn. And when we come to the end of our lives on this earth, we will realize that there is still so much more to learn and know. But the beauty of it is, we will have the rest of eternity to do it.

May God bless you,
Pastor John.

The Book Nook
By:
Tatjana Kazan

The Outsiders

Eudora Welty's "The Optimist's Daughter" from 1972 is a fascinating story of class and privilege that seems to me to resonate 50 years later. The novel, which takes place in the 1950s, is about the clash between Laurel Hand, the sophisticated and restrained, that is properly feminine, heroine of the novel and Fay, her younger stepmother, who is gaudy, rude, and obnoxious. As a perceptive article on the novel put it, "it is the 'poor white trash' Texas past of Fay vs. the unrepentant snobbery of the Southern 'aristocracy.'"

The story begins when Laurel, who comes from Mt. Salus, Mississippi but is now a designer living in Chicago, is summoned to a New Orleans hospital where her father, a 71-year-old Judge is about to undergo a critical eye operation. The operation is a success, but he does not recover, lingering for weeks with both eyes bandaged and dying after Fay attacks him mercilessly. Vision, and its lack, is the dominant metaphor of the novel, especially when Laurel recalls her mother Becky who was bedridden and nearly blind for five years until her death.

The two women take his body home to Mt. Salus for burial. Laurel is still mourning for her husband who was killed in World War II. "If he had lived" is a refrain that seals away their love in its perfection. Laurel copes with Fay's crass childishness by pitying her. It can be argued that Welty, by marginalizing Fay and making her poor white beliefs and attitudes undesirable – she is close to being a caricature – solidifies middle and upper class intellectual and cultural superiority.

But Fay will never change. Her resistant spirit comes through no matter how much Mt. Salus society looks down on her. She inherits the Judge's wealth, but makes no attempt to assimilate, or to uphold the belief that wealth is not to be flaunted. Place, location is often key in Welty's stories (at the time she was known as a "Southern regionalist") and town is where memories and identities are forged. Not to belong, to be an outsider, as Welty defines Fay, is not only to openly resist social censorship, but also to rebel against the cherished communal past.

But Fay is not merely Laurel's foil in this clash of values and beliefs, she and Laurel have important elements of their lives in common. Both women are widows and both are childless. And in a beautiful final scene, Laurel leaves Mt. Salus's vaunted traditions behind for good and returns to Chicago, gladly becoming an outsider once again.

Educational Briefs

SVCC President's,
Deans' List
announced for Fall
2020
Semester

STERLING — A total of 196 full- and part-time Sauk Valley Community College students have been named to the President's List for high academic achievement during the fall semester. Another 121 students made the Deans' List. SVCC President Dr. David Hellmich said 45 full-time students topped the President's List with straight "A" averages.

President's List–Full-Time Stu-

dents (4.0 GPA)
Amboy
Noelle E. Jones
Nicholas A. Tarr
Franklin Grove
Bethan M. Shearer
President's List–Part-Time stu-
dents (4.0 GPA)
Amboy

Caden R. Latta
Lauren C. Tarr
Kristen B. Widolff
Franklin Grove
Madalyn J. Atkinson
Marcus Cater
Amaya G. Contreras
Isaac C. Erdmann
Garrett C. Sage
Sublette
Brittany E. Barlow

Deans' List–Full-Time students
(3.5-3.749 GPA)

Amboy
Maddison E. Full
Franklin Grove

Graycyn M. Bennett
Natalie H. Sondgeroth
Deans' List–Part-Time students
(3.5-3.749 GPA)
Amboy

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Alyssa J. Gascoigne
Jordan S. Jacobs
Alexis P. Morgan
Caden C. Wittenauer
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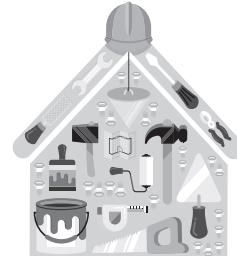
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Opinion

Time to make tough personal decisions on the pandemic

Would you like your milk in a bag? Nah, I'd just assume you keep it in the bottle.

The cashier rolled her eyes at me and may have even smirked behind the mask. She'd likely heard the joke more than a few times. But in this time of COVID I thought it might be time for a bit of humor.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, she and millions like her have been showing up for work every day risking infection. Some people have labeled folks such as she "heroes." I'm not so grandiose. I call them something better: "workers."

Workers are the folks who get the job done day in and day out with little fanfare or notice. They don't seek recognition. They're doers not talkers.

I think about my niece, a nurse who works with COVID patients at St. John's Hospital in Springfield. She works in the intensive care unit and because she is pregnant hasn't been able to get vaccinated. And yet, she comes to work every day and runs the risk of infection to help people in need.

Sadly, there are a lot of folks who want to work who can't because of the pandemic. Restaurant workers, barbers and hair stylists, hotel workers and others are among those feeling the pinch. They are still waiting to go back to their jobs.

But there are others who aren't so keen on showing up. For example, Gov. JB Pritzker last week made Illinois legislators eligible for COVID vaccinations ahead of most folks. There was a fear that many lawmakers wouldn't come to Springfield unless they were vaccinated first.

Deciding who gets first dibs on being vaccinated is a political decision in the hands of the governor. While many Republicans are squawking about Pritzker's change in policy, I'm ambivalent. We elect governors to make tough choices, like who is the first to get a potentially life-saving vaccine. The governor made the decision and now it's time to move on.

What does concern me though is that some lawmakers apparently were threatening not to come to Springfield until they were vaccinated. If you can't or won't do your job, it's time to resign.

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



There are plenty of folks struggling to get by who would love to be called back to work, vaccinated or not. They wonder how they will feed their families and keep a roof over their heads. I can't imagine any of them being particularly impressed by lawmakers, earning more than \$70,000 for a part-time job, not wanting to show up to work.

If your fear of COVID-19 is so great that you don't think you can do your job, it's time to resign. Blue-collar and service industry workers don't have the luxury of not showing up and still getting paid. Why should lawmakers?

I know that may sound harsh, but we are 11 months into this pandemic. It's time to make those tough personal decisions.

President Joe Biden has called for returning students to their classrooms within the first 100 days of his presidency. It's an admirable and obtainable goal.

Our children are being shortchanged by this this distance learning. Why? Well, they aren't learning nearly as well as when they are in a classroom. Also, multiple studies have found that schools are not the major transmission points for the disease as once was thought.

For example, Sacred Heart Griffin High School in Springfield has had only one child contract COVID-19 at school since the school reopened for in-person learning in August, Principal Kara Rapacz said Monday. Mind you, there have been other students who have come down with COVID-19 but detailed contact tracing found only the one child has caught the virus at school.

"The safest place for children to be is in school," said Paul Vallas, who was superintendent in school districts as diverse as Chicago, Philadelphia, New Orleans and Bridgeport, Conn.

"The Archdiocese of Chicago's schools have been open for in-person learning for the entire school year without any major problems. There is no reason why public schools can't be open for in-person learning as well."

Vallas, a Democrat who once unsuccessfully sought his party's nomination for Illinois governor, is critical of teacher unions for not readily embracing returning to classroom

learning.

"The entire state of Florida has its schools open. There is no reason we can't, too. The best scientific evidence points to schools being the safest place for kids. At least one-third of car jackings happening in the city are being done by kids under 18. Last year, 83 school-age children were murdered in Chicago and 567 were shot. Those kids would be much safer in school."

Vallas noted that during the same period, only eight people in Chicago under the age of 20 have died of COVID-19 and all had preexisting conditions.

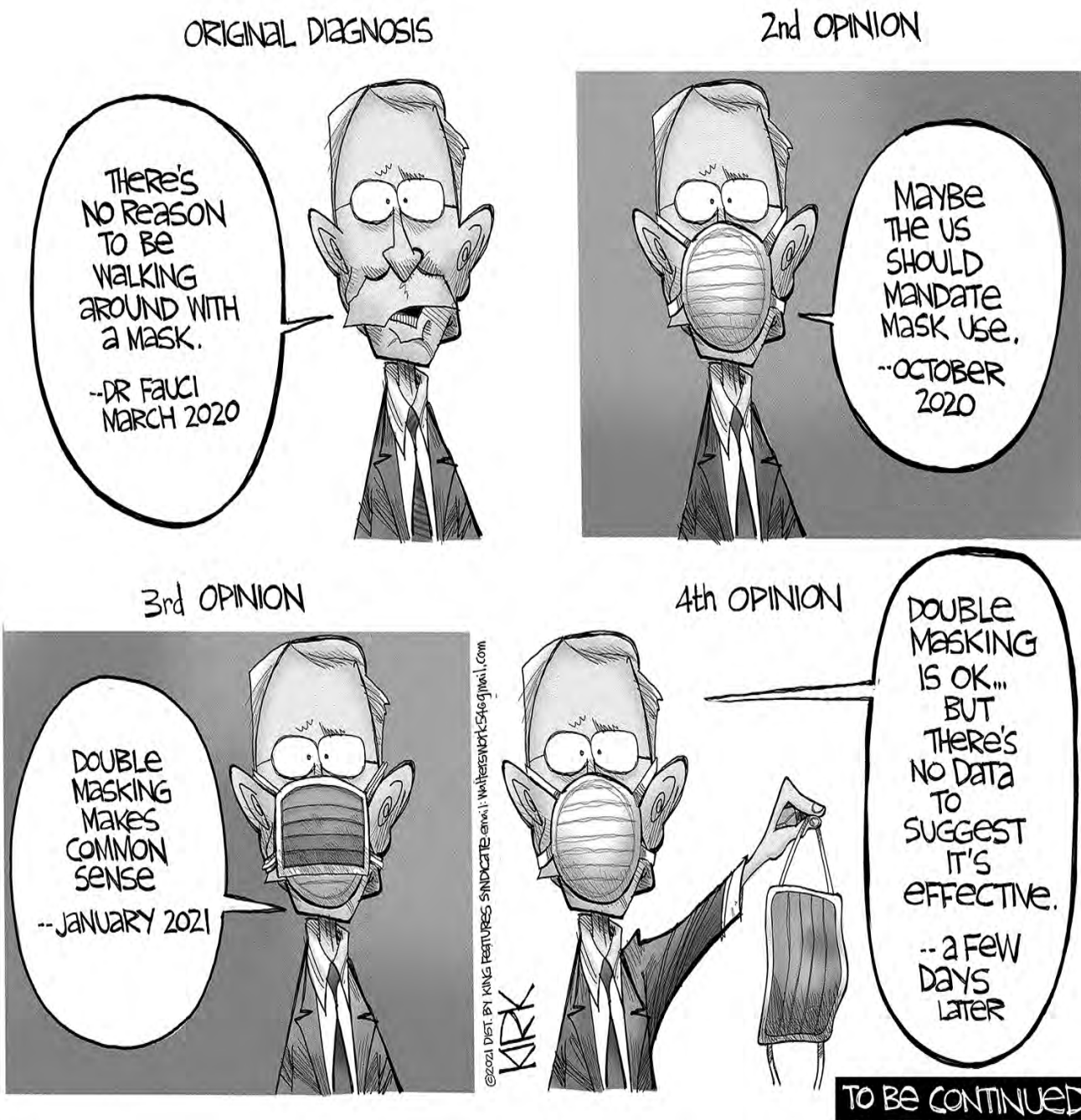
Are schools 100 percent safe? No. But staying home is less safe for most students. Why? Many youngsters are left unattended in front of computer or phone screen because their parents must work. This leaves plenty of opportunity for children to get themselves into troubling situations.

Other parents have chosen not work so they can watch their children during the day. But this often means with less income coming in, the household lacks necessities. Again, the child suffers.

Let's be honest, teachers staring into a camera lens have a harder time discerning if pupils are comprehending. And options for disciplining an inattentive or disruptive student in this virtual world are limited at best.

If children don't return to in-person learning, it will be something we will regret for years to come, because that is how long they will be struggling to catch up.

Scott Reeder is a veteran statehouse journalist and a freelance reporter. He can be reached by email at ScottReeder1965@gmail.com.



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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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On This Day in History

100 Years Ago Feb. 18, 1921

F.N. Jewett has leased the storeroom in the Entorf building recently vacated by Tuttle's Plumbing Shop, and will move his barber shop from its present location in the basement under The First National Bank.

J.A. Ditsch who came here from Mendota about two weeks ago and started up the bowling alleys, sold his interest Wednesday evening to some gentleman whose names we have not learned.

Mrs. John Burns expects to go to Rockford this evening to witness the ordination of the Reverend Joseph M Egan, a cousin of Mrs. Burns, to the Priesthood.

75 Years Ago Feb. 14, 1946

At the annual meeting of the Amboy Sportsman's Club held Wednesday evening, Ed Whitver was elected President; Ray Hillison, Vice President; James

McGraw, Secretary-Treasurer; John O'Rourke, Earl Antoine, Everett Barnes, William Langley, directors.

Dr. John P. Walsh has resigned as Lee County Health Officer and will devote his full time to private practice in this community.

Mrs. J.A. Tait went to Chicago Friday to spend a week with her daughter, Mrs. Robert Boyd, Jr., and family.

50 Years Ago Feb. 18, 1971

Eight high schools located south and west of Rockford acted officially at Byron Feb. 10 to form a new conference which will begin operation in the 1972-73 school year. Charter members of the new, as yet unnamed conference, are Byron, Forreston, Pecatonica and Stillman Valley of the present Route 72 Conference; Mt. Morris, Polo and Oregon, of the Blackhawk Conference; and Winnebago of the Shark Conference.

Amboy's Ben Franklin Store hosted an instruction class in the crocheting of

the very popular strung pearls Tuesday evening. Fifty-one ladies received instruction Tuesday evening.

25 Years Ago Feb. 15, 1996

Pankhurst Memorial Library has appointed Amboy native Ginger Daniels as its new Children's Librarian. Daniels started in her new position last week and will be available in the Children's Library during regular library hours.

Amboy started the week with a big 71-38 victory over Savanna. The Clippers climbed to 20-3 and 11-1 in the Three Rivers, and are rated 16th in the AP Poll.

On Saturday, Feb. 3, the Amboy Jaycees held their Fourth Annual Dog Pull at the Lee County 4-H Fairgrounds. This year the Jaycees slogan was "Pullin' For Kids II." The money raised at the pull was to be used for improvements on David Shapiro Park on Route 52.

TO BE CONTINUED

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF LEE
IN THE MATTER OF
THE PETITION
OF**

Jerard M. Zellhofer
PETITION NO.
21-P-1559
SPECIAL USE
The Petitioner,
Jerard M. Zellhofer
states as follows:

1. The Petitioner owns
the real estate legally
described as: PPN# 13-
21-01-101-005
2. The property is located
approximately
½ mile west of Lamoille
Road, on the South
side of Winding Road.
Addressed as 1749
Winding Road, Amboy,
Illinois
3. The property is currently
zoned as: Ag-1 Agricultural
District
4. The petitioner desires
a: Map amendment to
rezone approximately
6.096 acres to I-1
Planned Industrial District
for the purpose to
construct and operate a
commercial facility to
conduct his businesses
of constructing agricultural
buildings, production
of steel roofing, lawn
care and landscaping
services, and general
carpentry
THE ZONING BOARD
OF APPEALS WILL
HOLD A PUBLIC

HEARING ON:
Thursday, March 4,
2021, at 7:00 p.m.
3rd floor, Boardroom,
Old Lee County
Courthouse, 112 E. 2nd
Street, Dixon,
Illinois 61021
Zoom remote access
and YouTube information
can be found on the
Lee County website at
www.leecountyil.com
No. 0202
(2/17/21)

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF LEE
IN THE MATTER OF
THE PETITION
OF**

Jerard M. Zellhofer
PETITION NO.
21-P-1560
MAP AMENDMENT
The Petitioner,
Jerard M. Zellhofer
states as follows:
1. The Petitioner has
entered into contract to
own real estate legally
described as: part of
PPN# 02-15-26-200-
002
2. The property is located
on the east side of IL
Rt. 52, approximately
500 feet north of Mor-
man Road and approx-

imately ½ mile south of
Dry Gulch Road, Am-
boy, Illinois
3. The property is currently
zoned as: Ag-1 Agricultural
District
4. The petitioner desires
a: Map amendment to
rezone approximately
6.096 acres to I-1
Planned Industrial District
for the purpose to
construct and operate a
commercial facility to
conduct his businesses
of constructing agricultural
buildings, production
of steel roofing, lawn
care and landscaping
services, and general
carpentry
THE ZONING BOARD
OF APPEALS WILL
HOLD A PUBLIC
HEARING ON: Thurs-
day, March 4, 2021,
at 7:00 p.m. 3rd floor,
Boardroom, Old Lee
County Courthouse, 112
E. 2nd Street, Dixon, IL
61021
Zoom remote access
and YouTube information
can be found on the
Lee County website at
www.leecountyil.com
No. 0203
(2/17/21)

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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

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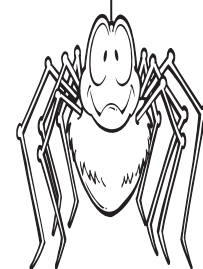
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Sunday
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SPORTS

Clippers roll over AFC Feb. 10

AMBOY — Ashton-Franklin Center proved to be no match for Amboy as the Clippers cruised to a 63-36 victory over the Raiders in varsity boys' basketball action on Feb. 10 at the AHS gym.

The Clippers burned the net for 19 first-quarter points and held a 19-6 lead after the smoked cleared on the opening stanza.

Amboy continued its hot shooting in the second period and carried a 40-19 cushion to the locker room. A total of seven Clippers dented the scoring column in the second quarter. The count stood at 54-28 heading to the fourth frame.

Trevor Vaessen was the lone Clipper in double-dig-



Trevor Vaessen

it scoring with 19 points. He knocked in three shots from beyond the three-point arc. Lane Boehle was next with eight points, while Brady Jones and Andruw Jones supplied seven points apiece.

Amboy Clippers Varsity Basketball Roster - 2021

No.	Player	Yr.
1	Caiden Wittenauer	Jr.
2	Ian Eller	Jr.
3	Trevor Vaessen	Sr.
4	Lane Boehle	Sr.
5	Connor Simpson	Jr.
10	Preston Henkel	Sr.
12	Brad Gazza	Sr.
20	Andruw Jones	Jr.
21	Brady Jones	Sr.
22	Tucker Lindenmeyer	So.
23	Jairon Hochstatter	Jr.
25	Dashad Greene	Sr.
33	Hayden McCoy	Jr.
35	Jordan Gully	Jr.
40	Brennan Blaine	Fr.
41	Garrett Pertell	So.
Head coach: Brad Dunlap		
Assistant coach: Joe Heavner		

Amboy Clippers Freshman-Sophomore Basketball Roster - 2021

No.	Player	Yr.
1	Kyler McNinch	So.
3	Landon Whelchel	Fr.
5	Wes Wilson	So.
10	Charlie Dickinson	So.
21	Eliseo Vazquez	Fr.
24	Kye Koch	Fr.
25	Garrett Pertell	So.

Amboy Lady Clippers Basketball Roster - 2021

No.	Player	Ht.	Yr.
3	Olivia Miller	5'7"	Jr.
4	Abi Payne	5'9"	Sr.
12	Lexi Ketchum	5'7"	Fr.
14	Elly Jones	5'7"	Fr.
15	Haidyn Zimmerly	5'11"	Jr.
21	Eden Lindenmeyer	5'3"	Sr.
23	Mallory Powers	5'11"	Sr.
24	Maevie Larson	5'8"	Fr.
25	Madelyn McLaughlin	5'7"	Sr.
31	Courtney Ortgiesen	5'11"	So.
33	Olivia Dinges	6'1"	Jr.
34	Brianna Blaine	5'8"	Sr.
44	Gabby Jones	5'8"	Sr.

Head coach: Mike McCracken
Assistant coach: Shauna Dinges
F/S coach: Todd Hobbs
Assistant coach: Chris Payne
Assistant coach: Kennedy Dinges

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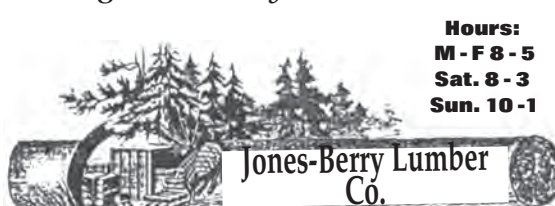
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LOCAL NEWS

Clipper Highlights: #12 Luke Payne

This week's Clipper is one of the most versatile to come through our program. I'm honored to announce this week's Clipper Highlight, #12, Luke Payne.

Luke was a 2002 graduate of Amboy High School. Luke was a three sport athlete (football, basketball, baseball) throughout his four years at AHS. Luke was a standout in each Clipper uniform he wore.

From a young age, Luke was taught the fundamentals of the three sports, he would play as a Clipper, from his dad, and one of the greatest Clipper fans, Doug Payne. Doug not only taught Luke and his little brother, Taylor Payne, the fundamentals of the games, but instilled in each of them hard work, attention to detail, and maximum effort. Luke's success as a Clipper was an expectation he set for himself early on as wasted talent was not an option in his household.

Luke was one of, if not the most, versatile of Clippers on the gridiron. Over Luke's two Varsity seasons he played the following positions; Quarterback, safety, tight end, defensive end, wide receiver, outside linebacker, and long snapper. This fact alone is a prime example of Luke's great athleticism and dedication to his team.

Luke played defensive end, tight end, backup quarterback, outside linebacker, and long snapper his junior season on the 2000 Clipper Conference Champion Team. Luke shared, "it was just a blast to be a part of that

season. To win a conference championship down at Eureka and then play two playoff games, one of which was at home was the coolest thing." Luke described the 2000 Clipper Team as being big, athletic, stout on defense, and all "bought in." The very same Team characteristics that all successful Clipper teams possessed.

Luke's Senior season the 2001 Clippers posted a 3-6 record. However, what most may not know is that the 2001 Clippers could have just as easily been 6-3 as they lost three games by a total of 4 points (lost to Eureka by 2, Fulton by 1, and E/P by 1 in OT).

"It certainly was a rebuild year, but we did have a lot of talent coming back and some guys moving up. There was still a lot of excitement that season and then after with the classes that were moving up to Varsity," Luke shared.

Luke again displayed his versatility as he played starting quarterback, safety, and wide receiver throughout his senior season. Luke not only took on those vital roles but was also the 2001 Team Captain and leader.

Luke ended his Clipper career earning 1st Team All Conference honors at safety and Honorable Mention honors at quarterback. Luke continued his football career at Monmouth College for his freshman season.

Former teammate and friend, James Bonnell shared, "he was a very good athlete, all around. I think it helped he had a great coach/father like Doug Payne teaching him the

Clipper Highlights

By Spencer Morrissey



fundamentals growing up."

Former teammate and friend, Brandon Miller also shared his statement about Luke as a Clipper, "Luke was a great athlete, but a far better leader. He did anything he could for the good of the team. He played multiple positions his junior and senior year, DB, DE, QB, WR. He even played in a game our junior year with a broken jaw."

Great statements by two great Clippers and friends. One thing about Clipper Football is not only the bond between teammates but an even greater bond and tradition between brothers.

I reached out to Taylor Payne and shared with him that his brother would be the Clipper Highlight. As I was beginning to ask, Taylor read my mind and offered to provide a statement. Taylor shared the following, "There was a 7 year difference in school between Luke and I, so like

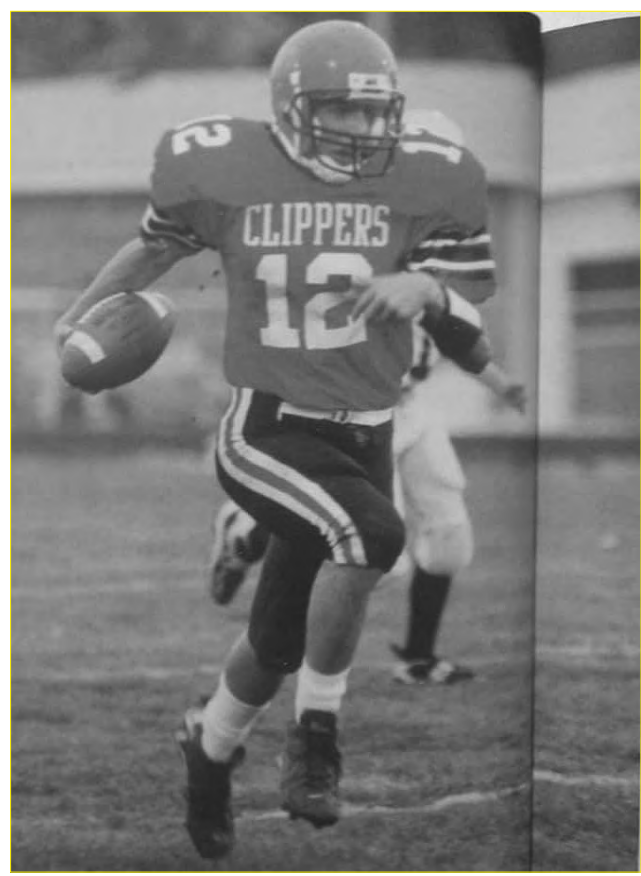
most younger brother's do, I idolized him. Athletically, he was just so unbelievably gifted no matter what sport he did. Pissed me off that he got the athletic genes and all I got was a full head of hair in my 30s. I have a couple favorite memories of him playing. Against a very good Riverdale team his senior year, first drive of the game he keeps it on the option and jetted down the field like he was shot out of a cannon for a TD. Absolutely stunned the home crowd. I felt so much pride in that moment to call him my brother.

"Another moment was the blocked punt he recovered in the end zone in the playoff game his junior year. Our dad had that article with Luke's picture holding the ball up in the end zone at his office for everyone to see. Dad was so proud of all Luke's athletic and personal accomplishments throughout life. I was proud to call him my brother back when he was QB1 and I felt there was nothing he couldn't do, and today I am proud of him as the man, father, and business owner he is. He deserves it, even though he led a 3-6 team, they could've easily been 5-4 or 6-3."

Amboy football to Luke is about three things, Family, Community, and Purpose.

"It was why you got up and went to school, why you shook everyone's hand that played before you, and why you fought side by side with your best friends those fall Friday nights," Luke shared.

The purpose has changed from his time as a Clipper to



#12 Luke Payne

becoming a Clipper fan and watching several successful Clipper teams. However, his purpose and definition of Amboy football today is watching his son's begin their Clipper journey and taking pride in our tradition. When that day comes, just as back in Luke's or Taylor's days as a Clipper, Grandpa Doug will have the best seat in the house.

So, to #12, "Slash," Luke Payne, thank you for your contributions to Amboy Football.

Thank you for carrying on the Clipper Way. Your great success as a Clipper is only outdone by your success as

a father, husband, business owner, and Amboy community member. 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 move to 4-0 on season with wins against AFC, Aquin

AMBOY — The Amboy Lady Clippers kept their high-powered offense going last week by sweeping three games in impressive fashion to run their record to 4-0 in the season.

Amboy opened the week with a 69-31 triumph over Ashton-Franklin Center on Feb. 9 at the AHS gym.

The Lady Clippers sprinted out to a 23-5 first-quarter lead and held a 43-9 advantage at intermission.

Three seniors led the attack. Mallory Powers poured in 19 points and added to her stat line with five rebounds, eight assists and eight steals, pacing the team in the latter two categories. Gabby Jones had a hot hand with 16 points while picking off four rebounds and dishing out four assists. Abi Payne provided 13 points, four caroms, seven assists and six steals. Junior Olivia Dinges dropped in eight points and led the squad with nine rebounds.

Three more seniors—Brienne Blaine, Madelyn McLaughlin and Eden Lindenmeyer—chipped in with four points apiece. McLaughlin also grabbed five rebounds and had two assists, while Lindenmeyer added four boards, and Blaine provided two rebounds and two steals.

Freshman Maeve Larson rounded out the scoring with a free throw.

The two teams met again on Feb. 11, this time on AFC's home floor, but the result was the same as Amboy controlled the game from start to finish, 66-21.

Four players hit the double-digit mark in scoring for the Lady Clippers, led by Powers and Payne with 17 points apiece. Gabby Jones and Dinges each added 10 tallies. The rest of the scoring was by Blaine and McLaughlin with four points apiece, while Lindenmeyer and Courtney Orgiesen each contributed a basket.

Jones led the team with 10 rebounds followed by Dinges with eight caroms. Powers and Blaine each grabbed six rebounds. Powers topped the assist chart with six, while Payne and Dinges had four apiece. Payne had the most



Mallory Powers



Gabby Jones



Abi Payne

steals with six and Powers added five swipes.

Amboy was back on its home court on Feb. 13 as Freeport Aquin came to town. Like Amboy, the Lady Bulldogs were ranked in the top five in the state last year in Class A and finished with 24 wins. The Lady Clippers took an early lead and kept building on their way to a 69-43 victory.

AHS was in front 17-10 after the opening stanza and held a 40-25 halftime margin. The Lady Clippers continued to pull away in the

second half.

Powers led five Amboy players in double-figure scoring with 19 points. She also provided eight rebounds and three assists. Gabby Jones pumped in 12 points, had seven rebounds and handed

out four assists, while Payne had 11 points, eight assists and four steals. Also, Dinges contributed 11 points, 10 rebounds, three assists and three steals, and McLaughlin netted 10 points, had four boards and two assists.

Blaine chipped in with four points and four rebounds, and Lindenmeyer bucketed a pair of free throws.

The Lady Clippers have averaged 69.5 points so far in their spotless opening to the abbreviated season.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Girls Basketball

Gabby Jones and Olivia Dinges

Boys Basketball

Ian Eller

The First National Bank in Amboy

Amboy • Dixon Franklin Grove Monroe Center

815-857-3625

www.fnbamboy.com

Where you come first

Reasons to Shop Local

- 1

Shopping Local Creates Jobs: The jobs created allow spending in the local economy and help create more jobs.
- 2

Local independent businesses invest more in our community: They support local charities, schools and community events which financially impacts our community.
- 3

Local businesses sell a wide range of great products at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.
- 4

Shopping Local saves you money and time! Travel expenses and personal time make the overall cost of items more.
- 5

Shopping Local retains our community: Without the support in the local community, restaurants, shops and services are forced to close.
- 6

Shopping Local retains our distinctiveness: Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the core community's needs.
- 7

Shopping Local encourages community growth. By choosing to do business locally you help maintain Amboy's diversity, charm and appeal; which in turn, attracts new community members.
- 8

Shopping Local invests in community services and city economy. Your dollars spent in locally-owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent outside of Amboy. When shopping locally, you create funds for more city and county services through sales tax. In turn, these funds are invested in neighborhood services including police, fire and ambulance as well as park and library improvements.
- 9

Local shops value you more: Local businesses survive by their reputation and repeat business, which means you get a higher standard of service.



NATIONAL FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 20-27

FFA members across the country are sharing the story of agriculture while celebrating FFA – it's all part of National FFA Week.

National FFA Week always runs Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Feb. 22, George Washington's birthday. This year, the week kicks off on Feb. 20, and culminates on Saturday, Feb. 27.

The National FFA Board of Directors designated the weeklong tradition, which began in 1948, in recognition of Washington's legacy as an agriculturist and farmer. A group of young farmers founded FFA in 1928, and the organization has been influencing generations that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting — it involves science, business and more.

Today, FFA provides the next generation of leaders who are changing the world. As the top school-based youth leadership development organization in the nation, FFA continues to help young people meet new agricultural challenges by helping members develop their unique talents and explore their interests in a broad range of career pathways. FFA members are our future leaders, our future food-suppliers, our future innovators and so much more!

Whether it is through service projects or community gatherings, National FFA Week is a time for FFA members to raise awareness about the role the National FFA Organization plays in the development of agriculture's future leaders and the importance of agricultural education.

Green River Chiropractic

35 E. Joe Dr., Amboy
815-857-2458

Sensient Flavors LLC

Amboy
815-857-4354

Amboy Food and Liquor

242 E Main St., Amboy
815-857-7020

Carriage House Electric

105 12th St., Mendota
815-538-5598

Amboy News

219 E. Main St., Amboy
815-857-2311

Amboy Dental Group

305 Joe Dr. E #120, Amboy
815-857-2015

Sublette Mechanical

2025 Sublette Rd., Sublette
815-849-5223

Pioneer State Bank

Member FDIC
303 S. Pennsylvania, Sublette
815-849-5242

Leffelman & Associates

Sublette – LaMoille ↔ Amboy
815-857-2125

Sublette Farmers Elevator

100 W Main St., Sublette
815-849-5222

Woodhaven Lakes Realty

509 LaMoille Rd., Sublette
815-849-5476

Art Espe State Farm

221 N Mason Ave., Amboy
815-857-2624

Erbes Realty LLC

1922 Tower Rd., Sublette
815-535-6295

Green River Oaks Resort

1442 Sleepy Hollow Rd., Amboy
815-857-2815

City of Amboy

227 E Main St., Amboy
815-857-3814

Vaessen Bros Chevrolet

US Hwy. 52, Sublette
815-849-5232

Vaessen Implement Repair

542 U.S. Highway 52, Sublette
815-849-9010

Shady Oaks Country Club

601 US Highway 52, Amboy
815-849-5424

Amboy Veterinary and Trego Vet Services

315 S Mason Ave., Amboy
815-857-2215

Dimond Bros. Insurance

10 E. Division, Amboy
815-857-3966

KSB

305 E Joe Dr., Amboy
815-857-3044

AMBOY FOOD & LIQUOR

Grocery delivery for disabled & senior citizens - in town only.

242 E. Main Street, Amboy IL. 61310

815-857-7020

Now Accepting EBT
Link Cards and WIC

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

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

“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”
— Abraham Lincoln

Sale Prices Valid Feb. 17-23 – Limited Quantities – While Supplies Last

PRODUCE & WEEKLY SPECIALS

Peelz Mandarin Oranges

3 lb bag



\$3.99

ea.

Green Giant Idaho Potatoes

10 lb bag



\$4.99

ea.

Bolthous Baby Carrots

1 lb bag



99¢

ea.

Cucumbers



79¢

ea.

Slicing Tomatoes



\$1.69

lb.

Cabo Fresh Guacamole

12 oz



\$3.99

ea.

Baby Bella Mushrooms

8 oz container



\$1.79

ea.

Food Club Tomatoes

14-15 oz



79¢

ea.

Reg. Price \$1.09 ea.

HOT BUYS

Sirloin Steak

AMBOY DELI

\$5.99

lb.

Reg. Price \$7.99 lb.



St. Louis Pork Ribs

AMBOY DELI

\$3.99

lb.

Reg. Price \$4.99 lb.



PENNY PROGRAM

Get a bag of Salty Snacks for 1 cent with the purchase of a 30 pack of Busch Family



Bacon Cheddar Burger Special

AMBOY DELI

\$4.99

ea.

Reg. Price \$5.99 ea.



SAVE \$1 Instantly
when you purchase
a 750ML
Jim Bean
White Label
or Apple,
Honey, Peach
Flavors



Patrick Cudahy Bacon

16 oz Assorted

\$5.99

ea.

Reg. Price \$7.99 ea.



WEEKLY SPECIALS

Nestle Pure Life Water

24 Pack Bottles

\$4.99

ea.

Reg. Price \$5.99 ea.



Food Club Peanut Butter

28 oz Assorted

\$2.49

ea.

Reg. Price \$3.49 ea.



Food Club Syrup

24 oz

\$1.99

ea.

Reg. Price \$2.59 ea.



Food Club Shredded Cheese

16 oz Assorted

\$3.69

ea.

Reg. Price \$4.99 ea.



Food Club Garlic Bread, Toast or Sticks

Assorted 10-16 oz

2/\$3

Reg. Price \$1.89-1.99 ea.



Dunkin Donuts K-Cups Coffee Cups

10 Pack

\$5.99

ea.

Reg. Price \$7.39 ea.



AMBOY DELI Ham Steaks

\$2.99

lb.

Reg. Price \$3.99 lb.



Daisy Sour Cream Squeeze

14 oz

\$1.99

ea.

Reg. Price \$2.69 ea.



Ale Haus Pizza

Assorted

\$4.99

ea.

Reg. Price \$5.99 ea.



Stouffer's Entrees

Assorted 5-12 oz

\$1.99

ea.

Reg. Price \$2.79-3.19 ea.



Land O'Lakes Butter

16 oz

\$3.99

ea.

Reg. Price \$4.89 ea.

