



Following Vaessen's election, an impromptu parade was held in Sublette. She was taken around town on one of the fire trucks, which was followed by other fire vehicles, family and friends.

Photo submitted

Vaessen elected Illinois State FFA Reporter

SUBLETTE – Margaret Vaessen of Sublette was recently elected the Illinois State FFA Reporter. She will spend one year visiting FFA chapters throughout the state. Vaessen plans to attend Joliet Junior College for two years and then transfer to a university to continue her studies in agriculture.

Following her election, an impromptu parade was held in Sublette. She was taken around town on one of the fire trucks, which was followed by other fire vehicles, family and friends.

Vaessen, the daughter of Michael and Brenda Vaessen of Sublette, is a 2020 graduate of Amboy High School.

Lee County announces updates for the 2020 General Election in November

LEE COUNTY — Due to COVID-19, Public Act 101-642 has been implemented and mandates that Lee County Clerk and Recorder's office automatically provide an application for a vote by mail ballot to registered voters that have cast a ballot in any election beginning with the November 2018 General Election and forward, or have newly registered or updated their voter registration since the March 17, 2020 General Primary Election. An application and notice of instruction will be issued to qualified voters beginning July 31, 2020. Please allow two weeks to receive your application.

IF YOU WISH TO VOTE BY MAIL, YOU MUST:

- Submit a completed application, receive your ballot in the mail, vote your ballot, affix a standard postage stamp to the provided return envelope and submit.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Vote by Mail Applications must be received by Oct. 29, 2020.
- Ballots will be issued beginning Sept. 24, 2020.
- Voted ballots must be postmarked by Election Day.
- You may confirm receipt of your ballot by visiting our website: <https://www.leecountyil.com/207/Election-Information>
- If you wish to vote by mail and have not received an application by Aug. 31, 2020 please visit our website <https://www.leecountyil.com/207/Election-Information> or call 815-288-3309.

IN PERSON VOTING:

For those individuals wishing to cast a ballot in person, your regular polling location will be open on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020 from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Early Voting is also available at the Old Lee County Courthouse, 1st Floor Election Department: beginning Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020, Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m.- 4:15 p.m.; and Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020, 9 a.m. until noon

All voters are encouraged to vote in the manner best suited to their personal preference. In the interest of public health and safety, please adhere to current suggested and/or mandated social distancing practices.



Four Illinois counties at warning level for Coronavirus disease

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today reported four counties in Illinois are considered to be at a warning level for novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). A county enters a warning level when two or more COVID-19 risk indicators that measure the amount of COVID-19 increase.

See **HEALTH** page A2

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Emma Bickett, pictured centered, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Amboy Masonic Lodge 178. This scholarship qualifies her for an additional \$1,000 from the Illinois Grand Lodge in Springfield. Presenting Bickett the check are, Area Deputy Grand Master Dana Barlow, Jeff Gerdes, Hank Gerdes and Charles Jeanblanc. Bickett is entering her sophomore year at Illinois State University. Jeanblanc said this scholarship is awarded to those who are making the world a better place with hardwork and dedication.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



WORK ON INTERSECTION

Construction work at the intersection of US Route 52 and Main Street in Amboy began on Monday, July 6. On Monday, July 27, workers removed the road at the intersection and replaced it with new asphalt. O'Brien Civil Works, Inc. will be reconstructing the ADA sidewalk ramps on the contract. The project is expected to be completed near the end of July.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



IHSA to make a decision on fall sports season on July 29

BLOOMINGTON – The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) announced on July 14, 2020 that it will defer to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Governor's Office on all of its Return To Play Guidelines moving forward.

"There is an unprecedented level of planning for this school year due to COVID-19, and we have come to understand that there needs to be a greater consistency between the guidelines for returning to learn and returning to interscholastic athletics," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "Some of the recommendations by the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) and directives from IDPH have come into direct conflict with each other, especially as it relates to the use of masks by student-athletes. As a result, we feel it is important to let IDPH and ISBE provide a consistent direction for our membership moving forward. We will wait on direction from these organizations for further guidance on Return to Play plans for the 2020-21 school year."

The IHSA Board of Directors was scheduled to meet on July 22 to make a decision on the fall sports season, however, it postponed the meeting until Wednesday, July 29, at which time it is expected to make an announcement on the status of the fall sports season in Illinois.

Illinois Elementary School Association cancels fall sports

The Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) Board of Directors held a special meeting on Thursday, July 23. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss fall sports and whether those activities could be held in accordance with the current limitations placed on schools and activities by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

After much discussion, the Board unanimously approved to cancel the regular season and IESA state series in the sports of boys' and girls' golf, boys' baseball, girls' softball, and boys' and girls' cross-country for the 2020-21 school year. There are no plans to try and re-schedule the activities or conduct them later in the school year in part due to if and when high schools in Illinois play their contests. Girls' softball practice was scheduled to start July 27. The baseball and cross-country seasons were scheduled to start Aug. 3.

The Board delayed any decision on girls' basketball. The first day of girls' basketball practice is scheduled for Aug. 31. The Board will meet again in late August to make a decision regarding girls' basketball.

See **SPORTS** page A2

Lawsuit: State Police unconstitutionally delaying FOID card applications

BY REBECCA ANZEL
Capitol News Illinois
ranzel@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — Gun rights advocacy groups filed a federal lawsuit July 20 against the Illinois State Police claiming that the office in charge of handling Firearm Owners Identification card applications is unconstitutionally delaying that process.

State statute dictates that "no person may acquire or possess any firearm, stun gun, or taser," or ammunition, without having a state-issued FOID card. ISP has 30 days from the date it receives an application and filing fee to either approve or deny that request. For renewals, state police officials have 60 days.

The Firearms Services Bureau, in charge of processing those applications, "often" misses those deadlines, according to the lawsuit. Residents are left "in limbo for months," argue the State Rifle Association, based in Chatsworth, and Second Amendment Foundation.

See **FOID** page A2

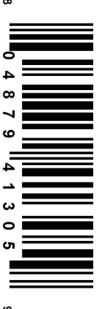
AMBOY MINUTE

Obituaries

Henry L. Robinson, Jr.
Donna J. Linder

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LOCAL NEWS

FOID continued from page A1

The Foundation, based in Bellevue, Wash., has Illinois members.

Court documents misidentified the bureau chief of that ISP office — it is Maj. Jarod Ingebritsen, a spokesperson said, not Jessica Trame. The lawsuit was also filed against State Police Director Brendan Kelly.

“The consequences for delay are neither abstract nor a mere inconvenience; they are a matter of life and death,” the groups alleged. “Sadly, in similar situations, where the government bureaucracy legislatively empowered to act as a Second Amendment gatekeeper has dithered in processing applications, there have been fatal results.”

The only example cited in the lawsuit is a 2015 case in which a New Jersey resident was killed by her ex-significant other before her gun permit application was processed.

Members of the two groups, as well as four

Illinois residents — from Chicago Heights, Oak Forest and Buffalo Grove — did not receive notice from the State Police about whether their applications were approved or denied within the 30-day timeframe mandated by statute, according to the court document.

It does not specify when the applications were filed or how long those Illinoisans have waited for ISP action, but does mention a June CBS Chicago story in which a spokesperson said an influx of new applications was delaying processing.

“With an explosion of applications and firearms purchases during the pandemic and current events — 63,823 FOID applications ... just last month — broader legislative remedies to streamline and modernize the FOID process will be necessary to meet statutory timelines,” a spokesperson said in an email. “We look forward to working with all interested parties

and members of the General Assembly to reach those solutions. The Firearms Services Bureau is committed to resolving the issues and meeting our public safety mission.”

The spokesperson added that the number of FOID card applications filed in June is up 148 percent from June 2019 when 23,359 applications were submitted to the State Police.

In the lawsuit, the groups argue the delay is also caused by “the State of Illinois’ persistent refusal to provide the resources necessary.”

Almost \$30 million allocated to the State Police for conducting background checks and responding to FOID card applications was transferred to other state accounts, according to a 2019 Government Forecasting and Accountability report.

“The Illinois State Police agree FOID applications should be processed quickly and within the statutory guidelines,” the ISP

spokesperson said in an email. “Financial instability brought on by the lack of a budget in the prior administration greatly impacted the processing of FOID applications by the Firearms Services Bureau.”

She added that “at least” 32 added analysts and investments in technology allowed under this fiscal year’s budget will help address the issue.

“Illinois cannot justify completely and indefinitely denying its residents their fundamental Second Amendment right to possess a firearm to defend their lives, families, and homes while they wait for the ISP to approve their FOID card applications,” according to the lawsuit. “Simply put, if the State of Illinois is going to condition the exercise of a fundamental right on the receipt of a license, then the process for issuing that license cannot be defective to the point of near-inoperable.”

HEALTH continued from page A1

Four counties are currently reported at a warning level — Adams, LaSalle, Peoria, and Randolph.

These counties saw outbreaks associated with business and risky behavior, including:

Adams County: larger social events, health care exposure, travel to hotspots including those in neighboring Missouri and Iowa, places of worship, and youth sports.

LaSalle County: large family and social gatherings, increase in cases among people younger than 29 years,

younger people visiting bars and attending larger social events, and inconsistencies with masking requirements.

Peoria County: increases in cases among people younger than 29 years, large gatherings including 4th of July parties, and people traveling to Florida, Iowa, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Randolph County: congregate settings, numerous bars not complying with distancing and masking, a large party with more than 200 people, and among households.

IDPH uses numerous indicators when determining if a county is experiencing stable COVID-19 activity, or if there are warning signs of increased COVID-19 risk in the county.

- New cases per 100,000 people. If there are 50 or more new cases per 100,000 people in the county, this triggers a warning.

- Number of deaths. This metric indicates a warning when the number of deaths increases more than 20% for two consecutive weeks.

- Weekly test positive

ty. This metric indicates a warning when the 7-day test positivity rate rises above 8%.

- ICU availability. If there are fewer than 20% of intensive care units available in the region, this triggers a warning.

- Weekly emergency department visits. This metric indicates a warning when the weekly percent of COVID-19-like-illness emergency department visits increase by more than 20% for two consecutive weeks.

- Weekly hospital admissions. A warning is triggered

when the weekly number of hospital admissions for COVID-19-like-illness increases by more than 20% for two consecutive weeks.

- Tests perform. This metric is used to provide context and indicate if more testing is needed in the county.

- Clusters. This metric looks at the percent of COVID-19 cases associated with clusters or outbreaks and is used to understand large increase in cases.

These metrics are intended to be used for local level awareness to help local lead-

ers, businesses, local health departments, and the public make informed decisions about personal and family gatherings, as well as what activities they choose to do. The metrics are updated weekly, from the Sunday-Saturday of the prior week.

A map and information of each county’s status can be found on the IDPH website at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/county-metrics>.

SPORTS continued from page A1

The Board did review and approve a plan submitted by the Speech Advisory Committee that allows schools to hold their own speech contest during the upcoming school year. Schools that participate in speech will receive information at a later date. No decisions regarding any other activities were made.

IESA statement:

We know that there will be many people within the school system who will applaud this decision and there will be many who will be strongly opposed. At the forefront of the Board decision is that the activities must be conducted within the current limitations that have been placed on the schools by the IDPH. In particular, the mandate that there can be no physical contact between athletes and that students must be socially distanced

(6 ft. of separation) makes the administration and conduct of games and contests very difficult and in some cases impossible to adhere to the mandates. While there are plenty of youth league baseball and softball teams playing games and tournaments this summer, many are not adhering to the same stringent guidelines. Because summer leagues and travel ball are taking place, this may make the decision of the IESA Board of Directors seem odd. The difference is that schools will be held to the IDPH mandates and the youth summer contests are not. It would make little sense for IESA to move forward with these activities that would require schools to be in direct conflict with mandates by state agencies that have regulatory control over the schools.

COVID-19 has changed the world.

However, this decision is not the end of the world. It is not the news that most students and parents want. At the end of the day, we work with junior high and middle school students. They are not professional athletes; they are not college athletes; they are not high school athletes. They are not missing out on any scholarship opportunities. These are mainly 12 to 14-year-old students who will have many more opportunities to participate (perhaps even later this school year in other activities). Activities, despite their importance in the development of students, can never take precedence over the health and safety of those same students. The IESA Board of Directors made a difficult decision but in the end, they simply felt that there are too many unknowns to proceed safely at this level of play.

IESA Executive Director Steve Endsley: “The decisions made by the IESA Board

of Directors were by far the most difficult decisions I have ever witnessed the Board make in my tenure with IESA. The current limitations on schools mandated by the Illinois Department of Public Health were brought up many times during the meeting. With there being so many unknowns regarding the re-opening of schools, the safety of the very students who participate in junior high and middle school activities was at the very center of the discussion. After each member had an opportunity to discuss the IDPH limitations and safety of the students, the Board ultimately decided to cancel golf, softball, baseball, and cross-country for the fall of the 2020-21 school year. Our sincere hope is that there are changes to the limitations placed on schools, which will allow the remainder of the activities in the upcoming school year to be held as scheduled.”



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THE WANDA MOUNTAIN BOYS

SATURDAY, AUG. 8, 2020 AT 6 PM

AT THE SHAW SHELTER IN AMBOY CITY PARK



The Southern Gospel group, The Wanda Mountain Boys from Herculaneum, MO., will present a “concert in the park.” Saturday, Aug. 8 at 6 PM at the Shaw Shelter in Amboy City Park. This free concert is sponsored by the East Grove Union Church, 449 Reuter Rd. in Amboy. A free-will offering will be taken for the group to cover their travel and ministry expenses. All are welcome to attend. Please bring your own lawn chair. For more information, please contact Pastor Rick Wulf @ (815) 440-5321 or (815) 376-6661.

Due to Upcoming Vacations, the Amboy News office will observe the following hours during the week of Aug. 10-14th

Monday, Aug. 10 - 9 a.m. - noon

Tuesday, Aug. 11 - 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 13 - 10 a.m. - noon


Our office will be closed on Wednesday, Aug. 12 and Friday, Aug. 14.

Normal Hours for July and August are:

Monday and Tuesday - 8 a.m. - noon, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday, 10 a.m. - noon

Closed on Wednesdays and Fridays



LOCAL NEWS

Blood donors needed to keep supply strong as pandemic continues

LEE COUNTY—Though this summer may feel different than summers past, one thing remains constant: The need for blood donations to help save lives. The American Red Cross is urging healthy individuals to give blood to restock the shelves for patients battling disease and facing the unexpected.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, people across the country have stepped up to help by giving blood with the Red Cross. Blood donations from healthy individuals are just as essential now to meet patient needs, and those who gave this spring may be eligible to help again.

Donation appointments can be made for the coming days and weeks by downloading the free Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

As a thank-you for helping ensure a stable blood supply, those who come to give Aug. 1-Sept. 3 will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Amazon. Plus, come to give by Aug. 31 and automatically be entered for a chance to win a trip for four to Cedar Point or Knott's Berry Farm, redeemable through the 2021 season.

Help more people by hosting a blood drive

The Red Cross is also looking for blood drive hosts this fall to help ensure a stable blood supply. There is no known end date in this fight against coronavirus, and while cases increase across the country, blood drives continue to be canceled at an alarming rate as many businesses, schools and community organizations remain closed.

Because about 80 percent of blood donations are made at blood drives hosted by these groups, the Red Cross urgently needs the help of both blood donors and blood drive hosts to ensure blood products are readily available for patients. Learn more and sign up to sponsor a drive by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/HostADrive.

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.

2020 Senior Expo canceled, free resource guide available

LEE COUNTY—After much thought and many discussions Lifescape has decided to cancel the 2020 Senior Expo due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. They are sad that they are unable to put this wonderful event on for the community this fall and will miss seeing the community partners and community members.

Lifescape does not want our older adults, caregivers, and families to miss out on valuable resources and information, so they are putting together a 2020 Lifescape Senior Expo Resource Guide. Instead of walking through the Rock Valley College Physical Education Center and viewing the over 100 booths, the public will be able to read about these wonderful organizations and companies from the comfort of their home. The resources guide is free and they will be sharing this resource guide with our clients and will have them available for pickup at our 705 Kilburn office. The resource guide will also be available in PDF version so we can share the information electronically via social media and email.

Again, they are extremely disappointed to not have the annual Lifescape Senior Expo, but are happy to share the area's wonderful resources through the 2020 Lifescape Senior Expo Resource Guide.

Amboy Police

Aggravated Arson

On July 24, at 1 p.m., Gayla J. Grossman, 43, of Fenton, was arrested for aggravated arson, three counts of arson, and unlawful possession of weapons by felon. She was taken to the Lee County Jail.

Dog Running At Large

On July 21, at 3:32 p.m., Kalla Mahar, 33, of Amboy, was issued an ordinance violation for dog running at large.

Disorderly Conduct

On July 23, at 3:45 p.m., a 15-year-old male juvenile, of Amboy, was issued an ordinance violation for disorderly conduct.



Do you want a start in a rewarding career helping your community or to find a doorway to being a career firefighter with no college debt?

Let your local Amboy Fire Department be that doorway. We have received a FEMA Grant towards new recruits and their training - there are 2 more years left to help you get started! The community, your neighbor, family, and our guests all need you.

Send a message to ashley@amboyfire.com to go over the benefits of joining. Currently accepting applications for firefighters and/or EMTs.

Through this grant we will be offering entry into a drawing for a \$500 gift card as a sign-on bonus after completion of a probation period.

07012020

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 Thursday, July 30, at the First Presbyterian Church, 110 E. 3rd St. Call 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate.

AMBOY-The City of Amboy committee meetings will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 3, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

AMBOY-The U of I Extension online webinar series, Good Growing in Illinois, will be offered on Wednesdays, Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26, from 3 to 4 p.m. The webinars are free but preregistration is required at go.illinois.edu/clwevents. Call 815-857-3525 for more information.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 5, at the YMCA, 110 N. Galena. Call 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 7, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 421 S. Peoria Ave. Call 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate.

org to make an appointment to donate.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8, at the National Guard Building, 412 W. Everett. Call 800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to make an appointment to donate.

AMBOY-The East Grove Union Church will host The Wanda Mountain Boys from Herculaneum, MO, at Amboy City Park-Shaw Shelter at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8. A free will offering will be taken and everyone should bring a lawn chair. Call Pastor Rick Wulf at 815-440-5321 for more information.

AMBOY-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 10, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

SUBLETTE-The Sublette Village Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 10, at the Ellice Dinges Center, 202 S. West St.

AMBOY-The U of I Extension online webinar series, Four Seasons Horticulture, will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11, via Zoom. Registration is required at go.illinois.edu/fourseasons. Call 815-857-3525 for more information.

MAY TOWNSHIP-The May Township meeting will be held at the township maintenance building at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 12.

AMBOY-The U of I Extensions's Energy & Environmental Stewardship Team webinar series, Everyday

TEEN TURF

Thank You's

Thank you to Andy and Katie Pratt for the donation of fresh vegetables. Thank you to those that had donated to Kimberly Watley Facebook page in the past months, "Network for Good" Thank you to Kathleen Donahue for her donation of hotdogs. Also thank you to those that donated cans and Pete Rood for making sure they are crushed.

If You are in Need

If you or someone else you know needs anything, for example, food, toiletries, or medicine, please don't hesitate to contact Eileen Piper at 815-440-8195. She can arrange for someone to pick and drop off those items in a safe and timely manner. We also have extra meat, milk, eggs, and bread if you need them.

Mini Food Pantry

We have devised a small pantry in the hallway of Teen Turf. The outside door is always open. We have snacks, school supplies, and other fun items. Please take what you need. We will continue this program until the epidemic is over. If you need something in particular, don't hesitate to call Eileen at 815-440-8195 or call Teen Turf at 815-857-4800.

A Note to say hello or Happy Birthday in August

If you know any person, young or old who is in need of a Hello or a Happy Birthday. Please reach out to us via Facebook Messaging or please call Eileen Piper at 815-440-8195. We have given out over 100+ cards.

Final Word

Thank You, Father, for the choice for either online or in-house instruction to allow students to continue their education. Thank You for every teacher and educator adjusting to their new normal. Comfort them as they miss interacting with their students in person. Equip them with energy and inspiration to come alongside their students in this challenging time of crisis. Protect their health, Father, both physically and mentally. Encourage them to use their gifts and talents to find new ways to reach students.

The Amboy News

Established In 1854



Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854

Kip Cheek, Publisher

Tonja Greenfield, General Manager

Bonnie Morris, Editor

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

Environment, will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13. Preregister online at go.illinois.edu/everyday-environmentwebinars. Call 815-857-3525 for more information.

LEE CENTER TWP-The Lee Center Township meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13, at the township building, 2202 Shaw Rd., Amboy.

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Donna J. Linder March 21, 2020

MENDOTA - Mass of Christian Burial for Donna J. Linder, who died March 21, 2020, will be held at 11 a.m. on Aug. 1 at Holy Cross Church, Mendota. Visitation will be from 9-10:30 a.m. on Aug. 1 at the Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota.



Granny Rose- Benji

Benji is a very cute Lhasa Apso/Poodle mix that weighs 23 pounds. His coat is mostly black with some white and has been groomed shorter; otherwise it would be much longer and curly. Benji recently lost his owner and he really misses having a home where he is spoiled and pampered. He is very affectionate and loving, but may choose to be bonded with just one person. Benji just turned 12 years old, is neutered, and has always had excellent veterinary care. He is playful and fun to be with. Benji is a great housedog that will pack up his toys and move right in! He is a mature dog that has been known to be "sassy" if over-stimulated or if he chooses to guard a possession. A home without children or other pets is what Benji prefers. He has a few quirks, but can be quite charming. To see Benji, call 815-288-PETS(7387) or visit www.grannyrose.org.

Photo contributed



Amboy News Obituary Policy

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

Henry L. Robinson, Jr. March 21, 2020

SUBLETTE — Henry L. Robinson, Jr., 82, of Sublette, died Monday July 27, 2020 at Heritage Health in Mendota.

He was born Jan. 30, 1938 in Chicago the son of Henry and Alberta (Boughton) Robinson. Henry was a graduate of Fenwick High School in Oak Park and St Joseph College. He was a food chemist and worked for Griffith Laboratories in Chicago for many years. He had also done consulting for the food manufacturing industry.

Henry is a retired member of the Sublette Fire Department, and was a member of the American Culinary Federation and the Institute of Food Technology.

He was also a devote patron of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Maytown.

Henry married Candace Trad on Aug. 20, 1985.

He is survived by his wife, Candace; and children, Deborah, Jennifer, Kathleen and Melissa. He is also survived by one sister, Mary Ellen.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother in infancy.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A private family Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St Patrick Catholic Church in Maytown. A memorial has been established to the Sublette Fire Dept.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Condolences may be sent at www.thejonesfh.com.

State of Illinois reminds caregivers to supervise children during water activities

SPRINGFIELD — As temperatures continue to rise, many Illinoisans are looking for ways to cool off. While many pools and beaches are closed this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, home pools, either permanent or pop-up, are still in use. If families plan to visit a beach that is open or invite a few friends over to swim, it's critical that parents stay vigilant and actively supervise all children when they are in or near water to prevent the tragedy of a child drowning.

In 2019, 22 Illinois children under the age of 18 lost their lives due to accidental drowning: 10 in pools; five in bathtubs; one in a bucket; three in ponds; and three in lakes. Six of the children who drowned in pools were age five and younger.

According to the American Red Cross, 69% of young children who are found drowned or submerged in swimming pools were not expected to be in or near the pool. On average, 379 fatal child drownings occurred per year between 2015 and 2017.

Children younger than five years old accounted for 75% of these drownings, 56% of which were attributed to a lapse in adult supervision. Of the reported fatal drowning incidents, 71% occurred in residential locations, such as a child's home, a family or friend's house or a neighbor's residence according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services urge everyone to follow these safety tips to help protect children from water-related tragedy:

Bathrooms

- Never leave a young child alone in a bathtub or rely on a bathtub seat for safety.

- Secure the toilet lid. Curious toddlers could tip headfirst into a toilet, risking drowning.

- Don't allow children to play alone in the bathroom.

Portable or Inflatable pools

- Don't be lulled into a false sense of security because of the shallowness of baby pools. A child can drown in as little as one inch of water.

- Empty the pool right after use and store it upside-down.

Swimming pools and hot tubs

- Keep ladders, patio furniture and toys away from above-ground pools. Toddlers are better climbers than you think.

- Install a four-sided fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate around all pools and spas. Always check to make sure the gate is locked or closed when leaving the pool or spa.

- Keep the pool and deck clear of floats, balls and toys after you leave the pool.

- Young children should wear personal flotation devices, but they do not replace adult supervision.

- Keep hot tubs securely covered when not in use. Children should not be left in a hot tub alone.

- Appoint an adult who can swim to watch children at all times when they are in the pool.

- Learn CPR and keep rescue equipment, a phone and emergency numbers by the pool. The American Red Cross offers online CPR training classes anyone can take at their own pace from the convenience of home.

Granny Rose – Walker

Walker is such a handsome boy! This 8 month old neutered male is a domestic short hair tabby. All of his vaccinations are up-to-date and he is ready for a forever home. Walker

loves attention and lots of petting. He won't want you to stop! Playing with toys is a fun pastime and he enjoys a variety. Walker will be cautious in new surroundings and maybe with some people. He will need some time to adjust. He loves his food and will love whomever feeds him. Walker will be a loving and entertaining companion for you!

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

Photo contributed



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CORRECTION:

In the July 22nd story from the Sublette Village Board, it was incorrectly reported that Margaret Vaessen was the new State FFA Treasurer. Vaessen is the new State FFA Reporter.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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32 N Jones, Amboy
815-857-2315 • www.stpatrickamboy.org
Masses: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 5 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 7 am
Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 9 am
Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 pm
Wednesday, 5:30-6:15 pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Friday, 8am-5 pm

St. Mary Church
Fr. John Gow
912 Walton Rd., Walton
815-857-2670
Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm

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.

St. Flannen Church
Fr. John Gow
213 S Second St., Harmon
815-857-2670
Mass: Sunday, 7:30 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.

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 addictions program from 7-9 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Harmon United Methodist Church
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Worship - 8:30 a.m.

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815-857-3044

The Amboy News
815-857-2311



SOCIAL NEWS



THE PASTOR'S PEN

Created Uniquely Special For His Glory

BY PASTOR JOHN KALEBAUGH

We recently welcomed the newest member to our family. "Baby Lucy" arrived at the home of our daughter and her husband and a (2 ½ year old) big brother. Seeing the beauty and uniqueness of this little girl and the joy she brings to our family reminds me of the incredible detail our loving God puts into making every single human being who has ever been born and ever will be born.

Billions of people and still counting... and every single one of them is unique... a unique creation of a loving God. And every single one is created for His glory. Imagine the intentionality that was put into making each one of us by our Creator. He could have just as easily made every single person completely identical to every other person if He chose to – but He didn't! Instead, He chose to make each one of us completely

unique and set apart from every other one of our kind.

Sometimes in life we forget how uniquely special each one of us is. We want to "fit-in" and "relate" to others, but this can also have a way of causing us to lose some of the sense of our own unique identity. I recently read an article about a British tailor who was making a gown for a woman which she also considered wearing for her wedding. As they were looking over the fabric together and trying to decide which to use, she started to say, "and my size is...", but before she could finish her statement, he stopped her. "No," he said, "You are not a size anything. This gown... will be your size. It will be made to fit you..." When he said this the woman burst into tears. Her whole life she had identified herself by a... "size" or a "label" or a "number." But now she would have something made

uniquely – for her.

The Bible says, "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book, they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them." Psalm 139:14-16

Never allow the need to "fit in"... or a "label" that someone gives you, or a mistake you have made in the past, or anything else to identify you. Our identity as Christians is given by our loving Heavenly Father and found in our loving Savior Jesus Christ. You are a wonderful and beautiful creation of God created uniquely special for His Glory.

'Til next time – May God Bless you.
Pastor John

The Book Nook

By:
Tatjana Kazan

Saving Lives

It is 1942, the German occupation of Paris is not too dreadful if one ignores the food shortages and the annoying boisterous German soldiers who absolutely love the City of Light. To be sure, there is Drancy, the internment and transit camp in northeastern Paris, which the German take over from the French police that summer, sending 70,000 people, including over 6,000 children, to their death in the killing camps in Poland. But all in all, things are going quite smoothly for most Parisians.

Lucien Bernard, "The Paris Architect" of Charles Belfoure's splendid novel, is hurrying to a job interview with the spectacularly rich industrialist Auguste Manet. As Lucien turns the corner of rue la Boétie, he almost collides with a man running the opposite way. In seconds, pursuing German soldiers shoot the man dead. The Germans amiably interrogate Lucien and let him go. Lucien calmly walks to the bathroom of a nearby café to wipe blood off his coat. He is slightly amazed by his lack of empathy for the Jewish man who has just been gunned down. Like most Parisians, Lucien has no fellow feeling for the Jews among them.

Lucien is astonished when Manet proposes to hire him for a special project. He wants Lucien to design a hiding place in Manet's magnificent apartment – the Germans are most keen to plunder such places – that would escape the notice of the minutest inspection. Lucien would be well compensated and, moreover, be commissioned to design a German munitions factory in the modernist style Lucien has taken up. Lucien demurs, it would mean certain death for him and his wife if he were caught. Still, the astonishing sum of money is tempting, as is the ingenuity required bear for such project. He accepts, but only this once.

Of course Lucien designs quite a few more ingenious hide-outs for Manet, thus saving the lives of Jews sketched by Belfoure in memorable prose pieces, which also include an awful mishap that rattled Lucien for weeks. In the meantime, the German munitions factory becomes a modernist model, earning Lucien the reputation which he has always craved. He also becomes friends with the elegant German Major Herzog, who oversees the munitions project. There is no evidence that such hide-outs were ever built in Paris, but Belfoure, who is an architect, is completely convincing in his description of the places. He got the idea from the hide-outs built during the Elizabethan Age when Catholic priests were hidden from religious persecutors.

The critic Malcolm Gladwell of "The Guardian" chose "The Paris Architect" his favorite book of 2013, calling it "a beautiful and elegant account of an ordinary man's unexpected and reluctant descent into heroism during the second world war."

Tri-County Opportunities Council's LIHEAP heating program available beginning July 27

ROCK FALLS — Tri-County Opportunities Council's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) may be able to help with a one-time payment toward your utility bills.

LIHEAP will be available to all households. There will be no priority periods. Households in need of energy assistance, especially those with disconnection notices, high past due balances and the general population that has been most likely affected by wage fluctuations due to COVID-19 are encouraged to apply. In addition, propane customers are strongly encouraged to apply in August when fuel prices are at their lowest.

Open enrollment for the PIPP program will also begin July 27, 2020. Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis until March 31, 2021 or until funds are exhausted.

To receive assistance a household must be within the income guidelines and provide the following information: copies of social security cards for every member in the household, 30-day income for every household member 18 years of age or older, a current complete gas and electric bill and Medicaid card for any household member that may

receive one. Additional information may be requested at the time of application.

Walk-in applications will not be taken. Applications will be taken "in-person" by appointment only at all satellite offices or remotely through various means such as mail, fax, email, etc.

The Rock Falls Office is accepting appointments Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Contact the Rock Falls Office at 815-625-7830 or 1-800-323-5434 to make an appointment or visit our website at www.tcohelps.org for locations and dates/times for LIHEAP applications at the agency's satellite offices.

LIHEAP applications will be taken through June 30, 2021 or until funds are exhausted. The gross income eligibility has increased to 200% of the federal poverty level, and for the 30 days prior to the application date cannot exceed the following: 1 person household, \$2,127; 2 person household, \$2,873; 3 person household, \$3,620; 4 person household, \$4,367; 5 person household, \$5,113; 6 person household, \$5,860.

Contact Tri-County Opportunities Council Energy Department at 1-800-323-5434 for additional information.

Absolutely abstract art exhibition opens

DIXON — The Next Picture Show is pleased to present the Absolutely Abstract Art Exhibition featuring 53 pieces by 22 local and regional artists for this annual abstract show covering the walls with work created in acrylic, alcohol ink, cold wax, digital composition, film, glass, mixed media, and watercolor.

The exhibit will be open for viewing through Aug. 29 at The Next Picture Show, 113 West First Street, Dixon, IL 61021. Hours are Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment.

Jean Spohn, Principal at St. Mary School in Dixon will serve as show judge. Awards will be announced and posted on the TNPS Facebook page. However due to Covid-19 there

will not be an official awards reception.

The show is sponsored by Exceptional Dentistry & Periodontics & Implant Dentistry, located at 724 N Brinton Ave, Dixon, IL 61021.

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Opinion

If the allegations are true...

Implicated but not charged.” That’s how Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan was described in news story after news story since federal prosecutors and Commonwealth Edison entered into a plea deal Friday.

In a nutshell, ComEd, the humungous utility serving Chicago and much of northern Illinois, has admitted to bribing Madigan, and has agreed to pay \$200 million and to cooperate with federal investigators for at least the next three years.

But no Commonwealth Edison executives are going to prison.

When I see a prosecutor choose not to nail a guilty executive’s pelt to the wall there’s a reason and it’s usually because they are aiming higher.

And by now, it should be obvious U.S. Attorney John Lausch wants to take down Madigan, the longest-serving state House speaker in U.S. history.

Madigan, through a spokesperson, said he is innocent. For decades, Madigan has been the most powerful person in the state. But assertions of wrongdoing have swirled around the speaker like flies buzzing around a carcass.

Despite this, he’s always been able to claim the two words synonymous with the Illinois version of the Good House-keeping Seal of Approval: Never Indicted.

“Mike Madigan is the glue that holds the Illinois Democratic Party together. If we lose him, we, are in big, big trouble. But I think Mike Madigan is whole lot smarter than those going after him. When this is over, he’s going to stick it right up their fannies,” said Denny Jacobs, a Democrat and former state lawmaker from East Moline.

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



I began covering Madigan in 1987 and I’ve watched his power and arrogance grow decade by decade.

It’s never been a secret in Springfield that House Speaker Mike Madigan helped his supporters get jobs with Commonwealth Edison. It’s been going on for years.

Prosecutors would have us believe that ComEd did this to curry favor with Madigan who in turn would support the utility’s legislative agenda.

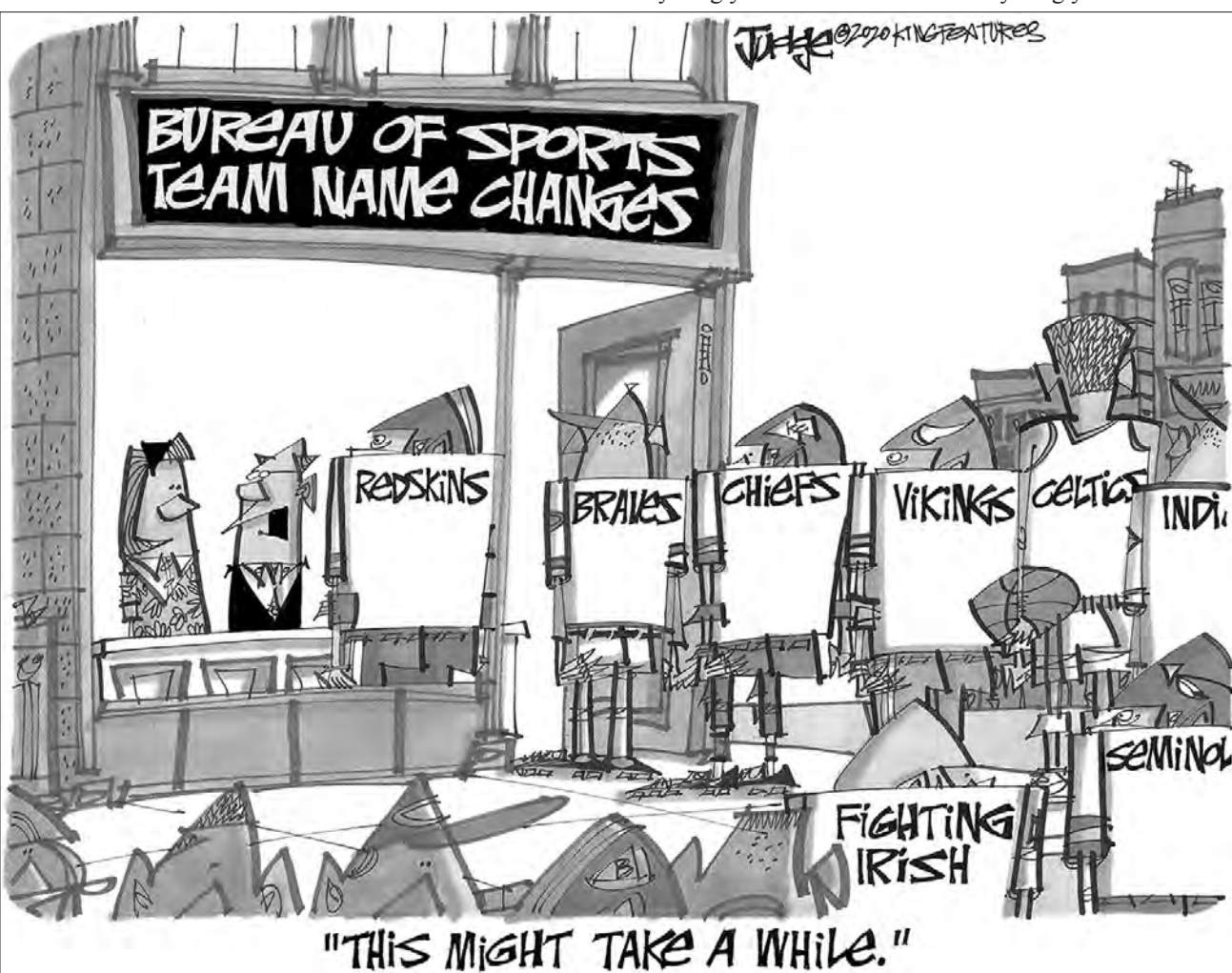
At the heart of the utility’s corrupt lobbying practices is the way in which it bestowed contracts and subcontracts on Madigan’s supporters, between 2011 and 2019. The feds contend Madigan allies were paid handsomely but often did little to no work for the power company.

Much is at stake when the utility asks Madigan for help.

For example, in 2016, the Madigan-led House gave the green light for ComEd’s corporate parent, Exelon, to hit its customers with as much as a \$2.3 billion, 10-year rate increase to subsidize two of Exelon’s financially struggling nuclear plants just north of the Quad-Cities.

Several years ago, a former federal prosecutor shared that it is difficult to investigate Madigan because he doesn’t use email and often uses long-time aides as intermediaries.

When the former fed shared this with me over lunch, I couldn’t help but remember a quote from long-ago Louisiana governor, Earl Long: “Don’t write anything you can phone. Don’t phone anything you can talk. Don’t talk anything you can whisper. Don’t whisper anything you can smile. Don’t smile anything you can nod. Don’t nod anything you can wink.”



On This Day in History

100 Years Ago July 30, 1920

The people of Amboy Township voted for a \$72,000 bond issue for a new building, at the special election, held last Saturday.

The special election held Tuesday to fill the vacancies on the circuit court bench of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit caused by the death of Judges Richard S. Farrand and Ralph D. Eaton, resulted in the election of the Republican candidates States Attorney Harry Edwards of Lee County and Franklin J. Stransky of Carroll County.

Miss Anna Miller is taking instruction in oratory from Mrs. A.G. Burnham, of Dixon.

75 Years Ago July 26, 1945

James McKeown, son of Mr. and Mrs. D.J. McKeown, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army on June 28, 1945 in Fontainebleau, France.

Amboy, as well as the rest of the middle west, has sweltered in the torrid heat this week as “corn growing” weather arrived.

Miss Darlene Kessel is enjoying a vacation from her duties at the Illinois Northern Utilities Company.

50 Years Ago July 30, 1970

Meeting at the Amboy Fire Station Tuesday evening to practice for the Miss Flame Contest to be held Saturday evening, the six contestants and Karen Sondgeroth, 1969 Miss Flame, posed for a picture. Contestants and their sponsors are: Diane Murphy, Amboy Public Hospital; Janece Ross, Lee County Cold Storage Company; Dorisann Sensenig, Flamettes; Linda Masters, Beggs’ Certified Foods; Mary Nelson, Dickinson Hardware; and Jan Welty, Amboy Evening Woman’s Club.

Amboy’s only Aquarium Center planned its grand opening Aug. 1-7. Complete line of tropical fish and trop-

ical fish supplies.

25 Years Ago Aug. 3, 1995

Sublette’s Picnic in the Park Sunday was a salute to the end of World War II. Ted Fredenhagen of Amboy, leader of Class Act I, read a dedication to vets and to workers at Green River Ordinance Plant prior to the concert by the band, featuring hits of the 1940s.

Amboy’s new squad car is on patrol. Mike Koppien, chairman of the police commission, recently presented the keys to Paul Smith, police superintendent, while Office Bill McLaughlin and Mayor Hank Gerdes looked on. The ’95 Chevy Caprice Classic is equipped with a special police package and cost \$15,000.

SDC Agency has opened at 232 E. Main, the former First Federal Savings Bank, and offers life and health insurance, mortgage brokering and financial consulting.



Charles Wheeler III, a long-time statehouse reporter and Illinois political observer, has known Madigan since the 1960s. He is skeptical that Madigan will be charged with any wrongdoing.

“My take is the prosecutors have thrown this out there without actually charging Madigan to see what shakes loose,” he said.

But Jim Nowlan, a long-time statehouse political observer, said what sets this scandal apart from others is its size and the level of arrogance involved.

A document released by prosecutors alleges that Madigan successfully sought to name a board member to ComEd’s Board of Directors.

“Who is so arrogant as to think they can name someone to the board of a corporation like Commonwealth Edison? The size of this is big, federal prosecutors had to do something,” Nowlan said.

But Wheeler anticipates Madigan will weather the storm. Short of a conviction, Madigan will likely continue to be elected speaker, he said.

Wheeler said this despite more than a dozen Democratic House members reportedly saying the speaker should resign “If the allegations are true.”

“That’s a pretty big caveat they have given themselves – “if the allegations are true.” Unless something like that were to be proven in court against Madigan, I expect he will be reelected.”

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

Established in 1854

The Amboy News

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SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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LOCAL NEWS

Educational Briefs

Kimberly Schlesinger graduates from Wartburg College

WAVERLY, Iowa—Wartburg College awarded diplomas to 276 students during a virtual Spring Commencement on Sunday, May 24.

Kimberly Schlesinger, of Compton, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy (BM). She is the daughter of Jeff and Theresa Schlesinger.

Wartburg, a four-year liberal arts college internationally recognized for community engagement, enrolls 1,505 students. Wartburg is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and named after the castle in Germany where Martin Luther took refuge disguised as a knight during the stormy days of the Reformation while translating the Bible from Greek into German.

St. Ambrose University Students on Spring Dean's List

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

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

Amboy

Megan Grady, Kylie Highbarger, Hallie Nauman, Vivian O'Laughlin, Delaney Powers, Jaynee Prestegaard, Madeline Prestegaard

Dixon

Kaitlyn Accardi, Kaitlyn Binkley, Madeline Blackburn, Madalin Blumhoff, Victor Francque, Hallie Nelson, Kaylin Sarver, Paige Setchell

Local students among graduates at UW-Eau Claire

EAU CLAIRE, Wis.—The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire awarded 1,441 degrees in May. Of the degrees awarded, 1,414 were received by students attending the Eau Claire campus and 27 were received by students attending UW-Eau Claire - Barron County.

Local students who received degrees and their fields of study are:

Dixon

Alec Giblin, Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts, communication, Eau Claire campus

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 spring 2020 semester.

Students earned the honors at the three campuses: UW-Platteville, UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County and UW-Platteville Richland. Those students earned the high honors while making the quick transition from in-person classes to alternative delivery in March because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 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 has been named the best public institution in Wisconsin for annual return on investment for the fifth consecutive year by Payscale and was just named the best public university in the country for getting a job, according to Zippia.

UW-Platteville, founded in 1866 and located in Southwest Wisconsin, is home to approximately 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students. For more information on the university visit www.uwplatt.edu.

Students from this area on the Dean's List include:

Amboy

Mitchell McLaughlin, Agricultural Business
Ryan Rod, Mechanical Engineering

Ashton

Lexi Meurer, Agricultural Education

Compton

Marie Barnickel, Agricultural Business

Dixon

Haley Verdick, Elementary Education

Paw Paw

Julia Penman, Elementary Education

Real Estate Broker Pre-License class available online through Kish

MALTA—The Real Estate Broker Pre-license class will be offered online through Kish this fall. The course will begin Sept. 1 and end on Nov. 20. The class format will be a combination of online and virtual/live lecture plus interactive, online activities. The program will cover the fundamentals of real estate and prepare participants to sit for the Illinois state licensing exam. The cost of the program is \$500.

The program will cover the 75-hour Broker Pre-License Topics and Applied Real Estate Principles.

Topics covered will include real estate concepts, math, brokerage services, real property contracts, the Illinois Real Estate License Act of 2000, financing considerations, property management, fair housing, current information on the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) and Real Estate Settlement Procedures

Act (RESPA), and more.

The program Instructor, Todd Burghardt, is a local managing broker/owner of a real estate firm and teaches both pre-license and continuing education and is a nationally recognized Certified Instructor for the National Association of REALTORS®. Burghardt is a graduate of the REALTOR® Institute with the distinguished GRI designation and the current president of the HomeTown Association of REALTORS®. He has decades of experiences and has earned Transnational Referral Certification (TRC) and Certified Agent Relocation Specialist (CAAS), among other accomplishments.

For more information, visit www.kish.edu/realestate or contact Melissa Gallagher, coordinator of short-term training and continuing education, at mgallagher1@kish.edu or 815-825-9466.

U. OF I. EXTENSION NEWS

Master Gardener Training

The University of Illinois Extension is pleased to announce that Master Gardener Training will be held with a flipped classroom style starting in September. Interested people can apply now for the training. Applications can be obtained by emailing brucejb@illinois.edu or on the web at go.illinois.edu/clwmgtraining.

To allow participants more flexibility during this training, we will be using a flipped classroom style training instead of the traditional classroom style of Master Gardener training. Each week, trainees will be given a reading assignment and a quiz like the classroom style training. What is unique is that instead of being in a class for 7 hours in one day, trainees will be given 2-4 videos to watch at their own pace before meeting online via zoom with the section instructor on Thursdays from 9-10:30 a.m. for discussion, review and follow-up. Train-

ing consists of 12 sessions (two of which are optional) conducted on Thursdays, starting on Sept. 3 and continuing through Nov. 19.

Pre-registration is required to attend Master Gardener Training. An orientation interview will be conducted with participants in advance of the class. Registration for the training is \$175 to cover the cost of the manual. For more information about Master Gardener Training, contact Bruce Black at 217-244-1923 or brucejb@illinois.edu.

Leave Your Legacy by Writing Your Life Story

Do you have treasured memories from your past you would like to record? Have you written down the special moments of your life to share with your family? The University of Illinois Extension is pleased to offer the "Share Your Life Story: Chapter Six" writing series beginning Sept. 1 in Sterling. Previous writing experience is not required. This 2020 series is a continuation from previous Life Story Writing Workshops; new participants are welcome to join at any time.

"Share Your Life Story: Chapter Five" will be held weekly on at 10 a.m. beginning on Sept. 1 through Oct. 6 at the Whiteside County Extension Office, 12923 Lawrence Road in Sterling. This writing series is free and open to the public. If public health conditions change, class will be transitioned to an online format. Pre-registration is required for participation.

Registration opens on Aug. 1. To pre-register for the series or for more information, visit go.illinois.edu/WhitesideLifeStory or call 815-632-3611.

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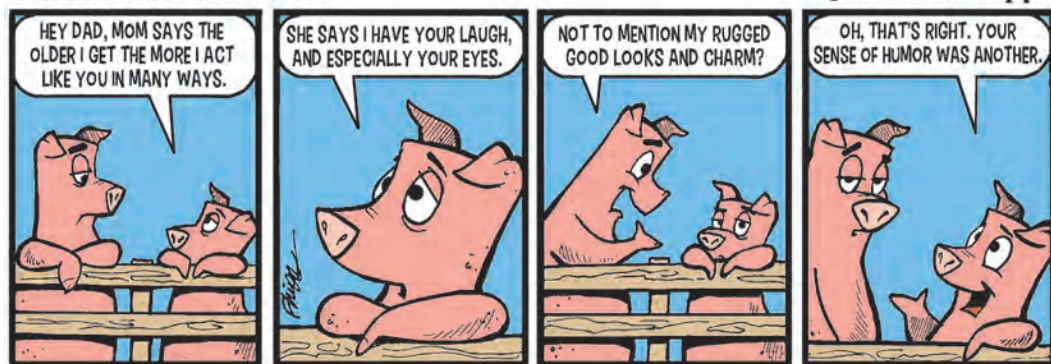
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LOCAL NEWS

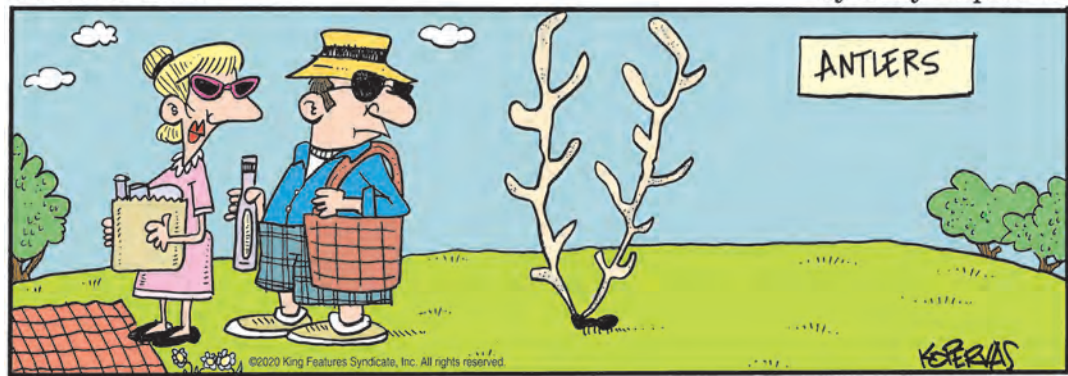
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



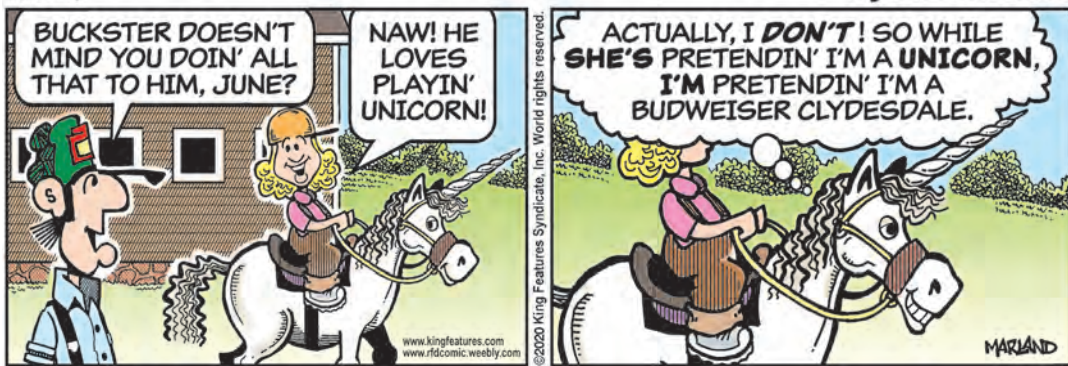
Out on a Limb

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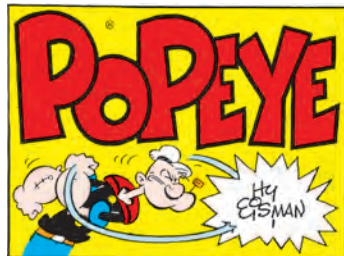
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



LAFF-A-DAY



SCRAMBLERS

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

Aim
PRAISE

Awry
WEAKS

Brace
HEROS

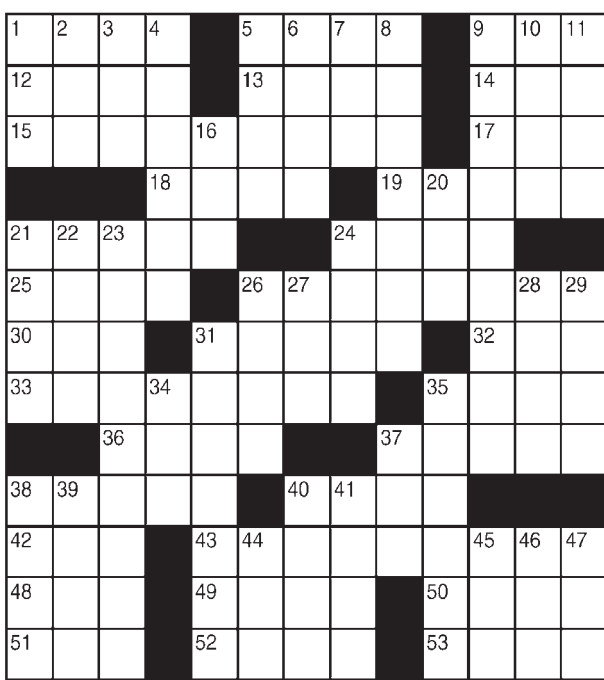
Grasp
TRAINE

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Oil cartel
5 Largest continent
9 Crime scene evidence
12 Lounge around
13 Charged bits
14 A billion years
15 Perry Mason's client
17 Entertainment
18 Smell bad
19 Geneva's river
21 Skiers' 7-Down
24 String instrument
25 Do as you're told
26 Old cars for new ones
30 "Help!"
31 Repeat verb-tim
32 Arctic bird
33 Confiscations
35 Sans siblings
36 Diner staffer
37 Name
38 BLT meat
40 Swimming venue
42 Alias abbr.
43 Secret or Sure
48 Crib



- 27 Fish eggs
28 — and void
29 Terrier variety
31 Former
34 Menagerie
35 Drilling apparatus
37 Also
38 Ali —
39 Related
40 Verse
41 Probability
44 Id counterpart
45 Exist
46 Negative prefix
47 Explosive stick
- 49 Elderly
50 Press
51 Pismire
52 May honorees
53 Kindly bloke
- 9 Leaves-dropper?
10 Proper subject, maybe
11 Heche or Hathaway
16 Born
20 Weeding implement
21 Privation
22 Reed instrument
23 Drying agent
24 Cisterns
26 Ankara resident

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

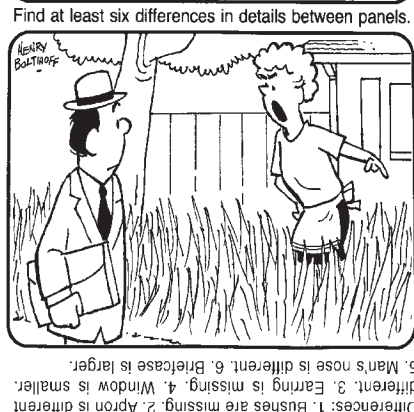
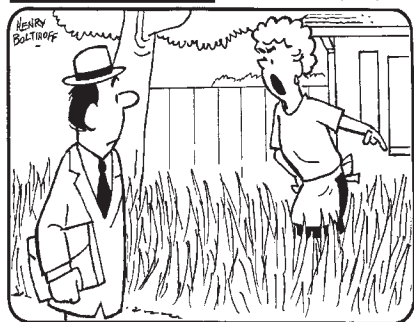
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

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

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTOFF



Differences: 1. Bushes are missing. 2. Apron is different. 3. Earring is missing. 4. Window is smaller. 5. Man's nose is different. 6. Bracelet is larger.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: O equals M

CY S KGSISDG PRSBTP DR HDZP DY
BISBTIP CR NFJ, ECHH EF FRJ WK
ECZG S BIWONM OWOOM?

WHISPER

Today's Word

1. Aspire 2. Askew;
3. Shore 4. Retain

solution

SCRAMBLERS

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the birthstone traditionally associated with the month of July?
- MOVIES: What was the name of the artificial intelligence system in "The Terminator" movie series?
- CHEMISTRY: Which element has the chemical symbol Pt?
- HISTORY: Which two boxers were matched in 1974's "The Rumble in the Jungle" contest in Zaire?
- ANATOMY: What is the common name for the hallux?
- AD SLOGANS: Which product is featured in the advertising slogan "Obey your thirst"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which four U.S. states start with the letter "I"?
- TELEVISION: What city was the setting for the 1990s sitcom "Home Improvement"?
- MUSIC: Which female singer had a No. 1 hit in the 1970s with the song "You're No Good"?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many tablespoons are in 1/4 cup?

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- Four
- Linda Ronstadt
- Detroit
- Idaho, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa
- Sprite
- Big toe
- George Foreman
- Muhammad Ali (winner) and
- Platinum
- Skynet
- Ruby
- Answers



Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

If a phrase snacks on lots of crackers in bed, will we end up with a crumbly mummy?

CryptoQuip

THE FARMER'S REPORT

Soil health event set by FCCA

FRANKLINGROVE — Franklin Creek Conservation Association will host a Soil Health event presented by Jim Isermann, Field Manager for Soil Health Partnership, on Sunday, Aug. 16, from 5-7 p.m., to show how successful farmers are working to improve soil health and environmental outcomes while maintaining profitability and reducing inputs.

Registration is free and required to attend. To register, call the Grist Mill at (815) 456-2718.

The meeting will be held at Sunday's Shelter located in Franklin Creek State Natural Area from 5-7 p.m. Due to COVID-19, masks are required at the presentation when physical distance cannot be maintained.

Reconnecting livestock and crop farming to transform the use of manure

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists are developing an innovative approach to address a major environmental challenge facing the nation's animal farmers: the accumulation of nutrients in the manure.

Manure produced in livestock and poultry operations has been increasing since the 1950s when large-scale feeding operations, along with large-scale crop farms, began to replace many of the nation's small, family-run farms that traditionally produced both crops and livestock and used the manure as fertilizer to boost crop yields.

The transition has created efficient, high-yielding crop and livestock operations, but it has also severed a longstanding symbiotic relationship where the excess nutrients created by the manure had productive uses. Though some animal farms typically use some manure to grow feed, most animal farms have insufficient land for using all of their manure. The surplus can pose an environmental threat to air and water quality. Yet manure contains phosphorus and nitrogen, which are key nutrients for many crops that are now supplied by commercial fertilizers.



"The question is what to do with the manure from livestock operations with surplus manure nutrients, and how to get it to farmland where it is needed most," says Sheri Spiegel, an ARS scientist in Las Cruces, N.M.

Spiegel and her colleagues have proposed using "manuresheds" to create systems that reconnect crop and livestock production so that more manure can be used to fertilize more crops. The manureshed concept is designed to promote the practices, technologies and management systems that would clean up manure while building healthy soils and supporting crop yields. It also illuminates the fundamental challenges facing sustainable

manure use and creates a framework for addressing the problem in a way that's clearly sustainable, the researchers say.

They outlined how the concept would work in a recent paper in the journal *Agricultural Systems*. They collected data on the manure produced in feeding operations, the fertilizer needed for crops, and the nutrients removed by them in 3,109 counties across the United States. Based on that data, they classified the counties as either manure "sources" or "sinks," depending on whether their manure nutrients exceeded use by their crops (sources), or whether their crops could use the excess nutrients to fill deficiencies or substitute for fertilizer (sinks).

Results showed that there is potential to redistribute manure from source to sink counties across much of the country, with source counties in 40 of 48 states—and much opportunity in the South.

The study authors also identified clusters of counties dominated by one or two production systems, such

as dairy or poultry, and they highlighted opportunities for redistributing manure by joining the clusters into four regional manuresheds—in the Northwest, Southwest, Midwest and Southeast. Possibilities for efficient transport and use of excess manure from each animal industry are also discussed in the paper.

The researchers note that efforts similar to what they propose have been underway in some areas. Truckers from western Pennsylvania, for instance, now haul hay to mushroom growers in the eastern part of the state and pick up poultry litter for the return trip west, effectively exporting poultry litter from the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Programs in Minnesota, Maryland and Arkansas also offer farmers and producers various incentives to transport manure from feedlots to farms.

(The Agricultural Research Service is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency. Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America. Each dollar invested in agricultural research results in \$20 of economic impact.)

Curbing Phosphorus Losses: There's an App for That

WASHINGTON — Designing an on-farm system for removing phosphorus in field runoff or subsurface drainage could become easier to do thanks to the "P-Trap," a new software program from Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and their collaborators.

In agricultural production systems, phosphorus is a critical nutrient for optimal plant growth, health and yield. But phosphorus that leaves agricultural fields in runoff or drainage water can end up in water bodies like lakes, streams and rivers, compromising their quality, fueling algal blooms and imperiling aquatic life as well as recreational activities. Management practices and technologies that prevent phosphorus loss is vital to maintaining environmental quality. One promising technology is an engineered system that removes phosphorus from runoff or drainage water as it leaves a field.

There are a variety of ways to design, build and install a phosphorus removal system. However, deciding which system is best for a specific farm operation or crop field configuration can be daunting, noted Chad Penn. He is a soil scientist at the ARS National Soil Erosion Research Unit in West Lafayette, Indiana, who is conducting intensive field research on phosphorus removal systems.

The P-Trap ("Phosphorus Transport Reduction") software streamlines the process by asking the user to enter four basic categories of information, starting with a drop-down

menu offering different design options. The program then calculates specifications for building the structure based on data the user entered, including expected water-flow rates, annual volume, dissolved phosphorus concentration in water, drainage ditch depth and slope, pipe diameter and desired phosphorus removal rate.

The P-Trap isn't just a decision-aid, though; it can also evaluate the effectiveness of an existing design that's already in use and offer recommendations to improve it.

Penn noted that regardless of design, phosphorus removal structures are intended for use on fields with a legacy, or long history, of phosphorus application in fertilizers or animal manures that has resulted in an accumulation of soil phosphorus to concentrations greater than crops need. While reducing excess soil phosphorus through better agronomic management is critical to long-term sustainability, using phosphorus removal structures can help prevent phosphorus from leaving fields as this legacy phosphorus is reduced.

The removal systems are intended to capture dissolved phosphorus, a form that can escape crop fields via runoff or tile drainage more readily than particulate (or sediment-bound) forms of the nutrient. Dissolved phosphorus that ends up in surface waters also is more readily available to algae, whose growth, death and decay can compromise water quality and cause other harm.

In addition to creating the P-Trap software, Penn also designs, installs and evaluates phosphorus removal systems—along with different materials in the systems that actually bind up the nutrient. In Highland Township, Ohio, for example, he is conducting a demonstration trial of a septic-tank-based design that uses a bed of iron oxide to capture phosphorus.

According to Penn, the system has the capacity to service a 20-acre area of crop land and remove about 40 percent of the dissolved phosphorus that can leave that area over a 10-year period. After that, the iron oxide media can be "re-charged" to capture additional phosphorus.

Penn's overarching goal is to improve the systems and get their phosphorus removal costs down to \$200 per pound or less—similar to what a waste-water treatment plant can spend on removing the nutrient.

Kevin King of ARS's Soil Drainage Research Unit in Columbus, Ohio; Margaret Kalcic of The Ohio State University, and Jessica D'Ambrosio and Stephanie Singer of The Nature Conservancy are among Penn's collaborators on the effort.

(The Agricultural Research Service is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency. Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America. Each dollar invested in agricultural research results in \$20 of economic impact.)

Weed control in wheat stubble fields

CHAMPAIGN — Wheat harvest marks the end of one cropping cycle and the beginning of a second. In parts of central and southern Illinois, farmers frequently opt to plant double-crop soybean following wheat harvest, with hopes that the first "killing" frost will be late enough to allow the soybean to reach maturity. Wheat stubble fields not planted with a second crop often become populated with a "crop" of summer annual (and sometimes perennial) weed species. Unlike double-crop soybean, farmers should not allow these plants to reach maturity and produce seed.

Several different summer annual weed species populate wheat stubble fields. Common examples include velvetleaf, common ragweed, pigweed and waterhemp, foxtails, and fall panicum. These species are capable of producing large amounts of seed if allowed to reach maturity, sowing the seeds that will contribute to weed control challenges in future growing seasons.

Farmers have several options available to control weeds present in wheat stubble fields, including mowing, tillage and herbicides. Implement these options before the weeds begin to produce seed to realize the greatest long-term success.

Mowing can effectively reduce the amount of weed seed produced by established broad-leaf weeds. The shredder or sicklebar mower should be adjusted to cut as close to the soil surface as possible. Mowing does not always

eliminate weed seed production as some seed could be produced from plants that regrow or from tillers present on grasses below the height of cutting. This method can help reduce seed production of simple perennials (such as common pokeweed), but would do less to contain the expansion of perennial species that spread primarily by underground rootstocks (such as Canada thistle and johnsongrass).

Tillage is a viable option to control weeds in wheat stubble. Large weeds may be more effectively controlled with an "aggressive" tillage implement (such as a tandem disk) compared with a less-aggressive implement (such as a field cultivator).

While effective at controlling established weeds, keep in mind that tillage can stimulate germination and emergence of additional weeds. Fuel consumption/cost and potential for soil erosion are additional factors to consider when using tillage to control weeds in wheat stubble fields.

Herbicides and herbicide combinations are available that can provide broad-spectrum control of weeds present in wheat stubble fields. Herbicides such as glyphosate and 2,4-D are examples that can be applied alone or in combination to control weeds in wheat stubble fields. Be sure to refer to the respective product labels for application information, such as rates, additives, rotational intervals, etc. Take precautions to reduce drift (movement of spray particles or vapor movement) from the target area.

Emergency research grant studies how coronavirus affects food systems in the U.S.

URBANA—The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is highlighting food system deficiencies. While the food system is successfully providing for Americans during this crisis, many are encountering empty grocery shelves. Simultaneously, producers are struggling to reach consumers due to concerns with processing, distribution and demand.

To understand and address these challenges, the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) is expanding existing grants to Feeding America and five Tipping Points Program awardees. The supplemental FFAR funding will quantitatively assess how food systems, and especially emergency food system, operate and adapt in times of stress.

Craig Gundersen, distinguished professor of agricultural and consumer economics in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at University of Illinois, contributes to the project as lead researcher on Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap (MMG), a database that provides detailed information on local, regional and national food insecurity. Gundersen developed the data collection methods and models to estimate food insecurity rates that comprise the MMG reports.

Earlier this year, FFAR awarded Feeding America a \$1 million grant to evaluate the effectiveness of the organizations' Regional Produce Cooperatives, which direct a greater variety of produce to food banks at lower costs. Now, FFAR is providing \$100,000 in

supplemental funding to analyze data with the goal of increasing produce consumption and decreasing food insecurity.

Feeding America is assessing how food banks use various supply chains to procure food for clients. The organization is also analyzing data to understand the use of food banks during the pandemic, predict how the COVID-19 will impact food systems in the next two years, and prepare for future food system shocks.

"FFAR was established to fill research gaps and provide access to affordable, nutritious food. Our mission is especially crucial during this pandemic, when more Americans are in need of food assistance," says FFAR Executive Director Sally Rockey.

FFAR's existing Tipping Points Grantees work with community organizations within five US cities to understand various aspects of the local food system, and improve health and economic outcomes through quantitative modeling of the food system. Food system investments in urban communities often work on isolated factors to improve health, equity and economic development. However, food systems are complicated networks that intersect with the environment, housing, education, the economy and other factors. Understanding how these factors interact informs the best use of future investments by cities and communities to accelerate improvements in health and economic outcomes within these communities.



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THE FARMER'S REPORT



Developing biobased products will be a focus of ARS chemist Atanu Biswas's, right, collaborations with EMBRAPA lead scientist Roselayne Furtado as a 2020 U.S. Fulbright Scholar.

Turning plant resources into plastics makes Peoria researcher a Fulbright Scholar

Thought microwave ovens were only good for heating up food? Guess again.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) chemist Atanu Biswas and his colleagues are using a slightly more sophisticated version of the household microwave to "cook up" biobased plastics made from corn, soybean and other renewable sources.

The method to such microwave "madness" is two-fold: to lessen the environmental "footprint" of using petrochemical-based plastics and to create new, value-added uses for agricultural commodities—soy oil, corn starch and cellulose among them.

Biswas' use of technology called microwave reactor is central to an approach that Biswas and colleagues at ARS's Plant Polymer Research Unit in Peoria devised to help reactions necessary to create biopolymers for use in plastics, coatings, films and other products.

Throughout the research planning phase, an emphasis is placed on ensuring the methods devised for making these biopolymer-based products are just as sustainable and environmentally friendly, added Biswas.

He also collaborates internationally on biopolymer-related projects and credits these interactions with spurring new approaches to problem-solving and product improvement.

For example, in 2019, he collaborated with Spanish scientists in developing bio-degradable food packaging under a fellowship award from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. And in 2015, under a "Science Without Borders" fellowship, he worked with Roselayne Furtado and her team at the Brazilian Enterprise for Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA) in Fortaleza, Brazil, to improve the properties of edible films made from shrimp chitin, cashew nut byproducts, sugarcane and other commodities.

Biswas plans on rejoining the EMBRAPA team to collaborate further as a 2020 recipient of the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Fellowship Award. Administered by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Fulbright Award honors individuals at the top of their fields, including hundreds of Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, MacArthur Fellows and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients.

The Fulbright Award will afford a unique opportunity to synergize agricultural research of mutual interest to both the United States and Brazil, according to Biswas.

"Bio-based polymers created from soybean oil and corn can replace synthetic products such as polyethylene bags and polystyrene foam packing materials, reducing reliance on petroleum, reducing pollution through improved biodegradability, and increasing demand for

agricultural products from both U.S. and Brazilian farmers," he said.

"The Fulbright Scholarship was also founded to strengthen international relations through cross-cultural exchanges of ideas in other areas," including the arts, added Biswas, himself a photographer, artist and enthusiast of traditional Bengali music.

The Agricultural Research Service is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency. Daily, ARS focuses on solutions to agricultural problems affecting America. Each dollar invested in agricultural research results in \$20 of economic impact.

Farm Progress launches virtual show

ST. CHARLES – Two major farm shows are off the calendar for 2020. To fill this gap, Farm Progress is launching the first ever Farm Progress Virtual Experience, or FPVX. This information-packed event will be powered by Farm Progress Show and Husker Harvest Days and run three days, Sept. 15-17.

"The beauty of a virtual event is that we will open the virtual gates on Sept. 15 with a slate of field demos and rich content, but once live farmers can engage the content all year long," said Don Tourte, senior vice president, Farm Progress. "With this event, the farmer can virtually stroll through more than 500 exhibits in their own time, and each exhibitor will have valuable new information to share."

The rich information available in the FPVX will allow farmers to engage a range of content. And searching the exhibitors will be easy because they'll be sorted into the familiar categories farmers have long come to know through more than 65 years of taking part in Farm

Progress events.

The event does kick off with something special, made richer in this virtual environment. "We're going to have what may be the most extensive field demonstration program we've ever conducted with corn harvest, tillage, hay and cattle equipment," said Matt Jungmann, events manager, Farm Progress. "And we'll include a first-look at a range of autonomous tools. And Max Armstrong will be on hand for the three-day online event as the host for this event, too."

From videos to easy-to-access brochures, to quick contact information to connect with exhibitors, farmers checking in at FPVX will find the event is almost as information-filled as being on site. While you can't replace all the great parts of a successful live farm show, this new offering – free to anyone who attends – will provide the information you need to keep up on the newest tools and technology for agriculture.

More information will be available as the show date nears, and work is already underway to pull together a

virtual farm show experience unlike any other. Added Jungmann, "We're not asking farmers to just sit by their computers, everything we're producing will work on your smart phone and tablet, so in the heat of harvest when you're spending long hours on auto-steering, you can see what we have to offer."

About Farm Progress

Farm Progress Show and Husker Harvest Days are Farm Progress brands. As part of Informa Markets, Farm Progress is the largest, most diversified agriculture information business in North America. Through a robust network of live events, digital products, data, marketing services, broadcasting and local and national publications, Farm Progress enables the nation's most economically significant farmers, growers and ranchers to connect and do business. It serves more than 80% of the 2 million farms and ranches in the U.S., and an estimated 87% of the nation's annual agricultural gross domestic product. Learn more about Farm Progress at Marketing.FarmProgress.com.

IDOA announces dates for junior livestock and horse shows

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) will host junior livestock and horse shows providing Illinois' youth with an opportunity to show their animals during an unprecedented show season.

The Junior Livestock Expo will take place in Springfield over the course of two weekends in September. Beef, sheep, dairy goats, pygmy goats and rabbits will all show Sept. 11-13. Swine, dairy cattle and meat goats will have their turn in the show ring Sept. 18-20.

A Junior Horse Show will take place on the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds. The show will run for two weekends on the Du Quoin State Fairgrounds, with English showing Aug. 29-30 and Western Sept. 5-6.

"After the cancellations of the Illinois and Du Quoin state fairs we knew there was a need to recognize our junior exhibitors who work year-round preparing for the fairs," said Jerry Costello II, Acting IDOA Director. "We are excited to provide modified shows that will provide an opportunity for young adults to

exhibit their animals safely following the Restore Illinois plan."

Shows are limited to Illinois residents between the ages of 8-21. The entry fee for those participating in the Junior Horse Show is \$10. Junior Livestock

Entry Fees are as follows:

Beef - \$20; Dairy Cattle - \$15; Swine - \$15; Sheep - \$15; Goats - \$15; Rabbits - \$1; Poultry - \$1.

Further details regarding the shows will be released on the IDOA website.



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101 LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF STEVEN JOHN DEMPSEY, No. 2020P00028 Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Steven John Dempsey. Letters of Office were issued to Lisa Magnafici, 517 Third Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021, as Representative, whose attorney is David T. Fritts, 217 N. Dement Avenue, Dixon, Illinois, 61021.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court, Lee County Courthouse, 309 S. Galena Ave., Dixon, IL 61021, or with the Representative, or both, on or before February 10, 2021, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Date: July 22, 2020
Lisa Magnafici, Representative
DAVID T. FRITTS
ATTORNEY FOR REPRESENTATIVE
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No. 0706
(July 22, 29, August 5, 2020)

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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

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ROCHELLE: 1115 Pickwick Dr. Thursday July 30th 9am-6pm. Friday July 31st 9am-4pm. Kid's Toys & Books, Girl's Clothes 4-6, Toddler Boy's Clothes & Shoes, Men's & Women's Clothing, Pots & Pans, Glassware, Dishes, Home Décor, Lawncare, Collectables, & Holiday Décor. (07-29-20)

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