

Amboy, Illinois

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Amboy schools working out details with schools closed

AMBOY — With the announcement of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker extending remote learning for schools in Illinois to go through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, Amboy Community Unity School District Superintendent Joshua Nichols released the following statement on Facebook.

"Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. Today, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker announced that remote learning in Illinois will be extended through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Although in-person instruction has been suspended for the remainder of the year, at Amboy Community School District #272, I assure you our entire staff remains committed to learning and engaging with all students through remote learning, as well as continuing with our food distribution program.

Like you, we are saddened by the reality that school will not be able to reconvene in person this school year due to this public health crisis.

However, the final chapter of this school year has not been written yet. These past few weeks have proven that we are more resilient, more capable and more compassionate than what we previously realized.

Today's announcement will result in significant and multiple scheduling changes in our district.

As this announcement about the end of the school year was just made by Governor Pritzker this afternoon, it will take us a few days to sort out the many schedule details that are on the books, including spring concerts, promotion, graduation, etc. Please be patient as we work as a district to get information to you in the next several weeks.

See AMBOY SCHOOLS page A2

Schools to remain closed for academic year as Pritzker says virus not yet at peak

By REBECCA ANZEL

Capitol News Illinois

ranzel@capitolnewsillinois.com **SPRINGFIELD** – Following the

lead of nearby states, Gov. JB Pritzker on Friday announced Illinois' public and private schools will remain shuttered for the rest of the school year. The announcement came one month

after Pritzker first announced a temporary school closure amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and on the same day the state announced 62 more deaths and 1,842 new confirmed cases - the largest single-day spike so far. That brought total deaths to 1,134 and total cases to 27,575.

Pritker said the state's COVID-19 curve is "flattening, not flat," and key metrics to watch are hospitalization rate and how long it takes for the number of cases to double. Both are decreasing, but not at a level that indicates the curve is declining yet, he added. As of Friday, the state had 926 of

2,979 intensive care unit beds available statewide, or about 30 percent. There were 1,918 available ventilators of 3,213, or about 60 percent. Illinois Department of Public Health

Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said Friday's new case count appears so high because health care personnel are testing more people, and she and Pritzker agreed that fatality and case count increase rates have not peaked yet. The state reported 7,574 more people

tested in the past day, the second largest daily total thus far. There now have been 130,163 people tested for the virus in

As cases have now been confirmed in 92 of Illinois' 102 counties, Pritzker made the call Friday to cancel school, public and private, for the rest of the

"Folks, I've said time and time again, my decisions are hard ones, but they will follow the science. And the science says our students can't go back to their normal routine," Pritzker said. "... My priority remains unchanged — how do we save the most lives during this very difficult time.'

In an average day, Pritzker said, 2 million K-12 students would meet in large groups in hallways, classrooms and extracurricular activities before going home.

See SCHOOL page A2

April 20 Update: Lee County has a total of 17

LEE COUNTY — The number of positive COVID-19 cases in Lee County remains at 17. Today, the State of Illinois announced 1,151 new cases bringing the total to 31,508 across 95 of the 102 counties. The death toll is now at 1.349.

The Lee County Unified Leadership Team would like to thank and recognize Lee County Sheriff John Simonton, State's Attorney Charley Boonstra and State Representatives Tom Demmer and Dan Swanson for their efforts regarding the surrounding campgrounds in Lee County. Minimizing non-essential travel during these times is paramount

to the success of reducing the amount of COVID-19 cases in our community. Due to their leadership, Governor Pritzker provided further direction and revised the March 20, 2020 Executive Order to prohibit travel from primary to secondary residences within Illinois. This prohibits people from traveling to campgrounds in Lee County.

While it is not practical to achieve 100 percent compliance with these orders, this team would like to thank the leaders at Woodhaven for their work in accomplishing this goal. The population within Woodhaven is well below normal

for this time of year and officials are seeing in excess of 92% compliance. We look forward to continuing to work with Woodhaven and the other campgrounds during these unprecedented times.

Acts of Kindness:

We would like to thank Josh Dober and Natalia Becker for their generous donation of Salmandra's for lunch for the Lee County Sheriff's Department. Thank you for showing this support to our first responders.

See **HEALTH** page A4

Local plant produces, donates hand sanitizer

AMBOY — To help the Amboy and Dixon community during this time of need, Sensient Flavors donated 150 Gallons of hand sanitizer to 11 local health organizations and emergency response personnel on Friday.

With the need and demand for hand sanitizer skyrocketing during the COVID-19 outbreak, Sensient Flavors, which employs 165 residents of Amboy and the surrounding communities, utilized existing equipment and capabilities to begin producing hand sanitizer on April 2 to support other Sensient facilities, customers and the community.

Sensient Flavors reached out to Amboy Fire Chief and Chief Operating Officer of Dinges Fire Company Jeff Bryant to help identify the local public health organizations in need.

The donations began on Friday morning in Amboy at Sensient Flavors with the City of Amboy Police Department, as well as Amboy, Sublette, Lee, Compton, West Brooklyn and Paw Paw Fire Departments receiving gallons of hand sanitizer.

In the afternoon, the Lee County Health Department, Lee County Emergency Management Agency, KSB Hospital, Dixon Police Department, and Harmon, Dixon, Ashton and Advance Fire Departments received gallons of hand sanitizer.

Amboy City Alderman Bill Bontz accepts a box of hand sanitizer from Jaclynn Koch. Koch is a school nurse and a member of the Amboy Fire Department. With schools closed, Koch is checking on the health of the Sensient Flavors employees as they enter the building. Sensient Flavors donated 150 gallons of hand sanitizer to 11 local health organizations and emergency response personnel.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



Kevin Lalley, Director of the Lee County Emergency Management Agency, poses with bottles of hand sanitizer that Sensient Flavors donated to local health organizations and emergency response personnel.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



Administrator of the Lee County Health Department, pictured left, poses with boxes of hand sanitizer donated by Sensient Flavors. Also pictured is Sensient Flavors Plant Controller Andrea Aldridge.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News





Making sure to keep 6 feet apart, Amboy City Alderman Bill Bontz, Amboy Police Terry Lester, Sensient Flavors Jolene Meunier, and Amboy Police Chief Paul Smith pose for a picture after Sensient Flavors donated boxes of hand sanitizer to the city of Amboy's police department.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News

Amboy Fire to host graduates of Class of 2020 AHS parade

AMBOY — The Amboy Fire Protection District will be honoring the 2020 graduates of Amboy High School with a recognition parade.

Seniors have been invited to follow the parade in their personal vehicles or ride on the apparatus following social distance guidelines.

The parade is set for Saturday, May 9, and will kick off at 1 p.m. from the Amboy Fire Department at 25 N East Ave. Line-up begins at 12:45 p.m.

The route is to be determined and will be announced in the Amboy News and also on the Amboy News Facebook page when available.

Amboy City Council waves liquor license fees due May 1

AMBOY — The Amboy City Council hosted its April meeting on Monday night. Amboy Mayor John Schamberger posted this message on Facebook about that meeting.

"The Amboy City Council had a very productive meeting last night while maintaining our distance from one another. The Council approved waving the Liquor License fees that are due May 1. We feel this is a way we can take some burden off of the businesses that are currently mandated closed

We will also be working with the City of Dixon and the LCIDA on a grant for our local

businesses. The funding is first-come first-serve. LCIDA has allocated \$100,000 for Lee County grants. These funds are for all cities and unincorporated areas in Lee County. The funds are available for assistance with rent or mortgage payments and all utilities: gas, electric, telephone, internet, water, and garbage services. Please email amboymayor@comcast.net for more information or call City Hall to be put on the list. We will also be looking at ways to offer local funding to our businesses during this time. More to come on that.

at lot of attention on them. If your neighbor has something that needs addressed please let us know."

Another friendly reminder we will be patrolling more for ordinance violations and putting

meeting remotely **SUBLETTE** — The Village of Sublette conduct-

Sublette holds monthly

ed its April board meeting remotely.

tion of public gathering of 10

or more, the Sublette Village

Pursuant to Governor Pritzker's Executive Order No. 2020-07 (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 5), Governor Pritzker has suspended certain rules of the Open Meetings Act – specifically the Executive Order permits remote public meetings. In light of the current COVID-19 public health emergency and the prohibi-

Board chose to conduct the board meeting remotely on April 13.

Attendees had the option of calling into the meeting or viewing the meeting through their computer. Acting Sublette Village President John Stenzel said those viewing could only see his computer monitor. Stenzel said at the start of the meeting, he put a picture of the American Flag up on his computer while the Pledge of Allegiance was



Obituaries

Ronald King

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See **BOARD** page A4

White announces emergency rules filed to extend expiration dates for DLs, IDs and vehicle registrations for at least 90 days after facilities reopen

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced today his office filed emergency rules extending expiration dates for driver's licenses, identification (ID) cards, vehicle registrations and other transactions and document filings for at least 90 days after Driver Services facilities reopen. The previous extension was for 30 days.

"Extending expiration dates by at least 90 days after Driver Services facilities reopen is the right thing to do," said White. "It will ensure driver's licenses, ID cards and vehicle registrations remain valid during this pandemic and will help alleviate the rush of customers visiting facilities once they reopen."

Following Governor Pritzker's Stayat-Home order, White closed Driver Services facilities to the public through April 30. While facilities are closed to the public. White is encouraging residents to go to www.cyberdriveillinois.com to take advantage of many online services – such as renewing vehicle registration stickers – from the comfort of their own home. People who conduct online transactions will further help to reduce the number of face-to-face transactions that will occur at Driver Services facilities once they reopen.

Some of these online services in-

- renewing a vehicle registration;
- applying for a vehicle title and registration;
- obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card;
- obtaining a driving record abstract; · renewing a standard driver's license with the Safe Driver Renewal program.

"My commitment is to do everything we can to help protect the health and safety of our residents, while still providing services to the people of Illinois," said White. "This will, and must, continue to be the guiding principle of our decision making."

Candidate activated to assist National Guard

AMBOY — Democratic candidate, Seth Wiggins, a Technical Sergeant (TSGT) in the Wisconsin Air National Guard, running for Illinois House District 90, has been activated to assist in COVID-19 National Guard support.

He is in his 11th year of service; with four years active duty service in the United States Air Force, two years' service in the United States Air Force Reserve, and five and a half years' service in the Wisconsin Air National Guard. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2012. The military information

within this release, including the use of his military rank, job title and service, does not



constitute nor does it imply endorsement of the candidate in any way by the Wisconsin National Guard, Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

SCHOOL continued from page A1

That pattern "opens up a nearly limitless opportunity for potential COVID-19 infection in a time when our health care workers, our researchers, our scientists and our first responders need us to bend the curve downward," he added.

Ezike said social distancing is working and needs to continue.

The governor said one of the difficulties in the decision was the fact that students would have fewer instructional hours, and that Illinois is an education landscape in which some districts are better able to enact remote learning than others.

But Illinois administrators and educators are "stepping up to ensure that every child in this state receives the education they deserve," he said, even if the method varies by community.

Guidance offered by the Illinois State Board of Education includes daily check-ins on each student by the teacher and grading reflective of "the unprecedented circumstances in which students are attempting to continue their studies," Pritzker said.

Pritzker also announced another \$569 million in federal funding will be available to Illinois schools as part of the recent federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES Act.

Districts will receive a portion of that funding proportional to how many low-income students they teach. ISBE officials will allocate additional money to communities most in need of resources, the governor said. That funding may be spent on technology for students and teachers and meals to distribute to those youth that need them.

Our school buildings may be closed, but the hearts and the minds of our teachers and students are wide open," Illinois Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carmen Ayala said. "This pandemic has altered the fabric of how we teach, how we learn and how we connect, but it has not shaken the core of what our schools do, and that is to take care of Illinois' children and prepare them for what is next."

She added state officials do not "expect" students to learn everything they would have this year had in-person classes continued. The agency plans to release guidance to assist schools address "learning loss."

OTHER NOTES

- Ezike said while some individual hospitals in Illinois may be at capacity, not all in a particular area are. IDPH divided the state's 211 hospitals into 11 regions, and "there's no region that has no beds," she said.
- Residents experiencing symptoms can find information about where they may get tested on the IDPH website at dph.illinois. gov\COVID19.

"Please, for people who are experiencing

illness and want to get tested, I do want to alert that we do have increased testing capacity,"

• The governor said he is "managing through this time reasonable well" in response to a question about how he is faring mentally and physically. While it is "hard not to let (the daily statistics) get you down," he added, "if everybody persists out there with the stayat-home order, ... we'll do better every day.'

Ezike added she is "finding the strength I need to carry on," and she has no complaints.

AMBOY SCHOOLS

continued from page A1

I know this is not the school year that any of us imagined, but I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we have dealt with this unprecedented situation together. This period of Remote Learning offers us new ways to learn and grow, and out of this Pandemic, we will emerge stronger.

Plans will be underway soon for the return to in-person instruction next school year.

It's important that we continue to work together and support our students. I can't thank you enough for all that you are doing as we all work together through this.'

million in meal assistance Department on Aging provides

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) is distributing \$7 million across the state to meet the growing demand for meal assistance by older Illinoisans impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

IDoA distributed the funds, provided

through Emergency Assistance Services grants, to the state's 46 Care Coordination Units (CCUs) to support meals programming for older Illinoisans at highest risk for malnutrition and hunger.

Last year, more than 85,000 seniors were provided meals at congregate meal sites and an additional 43,000 seniors received meals delivered to their homes. As a result of temporarily suspending meal service in the 399 congregate dining sites statewide, seniors who previously received meals at these sites are now being included in IDoA's home delivered meal programs. In a one-week period between

March 30 and April 3, a total of 178,599 meals were home delivered reflecting an average of 35,000 meals per day. In that same week, a total of 4,907 new referrals for home delivered meals were processed - that's on average close to 1,000 new referrals per day.

See **MEALS** page A4

S INFORMATION When you Need It Most



In a crisis, journalism matters more than ever.

When the world careens out of control, The Amboy News is a calming source of facts and information. At it's core, the COVID-19 pandemic is a deeply personal story. We want to know that our family, friends and neighbors are safe.

That's where your local paper delivers. We are reporting what's going on in our schools, our churches, and our hospitals. We are answering your questions every day. Factually and fairly. To keep doing this, we ask for your support, now more than ever. It's always been costly to gather and distribute the news. It's even more challenging when our advertisers face uncertainty.

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Due to the office being closed to the general public 10 Weeks during this time, please fill out the form below and either drop it in our dropbox outside of the office, or mail it to \$7.13 us at PO Box 162, Amboy, IL 61310. Name: 26 Weeks -Address: ____ \$19.00 Phone: _ City: 52 Weeks -State: Zip: \$30.00 Email: * Yearly rate normally \$39.50 for Lee, Bureau and LaSalle Counties. Offer expires on April 30, 2020.

The Amboy News

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NEWSPAPERS HAVE YOUR

We are grateful for those who have our back in this important time. The list is long, but we want to thank our first responders and front-line workers.

Especially in critical times, newspapers have your back. COVID-19 is a national story that is impacting you at home and at work. Your local newspaper is keeping you informed with current events in your neighborhood and is bringing communities together in these challenging times.

From the actions your local government is taking, to lists of local stores that are delivering and tips on what to do while you're at home, your local newspaper is committed to bringing you the news you need, when you need it.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AMBOY-St. Patrick Food Pantry, 32 N. Jones Ave., will have drive by/pick up service from 9 to 10 a.m. each Wednesday during April.

DIXON-The Lee County Health Department, 309 S. Galena Ave., is closed for

regular business. Call 815-284-3371 for updates.

AMBOY-All Lee County Extension, as well as Carroll and Whiteside Extension, events have been cancelled, suspended, or transitioned to online delivery. This ap-

through May 31, 2020. Go to: go.illinois.edu/Extension-COVID19 for updates and to ask questions.

plies to all events scheduled

AMBOY-The U of I Extension Webinar Series, Growing Horticulture in

Northwest Illinois, will be aired each Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. through May 13. No cost to participate. Register online two days prior to webinar at go.illinois.edu/ growinghortwebinar.

AMBOY-The U of I Ex-

tension Discover Wellness at Home Webinar Series is offered from 2 to 3 p.m. on Thursdays through April 30. The sessions are free. Register online two days prior to the webinar at go.illinois.edu/ wellnessathome.

AMBOY-The First Baptist Church Food Pantry, 24 N. Mason Ave., will be open on Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. until noon. Call 815-440-2078 for more in-

TEEN TURF

Thank You's

We are grateful for our Teen Turf family. We are especially thankful for these families for helping us with food or toiletries: Katie and Andy Pratt, Terry and Emily Lester, and Jim and Linda Grady

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 have devised a small pantry in the hallway of Teen Turf. The outside door is always open. We have snacks, school supplies, and other funitems. 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.

St. Pat's Food Pantry

Due to the unprecedented times, St. Pat's is holding extra food pantry dates the groceries to your car.

EXTENSION NEWS

A Note to say hello or Happy **Birthday**

If you know any person, young or old who is 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

Final Word

Mr. Rogers said on sharing responsibility-

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.



We may not be at our 3 usual offices, but we have new coworkers and views from our offices. We have our office phones at home and are able to continue business as usual. We are working longer hours than normal. The insurance business will carry on, and we are here to make sure you are well protected.

At this time more than ever, we literally mean "Our Family is Protecting Your Family."



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in April on Wednesdays: April 22, and April 29, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. No need to get out of car, they will bring **Mini Food Pantry** UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Celebrate 4-H Volunteers April 19-25

Illinois 4-H will celebrate the more than 11,000 4-H adult volunteers supporting and guiding 4-H members during National Volunteer Week, April 19-25. 4-H volunteers are the caring adults who are empowering and preparing youth for success as 4-H members provide service to others and in their communities. Today's 4-H youth are engaged in diverse learning experiences where they practice skills employers want; grow and distribute food to communities in need: steward our natural resources; identify local issues and initiate positive change in local, state, national, and global issues; and they make and influence positive choices for healthy living.

All of these things happen because of engaged volunteers in local communities.

National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world. Each year, we shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve, recognizing and thanking volunteers who lend their time, talent and voice to make a difference in their communities.

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974. Today, as people strive to lead



AMIE CASE LEE COUNTY

Emerald Experience Leadership Award

"4-H means foundation and opportunity. 4 H empowers our abilities of a positive mindset, compassionate heart, giving hands, and striving to better our life. It gives us a platform to express your voice and helps an individual become a well-rounded citizen.'

4-H FOUNDATION

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

the expression of civic life has evolved. Whether online, at the office, or the local food bank; whether with a vote, a voice, or a wallet - doing good comes in many forms, and we recognize and celebrate them all.

In Carroll, Lee and Whiteside County, there are over 175 volunteers who inspire youth involved in local 4-H

Local 4-H members are experiencing all 4-H offers

Illinois 4-H challenges youth to try new things, experiment in project areas that interest them, and explore opportunities around the state and country.

The 4-H Experience Award recognizes youth who excel in that challenge. The award is sponsored by the Illinois 4-H Foundation.

"We celebrate youth whose 4-H experiences have expanded outside their home county to the state, national, or international level," said Lisa Diaz, University of Illinois Extension assistant dean and Illinois 4-H director. Youth earning the two highest levels, diamond and emerald, are recognized at the state level.

Carroll-Lee-Whiteside 4-H had two local winners this year in the Emerald Level Leadership Award. They were Marie Barnickel and Amie Case from Lee County.

The Illinois 4-H Foundation also provided \$25,000 in college scholarships and awarded another \$20,000 in national conference travel scholarships this year.

"Our donors are generous and believe that higher education changes lives," said Angie Barnard, Foundation executive director. Donors include Nann Armstrong, Patricia Clickener, Lila Jeanne Eichelberger, Keith and Lissa Parr, Donna Mueller, Dee Murray, George Obernagel, Legacy of Leadership endowment contributors, LA-CO, Barbara and George Clark, Ryan and Elaine Ruwe, Marvin and Elizabeth Schnitzler, Carrie Francis, Jason and Andrya Smith, Auxiliary to the Illinois State Veterinary Medicine Association and the Illinois 4-H Foundation.

Illinois 4-H Foundation presents the Legacy of Leadership Scholarship to 4-H members who demonstrate and maintain a high standard of 4-H excellence and mastery during their membership tenure.

Carroll-Lee-Whiteside 4-H had Abigail Stichter from Whiteside County as a local recipient this year.

ISA SEEKS QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT DIRECTOR BOARD SEATS

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) seeks qualified candidates to fill a board seat representing District 1 (Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson & Winnebago Counties). Paul Rasmussen, current director, will term off the board in July 2020. The Illinois Department of Agriculture directs the election process

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) represents the interests of more than 43,000 soybean farmers in Illinois through the state soybean checkoff and membership efforts. ISB, which is one of the entities of the ISA organization, manages and invests Illinois soybean checkoff funds

Board members serve a term of three years and are eligible for up to two terms. The ISA board is comprised of 18 district directors and six at-large

Eliqibility to serve requires candidates be Illinois residents of legal voting age that contribute to the soybean checkoff. Candidates must also be residents within the district and maintain eligibility during their term(s). Directors may need to devote about 24 days per year, depending on level of leadership and representation needs

Petitions are available through the Illinois Department of Agriculture in Springfield, or by contacting ISA representative Dustin Scott at 309-808-3603 orscottd@ilsoy.org. Contact Scott with questions or for additional information.

To have your name placed on the ballot, petitions must be completed and filed with the Illinois Department of Agriculture director in Springfield no later than 5 p.m., May 15, 2020. A candidate's petition must carry the signatures of at least 250 of the qualified producers from the district where the candidate seeks office, or five percent, whichever is less. Any person running as a write-in candidate must also meet the eligibility requirements and submit a Declaration of Intent to the IDOA Acting Director Jerry Costello no later than

SPRING IS HERE!

5 p.m., June 30, 2020. Elections will be held July 7, 2020.

Granny Rose - Angel

Angel came to the shelter from Animal Control, as her owner could no longer care for her. She is an Akita/Husky mix that was so severely matted her fluffy coat had to be shaved off. Angel is spayed, fully vaccinated, and weighs 67 pounds. Cats and other small pets would likely be seen as "prey". Angel is friendly with people. She will be 9 years old next month. To see Angel, visit Granny Rose Animal Shelter, 613 River Lane, Dixon. Call 815-288-PETS(7387) or visit www.grannyrose.org.





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The Amboy News

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Ronald D. King Jan. 13, 1947 - April 14, 2020

AMBOY — Ronald D. King, 73, of Amboy, died Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at his home.

He was born Jan. 13, 1947 in Mendota the son of Harry and Christina (Lovell) King. Ron had worked at Hart-Carter in Mendota prior to his retirement.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and sisters, Annie Marie Kozak and Caroline Albee.

Ron is survived by three nieces, Justine Albee, of Amboy, Shari (Raymond) Ciessau, of Amboy, and Katherine (John) Karpinski, of Dixon; two nephews, Donald Kozak, of Dixon and Vernon (Katrina Alexander) Albee, of Dixon; and one great niece, Rachel Karpinski.

Private family funeral service will be at the Chapel at Prairie Repose Cemetery with burial to follow at the cemetery. A memorial has been established to the Amboy Fire Dept.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home



Condolences may be sent online at www.thejonesfh.

Rock River Hospice & Home celebrates hospice volunteers

STERLING—April 19 to 25 is National Volunteer Week, and organizations across the country are celebrating the gifts of time and talent that individuals selflessly give to help others. Nowhere is this commitment more valuable and heartfelt than in hospice – and hospice is thriving in this community thanks

Even when a person is dying, there can be a lot of living to do and hospice makes it possible by bringing care, compassion, and hope to patients and families facing life-limiting illness. More than 1.6 million Americans received the care of hospice every year. Right here in our community, trained

volunteers support people during the journey at life's end and make the mission of Rock River Hospice & Home possible. During National Volunteer Week, we honor

and celebrate those caring individuals that do so much for so many – particularly those hospice volunteers that accompany people during life's final journey.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization reports that there are an estimated 430,000 hospice volunteers giving of their time and talent to patients and families who are coping with life-limiting illness and loss. These trained volunteers provide more than 19 million hours of service every year.

Whether a volunteer is serving at the bedside, in the office, educating others, or raising awareness & funds, they are the heart of hospice.

Rock River Hospice & Home is looking for these "Friends of Hospice" volunteers. Every person is different, and each has unique talents that can complement and support the work of RRHH. Become a "Friend of Hospice" by contacting Stacey Nielsen, Volunteer Coordinator, at 815-625-3858 or staceynielsen@ hospicerockriver.org.

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@ambovnews.com.

BOARD continued from page A1

He then shared the agenda on the screen for those listening and viewing.

Stenzel said the board will continue to meet this way until it is deemed safe to meet as a group again.

Residents were still allowed to ask questions during the Audience Participation portion of the meeting – with the difference being how they asked the question. Stenzel asked that those with questions to them prior to the start of the meeting to stenz1@hotmail. com and said that those questions and/or comments will be read during the meeting and addressed, if appropriate, at that time. Business addressed:

 The board set the year ending meeting date and time of 6 p.m., on April 30.

• The board hired an appraiser out of Sycamore to appraise excess village property. The motion was approved 4-2, with Village of Sublette Trustees Julie Kessel and Scott

• The village is moving forward with the new UBmax billing software. Stenzel said it looks like the software is working fine and that the new software looks to go live in May.

OSF Healthcare earns ACR accreditation in mammography OTTAWA — OSF HealthCare Saint

Elizabeth Medical Center has been awarded a three-year term of accreditation in mammography as the result of an extensive review by the American College of Radiology (ACR). Mammography is a specific type of breast imaging that uses low-dose x-rays to detect breast cancer in women who do not have signs or symptoms of the disease.

3D mammography is an imaging test that combines multiple breast x-rays to create a three-dimensional picture of the breast. The ACR gold seal of accreditation rep-

resents the highest level of image quality and

It is awarded only to facilities meeting ACR Practice Parameters and Technical Standards, following a peer-review evaluation by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. Image quality, personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality control procedures, and quality assurance programs are assessed. The findings are reported to the ACR

Committee on Accreditation, which subsequently provides the practice with a comprehensive report that can be used for continuous practice improvement. OSF Saint Elizabeth has ACR Accredi-

tations with certifications in 3D Mammography, Mammography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computed Tomography (CT), Nuclear Medicine, and Ultrasound.

MEALS continued from page A2

"We have been supplying our providers with more dollars to assist them with unmet needs, and we have anticipated that the demand for home delivered meals is going to continue to increase, as we have already seen," said Paula Basta, Director of IDoA. "I would also like to encourage everyone to be mindful of our older family members, friends, or neighbors, and check in to see how they are doing. Find a creative way to communicate with them during this time and monitor their health. As Governor Pritzker said, we are all the first line of protection in our communities." #AllinIllinois

IDoA, our 13 Area Agencies on Aging, and 46 Care Coordination Units are working around the clock to ensure that the services provided - specifically the home delivered meals program that our seniors depend on will not be interrupted during this ongoing

If you or an older family member, friend, or neighbor are in need of any kind of assistance, please know we are here to help you.

Please visit our website at www.illinois. gov/aging or contact our Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (hearing impaired call 888-206-1327).

HEALTH continued from page A1

What to do if you think you have COVID-19: (UP-DATED INFORMATION) During the current Corona

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Virus outbreak, individuals with symptoms SHOULD NOT GO to health care facilities such as hospitals, clin-

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without CALLING FIRST. Instead, they can seek care by using one of the following options:

ics, and urgent care centers

• Use the "KSB Care Anywhere" virtual care app (https://ksbhospital.zipnosis.com/) for a free 5 question screening in order to help differentiate your symptoms between the virus and other seasonal maladies

While a credit card is required for a more involved assessment, no charges will be applied if a COVID-19 testing referral is made.

• KSB is offering a Coronavirus HOTLINE, by which symptoms can be evaluated against federal screening guidelines, and if appropriate, a referral is made to their Drive-Thru Screening site. The screening site is available ONLY through the hotline and between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm on weekdays by calling 815-285-7777.

• Residents with a Primary Care Practitioner can also topics-services/diseas-

CALL their office for advice. Again, CALL FIRST before going to the office. Residents can go to the

following websites for additional information: Go to KSB, IDPH, or CDC websites. Lee County Health Department provides regular updates on its Face-

book page. https://www.ksbhospital.com/coronavirus-out-

break-covid-19/ http://dph.illinois.gov/ es-and-conditions/diseasesa-z-list/coronavirus https://www.cdc.gov/

coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html • For businesses: https:// www.cdc.gov/coronavi-

rus/2019-ncov/community/ guidance-business-response. Facebook: Lee County

IL Health Department

For general questions about COVID-19, call the IDPH hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or 211.

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RCH DIRECTO our Guide To Local Houses of Worship

St. Patrick Church **Rev. Timothy Draper** 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 **Rev. Timothy Draper** 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 **Rev. Timothy Draper** 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.

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

St. Mary's Church

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

Phone 857-2225 Sun. Worship - 9:00 a.m. Fellowship - 10:00 a.m. Sunday School - 9:40-10:15 a.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Rev. Randy Fronek Locust Street, Sublette

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor Barb Otten

960 U.S. Route 52

Phone 815-849-5412 Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass -10:30 a.m. Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. Thursday - 8:30 a.m.

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

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

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SOCIAL NEW

The Book Nook By: Tatjana Kazan

Rereading 'Justine'

n this time of enforced solitude, I have found that rereading old favorites can make for great company. Recently I came across an article on Lawrence has stood the tests of time and taste, and has never been out of print." That's amazing, considering that it is over 1,000 pages long and the first volume, "Justine," was published in 1957. I read the Quartet in my early twenties, and I vividly remember its frequently overwrought prose with its whiff of pretentiousness, as well as its unexamined British colonial attitudes. Despite all that, I thought at the time that it was one of the finest novels I had ever read.

the beautiful tubercular Greek prostitute who soon moves in with him. Theirs are light-hearted "lives lived without

gance and sophistication of Justine and her extremely rich husband Nessim. Durrell's portrait of Justine is that of mirror of Alexandria with its mixture of stylishness and extreme poverty, its ancient Arab ways and modern European mindsets. Justine is the essence of Alexandria, its "true child... neither Greek, Syrian, nor Egyptian, but a hybrid." But more important to her subsequent choices, she is Jewish.

she, who has had may lovers, does not resist. The better part of the novel is taken up with his obsession with her, a sexual obsession that can only flourish in a place where there are no rules, no illusions, no romanticism. As one critic commented, "there is a nostalgic glow for squalor," a nostalgia for an Alexandria about to be swallowed by Egyptian nationalism. Alexandria, as a colonial capital, "is always aware of the brutality of historical reality.

One of the most appealing elements of "Justine" is Durrell's non-judgmental attitude, a "fond indulgence of Alexandria's crassness, illusionlessness." He has "no desire to shock, unlike Henry Miller and D. H. Lawrence...He is clear-eyed about sex." His narrator ends the first volume with an open-ended question: "Does not everything depend on our interpretation of the silence around us so that...

Educational Briefs

Gross '20 discovers passion for education at Monmouth College

MONMOUTH — For Josh Gross, Class of 2020, of La Moille, Monmouth College helped him find his calling. "I came to Monmouth as a pretty shy kid, but my pro-

fessors really pushed me to interact, to share ideas, to make connections," said Gross, who will be an elementary school physical education teacher in the Illinois cities of Bloomington and Normal. Gross said he found his vocation at Monmouth after

arriving as a freshman with a few ideas.

"I knew I wanted to do something that helped people," said Gross, whose sister, Chelsea Gross, is a 2013 Monmouth graduate. "Some of the things I was thinking about were physical therapy, athletic training and even becoming a police officer. I finally decided that what I wanted to do was to make an impact on kids' lives, so that morphed into me taking a lot of classes in educational studies, and I'm very happy with my decision."

In addition to the course work in his major, Gross was strongly influenced by his work in the field.

"My student-teacher experience was really cool," he said. "It was (at Galesburg's Steele Elementary School) with Katy (Vaccarello) Flatt, who's a (2009) Monmouth grad. Working with her in that diverse setting really helped make me the teacher I am today.

Educational studies professor Michelle Holschuh Simmons had Gross in four classes during his junior and senior years.

"Josh had already earned a reputation in our department for being an excellent addition to any class," she said. "My impressions were confirmed with every interaction I have had with Josh for the last two years. In person and in writing, Josh consistently communicates professionally and comports himself with confidence."

Lessons from track

Like Vaccarello before him, Gross competed on the Fighting Scots' track team. Having away meets almost every weekend of the spring semester required good time-management skills, and Gross was up to the challenge.

"Josh impresses everyone he encounters with his organization, his work ethic and his dedication to tasks," said Simmons. "His academic work is always meticulously completed and on time, and he has had perfect attendance in all of the classes he has had with me. As a track athlete, he has a full schedule with practices and meets, but he has been able to manage the many pulls on his time exceedingly well."

Gross said his time on the track team helped him in a

"Coach (Roger) Haynes was phenomenal," he said. "The entire track team was a big family, and it helped me make a lot of friends. It's really made me the man I am today."

A different kind of spring

Of course, like the rest of Monmouth's spring sports athletes, Gross no longer competes because of the COVID-19 pandemic. That's just one of several things that the sprinter is missing during these last few weeks of his Monmouth experience, including the traditional commencement ceremony.

"It's kind of sad that we won't be walking across the stage

(in May) in our cap and gown," he said. "It just doesn't feel real quite yet that we won't be doing that.'

Another thing Gross misses is the opportunity to simply chill in his dorm and talk to his roommate.

'We would just talk and share ideas about anything," he said. "Conversations like that have been a really great part of my Monmouth experience - to share ideas and not be judged and to be respectful of others' opinions.' That happened in the classroom, as well.

"I really learned to think about things in a different way," said Gross. "I think that's what I'm going to miss most about my time at Monmouth - the connections I made with professors. Monmouth just really felt like home."

Heidelberg University awards major scholarships for Class of 2024

TIFFIN, Ohio - Avery Shaw, a senior at Amboy High School, is the recipient of a major scholarship to attend Heidelberg University. Shaw, the son of Jeff and Cindy Shaw of Amboy, Illinois,

has received the Fellows Award for four years. The award was announced following Heidelberg's annual scholarship competition earlier this academic year. Students who rank near the top of their high school class are invited to participate in the university's annual scholarship

competition. The program recognizes students based on high school grade-point average and ACT or SAT test scores. In addition to weighing a student's academic credentials, the competition also looks at leadership skills and community service through a personal interview, a portfolio and an essay. Founded in 1850, Heidelberg offers 34 majors, 35 minors

and 10 pre-professional programs, awarding the bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, bachelor of music degrees, as well as master's degrees in education, counseling, business administration and music. Heidelberg has been consistently ranked by U.S. News & World Report as a top college in the Midwest. For more information visit the web site at www. heidelberg.edu.

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skeptics straight in the eye

and say, "I can't explain it.

I just believe." Luke1:37

informs us "there is nothing

that God cannot do." In other

words, faith doesn't make

things easy; it makes them

Thanks be to God, day

possible. Just believe.

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EVH DO WE TO BUILD A CONTROL

This Week's Student of the Week is:

Everly Bryant

STUDENT'S FAVORITES:

Durrell's "The Alexandria Quartet," which claimed that "it So I reread "Justine," and as happened decades ago, I was

captured by Durrell's gorgeous depiction of his narrator's love affairs with Justine and the city of Alexandria. Alexandria of the 1930s is "an exotic city of constant interactions between cultures and religions...with a cultural milieu that mixes exceptional sophistication with equally remarkable sordidness." The narrator is an unnamed impoverished Anglo-Irish writer and schoolmaster. He shares a shabby apartment with Georges Pombal, a slovenly minor French consular official. One night he hears a woman wailing and, ever the gallant protector, he rushes to her side and saves her. She is Melissa,

forethought, without architecture." The squalor and brutality is counterbalanced by the ele-

Our hero, like most everyone, instantly falls for her, and

BY PASTOR JACK M. BRIGGS

few years ago, Robert Ripley was Lamous for his "believe it or not" items in a newspaper column - those little tidbits that seemed hard to believe because they didn't square with our "normal" understanding of how things are or should be. For example, believe it or not:

• Those little biscuits you get at a Chinese restaurant - fortune cookies - were actually invented in America, not China:

• The chances of dying on the way to get your lottery tickets are greater than your chances of winning; • More than 50% of the

people in the world have never made or received a telephone call; As you deposit your

coins in the slot, be advised that vending machines kill four times more people each year than sharks do (actually, that one is a Briggs believeit-or-not).

Anyway, at the height of its popularity, Ripley's feature was read daily by about 80 million readers, and during the first three weeks of May 1932 alone, Mr. Ripley received over two million pieces of fan mail. There is even a Ripley's museum up at the Wisconsin Dells, which

is called an "odd-itorium." In your own life, have you ever wanted to share something amazing, but you hesitated because people might look at you funny, thinking you may be - you know - a few cards short of a full deck. For whatever reason, what you had to share might seem, to most people,

unbelievable. With Easter having just passed maybe the Resur-

says to you "So what about this resurrection, raisedfrom-the-dead stuff. You don't really believe that, do you?" And that scenario would not be unheard of, because people of faith are often characterized as superstitious, weak-minded, slightly unbalanced, or all of the above. It's good sport nowadays to make fun of faith, and it seems the Christian faith in particular is the fairest game of all. Scripture offers this explanation: "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own.

4N#OD

PEN

rection story is a good place

to begin. Suppose someone

(John 15:19) The problem is that we humans know too much, or at least think that we do. Just as, faith-"... the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1) is admittedly irrational, the Resurrection is over-thetop hard to fathom. And we like everything to fit into an equation or formula to be

As it is, you do not belong to

the world, but I have chosen

you out of the world. That is

why the world hates you."

believable, don't we? Of the 1.5 million apps available for download, there must be at least one that will explain it all, right?

PASTOR'S

Just Believe

But the key to grasping the Resurrection lies in putting aside our need for everything to fit just so...and just to believe...just to have faith. When someone says it doesn't make sense and is therefore unbelievable, they

are 50% correct. That is, it doesn't make sense in worldly terms, but it is completely believable from the standpoint of faith, which is not bound by human notions of how things are or should be because God's ways surpass all human understanding. I'm okay with

that. How about you? The same God who so loved the world - that's us, you and me - that he gave his only Son Jesus, who lived, died, and was resurrected, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life

everlasting. Unbelievable? Take heart and don't be embarrassed, ashamed of, or apologize for your faith. Just look your

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

During the hardest seasons of life, God does great things

And I didn't have to arrive at church early to compete with the Christmas-and-Easter-only crowd for a place to sit. For Good Friday, I sat in my home office in

front of my computer watching my church's service. I had a glass of grape juice and a saltine next to my keyboard to participate in a virtual communion with the rest of congregation.

But the internet in my rural area is so poor that the live service kept stopping and buffering for longer and longer periods. As I waited for the broadcast to continue I nodded off

I woke up an hour after the service was over with the juice and cracker untouched. I felt ashamed. I'd failed at even this attempt at Holy Week normalcy in these abnormal times. Jesus' disciples had a hard time staying

I think of my Jewish friends having seders away from relatives and friends. And for Christians it was a difficult week,

too. In a week steeped in tradition, it's too easy to compare. Most of us were confined to our homes avoiding a virus.

y daughters didn't wear new dresses **Guest Column** I never thought I'd live to see a day when most church doors were locked on Easter Sunday.

Of course, the church isn't a building. It is imperfect people joined by belief and love.

On Easter Sunday, I once again found myself in front of my computer hoping this time I would get it right. There was a little bit of buffering but I rode it out and heard the sermon.

Pastor Steve said during the hardest seasons of life, God does great things.

I was left thinking of one of those hard seasons -- when I stood alone in a cemetery almost seven years ago.

The preacher had spoken, the hearse had left the cemetery and my mother's coffin had been slowly lowered into the ground. My family milled around the gravestones, paying respects to loved ones long passed and I stood alone staring into the grave as workers shoveled dirt back

into the hole. I thought: Is this it? You live and then you die? Just days before I found myself sitting by my mother's bedside.

Her breathing was ragged.

I held her left hand with each labored gasp.

My dad, her husband of almost 59 years, gripped her right. As she breathed slowly, shallowly, my dad cried out, "Save a place for me in heaven."

Tears fell down the face of my sister, who sat at the foot

We watched 79 years of life and an 11-year battle with breast cancer come to an end.

Our mother was gone.

I felt helpless watching the cancer take her life. The chemotherapy left her bald. Sores developed on her feet. The cancer sapped her energy. Nausea haunted her for years.

It was not an easy life.

And now death... As I stood at her grave I thought, "Is this it? Is this all we have to look forward to?" The woman who had brought me to life is gone. I felt alone.

And then words from a hymn rolled through my mind:

"Up from the grave He arose,

With a mighty triumph o'er His foes He arose a Victor from the dark domain,

And He lives forever with His saints to reign.

He arose! He arose!

Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

It was June, but I kept thinking of Easter.

I'm not a musical person, but the song ran through my mind as each shovelful of dirt landed in the grave. I believe I was being reminded that Jesus reigns supreme – even over death.

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



By Scott Reeder



100 Years Ago April 23, 1920

society voted recently to change the name of their congregation from the German Lutheran Church to Emanuel English Lutheran Church. All the services are now conducted in English and have been for the past year. The congregation also decided to put a basement under their church building and install a furnance.

Mildred Long who attends Amboy High School, spent the weekend at her home in Sublette.

Richard and Kenneth Tait left on Tuesday morning for Muskegon, Mich., where they are employed.

All Brass Honey Comb Core Radiators for Fords \$25, at B.B. Lewis Tire Shop.

75 Years Ago April 19, 1945

F.L. Doty, after more than 20 years of faithful service as School Treasurer, has resigned because of ill health.

Tuesday evening the following young

election Tuesday, receiving 456 votes. City Clerk Harold Carroll, City Treasurer Ray Price and Police Magistrate William C. Knuth were all re-elected.

50 Years Ago April 23, 1970

Mayor Stacy Flanagan swore in Kenneth McCracken as First Ward Alderman in the City of Amboy to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Alderman Peter Hanson who has moved to Plano.

Torman's bowling team of Amboy captured the top spot in the recent women's city bowling tournament with a score of 2824. Members of the team are LaVina Marschang, Rose Hillison, Vi Dempsey, Louise Massey captain,

bonds. Students at Amboy Junior High are urging donations of 50 cents from their fellow students to remember children killed in the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City. Students will wear green ribbons on Friday, April 28, and will plant memorial trees at Clint Conway Park with the money donated.

On This Day in History people were initiated into The National Carol Wijtkiewicz and Peggy Meisel. Thespian Society at the home of Mary Lou Turnquist: Midge Eckburg, Don 25 Years Ago The members of the local Lutheran Yale, Bette Williams, Dick Dominetta, April 27, 1995 Sylvan Leffelman, Charles July, Tess Long, Frances Welty, Frankie Moore, Donna Shaw, Jane Tomlinson, Don Emery, Pat Antoine, Shirley Lally and Jayne Hanson. Michael G. Mihm was elected mayor of the City of Amboy at the biennial

The United States Achievement Academy announced that Michael Vincent Dale has been named a United States National Award winner in Foreign Language. This award is a very prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. The Academy recognizes less than 10 percent of all American high



Amboy Board of Education "left the door open" for a possible tax referendum when it approved the sale of life health safety bonds for school repairs Monday night. The board remains divided on if and when a referendum will be held. as evidenced by the 4-2-1- vote on the

The Amboy News **Publisher**

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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 Ambov 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

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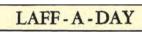
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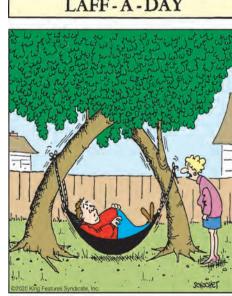


THIS ARTICLE SAYS ..



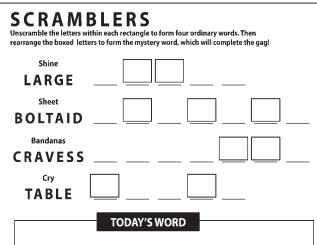






"No, I don't need you right now, Doctor,

I just wanted to see if your were



by Dave T. Phipps

by Gary Kopervas KHERVAS

by Mike Marland



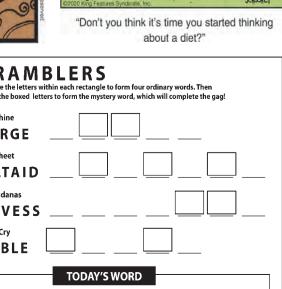
by Jeff Pickering











King Crossword

ACROSS 1 Resided 6 Things 11 Demosth or Cicero

AC	ROSS		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
1	Resided													
6	Things	11							12					13
11	Demosthenes	14							15			\vdash		\vdash
	or Cicero	l''							'					
	Cancel out	16				17		18				19		
14	Ubiquitous		_	_				├	<u> </u>			<u> </u>	_	Ш
	fastener	20			21		22				23			
15	Early spring	24				25		26		27		\vdash		Н
	bloom													
16	Feedbag tidbit				28		29		30					
17	the manger	0.4	00	0.0	_	<u> </u>	-	0.4	_	0.5	_	0.0	0.7	0.0
	Owns	31	32	33				34		35		36	37	38
	Press	39			\vdash		40	\vdash	41		42			Н
	Ballet step													
23	- song	43				44				45		46		
	(cheaply)	47	-	-	10	—	-		10	-	50	—	-	\vdash
24	Force mea-	47			48				49		50			
	sures	51							52					
	Decorum													\Box
28	Quite some		53						54					
	time			\bot		<u> </u>					<u> </u>	<u> </u>	\bot	

time 30 Actor Stephen 53 Stationery 31 Went sour brand 54 Is inclined (to) 35 Contents of

some trays 39 Responsibility DOWN 40 Court 42 Story

43 Donkey 44 Impostor 46 Sudden turn

47 Traditional usage 49 Love apple

51 Medical prioritization

52 Portuguese island group

9 He-men 10 George Washington

1 Cheerless 2 "The

3 And so on (Abbr.)

Compleat

5 Cavalry unit

6 Canine's neighbor 7 Sea bird

11 Egg-shaped

18 Leg, slangily Angler" author 21 Must have 23 Banquet

4 Tennyson title 27 Part of the Justice Dept. 29 Cronkite,

Rather, et al. 31 Work together 8 Id counterpart 32 Doubtful © 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

33 Neighbor of 34 Female deer

36 Risk portraitist 37 Cheers up 38 Some lilies 13 English com-

position 41 Lash -(berate) 44 Comic strip possum

25 Scale member 45 Nap 48 Body art, for short

Georgia

50 Calendar abbr.

Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

		7			6	8		
8				1	7		4	
	3		5					9
	8			2		4	6	
		3	8					1
1					5	9		
	4		2				7	
	6	1		3		5		
7					4			2
Dlace		mbor	in the			!	ab .	

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! © 2020 King Features Synd., Inc.

-Rodriguez 1. EXPLORERS: Which Western

explorer discovered the Grand Canyon?

2. TELEVISION: In the "M*A*S*H" series, which U.S. state did Radar O'Reilly hail from? 3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin

phrase "acta non verba" mean? 4. GAMES: What are the names of the

utilities in the Monopoly board game? 5. COMICS: Who is Garfield's girlfriend in the comic?

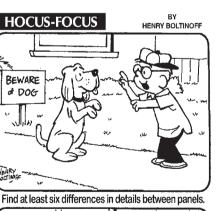
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the traditional birthstone for April? 7. MUSIC: What does the musical

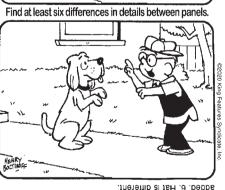
notation "allegro" mean? 8. MOVIES: In which 1970s movie does the Cahulawassee River play a

major role? 9. LITERATURE: What do the abbreviations stand for in the poet e.e. cum-

mings'name? 10. ROYALS: What was Princess Diana's maiden name?

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Differences: 1. Sign is missing. 2. Step is added. 3. Vest is 3. Window is smaller. 4. Tree is added. 5. Vest is added. 6. Hat is different.

CryptoQuip

for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error

R CKILF COULI AJWI BWIU R QKE EKI ARL IUXH IU XJRPJ.

IOJF HBHW'I LJZPJ LQBZBIL IOJZJ.

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AVAILABLE

Today's Word

3. Scarves; 4. Bleat 1. Glare; 2. Tabloid; uoitulos

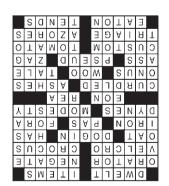
SCRAMBLERS

10. Spencer 9. Edward Estlin 8. "Deliverance" 7. Lively and brisk 6. Diamond

 δ . Arlene

4. Water Works and Electric Company 3. Deeds, not words

1. Francisco Vasquez de Coronado Trivia Test Answers



Solution time: 24 mins. Answers

— King Crossword —

2	3	ŀ	ħ	g	9	8	6	7
Þ	6	g	8	3	Z	ŀ	9	2
8	Z	9	ŀ	6	7	S	ħ	3
3	8	6	ç	7	ħ	9	7	ŀ
ŀ	ç	2	6	9	8	3	7	ħ
Z	9	ħ	3	2	ŀ	6	8	ç
6	ŀ	Z	7	8	ç	ħ	3	9
9	7	3	7	ŀ	6	7	g	8
ç	7	8	9	ħ	3	۷	ŀ	6

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

They didn't serve spirits there. but was fold to leave. A gutsy ghost went into a pub SUSWer

CryptoQuip

Classified III Marketplace

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



AMBOY • SUBLETTE • WEST BROOKLYN • LEE CENTER • PAW PAW • LAMOILLE

101 LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LEE COUNTY, **ILLINOIS** IN RE THE

ESTATE OF LEONARD C TURNER, SR., Deceased. 2020 P 22

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of LEONARD C. TURNER, SR., of 1617 Bonnie Avenue, Dixon, Lee County, Illinois on February 7, 2020. Letters of Office were issued on March 20, 2020, by the 15th Judicial Circuit Court of Lee County to the representative and Independent Executor, BRENDA A. CARUANA, 796 Tulip Lane, Rockford, IL 61107. The attorney for the representative and Independent Executor of the estate is Robert J. Thompson, 119 West First Street,

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Lee County Services Build-

Ste. 200, P.O. Box

Dixon, Illinois

1016,

61021.

ing, 309 South Galena Avenue, Dixon, Illinois 61021, or with the representative, BRENDA A. CARUANA, 796 Tulip Lane, Rockford, IL 61107, within six (6) months from the first publication of this Claim Notice, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of specific notice to known creditors, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that time period is barred.

Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.

BY: BRENDA A. CARU-ANA, Representative/ Independent Executor Robert J. Thompson Attorney for the Estate 119 West First Street, Ste 200 P.O. Box 1016

Dixon, IL 61021 (815) 284-7705 phone (815) 284-7707 facsimbobthompsonlaw@

gmail.com email No. 0402 April 15, 22, 29, 2020

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT MAY-SUBLETTE MULTI-TOWNSHIP ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2020 GENERAL FUND - REVENUE SUMMARY: Property tax - \$23,253.39; Interest - \$58.79

TOTAL REVENUES: \$23.312.18 GENERAL FUND - EXPENDITURE SUMMARY: All other disbursements less than (\$2,500.) -

TOTAL VENDORS: \$2,326.21 GENERAL FUND- COMPENSATION SUMMARY Range: Under \$15,000; Carmen Bollman Range: Under \$1,000.00: Lisa Bickett, Leesa Burke, Deborah Schultz, Daniel Stephenitch

TOTAL COMPENSATION: \$15,800.00 SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CONDITION GENERAL FUND: BEGINNING BALANCE: \$35,413.22

201

as

any

childcare

Family

for

Your

it's care.

HELP WANTED

CARRIERS

Information.

ANTIQUES

301

NEWSPAPER

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Local Advertising, Oak

Icebox, Iron Door Stop

and Antique Lighting...

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dickharms@hotmail.

Wanted.

203

DOMESTIC/CHILD

unless licensed or

holding a permit

facility, may cause

soliciting a child

that is licensed or

operating under a

permit issued by the

Illinois Department

of Children and

advertisements

or issued a permit.

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urges any parent

guardian

verify the validity

of the license of

any facility before

placing a child in

the services

which it is specifically licensed

Hometown

service.

INDIVIDUAL,

childcare

published

facility

Services

publish

advertisement

REVENUES: \$23,312.18 **EXPENDITURES: \$18,126.21** ENDING BALANCE: \$40,599.19

Subscribed and sworn to this 16th day of April, Leesa K Burke, Treasurer

Advance

No. 0403 (April 22, 2020)

113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE

Fee Loans or Credit NO 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. public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal

119 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commission.

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers cautioned to are thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.'

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

LAWN SERVICE: Serving Ogle County for 21 Years. All Around Yard Maintenance, Spring Clean-up, Gutter Cleaning and More. Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please Leave Message, Will Return Call ASAP.

JNJ **JUMPERS** Indoor/Outdoor Bounce House Rentals Available Year Round. Please Call 815-784-4256 For Availability or Visit us on Facebook.

ANTIQUES

301

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques: glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or dickharms@ email hotmail.com

315 WANTED TO BUY

WANTED JUNK Cars and Farm Machinery. Call 815-761-2803. (05-06-20)

WANTED: Coin operated machines. machines. pinball, arcade, trade simulators, jukeboxes. Working or not working. 815-397-6586.

405 **HOUSES FOR SALE**

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Housing which makes it illegal advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion,

sex, handicap, familial

405 **HOUSES FOR SALE**

origin, intention make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ 141 W. Division St. \$29,900 390 N. East Ave. \$19,900 **815-259-3168** \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

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> **Downtown Amboy** apartments for rent \$450/month 1 bedroom

> > \$400/month

studio No pets, no smoking

Call Mike at 815-973-8955

501 APARTMENTS FOR **RENT**

ROCHELLE: NICE 2-BEDROOM, 1-BATH. North-Side, Available Immediately. No Pets/ Smoking. Appliances Included. Washer & Dryer Available. 815-739-3619. (04-26-20)

509 **HOUSES FOR RENT**

Taking Application For Small House For Rent. 2-BEDROOM, 1-BATH, 2-Car Garage, Available May 1st. \$900/Month Plus Utilities. No/Pets. 815-751-8814. (05-03-

511 STORAGE UNITS

Amboy & Sublette 10 x 20 inside storage & outside storage for semi-trucks/trailers, boats, campers, etc Call ⁷815-857-2252`

INFORMATION

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. noon, and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. - noon, Closed Wednesday **Phone:** 815-857-2311

Fax: 815-857-2517

mmays@amboynews.com

Address: 245 E. Main Street, Amboy

Mail:

P.O. Box 162, Amboy, IL 61310

DEADLINES:

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

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

Gazette • Amboy News • Mendota Reporter • Mendota Money Saver

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

DISCLAIMER:

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

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FREON WANTED: We pay CA\$H for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient, Certified Professionals. Call 312-598-1758 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

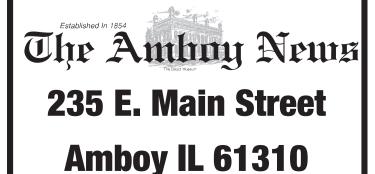
601 **VEHICLES FOR SALE**

Don't Miss An Issue!

Have you moved? Are you planning a move? **Going someplace** warm for the winter?

Don't forget to call the Amboy News and let us know your new mailing address. Unless you call us your subscription will not follow you to your new/ temporary address.

Call Mary at 815-857-2311



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2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4x4, Black\$37,900 2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT, 4x,4, Maroon......\$33,500

2018 Chevy Crew Cab 1500 LT, 4x4, Z71, Leather Maroon.....\$32,500

2018 Chevy Equinox

2018 Chevy Crew 1500 LT

2018 Chevy Malibu LT 15K Miles, Maroon...\$19,500

2017 Chevy Crew LTZ Real Tree Edition, 4x4, Z71,

Black.....\$34,900 2017 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT Crew Cab, 4x4, Sunroof Black.....\$33,900

2017 Chevy Equinox, FWD LT, Sunroof, Blue\$16,500 2016 Chevy Dbl. Cab 1500 LTZ, Z71, 4x4, Silver .\$26,500 2016 Chevy K1500 Crew CabLT, 4x4, Z71, Gray.....\$28,500 2016 Chevy Traverse LTZ

• 6-Year/100,000-Mile Powertrain

and Reconditioning Process

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2017 Chevy Crew LT 4x4

Leather, Gray......\$31,900

Satisfaction Guarantee

Limited Warranty

AWD Sunroof, DVD, Tow Leather, 4x4, Gray....\$31,500 Pkg Pearl White\$26,500 2015 Chevy K2500 Crew Cab

Black\$22,900 4x4, Z71, LTZ, Diesel Red\$41,500

2015 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT, 4x4, Local 1 Owner

White.....\$27,900

QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

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2016 Jeep Cherokee Limited

2015 Chevy 2500 HD Crew LTZ, Diesel, 4x4, Blue\$39,900

2016 Chevy 1500 Dbl. Cab LT 2014 GMC 2500 HD Denali Z71, 4x4, Gray......\$24,900 Crew, 4x4, Diesel, Loaded, Blue\$34,900 V6, AWD, Loaded\$20,500 2012 Chevy 3500 Reg. Cab

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FIND NEW ROADS

CHEVROLET

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Amboy Junior High School announces its third quarter honor roll

AMBOY — Amboy Junior High announces its Third Quarter Honor Roll.

Eighth Grade Highest Honors

Emma Dinges, Elly Jones and Austin Shugars

Eighth Grade High Honors Brennan Blaine, Elizabeth Clarida, Blerta Fekolli, Gabrielle Fuller, Hanna Jones, Rylyn Karrow,-Alexis Ketchum, Maeve Larson, Landon Montavon, Alexa Morris, Kaylee Scanland, Addison Shaw, Madison Thomas, Eliseo Vazquez-Tapia, Skyler Ware, Landon Whelchel, and Kimber Zitelman

Eighth Grade Honors Keaten Altizer, Caleb Donna, Gabriel Jones, Lillian Land, Cole Larson, Madison O'Malley, Nicholas Ochoa, Aaliyah Pointer, Zyler Smith, and Madison Wittenauer

Seventh Grade Highest Honors

Dominic Fonderoli, Addison Pertell, Sydney Thomas, and Alainie Wittenauer

Seventh Grade High Honors Cordia Asencio, Carson Barlow, Ava Cline, Brysen Full, Jaden Haley, Chloe Heath, Quinton Leffelman, Dillon Merriman, Adrian Mimini, Emersyn Noble, Hunter Rasmussen, Caleb Shugars, Haleigh Stenzel, Brooklyn Strub, Tyrah Vaessen, and Karagen Welch

Seventh Grade Honors

Jarrett Althaus, Lilliana Anderson, Saydee Benavidez, William Jones, Devyn Pasley, and Kaysi Schaeffer

Sixth Grade Highest Honors Kiera Karlson, Ellie McLaughlin, and Stephanie Nave

Sixth Grade High Honors

Grace Althaus, Myla Davis Gavin Eisenberg, Zhyler Hansen, Molly Hassler, Tucker McCoy, Micah Miller Peyton Payne, Bradley Schmidt, Mackenzie Sus, Alyvia Whelchel, Jadyn Whelchel, Brittlyn Whitman, Cooper Whitney, Isabella Yanos, and Tristan Zellhofer

Sixth Grade Honors

Jack Cline, Landon Donna, Matthew Farrar, Brandon Garcia-Meirndorf, Wyatt Hoffman, Samantha Hummel, Owen Loomis, Victor Lopez-Belmontes, Nicholas Noble, Ezra Parker, Brayden Phalen, Landon Roath, Eriannah Wade, and Kayden Winters

Fifth Grade Highest Honors

Callan Christoffersen, Lainey Davis Jason Dickinson, Jake Dinges, Leighton Gulley, Hope Lauzon, Liliann Leffelman, Anthony Linder, Jose Lopez, Aubrey McGuire, Henry Nichols, Caiden Noble, Trevor Stenzel, and Chloe

Fifth Grade High Honors

Haylee Albee, Madison Althaus, Kylee Anderson, Dakota Beach, Brandon Campiran, Aaron Costner, James Eisenberg, Ty Florschuetz Bryar Full, Ryan Garcia, Carli Grennan, Caiden Heath, Madisyn Heath, Andrew Hummel, Liam Ketchum, Logan Ketchum, Morgan Kreiser, Alexa McKendry, Gage Mumm, Gavin Nichols, Jasmin Scott, Alyxandria Shepard, Joseph Van Loo, Tanner Welch, and Aubrey Wells

Fifth Grade Honors

Michael Ackert, Alexis Davis, Lluvia De La Cruz, Lillian Drew, Janella Gallagher, Lane Goff, Kaci Hall, Madison Neal, Liam Rieskamp, Isabella Rosentreter Braden Shoemaker, Alexander Wittenauer, and Westin Wittenauer



The elementary staff at Faith Christian School in Grand Detour accept the Books by the Bushel donation from Danelle Burrs, Lee County Farm Bureau manager.



Mrs. Audra Bates and her third grade students accept the Books by the Bushel donation from the Lee County Farm Bureau Foundation.

Photo submitted

Books By the Bushel donations awarded in Lee County **LEE COUNTY** — The Lee County Farm tunities Council, Rock Falls, and Steward Bureau Foundation is to fund and encourage

Bureau Foundation is excited to announce the recipients of their annual Books by the Bushel program to promote agriculture education. Faith Christian School, Grand Detour, St. Anne's School, Dixon, Tri-County Oppor-

Elementary School, Steward, were each named recipients of a bushel basket of 12 agriculture related children's books through the Books by the Bushel grant program.

The mission of the Lee County Farm

ag related educational opportunities to the youth of Lee County through programs like Books by the Bushel, Ag in the Classroom, and college scholarships. If you would like more information about the programs of the

Lee County Farm Bureau Foundation, visit their website, www.lcfbfoundation.org or call 815-857-3531.

Illinois Farm Bureau accepts applications for IVET loan program

BLOOMINGTON - Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) is accepting applications for its Illinois Veterinary Education and Training (IVET) loan program. Loans are available to students attending any accredited college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and who are focused on Illinois food animal medicine.

The Illinois Veterinary Education Training (IVET) Program helps offset the high cost of veterinary education. The program loans up to \$40,000 to as many as three veterinary students each year. Loans are made over a period of 2-3 years. IVET awards recipients a \$1,500 stipend during their fourth year in school to help pay expenses associated with clinical rotations. Loans are repaid over five years, during which graduates must commit to working in a food animal practice that services Illinois livestock producers.

'Illinois Farm Bureau encourages veterinary students to pursue a career in caring for food animals. To succeed, farmers need the services of a food-animal veterinarian to help them care for their beef cattle, swine, sheep, and poultry," said Tasha Bunting, Associate Director of Commodities & Livestock Programs, IFB. "It's an opportunity to help bring a calf into the world and share in the love that farmers have for their animals."

Applications are due May 15, 2020, and can be found online at www.ilfb.org/IVET. The selection committee will interview applicants in spring 2020 at the IAA building in Bloomington, IL. Successful applicants will be notified by mail.

IFB established IVET in 2005. Since then, the organization has awarded more than \$430,000 to 24 veterinary students who focus on caring for food animals in Illinois. The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of

the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization directed by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB has a total membership of 396,000 and a voting membership of more than 79,000. IFB represents three out of four Illinois farmers.







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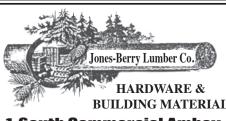
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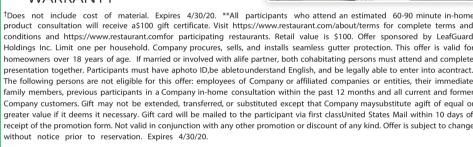
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Illinois joins regional states to coordinate reopening economies

BY PETER HANCOCK

Capitol News Illinois phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. JB Pritzker announced Thursday that he and five other Midwestern governors have agreed to coordinate with one another as they make plans for reopening their economies after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

Pritzker, a Democrat, joined Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D), Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine (R), Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D), Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb (R) and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear (D) in announcing the regional effort.

"Our number one priority when analyzing when best to reopen our economy is the health and safety of our citizens. We will make decisions based on facts, science, and recommendations from experts in health care, business, labor, and education," the governors said in a joint statement.

The governors said they will consider at east four factors in determining when best

least four factors in determining when best to reopen their economies: sustained control of the rate of new infections and hospitalizations; enhanced ability to test for the disease and trace the routes of its spread; sufficient health care capacity to handle a resurgence; and best practices for social distancing in the workplace.

The governors stressed that not all parts of the economy, and not all regions, will reopen at the same time.

"Phasing in sectors of our economy will be most effective when we work together as a region," the governors said. "This doesn't mean our economy will reopen all at once, or that every state will take the same steps at the same time. But close coordination will ensure we get this right. Over time, people will go back to work, restaurants will reopen, and things will go back to normal. We look forward to working together as one region to tackle this challenge together."

The six-state Midwest agreement is the third such regional compact to be announced so far. Earlier, California, Oregon and Washington said they would coordinate their reopening. Also, New York announced earlier this week that it will coordinate with six other northeastern states.

During his daily media briefing in Chicago, Pritzker gave little by way of response to questions about why the states of Missouri and Iowa were not included in the group.

"We would love to have as many states as want to join as a part of it. Iowa chose not to be part of this," he said. "I know they don't have a stay-at-home rule, you know, yet in place. They've made a lot of different decisions than we have."

The Midwest compact was announced on the same day the U.S. Department of Labor reported another 5.25 million Americans filed first-time unemployment claims during the week that ended April 4, including 141,049 in Illinois.

It also came on the same day the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 1,140 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 125 virus-related deaths over the previous 24 hours, by far the highest single-day death total since Pritzker's disaster declaration went into effect March 9.

Since the pandemic first appeared in Illinois, the state has recorded 25,733 confirmed cases of the disease, including 1,072 deaths. COVID-19 cases have now been recorded in 90 of the state's 102 counties. The state has tested 122,589 people for the virus, an increase of 5,660 in the past 24 hours.

Testing and PPE purchases ramp up Also Thursday, Pritzker announced that the

state has significantly increased its capacity

to perform COVID-19 screening tests and its ability to supply hospitals and health care centers with personal protective equipment, or PPE.

One of the biggest obstacles to expanding the state's testing capacity, the governor's office said in a news release, has been the

lack of testing equipment, and specifically the swabs and "viral transport media," or VTM. Pritzker announced Thursday that it had secured commitments from state universities and outside vendors to supply the state with "an abundance" of those materials to stock state laboratories and other labs throughout

In addition, the administration announced that the equipment manufacturer Thermo Fisher Scientific has addressed problems previously identified with its COVID-19 testing machines, and the five machines it provided to the state are now operational, and Thermo Fisher has prioritized Illinois as a customer of its equipment and testing procedures.

"Those five machines that we had concerns about are now up and running with reliable results, so reliable that as we ramp up over the next week, we're estimating additional capacity of thousands more tests per day at our state labs alone," Pritzker said.

Illinois' recommended testing criteria will now include "all those who are experiencing COVID-like symptoms," according to the governor's office.

The new guidance will apply to state-run drive-thru testing centers and will be offered to medical providers across Illinois, although those with mild symptoms are still encouraged to call a medical provider before seeking a COVID-19 test.

