

# The Amboy News

The Depot Museum

Amboy, Illinois

Volume 165 - Number 15

www.AmboyNews.com

\$1.00



## LENDING A HELPING HAND

In continuing efforts by KSB Hospital to prepare for a potential COVID-19 surge in the area, 57 beds from Franklin Grove Living and Rehabilitation, Meadows of Franklin Grove, and Oregon Living and Rehabilitation were moved to KSB today thanks to the efforts of many in the surrounding communities. KSB Board Member, Ray Neiswander III, kindly donated a Raynor Garage Doors semi and driver to transport the beds, and the Amboy Fire Protection District, Paw Paw Fire Department - Illinois, Sublette Fire Department, Compton Volunteer Fire Department, West Brooklyn Fire Department, Dinges Fire Company, Johnson Tractor, and the Illinois State Police all pitched in to assist the KSB Plant Ops team in moving the beds.

Photo submitted

## April 6 Update: Lee County has 2 additional positive cases of COVID-19 for a total of 4

**LEE COUNTY** — Lee County has received two more positive cases of COVID-19 for a total of 4 cases. One person in their 50's and one in their 20's. Nineteen additional people were tested today at KSB Hospital.

### NEW CDC RECOMMENDATIONS:

From the CDC: "In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) espe-

cially in areas of significant community-based transmission."

Yesterday, Surgeon General Jerome Adams told Fox News Sunday, "This is going to be the hardest and the saddest week of most Americans' lives, quite frankly, this is going to be our Pearl Harbor moment, our 9/11 moment, only it's not going to be localized. It's going to be happening all over the country. And I want America to understand that."

See **HEALTH** page A10

## Lee County Sheriff issues statement on non-essential travel

**LEE COUNTY** — Lee County Sheriff has announced the following about defining non-essential travel.

As we continue to battle COVID-19, as Sheriff, I must stress the importance of complying with the Governor's Executive Orders. The Executive Orders provide guidance for our safety, while reducing or mitigating the chance of exposure to our citizens in Lee County - which is my primary concern. Social distancing and avoiding large groups of less than 10, are two of the most important ways we can avoid transmitting and coming into contact with COVID-19.

In Lee County, I am sad to say, we received a grade of "D", when surveying our social distancing efforts. We must do better to avoid exposure and bend this curve in the

right direction.

Additionally, we must also avoid non-essential travel. This has been a great topic of discussion among our Lee County citizens, business owners, Municipal/County Officials and my office, as it pertains to campgrounds in Lee County.

I have worked tirelessly with the Lee County State's Attorney's Office, Lee County Health Department, Emergency Management Director, local Mayors, Woodhaven Lakes Association, State Representatives Tom Demmer and Dan Swanson, to further define "non-essential travel" as it relates to our area campgrounds.

See **SHERIFF** page A3



## REPLACING WINDOW

Eric McLaughlin of Top Notch Builders replaced the window above the Amboy Police Department last week. Amboy Mayor John Schamberger gave a shout out to McLaughlin on Facebook for donating their time and replacing the ancient window.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



## DONATION OF MASKS

The Amboy Fire Protection District recently donated 300 N95 masks to KSB Hospital. KSB Hospital is grateful for their essential contribution in helping keep its healthcare workers safe.

Photo submitted



## DONATION

Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 8277 donated \$500 to our local Teen Turf here in Amboy to help them in the support of their programs. Pictured from left to right are, Grand Knight, Frank Lachat Sr. and Eileen Piper of Teen Turf. These funds were donated in part from the Knights of Columbus annual Euchre Card game tournament.

Photo submitted



## HEART HUNTERS

A movement was started on Facebook called Heart Hunters. In this time of social distancing, this group is trying to spread a little love and compassion. This page was started by a mom in Galesburg, who saw a post about placing hearts in windows for kids to see while out walking. She thought it sounded wonderful and Heart Hunters was born. She wanted to promote social distancing while doing an activity with her children during a time when we must be so careful. Display hearts in your windows, on your doors, or anywhere outside of your home where passersby can easily see them. Hearts can be made from anything (paper, wrapping paper, cereal boxes), just be creative. Pictured is Amboy Post Office taking part in the movement. Jennifer Phelps made this for the front window of the Amboy Post Office.

Photo submitted



## NAME THE STREET

Bids are being taken at city hall until April 15 for anyone that would like to honor a loved one by having a street named after them for one year. This is sponsored by the ACO to benefit the library. Minimum bid is \$200.

## Obituaries

Matthew Liston  
Emelie King

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# LOCAL NEWS

# Businesses and Industries

## Airlines

Under the CARES Act, for passenger airlines, the bill includes \$25 billion in direct funding for worker salaries and benefits, as well as up to \$25 billion in loans and loan guarantees. The bill hews to what airlines had been asking for. Carriers had lobbied aggressively for direct grants rather than just loans, warning that without an immediate infusion of cash, they would have to make sharp job cuts.

The bill also includes \$3 billion in assistance to keep paying contract workers that provide airline catering, baggage loading, ticketing and check-in, and other services at airports. Cargo airlines will be eligible to receive \$4 billion in loans and guarantees, and \$4 billion in payroll assistance.

In exchange for the payroll grants, carriers must agree not to furlough, lay off or cut pay for employees until Sept. 30. Assistance also hinges on companies agreeing not to buy back shares or pay dividends, and to limits on executive compensation. The package also allows the Transportation Department to direct airlines to maintain specific flights based on their schedules on March 1, before carriers had instituted the deepest cuts to their flying. This would include services to rural communities and to support delivery of health-care-related cargo.

## Banks

The CARES Act delays implementation of a new accounting rule that would have required banks to sock away reserves for any estimated loan losses all at once, instead of spreading them out over the life of the loan. The Act gives the office of the comptroller of the currency the authority to allow banks to make loans that would typically trip up size restrictions. Smaller community banks with less than \$10 billion in assets get more lending flexibility through a higher maximum leverage ratio and more wiggle room if they exceed it. Banks will also get more leeway on how they account for troubled consumer loans,



allowing them to work with struggling borrowers who have fallen behind on their payments.

## Energy

The CARES Act contains no major provisions to specifically aid the U.S. energy industry. Beleaguered U.S. oil producers had sought a range of remedies, including preferential tax treatment, direct subsidies and a \$3 billion purchase of oil by the federal government for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The renewable energy industry had sought extensions to tax provisions that would have helped wind and solar developers secure valuable tax credits even if there were construction delays.

## Farmers

The CARES Act directs more than \$48 billion to agriculture and nutrition programs, helping cushion the blow for producers reeling from the latest in a string of hits to the U.S. farm economy, as prices sank for corn, soybeans, wheat and cattle. The law designates \$14 billion to replenish the Commodity Credit Corp., a Depression-era program designed to stabilize farm

incomes, and \$9.5 billion to support producers of specialty crops, livestock and dairy, as well as those who supply farmers markets, restaurants and schools.

## Health industry

The CARES Act adds \$27 billion to an emergency fund that could give a boost to dozens of projects by pharmaceutical companies and academic groups developing drugs and vaccines against coronavirus. The emergency fund received a smaller amount of funding under a coronavirus response act signed earlier in March. There is no COVID-19 vaccine, but dozens are in development. The package allows the government to take steps to ensure that products developed with the emergency funding will be "affordable in the commercial market," but that these steps shouldn't delay development of the products.

The bill also includes provisions to increase reporting of potential shortages from drug manufacturers and companies that make active pharmaceutical ingredients, which are the building

blocks of prescription drugs. Many of these raw materials are produced overseas and drawn more attention during the virus outbreak. Companies that make respirators and other medical devices would be required to report to the federal government potential supply chain interruptions.

## Hotels

The hotel industry last week asked the White House for a \$150 billion financial-aid package, targeted specifically for hospitality companies. What it got instead from the CARES Act is a patchwork of loans, grants and tax help, much of it through the \$350 billion in loans and grants for small businesses. The majority of U.S. hoteliers qualify as businesses with fewer than 500 employees, making less than \$35 million in annual revenue.

The lodging industry even scored a victory in getting language in the Senate bill that defined each individual hotel as its own business. Hotel owners with several properties had been concerned that they would not qualify as a small business because taken together, all their properties would have

pushed them over the current Small Business Administration's definition.

The federal boost in unemployment insurance will help the many hotel employees who have been furloughed across the U.S. Larger hotel companies can apply for loans through the Treasury Department's economic stabilization fund. But few in the lodging industry expect travel to bounce back by late spring, or even soon after.

## Postal Service

Under the CARES Act, the financially strained U.S. Postal Service is getting a \$10 billion Treasury loan to help the mail carrier during the pandemic. That should be welcome news for Amazon.com Inc., United Parcel Service Inc. and, to a lesser extent, FedEx Corp., which rely on postal workers for last-mile delivery in certain places.

The Postal Service is only allowed by law to raise its net debt by \$3 billion a year, so the bill loosens that restriction. But it does come with some strings attached. Mainly, the Postal Service can only use the financing for operating expenses and not to pay down outstanding debt. The bill also requires

the Postal Service to prioritize medical shipments and allows temporary delivery points to protect workers and recipients of mail.

## Private equity

According to the CARES Act, private-equity firms will likely find it a challenge to get access to stimulus funds. Based on available details of the stimulus package, private-equity-owned businesses wouldn't be explicitly barred from receiving assistance. But government lending requirements could prevent them from unlocking the aid, say lawyers, lobbyists and regulatory experts.

## Railroads

Per the CARES Act, national passenger railroad Amtrak secured about \$1 billion to cover revenue losses related to the coronavirus. The railroad industry won enhanced unemployment benefits that account for its workers not being covered under traditional state-run unemployment programs. Railroad workers instead receive unemployment benefits under a program administered by the Railroad Retirement Board.

The bill removes a seven-day waiting period to collect unemployment and provides \$50 million to cover the benefits tied to that waiver. It also provides \$425 million to double biweekly unemployment payments to \$1,200 through July.

## Small

## businesses

The CARES Act would allow businesses and nonprofits with up to 500 workers in a single location to apply through qualifying banks for loans backed by the Small Business Administration. The loans would convert into grants that don't have to be repaid for amounts spent on items such as payroll, rent or utilities, with the grants reduced when workers are laid off. The loans would be capped at \$10 million and cover wages up to \$100,000 a year.



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# The Amboy News



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## LOCAL NEWS

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Maddison Full

## Full named April Student of the Month

**AMBOY** — Maddison Full, daughter of Scott and Jenny Full, was named the Amboy High School Student of the Month for April.

GPA: 3.96/4.0

Memberships and Involvement: National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society

Awards and Honors: Student of the Month at WACC for May 2019 and Top ten percent of class

Best Memories of AHS: Friday Night Football Games and Homecoming Skit Night

Future Plans: I plan on going to Sauk Valley Community College to receive my RN. After receiving my RN, I plan to continue my education at the University of Iowa to further my education in oncology. I am hoping to be able to work part time at a hospital to help me get hands-on experience. My focus is to become an oncology nurse.

## Employment Security department utilizes new alphabetized benefit schedule

BY REBECCA ANZEL

Capitol News Illinois  
ranzel@capitolnewsillinois.com

**SPRINGFIELD** — The Illinois department tasked with overseeing unemployment benefits is employing an alphabetized schedule to handle “an unprecedented volume” of claims.

Claims now must be filed online and by phone on days and at times set by the Illinois Department of Employment Security based on the first letter of the filer’s last name. Similar systems to manage “increased web traffic” and “high call volumes” were initiated in Colorado and New York as well, according to the department.

Illinoisans whose last names begin with the letters A through M may file online claims on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and speak to someone by phone on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Those whose last names begin with the letters N through Z can file their claims at the department’s website on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and call on Mondays and Wednesdays, also from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Anyone unable to register their claims on the designated days can file online on Saturdays or call on Fridays.

“IDES is currently working through an unparalleled number of unemployment benefit claims and questions, both online and through the call center,” according to a news release.

There was an increase in such filings of about 400 percent — 130,000 claims — over the first three weeks of March, as compared to the same time last year.

During the week that ended March 21, employment security personnel received almost 115,000 claims, an increase of 1,400 percent over that same week in 2019.

“The (Pritzker) administration and the department understand and empathize with the heightened level of frustration this crisis has had on those wishing to file a claim,” the department said in a statement. “IDES is doing everything possible to support our customers and meet the demand for unemployment benefits and inquiries.”

In addition to the new alphabetized system, the department updated its website to handle the increased traffic, developed a process to track novel coronavirus-related claims, increased personnel working in its call center and extended its call center hours.

The IDES directs those with questions to visit its website, IDES.Illinois.gov.

## About 20 percent of FCRCs closed

The Illinois Department of Human Services is closing 61 facilities designed to be “one-stop” hubs for individuals and families to receive job services, medical assistance, budget help and food stamps, it announced Monday in response to social distancing guidelines to slow the spread of novel coronavirus in the state.

The 14 Family Community Resource Centers remaining open will have 30 percent to 50 percent fewer personnel, with the remaining workforce operating remotely.

Department Secretary Grace Hou is also transitioning at least 80 in-person local office caseworkers into Access Benefits Electronically agents, adding to the existing call center staffers.

According to a news release, the Human Services Department’s goal is to keep as few resource centers open to in-person benefits as possible.

“This is not a decision we made lightly,” Hou said in a statement. “However, we have to balance the urgent needs of residents facing hunger and poverty with extremely serious public health directives.”

Those who regularly take advantage of those benefits offered at resource centers should do so online at ABE.Illinois.gov or by calling 1-833-2-FIND-HELP.

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

**AMBOY**—The U of I Extension Webinar Series, Growing Horticulture in Northwest Illinois, will be aired each Wednesday morn-

ing 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 Extension 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 Four Seasons Horticulture Webinar Series will begin on April 14, at 1:30 p.m. with “Grow Your Own Cut Flowers”. Listen free at home. Register online two day before at go.illinois.edu/4seasonshome.

**AMBOY**—The First Baptist Church Food Pantry, 24 N. Mason Ave., will be open on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. until noon.

## TEEN TURF

## 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.

## Thank You’s

We would like to thank St. Pat’s Knight’s of Columbus chapter for donating their annual donation of \$500 to keep our program up and running. This came from their Euchre Tournament. We would like to also thank Dennis and Nanette Gillian for their generous donation that was used to buy groceries for seniors in need.

## Food Pantry

Due to the unprecedented times, St. Pat’s is holding extra food pantry dates in April on Wednesdays: April 15th (regular), April 22nd, and April 29th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. No need to get out of car, they will bring the groceries to your car.

## 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

Dear Father God, we pray that You will help every member of the World to live in harmony with each other. May we be united in love and enable us to pray with the mind of Christ, to be guided by the Spirit of God and to glorify You with heart and voice. Keep us from worldly ways, but rather may our lives be a witness of Your love, not only in what we say but in all that we do, we ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord.

## Local fire departments to help celebrate children’s birthdays

**AMBOY** — Amboy Fire Protection District and Sublette Fire Protection District are joining the trend of fire departments making road side visits for a child’s birthday.

Do you have a child celebrating a birthday during these unprecedented times? Let the fire departments help bring some excitement on their special day.

A fire truck will approach your residence with lights and sirens and park alongside the road to allow your family or child to take a photo in front of it.

The driver will remain inside the truck.

Visits will be Monday-Friday at 6 p.m. or Saturday at 1 p.m.

Child must be 12 or younger

Must reside in Amboy or Sublette’s district

Message the resident’s fire department’s Facebook page to schedule a date/time. They are scheduling these visits through the month of April.

## SHERIFF

continued from page A1

These discussions eventually took us to the Governor’s Office and his legal staff, as well as the Director of the Illinois State Police and Executive Director of the Illinois Sheriffs’ Association. Yesterday, we were able to work with all the above groups, in conjunction with DCEO and the Attorney General’s Office to further define non-essential travel

“Can I alternate my “stay-

ing at home” between my primary home and my vacation property”?

Answer: No. Traveling back and forth to a vacation property is NOT considered “Essential Travel.”

In essence, I am asking citizens to abide by this Order and “stay at their primary home” to continue to help us all mitigate the exposure and transmittal of this deadly virus.



## Granny Rose - Lola

*Lola is an adorable 10 month old hound mix. She has a short tan and white coat and is medium sized at 40 pounds. Lola loves attention from people and greets everyone with a happy attitude. She also loves to play. Lola is still a puppy and will need some training. She is not completely housebroke here, but an individual potty schedule in a home is all that is needed. Lola tries. She has been spayed and fully vaccinated. Lola wants to be in a loving home with lots of attention and toys for playtime! To see Lola, visit Granny Rose Animal Shelter. Call 815-288-PETS(7387) or visit www.grannyrose.org.*

Photo contributed

## TIPPING OUR CAPS TO FARMERS EVERYWHERE



Tess Fleming

Thank a farmer this spring for helping ensure we can all eat tomorrow. We’re proud to provide many local farmers with the coverage they need to keep growing. **Trust in Tomorrow.®**

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**CLIPPER KIDDIE**

This Week’s Student of the Week is:  
**Alex Fernandez**

**STUDENT’S FAVORITES:**

Favorite Color-Red  
Favorite Animal-Giraffe  
Favorite Food-Peanut Butter & Jelly  
Favorite Book-Amanda & Her Alligator  
Favorite Game-Life  
Favorite Song-Un Poco Loco

## The Amboy News

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Kip Cheek, Publisher

Tonja Greenfield, General Manager

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



# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS



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**Editor's Note:**  
*The Amboy News will continue to post the State's and Lee County's daily updates on our website*  
**[www.AmboyNews.com](http://www.AmboyNews.com)**

# TRUSTED NEWS & 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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\* Yearly rate normally \$39.50 for Lee, Bureau and LaSalle Counties. Offer expires on April 30, 2020.

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04012020

## OBITUARIES

### Matthew H. Liston

**Nov. 5, 1956 - April 1, 2020**

**AMBOY** — Matthew H. Liston, 63, of Amboy Died at K.S.B Hospital on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

He was born in Amboy, on Nov. 5, 1956 the son of Paul "Pete" and Rosemary (Eisenberg) Liston. He was employed by the city of Amboy, owned and operated the Backroads Bar and Grill in in West Brooklyn, and worked construction. He enjoyed playing pool and softball and was a Chicago Bear and White Sox fan.

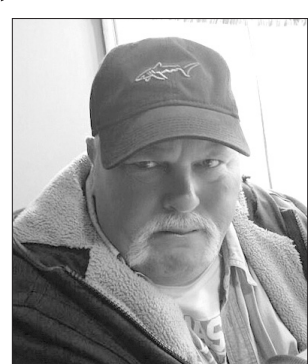
He was preceded in death by his father and good friend, Don Donoho.

He is survived by his children, Marty Liston, of Belvidere, Greg (Shannon

Miller) Liston, of Stillman Valley, and Danielle (Pete Alba) Lewis, of Dixon; five grandchildren, Tanner Liston, Alexis Shoemaker, Adisen Liston, Carson Alba, Adilyn Alba; and one great-grandson, Avery Johnson; mother, Rosemary Liston and two sisters, Linda (Gilbert) Leffelman and Nancy (Mark)

Montavon, all of Amboy; and many nieces and nephews.

A private family Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy and burial will be in St Patrick Cemetery. A public celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu



of flowers a memorial has been established.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Condolences may be sent online at [www.thejonesfh.com](http://www.thejonesfh.com).

### Emelie I. King

**Jan. 13, 1950 - April 1, 2020**

**AMBOY** — Emelie I. King, 70, of Amboy, died Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at OSF St Anthony Medical Center in Mendota.

She was born Jan. 13, 1950 in Portland, Oregon, the daughter of Gerald and Helen (Aycock) King.

Emelie had worked at Camco and Mutual Management both in Rockford and the Credit Bureau in Dixon.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Emelie is survived by her daughter, Marjorie "Meggie" (Travis) Wiley, of Amboy;

one grandson, Bentley Wiley; two sisters Elizabeth Heinzmann, of Portage, Ind., and Sarah King, of Dixon; two brothers Gerald (Carol) King III, of Lafayette, Ind., and Darrell King, of Dixon; many nieces and nephews; and loving southern family.

She is also survived by her life long partner Robert Schon, of Amboy.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.



Condolences may be sent online at [www.thejonesfh.com](http://www.thejonesfh.com).

## IDPH releases zip code breakdown

**SPRINGFIELD** — The Illinois Department of Public Health announced on Monday, April 6, that the number of COVID-19 cases by zip code will be available on the IDPH website at <http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid19-statistics>.

The IDPH says it should be assumed that COVID-19 exposure can occur in every zip code in Illinois. Zip codes with 5 cases and less are not shared due to privacy.

IDPH also announced on Monday, April 6, 1,006 new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois, including 33 additional deaths.

Jefferson and Wabash counties are now reporting cases. Currently, IDPH is reporting a total of 12,262 cases, including 307 deaths, in 73 counties in Illinois. The age of cases ranges from younger than one to older than 100 years.

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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](http://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**  
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Sunday School 8:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
[www.graceisforyou.com](http://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  
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First Sunday Family Film Night  
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"Fun & Fellowship Game Night for the Whole Family!"  
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Pastor Rocky Fritz  
24 N. Mason Avenue  
Church Phone 857-2682  
[www.fbcamboy.com](http://www.fbcamboy.com)  
Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Service - 6 p.m.  
Wed. prayer meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
King's Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday  
Reformers Unanimous additions program from 7-9 p.m.

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

**St. Mary's Church**  
Rev. Randy 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**  
Pastor Leanne Keate  
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Phone 359-7302  
Worship - 8:30 a.m.

**The Following  
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**KSB Medical Center**  
815-857-3044

**The Amboy News**  
815-857-2311





# SOCIAL NEWS



## THE PASTOR'S PEN

*Where is God in all of this?*

BY FATHER TIMOTHY DRAPER

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many aspects of our day-to-day lives have recently been upended. Some are experiencing financial hardships and unemployment. Others are feeling the effects of limited supplies at grocery stores. Still others are dealing with loneliness and isolation. And, perhaps, all of us feel afraid of contracting the Coronavirus and are anxiously concerned about the health and safety of our loved ones. This pandemic has not only upended family life but also parochial life.

Our public Masses, Sunday school classes, and various other parish gatherings are currently cancelled. For some of my parishioners, this year will be the first in their lives when they will be unable to come to Mass to celebrate Easter. Quite understandably, all these circumstances may leave us feeling sad, fearful, lonely, and helpless. Even as people of faith, in the silence of our hearts we may be wondering: "Where is God in all of this?"

On Easter Sunday morning, these

same sentiments were likely circulating in the hearts of many of Christ's disciples. After being hailed as the "Son of David" on Palm Sunday, Jesus was condemned to death on Good Friday. Following his brutal crucifixion, Our Lord's broken body was laid in a tomb and rested there on Holy Saturday. Jesus' three years of preaching, teaching, healing, and forgiving seemed to end in utter defeat! In the darkness of Good Friday and the silence of Holy Saturday, many of Christ's disciples, too, may have wondered: "Where is God in all of this?" This is the context in which the Apostles, Peter and John, ran to the empty tomb on Easter Sunday and saw "the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered [Christ's] head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place" (Jn 20:6-7). The Gospel of St. John tells us that "they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead" (Jn 20:9).

In the Gospel, we see that there is no resurrection without death, no Easter Sunday without Good Friday. Christ's apparent defeat on the cross proved

to be the path to his victory over sin and death.

Pope St. John Paul II once said: "We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery — the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. 'We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!'" (Nov. 30, 1986). Jesus Christ is our hope. His resurrection from the dead is the promise of our own resurrection. Come what may, Jesus is still Emmanuel ("God-with-us"). He remains with us in the Eucharist, in his Word, in our hearts, and in our brothers and sisters. This is where God is in all of this. And this is where we will continue to find him, until Christ comes again in glory.

On behalf of the parishioners of St. Patrick, St. Mary, and St. Flannen Catholic Parishes, I wish you all, along with the assurance of my prayers, a blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter.

## The Book Nook By: Tatjana Kazan

### Icelandic Tales

Though Haldor Laxness' superb epic novel "Independent People" takes place at the turn of the last century, it begins a thousand years earlier with a curse: "In early times, say the Icelandic chronicles, men from the Western Islands came to live in this country, and when they departed, left behind them crosses, bells, and other objects used in the practice of sorcery... Their leader was Kolumkilli the Irish, a sorcerer of wide repute. In those days there was great fertility of the soil in Iceland. But when the Norsemen came to settle here, the Western sorcerers were forced to flee the land, and old writings say that Kolumkilli, determined on revenge, laid a curse on the invaders, swearing that they would never prosper here."

Nothing much has changed since then. The story begins when the sheep farmer Bjartur has made the first payment on his own farm after 18 years of servitude to the bailiff, a tobacco chewing overlord, Bjartur detests. The farm he buys is a dark, dank, turf-roofed hovel on a glacial moor, where humans live in a single common room upstairs and the sheep, cow, and dog get the first floor. Moreover, it's cursed by "the fiend Kolumkilli." Bjartur, who believes in no religion other than to live as an independent man, in debt to no one, dismisses the curse. In his exuberance, he changes the farm's name from Winterhouses to Summerhouses.

Bjartur could be any Icelander from any era: strong-willed, bedeviled, and intent on survival at all cost. But in a place where humans live little better than beasts, where spring blizzards can be fatal, where lung worm ravages sheep, it's hard to argue against the curse. Bjartur marries Rosa, who had also worked at the bailiff's estate and who is pregnant by the bailiff's son. During a blizzard, Bjartur goes off to find a ewe, which Rosa had slaughtered in a fit of revenge. When he returns he finds Rosa dead on the floor in a pool of blood. Her infant is kept alive by the warmth of the dog that lies upon it until Bjartur returns. Bjartur shows little emotion and accepts the infant as his own. He names her Asta Sollija ("beloved sun lily") and it is their relationship that dominates this long, brilliant novel.

To the Icelandic farmers, nothing exists beyond Iceland's shores. To them, World War One is a distant skirmish. They soon call it "The Blessed War" because it makes them rich. Bjartur has remarried, adding three boys and the new wife's mother to the crowded upstairs. The grandmother is so ancient, she "is like a candle the Lord had forgotten to snuff out." But the war is only a brief respite for Bjartur and the other farmers. The curse still holds.

## Scholarship application deadline extended to May 1 for CGH Auxiliary and Health Foundation

STERLING — The scholarship application deadline has been extended from April 1 to May 1 for both the CGH Auxiliary and CGH Health Foundation grants for college education. There are two separate applications, both of which can be found at [www.cghmc.com/scholarships](http://www.cghmc.com/scholarships).

The CGH Auxiliary awards several \$1,000 scholarships to students who reside in the CGH service area. Students must have been accepted into their professional school of healthcare study and meet the criteria established by the Auxiliary. Last year nine scholarships

were awarded. Scan completed forms to Auxiliary Coordinator Deb Keaschall at [debra.keaschall@cghmc.com](mailto:debra.keaschall@cghmc.com) by 5 p.m. Friday, May 1. Call her at 815-625-0400, ext. 5727, for more information.

There are eight nursing/healthcare scholarships open to the public for the CGH Health Foundation — with one application. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. One requirement is proof of acceptance into your professional school of healthcare study. Residents of the CGH service area are eligible, including individuals living in Whiteside, Lee, Ogle, Carroll and Bureau counties.

Scan completed forms to Foundation Executive Director Joan Hermes at [joan.hermes@cghmc.com](mailto:joan.hermes@cghmc.com) by 5 p.m. Friday, May 1. Call her at 815-625-0400, ext. 5672, for more information.

In addition, the \$1,000 Illinois Hospital Research & Educational Foundation Scholarship (sponsored by the Constituency on Volunteers of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association) is available for download at [www.team-iha.org/member-resources](http://www.team-iha.org/member-resources). The criteria is similar to that of the CGH Auxiliary scholarship. However, the deadline is Wednesday, April 15 for this scholarship.

## Jesse White allows notaries to perform duties remotely due to COVID-19 pandemic

SPRINGFIELD — Secretary of State Jesse White and Governor JB Pritzker have partnered to temporarily allow Illinois notaries public the authority to perform remote, online notarizations during the COVID-19 pandemic under the governor's executive order.

Notaries can now use real-time electronic

technologies featuring high quality audio and visual communication under the temporary authority, which is set to expire when the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation is rescinded.

Working together, the Offices of the Secretary of State and the Governor determined

viable alternatives to deter traditional, person-to-person notarizations because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our main goal is to make sure notaries and their customers are protected," said White. "Any citizen who is in need of notarized documents should choose a notary who they

know and trust."

If customers don't have a notary, they are allowed to seek notary services from electronic notarization companies.

To learn more, please visit, <https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/index/notary/home.html>

# BUSINESSES & SERVICES

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# Opinion

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

## How would Prine advise us during this stressful time

The coronavirus pandemic hit home Sunday.

No, I'm healthy and so is my family. I'm grateful for that. But an artist I've long admired is ailing.

I learned on Sunday that singer and songwriter John Prine was infected with the virus, was in critical condition and on a hospital ventilator.

A Prine album was the first I ever owned. It was a Christmas present given to me when I was about 12, courtesy of my Uncle Jim and Aunt Judy.

I didn't own a stereo, so I played it over and over again on my record player. I drove my mother nuts partially because she didn't particularly like Prine's music and almost certainly because I'm incapable of singing on key.

In fact, when I was in grade school our music teacher used to holler at me because she believed I was feigning ineptitude in order to ruin choral singalongs.

(Sorry to disappoint, Ma'am. That's just the way I "sing.")

So, what attracts someone like myself to Prine's work? He could write well.

I've been writing professionally for more than 30 years and have a master's degree but I bow in wonderment to Prine, a man who started writing songs while working as a letter carrier in the Chicago area shortly after being discharged from the Army.

His songs appeal to my libertarian aversion to hollow acts of patriotism. Take for instance this chorus he wrote at the tail end of the Vietnam War:

But your flag decal won't get you  
Into Heaven any more.  
They're already overcrowded  
From your dirty little war.  
Now Jesus don't like killin'  
No matter what the reasons for,  
And your flag decal won't get you  
Into Heaven any more.

And sometimes he would touch a nerve about the neglect of the elderly. This week, I have been thinking about his song "Hello in There" as older folks are hunkered down in the homes trying to ride out the pandemic without visits from

### Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



their families. The lyrics evoke strong emotions:

We had an apartment in the city  
Me and Loretta liked living there  
Well, it'd been years since the kids had grown  
A life of their own left us alone  
John and Linda live in Omaha  
And Joe is somewhere on the road  
We lost Davy in the Korean war  
And I still don't know what for, don't matter anymore

Ya' know that old trees just grow stronger  
And old rivers grow wilder ev'ry day  
Old people just grow lonesome  
Waiting for someone to say, "Hello in there, hello"

Some of his songs weren't so heavy. My brother Danny loved the song "Spanish Pipe-dream." As a teenager, he'd play this song on his stereo. As he stretched out on his bed, he would

literally kick up his heels every time this chorus was played:

Blow up your t.v. throw away your paper  
Go to the country, build you a home  
Plant a little garden, eat a lot of peaches  
Try and find Jesus on your own  
At age 10, I can remember peeking in my big brother's room as he sang on the bed. I'd dutifully report, "Mom, Danny is doing it again." Mom would just roll her eyes and shake her head as the music thundered down the stairs.

The first concert I ever attended was a John Prine performance in Ames, Iowa. I went by myself because in an era of Bruce Springsteen and Billy Joel, none of my peers had even heard of a man named Prine.

Like Springsteen and Joel, Prine sang about the trouble Vietnam veterans had reintegrating into society. But his words in "Sam Stone" are more somber and evoke a greater sense of desperation than Springsteen's "Born in the USA" or Joel's "Goodnight Saigon." I prefer the revised lyrics Prine wrote for Johnny Cash over the original words, which are blasphemous. The Johnny Cash version goes like this:

Sam Stone came home  
To his wife and family  
After serving in the conflict overseas  
And the time that he served

Had shattered all his nerves  
And left a little shrapnel in his knee  
But the morphine eased the pain  
And the grass grew 'round his brain  
And gave him all the confidence he lacked  
With a Purple Heart and a monkey on his back  
There's a hole in daddy's arm  
Where all the money goes  
Daddy must of hurt a lot back then, I suppose  
The lyrics go on to share how Sam Stone turned to crime to support his drug habit while his kids ran around in "other people's clothes."

The song written in 1971 resonates today as our nation struggles with an opioid epidemic and again seeks to reintegrate soldiers returning from distant battlefields.

I was thinking about all of these things as Prine fights this virus. On Monday, his wife reported that the 73-year-old, two-time cancer survivor had been upgraded to stable condition. But he is a long way from out of the woods.

It's hard to know what Prine might advise during this stressful time. Perhaps it would be;

Blow up your t.v. throw away your paper  
Go to the country, build you a home  
Plant a little garden, eat a lot of peaches  
Try and find Jesus on your own

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

## On This Day in History

### 100 Years Ago April 9, 1920

Mrs. Frank Tilton entertained a party of about twenty young people with a miscellaneous shower Friday evening for Miss Hazel Meyer. A large number of the gifts were of Pyrex ware, articles useful and acceptable to the prospective bride. There were hardly any duplications.

The First National Bank has the plans for the new building which it intends to erect this summer. The new building will occupy the space of the present bank and the building adjoining it, in which Canavan's store is now located, with the stairways at both sides.

Mrs. Frank Keefer and granddaughter Dorothy Searls were Dixon visitors on Saturday.

### 75 Years Ago April 5, 1945

Earl L. Gascoigne, electrician's mate third class, U.S. Naval Reserve, is a member of the U.S.S. Otter, one of four destroyer escorts which in mid Atlantic recently trailed and then destroyed a German submarine.

Amboy Township citizens more than doubled their quota of \$1,059.00 in the Red Cross War Fund Drive, giving a total of \$2,635.55, according to the

announcement made by John M. McGowan, treasurer of the Amboy Chapter, American Red Cross.

Whooping cough is prevalent in the Village of Lee Center and a number of homes bear the red contagious disease sign.

### 50 Years Ago April 9, 1970

Amboy High School's Prom Queen Laurie Henkel and Prom King Bernie Kuebel posed Friday evening with the members of the Prom Court. Janie Henkel and Ron Klein were the crownbearers. Court members include Jan Douvier, Karen Sondgeroth, Diane Murphy, Judy Claybourn, Barb Bulfer, Paula Kagay, Larry Owens, Bill Nelson, Gary Kreiser, Ken Jones, Greg Glaser and Dean Elliott.

Amboy Volunteer Firemen, Inc., scored a marked success with their 18th Annual Ball Saturday evening in Amboy Junior High School gym. Record breaking crowds attended both the pre-ball program and the dance. A reported 900 persons were present for the entertaining program which preceded the dance. It featured the firemen in a "Style Show" which included a wedding scene with Lane McMillion as the bride; Joseph Powers, mother of the bride; chief Ken

Spitz, father of the bride; James Organ and Wayne Weidman, bridesmaids; and Rich Montavon, soloist.

### 25 Years Ago April 13, 1995

The grand opening of the hardware addition to Jones-Berry Lumber Company continues through April 15 with special prices on a variety of merchandise. Friday's ribbon cutting ceremony marked the end of three months of work as the local business expanded to meet the needs of Amboy and the surrounding area.

A developer is seeking public input on the possibility of opening a bowling alley with food and drink service in Amboy. The developer, who remains anonymous at this time, has placed a survey in this Thursday's Amboy News to measure the public support such a venture might expect from Amboy and the surrounding area.

Amboy Area Chamber of Commerce reorganized last Wednesday and recognized past presidents and retiring directors. Don Butler was elected president and Ed Cox was chosen vice president. They welcomed two new board member, Ted Lilja and Tom Mead. Doug Schrock, also a new director, was not present for the picture.

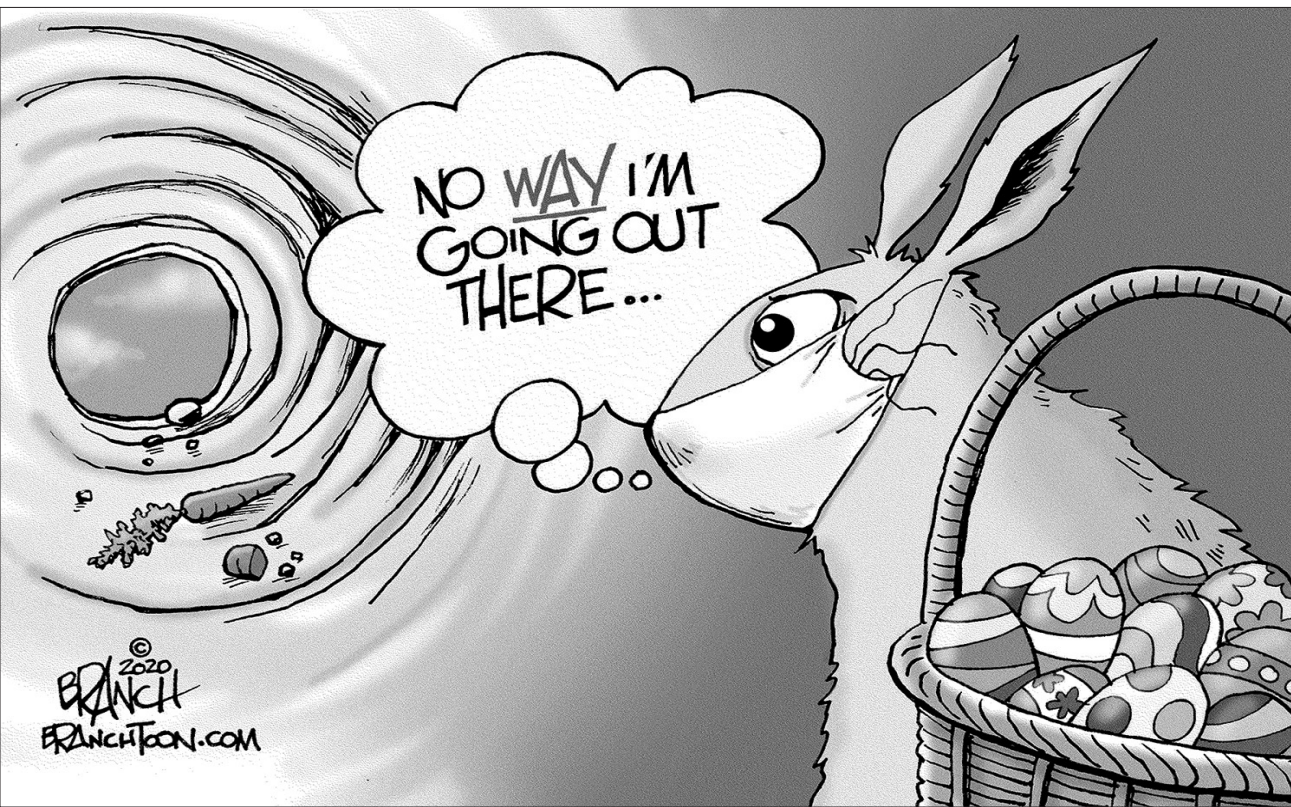
## Letters to the Editor

### Praises kindness

Dear Editor,

I would like to recommend a Good Neighbor Rose to Tommy at Amboy Food and Liquor. He delivered our groceries and wouldn't take a tip. We are blessed to have Tommy and his gang in Amboy.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Bonnell  
Amboy



## 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.

## ADVERTISING POLICY

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

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### OFFICE HOURS

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Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Wednesday and Friday by appointment only.  
Closed Saturday, Sunday and major holidays.

Phone 815-857-2311  
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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

### AMBOY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING

Notice is given that a public hearing will be held on the 1st day of June, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at the Fire Station in Amboy, Illinois with reference to the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of the Amboy Fire Protection District. The Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance is posted at the Fire Station in Amboy, Illinois for public inspection and will remain so posted for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action on the annual budget.

Notice is further given that immediately following the public hearing, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Amboy Fire Protection District will be held at the same location and the Board will consider and act on the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the fiscal year commencing May 1, 2020 and ending April 30, 2021.

Board of Trustees  
Amboy Fire Protection District  
No. 0401  
(March 8, 2020)

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

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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.

## 119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to 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.

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## 201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

## 203 HELP WANTED

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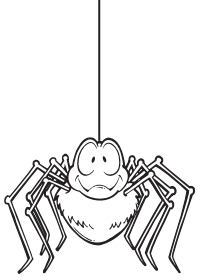
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# Call Mary at 815-857-2311

## The Amboy News

235 E. Main Street

Amboy IL 61310

815-857-2311

02122020

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**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

**Email:**  
mmays@amboynews.com

**Address:**  
245 E. Main Street, Amboy

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Farmers cautious about corn, soybean season despite projected rise in plantings

**BY BEN ORNER**

Capitol News Illinois  
borner@capitolnewsillinois.com

**SPRINGFIELD** – Despite projected increases in corn and soybean plantings this year after a disastrous 2019 planting season, farmers are gripped by uncertainty surrounding spring weather and the economic downturn from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released its annual prospective plantings report on Tuesday, which shows how many acres farmers of major crops intend to plant this spring.

Illinois farmers are expected to plant 11.3 million acres of corn and 10.5 million acres of soybeans this planting season, according to the report.

If all expected acreage is planted, that would be an increase of 8 percent for corn and 6 percent for soybeans over last year, when record precipitation from January to June decreased plantings and dropped production by 18 percent for corn and 20 percent for soybeans.

Although acreage projections for 2020

“are probably in the ballpark,” said Mark Tuttle, president of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau, any rebound from last year could be stifled by the economic shock caused by COVID-19.

“The price of corn and beans are very poor right now,” said Tuttle, who grows about 900 acres of the two crops in northern Illinois.

As the COVID-19 pandemic drives down the price of oil, gasoline prices across the country have plummeted, with many Illinois pumps below \$2 per gallon. That has stalled production of ethanol, a gasoline alternative made from corn. Some ethanol plants have idled while being pushed toward unprofitability.

“When a lot of these acres were bid for, and talked about a month ago, none of this was foreseen at that time,” Tuttle said, adding that 40 percent of U.S. corn production is used for ethanol.

The economic hit could be lessened, Tuttle said, by exporting more corn, feeding more to livestock or switching some soybean acreage to corn, but that will not offset all damage.

“I think the farmers will plant their crops without a problem, we always do,” he added. “It’s a matter of marketing on the other end of this crop is going to be tough. It’s going to be tough to make money.”

Increasing uncertainty is a wetter-than-normal spring forecasted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA scientists currently predict April through June will be rainier than average in Illinois. However, forecasters have said they expect this planting season will not be as wet as last year.

Tuttle said he has seen “extremely wet” conditions over the past two weeks while driving through northern Illinois and parts of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. And although that does not guarantee 2019-like planting delays, “We need a good four-to-five-week dry period, late April through May, to get this crop established,” he said.

Planting season in Illinois generally runs from early April to early June, varying in different regions of the state. Many farmers last year, especially those in the most flooded areas of the state, were planting well into

June and even into July.

If June 2020 comes along and farmers have yet to plant corn, Tuttle said, some may forgo planting and instead activate the “prevented planting” payments in their crop insurance coverage.

“If there’s wet spots in the Midwest and it’s June 1, I think some of those farmers will just wait it out and take prevent plant,” he said.

Nationwide, the USDA’s report shows farmers expect soybean plantings to increase 10 percent this year and corn plantings 8 percent. Illinois farmers are projected to be among the top states in acreage gains from last year if all acres are planted.

According to the report, Illinois farmers expect to plant the most acres of soybeans and second-most acres of corn, behind Iowa. Illinois ranked first and second, respectively, in production of each crop last year.

The prospective plantings report is compiled by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service using survey results from more than 80,000 farm operators during the first two weeks of March.

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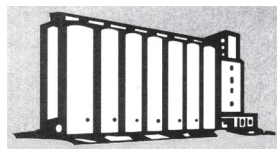
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# LOCAL NEWS



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## HEALTH continued from page A1

This comes on the heels of the federal government asking the public not to even go to grocery stores or pharmacies unless absolutely necessary. The Lee County Unified Leadership team asks people to keep others in mind and only get what they need from the grocery store.

In Governor Pritzker's press conference today, Dr. Ngozi Ezike said tomorrow's temperatures will be the warmest we have seen this spring, but we need to stay home or it will set us back. Her statements came after an-

nouncing 1,006 new Illinois cases for a total of 12,262. There were 33 more deaths for a total of 307.

### SNOW BIRDS ARE ASKED TO CONTACT THE LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

It is that time of year where "snowbirds" will be returning north to their primary homes. These are people who live at a secondary residence during certain times of the year, generally traveling to areas of the country with a warmer winter temperature. If you

are returning to Lee County, please contact the health department at 815-284-3371. The health department will make recommendations to keep you, your family, and our community safe.

### Today's Statistics:

A total of 198 Lee County residents have been tested at KSB Hospital. 49 tests are pending, 145 are negative, 4 are positive, and 7 people remain in quarantine. Test results continue to take up to 10 days. The Lee County Health Department and KSB Hospital continue to work on "contact tracing" for individuals who have tested positive. Appropriate notifications are being made.

### What to do if

you think you have COVID-19: (UPDATED INFORMATION)

During the current Corona Virus outbreak, individuals with symptoms SHOULD NOT GO to health care facilities such as hospitals, clinics, and urgent care centers without CALLING FIRST. Instead, they can seek care by using one of the following options:

- 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 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays by calling 815-285-7777.

- Residents with a Primary Care Practitioner can also CALL their office for advice.

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04082020

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**We encourage our senior population to shop between the hours of 7 am - 9 am when the store is less crowded.**

**We also recommend our customers stay 6 feet apart. We have put lines on the floor to mark the 6 foot distance when checking out.**

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**815-857-7020**