

The Ashton GAZETTE



Ashton, Illinois

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AFC School Board meets using virtual technology

ASHTON – The AFC School Board held their regular meeting at 7 p.m. on April 20, utilizing the Zoom meeting technology, which allows everyone to maintain the social distancing guidelines that have been imposed during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Mr. Gleissner reported that 160 Chrome Books had been distributed for the students in third through sixth grade. He also commended the teachers for the fantastic job they are doing during this unprecedented time of at home learning.

For the FFA reported that the Gonnerman family will be farming the acreage. The FFA held a blood drive and collected 29 units. The hogs for the cooperative arrived today.

Congratulations to Brett Buhrow for receiving a \$1,500 scholarship from the American Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program.

Superintendent John Zick reported that expenditures for the year are a little higher than expected, some funds need to be transferred from one account to the other to balance that out.

He also announced that they had received approval for the attendance fee waiver for teachers and full time employees to have their children attend AFC schools.

There have been five applications received for the boys basketball coaching position and one for the boys football coaching position. The district is seeking out recommendations from trusted colleagues.

The principals Kimberly Torman and Jennifer Warrenfeltz presented a joint report. The report centered around the e-learning efforts from the teachers pre-k through 12th grade. A variety of programs have been implemented to include as many students as possible on learning sessions.

The staff has also been meeting on a weekly basis utilizing virtual technology.

The ROE has been very supportive of e-learning efforts and providing suggestions on programs to use.

A plan for students to come to the school to pick up their personal belongings is in the works and will be announced as soon as the details are worked out.

An administrative meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, to consider alternative dates for commencement, prom and honors night. Details will be announced when they are set.

In other business, the board approved for the superintendent to set the fiscal year from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. They also approved the board policy revisions and the board meeting dates and times for the next year.

The board approved the hiring of James Amberg as the new elementary special education teacher.

Ashton Fire Department receives hand sanitizer from Sensient Flavors

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



Farrel Stauffer of the Ashton Fire Department, pictured center, poses with Sensient Flavors employees Andrea Aldridge and Nick Hirsch in front of boxes of hand sanitizer that Sensient Flavors donated to local health organizations and emergency response personnel on Friday afternoon. (Tonja Greenfield/Ashton Gazette)

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.

Department on Aging provides \$7 million in meal assistance for older Illinoisans

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 Il-

linoisans 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 pro-

grams. 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.

"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.

(See page 8)

What season is it?



A spring snow had these farmers wondering what season we are really in. (Photo submitted by Aneda Ebert)

Gazette staff merging into main Rochelle location

ASHTON — For more than 100 years the Ashton Gazette newspaper has been delivered to the residents, past and present of Ashton, Franklin Grove and the surrounding areas.

This newspaper has been very popular with area residents, but rising publication costs and tightening advertising budgets have made it more difficult of late to operate.

So, in an effort to continue delivering the Gazette publication to readers' homes, News Media Corporation will be merging the Ashton office into the company's Rochelle office location, effective on Friday, May 1.

"The last day we will be open in our Ashton office at 813 Main Street, will be Thursday, April 30," said Gazette general manager Monetta Young. "However, we will be keeping our same Ashton phone number and same post office box number with the Ashton Post Office, and we will have a public drop box located on the west side of the Ashton Village Offices, 810 Main Street, for article submissions, advertising submissions and payments. This drop box will be checked daily."

The Gazette's office in Rochelle will be located at 211 Hwy. 38 E., right next door to Dunkin Donuts. The phone number remains 815-453-2551 and the Gazette's mailing address will remain Ashton Gazette, P.O. Box 287, Ashton, IL 61006.

Where to find a Wi-Fi hot spot in Illinois

State releases tool aimed at connecting students to internet

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — As students across Illinois get accustomed to remote learning, state agencies have released a new tool aimed at connecting those who need internet to drive-up Wi-Fi hotspots.

The interactive map is searchable by ZIP code and municipality, and the hotspots contain informa-

tion as to how internet service can be accessed. As of April 15, the map had 200 hotspots aimed at allowing students and parents or guardians to continue social distancing by remaining in their cars while using the internet.

(See page 3)

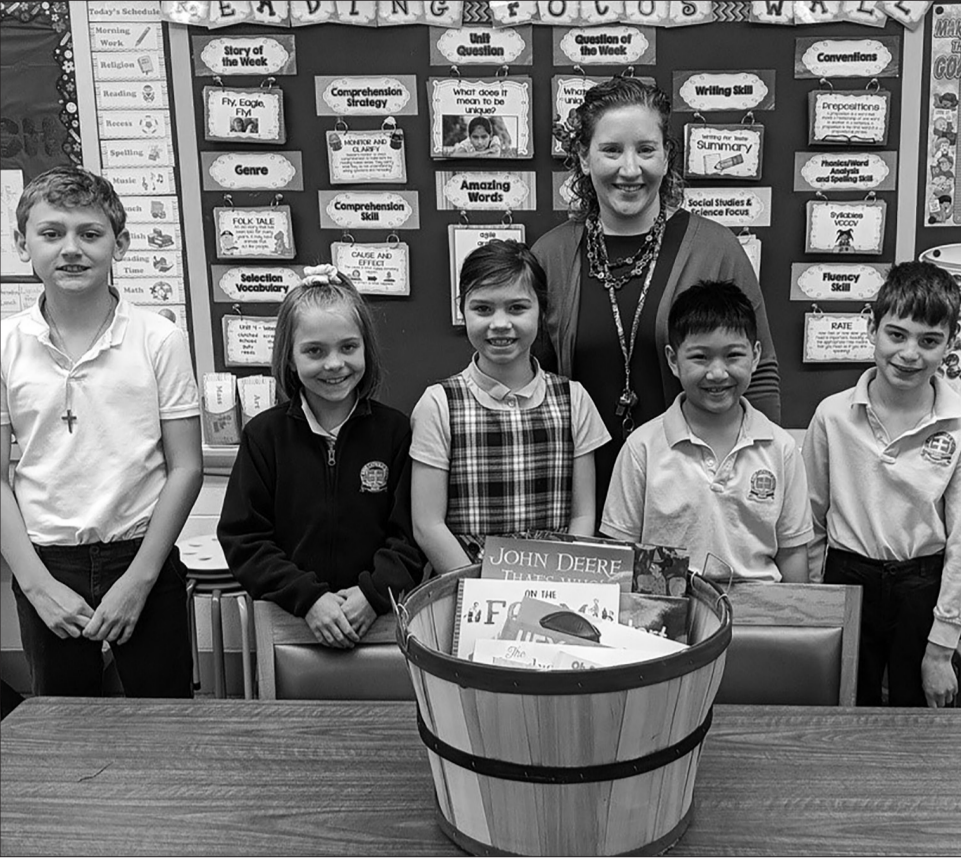
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LOCAL NEWS



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

LEE COUNTY — The Lee County Farm 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 Opportunities Council, Rock Falls, and Steward

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 Bureau Foundation is to fund and encourage 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.



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."



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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

LEE COUNTY — 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, 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.

Celebrate 4-H Volunteers April 19-25

ILLINOIS — 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 natu-

ral 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 volun-

teers 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 lives that reflect their values, 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 programs.

Chana Play Day scholarships offered

CHANA — The Chana Play Day Committee has announced competition for several scholarships.

The candidates must be high school graduates or the equivalent with ties to the Chana area.

Applicants who are current or former residents of Chana or who have parents or grandparents who attended the Chana School or participated in Chana Play Day may apply. Two-time recipients are not eligible to re-apply.

The \$500 scholarships

will be awarded to the candidates who best meet and complete the requirements listed in the application.

Scholarship forms may be picked up at the Oregon High School guidance office or Stocking Equipment, four miles east of Oregon on Illinois Route 64.

Please deliver or mail the application to Ron Stocking, Stocking Equipment, 3749 E. Pine Rock Road, Oregon, IL 61061.

The completed application must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 1.

Something to Think About

Jeff Beverage
Director
ALTERNATIVE DISPOSITION
Most people take it for granted in their home towns. This is usually the case, although there are widely varying practices followed. People have different ideas about disposing of their bodies. Some people have a strong desire to be buried at sea. While this is a relatively rare practice, and one which must be accomplished far enough from the coastline to avoid the body being washed ashore, it has been known to be done. Donation of the body to medical research institutions is another possibility. Arrangements for this can be made by contacting a medical or research institution directly. There is a need for body



donations, but they are not universally accepted. It is wise to investigate the matter thoroughly if this means of disposal interests you. Your generous gift will be appreciated by medical students and their future patients, as well.

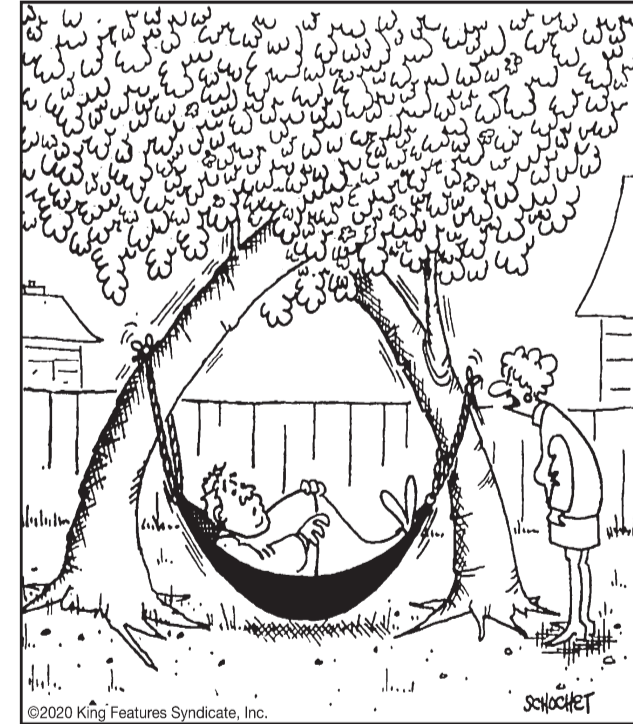
Beverage-Lyons Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services
604 Richardson Ave., Ashton
815-453-2441
www.beveragelyonsfamilyfh.com

Email news items to myoung@ashtongazette.com

Thank You
On behalf of the Village of Ashton and myself I would like to publicly thank Steve Garrison for going out of his way over Easter weekend and picked up sticks and garbage at Griffith Park in Ashton. This is one of the many acts of kindness that I have seen in our community all year long and makes me very proud to be a small part of Ashton!

Thank you very much!
Mayor Tim Henert

LAFF - A - DAY



"Don't you think it's time you started thinking about a diet?"

The Ashton GAZETTE
Serving Lee and Ogle Counties Since 1895
Monetta Young, General Mgr/Editor

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RALPHIE & LULU'S
Rib Night
April 22, 5 - 8 p.m.
Curbside service
Serving Ribs, chicken and sandwich
Choice of potato, side salad
1/2 rack \$14.85
Full rack \$18.95
Full menu, 5 - 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
Curbside pick up
812 Main St. - Ashton

RECYCLE
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Letters Policy: The Ashton Gazette 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.

Wiggins activated to serve

DIXON — 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 eleventh 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.



TSGT Seth Wiggins



Ashton Library News

“Those who try to do something and fail are infinitely better than those who try to do nothing and succeed.”
Lloyd Jones

Even though we've had some cold weather and even a few snowflakes, it's still spring. The tulips and daffodils seem especially beautiful this year.

What is happening at the library? We will remain closed at least until Thursday, April 30. After that, we will adjust to the directives that we are given. I will do my best to keep the

website, the sign in front, the phone message and this column up to date with what is current. Jan will update Facebook as we learn more. We are grateful for your patience.

Back to normal is unlikely to be our style going forward. A “new normal” will have to happen. For the past six weeks, we have all had to learn new behaviors. Now that we know those new behaviors, we will need to continue to practice them until we have an effective treatment or an immunization that works. At the Mills & Petrie Memorial Library we will try to make the library as safe as possible for you. If you have particular needs or suggestions, please call 815-453-2213. If I am not available to answer the phone, I will get

back to you as soon as possible.

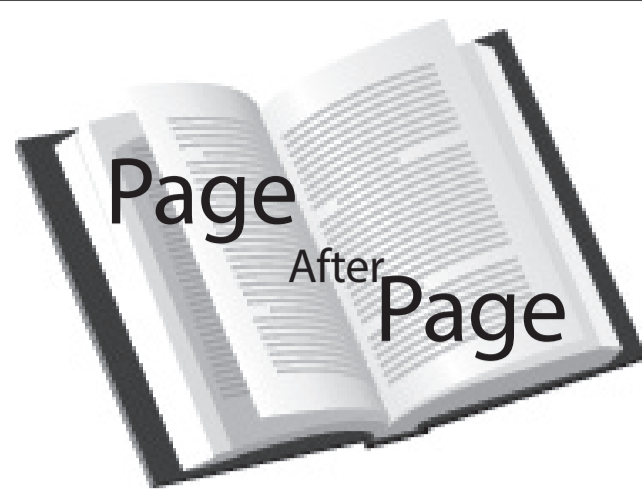
While we have not been handling the circulation of materials to our patrons recently, we have been reorganizing the library, including the foyer. The next time you visit the foyer, please be sure to take a look at the used books and DVDs on the bookshelves and table. There are a great many new additions to the collection, and you will want to pick out the very best for yourself.

See you as soon as possible at the library. In the meantime, please take good care of yourself.

Linda Dallam, 815-453-2213

Mills & Petrie Memorial Library

Visit us online at www.millspetrielibrary.weebly.com



BY SHERRI STAUFFER

Making a Journey

We may be stuck at home, but that does not have to keep us from making a journey. Of course, I am talking about reading a book that takes you somewhere else. This could be fiction or non-fiction – a real place or an imagined one. There are plenty of books to choose from and I am hesitant to raise one above another, so I will highlight a few that I have recently read.

First, comes a trip to a place that I would not necessarily like to visit – North Korea. A recent biography of the leader of that country, “The Great Successor: The Divinely Perfect Destiny of Brilliant Comrade Kim Jon Un,” tells of his careful upbringing in wealth and pomp and analyzes his current reign. Anna Fifield, the author, is a reporter who has spent

much time in the East and has interviewed his family members and read widely about what is happening in North Korea. Her insights are interesting and chilling, especially for the people of that land who are trapped in a place where they are not free to journey anywhere.

I went to Mexico for a short time in “Esperanza Rising,” a young adult book by Pam Munoz Ryan. Esperanza grew up on a beautiful ranch, surrounded by servants and everything she could desire, but when her father is killed by bandits and the ranch falls into the hands of her uncles, their threats make Esperanza and her mother decide to escape with their servants. They leave everything behind to go to America where they work as migrant farm workers. Esperanza learns what true digni-

ty is as she is transformed by her experiences.

Making a trip to a world beyond ours is also a good way to make a journey. I am in Middle Earth with Frodo and his companions right now. As they encounter the dangers of the Black Riders in “The Fellowship of the Ring,” I travel to Rivendell, the magical place where elves live and then move out with them into a journey that will encompass two more books and bring them into many challenges. J.R.R. Tolkien has painted a vivid world, full of both evil and good.

Reading can take us back in history or forward to someone's idea of the future. It can provide descriptions of vistas in lands that we long to see, or into places where visitors are not usually welcome, like Buddhist monasteries as Christine Toomey describes in her book, “In Search of Buddha's Daughters: A Modern Journey Down Ancient Roads.” She travels around the globe, visiting different monasteries whose nuns also come from around the world, hearing their stories and what they hope their dedication will bring for them.

Wherever you wish to go on your journey, you can stay at home in your armchair and use your imagination and a book to help you on the way.

Connecting kids...

(From page 1)

According to the release, the effort was spearheaded by the Illinois

Board of Higher Education and several other state agencies.

The hotspots are available at sites including local colleges and librar-

ies. The link to find them is <http://illinois.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=23e8046edd2940bc8ad3ad1725e47cd0>.



COMMUNITY MATTERS



AUTO BODY REPAIR

Ashton Auto Repair
507 Cartwright Ave., Ashton
815-453-2770

BAR/RESTAURANT

Ralphie and Lulu's
812 Main St., Ashton
815-453-2103

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Mills and Petrie Memorial Building
Hourly, daily rentals for your event
815-973-8397

CATERING

Back Alley Bar-B-Q
Franklin Grove
815-677-2182, Like us on Facebook!

CONSTRUCTION

Don Ross Jr. Construction
PO 96, Ashton
815-677-3774

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Central Bank
803 Main St., Ashton
815-453-2662

FUNERAL HOME

Beverage Lyons Funeral Home
604 Richardson Ave., Ashton
815-453-2441

HAIR SALON

Shear Delight
1873 Ashton Road, Ashton
815-453-2331

INSURANCE

Stenzel Insurance Company
102 N. Elm St., Franklin Grove
815-456-2319

Don Ross Jr. Construction
P.O. 96
Ashton, IL
815-677-3774

ASHTON AUTO REPAIR
507 Cartwright Ave.
Ashton, IL
815-453-2770

INSURANCE

Bradford Victor-Adams Mutual Insurance Company
120 W. South St., Franklin Grove
815-456-2334
Baylor Insurance Agency
Jack-815-751-7289
Ryan-815-973-2906

NEWSPAPERS/PRINTING

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813 Main St., Ashton
815-453-2551

PLUMBING

Richter Plumbing and More
402 Western Ave., Ashton
815-453-2361

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Mills and Petrie Memorial Library
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811 Main St., Ashton
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OPINION

Lest We Forget

125 Years Ago
April 25, 1895

We hear that a movement is on foot among the owners of speedy horses and bicycle riders to build a half-mile track in the field east of the stock yards.

Commencing next Sunday, Rev. Strickfaden, formerly of Elgin, will administer to the spiritual wants of the members of the Independent Evangelical Church of our village. Rev. Berberich has moved to Groveland where he has accepted a call to preach.

N. Shuhart has the stone on the ground for building a flour warehouse on his lot back of H. W. Eisenberg's store.

These are dusty days and the sprinkler is kept busy to keep the streets in condition for business.

100 Years Ago
April 22, 1920

There were two capacity audiences at the Pastime Theatre Friday afternoon and evening to witness the movie, "The Shepherd of the Hills." The music for the picture was furnished by John D. Charters and Harry L. Basford.

The two flag shanties which have been familiar figures in the local railroad yards were loaded aboard a flat car Tuesday to be shipped to some other point.

Rev. William Albrecht of Barrington has been appointed pastor of the Ashton and Reynolds Evangelical churches. Rev. F. W. Doede who has been pastor here for three years has been assigned to the church at Malta.

A sweeping victory for the administration forces who have been backing the paving matter was recorded in the record 427 vote turnout in the village election. Owing to the recent rains the streets were in such conditions that no attempt was made to haul in the vote.

75 Years Ago
April 19, 1945

Pfc. Don Carous, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Carolus, died from wounds received in action on Leyte Feb. 28. Don was well known in the Reynolds community while he assisted his father at the Flagg Station grain elevator.

The grand opening of Fern and Helen's Restaurant located in the middle store of the Commercial block between Stephan's Furniture Store and V. L. Parker's tin shop, will be held Monday. Proprietors are Mrs. Robert Greenfield and Mrs. Loren Beck.

The entire nation mourns the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt which occurred last Thursday at Warm Springs, Ga.

The rural grade school graduation exercises will be held April 25 at the Mills and Petrie Memorial Building. There will be 10 graduates from six schools.

50 Years Ago
April 23, 1970

Excavation has begun for a new building to be used for manufacturing and warehouse by Crest Foods Co., Inc. adjacent to their large warehouse south of the railroad at Brown Ave. and South First St.

The Ashton High School Band won a superior rating and the high school chorus a second or excellent at the state contest for Class D schools at Tiskilwa Saturday.

Petty Officer 3/c John H. Sache who has been serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS Independence for the past two years, has volunteered for "Operation Deep Freeze" and was accepted after testing and physicals.

Teresa Herwig, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Herwig, is engaged in "mini-teaching" as part of a teaching of mathematics course project at Wisconsin State University at Platteville.

25 Years Ago
April 27, 1995

Franklin Grove Church of the Brethren has called William Christiansen to minister with the congregation as pastor. Pastor Bill begins his ministry on April 17.

Eight students were inducted into the National Honor Society at Franklin Center High School in a recent induction ceremony. They are seniors Tina Fonger and Chad Breunier, juniors Katie Dallam, Michelle Kosick, Dan Salsbury, Frank Bonnell, Justin Watkins and Heather Hoffman.

The Ashton United Methodist Church has several kids going to church camp this summer. They have been selling candy bars and are now selling 12 inch Gino's pizza to help raise money for camp.

Ron's Food Market advertises Golden Ripe bananas for 29 cents per pound, Red Ripe strawberries for \$1.59 per quart, Super Tru cut-up fryers for 59 cents per pound and Green Giant Idaho potatoes, 10 pounds for \$1.99.

An unexpected Easter

My daughters didn't wear new dresses for Easter this year.

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 awake too.

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. 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

Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



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 of the bed.

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.

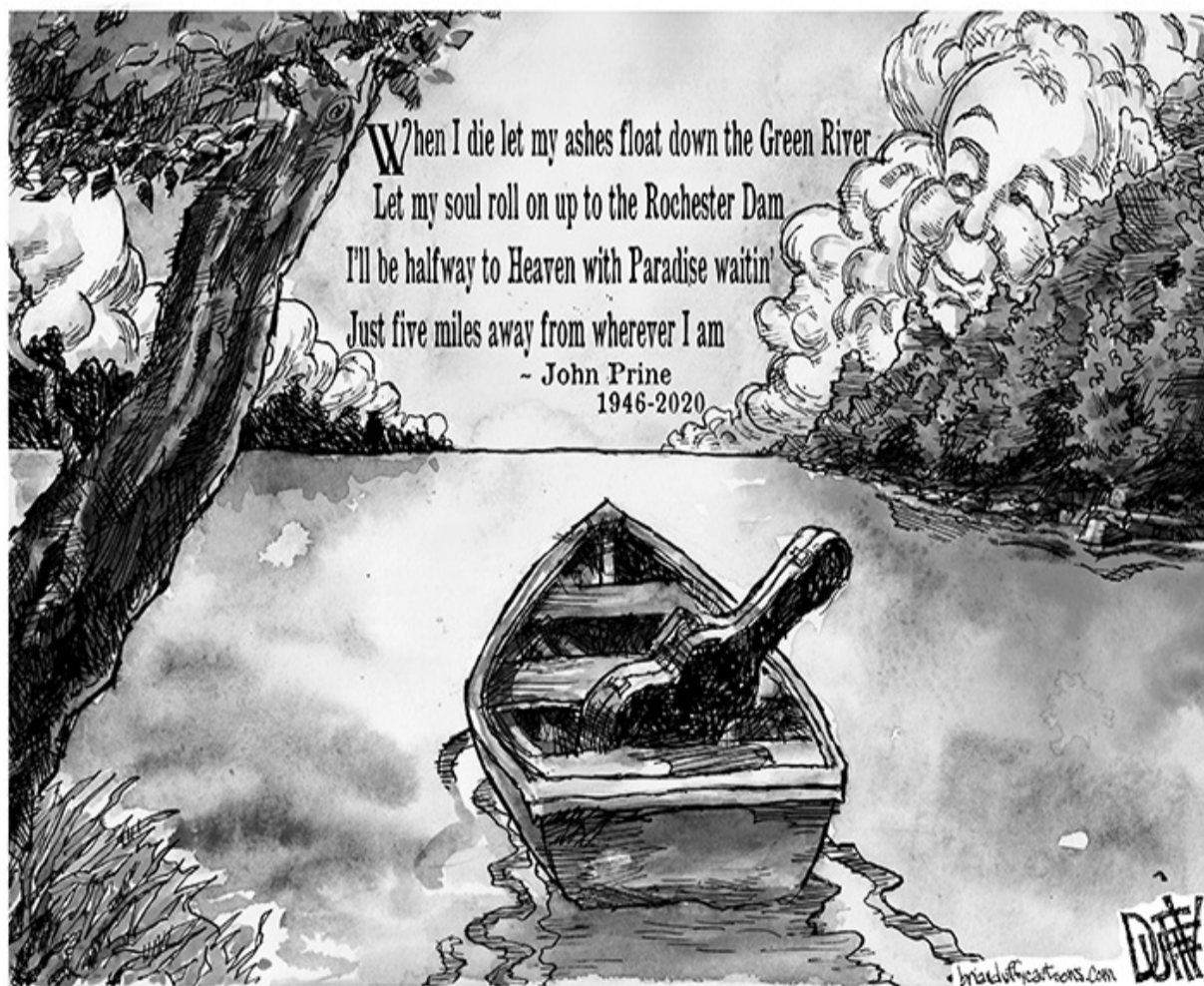
He arose! He arose!

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. ScottReeder1965@gmail.com.



Moments in Time

* On May 9, 1671, in London, Thomas Blood, an Irish adventurer better known as "Captain Blood," is captured attempting to steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London. King Charles II was so impressed with Blood's audacity that he made him a member of his court.

* On May 10, 1749, the 10th and final volume of Henry Fielding's novel "Tom Jones" is printed. The serialized novel told the humorous story of the attempts of the illegitimate but charming Tom Jones to win his neighbor's daughter.

* On May 7, 1902, Martinique's Mount Pele begins the deadliest volcanic eruption of the 20th century. The city of Saint Pierre was buried and virtually everyone died instantly when a cloud of superheated gas sent an avalanche of boiling ash down the mountain.

* On May 6, 1937, the airship Hindenburg, the largest dirigible ever built and the pride of Nazi Germany, bursts into flames upon touching its mooring mast in Lakehurst,

New Jersey, killing 36 passengers and crewmembers.

* On May 4, 1965, San Francisco Giants outfielder Willie Mays hits his 512th career home run to break Mel Ott's National League record. Mays would finish with 660 career home runs, good for third on the all-time list at the time.

* May 8, 1988, Stella Nickell is convicted of murder by a Seattle jury. She was the first person to be found guilty of violating the Federal Anti-Tampering Act after putting cyanide in Excedrin capsules in an effort to kill her husband. She began planning his death after their 1976 honeymoon.

* On May 5, 2002, the comic book adaptation of "Spider-Man" becomes the fastest movie ever to earn more than \$100 million at the box office. Its \$39 million opening day bested the previous record of \$32 million, set by "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" in 2001.



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Writers are urged to use discretion and refrain from sarcasm or personal attacks. Criticism of individuals or organizations that is not broached tactfully will jeopardize the publication of a letter.

RELIGION

Your Authority Over the Enemy

I went to church for years and never heard about the devil. It's not fun talking about him, and I don't ever want to put too much focus on him. But the truth is, we have an enemy. First Peter 5:8 (NIV) says, "...Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

If we're going to defeat our enemy, it's important for us to believe in the power and authority we have in Christ. That's the only way we can have the great life God wants us to have.

There are so many Christians who seem to be going through their daily life just hoping they can make it through the day. They go from one problem or crisis to the next, and they lack a confident, bold faith in God that can keep them stable, full of His peace and joy in the difficult circumstances of life.

The good news is, God doesn't want us to live in the emergency room of life all the time. He wants us to get to the point where we know what to do to have a great life and take responsibility for ourselves, trusting we can do whatever we need to do through the strength we have in Christ (Philippians 4:13). This means we know who we are in Christ and how to walk in the authority we have as believers in Jesus.

The Truth About

What You Have in Christ

John 10:10 tells us Jesus gave His life so we can "have life, and have it to the full." When we accept Christ as our Savior, we receive the assurance of eternal life, but we also become joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17) and are entitled to have everything He is and everything He has: grace, peace, righteousness, joy and power and authority over the enemy.

Matthew 10:1 says, "Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness." This authority has been given to every believer. It's important to understand that the devil has power, but we have power and authority in Christ.

Our enemy only has the authority that we give him, and many times we give him the ability to attack us through ignorance.

The devil hates anyone who is trying to do any good in the world, and his influence can be seen in the evil things people do. For example, when I'm tempted to be selfish and complain, it's not God working in my life. James 1:13, 17 says, "...God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..."

Religion

By Joyce Meyer



Don't wait to see how bad things will get or how much you can get away with before you get in trouble. Be firm in your faith at all times, and resist the enemy immediately when he comes against you. God has a plan for your life, and walking in the authority you have in Christ is an important part of experiencing His will for you.

The Greatest Weapon You Have

The Word of God is an offensive weapon in our warfare against the enemy. It has the power to renew our mind, heal our brokenness and change our lives. The Word contains God's wisdom and the direction we need for every problem we face. Everything we need is found in the Word; it's God's love letter to us, our instruction book for life and reveals all of God's promises to us as His children.

The power and authority in God's Word equips you to go after the devil—he hates the Word and must bow down to it. But we must approach the Word with the attitude, "With God's help, I'm going to do what it says." That's the key to operating in the authority we have in Christ.

I want to encourage you to make it a priority to spend time with God and study the Word. Go for quality, not quantity; meditate on Scripture so you really get it deep down in your heart. Make a predetermined decision to apply what you learn to your life. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you, and He will show you how to obey the Word in your daily life. You can also get more encouraging teaching or submit a prayer request by contacting our ministry at www.joycemeyer.org.

Remember that in Christ, you have everything you need to enjoy your life and overcome the enemy. God has equipped you to stand up to whatever comes against you. Through the power and authority you have in Christ, you can remain stable, full of peace and joy, and advance God's kingdom in the earth at all times. That's God's plan for you!



From the Pastor's pen

Locked down: Proclaiming and spreading the love of the Risen Christ

BY REV. SATYA SUDHAKAR

As per John's gospel in the twentieth chapter, we understand that Jesus' close friends, the disciples, were locked inside a room for fear of the Jews. Looking at what happened to Jesus' life, they were scared for their own lives. They were afraid and were isolated from the rest of the world and living in fear. During this uncertainty and anxiety, surprisingly appeared their loving master Jesus inside their home with a gift of His peace and the Holy Spirit. What a boost up.

Many centuries later, today in 2020, we are locked inside our homes out of fear of the Coronavirus. Fear engulfed in most of our lives. The unknown is frustrating. Some days are long and exhausting while others are peaceful and productive. Some are searching for the meaning, while others are searching for God's presence in all this uncertainty. Just like Thomas, some of us have doubting issues to trust and feel Christ's presence in the midst of this pandemic.

Nevertheless, by calling ourselves Easter people, we can believe and proclaim that God never fails in keeping God's promises and God, through Jesus, never fails to answer our prayers. During the most vulnerable time Jesus appeared to his dear friends and breathed on them the Holy

Spirit and strengthened them to spread the love of Christ to the rest of the world.

In the same way, our risen Lord will also visit each of our homes one by one and breathe on us the Holy Spirit and will grant His peace.

Dear readers and believers, we believe that the tomb is empty. That means we can also believe that Jesus is amongst us. His spirit is with us guiding us, embracing us and comforting us even when we are in our own lockdown circumstances.

Because of different fears and anxieties, many people are hiding in their closed doors. As the disciples were sent, even we are called to go out today.

Like Mary Magdalene and disciples were sent out, even we are called to manifest and proclaim Christ's love for others where it is least expected, while we are still in locked down situation, we can spread the love of Christ from one person to many by reaching out to our neighbors. With our responsible acts of love and care, we can proclaim God's love, healing, forgiveness and setting free those who are held captive by any weaknesses, addictions and sicknesses. More importantly we can proclaim God's love by praying for one another.

Christ is risen, the Lord is risen indeed Hallelujah!

Bible Trivia

1. Is the book of Joshua in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the collective name of the first five books of the Bible? Pentimento, Pentateuch, Pensione, Pequod
3. From Genesis 3:24, who/what guards the Garden of Eden? Roaring lions, Armed angels, Golden rams, God Himself
4. What animal did God provide Abraham to sacrifice in place of Isaac? Dove, Calf, Ram, Camel
5. From Joshua 14, to whom did Joshua give a blessing? Jacob, Caleb, Esau, Himself
6. In the Bible, how many men are named "Dodo"? 1, 2, 3, 4

ANSWERS: (1) Old; (2) Pentateuch; (3) Armed angels; (4) Ram; (5) Caleb; (6) 3

Email news items to myoung@ashtongazette.com

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Ashton Bible Church

Pastor Farrel Stauffer
702 Main Street, Ashton
815-453-2190
www.ashtonbible.org
ashtonbiblechurch@ashtonbible.org
Sunday Worship service 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Lee Center

Pastor Jack Briggs
1140 Inlet Road, Lee Center
815-732-7032
www.LeeCenter-UCC.org
Sunday Worship service 10:30 a.m.

Reynolds United Methodist Church

Pastor Seamus Enright
reynoldsumc@oglecom.com
www.reynoldsumc.net
2496 Reynolds Road, Ashton
815-453-2513
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Children's Church 10 a.m.

Blend of contemporary and traditional worship enhanced by sound and video system. Nursery available for babies and toddlers. Food and fellowship afterwards. Wide variety of groups and activities to be involved in.

Ashton United Methodist Church

Rev. Satya Sudhakar
906 Richardson Ave., Ashton
815-453-2328
(773) 808-3711 - pastor cell
www.ashtonumc.net
Satyanima@gmail.com
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

Sunday School 10 a.m.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Jessica Bakken
803 Paddock Avenue, Ashton
815-453-7314
www.stjohnsashton.org
stjohnsashton@oglecom.com
Sunday Worship service 9 a.m.
Sunday School, Adult and Confirmation classes 10:15 a.m.

Franklin Grove United Methodist

Rev. Satya Sudhakar
State and Middle, Franklin Grove
815-456-7028
(773) 808-3711 - pastor cell
www.franklingroveumc.com
Satyanima@gmail.com
franklingroveumc@gmail.com
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Grace Fellowship Church First Presbyterian Church of Franklin Grove

Pastor Brad Pittman, Interim
Pastor Jeff Ardissone
2128 IL Route 38, Ashton
815-453-7464
Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.
www.graceisforyou.com

Pastor Jack Briggs
106 South Walnut Street, Franklin Grove,
815-732-7032
www.franklingrovepresby.org
Sunday Worship service 9 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Franklin Grove Church of the Brethren

121 W. North Street, Franklin Grove
815-456-2422
Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.
September through May

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Pastor Jason Karper, Interim
107 W. Lahman Street, Franklin Grove
815-456-2457
Sunday Worship service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

The following businesses encourage you to attend a place of worship this week:

~ Farver's Electric
~ Crest Foods
~ Baylor Insurance

~ Shear Delight
~ First National Bank in Amboy

~ Beverage-LyonsFamilyFuneralHomePC
~ Stenzel Insurance

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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

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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.



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

NEWSPAPER CARRIERS Wanted. (Rochelle) Several Routes Open. Call 815-561-2112 For More Information.

301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

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307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 8AM-NOON ONLY. SEE RECEPTIONIST AT FRONT COUNTER Rochelle News-Leader.

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

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405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to 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.

501 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

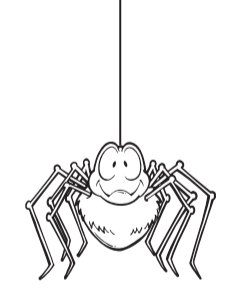
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ISA SEEKS QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT DIRECTOR BOARD SEATS

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 directors.

Eligibility 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 or scottdd@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 5 p.m., June 30, 2020.

Elections will be held July 7, 2020.

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LOCAL NEWS

Franklin Grove Living and Rehabilitation Center

BY KATHY CLARK

We were that Mother Nature had her dates mixed up this past Friday thinking that it was April Fools Day. We couldn't believe all of the snow when we woke up. It was a shock, but it was really beautiful. The trees looked awesome with all of the branches covered with snow. Several of our staff mentioned that they had to shovel to get to their cars. We have to tell you that we were pretty happy that it melted so quickly and we are hoping that we aren't in for any more of her shenanigans. Our flowers are trying to blossom and we don't want them frozen.

Speaking of blossoms, when we look out the windows we can see that the leaves on the trees are starting to open up. And, we've heard that some of our farmer friends have been in their fields. We know that it won't be too long before the corn is poking through.

Meanwhile we are keeping busy here at the center with fun and interesting events. The girls just keep coming up with new ideas for us. Each day they are putting together an interesting packet of activities for us to do in our leisure. There are quizzes, puzzles and lots of interesting trivia. We do

so appreciate their imagination. Speaking of packets, a very special friend visited on Tuesday and brought goodie bags for each of us. They were filled with all kinds of fun items, snacks, jokes and April puzzles – what a fun blessing. We want thank Stephanie for taking her time and being so thoughtful.

Speaking of thanks, a couple who are friends of the center brought chicken dinners for our staff this past Friday. It was from the Railside Restaurant in Nelson and it was delicious. The staff really enjoyed the delicious chicken and send their thanks. Central Bank brought homemade cookies for all to enjoy this past week and AFC School has shared delicious candy bars. And – we will share more thanks right here next week in the Gazette.

To be sure that we are "Social Distancing" our staff is visiting each of our rooms daily with music and exercises. Our exercise groups have always been important to us and we are so grateful for their thoughtfulness. We have always felt like exercise and laughter was like doing aerobics on the inside. We hope that you are taking the time to keep fit too – it is so important.

Our manicures are very



important to the ladies and the girls are making sure that each of the ladies has the opportunity to choose their colors and have their nails freshly done. For those girls that aren't into the polish, the girls are providing hand soaks and massages. We love to be pampered.

This week we are welcoming Kurt and Marlene Weippert from Dixon, Thora Cliffe from Rochelle and Elmer Siebens from Dixon. We look forward to the

opportunity to get to know them and hope they will enjoy their stay.

Our staff is very excited that they have gotten new t-shirts this week. They have a great message on them and we hope you will check out our Facebook to see how nice they look. They are very proud to work at Franklin Grove Living and Rehab.

Up-coming events. Wednesday is National Jelly Bean Day. The girls share that it will be fun and special

with a "Jelly Bean Cart." We can hardly wait to see what that will bring.

Birthday greetings this week are going to "Cowboy" Ron Forristal who will celebrate on April 27. We know that he would be excited to get cards from friends.

We have been laughing with some great videos – "The Carol Burnett Show," "Red Skeleton" and some "Mash" plus lots of others. We had forgotten how good those old shows really are.

We love to see some of our younger staff as they stop to watch and laugh with us.

The weather really cooperated over the weekend for many "window" visits. We love it when there is a knock on the window and we spy the smiling faces of family and friends. Plus, we are enjoying the facetime visits that the activity girls help with.

We send our greeting and don't forget to wash your hands!

Meal assistance...

(From page 1)

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 ser-

vices provided – specifically the home delivered meals program that our seniors depend on – will not be interrupted during this ongoing situation. 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.

What's Happening on Illinois Farms

ILLINOIS – "Right This Very Minute" by Lisl H. Detlefsen is book celebrating food and farming. It explains how many different products start on the farm and end up on our tables. With social distancing there are several opportunities to find out what is happen-

ing "right this very minute" on farms. To find out what is taking place on farms all around Illinois you can go to: <https://beyondthebarndoor.wordpress.com/category/right-this-very-minute/>. There are video clips of what farmers are doing all around the state. Also, you can hear the story, "Right This Very Minute".

Closer to home you can follow the Ogle Carroll

Ag in the Classroom Facebook page @OgleCarrollAgClass to find out what is happening on our coordinator's family farm. Melinda Charbonneau, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, is posting videos of spring time adventures on the farm. Through the videos you can learn about sheep and see baby lambs, watch how baby ducks grow, and soon there will be posts show-

ing work taking place in the fields.

Ag in the Classroom is offered through the University of Illinois Extension-Ogle County in partnership with Ogle County Farm Bureau, Carroll County Farm Bureau, Ogle County Soil & Water, and Carroll County Soil & Water. For more information about the program, call the Ogle County Extension Office at 815-732-2191.

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Illinois Farm Bureau accepting applications for 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 inter-

view 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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