Volume 165 - Number 13

www.AmboyNews.com

School board hears reports, approves 8-man football

BY BONNIE MORRIS

AMBOY - The Amboy Board of Education held their regular meeting at Central School on March 18. Several items of business were discussed, including 8-man football, and principals' reports were given.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Amboy High School Principal Janet Crownhart congratlated March Student of the Month Nastasja Vaessen.

Curriculum and School Improvement

• On March 2, district staff attended the SIP day presentation on "Building Relationships with Students" given by Krista Peterson of the Regional Office of Education. Then ELA met to discuss curriculum and Amie Wiseman updated on technology ideas for the classroom.

• On March 5, the Continuous School Improvement team worked with Anji Garza on root causes and ways to improve student performance. The team then went to Sauk on March 12 to work on the next steps in the process.

input on how their classroom policies may impact the School Improvement Team. • Miss Benesh took 16 students to the Holocaust Museum

• The Leadership Team met on March 11 to get teacher

School Activities

• Career Fair was held during the SIP day on March 2. All students were able to speak with local employers about their work, schooling needed, and to ask any other questions they had.

See **BOARD** page A4

Lee County COVID-19 **Testing: 43 Negative Tests / 0 Positive Tests**

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

LEE COUNTY — Monday, March 23 — The Lee County Unified Executive Leadership Team would like to thank you to our community for pulling together and following Governor Pritzker's "Stay at Home" executive order. Lee County Sheriff John Simonton and Dixon Police Chief Steve Howell both report that traffic and call volume are down significantly. This is key to slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives. Reducing the devastation can be broken down into three steps: Stay home, stop the

The team is working with Representative Tom Demmer and the Governor's office to assist community members and local businesses answer questions related to the "Stay at Home" order. This team is committed to working with our businesses and citizens through a community service model. This is new for everyone and we are here to help. Governor Prizker has set up a hotline and email for people who have questions.

"Essential" Business Questions:

If you are a business and not sure how you are affected by the "Stay at Home" Executive Order: The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) can help you decipher the Executive Order.

Please feel free to direct questions to 1-800-252-2923 or CEO.support@illinois.gov.

See COUNTY page A3

Amboy School District provides lunches, continues office hours during shutdown

AMBOY – Amboy School District Superintendent Joshua Nichols was pleased with the e-learning day held in the district on March 16. "It went very smoothly and that is a credit to teachers, staff, administration, parents and students," he said. "I was very impressed by everyone that day."

March 16 was also the first day of providing a sack breakfast/lunch for students. Nichols said 105 meals, breakfast and lunch, were provided that day with the number increasing to 127 on March 17, and 144 on March 18. By the end of the week, the district had served a total of over 500 meals and students were able to continue learning despite the "unprecedented event" everyone is facing.

Other than during spring break, Nichols said each of the school principals is at their school office from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and then they help with lunch distribution. The district office is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

With Governor Pritzker's shelter in place order and the school closure now extended through at least April 7, Nichols noted that the school district is still under the Gubernatorial Closure and utilizing Act of God days through March 30. The Illinois State Board of Education plans to issue new guidance for March 31 and beyond.

Assistance during spring break

During Amboy's spring break, the district is closed from March 23 to 27. Nichols said they will resume providing services on Monday, March 30.

See LUNCH page A4

March comes in like a Lion for the Amboy Lions

AMBOY — The Amboy Lions hit the ground running to start the month of March. On March 6, the Club donated two more AED's (Heart Defibrillators) to area churches, First Congregational Church in Lee Center and Grace Fellowship in Sublette. Members from both churches met Friday, March 6 at the First Congregational Church for training on the use of the AED devices. During the training church members were able to receive "hands-on" practice using the AED. Each church then received an AED to be placed in the lobby area of their churches. With the two recent donations, the Club has now placed seven AED's in area churches and community centers. The following day, March 7, five Club members, Lion

Mark Grossman, Edy Pfeiffer, Jim Travi, Roger Wittenauer and Mary Mays, attended the District 1-D Lions Convention held in Rock Falls. District 1-D encompasses Lions Clubs throughout northwestern Illinois. During the final session on Saturday, district awards were presented to various clubs. The Amboy Lions Club was well represented with these

awards. Former Secretary, Lion Dennis Marsili was recognized for his outstanding service as Secretary of the Club. Current Lion President Roger Wittenauer was recognized for outstanding service as President of the Club. The Amboy Club itself was recognized with a Four Star Club Award for outstanding service to the community. After handing out the service awards to various clubs and individuals, the final recognition award of the evening was given to two Amboy

The Award, District 1-D Lion of the Year for 2018-2019, was presented to both Lion Jim Travi and Lion Roger Wittenauer. This is the first ever District 1-D Lion of the Year Award ever presented. Lion, Jim Travi, a member since 2000, received this honor for his community involvement and his organizing of the Club's First Community Health Fair with an emphasis on Diabetic Retinopathy. Lion Roger Wittenauer, a Lion since 2015, was recognized for his club leadership and for spearheading the AED donations over the past two years. Lions Travi and Wittenauer said they were very humbled



Both Jim Travi and Roger Wittenauer were recognized for their work with the Amboy Lions. Both received the District 1-D LION OF THE YEAR award.

by this honor. Both agree that the Amboy Lions Club members all share in this honor through their support and participation in all club projects and events throughout the year.

At the March 9 Club meeting, guest speaker, Lisa Borgo, a Camp Lions director from Rockford gave a video presentation of what Camp Lions is all about. Camp Lions is a camp for deaf and/or blind area residents. There are several Camp Lions locations throughout Illinois during the summer. Age and the type of disability determine which of the camps the individual attends.

See **LIONS** page A2

AMBOY

Photo submitted

THE FARMER'S REPORT

FARMER'S

REPORT

Obituaries

Albert Fredericks Donna Linder

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Kinzinger announces 2020 Congressional art contest

WASHINGTON, DC -Congressman Adam Kinzinger (IL-16) announced the start of the 2020 Congressional Art Competition. As the competition celebrates its 39th year, the Office of Congressman Kinzinger will now be accepting submissions from all high school students that live in the 16th Congressional District.

In making this announcement, Congressman Kinzinger released the following statement:

"Each year, talented students from across the United States exhibit their creativity in the Congressional Art Competition and every year, I am amazed by the quality artwork we receive. I'm looking forward to seeing the skilled works of art in this year's submissions and encourage all students to take this opportunity and their unexpected extra time at home to showcase their talents for the whole country to enjoy.'

The Congressional Art Competition offers high school students from across the country to showcase their artistic abilities and creativity. First-place winners will have their artwork displayed in the Cannon Tunnel leading to the Capitol for one full year. In addition, winners will be awarded two tickets to Washington, D.C. to attend the official art show opening and a subsequent reception hosted by the Congres-

The submission deadline for the 39th Annual Congressional Art Competition is Friday, April 24 at 5 p.m. CT in the Ottawa District Office. All high school students living in the 16th Congressional District of Illinois are encouraged to participate.

For more information on the Congressional Art Compe-

tition, please visit the Congressman's website.

If you have any additional questions, please call Congressman Kinzinger's Ottawa District Office at 815-431-9271.

Census 2020 count begins

By PETER HANCOCK

Capitol News Illinois

phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD – People throughout the United States can begin filling out their census forms online, and state officials in Illinois are pulling out all the stops to make sure the state gets an accurate headcount.

Between March 12 and March 20, about 95 percent of all households in the country will receive a postcard in the mail inviting them to fill out their census form online or by phone in their language.

"The census is only nine questions – nine questions that impact every single person in your hometown, our state and across the country," Grace Hou, secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, said during a news conference. "These nine questions are

important for your family, your neighbor, your city, your county and your state because your response determines Illinois' infrastructure, meaning roads, hospitals, schools, grocery stores and fire stations."

The U.S. Constitution requires that a census be taken every 10 years in order to apportion seats in Congress. Responding to the census is mandatory for all people living in the United States regardless of their citizenship, although the questionnaire does not ask about citizenship.

The census form asks the name of each person living in the household as of April 1, their dates of birth, ages, race and ethnicity, their relationships to each other and whether the home is occupied by the owners or renters.

See CENSUS page A3

Raoul warns of COVID-19 scams

CHICAGO — Attorney General Kwame Raoul urged Illinois residents to be on alert for possible email and social media scams tied to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Raoul's office is cautioning Illinois residents about products that are marketed as cures or total preventatives to COVID-19. According to Raoul's office, individuals should be cautious of any advice or claims being made that certain products can "cure" COVID-19 or prevent the contraction of COVID-19. Products such as chlorine dioxide, hydroxycholroquine, essential oils, silver, elderberry and garlic are being advertised as "cures" for COVID-19. Raoul urges Illinoisans to not

purchase any product promoted online on

social media or via email that is being touted

as a cure to COVID-19.

Raoul also is urging people to be wary of emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or other entities claiming to have information about COVID-19, or offering treatments or cures. According to the CDC, there is no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it. Attorney General Raoul encourages Illinoisans to delete emails promoting treatments or cures and report the correspondence to the Attorney General's office.

See SCAMS page A3

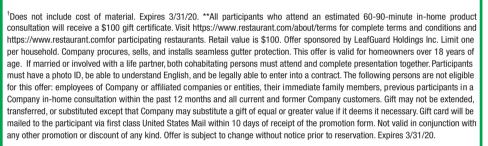


LOCAL NEWS



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LIONS continued from page A1 -

These one week camping sessions allow participants, children through adult, to enjoy supervised fishing, boating, horse-back riding and various other group activities. Lions Clubs and individuals throughout the state help to pay the cost for the individual campers. At the meeting, the Club voted to make a donation to pay for one camper for the 2020 camping season.

In other news, area residents still have time to order roses for Rose Day. Please contact a Lion member if interested in ordering a dozen roses for an April 4 delivery.

roses for an April 4 delivery.

The annual Cliff Walter Easter Egg Hunt has been canceled this year.

Another upcoming event in the planning stage will be the 2nd Amboy Lions Community Health Fair to be held on Oct. 10, 2020,

at the Amboy Community Center. This year along with the audio and vision screening mobile units, there will be a vision testing unit for children six months to eight years of age. If you are interested in offering input, want to be a committee member or would like a vendor's booth at the fair, contact Lion Jim Travi. You do not need to be a Lion member to help with organizing the health fair event.

The deadline for the Amboy Lions Club Scholarship applications has been extended. A new date will be announced when decided upon

If you are interested in learning more about the club or becoming an Amboy Lion, contact a Lion member, or membership coordinator, Lion Jim Travi or visit us on Facebook or check the website.



Church members Cindy Boyenga (right) and Linda Ramsdell (left) practice using an AED during a training session sponsored by the Amboy Lions.

Photo submitted



Amboy Lions Club members attended District 1-D convention in Rock Falls, IL on March 7th. From left to right; Mark Grossman, Edy Pfeiffer, Jim Travi, Roger Wittenauer, and Mary Mays.

Photo submitted



LOCAL NEWS/OBITUARIES

COUNTY continued from page A1-

IDPH Testing Notification Guidelines: KSB Hospital has received a total of 43 results from COVID-19 testing and all results thus far are negative. These test results include results from their entire service area, which is Lee and Ogle County. 44 Lee County residents remain in isolation at home pending test results. 7 residents are in quarantine, meaning they have had potential exposure but are not showing symptoms.

The IDPH has issued guidelines for community notification, so today will be the last day that current day test results received after 12 p.m. will be available via this news release. Here is their procedure:

• IDPH updates the case count at noon

each day to be included in the updated count to be disseminated to the public. • If the case from your County comes in

after noon, it will not be in that day's news • The updated count is updated on the

IDPH website during the Governor's news • The news conference for the Governor

is planned for 2:30 p.m. each day. · IDPH sends a news release with the

updated count. • IDPH asks that local health departments wait until AFTER the Governors news con-

ference to announce cases and testing results. • After the news conference, your County

A prayer for those who are

Worry and fear are not of

Your heart. You Lord, remind

us that perfect love casts out

all fear, and we pray Your

perfect love upon the hearts

of all those who are burdened

with the fear of this virus.

SCAMS continued from page A1

"According to the CDC, there is

currently no known treatment for

COVID-19. People should be aware that

any email or website offering a 'cure' is

a scam that should be avoided," Raoul

said. "I encourage Illinois residents

to delete any email offer, and do not

pay for any alleged COVID-19 'cure'

or 'treatment.' People should instead

follow the guidance of expert agencies

such as the Illinois Department of Public

Health, the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, or the World Health

Organization, and report COVID-19

scams to the Attorney General's office."

to exercise caution when donating to charitable causes connected to the

COVID-19 outbreak. Under Illinois

Raoul is also encouraging people

worried during this unprece-

dented time:

Dear Lord,

can send a news release or hold a news conference to announce cases.

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced 236 new cases, bringing the statewide total to 1,285. Three more deaths were reported, bringing the total deaths in Illinois to twelve. There were no new counties in our region reporting their first positive case. 31 of the 102 counties in Illinois have confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Lee County Courthouse:

Today, Presiding Circuit Judge Jacquelyn Ackert issued an administrative order (Admin Order No. 2020-11) restricting access to the new courthouse to only those individuals from the public who are a "party" to an essential or emergency court proceeding. Visitors who are only present to observe a hearing will not be permitted to enter the courthouse.

Lee County Health Department:

The Lee County Health Department has released a link where people can take virtual field trips with their families over spring break. These field trips include San Diego Zoo, Yellowstone National Park, and Mars.

KSB Hospital:

the serenity that comes only

from your all knowing. Help

those who are living in unease

to trust You in this time so

that in times to come we may

rest assured that You will be

faithful to be with us until the

end of the age. You alone are

In loving prayers,

Your Teen Turf family

the light and the way.

KSB Hospital is exploring the use of retired nurses and physicians to supplement current staff. Efforts are under way to waive certain credentialing requirements. Retired nurses and physicians are asked to contact KSB Hospital Human Resource.

TEEN TURF

Lord, we know with no doubt

that You are bigger than the

threat of anything, especially

are living in fear, please free

them from the bondage that

anxiety creates within. Re-

mind them that You are still

in the driver's seat and are still

in control. Please rain down

Please comfort those who

DBITUARIES

Donna J. Linder April 20, 1945 - March 21, 2020

MENDOTA - Donna Jean Linder, 74, of Mendota passed away March 21, 2020 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria after a long

A Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Cross Church, Mendota will be announced at a later date. Burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery, Mendota. Merritt Funeral Home, Mendota is handling the arrangements. Donna was born April 20,

1945 in Alton to Donald and Mary (Romano) Elliott. She married Oran Linder on June 17, 1967 in Florissant, Mo.

Survivors include her husband of Mendota; one daughter, Michelle (Jim) Murphy of Amboy; two sons, Paul Linder and Daniel Linder, both of Mendota; one brother, Alan (Lis) Walters of East Highland, Calif.; three loving grandchildren; one aunt, Jo Turner of Stillwater, Okla.; and many beloved cousins,

nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her stepfather, Daniel Walters; and numerous aunts and uncles.

Donna was a life long advocate for children both as a high school and junior college instructor and as a counseling psychologist for various social service agencies.

Memorials may be directed to Holy Cross School, Mendota.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR`

DIXON-The Lee County Health Department, 309 S. Galena Ave., is closed for regular business. Call 815-284-3371 for updates.

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/Exten-

> Recycle! Recycle!

Recycle!

sionCOVID19 for updates and to ask questions.

Wednesday, March 25, at the Amboy Township Building, 106 S. Prospect.

LEE CENTER TWP-

The Lee Center Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, at the Township Building, 2202 Shaw Rd., Amboy.

ons Club plans to meet April 13 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

Mutual Mutual Insurance Company

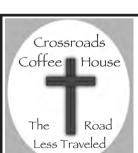
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AMBOY-The Amboy Township Continued Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on AMBOY-All Lee County AMBOY-The Amboy Li-

law, fundraisers and charitable orga-CENSUS continued from page A1

In addition to allocating congressional seats, the federal government also uses that data as the basis for distributing hundreds of billions of dollars each year to states and local communities for things like education, health care, housing, highways and other infrastructure.

State governments also use census data to redraw con-

gressional and state legislative district lines.

Recent census estimates have shown Illinois has been losing population and is at risk of losing at least one of its 18 congressional seats.

Because of that, the Illinois General Assembly last year put \$29 million in the state budget for IDHS to help ensure an accurate count. Hou said \$20 million of that has already been distributed in each of the state's 102 counties to work with local organizations to maximize the census count.

Hou said IDHS was tasked with implementing the census in Illinois because, as the state's main social service agency, it deals directly with "hard-to-count" populations, including the homeless.

In previous years, people received a census form in the mail to be filled out, but this is the first year the U.S. Census Bureau has offered an online option. People will first receive a postcard in the mail inviting them to complete the form on the website, my2020census.gov.

That postcard will contain a 12-digit code that is used to verify a person's address. But those who don't receive a postcard, or who want to fill it out early, may select an option

The Amboy News

Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854 Kip Cheek, Publisher Tonja Greenfield, General Manager Bonnie Morris, Editor Published weekly on Wednesday by The Amboy News 245 E. Main St., Amboy, IL 61310

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All Editorial Deadline: 4 p.m. Friday 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.

tures and programs. To help donors make informed giving decisions, the Attorney General offers the following Do not donate if the solicitor uses high-pressure tactics, asks for payment

nizations are required to register each

year with the Attorney General's office.

The Attorney General's office provides

important financial information about

charities, including income, expendi-

in cash or insists on sending someone to pick up your donation. These are all hallmarks of a scam. If you receive an email or text mes-

sage asking for a donation, confirm that the request is from the charity, and not an imposter, by contacting the charity or visiting its website.

Be cautious of "look-alike" websites.

have an address.

and a paper form to be filled out.

may download harmful malware onto your computer. Don't assume that charity recommendations on Facebook or social

These fraudulent websites will often ask

for personal financial information and

media are legitimate and have already been scrutinized. Research the charity Raoul encourages donors to report

suspicious solicitations to his office's Charitable Trust Bureau at 312-814-2595 (TTY: 1-800-964-3013). People can report scams connected to the COVID-19 outbreak by visiting the Attorney General's website or by calling Raoul's Consumer Fraud Hotline (1-800-386-5438 in Chicago, 1-800-243-0618 in Springfield and 1-800-243-0607 in Carbondale).



to enter their address manually or indicate that they do not

reminding them to complete the forms. They will receive a

third reminder about a week after that. Then, anyone who

still has not completed the form will receive another letter

About a week later, people will receive a follow-up letter



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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

LUNCH continued from page A1

However, parents of any student who will go hungry during the week of spring break are asked to please reach out to Superintendent Nichols at jnichols@amboy. net or to Central Principal Mrs. Schamberger at jschamberger@amboy.net and they will get things in place to see that the child has a school

lunch during break. After spring break

Starting on Monday, March 30, all district services (school lunches and e-learning packets) will be centralized at Central Elementary School. Curbside pick-up will take place at door 19 on the east side of the building in the alley. Traffic will flow

Email news items to tgreenfield@ amboynews.com



221 N. Mason Amboy, IL 61310 (815) 857-2624

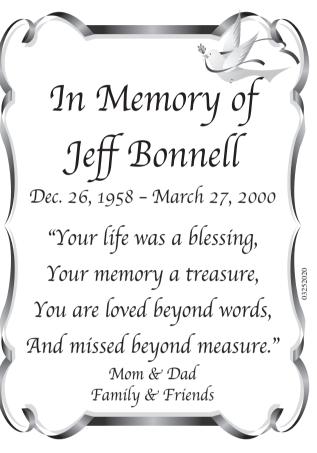
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During the school closure students are not allowed in the buildings but are able to participate in the curbside pick-up of materials and lunches. After guidance is received from the state this week, Nichols will issue a more detailed plan so the district can properly prepare. The district will send out two surveys, one to help determine student access to the internet and another to determine how many school meals they need to make.

Nichols emphasized that he appreciates all the help and support he has received during this time. "I am truly impressed by how people turn out in a crisis to help one another," he said.

DBITUARIES

Albert M. Fredericks Oct. 3, 1937 - March 16, 2020

AMBOY — Albert M. Fredericks, 82, of Amboy, passed away peacefully, Monday, March 16, 2020, at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital, Dixon.

Albert was born, Oct. 3, 1937, in Spring Valley, the son of Albert and Leona (Windlan) Fredericks, Sr. He married Carol (Smith) on June 24, 1960, in Amboy.

He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Carol of Amboy; one daughter, Lisa Habben, of Dixon; one son, Cory (Karla) Fredericks, of Indianapolis, Ind.; daughterin-law, Becky Fredericks, of Amboy; five granddaughters; one grandson; and three great-granddaughters. Albert was preceded in

death by his parents; son, Albert "Craig" Fredericks; brother, Donald Fredericks; and infant sister Ruth Fredericks. Per his request cremation rites have been accorded and

there will be no formal visitation. Therefore in memory of Albert a memorial has been established to Harvest Time Bible Church Building Fund at www.htbc.church.

In lieu of flowers please pray for healing of our coun-



try's crisis.

Arrangements were completed by Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon.

BOARD continued from page A1-

There were about 40 employers available for students. Crownhart thanked Deanna Drew, Amie Wiseman, Melissa Mills, and Katie Bulfer for their help making the career fair hap-

· MORP was held March 6 from 8-10 p.m. with the juniors winning PowerBuff Volleyball from 4-6 p.m. that evening.

• Mr. Kemmerer took students to the Solo and Ensemble Contest and came home with four 1st place medals, six 2nd place, and a Best of Day awarded to Tyler Stewart who received a perfect score. Congratulations to all who participated. **Building Activities**

· ROE performed their Health, Life, Safety Inspections on March 5.

Principal Andrew Full, Amboy Junior High

Curriculum and School Improvement

 On March 2 during School Improvement Day, Krista Peterson from the ROE talked to the staff about building relationships with students.

· Amie Wiseman discussed some different technology ideas/apps about drawing. ELA teachers met with the Wit and Wisdom representative.

• On March 3, the School Improvement Team met with Anji Garza to continue discussing professional development for the remainder of the year and next year. They also discussed their 1003 (a) grant budget and new curriculums.

• On Feb. 4, the 5th/6th grade teams met for grade level meetings and on Feb. 11, 7th/8th grade teams met.

•On Feb. 3, during the monthly PBIS SIPAssembly, the following awards were given out: Clipper P.R.I.D.E., Students of the Month, Faculty/Staff Recognition, and Girls Basketball. A friendly competition was held between grade levels.

• Clipper P.R.I.D.E. recipients included Zyler Smith, Blerta Fekolli, Kaylee Scanland, Josh McKendry, Kabe Daniels, Carson Barlow, Nicholas Noble, Alainie Wittenauer, Madison Althaus, James Eisenberg, Brandon Garcia-Meirndorf, Bentley Wiley, John Bonnell, Jack Cline, Aaron Costner, Alyxandria Shepard, Aubrey McGuire, Micah Miller, Lilly Montantes, Javion Greene, Bella Yanos, and Rylyn Karrow.

• Students of the Month 5th Grade-Lane Goff and Leighton Gulley

6th Grade-Peyton Payne

and Victor Lopez-Belmontes 7th Grade-Brysen Full and Brooklyn Strub

8th Grade-Brennan Blaine and Rylyn Karrow

P.E.-Alyvia Whelchel Faculty/StaffRecognition winners were Vanessa Goslin and Josie Morris.

Principal Joyce Schamberger, Central Elementary School Improvement

• The Central School Improvement Team attended training at Sauk and continues to meet to discuss the indicators for improvement of the school.

PBIS

• During an all school assembly on March 2, Student of the Week certificates were handed out.

• Third quarter PBIS celebrations were held on March 13. The elementary school went to the Princeton theater to watch the movie, "Onward."

School Activities

• The 2nd grade class won the Best Attendance Award for February with 98.2 percent attendance. They earned a snack sponsored by the Central School PTC.

• On March 2, John Jones spoke to students about the Girls Scouts program. Information and coloring sheets were handed out to students.

• Set-up for the Pancake/ French Toast and Sausage Breakfast was on Feb. 29 and the breakfast was held on March 1. The event served 1,134 people with 53 tickets sold at the door. There were 1,565 pre-sold tickets. Schamberger thanked everyone who made this a successful fundraiser. • On March 5, a Story

Walk was held in the gym. Families came and enjoyed the story and the activities at each station. OTHER BUSINESS

 The board gave approval to the administration to begin moving forward with 8-Man Football at Amboy High School, effective fall of 2021. Nichols said his feeling is that people are supportive of this change.

 The 2020-21 school calendar was approved. Next year's calendar is similar to this year's and is aligned closely with Whiteside.

PERSONNEL

Following closed session, the board accepted the resignation of Deanna Drew as AHS agriculture teacher at the end of this school year and that of Kristi Boehle as building secretary at Central School, effective Feb. 28. They accepted the retirement resignation of Cheryl Bonnell as reading paraprofessional at Central School, effective at the end of the school year, and that of Elmer Shaw as a bus driver, effective March 2.

They approved the employment of Trese McNinch as AHS fresh/soph girls track coach for the 2019-20 school year and Ben Schott as boys track coach at Amboy Junior High also for the 2019-20 school year.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 23 at Amboy Junior High School. All meetings are open to the public.

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> St. Mary Church **Rev. Timothy Draper** 912 Walton Rd., Walton 815-857-2670 Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm

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

> St. Flannen Church **Rev. Timothy Draper** 213 S Second St., Harmon 815-857-2670

Mass: Sunday, 7:30 am

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

(815)539-7276

Ron Schmitt

(815)539-7068

Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

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

East Grove Union Church Pastor Richard Wulf, 815-440-5321 449 Reuter Road, Amboy Phone 815-376-6661

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St. James Evangelical Congregational Church Robert Dunbar., Pastor US Route 52 & Red Brick Rd., Dixon 815-288-2447

Sunday 10:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Ladies Bible Study, Wed. 9 a.m.

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

St. Mary's Church

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

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

Sunday School - 9:40-10:15 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Rev. Randy Fronek Locust Street, Sublette Phone 815-849-5412 Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Mass -10:30 a.m. Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. Thursday - 8:30 a.m.

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

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

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SOCIAL NE



For Such A Time As This

BY PASTOR JOHN KALEBAUGH "A scared world needs a Fearless Church". A.W. Tozer

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting our nation and the rest of the world to a degree that few thought possible a couple months ago. It is therefore important for us to use wisdom and discretion in all areas of our daily lives. But it also important for Christians not give in to the temptation of allowing fear to control us. The Bible says, "Do not be afraid of sudden terror... For the Lord will be your confidence" Proverbs 3:25-26. I have witnessed many people recently in the media-and in person, who have been consumed with "terror." Perhaps the hardest times of our lives may be when fear comes upon us "suddenly."

This was the mood of the times when our country was thrust into WWII after being "suddenly and deliberately attacked." President Roosevelt spoke of that "Day of Infamy" before congress when he predicted "inevitable triumph ... So help us God." In those days our country did not succumb to the "sudden terror" which most everyone certainly

felt. Instead, we banded together as a nation and looked to God. We rose up as a... "United States" and fought the enemy and won... With God's help. It was a time when priorities were put back into place and many people turned back to God

The Bible records a time when the nation of Judah was also surrounded by an enemy force and faced overwhelming odds. Part of the prayer that King Jehoshaphat prayed that day was ... we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." 2 Chronicles 20:12 Isn't this the feeling that many are feeling today? In some ways we feel "powerless" against a virus that is quickly surrounding us and which we cannot stop. We don't know what to do... "But our eyes are upon God." This is a time for the Church to rise up – not in fear, or in confidence of our own power and ability, but in the true faith of our fathers and mothers – faith in the living God who is still "mighty to save "

The Bible tells the story of a time

when there was a fiendish plot to try and destroy all the Jews in the Persian Empire. Queen Esther (herself being Jewish) was in a position to help. Her godly Uncle Mordecai counseled her, ...Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (4:14b) Queen Esther acted upon his advice and many lives were saved! Perhaps this is also a time when we Christians currently find ourselves in God's Kingdom "...for such a time as this." It has blessed me to already be hearing of people that I know personally asking if there are others with needs in light of current circumstances. Their intent is, "we'll see what we can do." What a loving example they show of God's care for frightened and needy people. May this be all of our example as well.

So do not allow "sudden terror" to overwhelm you brothers and sisters. Rather, with our eyes upon God let us join together and prayerfully seek Him to bring guidance and hope for a fearful world and community. Maybe we too are here, "for such a time as this."

God's Peace.

Educational Briefs

University of Wyoming Fall Semester Dean's **Honor Rolls**

WYOMING — The University of Wyoming lists 25 students from Illinois on the 2019 fall semester academic Dean's and Dean's Freshman Honor

Included on that list is George Mc-Caffrey, of Amboy.

The honor rolls consist of regularly enrolled undergraduates above freshman standing who earned a 3.4 or better grade-point average, and freshmen who have earned a 3.25 or better grade-point

To be eligible, students must have been enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours taken for letter grades.

The University of Wyoming provides

quality undergraduate and graduate programs to 12,249 students from all 50 states and 88 countries.

For more information about the University of Wyoming, view the webpage at: www.uwyo.edu.

Local student named to dean's list at Washington University in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Mo. - Jared Harrison of Dixon, was named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. Harrison is currently enrolled in the university's McKelvey School of Engineering.

To qualify for the dean's list in the McKelvey School of Engineering, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 or above and complete at least 12 graded units.

Washington University in St. Louis is counted among the world's leaders in teaching, research, patient care and service to society.

McCaffrey graduates from University of Wyoming

WYOMING—George McCaffrey, of Amboy, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wyoming upon completion of the 2019 fall semester.

The University of Wyoming provides quality undergraduate and graduate programs to 12,249 students from all 50 states and 88 countries. A low student/faculty ratio allows for individual instruction and attention, and undergraduates often participate in cutting-edge research projects.

The Book Nook By: Tatjana Kazan

Perilous Lives

n Feb. 11, 1910, during a paralyzing snowstorm, a child is born with the umbilical cord wrapped around its neck; the doctor and midwife are prevented by the snowstorm to rescue the baby. It is stillborn. But in Kate Atkinson's magnificent novel "Life After Life," a subsequent version of the birth has the doctor arrive in time to save the baby. The baby's name is Ursula and she becomes the heroine in the perilous events which end in her deaths, followed by alternate versions that keep her safe.

This sounds awfully contrived, but Atkinson is such a skillful writer that we, the readers, willingly suspend disbelief. Two opposing concepts are at work here: reincarnation and an idea that the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche espoused: amor fati, the acceptance, or even embrace, of one's fate, and the rejection that anything could or should have happened differently. Considering that young Ursula drowns, falls from a rooftop, gets the Spanish flu, and is murdered by a violent husband, the revisionist version of her life seems preferable to joyous acceptance, especially since Ursula lives through the unspeakable horrors of the London Blitz.

Atkinson deftly creates a lively childhood for Ursula, despite her "deaths." Her parents – Sylvie, the sardonic, but usually fair-minded mother and Hugh, the nurturing father - along with a slew of bright children live in a modest house called Fox Corner in the English countryside; there are cherished family dogs and dolls, gruff servants and a breezy, rebellious aunt. On her sixteenth birthday, Ursula suffers a kind of death when a loutish guest rapes her and she becomes pregnant and has an abortion. She is expelled from Fox Corner, and turns to drink, and finally to suicide. In the alternate version, the boy merely steals a kiss from her.

Ursula spends a year abroad, and happens to befriend a young woman by the name of Eva Braun, the mistress of the future Fuhrer. Ursula also meets and marries Jurgen and they have a daughter, Frieda. She takes Frieda with her to the Berghof when Eva invites her for a visit. It is 1939, the eve of the Second World War. Ursula's encounter with godlike Hitler is priceless: he naps in the sun, mouth slack, he loves operettas and his favorite movie is "Cinderella."

The London Blitz dominates the second half of the novel. It is a superb rendition of the gruesome damage inflicted by German bombs. In one version, Ursula is killed in a shelter, in another version, she is the nightwatch warden rescuing the injured and retrieving the dead. The novel ends with the scene from the book's prologue: Ursula enters a café, where Hitler invites her to sit with him and his entourage, and after a while, she takes out a revolver and points it at Hitler's heart.

Email news items to tgreenfield@ amboynews.com

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Jpinion

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

Family issues are corporate ones too

Thy don't you just order your wife Guest Column When I was supervising reporters and editors I to look after your daughter?" I'm rarely at a loss for words,

but when a man who is no longer my boss said that to me, I was left speechless.

What I should have said is, "I don't order my wife to do anything." Instead, like most working parents I just kept my mouth shut. My wife and I have an arrangement, when we have a sick child we take turns staying home and looking after her.

I thought it was a pretty equitable agreement. After all, my wife is employed, too.

My boss didn't see it that way. He viewed caring for a sick child as something an employer should not be concerned with.

(He'd also grumble about women taking maternity leave while, at the same time, he'd send them flowers and congratulations from him and his wife.)

Charming fellow.

To be fair, I've also had some understanding bosses over the years who really worked to accommodate family needs.

By Scott Reeder



Today, I'm blessed to be self-employed and

work from a home office. And my daughters can just stay home with me if they aren't feeling well.

But I haven't forgotten what it was like to be stuck with a less than understanding boss.

I was thinking about that Friday, when an email came across my desk saying Illinois schools will be closed at least until the end of March because of coronavirus concerns.

I imagine the news had some children dancing a jig and more than a few parents scratching

Who is going to look after the kids?

Some kids have nearby grandparents or other relatives who can step into the gap. But not all families are so blessed.

This means parents will need to take time off work. And that is easier said than done.

Several decades ago, I took management training and was told by a human resources director: "Sick days are to be used for when employees are sick – not their children."



On This Day in History

100 Years Ago March 26, 1920

It is doubtful if any town of Amboy's size can boast of more attractive, convenient and commodious quarters for an undertaking establishment that those which Mr. Frank C. Vaughn has been occupying since the first of the year in the Briggs building.

Berry's Restaurant now occupies the newly redecorated quarters on East Avenue formerly occupied by Fowler's

Mrs. Fred Leake and children and Mrs. Fred Katzwinkle spent Tuesday in West Brooklyn.

Misses Gertrude Mercer and De Lyle Scott spent Saturday in Mendota.

75 Years Ago March 22, 1945

Miss Barbara Herlin, new home adviser in Lee County, will begin her duties here May 1, 1945.

success with their waste paper drive Saturday and it was estimated that about eight tons were collected.

Miss Anna Ayres, who has been spending the winter with her sister, Mrs. W.F. Entorf and family at Elmhurst, is now at Westfield, N.J., visiting relatives.

50 Years Ago March 26, 1970

Under consideration for some weeks, a new salary schedule for teachers in Amboy Community Unit School District No. 272 was adopted Tuesday evening by the board of education. Starting salary for a teacher with a B.S. degree and no experience is \$7,400 under the new schedule as compared to \$6,900 for the 1969-70 school year.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy McCracken entertained dinner at their home Tuesday evening of last week in observance of the hostess' birthday which was Wednesday. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Patter-

Amboy Boy Scouts scored a fine son of Franklin Grove, Mrs. and Mrs. George King and Mrs. Anna Whitmore.

Mrs. James Braida, Mrs. Thomas Gilbert and Mrs. E.P. O'Rourke, who have been named co-chairman of the 19790 Red Cross Fund Drive in Amboy, report that the drive is now in progress and will be completed before the end

25 Years Ago March 30, 1995

Amboy Board of Education is sharply divided on how and when to address the overcrowding at Center and the junior high. Some board members said at Monday's meeting they do not have enough information to make a decision.

Amboy High School will present its spring musical, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Friday, Saturday and Sunday



This forced many employees to lie about who was really ill if they had to stay home with a feverish child.

It would be easy to paint the bosses as the bad guys in this mix. But life is seldom so black and white.

Oftentimes, managers would make Herculean efforts to accommodate employees with child-care issues. Of course, this had to be done on the downlow because corporate policy dictated that it wasn't something they were to be concerned

But how do you make those accommodations and keep everyone happy? You can't.

At the time I was single and childless. And I became a go-to guy to fill in for the night and weekend shifts of workers who stayed home caring for their kids. Looking back, I'd like to think I was magnanimous about helping out. I wasn't always. After all, no one is keen on canceling plans or eating the

cost of tickets to concerts or sporting events. But in a time of crisis, like we are experiencing today, a

little extra grace needs to be extended. It may mean filling in for a co-worker who is home looking after a child. If you are a middle manager, it may mean advocating for the needs of your employees. And if you are a senior manager, it's time to acknowledge

that family issues are also corporate ones.

After all, no employee should have to choose between pleasing a boss or caring for a child.

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

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Something to say?

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

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

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

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

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

Political endorsements will be published, however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed. Letters may be dropped at the Amboy News office, 245

E. Main Street, mailed to the Amboy News at PO Box 162, Amboy, IL 61310, or emailed to tgreenfield@amboynews.com

The Amboy News reserves the right to edit or reject any letter to the editor for any reason, and letters chosen for publication do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper, its management and or ownership.

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DISCOVER NEW THINGS ABOUT YOU... AND

DESPITE THESE REVELATIONS, I STILL LOVE YOU.

DAD, CAN YOU TAKE ME TO TOWN-I NEED TO GET SOME GASOLINE, SOME PROPANE AND

SOME KEROSENE.

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PUT YOUR FOOT DOWN.

LOCAL NE

Posting Date March 23, 2020

King Crossword

16

36

15

33

48

21 22 23

39 38

ACROSS Sacred wading bird

by Dave T. Phipps

NOTHING. THEN IT'S HIS TURN TO WORRY ABOUT US.

by Gary Kopervas

KARBAS

by Mike Marland

FRAID

by Jeff Pickering

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PULL YOUR FOOT OUT

SINCE YER TAKIN'
MUSIC LESSONS, YA THET A
SHOULD BE PRACTISN' BETTER
EVRY DAY...
IDEAR'

LAFF-A-DAY

"I can see part of the trouble already."

0

SHE'S GOT HER

FATHER'S SENSE

OF HUMOR.

ONCE HE'S AN ADULT, THEN WHAT DO WE WORRY ABOUT?

IN A RECENT QUINNIPIAC POLL, 32% OF PEOPLE POLLED HAVE

NO IDEA WHAT QUINNIPIACIS OR WHAT THE POLL EVEN MEANS.

- 5 Suitable 8 Morse "T"
- 12 Created 13 Meadow
- 14 Erstwhile
- Peruvian 15 Series of
- missed calls
- 17 Celebrity
- 18 Pair
- 19 Consecrate with oil
- 21 Cognizant 24 Huffed and
- puffed 25 Shrewd
- 26 Lunch holder 30 Tokyo's old
- name 31 Canonized one
- 32 Beer-like brew 52 Finish 33 Joke that
- radio 35 On the briny
- 36 Thy
- 41 Blond shade
- 42 Ark builder
- jazz tune
- pivot

- 50 Car 51 German city
- won't work on **DOWN**
 - 1 Mischievous

53 Encounter

- tyke 37 Theater staff-"Humbug!"
- 3 Altar affirma-38 Treeless tract tive
 - 4 Guard 5 Chorus mem-
- 43 Long-popular ber 6 Shooter
- 48 Shrek, for one 49 Pirouette

8 Drop from a 31 Halt will

43

49

- 9 Opposed 10 Read cursorily
- 11 Rodgers collaborator
- 20 Salamander 21 Dogfight par-
- ticipants 22 Gully
- 23 Awestruck
- 26 Loaf of French bread
- ammo 27 Wild party 28 Sheltered
- 7 Annoying fol-
- 35 Religious 16 Lamb's mama retreat 37 Handle
 - 38 Uppity one 39 Takeout phrase
- 40 Deserve 24 Pipe type 41 On in years 44 Charged bit
 - 45 Regret

45

34 It's handy if

word

you have to

break your

50

- 46 Corroded 47 Obtained
- 29 Paraphernalia

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Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦ ♦ ♦ HOO BOY! © 2020 King Features Synd., Inc

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF **HOCUS-FOCUS**



CryptoQuip

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

UX VXGN EIYYQVD LNXLJN, LANVV

ZNTVXAVDQL GQYDU KN RNVZAQKNR IV EAQUNA'V ZJIGL.

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HARLEY

Τοdαγ's Word

3. Chagrin; 4. Bugle

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez 1. TELEVISION: Which show was a spinoff of the 1970s show "The Six Million Dollar Man"? 2. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president had a personal retreat at Warm

- Springs, Georgia? 3. GEOGRAPHY: Which river runs
- through the city of Paris, France? 4. MOVIES: Who was the young
- female star of the movie "Firestarter"? 5. SCIENCE: What is the largest living structure on Earth?
- 6. FIRSTS: Who is the first (and only so far) football player to win the Heisman Trophy twice?
- 7. HISTORY: How many people were officially executed in the Reign of Terror after the French Revolution?
- 8. BIBLE: How many prove King Solomon compose?
- 9. BUSINESS: What is the unit of currency used in South Africa? 10. U.S. STATES: Which three states
- have four-letter names?

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10. Ohio, Iowa and Utah 9. The rand 000,€.8 000,71 tsomIA.7 6. Archie Griffin, Ohio State 5. The Great Barrier Reef 4. Drew Barrymore 3. The Seine River 2. Franklin Roosevelt 1. "The Bionic Woman" Trivia Test Answers

T N I O N A O W T PHONETAG

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers — **Kind** Crossword —

7	3	2	ħ	g	8	ŀ	9	6	
6	ħ	g	9	ŀ	7	3	8	L	
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g	2	6	ŀ	8	Þ	۷	3	9	

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

as writer's clamp. ceusolayib might be described To some waggish people, press **suswer**

"When my wife told me that my birthday gift was something I could use outdoors, I thought she meant a ______."

SCRAMBLERS

DERE'S BETTER JES'WATCHIN'
T'INGS T'DO WIT TV IS SUCH A
YER TIME... WASTE!

by Dave T. Phipps

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

RELAY Outrage RANGE

Irritation AGRINCH Clarion BULGE

TODAY'S WORD

1. Layer; 2. Anger; uoitulos

SCRAMBLERS

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Steward Elementary School District 220 will receive single prime sealed bids for Steward Elementary School Replacement 2020 until 11:00 a.m. local time on April 7, 2020 at the Steward Elementary School District 220, 602 Main Street, Steward, Illinois 60553, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bidding documents, including the Proposal Form, Drawings and Specifications, will be provided to the follow-

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101

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www.cmdgroup.com

Master Builders of Iowa (800) 362-2578 www. mbionline.com Northern Illinois Build-

ing Contractors Association (815) 229-5636 www.nibca.build

This project includes: Replacement of existing shingle roof at Steward Elementary School. American Reprographics Company (www.e-arc.com), 640 North LaSalle Street, Suite 240, Chicago, Illinois, will have complete sets of the Bidding Documents to prospective bidders and subcontractors available for download through their Public Planroom under the "Print Center" link on their homepage. The Bid Documents will be available about March 16, 2020. There is no

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cost to download the drawings, however, prospective bidders must provide all requested information when completing the download process in order that they will receive proper updates. Prospective bidder may choose to purchase hard copies of the Bidding Documents from American Reprographics Company at their own expense.

Make proposals on

the bid forms supplied in the Project Manual. No oral, telegraphic or telephonic proposals or modifications will be considered. Submit with each bid, a certified check or acceptable bidder's bond payable to Steward Elementary School District 220 in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the total bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish satisfactory Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Performance Bond.

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201

NO

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203

Board of Education

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307

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THE FARMER'S REPORT



ARS scientists tag corn plants identified in the lab as having molecular markers associated with resistance to Aspergillus flavus and aflatoxin accumulation.

New tool could help scientists dig deeper for prized crop genes

A new computer application (app) from Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists could speed the search for genes that underpin important crop traits, like high yield, seed quality and resistance to pests, disease or adverse environmental conditions.

Known as the Pathway Association Studies Tool (PAST), the app allows users to build on the results of genome-wide association studies (GWAS) of crops. GWAS takes a kind of bird'seye look at a crop plant's genome for marker regions called single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). Finding SNP markers near the gene or genes encoding a desired trait can flag the genomic whereabouts of those genes, and also help plant breeders follow the trait's inheritance and expression. This makes it easier to select plants that have the desired trait and develop new, elite varieties from them for producers.

However, GWAS's a statistical threshold means that only markers with the strongest gene associations are identified, noted Marilyn Warburton, a geneticist with ARS's Corn Host Plant Resistance Research Unit (CHPRRU) in Mississippi State, Mississippi. This can blind researchers to the presence of other gene markers that fall below the threshold, but are no less meaningful to

their studies, she added. PAST picks up the slack by taking an additional step

known as metabolic pathway analysis. This added step doesn't just find interesting markers that GWAS misses; it also reveals important biological information about their associated genes and how each contributes to the biochemical assembly of a plant trait, function or response—regardless of the crop species.

Warburton's team published a paper describing PAST in the January 2020 issue of the journal Plants and posted an announcement about the app to her LinkedIn account, which has received 5,500 views to date. About 900 users from around the world have downloaded the app so far, and Warburton hopes for even greater awareness of it following the March 12 release on the MaizeGDB website, a database with extensive genomics and genetics information about corn (maize).

In her own research, Warburton's use of both GWAS and PAST has already led to the identification of genes in corn plants for resistance to the corn earworm (a caterpillar pest) and Aspergillus flavus, a greenish mold that produces a carcinogen called aflatoxin. Unchecked, corn earworms feed on the corn plant's silks and kernels, causing damage that fosters Aspergillus growth and afla-

toxin contamination. By federal law, corn or other grains with aflatoxin levels exceeding 20 parts per billion cannot be sold for human consumption, and the grains' use for animal feed is restricted. In the United States, outbreaks of Aspergillus molds that produce the carcinogen inflict more than \$200 million annually in economic losses for corn and \$300 million for peanuts and other crops combined. Warburton's research is part of a broader effort at CHPRRU together with Mississippi State University (MSU) collaborators to preempt aflatoxin on multiple fronts—with plantings of resistant corn varieties being a keystone defense.

She credited Adam Thrash (MSU graduate student), Daniel Peterson (MSU faculty), Mason Deornellis (MSU undergraduate) and Juliet Tang (an ARS postdoc, now a scientist with the Forest Service) with assisting in the development, testing and release of PAST.

Warburton expects the app's ease of use and versatility could also buttress GWAS studies of animals and even humans, in which the identification of genes linked to inherited diseases can lead to personalized medicines to treat these diseases.

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

Sign-up period underway for Wetland Reserve Easements

CHAMPAIGN — Ivan Dozier, State Conservationist, announced the application period for the 2020 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-WRE). USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps provide long-term protection of Illinois' farmland, wetlands and grasslands through ACEP.

"The first application cut-off date has been established," Dozier explained. "Right now we're accepting applications for Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). Applications that meet program eligibility and ranking criteria and are received by April 13 will be considered for the 2020 program."

For ACEP-WRE in FY20 Illinois was allocated \$5.4 million. NRCS may establish a second application funding cutoff opportunity later this year if all funds are not used in the first application cutoff. Dozier reminds farmers and landowners they can apply for ACEP-and all conservation programs—at any time, as sign-up is continual and applications can be submitted any time.

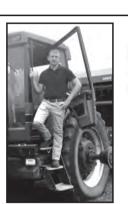
NRCS offers two types of easements through ACEP: Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). NRCS will establish an application cutoff for ALE at a later date. NRCS is still finalizing ranking criteria for fiscal year 2020. The Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARCs) have been established and are available on the NRCS website. GARCs establish the rate per acre that NRCS pays to landowners for the ACEP-WRE easement.

The purpose of the Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) is to help landowners enhance and protect habitat for wetland wildlife on their lands, reduce impacts from flooding, recharge groundwater, provide outdoor recreation, and increase habitat for migratory waterfowl.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners to restore, protect and enhance wetlands through the purchase of these easements, and eligible landowners can choose to enroll in a permanent or 30-year easement. To apply for a wetlands easement through ACEP - WRE, visit NRCS at your local USDA Service Center.

Find more information about ACEP and other NRCS conservation programs in Illinois online at www.il.nrcs. usda.gov/programs.







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