Volume 164 - Number 08

www.AmboyNews.com

\$1.00



ELITE EIGHT

The Amboy Lady Clippers won their Sectional title on Feb. 14, advancing them to the Elite Eight. Pictured left is the team celebrating the victory. The Amboy Lady Clippers saw their incredible season come to a close in the Elite Eight against the defending Class 1A state champions on Monday night. Amboy went up against a powerful Danville Schlarman team and the Lady Clippers were taken down, 75-34, in the Pontiac Supersectional on Feb. 18. For more on both games, see Section B.

Photo by Kirsten Donna

Minimum wage increase heads to Pritzker's desk

BY JERRY NOWICKI

Capitol News Illinois

jnowicki@capitolnewsillinois.com **SPRINGFIELD** – A bill to raise Illinois' minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 needs only Gov. J.B. Pritzker's signature to become law, and his office said he stands ready to act in the coming days.

"Today is a resounding victory for the 1.4 million Illinoisans who will soon get a hard-earned and well-deserved raise," Pritzker said in a news release Thursday. "After nearly a decade of delay, I applaud the House and Senate for passing a living wage with the fierce urgency this moment requires."

The House galleries were filled with cheers from advocates - many of them currently making the minimum wage - as the final 69-47-1 favorable vote became official.

Prior to the final vote, Pritzker was on the House floor smiling and shaking the hands of Democratic lawmakers – even as Republican Minority Leader Jim Durkin was lamenting the lack of bipartisanship behind the effort in his floor speech.

'This is not the way to start out the General Assembly," Durkin said, adding Republicans had "basically been told your interests and your thoughts are not valid and we don't care."

All in Durkin's Republican caucus

were joined by four Democrats opposing the bill while one, Stephanie Kifowit of Aurora, voted present after two hours of debate.

In their final efforts to derail the fasttracked bill, Republicans once again shared stories from business owners. universities, colleges and schools within their districts detailing layoffs, closures and increased property taxes.

Rep. Charlie Meier, an Okawville Republican, said the bill would hurt agriculture and small-town businesses such as groceries.

"The small family farms will suffer the worst with the organic farms, orchards, vineyards, wineries, and the livestock industry being hit the hardest of all," Meier said. "This is another Illinois law that will yet again put our region at a disadvantage.'

Rep. Tom Bennett, a Gibson City Republican, cited a National Federation of Independent Businesses study which said Illinois would see 93,000 jobs lost because of the increase. Rep. Terri Bryant, a Murphysboro Republican, said the bill would cost Illinois' public universities \$112 million by the time it is implemented.

Republicans also brought up the hundreds of millions of dollars the bill would add to the state's expenditures as human service providers – especially

nursing homes, 25 of which have closed since 2014 because of inadequate Medicaid reimbursements - universities and other departments request more funding to pay for the higher labor costs.

But Rep. Will Guzzardi, Senate Bill 1's House sponsor, continued to point to data which shows no impact on job losses when communities see an "incremental" minimum wage increase, and spoke to the dignity of the worker.

"The only way to stop being poor is to have more money," he said. "And that's what this legislation is going to do. The working poor in our state are going to have more money. We will treat their labor with the dignity and respect it deserves, and we will allow them to provide a better standard of living for themselves and their families."

While Republicans continued to argue that the studies cited by Guzzardi predict only an incremental increase - not an 82 percent spike in six years - many Democrats were convinced by the moral argument.

Rep. Emmanuel "Chris" Welch of Westchester was among them.

"People should not go to work 40 hours a week and still not be able to put food on the table," he said.

See BILL page A7

Area Representatives reject partisan minimum wage bill

SPRINGFIELD—On Thursday, members of the House of Representatives approved a minimum wage hike that adds significant budgetary pressures to the State of Illinois budget. Republican lawmakers, many of whom asked for the process to be slowed down so that concerns could be addressed, voted unanimously against the bill.

After the vote, State Representative Tom Demmer (R-Dixon) issued the following statement:

"Every year one of the most difficult votes we take is on the passage of a state budget. The action we took today adds hundreds of millions of dollars in new budgetary pressures. We already have billions in unpaid bills on our shoulders, and we simply cannot afford the expectations built into this bill. If we don't come up with a sufficient increase in appropriations to meet these new obligations, the responsibility falls to social service providers, to non-profits, to school districts and local governments to pay the new minimum wage. Today's vote put incredible pressure on these providers.

"This legislation limits our ability to grow jobs in this state. It makes our job creators think twice about staying in Illinois or maintaining current staffing levels. We need to encourage job growth, not limit it. With this vote we once again put politics over policy.

See WAGE page A7

AMBOY

The Amboy Lady

PAGE B1-2

Clippers are Sectiona

Legislation would greatly expand reproductive rights in Illinois

BY REBECCA ANZEL

Capitol News Illinois

ranzel@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — A bill overhauling Illinois' abortion law and replacing it with a more liberal version has wide Democratic support in the House.

The Reproductive Health Act, proposed by Rep. Kelly Cassidy, repeals the current law dictating abortion policies in the prairie state and replaces it with policies to "protect individual decision-making.'

Cassidy (D-Chicago) announced her intentions in filing this bill at a news event Tuesday in Chicago at the headquarters of the state's chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"As a woman, a mother and someone who has been a longtime supporter of full access to reproductive care, from contraception, abortion, pregnancy and postpartum care, it is time to modernize and update these laws to reflect the equality of women in Illinois," she said.

Cassidy's proposal follows a pledge Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker made to "make Illinois the most progressive state in the nation for access to reproductive health care," his spokeswoman Jordan Abudayyeh said in an email. Under the proposed legislation, private health

insurance companies operating in Illinois would need to cover abortion procedures without implementing "any restrictions or delays on

the coverage." This would expand a law signed by former Gov. Bruce Rauner, which allowed tax dollars to be spent on abortion procedures through Illinois' Medicaid and state employee health insurance programs. Soon after passage, that legislation was challenged in court by attorneys with the Thomas More Society. It filed documents with the State Supreme Court in December 2018

asking the justices to take up the case. Cassidy's measure additionally specifies that "a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights." It mandates that the state cannot infringe upon the expanded rights this legislation grants women, and creates an

avenue for legal action. Her legislation also repeals the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act and the Abortion Performance Refusal Act, which specifies that a medical professional who declines to recommend or perform an abortion procedure cannot be held

liable for damages. This initiative is one of two Democrats are pushing this legislative session to expand reproductive rights, they said at the Feb. 12 news event. The other is Senate Bill 1594, a measure proposed by Sen. Elgie Sims, Jr. (D-Chicago), to repeal the Parental Notification of Abortion Act. It requires a minor to consult with her parent or guardian before terminating a pregnancy.



Breakfast For 50 Cents offered in Dixon

DIXON — The Lee County Farm Bureau will be hosting their annual Farmer's Share Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Loveland Community House in Dixon. The breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and costs only 50 cents

The Public Relations Committee will prepare a breakfast and for only 50 cents per plate, or the actual "farm" value of the breakfast. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, orange juice, milk, and coffee.

The purpose of this breakfast is to help demonstrate the amount of income the average farmer would receive from a meal like the one being prepared. On average, between breakfasts prepared at home and in a restaurant, the farmer receives 50 cents.

The Lee County Farm Bureau's mission is to be a positive voice for agriculture through leadership and education to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of our

Obituaries Doris Ail

March SNAP benefits will be issued on March 1 for all SNAP recipients

CHICAGO - The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) announced today that March Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will be issued early to Illinois customers.

March SNAP benefits will be loaded into customers' accounts on

"Our communities shouldn't have to suffer because of the federal shutdown, and we'll continue to do all we can at the state level so that Illinoisans don't see a disruption in their SNAP benefits," said Governor Pritzker. "Our plan will reduce the waiting time for benefits for SNAP

recipients so our vulnerable residents won't have to worry about whether the shutdown will prevent them from accessing these services.'

SNAP is a federal program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and distributed through IDHS in Illinois. Because of the way the USDA funded SNAP during the federal shutdown, February benefits were issued in January. These benefits are typically issued in February and intended for use in February.

To reduce the time in between February and March SNAP issuances, IDHS created a new SNAP issuance

schedule for March and April. IDHS will be issuing all March benefits on

Customers typically receive their SNAP benefits at different times during the month, so this will be on schedule for some SNAP customers and early for others. IDHS plans to issue April benefits between April 1 and April 10.

May benefits will be on the regular schedule.

March SNAP benefits were funded through a recent federal stopgap budget. However, April and May SNAP benefits will depend on a new federal budget deal being reached.

There is no need for customers to visit the local IDHS offices or call their caseworkers. IDHS staff will be working in the upcoming days to implement the necessary changes to issue benefits early. SNAP customers will receive the

normal amount of monthly SNAP benefits on their Link cards, the debit-like cards used to spend SNAP benefits and other cash assistance.

IDHS will be working to communicate the new issuance dates to SNAP customers in the upcoming weeks through the IDHS website, Link website and phone line, a social media campaign and community outreach.

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FFA WEEK

National FFA Week

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Inserts

Snyders



Approximately 50 years ago, I had the opportunity and privilege to take over the practice of Attorney Ed Sullivan. At that time, my office, like Attorney Sullivan's was above the FNBA in downtown Amboy. My grandfather, Henry S. Dixon, first opened a law office in Amboy in 1898 and that closed around the time of World War I. In 1985 we opened our downtown Amboy office at 238 E. Main. In 1991, Linda Giesen joined me in practicing law in our Amboy office and in 2014 we were fortunate to have Kelly Flessner become a part of the firm.

For over 20 years, Maureen Oester was a valued employee who efficiently managed our Amboy practice. Before Maureen, we had many years of quality service from Ruth McCracken. We have enjoyed our combined years of interacting with the good people of Amboy, Sublette and the surrounding area and in being a member of the Amboy business community. We are proud to have served the Amboy Fire Protection District and its many dedicated volunteers.

We want to thank all of the many clients who trusted us to work as their attorney. While we no longer will be operating an office in Amboy, Linda and Kelly look forward to continuing to provide legal services to you in our Dixon office.

We value our years of service in Amboy and we cherish the many friends we have made and remember those Amboy friends who have passed on. Thank you for your support of our practice.

H75. Dif

HENRY S. DIXON, Retired

Linda A. Giesen, Partner

Kelly Flessner, Partner

DIXON GIESEN & FLESSNER LAW OFFICES

www.hsdixonlaw.com 815 284-2288

LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

UP COMING EVENTS

Chili/Soup Supper Saturday, Feb. 23

CHILI/SOUP SUPPER My apologies for any inconvenience the cancelling

of our soup supper on the 2nd may have caused. I was in Rockford with family helping as Larry's sister Tena was waiting for Orville to pass after his fight with esophageal cancer. Our rescheduled date will be from 4:30 p.m. - 7p.m., this Saturday, Feb. 23.

your favorite soups such as: chicken noodle, Italian sausage tortellini, beef barley, taco, and cheesy broccoli. There will be all the delicious desserts to finish the meal. The cost is by donation.

We will have chili and all

All proceeds will help our free After School Homework Program. Teen Turf does not receive any state of federal money. We have been in existence for over 20 years due to the generosity of our community and the United Way of Lee County. Helpers and desserts are needed so please call 815-857-4800 or 815-440-8195.

DANCE

The Valentine's Day Dance was on Friday, Feb. 15. There were flowers and stuffed animals for sale for this special occasion. There was a photo booth for pictures. The kids came to spend some time with their friends. Chaperones were Mark and Veronica Grossman at the door; Mary Kathryn Stenzel selling flowers and stuffed animals. Larry Piper, Dorian Barlow, and Christopher Farrar for helping with GaGa Ball and games. Pam Thomas and Cody Thomas for working the concession stand. Cheyenne Linder for photos and games. Chaperones are needed for upcoming events so call 815-857-4800 or 815-440-8195 to help out.

DONATIONS

We appreciate all donations but please call 815-440-8195 before dropping things off. When things are left out in the weather things get ruined.

CHAIR AEROBICS

A great group gets together at 10 a.m., every Tuesday and I nursday morning. The goal is to keep moving and healthy. There is no charge TV's – we cannot recycle but a donation box is set them.

out and the money goes toward the utility bills. The philosophy is pay or pray. If you can't afford to put some money in the box just say a prayer. Prayers are what have kept Teen Turf going all these years.

TAX FREE **DONATIONS**

There is an account set up at First Federal Savings and Loan, First National Bank of Amboy, and Pioneer State Bank (former Farmers State Bank of Sublette) if you would like to donate to our programs. All donations are tax deductible as we are a 501(c)3. Teen Turf has been in existence for over 20 years. Since we do not receive any state or federal money we survive on the generosity of the community. United Way has been a huge supporter for 15 years. If you are able to help us out please send your donations to Teen Turf P. O. Box 321 Amboy, Illinois 61310.

RECYCLED CANS

Yes, we are still recycling cans. Just put your bags behind the fence on the red trailer. The white wire rack is for plastic and paper recycle items. Be sure that all the RECYCLE materials are tied and secured in bags or boxes. High Fives to everyone that donates cans and to Leroy Dukes for elevating them. It helps our environment and our van upkeep. If you have cans that need to be picked up just call 815-857-4800.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

If you are in need of a book bag or school supplies throughout the year please call 815-857-4800 and leave your name and number.

LOST & FOUND

Please call 815-857-4800 if you are missing any of the many coats, hats, and gloves that have been left at Teen Turf.

BOARD MEMBERS

Teen Turf is in need of two new board members. If you want to help make a difference in the lives of the youth of our community please call or stop and talk to us. Our current board members are Deb Albee, Kim Watley, Cindy Phillips, Scott and Janine Huffman, Kaylee Jones, and Mark Grossman.

Please do not drop off

Annual breakfast supports Amboy Elementary

AMBOY — All are invited to the annual Central School Pancake and French Toast Breakfast, Sunday, March 3 at Amboy Central School, 30 E. Provost in Amboy. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The menu includes pancakes or French toast, sausage, juice, coffee and milk. Carryout is available. Advanced tickets are available from any Central student or purchase tickets at the door. Advance tickets are \$5. Tickets at the door are \$6. Bake sale items will also be available for purchase.

Funds raised help the Amboy Central School Parent Teacher Club support teachers and students through the purchase of classroom equipment and materials, coordination of special events and assemblies, and maintenance of the school's playground. This year the PTC is helping to fund new playground equipment for the preschool.

For more information, please call Amboy Central School at 815-857-3619.

NOTICE OF VOTE BY MAIL AND EARLY VOTING April 2, 2019 Consolidated Election

Cathy Myers, Lee County Clerk and Recorder would like to announce that VOTE BY MAIL and EARLY VOTING is being conducted in the Election Department of her office, first floor of the Old Lee County

VOTE BY MAIL ~ will take place from Thursday, February 21st through Thursday, March 28th and is available for properly registered Lee County voters. Application can be made beginning January 2, 2019, and is available on the website or by contacting the Election Department of her office.

EARLY VOTING ~ will take place from Thursday, February 21st through Monday, April 1st and must be conducted in person. Early voting is available Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. and Saturday, March 30th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in the Election Department of her office

The votes cast during this time will not be counted until Election Day. Once a ballot has been cast it cannot be rescinded.

> Website: www.leecountyil.com Email: election@countyoflee.org Phone: 815-288-3309

Cathy Myers Lee County Clerk & Recorder

02202019

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AMBOY-Business After Hours will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Dinges Fire Co., 243 E. Main St. All community members, local business owners and employees are invited to this mix 'n mingle.

DIXON-The Lee County Health Department, 309 S. Galena Ave., will have Childhood Immunization Clinics, by appointment only, on Feb. 21, 22, 26, 27 and 28. Call 815-284-3371 to schedule an appointment or to find out about other services offered, like Flu and other Adult Vaccines, free radon test kits or the application process for medical cannabis.

AMBOY-The Amboy CUSD #272 Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21, at Amboy High School, 11 E. Hawley.

FULTON-The Fulton Saddle Club will hold the Annual Banquet at King Pins, 18675 13th St., on Saturday, Feb. 23. Dinner at 6 p.m. (RSVP required) and dance from 8 to midnight. Dance is open to the public. Call Dawn Bauer at 815-499-4563 by Feb. 16 to RSVP.

AMBOY-The City of Amboy Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

AMBOY-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. Meeting time will change to 7 p.m. in March.

STERLING-Wits Fitness with Karla Belzer will meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the Sterling Public Library. Register online at go.illinois.edu/witsfitness.

AMBOY-The Amboy Depot Museum Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Museum on Tuesday, Feb. 26.

STERLING-A Soil Fertility Webinar will be held at the Whiteside County Extension Office, 12923 Lawrence Rd., on Thursday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Call 815-632-3611 for more information.

AMBOY-The Pankhurst

Memorial Library Book Club will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 1, at the Library, 3 S. Jefferson. Regular meeting time will resume at the end of March. Call the Library at 815-857-3925 for more information.

DIXON-The University of Illinois Extension Childcare University will be held Saturday, March 2, at Sauk Valley Community College, US RT 2, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Register at go.illinois.edu/ChildCareU.

POLO-The 34th Annual Polo Farm & Toy Show, sponsored by the Polo Lions Club, will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 2, at Polo High School, 100 Union Ave.

DIXON-The 4-H Shooting Sports Archery SPIN Club will meet Saturday, March 2, at Sauk Valley Archers, 598 Palmyra Rd. Beginner class will meet from 1 to 2 p.m. and advanced class from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Call 815-857-3525 for more information. Register online at go.illinois.edu/LeeArchery.

AMBOY-The Amboy Central School Pancake and Sausage Breakfast will be held from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 3.

AMBOY-The Amboy Fire Protection District will meet at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 4, at the Fire Station, 25 N. East Ave.

AMBOY-The American Legion Auxiliary will meet at 6:30 p.m., on Monday, March 4, at the Long Branch

AMBOY-The City of Amboy committee meetings will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 4, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

AMBOY-ACO members will meet at 6 p.m., on Tuesday, March 5, at Maria's. Guests are welcome.

AMBOY-The University of Illinois Extension's Four Season Gardening will present "Creating a Living Flower Arrangement" at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, at the Lee County Extension Office, 280 W. Wasson Rd. Register by Feb. 26. To register, call 815-632-3611 or online at go.illinois.edu/ 4seasonsCLW

Email calendar items to mmays@ ambovnews.com

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Display Advertising Deadline: 10 a.m. Monday Classified Advertising Deadline: 10 a.m. Monday 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.

DIXON-Illinois Cattle Feeders Day will be held from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at Sauk Valley Community College, US RT 2, on Wednesday, March 6. Registration is free of charge. Register online at go.illinois.edu/CattleFeed-

ROCK FALLS-The American Red Cross, in coordination with Mayor William B. Wescott of Rock

Falls and Bethany Bland, President/CEO of Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, will hold two monthly Blood Drives on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Rock Falls Community Building, 601 W. 10th St. The first Wednesday of the month drive will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6. Call 800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment to donate.



Tess Fleming



of Illinois

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EXPERIENCING HEAVEN: I WAS DEAD FOR 1 HR.45 MIN.! Located at The Mendota Civic Center, 1901 Tom Merwin Drive

(North Rt. 251 by Lake Mendota)



8 oz. of low-fat milk served with each meal Monday - Creamy chicken w/pasta, broccoli, baked apples, wheat bread Tuesday - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes/gravy, stewed tomatoes/

zucchini, dinner roll/butter, apricots Wednesday - Citrus baked ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, wheat bread, fruit cocktail

Thursday – Italian sausage w/peppers on a bun, red potato wedges, Italian blend veggies, diced peaches

Friday - A) Crispy fish sandwich, wheat bun, potato pancakes, peas, pineapple tidbits B) Soup & Sandwich, minestrone &

Reservations needed Meals served Mon.-Fri. at 11:30 am 10:00 am day before

Amboy Community Center 280 W. Wasson Road • 1-815-262-7516, reservations







Ribeye or Chops served with vegetable, potato, homemade salad bar and dessert.

Mark your calendar! March 10 is Sunday Funday!!! Music by Burn-N-Bush at 2 p.m.

Bar opens at 11:30 a.m. Serving lunch.

Visit our Website or Facebook for daily lunch & dinner specials.

www.mainstreetstationbar-grill.com

OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Doris E. Ail Feb 10, 1932 - Feb. 6, 2019

AMBOY—Doris E. Ail, 86, of Amboy, died Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, at home of her daughter surrounded by her loving family.

She was born Feb. 10, 1932, in Amboy, the daughter of William and Laura (Rodgers) Glenn. Doris was a Certified Nurses Aid for Dixon State School and Mapleside Manor in Amboy. She had also been a Cook at Lamb's Tap in Amboy.

She was preceded in death by her son, John; granddaughter, Sara Lamb; four sisters, Leatha Poulos, Lola Ponto, Bonnie Ruble, and Opal Schaneberg; four brothers, Ralph, Alvin, Wilbur, and Gail Glenn.

Survivors include six daughters, Susan (Richard) Becker, of Rock Falls, Cheryl (Richard) Lamb, of Amboy, Cynthia (Gary) Noonan, of Amboy, Brenda Payne, of Dixon, Laurie (Dennis) Krager, of Amboy, and Melissa Ail, of Amboy; and son, Kevin Ail, of Amboy; 15 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson; two brothers, Howard Glenn, of Amboy and Russell Glenn, of Dixon; and numerous nieces and nephews as well as those who called her 'Mom.'

They are blessed to remember her as the historian and heart of the family. A friend, protector, teacher, nurse, advisor, problem solver, and peacemaker. We are strong because she was strong first.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019 at the United First Church in Amboy with Reverend Frank Brozenec and Reverend Mark Glenn,



co-officiating.

Burial followed in Prairie Repose Cemetery in Amboy. Visitation was held from 2-4 p,m, and 6 - 8 p.m., Friday at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy, as well as Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church. A memorial has been established.

Condolences can be sent online at www.thejonesfh.

Amboy News Obituary Policy

The Amboy News will print DEATH NOTICES (approximately 50 words including name, age, date of death, time/date of services) free of charge. OBITUARIES will be printed at a cost of \$20 to be billed to the arranging funeral home or prepaid with cash, check or credit card. Please submit obituaries or death notices to tgreenfield@amboynews.com.

Annual Polo Farm Toy Show March 2

POLO – The 34th annual Polo Farm Toy Show will be Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Polo High School.

The event, sponsored by the Polo Lions Club, will feature about 100 dealer tables and a 50/50 drawing.

The cafeteria will be open during the event and run by the Polo Boosters.

Admission is \$3. Children ages 12 and under are free.

For dealer information, call Irene Short at 815-946-3730.

CGH to showcase surgical floor renovations during upcoming open house

STERLING — CGH Medical Center is proud to announce that renovations have been completed on the Surgical Floor (second floor) located within the hospital. A public and staff open house to celebrate its completion will be held from 3 – 6 p.m., on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

"We began this renovation project in September 2017 to improve our level of care and provide greater comfort to our patients," said Plant Operations Manager, Bob Lehman. "A majority of the construction was completed by our in-house maintenance staff, and we are very proud of the enhanced space and the benefits it will provide for years to come." The 15,430 square foot renovation features

the addition of one bariatric patient room, an isolation/negative pressure room, and two safe rooms, as well as the following improvements to all 20 rooms: paint, vinyl flooring, LED lighting, a new air handling unit, a new heating system, and new variable air volume boxes that will provide the patient a higher level of temperature control in his/her individual room. In addition, all patient bathrooms and shower areas in each room were increased in size and include upgrades of the lighting, ceramic tile, and plumbing fixtures.

"We strive to make each visit the best possible visit for our patients and their loved ones, so we continued to place a strong emphasis on patient-focused care during this project," said Julie Morse, Surgical Floor Director. "The renovations not only promote nurse safety and efficiency, but also improve the safety, comfort and healing environment for our patients."

Granny Rose -**Betty**

Betty is a precious kitten that was rescued from the outside by a kind man who kept her safe until she came to the shelter. Betty had an irritated squinty eye. It turned out to be an undeveloped eyeball that needed to be removed. She is about 7-8 months old and is such a cutie. Betty has not been around children or dogs but she is quite interested in other friendly cats. To see Betty, visit Granny Rose Animal Shelter, 613 River Lane, Dixon. Hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, and closed on Sunday. Call 815-288-PETS(7387) or visit www.grannyrose.org.

Photo contributed



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Amboy Police

Unlawful consumption of alcohol by a minor

On Feb 12, at 12:55 a.m., Jennifer H. Thompson, 19, of Amboy, was issued an ordinance violation of unlawful consumption of alcohol by

Warrant failure to

On Feb. 15, at 7:43 a.m.,

Stephanie Ann Bauer, 23, of Amboy, was arrested on a Peoria County warrant for failure to appear on charge of delivery of a controlled substance. She was taken to the Lee County Jail.



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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

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United First Church of Amboy Pastor Mark Glenn East Main & Jefferson 815-440-0745

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Grace Fellowship Church - Amboy Pastor Brian McWethy 37 S. East Avenue, (Farm Bureau Bldg.) 815-857-3900

Sunday Worship Service 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

www.graceisforyou.com

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

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Reformers Unanimous addictions program from 7-9 p.m. St. James Evangelical

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

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

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

St. Mary's Church

St. Patrick Church

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.

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

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SOCIAL NE

Gardening Conference set for March 23 at Sauk Valley Community College

LEE COUNTY — On Saturday, March 23, the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners of Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties will be hosting the 2019 Ready...Set...Grow... garden conference day from 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at Sauk Valley Community College.

This year's keynote address: The Shockingly Beautiful Way to Improve Water Quality, will focus on how homeowners can use strategies such as nutrient loss reduction, green infrastructure, and sustainable lawn care practices to improve their lawns but also water quality in their area.

Horticulture experts will lead 15 workshops and participants will choose three sessions to attend. Workshops will share information everyone can use-from the beginner to the most experienced gardener. A vendor show, door prizes, and a Master Gardener Help Desk can be visited throughout the day.

The fee for this program is \$45, and registrations will be accepted until March 18. Fee includes a Continental breakfast & buffet lunch, a welcome bag, and handouts from educational sessions.

Please register by March

Register online or download the registration form at go.illinois.edu/Ready-

If you are interested in more information about Ready...Set...Grow... or becoming a Master Gardener, please contact your local Extension office.

Carroll County: 815-244-9444

Lee County: 815-857-

Ogle County: 815-732-

Whiteside County: 815-632-3611

Sublette News

POWER OUTAGE

The Sublette community experienced a power outage on Feb. 12 caused by the freezing rain and strong

The outage began about 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday and was restored to most areas by that evening.

However, some farms west and south of Sublette did not have electricity restored until 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

The Sublette fire station was opened as a warming center for residents without

Due to the heavy damage to power lines, ComEd had assistance from several other utility companies on Feb. 12 and Feb. 13.

Florissa to offer training April 5

DIXON — Every year during Autism Awareness Month Florissa, the children's division of Kreider Services, offers a training for professionals, parents and consumers. This year's event will be held on Friday, April 5 at Sauk Valley Community College. The presenter is Joyce Cooper-Kahn, Ph.D. the author of two books on execution functioning, "Late, Lost and Unprepared" and "Boosting Executive Skills in the Classroom." For over 25 years, Dr. Cooper-Kahn has specialized in helping children, families and schools manage the full range of developmental challenges affecting children.

Executive Functioning is an umbrella term for the mental processes that serve a supervisory role in thinking or behavior. Individuals with autism spectrum disorders, attention disorders and learning disabilities have trouble with planning, have weak ability to monitor their own behavior and performance and struggle with situations where they must shift flexibility from one thought or behavior to another. Florissa can help these young people by creating plans that include both short term support for daily success and long term strategies that facilitate the development of executive skills and build greater independence over time.

Joyce Cooper-Kahn is a clinical child psychologist with specific expertise in the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents with executive functioning deficits. She is a frequent speaker both in the United States and abroad.

The training will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the cafeteria at Sauk Valley Community College on Friday, April 5. People attending can receive 6 credits of Continuing Education credits. The cost to attend this training is \$95 for teachers and professionals, and \$40 for consumers and family members, which

also includes lunch. People registering after March 29 will see an increased fee of \$110. To register, visit either the Kreider Services or Florissa websites: www. kreiderservices.org / www. florissacenter.org or go to GetMeRegistered.com.

On Thursday evening, April 4, there will be a shorter, modified version of the Friday training geared to parents, consumers and caregivers. This is from 6-8 p.m. at Sauk Valley Community College. There is no cost to attend this overview session, but Florissa does ask that people register in advance.

For additional information or questions regarding this training call Florissa at 815-288-1905. Florissa is a division of Kreider Services, working in partnership with KSB Hospital and Sinnissippi Centers. Florissa is located in the lower level of KSB Edwards Clinic at 144 North Court, Dixon.

The Book Nook By: Tatjana Kazan

The Blackwater Lightship

The number of lives claimed by the AIDS pandemic since its onset in 1981 is staggering: 39 million people (636,000 in the US). But it is the agonizing death of a mother or a brother that brings the tragedy into focus. Irish novelist Colm Toibin's spare, elegant novel, "The Blackwater Lightship" (1999) is the story of such a tragedy.

The story is told by Helen O'Doherty, a respected young school principal who lives with her husband Hugh and their two small sons in a middle-class neighborhood of Dublin. On a summer morning, a stranger approaches Helen and tells her that her brother Declan is in the hospital, dying of AIDS. At the hospital, Declan, weak, emaciated, full of drugs, asks Helen to tell their mother and grandmother the bad news because he has not had the courage to tell them he is gay. And, he adds, he would like Helen and his friend Paul to take him to their Granny Dora's ramshackle old Wexford house overlooking the sea.

The drama of the novel does not as much arise from Declan's calamitous illness, as from Helen's estrangement from her mother Lily. She has not seen her mother in many years, and at one point she even fantasizes running her over with her car. Still, Helen drives to Wexford to tell her grandmother Dora, and her mother the following day. Dora, who wears make-up and carries a flick knife, prides herself on being unshockable. Helen stays the night at Dora's; unable to sleep, she watches for hours the light from a nearby lighthouse wash over her.

Lily is unmoved when Helen appears at her computer company headquartered in a renovated glitzy chrome and glass waterfront building. Lily's home is also ultra-modern and entirely devoid of human warmth. She coldly receives the news, annoyed that Declan had not told her he is gay. She takes over Declan's care and rudely ignores his two gay friends when they arrive in Wexford. But that is nothing compared to the tension between her and Helen. Despite Lily's furious objections, it is the men who take on the role of mothering Declan. They understand the practicalities of keeping him alive, of logistics and of knowing what to do next. They have done it for years.

As the weekend closes, a wary truce between Helen and Lily takes hold. Lily has softened, as when she talks about missing that other lighthouse, which was on a ship, the Blackwater Lightship, and which has long since disappeared. By now. Declan is in excruciating, unremitting pain. He has lost vision in one eye. Helen and her mother and the two friends return him to the hospital. In the end, a reconciliation between mother and daughter closes this perfectly crafted novel.

> Email calendar items to mmays@ amboynews.com

From The Heart Calendar winners

Jan. 1 – Joe McKinney, Rochelle, \$1,000

Jan. 2 – FTH event pur-Jan. 3 – Adrian Garcia,

Rochelle, \$25 Jan. 4 – Janice Shaffer,

Rochelle, \$25 Jan. 5 – Chad Elliott.

Dixon, \$25

Jan. 6 - Carrie Mairs,

Ashton, \$50

Jan. 7 – Jeff Palmieri, McNabb, \$25

Jan. 8 – Scott Eckhardt, Rochelle, \$25

Jan. 9 – Suzy Saunders, Longmont, Colo., \$25

Jan. 10 - Samantha Gar-

ner, Sycamore, \$25 Jan. 11 – Jacob Nauman,

Rochelle, \$25 Jan. 12 – James Gilbert,

Rochelle, \$25 Jan. 13 – Glenn Hughes,

Dixon, \$50 Jan. 14 – Jim and Helen

Bailey, Loves Park, \$25 Jan. 15 - Scott Hoyle,

Rochelle, \$25 Jan. 16 – PJ O'Rorke,

Steward, \$25

Jan. 17 – Angela Stewart, Rochelle, \$25

Jan. 18 – Sarah Payne, Byron, \$25

Jan. 19-Christy Salazare,

Rochelle, \$25 Jan. 20 – DeAnne White,

Dixon, \$50 Jan. 21 – Adlai Schaefer, Rochelle, \$25

Jan. 22 – Matt Klahn,

Sterling, \$25

Jan. 23-Richard Peterson, Malta, \$25

Jan. 24 – Suzy Saunders, Longmont, Colo., \$25

Jan. 25 – FTH event, \$25

Jan. 26 – Jamie Stewart, Sycamore, \$25

Jan. 27 – Rosemary Rain-

water, Rochelle, \$50 Jan. 28 – Gary Vandre,

Mahomet, \$25 Jan. 29 - Bill Jandak,

Rochelle, \$25

Jan. 30 - Ashley Davis, Rochelle, \$25

Jan. 31 - M. Joanne Kantner, DeKalb, \$25



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Limit 40 Words Per Nomination • One Nomination Per Person Per Month

is coming in April. This is a perfect opportunity for you to share your business's accomplishments in 2018 and look ahead to great things in 2019. To reserve your spot in this special section, call The Amboy News at (815) 857-2311.

he Ambuy News

Established In 1854

CONNECTIONS

The Amboy News' 2019

Business Progress Edition

pinion

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

Road to economic perdition is paved with political good intentions

walked into a Springfield McDonald's the Guest Column other day and saw a long line standing in front of the teen-age clerk taking orders, so I ordered my breakfast on a touchscreen.

Customers rather than employees can peck away at screens and send their orders directly to the kitchen. I got my sandwich without standing in

line, McDonald's saved money on labor and some unknown teenager is probably out of job because technology provided a money-saving According to stock market commentator

Malcom Berko, the introduction of these touchscreens will result in the elimination of four to six employees per location, reducing labor costs by \$110,000 per location. Guess what? That number is conservative.

With Illinois on the brink of raising the minimum

trim their payrolls.

By Scott Reeder



Some will embrace technological alternatives such as touch screens or self-serve grocery kiosks, while others will simply re-evaluate their services and cut back.

That is unfortunate.

When low-skill, entry-level jobs are eliminated valuable stepping stones into the workforce disappear. This harms young people, new immigrants and others just entering the workforce.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker and lawmakers are well intentioned when they talk of helping people by raising the minimum wage. But the road to economic perdition is paved

with political good intentions. Many years ago, I was a minimum wage

worker making \$3.35 an hour writing obituaries for the Galesburg Register-Mail.

More than a few times during that college

wage to \$15 per hour, more firms will be seeking ways to summer break I had an editor holler at me, "There is no "a"

On This Day in History

100 Years Ago Feb. 21, 1919

A farewell party was given by neighbors and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Morrissey at their home south of Binghampton Tuesday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Morrissey will move to a farm in the vicinity of West Brooklyn, owned by Mrs. Morrissey's father.

G. M. Finch and sons shipped six carloads of hogs to the Union Stock Yards Monday.

The Baptist Young People's Union will hold a Washington social this evening at church. Every member is cordially invited.

75 Years Ago Feb. 27, 1944

On account of the extra cold weather and snow last Thursday, Michael Faley postponed his closing out sale to Monday, Feb. 21. The sale will be held on the Frank Murphy farm seven miles south of Amboy, beginning at noon. John Gentry

will be the auctioneer.

Boy Scouts of the two Amboy troops and the troops of Lee Center and Sublette will hold a Court of Honor in the Amboy City Hall Monday evening, Feb. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Dr. D. T. Houser and is in charge of making the local arrangements.

Mrs. John McGowan is entertaining the "Birthday Club" this Thursday afternoon.

50 Years Ago Feb. 20, 1969

The Reverend Allen E. Juenger, of Nachusa, Dixon State School Protestant Chaplain, will officially be installed Sunday, March 2, at 9 a.m. in the auditorium of the special education building.

Keldon Herron, Noble Grand of Green River Lodge #999, of Amboy, announced today the Independent Order of Odd Fellows will celebrate their Sesquicentennial Year of the Fraternity throughout the year 1969.

One of the most outstanding groups of entertainment, Dave Major and the Minors, will be presented next Sunday Evening by the Amboy Lions Club, Robert Spenader, Chair, of the Lions committee in charge of the program announces that the group will appear at 7:30 p.m. that evening in the Amboy High School gym.

25 Years Ago Feb. 24, 1994

Only 13 people attended an information meeting on the Enhanced 911 referendum at Amboy Fire Station Thursday. Most of them are members of the committee working of passage of the emergency phone system.

Amboy Board of Education accepted the resignations of two teachers who are taking advantage of the state's early retirement program. The board accepted the resignation of fifth grade teacher Ann McClelland and second grade teacher Kathleen McCormick at Monday's Meting.

Thomas Babicky, an expert on the dangers of youth gangs, will present a program at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28 at

Illinois government has a lot of problems, revenue isn't one of them

.B. Pritzker will debudget address Feb. 20. He's staring down a deficit of about \$3 billion.

It makes sense politically to pin this situation on the faults of his predecessor. And while former Gov. Bruce Rauner should take some of the blame, Illinois was already home to the worst credit rating of any state in the nation before he took office.

What doesn't make sense? Claiming Illinois' fiscal problems are the result of not taxing people enough.

From 2007 to 2017, state spending in Illinois grew nearly 50 percent faster than personal incomes, on a per capita basis. Illinoisans saw a \$31 billion temporary income tax hike, the largest permanent tax increase in the state's history, the second-worst income growth in the nation and outrageously high property taxes to boot.

Despite this, Springfield did not pass a single balanced

Does that sound like a state too shy to tax? No. It's one that recklessly spends beyond its means.

Pritzker has a big task ahead of him. Balancing budgets won't be easy. But looking at the math instead of hoping Illinoisans will stick around to pay an even higher tax burden lights a path forward.

The Illinois Policy Institute last week published Budget Solutions 2020. It's a five-year blueprint to balance Illinois' budget, pay off debt and cut taxes. The only source of new revenue included in the proposal is from marijuana legalization, as both Pritzker and House Speaker Mike Madigan

a priority. So how can one balance the budget without new

have signaled that it will be



revenue? Slashing services? Shuttering shelters? Mass

None of that is necessary if lawmakers tackle the core cost-drivers of Illinois gov-

In other words, if Pritzker cannot address pensions (677 percent increase in state spending between fiscal years 2000 and 2019) and employee health insurance (244 percent increase), he won't get home on balanced budgets. For reference, state spending on K-12 education grew by 73 percent and all other state spending grew by 18 percent

over the same time period. Here are the three biggest savings Pritzker can find to balance the budget without

liver his inaugural Guest Column Lawmakers must seek an health insurance. AFSCME amendment to the state con- workers paid 16 percent of stitution that protects earned benefits but allows changes in future benefit accruals. Then they can reintroduce reforms similar to those passed through the Democratic supermajority-controlled General Assembly and signed by a Democratic governor in 2013. The state should also align responsibility for setting pension benefits with the accountability of paying for them at schools and universities. This saves

\$12.2 billion over five years. Second, put classrooms over bureaucracy. Reducing administrative bloat in Illinois school districts while increasing state education funding with inflation – rather than the rapid, unsustainable increases put forth in the state's new "evidence-based" funding formula – would save \$2.9 billion over five years.

Third, play fair at the bargaining table with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. State workers in Illinois are the second-high-

First, pension reform. and receive platinum-level their annual premium costs in 2016, while their private sector counterparts paid 31 percent of premium costs for family plans, not including out-of-pocket costs, according to a study by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

Bringing those benefits closer in line with the private sector would save \$2.5 billion over five years. Limiting automatic pay raises would save hundreds of millions more.

These changes would not come easy. But what's much harder is planning your family's financial future – let alone a business – in a state that continues to overspend. This is the only path by which Pritzker can keep his campaign promise not to hike taxes on the middle class while getting the state's fiscal house in order.

Illinois families deserve better than to be told the only real solution is in their pocketbooks.

Austin Berg is a writer for the Illinois Policy Institute. He wrote this column for the Illinois News Network. Austin illinoispolicy.org.



in cemetery."

But I learned how to meet deadlines, deal with the public and spell a bit better.

Most people I know have had similar first-job experiences. They didn't earn a whole lot but they learned enough to help them get a better job down the road.

Most folks earning minimum wage are either under 25 or working part-time, a 2012 study conducted by the Cato Institute found.

When the Senate recently voted to ramp up the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025, Pritzker said: "If you live in this state and put in a hard day's work, you should be able to afford to put a roof over your head and food on the table."

But the Cato study found that less than 5 percent of those

earning minimum wage are heads of households. So, raising the minimum wage will do little to help those trying to raise families and will do much to hurt people trying

to enter the workforce. It's important to remember when government increases costs for business, fewer jobs may be available. That means for some, the minimum wage becomes \$0.

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?

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

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LOCAL NEWS

BILL continued from page A1-

"Dr. King said there is nothing but short-sightedness to prevent us from guaranteeing a livable income for every American. Let's not be shortsighted today."

Rep. Celina Villanueva, a Chicago Democrat, said further progress was necessary and the fight for 15 was only the "first step" toward worker dignity.

"What we're really talking about is the dignity and respect of our workers," she said. "I don't think 15 is enough. I've never thought 15 was enough."

Guzzardi said 41 percent of all workers in Illinois make less than \$15 per hour, and more of those workers are in their 40s, 50s and 60s than are younger than 25; and 48 percent of African Americans and 61 percent of Latinos make less than \$15 per hour.

Those minimum-wage workers will begin seeing their increases in January 2020, when the minimum rate goes from \$8.25 to \$9.25 before increasing to \$10 on July 1, 2020, and \$11 on Jan. 12021. After that, it would increase by \$1 every January until it hits \$15 in 2025.

For Iashea Cross, a personal assistant and low-wage worker in the health care field who was in the gallery from Chicago, the bill means a brighter outlook in the future.

"I might be able to let go of that second job in the future that I have just to make ends meet," she said. "For me, the passage of this bill means that finally we are being recognized as the working people of the state that help it continue to move forward."

The bill also maintains a tip credit, which allows employers to pay tipped workers 60 percent of the minimum wage if tips make up the other 40 percent. A training wage for teen seasonal workers is also part of the bill, and that wage will top out at \$13 per hour.

A tax credit for businesses with less than 50 full-time equivalent employees is also part of the final bill, starting at 25 percent of the difference between the current minimum wage and an employee's wage in the final quarter of the previous calendar year. It would decrease by 4 percent each year until it hits 5 percent in the final two years.

WAGE continued from page A1 -

"We once again chose political expediency over the long-term best interests of this state. We have put the state in a more precarious position, and made our work toward a balanced budget in May even

State Representative Dan Swanson (R-Alpha) issued the following statement following today's vote to increase the minimum wage in Illinois to \$15/hour by 2025:

"I'm thinking of the small-business groups who potentially are going to have to lay off people if they're going to keep their business open. Indeed, of more than 500 Central Illinois businesses surveyed, 51 percent of businesses responded they

are likely to layoff employees, 71 percent of companies replied they would raise prices to cover the cost, 63 percent report they will reduce hours, and disturbingly, 17 percent of businesses surveyed would consider closing," said Rep. Dan Swanson before casting a no vote on Senate Bill 1 while citing information compiled by the Central Illinois Regional Chamber Legislative Effort (CIRCLE), which surveyed over 550 businesses in Central Illinois.

The House of Representatives of the new 101st General Assembly is comprised of 74 Democrats and 44 Republicans.

Senate Bill 1 passed the Illinois House on a vote of 69-47.

Granny Rose- Benji

Benji is a very cute Lhasa Apso/ Poodle mix that weighs 23 pounds. He is very affectionate and loving, but may choose to be bonded with only 1 person. Benji just turned 9 years old, is neutered, and has always had excellent veterinary care. A home without children or other pets is what Benji prefers. To see Benji, visit Granny Rose Animal Shelter, 613 River Lane, Dixon. Hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday and closed on Sunday. Call 815-288-PETS(7387) or visit www.grannyrose.org.

Photo contributed



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"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness." ~ John Steinbeck

Sale Prices Valid Feb. 20-26, 2019 - Limited Quantities - While Supplies Last

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SPORTS

Lady Clippers win Sectional Title

MARSEILLES – The year 1984 was a great one for Amboy High School sports. The football team won a state championship and the girls' basketball team captured the sectional crown. Neither team had pulled off that feat in the 35 years since then. Until now.

The Amboy Lady Clippers ended the long drought between sectional titles for the girls basketball team as they won a pair of games in the Ottawa Marquette Class 1A Sectional to bring home the sectional championship

Amboy opened the sectional with a 51-35 victory over Aurora Christian on Feb. 11 at Marseilles.

The Lady Clippers jumped out to an early 11-5 lead, but Christian scored the final six points of the frame to tie the contest heading to the second. Amboy's offense began to click and it outscored Christian, 16-6, to take a 10-point lead to intermission. AHS was able to maintain at least an eight-point spread in the second half to post the win.

Amboy had a balanced scoring attack, led by Mallory Powers with 12 points, all coming in the first half. She also had eight rebounds and three assists. Kyleigh Donna scored eight of her 11 points in the second half. Donna also pulled down five boards. Noelle Jones was next with 10 points and she led the club with 10 rebounds. Jones added four assists.

Abi Payne chipped in with nine points and had a team-high eight assists, while Breanna Fisher had five points and four caroms and Ashley Althaus contributed four points, four

The win resulted in a trip to the sectional finals against Newark, which was in the finals for the third year in a row. A back-and-forth game came down to the wire and Amboy prevailed, 39-35, on Feb. 14.

The Lady Clippers owned a 13-7 first-quarter lead and they held a 20-15 halftime margin. Newark applied tighter defense to Amboy guards Payne and Powers in the third and that helped the Lady Norsemen take a 26-22 lead late in the quarter. Amboy cut the lead to two, and then as time was running out in the quarter, Althaus stole the ball and streaked down the court and somehow beat the clock with a basket to tie the game heading to the fourth.

Amboy gained big momentum, but the battle was not over as the lead went back and forth. Noelle Jones drained a huge three-pointer late in the fourth to give Amboy a one-point lead. Newark answered with a bucket to go back in front, but Althaus hit a baseline jumper and the Lady Clippers went back on top. Newark quickly advanced the ball down court, but Donna deflected a pass and Noelle Jones came up with it. She was fouled and calmly sank two free throws to seal the win.

Noelle Jones led all scorers with 18 points and she added four rebounds. Donna supplied 10 points and four caroms, while Althaus added six points, three rebounds and a huge steal. Fisher contributed two points and five rebounds, Powers also had five boards, Payne had three points and three assists, and Olivia Dinges grabbed four rebounds.



Kyleigh Donna scored eight of her 11 points in the second half. Donna also pulled down five boards.

Photo by Kirsten Donna



Amboy had a balanced scoring attack, led by Mallory Powers, pictured above, with 12 points, all coming in the first half. She also had eight rebounds and three assists.

Photo by Kirsten Donna



Ashley Althaus #12, contributed four points, four rebounds and four steals. Photo by Kirsten Donna

Amboy Community Unit School District #272

February 18-22 Mon., Feb. 18 Tues., Feb. 19

Wed., Feb. 20

Thurs., Feb. 21

Sun., Feb. 24

Mon., Feb. 25

AHS Boys Basketball Regionals @ TBA NO SCHOOL - PRESIDENTS' DAY AJHS Girls Basketball (H) Chadwick -4:00 p.m. AJHS Girls Basketball @ Dixon Catholic

- 8th-5:00 p.m./7th-6:00 p.m. AJHS Scholastic Bowl (H) – 4:00 p.m.

AJHS Girls Basketball (H) Dixon Reagan -4:00 p.m.School Board Meeting – AHS – 7:00 p.m.

AEF Bowl-A-Thon @ Plum Hollow,

EARLY DISMISSAL - SCHOOL **IMPROVEMENT DAY** Times: AJHS – 1:15; Central – 1:20; AHS

AJHS 7th Grade Girls Basketball @ Faith

Christian, Grand Detour – 4:30 p.m. AJHS Scholastic Bowl @ Dixon Catholic

Thurs., Feb. 28

-4:00 p.m.

Email news items to tgreenfield@ amboynews.com

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JR HIGH MENU February 25 - March 1

Low-fat chocolate, strawberry or unflavored white milk served at each meal. Choice of breakfast items from cart with juice and fruit Warm breakfast choice on Wednesdays.

Lunch option each day of the featured item or salad bar or yogurt with whole grain crackers or peanut butter & jelly or Grab&Go smoothie.

Monday · Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart

- Cheeseburger on a bun, pickles, onion, tomato,

lettuce, goldfish, baked beans, veggies/ranch, pears

- Early Dismissal - 1:25 p.m. Tuesday - Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart

- Ham, cheesy augratin potatoes, peas, carrots, green beans, roll/butter, peaches, cake

Wednesday

- Sloppy Joe on a bun, pickles, cowboy beans, sweet

- Egg & cheese muffinwich or pick two from breakfast

potato fries, veggies/ranch, mixed fruit, jello cup Thursday - Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart

- Creamy pasta & chicken bake, breadstick, corn, fresh cut veggies/ranch, strawberry

Friday

- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart - Pizza, broccoli, cauliflower, cheese sauce, fresh cut veggies/ranch, juice cup, dried fruit trail mix 02132019

CENTRAL SCHOOL MENU February 25 - March 1

Fat-free chocolate, strawberry or unflavored white milk are served at Breakfast and Lunch. Choice of five 100% real fruit juice cups are served at Breakfast.

Warm breakfast choice on Wednesdays. Monday - Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart

- Cheeseburger on a bun, pickles, onion, tomato, lettuce,

goldfish, baked beans, veggies/ranch, pears

- Early Dismissal - 1:20 p.m.

Tuesday - Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart

- Ham, cheesy augratin potatoes, peas, carrots, green

beans, roll/butter, peaches, cake

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

- Sloppy Joe on a bun, pickles, cowboy beans, sweet

- Egg & cheese muffinwich or pick two from breakfast

potato fries, veggies/ranch, mixed fruit, jello cup

- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart - Creamy pasta & chicken bake, breadstick, corn, fresh

cut veggies/ranch, strawberry cup - Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart

- Pizza, broccoli, cauliflower, cheese sauce, fresh cut veggies/ranch, juice cup, dried fruit trail mix 02202019

SPORTS

Lady Clippers season ends at Elite Eight with loss to defending state champions

PONTIAC—The Amboy Lady Clippers saw their incredible season come to a close in the Elite Eight against the defending Class 1A state champions.

Amboy went up against a powerful Danville Schlarman team and the Lady Clippers were taken down, 75-34, in the Pontiac Supersectional on Feb. 18. The Lady Clippers concluded their history-making season with a sparkling 27-3 record. Schlarman advances to the Class 1A state tournament to defend their title of a year ago with a 31-2 mark.

Amboy was in trouble from the very beginning, falling behind 7-0 just minutes into the game. Schlarman went on to take a 21-6 lead after the first stanza and the Hilltoppers built on the margin in the second period, opening up a 39-13

Sophomore Mallory Powers led the Lady Clippers in scoring with 16 points, while senior Noelle Jones added seven points and junior Kyleigh Donna chipped in with six. Amboy connected on 33 percent of its shots from the floor (14 of 42) and was four of seven from the charity stripe. The Lady Clippers attempted nine shots from three-point land and converted two.

Heritage arts make and take workshop for all ages to be held in Freeport

LEE COUNTY — Heritage Arts Make and Take Workshop is an event sponsored by University of Illinois Extension and the Home Community Education Associations of Carroll, Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Lee Counties. This workshop promotes the continuation of skills and arts once passed down from generation to generation. This

workshop will take place at Stephenson County Farm Bureau in Freeport from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., on Saturday, March 30.

Participants will enjoy a keynote speaker, make and take two sessions and a delicious lunch. Session topics include making potpourri, milkweed angels, string art bunny and eggs, burlap sunflower wreath, mug meals, and button card art. The workshop is a fun day for all ages.

There is a \$20 per person by March 22. Early registration is encouraged, as several sessions have limited enrollment. For further information or to request a registration form, contact University of Illinois Extension Carroll County Office at 815-244-9444.

Report: State budget woes worse than previously thought

BY PETER HANCOCK Capitol News Illinois

phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD - The state of Illinois faces a potential budget deficit of \$3.2 billion in the upcoming fiscal year that begins July 1, far more than former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner's administration projected late last vear.

That's the conclusion of a report issued Friday by newly-elected Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration, who used the findings to continue chastising the man Pritzker defeated in the 2018 election.

The 12-page document, entitled "Digging Out: The Rauner Wreckage Report," was issued by Deputy Gov. Dan Hynes, a former state comptroller who oversees budget and economic issues for the administration. It lays the blame for most of the state's fiscal mess on the twoyear budget impasse from 2015 to 2017 that resulted in a series of credit downgrades

"The choice by the Rauner administration to wage ideological warfare took a severe toll on our state: plunging us deeper into debt and causing severe damage to our social safety net and higher education," the report stated. "The Rauner years will have ripple effects for a generation to come on those who suffered direct harm, including taxpayers. Illinois already had fiscal challenges to overcome, but the previous administration drove the state into a ditch."

In addition to the budget deficit, the report identifies \$15 billion in costs associated with the continuing backlog of unpaid bills. Those include \$7.9 billion in actual bills, plus \$5.5 billion in debt the state took on to pay down what had been an even larger backlog; \$650 million for money borrowed from other state funds; and \$500 million in estimated back pay for state employees. The \$500 million in back

pay owed to state workers is

the result of a court ruling that overturned Rauner's refusal to fund annual "step" increases for union employees in the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, or AFSCME. The Pritzker administration has since restored those pay raises, but the report indicates the final cost could go even higher as a result of compounded interest.

Much of the report is based on information previously released by Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza, but the "Rauner Wreckage" report goes further, criticizing the previous administration for other kinds of alleged mismanagement, such as the delayed rollout of new information technology systems which, according to the report, affects a wide arrav of government functions, from delivering health care services and processing federal payments to processing revenues and paying rents.

Noticeably absent from the report is any detail about how the Pritzker administration plans to deal with the shortfall.

That, presumably, will come when the governor delivers his budget address to the Legislature on Feb. 20

Separately, though, Pritzker's office also released a number of reports Friday from various transition committees, including one that focused on budget issues.

But that report also did not offer a detailed plan for addressing the massive budget deficit.

Instead, it offered some general suggestions about seeking new sources of revenue from sources like sports betting and taxing legalized marijuana, along with potential savings the state could realize through management efficiencies.

Republican leaders in the Legislature did not immediately comment on the report. A spokesman for Senate Minority Leader William Brady (R-Bloomington) said he would wait until Pritzker's budget address before commenting.

Shaw wrestles at state meet

competed in the IHSA Class 1A State Wrestling Tournament held Feb. 14-16 at the State Farm Center on the campus of the University of Illinois in Champaign. Shaw, wrestling in the 195-pound weight class, opened

CHAMPAIGN - Amboy High School junior Avery Shaw

the tournament with a hard-fought 8-4 loss to Elliott Fox of In his second match, Shaw was pinned at the 2:17 mark by Grayson Wolf of Robinson and was eliminated from the

tournament. Shaw concluded the season with a 20-14 record.

Sectionals Avery Shaw finished in fourth place in the 195-pound

weight class at the Byron Class 1A Sectional on Feb. 9, earning his trip to the state finals. Shaw had a busy day, wrestling in five matches and win-

ning three. He scored a pair of pin wins and a 5-1 decision. Feb. 9 – Byron Sectional 195 pounds – Avery Shaw (Amboy) pinned Nick Upmann (Durand), 5:24; Shaw (A) pinned Nolan Swenson (Stillman Valley), 3:59; Bryan Caves (Riverdale) pinned Shaw (A),

1:02; Shaw (A) dec. Zach Pinc (Rock Island Alleman), 5-1;

Dallas Hill (Princeton) pinned Shaw (A), 2:56 Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!

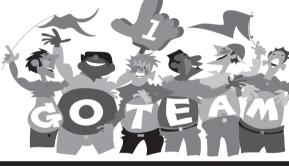
OF THE WEEK

Boys Basketball

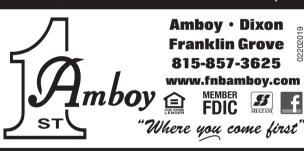
Logan Whelchel

Girls Basketball

Mallory Powers



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Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas EVER SINCE THE KAPLANS PUT UP THAT NO-PEST STRIP. OUR GUYS HAVE BEEN DROPPING LIKE, UM... YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

R.F.D.





The Spats

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by Dave T. Phipps





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"Better get a size larger—don't forget, you haven't had ______

SCRAMBLERS

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

Grasp RENAL Revise DEMAN

ATREPI Assist **EVERS**

TODAY'S WORD

Posting Date February 18, 2019

King Crossword

ACROSS 1 Beavers structure Second letter 15 17 16 8 Wild and crazy 18 19 12 Indivisible 20 22 23 13 Mideast airline 27 25 14 Sheltered 15 Gin, e.g. 29 17 Grad rags? 32 18 First murderer 19 Iron 20 Suitor 22 Paddock par-37 ent 42 24 Long-running

musical 25 Pheasant or 49 grouse 29 Fuss berry 30 Dental filling 31 Ultramodern

46

(Pref.) 32 Backyard attraction

Broadway

out there 35 Feedbag fod- DOWN der 36 Surprise big-

time

37 Engine

34 Somewhere

40 Unwanted email 41 On in years

42 Morning garb

47 "Super-food"

48 Grecian vessel

49 Transmit 50 Group of cat-

51 Despondent

lection

46 Entreaty

uct 8 Capital of Croatia

47

50

cream additle

"What's up,

2 Literary col-

4 Start

6 Highland hat 7 Brewery prod- 26 Notorious

9 Shaving

tive 10 Information 11 Longings

16 Speaker's spot 19 Quarry

20 Wound cover 21 Gully 3 16th-century 22 Soda shop cartographer orders

23 Asian nurse Verve 25 Summertime pest

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place 28 Collegian quarters

30 Construction piece

33 Gizmo 34 Winged 36 Garden

intruder 37 3-Down's creations

38 Leering look 39 Adolescent

40 Luminary 42 "Humbug!"

43 Expert 44 Lingerie item

45 Conclusion

Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging **♦♦♦** HOO BOY!

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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF **HOCUS-FOCUS** Find at least six differences in details between panels

Differences: 1, Baby's shirt has stripes. 2. Picture is differences: 1, Baby's shirt has stripes. 6. Boy's glass is missing. 5. Wall outlet is missing. 6. Boy's glass is missing.

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: E equals F

RPMR ESOOKC WSHSF RVFWB RPS OTZPR BCTRLP KEE CPSW TR'B

WKR TW VBS. PS'B ZKR M CMRR KE WSFHS!

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DINNEB Today's Word

3. Pirate; 4. Serve 1. Learn; 2. Amend;

uomnios SCRAMBLERS 1. MEDICAL: What is the condition that

carries the official name "diaphoresis"? 2. MOVIES: Who played the president in

the film "The American President" (1995)? 3. HISTORY: What was the nickname of the Haitian president Francois Duvalier, who died in 1971? 4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many

signed the Declaration of Independence? 5. TELEVISION: Who was the nemesis of Detective Steve McGarrett in the original "Hawaii 5-O" TV drama? 6. SCIENCE: What is the name of the

future presidents of the United States

ocean current that warms the eastern seaboard of North America? 7. LITERATURE: What was the name of the bank in the "Harry Potter" book series?

8. ANATOMY: Where is the pinna in the human body? 9. U.S. STATES: Which state is nick-

named the "Cornhusker State"? 10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the common commercial name of the

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drug called diazepam?

muils V. Ol 9. Nebraska 8. The outer ear, which is made of car-7. Gringotts Wizarding Bank 6. The Gulf Stream 4. Two: Thomas Jefferson and John 3. Papa Doc

3 8 0 8 H T A 8 MAGS A O T O M O A T S M G A M E B I R D O A A D O D A I N W A R E

2. Michael Douglas

Trivia Test Answers

1. Sweating

CARDGAME C O W N Solution time: 27 mins.

Answers — **King** Crossword —

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

of nervel not in use. He's got a watt light switch off when it's That fellow never turns the

CryptoQuip

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Notification is given that The First National Bank in Amboy, 220 E. Main St., Amboy, IL 61310 has filed an application with the Comptroller of Currency on February 19, 2019, as specified in 12CFR5 for permission to open a branch office staffed at 5558 N. Clark St., Monroe Center, IL 61052. Any person wishing to comment on the application may file comments in writing with the Director for District Licensing, 425 S. Financial Place, Suite 2700, Chicago, Illinois 60605 or email at CE.Licensing@occ. treas.gov within 30

lication. The public portion of the filing is available on request, the public may find information about the filing with the closing date of March 21. 2019 for the comment period in the OCC's weekly bulletin available at www.occ.gov. No. 0202

days of the date of pub-

Feb. 20, 2019

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NO INDIVIDUAL, licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published advertisement any soliciting a child service. 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. Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in it's

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

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

309

PETS AND SUPPLIES

FREE KITTENS to a Good Home. Call 815-213-5043. (02-17-19)

315 WANTED TO BUY

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Housing Authority 815-284-2759

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AVAILABLE Manufacturing Warehouse All Weather Space. 12,000 -Access. 46,000 Sq. ft., 20 Cents per Sq. ft. Divisible. Lainco Inc. Ph. 815-538-5176. (03-20-19)

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ROCHELLE: 3-BEDROOM, 2-Bath. 1-Car Garage, No Pets. \$900/Month. 815-509-5000. (02-24-19)

511 STORAGE UNITS

<u> Amboy & Sublette</u> 10 x 20 inside storage & outside storage for semi-trucks/trailers.

boats, campers, etc 🕽 Call 815-857-2252⁵

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INFORMATION

Office Hours:

8 a.m. to noon, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Tuesday and Friday are by appointment only)

Phone: 815-857-2311

Fax:

815-857-2517 **Email:**

mmays@amboynews.com Address:

245 E. Main Street, Amboy

P.O. Box 162, Amboy, IL 61310

DEADLINES:

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

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

chelle Shopping News • Ashton Gazette • Amboy News • Mendota Reporter • Mendota Money

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

DISCLAIMER:

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

601

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2018 Chevy Malibu LT

2017 GMC Terrain SLE 2

LTZ, 4x4, Z71, Diesel

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2018 Chevy Traverse AWD

2016 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab, LTZ, 4x4, Sunroof Black.....\$44,900 Z71, Blue\$36,900

2016 Chevy Equinox LTZ AWD White.....\$32,500 V6, Loaded, Black\$22,900

2016 Chevy Malibu LT

Blue\$27,900 Gray.....\$15,900 2015 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab

Silver......\$20,900 LT, 4x4, Brown......\$28,900

2017 Chevy K-3500 Crew Cab, 2015 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab

LTZ, Diesel, Silver.....\$53,500 4x4, Z71, LT, Brown..\$26,500

2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 2015 GMC Terrain SLT AWD

LTZ, 4x4, Maroon\$38,900 V6, Silver\$19,500

2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 2015 Buick Encore FWD

4x4, LTZ, Red......\$36,900 White.....\$13,500 2014 Chevy Traverse FWD AWD, Gray\$21,900 LTZ, Loaded, White...\$20,500

2016 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab 2014 Chevy Traverse FWD 2LT, Leather, Maroon.\$18,900 White.....\$46,900

QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

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2010 Chevy K-1500 Crew

4x4, LTZ, Z71

2011 Chevy Tahoe LT

Cab LT 4x4, Black......\$15,900 Loaded, Silver\$12,700 VAESSEN

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