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# The Amboy News

The Depot Museum

Amboy, Illinois

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## Will Amboy Junior High property become home to new fire station?

BY BONNIE MORRIS  
Editor

**AMBOY** — Amboy Fire Department Assistant Chief Scott Wittenauer addressed the Feb. 21 Amboy Board of Education meeting to discuss the fire department's interest in obtaining a portion of the current junior high property for a new fire station.

Wittenauer said plans for a new fire station are in the preliminary stages but due to grant requirements, they would like to have a firm commitment on a piece of property in the coming months. "We really do want to stay in town but there just aren't that many parcels of land this big that are not in the flood plain," he explained.

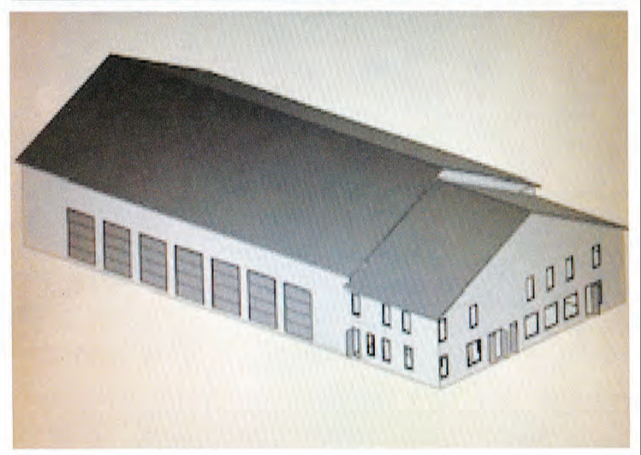
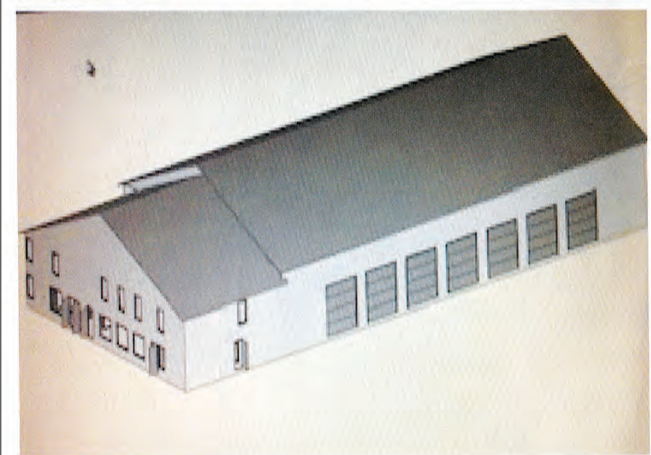
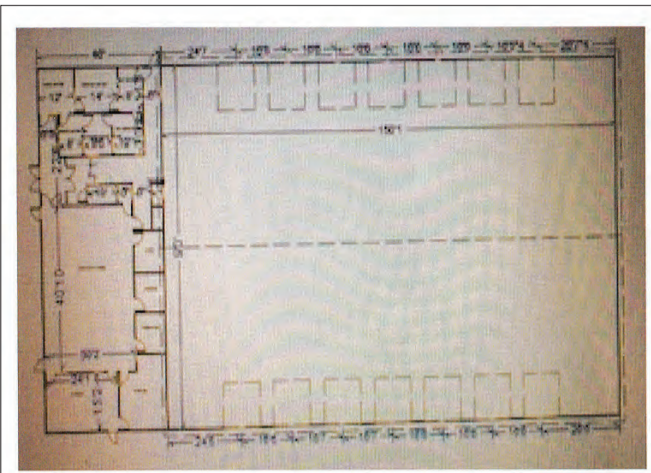
Wittenauer noted that the fire department covers a 135-square-mile district and is one of the largest districts in the state. Although people outside of Amboy have offered land for a new fire station, the concern is the amount of time it would take to respond to a fire miles away in Amboy.

Since the fire department's current location is in the flood plain, it is not possible for them to expand. "We cannot even put a post in the ground to put a lean-to on our building now as we've already been turned down by the county trying to do this," Wittenauer said. "We are desperately in need of land for growth."

To help visualize the layout of the fire department's proposal, Wittenauer showed some preliminary drawings of the size and placement of the fire station and explained that the access would be onto Appleton Avenue. At one end of the approximately \$2.5 million building there would be offices, restrooms, a kitchen, storage and large event room that would be available for use by the community. The larger portion of the building would be the apparatus bay, which would house vehicles. Driveways would be needed on both sides of the building and around one end.

"The building would go from the front doors of the junior high down to the parking lot on the north end. That's what we need for this building, so if you guys want to keep part of the property, that's fine," Wittenauer said.

See **BUILDING** page A2



### Proposal

*The Amboy Fire Department presented preliminary drawings of a proposed new fire station to the Amboy School Board on Feb. 21. Top left: An architectural drawing shows offices, community room, kitchen and storage on the left and the apparatus bay on the right. Top right: The red rectangle shows the proposed placement and size of the building on the Amboy Junior High property. Appleton Avenue is at the top of the picture and would be the access point for the building. Bottom: The exterior of the proposed fire station, front and rear.*

Photo submitted

## Lee County Board approves new monument

BY MONETTA YOUNG  
Reporter

**DIXON** — The Lee County Board approved the plans to place a monument on the courthouse lawn depicting the founding fathers of the Lincoln Highway.

Ron Colson reported that his presentation was the first step of the first monument for the Lincoln Highway Founders Monuments Program.

"Having a historic site is certainly a good starting point," said Colson. "This monument to the 1919 military convoy will also be replicated at Lincoln Park (Lincoln Highway Terminus) in San Francisco and at Gettysburg (entry point of the Convoy, Lincoln Highway origin in Times Square couldn't handle all the big trucks)."

The images to be represented in the monument will be Lt. Col. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Lincoln Highway Field Secretary Henry C. Ostermann in 1.5 X life size bronze. The backstory will focus on the meal on the Courthouse Square, researched by Duane Paulsen, art created by Jay Allen, described in the Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition Mural in Dixon.

Currently, sculptor Jeff Adams, who will be creating the monument, is scheduled solid until September with other projects.

"Even if I'm quickly successful with fund raising, the best we can hope for is maquettes in September when the Lincoln Highway Association tour replicating the convoy's path comes through Lee County - and a finished project sometime in 2020," said Colson.

In other business, Chairman John Nicholson requested a moment of silence for Ike Mercer and Rick Ketchum, both members of the board for

many years, who had recently passed away.

The board approved a resolution to streamline the request from the administrative board to separate the current resolution regarding hiring process guide. Administrator Theresa Wittenauer suggested that there be a request of a replacement employee and a request of an additional employee.

The board also approved the appointing of Janice McCoy to the Lee County Board of Health.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 19, at 9 a.m.



*The Lee County Board approved the plans to place a monument on the courthouse lawn depicting the founding fathers of the Lincoln Highway.*

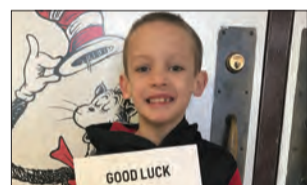
Monetta Young/Amboy News



### GIRL SCOUT WEEK

Mayor declares March 10-16 Girl Scout Week.

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### WRESTLING

Local youth wrestlers advance to Sectional tournament.

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### Obituaries

Darlene Smith  
Susan Schaefer  
Jeanette Gascoigne

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### Inserts

Jones Berry Lumber

## Shrek The Musical to take the stage in Amboy

**AMBOY** — Are you looking for a fun filled evening of entertainment for your whole family?

Then look no further than the Amboy High School auditorium as the AHS music department presents "Shrek The Musical."

Based on the Oscar-winning animation film, Shrek The Musical is a Tony Award-winning adventure-filled musical that is presented with permission of Music Theatre International on

March 8, 9, and 10 in the Amboy High School Auditorium.

An unlikely hero, Shrek find himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking Donkey and a feisty princess who resist her rescue. Shrek The Musical brings the beloved characters you know from the film to life on their way to discovering the big, bright, beautiful world at the end of this fabulously fresh Storeybrook journey.

Shrek The Musical is irreverent fun for the whole family and proves that beauty is truly in the eye of the ogre.

Show times are 7 p.m., on Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 10.

Tickets are on sale 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Amboy High School mall area, beginning Feb. 26, and will also be available at the door one hour prior to each performance.



### NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

*Jake Leffelman was sworn in as the new Alderman from Ward I during the Amboy City Council meeting on Monday night. Leffelman replaces former Alderman Eric McLaughlin.*

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News

## Council welcomes new Alderman

BY TONJA GREENFIELD  
General Manager

**AMBOY** — The Amboy City Council welcomed a new Alderman during Monday night's meeting.

The Amboy City Council met Monday night in the University of Illinois Extension office. The meeting was postponed a week from the normal third Monday of the month due to weather.

Amboy Mayor John Schamberger recommended Jake Leffelman as the Alderman replacement for Eric McLaughlin in Ward 1. The four members of the council who were present voted in favor of Leffelman as the new Alderman of Ward 1. Alderman Bill Bontz was absent from the meeting.

### Façade Improvements

Schamberger presented an idea to the council that would continue with the improvements that are being made in the city, including downtown. The idea is that the city would offer a pool of money that local businesses could apply for in assisting them with improvements on their building.

See **COUNCIL** page A9

## Demmer to host new office open house on March 2

**DIXON**—State Representative Tom Demmer (R-Dixon) invites residents of the 90th Legislative House District to join him for an open house this Saturday, March 2nd at his new legislative office, located at 105 E. First Street in Dixon. The open house will take place from 9 – 11 a.m.

"Until January of this year, my district office was located in Rochelle. It was a wonderful location that served my staff and me very well," said Demmer. "I was also able to hold meetings in Dixon at the office of Senator Tim Bivins. When the Senator

retired, I decided to relocate our principal office to Dixon, but my staff remains available and accessible through traveling individual appointments with constituents and mobile office hours throughout the 90th District."

Senator Brian Stewart will also attend the Saturday open house and greet guests.

The office phone number for the Dixon office has not changed, and will remain 815-561-3690. Office hours will still be 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The 90th District is located in the northwestern Illinois counties of Ogle, Lee, DeKalb and LaSalle. The District includes all or portions of the following communities: Amboy, Ashton, Byron, Compton, Creston, Davis Junction, DeKalb, Dixon, Earlville, Franklin Grove, Grand Detour, Hillcrest, Lake Holiday, Lee, Leland, Lost Nation, Malta, Mendota, Monroe Center, Nelson, Oregon, Paw Paw, Polo, Rochelle, Sandwich, Shabbona, Somonauk, Steward, Stillman Valley, Sublette, Waterman, and West Brooklyn.



# LOCAL NEWS

## BUILDING continued from page A1

"This is our dream building, the one that we want to build. We want every door in the apparatus bay have one vehicle in it. We don't want to stack vehicles behind each other where you have to take one out to get to the other one."

The fire department's major grant application is due June 1 but a definite land commitment is not needed until grants are awarded in March 2020. However, Wittenauer noted that they would like to have land secured well before that so they can stop the search for property. "If we find a decent piece of land, then we don't have to continue looking," he said. "We're applying for multiple grants . . . we're trying to get any or all of the grants we can, but we're going to need to put a building up very soon whether it's by a grant or not."

Board president Nicole Jones said she contacted the district's legal advisors regarding the property but has not yet heard back from them. "When we get the legalities of it, we have to discuss it and consider any other interested buyers," she said.

Jones also noted that the property will not be available for three years but Wittenauer said that would not be a problem since the fire department is just in the beginning stages of the process.

### PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Amboy High School Principal Janet Crownhart congratulated January Student of the Month Mitchell McLaughlin. Curriculum and School Improvement

- The Section 2 Vet Science and Food Science CDE was held Jan. 23 at Rochelle High School.

- Mrs. Crownhart, Mr. Wissinger and Mrs. Arellano attended the PASS conference on Feb. 1 at Sauk Valley Community College.

- Mendota Ag Conference was Feb. 7 at the Mendota Civic Center.

- 212 Conference for FFA was held Feb. 8-9 in Schaumburg.

- Mrs. Carlson was scheduled to take three students to SVCC on Feb. 13 for a math competition but they canceled due to weather.

School Activities

Crownhart congratulated the girls basketball team for their

great season and advancing to super sectionals. She also congratulated Avery Shaw for advancing to state for wrestling.

Principal Andrew Full, Amboy Junior High Curriculum and School Improvement

- The Targeted School Improvement Team met with Anji Garza on Feb. 8 to get started on the "Work Plan." They met again on Feb. 20 to complete the plan and get it ready for board approval/submission to the state. The team was supposed to attend TISP Training #3 at SVCC, but it was cancelled due to weather.

- On Feb. 11, teachers were given time to work on SLOs, STAR data entry, and curriculum during the SIP day. The Special Education Department held a meeting at Central to discuss updates and various topics.

PBIS

- The PBIS Assembly scheduled for Jan. 28 was postponed and those awards will be given at the February Assembly.

School Activities

- Winner of the all school Spelling Bee held Feb. 8 was Austin Shugars. He represented AJHS at the County Spelling Bee in Dixon on Feb. 21 and tied for third. Full said he is one of the school's highest achieving students. The alternate was Olivia Costner. The other AJHS Spelling Bee participants were able to travel to Dixon to watch and support Shugars and later were treated to Pizza Hut Buffet.

- The girls basketball team hosted their annual tournament on Feb. 9. The participating teams were Eastland, Serena, and AFC. Serena won the 8th and the 7th grade. Amboy's 7th grade team received 2nd and the 8th grade team received 3rd.

- After being re-scheduled for the second time, activity pictures were taken on Feb. 20.

- Student Council sold carnations for Valentine's Day during lunch hours.

- On Jan. 25, Mrs. Foster, Mr. Surufka, and the 7th grade team held Foods From Around the World for the 7th grade class.

Principal Joyce Schamberger, Central Elementary

School Improvement

- The Central School Rtl Committee met and planned WIN times and resources for teachers to use. All students were assigned to a group based on the help they need.

- On Feb. 11, teachers were trained on Easy CBM, a tool that will be used for bi-monthly progress monitoring in reading and in math.

- Central School students and staff will celebrate Read Across America with various dress up days during the week of Feb. 25-March 1.

- On Feb. 25, the staff participated in a Poverty Simulation training.

**Senior Dining Menu**  
March 4-8  
8 oz. of low-fat milk served with each meal

**Monday** – Meatball sub, peas & carrots, seasoned potato wedges, mandarin oranges  
**Tuesday** – Sweet & sour chicken, fluffy rice, stir fry veggies, dinner roll, apricots  
**Wednesday** – Salisbury steak, cheesy potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, sliced peaches  
**Thursday** – A) Cheese omelet, turkey sausage, hash brown potatoes, blueberry muffin, fruit juice B) Soup & Sandwich, chicken rice & tuna salad  
**Friday** – Tuna noodle casserole, broccoli, carrots, pineapple tidbits, dinner roll

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

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EVENINGS

**The Amboy News**  
Established In 1854

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Tonja Greenfield  
General Manager

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Fax: 815-857-2517  
tgreenfield@amboynews.com

PBIS

- During the monthly SIP Assembly, awards were given for Students of the Week.

- Book-It Reading Goals for February were celebrated on Feb. 25 by playing Dr. Seuss BINGO.

School Activities

- First grade won Best Attendance for January with 95.7 percent. They earned a snack sponsored by the P.T.C.

- On Feb. 22, the FFA Officers visited Central School and read books aloud to students.

- Edie Peterson from the YWCA presented lessons on Body Safety to grades 1-4 on Feb. 7 and 8.

### OTHER BUSINESS

#### Amended 2018-19 calendar

Due to an unprecedented number of weather related school closings, the board approved some amendments to this year's school calendar. A day of attendance was added on the day after Easter, April 22 and the junior high graduation date was moved to May 31. Nichols noted that high school graduation will remain on the original date.

#### Asbestos abatement

The board accepted the low bid of DEM Services, Inc. of Addison for asbestos abatement at Amboy Junior High School. Nichols said the abatement will be done over spring break and then they will have to determine where the leak is and make the necessary repairs.

#### Appreciation

Nichols thanked Al Quest, director of transportation, for his help getting the busses up and running during the recent extreme cold weather. Nichols said Quest not only comes in early to get the busses going and warmed up for the drivers but he is also out checking the road conditions very early in the morning. He also thanked the road commissioners who provide valuable information on road conditions during bad weather.

The next regular meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 21 at Amboy High School.

## Demmer offers free passes to many museums and zoos

**DIXON**—State Representative Tom Demmer (R-Dixon) invites residents of the 90th District to take advantage of a free 'Constituent Education Resource Card' that is available through his legislative office in Dixon.

Any resident of the 90th District may reserve the Constituent Education Resource Card on a first come first served basis, to visit any of the following museums in 2019:

- Adler Planetarium
- The Art Institute of Chicago
- Brookfield Zoo
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- Chicago Children's Museum
- Chicago History Museum
- Dusable Museum of African American History
- The Field Museum
- Lincoln Park Zoo

- Museum of Contemporary Art
- Museum of Science and Industry
- National Museum of Mexican Art
- National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture
- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
- John G. Shedd Aquarium

Because only one group pass is available at a time, reservations are required. To reserve the free pass, please contact Rep. Demmer's office at tom@tomdemmer.com or 815-561-3690. A reservation can be made by providing a name and address, and the date(s) the card would like to be reserved.

Upon reserving the pass, constituents may pick it up and return it to the Demmer legislative office, located at 105 E. First Street, Suite #110 in Dixon.

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## Celebrate Lent with the Stations of the Cross and Mass

We will have the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Stations of the Cross

5:30 pm Holy Mass

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Sublette**

**Fridays, March 8th & March 29th**

**St. Mary of the Assumption in West Brooklyn**

**Friday, March 15th & April 5th**

**St. Patrick Church in Maytown**  
**Fridays, March 22nd & April 12th**

*Come and help us dedicate the Stations and celebrate this centuries old tradition of walking with Christ to Calvary.*



# LOCAL NEWS

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**DIXON**-The Lee County Health Department, 309 S. Galena Ave., will have Childhood Immunization Clinics, by appointment only, on Feb. 27 and 28 and March 7, 12 and 14. 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.

**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 American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday, March 1, at Sauk Valley Fitness, 300 Division. Call 800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment to donate.

**DIXON**-The University of Illinois Extension Child-care 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](http://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](http://go.illinois.edu/LeeArchery).

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

**AMBOY**-The Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #8277 will host a Euchre Tournament starting at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, at St. Joseph's Hall, 32 N. Jones St. Doors open at noon. No partner needed. Call Will at 815-849-5112 with any questions. Proceeds to Teen Turf.

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

**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](http://go.illinois.edu/4seasonsCLW).

**AMBOY**-ACO members will meet at 6 p.m., on Tuesday March 5, at Maria's. Guests are welcome. Those joining in addition to those already announced are Ned and Carol Ely, Diana and Larry Eisenberg, Barb Harrison, Carol and Kevin Prunty and Rita Glenn

**DIXON**-The New Children and Parents Diabetes Support Group will meet at the YMCA, 110 N. Galena Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5. Call 815-284-3371 for more in-

formation.

**SUBLETTE**-A Mass with Dispensation of Ashes will be held at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 202 S. Locust. Call the parish office at 815-849-5412 for more information.

**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/CattleFeeders](http://go.illinois.edu/CattleFeeders).

**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. The third Wednesday of the month drive, March 20, will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call 800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment to donate.

**MAYTOWN**-A Mass with Dispensation of Ashes will be held at 4 p.m. on

Wednesday, March 6, at St. Patrick Church, 1336 Maytown Rd. Call the parish office at 815-849-5412 for more information.

815-849-5412 for more information.

**SUBLETTE**-Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 202 S. Locust, will have Confessions at 4:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross at 5 p.m. and Holy Mass at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 8. Call the parish office at 815-849-5412 for more information.

### Leffelman & Associates would like to congratulate the AHS Lady Clippers on a great season!



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This Week's Star Student of the Week is:  
**Teddy Klein**  
Student's Favorites:  
Favorite Color - Green  
Favorite Animal - Penguin  
Favorite Food - Breadsticks  
Favorite Book - Teddy Bears Have A Picnic  
Favorite Game - Monopoly  
Favorite Song - Believer

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## Educational Briefs

### Welch named as a Distinguished Scholar

**ROCKFORD**—Victoria Welch, a resident of Amboy, is announced as a fall 2018 Distinguished Scholar at Rockford University.

Students attending Rockford University who earn at least a 3.75 GPA with no grades below "C" and having completed all requirements for the semester are named as Distinguished Scholars.

Rockford University is a private four-year, co-educational institution founded in 1847 offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in traditional liberal arts and professional fields. The University offers more than 80 majors, minors and concentrations, including the adult accelerated degree completion program for a B.S. in Management Studies. Through its Graduate Studies department, degrees are extended to include the Master

of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT), and Master of Education in Urban Education, (M.Ed.). Rockford University is home to one of only 11 Phi Beta Kappa (PBK) chapters in Illinois, the most prestigious honor society in the United States. Named by The Princeton Review as a Best Midwestern College and is a U.S. News & World Report Best Midwest Regional University, Rockford University currently serves approximately 1,250 full-and part-time students.

### UW-Platteville announces 2018 fall graduation

**PLATTEVILLE, Wis.** - The University of Wisconsin-Platteville celebrated its 201st commencement ceremonies Dec. 15 in Williams Fieldhouse, and the ceremonies featured local students. UW-Platteville, founded

in 1866, has been named the best in Wisconsin for annual return on investment for the fourth consecutive year by Payscale and the best in the state (and seventh nationally) for employment by Zippia, the Career Expert.

For more information on the university, located in Southwest Wisconsin, visit [uwplatt.edu](http://uwplatt.edu).

Students from this area who earned their bachelor's degrees, with their major(s), include:

**Amboy**  
Jordan Ernst, Political Science  
Allison Prestegaard, Agricultural Business  
Courtney Vivian, Agricultural Business  
**Dixon**  
Jordan Ries, Biology

### UW-Platteville announces Chancellor's

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**VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELDERLY/HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY**  
**APRIL 2, 2019 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION**  
**REGISTRATION**  
Cathy Myers, Lee County Clerk, states that voter registration is open in the Election Department of her office. Notice is hereby given that March 5, 2019 is the last day registrations or transfers can be accepted. Please stop in the Election Department or call 815-288-3309 for the names of Deputy Registrars in your area.  
Anyone who has never registered in Lee County, has moved within the county, or has had a change of name since the last election must be registered and have the correct name and address if they wish to vote in this election. First time registrants shall (by April 2, 2019, Consolidated Election) have resided in their precinct for 30 days and must be 18 years of age on or before Election Day.  
**VOTE BY MAIL - AVAILABLE TO ANY REGISTERED VOTER - NO EXCUSE NECESSARY**  
Cathy Myers office complies with the federal voting accessibility laws. All properly registered voters are eligible to vote by mail. Applications for a mailed ballot are available on the website beginning January 2, 2019 or by contacting the Election Department of her office. Upon receipt of a signed application, a ballot will be mailed to the voter. The last day a ballot can be mailed is March 28, 2019, five days before this election.  
**EARLY VOTING** - Will be conducted in the Election Department, first floor of the Old Lee County Courthouse beginning on February 21, 2019. Voting hours are Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. and Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.  
To comply with the federal voting accessibility law, election judges are allowed to deliver a ballot to any voter who is not able to get into the polling place. A request must be made to the Election Department prior to Election Day to make arrangements for two judges to deliver a ballot to a voter within 50 feet of the polling place. To reach the Election Department please call 815-288-3309 during normal business hours.  
Once a ballot is cast, it cannot be rescinded. All above dates apply for the April 2, 2019 Consolidated Election.  
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**Letters Policy:** The Amboy News encourages letters from readers on current issues. Letters should be brief and must be signed, with a street address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes. The newspaper reserves the right to publish, edit, condense, revise or reject any submissions.

# OBITUARIES

## OBITUARIES

### Darlene “Dolly” Smith Oct. 17, 1925 - Feb. 22, 2019

**BATESVILLE, Ark.** — Darlene “Dolly” Smith, 93, of Batesville, Ark. died Friday, Feb. 22, 2019.

She was born Saturday, Oct. 17, 1925 in Maytown, Illinois to Arthur J. and Ella (Clopine) Kessel.

Darlene loved to cook and bake so much that she published her own cook book filled with family recipes, many of which she would make for friends and family during the holidays. She was always a good mother who loved her family dearly and spent much time with her granddaughter who gave Dolly the nickname Gacky. She was a member of the Red Hat Society, the Foxy Ladies of the White River, and was a very social person who enjoyed hosting parties, entertaining, and dancing.

She is survived by two daughters, Janet Smith (Doug

Lee), of Batesville, Pamela Milton (William), of Richmond, Texas; one sister-in-law, Kathy Kessel, of Amboy; one grandchild, Caroline Rose Milton, of Auburn, Ala.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Darlene is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kenneth Smith; one son, Mark Smith; two brothers, Donald and Emil Kessel; and one sister, Henrietta Friel.

Pallbearers will be Jake Dauck, Dave Delhotal, Brad Kessel, Dennis Kessel, Don Noble, and John Schamberger.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to friends, Mitzi Hargan, Sarah Sexton, Zona Yancey, and the caretakers at Woodlawn Nursing Home.

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 1, at Immanuel Lutheran



Church in Amboy with Pastor Barb Otton officiating. Burial will take place at Prairie Repose Cemetery in Amboy.

Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service at church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Independence County Humane Society at 5 Environmental Dr. Batesville, Ar. 72501 or the Church of your choice.

Local arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

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

### Jeanette E. “Nettie” Gascoigne Aug. 27, 1927 - Feb. 18, 2019

**AMBOY** — Jeanette E. “Nettie” Gascoigne, 91, of Amboy, died Monday, Feb. 18, 2019, peacefully in her home.

She was born Aug. 27, 1927, in Dixon, the daughter of Arthur and Nora (Gottel) Naffziger.

After the death of her mother, Nettie was raised in the Lutheran Children’s Home in Muscatine, Iowa with her siblings.

As a teenager, she was raised by the Coss family in Dixon until her marriage to Earl L. Gascoigne in Dixon on Oct. 17, 1947. He preceded her in death on Oct. 22, 1982.

She was also preceded in death by her grandson, Aaron Grabowski, and three brothers, Leslie, Kenneth, and Donald Naffziger.

Survivors include four daughters, Barbara (William) Grennan, of Amboy, Judy (Thomas) Stoner of Seminole, Fla., Janice Gascoigne, of Chicago, and Linda Gascoigne, of Chambersburg, Penn.; three sons, Larry (Trudy McCarty) Gascoigne, of LaMoille, Steven (Jill) Gascoigne, of Princeton, and Marty Gascoigne, of LaMoille; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandsons; one sister, Lorraine (Joseph) Bartolf, of Colorado; and two brothers, Lyle (Joyce) Naffziger, of California and Paul Naffziger, of Oregon.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., on Saturday, February 23, 2019, in the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy, with the Rev. Barb Otten, officiating. Cremation



followed with burial of cremains at a later date in Prairie Repose Cemetery in Amboy. Visitation was held from 5 – 7 p.m., on Friday, Feb. 22, in the funeral home.

A memorial has been established to the Amboy Fire Department.

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

### Susan L. Schaefer Nov. 29, 1951 - Feb. 21, 2019

**MENDOTA** — Susan L. Schaefer, age 67, of Mendota, died Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019 at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford.

Susan was born Nov. 29, 1951 in Dixon the daughter of Dwight Hintz and Alice (Lafferty) Sullivan. Susan was employed at Mapleside Manor in Amboy for 21 years. She enjoyed spending time with her family especially her daughter, grandchildren and great grandson.

Survivors include her husband, Fred Schaefer, of Mendota; one daughter, Debbie (Cody Trosclair) Johnson, of Mendota; three grandchildren, Elizabeth Hess, Devin Johnson and Aidan Johnson; and one great grandson, Benjamin Hiebing.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Butch Hintz; one sister, Lynn Frye; and her step father, Clarence Sullivan.

Graveside services were



held at 1 p.m., on Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019 at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to the American Heart Association.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.chapelhill-dixon.com](http://www.chapelhill-dixon.com).

### 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 (\$25 as of March 1) 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](mailto:tgreenfield@amboynews.com).

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### Rick Ketchum

June 6, 1950 to Feb. 7, 2019

*The Family of Rick Ketchum would like to thank everyone who sent cards, called, brought food, and prayed for Rick during his fight with Cancer. To everyone who gave to his Memorial, all the many Masses, To Jones Funeral Home, especially to Pat and Jim. To Peg and Sue Duffy for organizing Rick’s funeral dinner and all those who prepared and brought food for the dinner. To Kevin Prunty for the beautiful prayer service at Rick’s wake, and to Father Richard Kramer for the beautiful funeral service at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. To Veronica Hickey for the wonderful music, and Frank Lachat for serving Mass. The many, many beautiful flowers and plants added much comfort. To Rick’s nephews Mike Mead, Troy Quest, Kevin Quest, Denny Hicks, Doug Hicks and Andy Bell for honoring their Uncle Rick as Pall Bearers. The Memorials in Rick’s memory were donated to Heartland Hospice, UW Carbone Cancer Center for Head and Neck Cancer Research, and Illinois Cancer Center. Rick was a wonderful Man, Husband, Dad, PaPa and Friend to all who knew him.*

*Rick will forever be missed and Loved.*

*With Love and Grateful Hearts,  
Kathy, Kristin and Jeremy  
Danny and Alanna and Grandkids*

02272019

## THANK YOU!

*We would like to Thank our friends, family, co-workers, classmates, and neighbors involved in organizing the benefit held for Tom Latta on Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Saddle Club.*

*Thank You to all who donated gift baskets and baked goods for the Silent Auction and Bake Sale, those selling 50/50 tickets, to the businesses from Amboy, Sublette, Harmon, Dixon, Sterling and Rock Falls for donating to the Silent Auction and to the workers! To those who attended, it was great seeing you all.*

*And to all who sent us cards!*

*Thank You Very Much,  
Tom Latta & Family*

02272019

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

**St. Patrick Church**  
Rev. Timothy Draper  
32 N Jones, Amboy  
815-857-2315 • [www.stpatrickamboy.org](http://www.stpatrickamboy.org)  
Masses: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 5 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday 7 am  
Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 9 am  
Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 pm  
Wednesday, 5:30-6:15 pm  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:  
Friday, 8am-5 pm

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

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

**St. Flannen Church**  
Rev. Timothy Draper  
213 S Second St., Harmon  
815-857-2670  
Mass: Sunday, 7:30 am

**United First Church of Amboy**  
Pastor Mark Glenn  
East Main & Jefferson  
815-440-0745  
Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m.  
Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

**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](http://www.graceisforyou.com)

**East Grove Union Church**  
Pastor Richard Wulf, 815-440-5321  
449 Reuter Road, Amboy  
Phone 815-376-6661  
1/2 Mile East of Route 26 on Union Rd.  
Sun., 9:00 a.m. Morning Service  
Youth Church, ages 3-Grade 4  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Ages 3 - Adult  
6:00 p.m. Evening Service  
Wed., 6:00 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study  
First Sunday night of each month, 6:00p.m.  
First Sunday Family Film Night  
Fourth Saturday of each month, 6:00p.m.  
“Fun & Fellowship Game Night for the Whole Family!”  
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**First Baptist Church**  
Pastor Rocky Fritz  
24 N. Mason Avenue  
Church Phone 857-2682  
[www.fbcamboy.com](http://www.fbcamboy.com)  
Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Service - 6 p.m.  
Wed. prayer meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
King’s Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday  
Reformers Unanimous 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.

**St. Mary’s Church**  
Rev. Randy Fronek  
West Brooklyn  
Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m.  
Saturday - 5:30 p.m.

**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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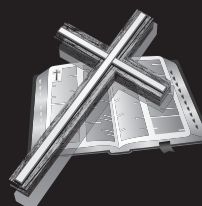
**Mihm-Jones Funeral  
Home**  
815-857-2611

**Vaessen Brothers**  
Chevrolet  
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**First National Bank  
in Amboy**  
Member F.D.I.C.  
815- 857-3625

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

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



## SOCIAL NEWS



## THE PASTOR'S PEN

*Written on our hearts*

BY PASTOR JACK BRIGGS

A man once spent days looking for a new hat he had misplaced. Finally, he decided that he'd go to church on Sunday and sit in the back pew. During the service he would sneak out and just snatch a hat from the rack in the hallway. As planned, on Sunday he went to church and sat in the back. The sermon was about the Ten Commandments. He sat through the entire service instead of sneaking out as planned. Afterwards, he went to talk to the minister.

"Pastor, I came here today intending to steal a hat to replace the one I lost. But after hearing your sermon on the Ten Commandments, I changed my mind." The minister said, "Well, bless you. Was it when I started to preach 'Thou shall not steal,' that changed your heart?" The man responded, "No, it was the one on adultery. When you started to preach on that, I remembered where I left my hat."

All kidding aside, how do we view "God's Law"? Is it restrictive and "old-timey" and out-of-date with modern times, binding and hemming us in at every side? Is it a tedious list of "do" and "don't" and "shall" and "shall not"? How does that fit in with the life of freedom Christ gives us, anyway?

Think of the Law as a guide or a help to us as we seek to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Think of it as a map through a minefield. We can follow the map and avoid the pitfalls that can be damaging to our relationship with God and with each other. Or we can ignore the map and walk carelessly into the minefield and run the risk of disastrous consequences.

Sometimes it is not easy to follow the map, like when a close friend asks us to protect them by lying for them, or at least bending the truth a tad. Maybe we are asked to join in judging someone else. Maybe one of our kids asks us to buy them something we

really can't afford, and the only justification they can offer is "because everyone else has one." Sound familiar, mom and dad?

It is not easy, even when we know what the Law of God says about bearing false witness, and about stealing, and about judging others, and about not coveting our neighbors' stuff. But at least with the law we have some guidelines to go by, to help us discern what is right or wrong. It is not there to make us miserable. It is there to help us to love one another, love ourselves, and love God.

When we consider the Law of God, let us also remember that Jesus was entirely blameless under the Law when he died for us...not because he rigidly followed its every letter, but because he adhered to the spirit of the law, a spirit of love he clearly articulated when asked a trick question about which is the greatest commandment in the Law, and he responded, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart,

soul, and mind...and love your neighbor as you love yourself. The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments." (Matt. 22: 36-40)

Finally, there has been a lot of controversy lately around displaying the Ten Commandments in government buildings, courtrooms, etc. But I suggest that the "Big 10" lead us nowhere if they are just words chiseled on stone tablets, carved in wood, or written on a sheet of paper. For it is when they are written on our hearts that they make all of human life a joy and a blessing.

Thanks be to God, day by day.

## Amboy Auxiliary to change meeting date

AMBOY — The March meeting for the Amboy American Legion Auxiliary will be on Monday, March 11 and not on March 4 due to a conflict.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Long Branch Saloon. Reminder to members that the annual legion birthday celebration is at Walton Tap at 6 p.m., on Sunday, March 10.

Hope to see you there.

## Lee County Historical Society to meet for program March 11

DIXON — The Lee County Historical and Genealogical Society will present a program at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 11 at their office at 113 S. Hennepin Avenue in Dixon.

Michael Neill will speak on "Organizing Your Online Searches." If you are just begin-

ning to start your family tree or will like to update your information, this will be a good program for you. Neill is a professor of math at Carl Sandberg College in Galesburg.

The building is handicapped accessible and the public is invited. There is no fee to attend.

## The Book Nook

By:  
Tatjana Kazan

*The storyteller*

At the heart of Jodi Picoult's novel, "The Storyteller," is a modern Scheherazade who tells her story in order to live for another day. Her name is Minka, a Jewish girl from Lodz, whose very life hangs on a thread in the land of the dead that is Auschwitz. Before the war, Minka and her best friend Darija hope for fame and glory when Minka sets out to write the story of Ania, the daughter of the village baker, and the upior (Polish for vampire) who loves her. In Auschwitz, Minka's story will keep her alive when a Waffen-SS officer becomes fascinated with the story and will ask her every night after she reads the latest segment, "And then what happened?"

Minka's story of survival is by far the best part of "The Storyteller." To be sure, it is a familiar story of murderous cruelty and human depravity, but Picoult invests it with such telling detail that it comes to life, as when an old neglected painting is restored to its original tones. However, there are other stories that are not nearly as good. Minka's granddaughter, Sage Singer, an outstanding, but reclusive baker, whose face was disfigured in a car accident, frames Minka's story. Her narration sags rather badly, especially when it has to bring the novel to its conclusion. Baking is the life-giving metaphor of the novel, as Sage says, "All you need are the right ingredients with a little heat, then things rise."

The novel is set in motion when Sage meets a 95-year old man in a grief support group. His name is Josef Weber, beloved by everyone he has touched as teacher and coach. Sage and Josef become friends, but he has a secret. He was an SS officer who killed thousands of Jews in Auschwitz. He asks her forgiveness and to kill him. Josef's story covers the rise of Nazism from when he and his brother were boys in the Hitler Youth to when they ended up SS officers in the death camps in Poland. In what has become a cliché, Picoult depicts one brother as the sensitive German intellectual who suffers stoically when he carries out orders, and the other as the imperious personification of SS brutality.

After listening to her grandmother Minka's story, Sage realizes that it is not for her to forgive Josef. There is no forgiveness. She asks her grandmother why she hasn't told her story before, and Minka, the consummate storyteller, explains her silence: "So you see, this is why I never told my story. If you lived through it, you already know there are no words that will ever come close to describing it. And if you didn't, you will never understand."

Our Book Club will be discussing "The Storyteller" on Friday, March 1, 2019, from 10am-11am at the Pankhurst Library. Everyone is most welcome.

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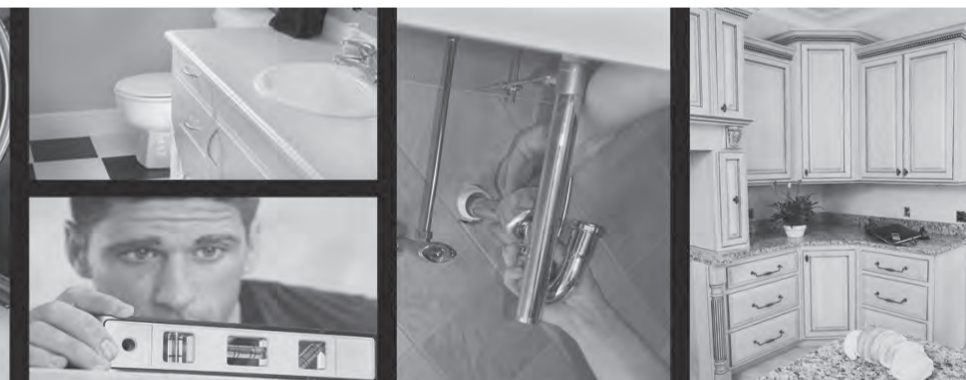
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## Thank You Neighbor

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

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# Opinion

## Pension holidays

### Guest Column

By Scott Reeder



Political courage is a rare commodity in Springfield. And new ideas are rarer still.

When politicians face challenges, they usually dig out the same tired political play books and take the path of least resistance. In regard to funding state pensions, that's what appears to be happening now.

Governor J.B. Pritzker's deputy Dan Hynes is proposing that we "balance" the budget by shorting payments to the state pension systems, again.

Such ideas become policy when governors confuse the urgent with the important. The most urgent issue on Pritzker's desk is proposing a budget. But the most important matter is figuring out how to fund the state's retirement systems, which are teetering on the brink of collapse.

Illinois already has the worst-funded pensions in the nation. Now Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration wants to reduce how much the state pays in next fiscal year to the tune of \$800 million?

Good grief. Have we lost all commonsense?

Of course, Hynes didn't use the words "short" or "underfund."

He called it a "modification" of the Edgar Pension Ramp. You see, the fiscal mess that is Illinois, bears both Repub-

lican and Democrat fingerprints.

During Gov. Jim Edgar's time in office the so-called Edgar Ramp was created, which was touted as a cure-all for the state's pension woes.

It wasn't. It isn't. And it never will be.

It simply delayed the state's Day of Reckoning.

In fact, it made things worse.

Back in the 1990s the state's finances were a mess. Pensions were underfunded in part because annual payments had been skipped and the money spent on other things.

For months, Edgar, legislative leaders and union bosses hashed out how to "solve" this predicament.

And they gave birth to a rat.

In a nutshell, the grand compromise Edgar championed called for having low annual pension payments while he was in office and higher ones when future governors were in office.

He kicked the can down the road. He made his problem that of future governors.

And now Hynes is ripping a page out of that old playbook and talking about adding seven years onto the ramp so it ends in 2052 instead of 2045.

Bad idea.

Sure, stretching out the payment schedule would reduce

short-term pension costs so the state can spend the money elsewhere. But money diverted today by not putting it into the pension funds results in investment dollars lost that will have to be put in by taxpayers years down the road.

Pritzker spokeswoman Jordan Abudayyeh did not immediately respond to requests for comment about the Hynes' proposal.

Back in the bad old days, they called such schemes "pension holidays." It's how we got into this mess in the first place. Payments were put off and investments were not made. Unpaid pension obligations kept piling up and now we are being asked to make up the difference.

But the biggest problem with these pension holidays or "ramp modifications" is that they fail to address the underlying, flawed state retirement system. Illinois would be much better off if it amended its constitution to move government workers into 401k-like defined contribution plans.

There doesn't appear to be the political will in Springfield to do such a thing. But plenty of folks are talking about raising taxes.

So, hang on to your pocket books.

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

## On This Day in History

### 100 Years Ago Feb. 27, 1919

Rocho Brothers had the misfortune last week of losing a valuable driving horse. The animal picked up a rusty nail somewhere and infection had started before it was discovered. The animal died of lock jaw.

The Amboy Band will hold a fair beginning Saturday night and continuing Monday and Tuesday nights. The band boys have planned some big stunts and their will be fun and entertainment a plenty for tastes of every variety. The big show will be staged in the opera house and the door will be opened at 7:30 p.m. The band concert will start each evening's program at 8 p.m. The admission will be 10 cents.

Everett Barnes held the lucky number that drew the quilt that was raffled by the Crescent Club on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

### 75 Years Ago Feb. 24, 1944

More signs of spring are appearing in Amboy. Latest to report some of these is

Mrs. George Deardorff who called the News Tuesday and said she had daffodils, hyacinth and Stars of Bethlehem several inches out of the ground and showing buds.

Pankhurst Memorial Library is closed temporarily while awaiting furnace repairs. As soon as the repairs are made the library will be reopened.

The Red Cross work room has been forced to close temporarily until the heating system in the library is repaired. All surgical dressing material on hand has been returned to Dixon in order to have all work completed by the end of the month at which time thousands of gauze sponges will start on journey overseas.

### 50 Years Ago Fe. 27, 1969

Members of the Amboy District 272 Board of Education Monday evening adopted a salary schedule for teachers on which salaries for the 1969-70 school year will be based.

Mrs. William F. Hobbs of 218 S. Mason Ave., rescued her year-old son, Todd, from a burning bedroom at the Hobbs home about 9 p.m. Thursday evening.

The fire started in a closet apparently from faulty wiring.

The Texas Cow Girls basketball team will play here Saturday, March 8, against the American Legion Team.

### 25 Years Ago March 3, 1994

Amboy doesn't have a gang problem — not yet, anyway. And after Monday's presentation by a nationally known gang expert, maybe this area can escape the fate that awaits many other small, rural communities.

A counterfeit \$100 bill was discovered at First National Bank in Amboy Monday night and local police are warning area residents to be alert for more phone money.

The phrase "teachers' pet" took on a whole new meaning for students in Craig Watkins; fifth grade class at Amboy Junior High. Instead of a teacher favoring a particular student, the youngsters pooled their Monday and did a favor for their teacher. After hearing Watkins express his sorrow at having to put a beloved pet to sleep, the children chipped in \$67 to buy him a new one.

## Pritzker budget doubles down on failure

Gov. J.B. Pritzker delivered his inaugural budget address Wednesday.

His response to Illinois' budget problems? Tax hikes, borrowing and a can-kick — the same recipe for failure that has led the state to this point. Bipartisan solutions on the table in Springfield were ignored.

First, take the tax hikes and new revenue, which will disproportionately come from lower-income Illinoisians.

Pritzker's plan includes legalizing sports betting, a statewide plastic bag tax, a cigarette tax hike, a vaping tax, cutting tax credits that fund school choice scholarships for low-income children, expanding the tax on video gaming, and taxing recreational marijuana, to name a few. It also hikes taxes on medical care organizations and cuts the credit retailers get from the state for collecting sales taxes.

Next, the borrowing. Pritzker wants a \$2 billion pension obligation bond, or POB. Former Govs. Rod Blagojevich and Pat Quinn issued \$17.2 billion in POBs to pay into state pension funds in 2003, 2010 and 2011. They are expected to cost \$30.8 billion to repay. In other words, the last time lawmakers used POBs it increased the cost of pensions to taxpayers by about \$13.6 billion. This kind of risk is why the Government Finance Officers Association recommends against the use of POBs.

And finally, the can-kick. Pritzker is extending the deadline for when Illinois needs to true up its pension funds by seven years. Voila.

### Guest Column

By Austin Berg



Putting more of the burden of yesterday's government on the backs of young and unborn Illinoisians.

A major pain point for many Illinois families, their property tax bill, was left unaddressed. Pritzker's budget does nothing for people worried about those bills cutting deeper and deeper into their home equity.

The buzzword around Pritzker's budget address was "honesty." But at the core of this budget proposal is a false, dishonest choice: deep cuts to core services or a constitutional amendment eliminating Illinois' flat tax protection to allow for a progressive income tax hike. Left unsaid is that even Pritzker's "all cuts" option holds harmless all state worker compensation, health insurance benefits that are unheard of in the private sector, and pension benefits. It's as if a family making a \$10,000 a month mortgage payment on a \$50,000 income tried to balance their household budget by not buying food or medicine. There's an elephant in the room.

Take pensions, for instance. The most recent data from the National Association of State Retirement Administrators shows Illinois' state and local governments spend

the most in the nation on pension benefits as a percentage of all state and local revenue. Pension-related spending consumes more than 25 percent of Illinois' state budget, crowding out spending on social services, public safety and education.

Pritzker's solution to the pension problem is not to bargain with government workers on behalf of taxpayers to balance their interests. It is to borrow more money, hike taxes, and dump all of it into a bottomless pit. This kind of cowardice will ultimately harm public workers counting on a pension payment that won't materialize.

But what about a progressive income tax? Is that the solution?

"[Illinois] can accomplish [a progressive income tax] with a more competitive rate structure than Wisconsin or Iowa," Pritzker said in his budget address. This may be the closest Pritzker has come to revealing any proposed income tax rates. But it is entirely unclear what he means.

In fact, a recent Tax Foundation study on Wisconsin's tax code recommended exchanging its progressive income tax for a flat income tax as one way to make the state more competitive. Both North Carolina and Kentucky

have swapped their states' progressive income tax for a flat income tax in recent years.

Raising the amount of revenue to fund the spending Pritzker wants can't just come from a progressive tax on the backs of millionaires. It will have to come from middle-class tax hikes. The math doesn't work otherwise.

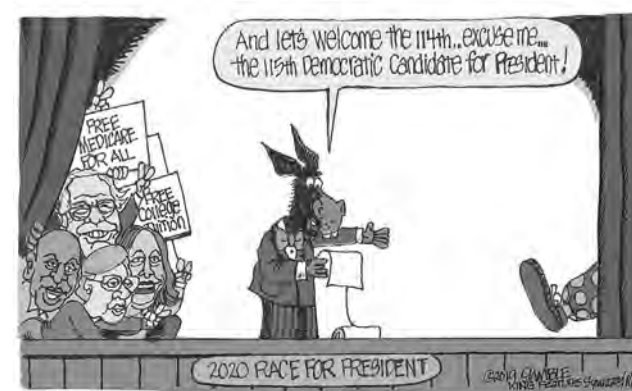
The most disappointing element of the Pritzker budget is that there are bipartisan measures in the General Assembly today that could balance the state budget without tax hikes.

A state government spending cap that limits growth in spending to taxpayer incomes, a school district efficiency measure that would reduce expensive district-level bureaucracy, and a constitutional amendment allowing for changes to future, unearned pension benefits have all been filed.

Getting behind bipartisan budget reform is the kind of bravery Illinoisians deserve from the executive branch.

Instead, they're getting more of the same.

Austin Berg is a writer for the Illinois Policy Institute. He wrote this column for the Illinois News Network. Austin can be reached at aberg@illinoispolicy.org.



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

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

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

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## 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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### Fax:

815-857-2517

### Email:

mmays@amboynews.com

### Address:

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P.O. Box 162,

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Black .....	2016 Chevy Traverse AWD LTZ, DVD, Sunroof	
\$44,900	White .....	\$28,900
2018 GMC Acadia SLT, AWD White .....	2016 Chevy Equinox LTZ AWD V6, Loaded, Black .....	\$22,900
\$32,500	2016 Chevy Malibu LT Gray .....	\$15,900
2018 Buick Envision AWD Essence, Red .....	2015 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT, 4x4, Brown .....	\$28,900
\$27,900	2015 GMC Terrain SLT AWD V6, Silver .....	\$19,500
2018 Chevy Impala Premier Blue .....	2015 Buick Encore FWD White .....	\$13,500
\$27,900	2015 Chevy Sonic LT White .....	\$8,900
2018 Chevy Malibu LT Silver .....	2014 Chevy Traverse FWD LTZ, Loaded, White .....	\$20,500
\$20,900	2014 Chevy Traverse FWD 2LT, Leather, Maroon .....	\$18,900
2017 Chevy K-3500 Crew Cab, LTZ, Diesel, Silver .....	2014 Chevy Impala LTZ Blue .....	\$16,900
\$53,500		
2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4x4, Maroon .....		
\$38,900		
2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4, LTZ, Red .....		
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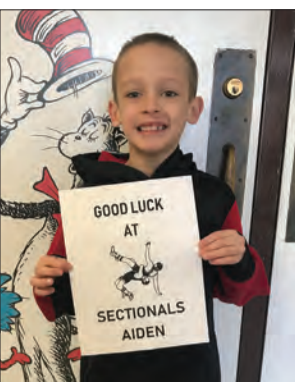
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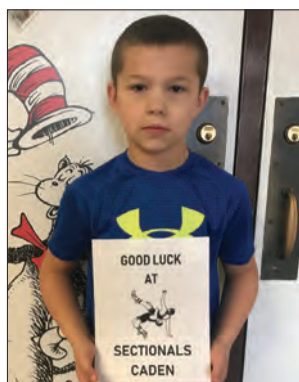
## SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

## Local wrestlers advance to Sectional meet



**Amboy Clippers Wrestling Club**  
**Aiden Spinelli**

First place at Regionals  
Weight class Intermediate  
49 pounds  
Sectionals March 2 in Rock Island



**Amboy Clippers Wrestling Club**  
**Caiden Health**

Second place at Regionals  
Weight class Intermediate  
84 pounds  
Sectionals March 2 in Rock Island



**Amboy Clippers Wrestling Club**  
**Caleb Shugars**

Fourth place at Regionals  
Weight class Novice 156 pounds  
Sectionals March 2 in Rock Island



**Sauk Valley Wrestling Club**  
**Caleb Donna**

Second place at Regionals  
Weight class Senior 156 pounds  
Sectionals March 2 in Rock Island



**Sauk Valley Wrestling Club**  
**Landon Donna**

Second place at Regionals  
Weight Class Novice 115 pounds  
Sectional March 2 in Rock Island



**Polo Wrestling Club**  
**Zhyler Hanson**

Sixth place at Regionals  
Weight class Novice 70 pounds  
Sectionals March 2 in Rock Island

## SUBLETTE NEWS

## DUELING PIANOS

A large crowd enjoyed the Dueling Piano concert at the Sublette Community Building on Feb. 23. The evening included a dinner, a comedian and the Dueling Pianos concert.

The program was sponsored by Sublette 365.

Profits realized from the event will be used for more improvements at the community building.



Local girl scouts attended the Amboy City Council meeting on Monday night where Amboy Mayor John Schamberger declared March 10-16 as Girl Scout Week.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News

## COUNCIL continued from page A1

Schamberger said the City of Rochelle has a program that Amboy could mirror. He said he would like to develop a façade improvement committee to look into the possibilities of what could be done.

He said that he thinks this could be something great to offer, and help some of the businesses to clean things up a little bit.

Amboy City Attorney Matt Keegan told the council that if the city offered a grant to the businesses it would trigger prevailing wage. He said that a TIF district, like Rochelle has, doesn't trigger prevailing wage.

Alderman Brett Dewey agreed that prevailing wage would throw a wrench into the program.

## In other board news:

- Schamberger proclaimed that March 10-16 is Girl Scout Week in Amboy. He thanked the local Girl Scouts for coming to the meeting.

- The library board is currently looking for a new member to serve.

- The city is working on a plan with Willett Hoffman to line the old sewers in the city. The city is looking at the City of Oregon as an example. By lining the old sewers, it would extend the life of the sewers by at least 30 years.

- Schamberger said the next Amboy Cham-

ber Business After Hours will be held later in March at the Shady Oaks Country Club. He thanked all that attended the February Business After Hours event at the Dinges Fire Company.

- The council heard a concern from Amboy resident Camden Ross who said he had gotten four tickets in the mail saying he violated the dog at large ordinance. He told the council that these tickets are due to another citizen having a vendetta against him, and that this has been going on for eight months. He said that local police have sat outside his house like they are hardened criminals. He said he has talked to the Amboy Police and was dismissed by them saying this was a petty neighbor dispute.

He presented the council with evidence of his claim and asked that the council overturn the tickets and have someone talk to the police and the neighbor about stopping this.

Schamberger said they would set up a meeting with the Alderman in Ross' jurisdiction and with the police chief and look into the matter. Alderman Dennis Weidman said it shouldn't take more than a week to look into the matter.

The next Amboy City Council meeting will be held at 7 p.m., on Monday, March 18, in the Amboy Community Center.

## SVCC scholarships for fall 2019 kick-off March 1 – April 1

**DIXON** - The Sauk Valley College Foundation announces the Fall Scholarship Kick-Off. Scholarship awards will be applied to the Fall 2019 semester. Applications will be accepted starting Friday, March 1 and must be fully completed and submitted by 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 1.

The SVC Foundation awards merit and need-based scholarships ranging from \$150 to \$1000.00. Interested applicants may visit [svcc.edu/scholarships](http://svcc.edu/scholarships) for award criteria and application requirements.

Dual enrolled students are welcome to apply. It only takes minutes to apply for the money that can help you pursue your academic goals.

Please contact Angie Delhotal, SVC Foundation, for more information at [ange-la.s.delhotal@svcc.edu](mailto:ange-la.s.delhotal@svcc.edu) or 815-835-6329.

## Diversity Speaker to Present at SVCC on March 6

Sauk Valley Community College invites the public to a free presentation by Diversity Speaker, Nicole Kelly, on March 6 from 12:20 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. in SVCC Room 2K2.

Nicole Kelly is a diversity speaker and advocate for the disability community. Kelly shares her story of being born without her left forearm, how it has shaped her life, and her journey to winning Miss Iowa 2013. Her mission is to empower people of all ages, who feel different, to achieve their goals and exceed limitations.

This free event is co-sponsored by SVCC Student Activities, Student Government Association, and TRIO.

For more information contact, Ana Salgado, [ana.s.salgado@svcc.edu](mailto:ana.s.salgado@svcc.edu), 815-835-6432.

## Amboy school to host StoryWalk®

**AMBOY** — Amboy Preschool and Central Elementary students, and their families, are invited to a fun StoryWalk® family night from 6 – 7:30 p.m., on March 4 in the Central Elementary School gym.

Take a walk as you read through the pages

of Snowmen At Night by Caralyn Buehner and follow the activity prompts. This is a chance to get reading and get moving.

Join us for an evening of togetherness, reading, movement, and fun.

## Amboy Community Unit School District #272

- Thurs., Feb. 28** AJHS Scholastic Bowl @ Dixon Catholic – 4:00 p.m.  
AJHS Girls Basketball (H) Polo – 4:00 p.m.
- Sat., March 2** AHS Girls Track @ IWU Shirk Center, Bloomington – 10:00 a.m.
- Mon., March 4** AHS Scholastic Bowl Regionals @ TBA
- Tues., March 5** AJHS 7th & 8th Scholastic Bowl @ Dimmick Middle School – 4:00 p.m.

# ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

## Boys Basketball

Logan Whelchel

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**www.fnbamboy.com**

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## JR HIGH MENU

March 4 - 8

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 - Hamburger on a bun, cheese slice, tator tots, peas, carrots, fresh cut veggies/ranch, pears, craisins
Tuesday	- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart - Walking beef taco, salad, salsa, black beans, rice, cheese, fresh cut veggies, pineapple, cobbler
Wednesday	- Breakfast burrito or pick two from breakfast cart - Grilled cheese, tomato soup, goldfish crackers, fresh cut veggies/ranch, salad, mixed fruit
Thursday	- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart - Ham or turkey stuffed potato with cheese sauce, roll, green beans, broccoli, peach cup, cupcake
Friday	- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart - Fish sticks, mashed potatoes, roll/butter, corn, baby carrots, applesauce, dried fruit mix, cookie

## CENTRAL SCHOOL MENU

March 4-8

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 - Hamburger on a bun, cheese slice, tator tots, peas, carrots, fresh cut veggies/ranch, pears, craisins
Tuesday	- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart - Walking beef taco, salad, salsa, black beans, rice, cheese, fresh cut veggies, pineapple, cobbler
Wednesday	- Breakfast burrito or pick two from breakfast cart - Grilled cheese, tomato soup, goldfish crackers, fresh cut veggies/ranch, salad, mixed fruit
Thursday	- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart - Roast pork in gravy, mashed potatoes, peanut butter sandwich, broccoli & cheese, green beans, peach cup, cupcake
Friday	- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart - Fish sticks, mashed potatoes, roll/butter, corn, baby carrots, applesauce, dried fruit mix, cookie

# AMBOY FOOD & LIQUOR

Grocery delivery for disabled & senior citizens - in town only.

Hours

Monday - Saturday

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

242 E. Main Street, Amboy IL. 61310

**815-857-7020**

Now Accepting EBT  
Link Cards and WIC

Drop-off and pick-up service available at the store on Mondays and Fridays for Sauk Valley Cleaners (815) 288-1322. Same price as Dixon location.

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." ~ Charles Dickens

**Sale Prices Valid Feb. 27-March 5, 2019 - Limited Quantities - While Supplies Last**

## PRODUCE

### Idaho Potatoes

3 lb bag



**\$1.19**  
ea.

### Bolthouse Cello Whole Carrots

12 oz bag



**\$1.49**  
ea.

### Green Peppers



**\$1**  
2/

### Cucumbers



**89¢**  
ea.

### Hass Avocados



**99¢**  
ea.

### Real Lemon Juice

12 oz



**\$1.69**

Reg. Price \$2.19 ea.

### Kraft Salad Dressing

Assorted 16 oz



**\$4**  
2/

Reg. Price \$2.39 ea.

### Drive Thru Burgers

Assorted



**\$1.99**

Reg. Price \$2.39 ea.

## HOT BUYS

### Folgers Coffee

Assorted 22-28 oz



**\$6.99**  
ea.

Reg. Price \$8.49-9.59 ea.



### Blue Bunny Ice Cream

Assorted 48 oz



**\$4.99**  
ea.

Reg. Price \$6.19 ea.



### Totino's Pizza Rolls

Assorted 24-25 oz



**\$3.99**  
ea.

Reg. Price \$5.49 ea.



### Pepsi Products

12 pack cans



**\$11**  
3/

Reg. Price \$5.99 ea.



### Any Party Size Chips

14-16 oz



**\$8**  
2/

Reg. Price \$5.29 ea.



### Kraft Miracle Whip

30 oz



**\$2.99**  
ea.

Reg. Price \$5.49 ea.



## WEEKLY SPECIALS

### Heinz Ketchup

38 oz



**\$2.99**  
ea.

Reg. Price \$3.79 ea.

### Italia Grated Parmesan Cheese



**\$5**  
2/

Reg. Price \$3.99 ea.

### Tombstone Pizza

Assorted



**\$8**  
2/

Reg. Price \$4.99 ea.

### Shurfine Canned Fruit

14-15.25 oz



**\$1.29**  
ea.

Reg. Price \$1.79 ea.

### Clamato Tomato Cocktail

Assorted 32 oz



**\$5**  
2/

Reg. Price \$2.89 ea.

### Post Cereal

Assorted



**\$2.99**  
ea.

Reg. Price \$3.89 ea.

### Shurfine Tomato or Chicken Noodle Soup

10-11 oz



**59¢**  
ea.

Reg. Price 89¢ ea.

### International Delights Liquid Coffee Creamer

16 oz



**\$1.99**  
ea.

Reg. Price \$2.49 ea.

### Boca Burgers

Assorted 10 oz

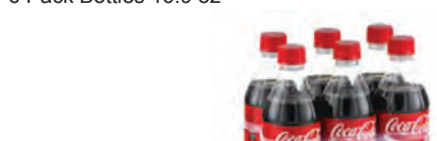


**\$6**  
2/

Reg. Price \$3.79 ea.

### Coke Products

6 Pack Bottles 16.9 oz



**\$5**  
2/

Reg. Price \$3.99 ea.

### Simply Done Décor Full Sheet Paper Towel

8 rolls



**\$4.99**

Reg. Price \$5.99 ea.

Sale goes through March 5, 2019

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