

Amboy granted state funding for Pre-K

BY BONNIE MORRIS
Editor

AMBOY – Pre-K will return to Amboy thanks to a \$142,000 grant recently awarded to District 272. After delivering the good news to board members during the June 14 board of education meeting, Superintendent Jeff Thake thanked Amboy principals Joyce Schamberger and Joshua Nichols for making the grants possible.

“I want to recognize Joyce and Josh for their efforts and hard work to secure the grants,” Thake said. “We all know how important Pre-K is and we were finally able to secure that grant. A lot of

our neighboring districts did not get that funding.”

Thake also pointed out that even after completing the required paperwork, submitting the competitive grant proposal became another arduous task for Nichols because it had to be taken in person to Springfield during the winter months.

“It was sub zero that day and there was ice on the roads,” Nichols recalled of the 160-mile trip to the capital city. “They wanted it hand delivered – they didn’t want it e-mailed or on a jump drive.”

Although the grant has officially been awarded to Amboy, Schamberger said they were not sure if the money would arrive in time for first or

second semester of the 2018-19 school year. She also noted that while there is room for the class to be held at Central School, a certain amount of equipment specific to pre-school will have to be acquired in preparation for the younger students.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

With his departure for Williston, N.D. just a few days away, Thake said he had been working to tie up any loose ends within the district.

“We’ve been very busy the last couple weeks and our district is in a very good position,” he said. “I’ve been here for 12 years and I’ve truly, truly enjoyed every moment I’ve had in the Amboy

School District. I have very fond memories I will take with me. Thank you.”

OTHER BUSINESS

- A rental agreement with American Capital Financial Services, Inc. for Chromebooks was approved by the board. Thake said this was one of the first leases the district had for Chromebooks and that initial group of laptops will be replaced with newer Chromebooks.

See **SCHOOL**, page A2



FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

On Flag Day 2018, the Amboy American Legion Post 453 held a brief flag raising ceremony at Veteran’s Park. The flags of five of the armed forces were raised on the semi-circle surrounding the center pole, a sixth will be raised when it arrives. The American flag was raised on the center pole and the POW/MIA flag will fly underneath it. The ceremony marked the opening of the renovated park. The flags will be lit at night. Please take a moment to visit the park and see the newly installed flags.

Monetta Young/Amboy News

Reagan’s Illinois: A place of honor, integrity, kindness that inspired a president

BY JIM DUNN

Of Sauk Valley Media

On Feb. 6, 1984, President Ronald Reagan was riding high as he celebrated his 73rd birthday in Dixon, Illinois, the county seat of Lee County and the town where he lived as a youth for a dozen years starting in 1920.

More than half a century earlier, Reagan had ventured forth from his hometown to earn a bachelor’s degree at Eureka College, class of 1932 – not an easy feat during the Great Depression.

Then he became a radio sports announcer in Iowa, an actor in about 50 Hollywood movies, president of the Screen Actors Guild, a television personality, and spokesman for General Electric.

Turning to politics in the 1960s, he served as governor of California for two terms and, on his third try, was elected 40th president of the United States.

His hometown birthday bash in 1984 found Reagan – tall, handsome and known for his sense of humor – in good spirits as he addressed a crowd that packed Dixon High School’s Lancaster Gymnasium.

His speech came after he and his wife, Nancy, rode in a parade and lunched at his boyhood home, which local residents had rushed to renovate in time for

the big day.

“Birthdays are special moments, and you’ve given me one today,” Reagan said. “But I must tell you, even though this is the 34th anniversary of my 39th birthday (the crowd laughs), those numbers don’t faze me at all. I believe Moses was 80 when God first commissioned him for public service.”

After more audience chuckles, Reagan continued: “And I also remember something that Thomas Jefferson once said. He said, ‘We should never judge a president by his age, only by his works.’ And ever since he told me that – (laughter) – I’ve stopped worrying. There are those who say I’ve stopped working.” (More laughter)

Reagan, known as The Great Communicator for his TV addresses to the nation from the Oval Office, could afford to poke fun at himself.

He was feeling healthy and fit, nearly three years after being shot by John Hinckley in March 1981, barely two months after his inauguration.

The economy was growing again after a tough 1982 recession.

And his re-election chances looked good. Reagan, a Republican, would go on to receive 59 percent of the vote that fall and carry 49 states in a defeat of Democratic nominee Walter



Mondale. The former vice president had served under the man Reagan more narrowly defeated in 1980, President Jimmy Carter.

It was quite an accomplishment for the only president born in Illinois.

The son of Jack and Nelle Reagan, Ronald Wilson Reagan was born on Feb. 6, 1911, in a second-floor Main Street apartment in the Whiteside County village of Tampico.

A conservative icon to many, a proponent of leaner government and a stronger national defense, Reagan served from 1981 to 1989 amid trying times.

Among them: Reagan’s firing in 1981 of 11,000 striking air traffic controllers; the 1983 explosion at a U.S. barracks in Beirut that killed 241 Marines



In this official White House photo, President Ronald Reagan is shown reading the Dixon Evening Telegraph’s Feb. 28, 1981, edition in the Oval Office.

Photo submitted

and sailors; the 1986 space shuttle Columbia disaster; and the Iran-Contra scandal where arms were traded for hostages.

But in Reagan’s Illinois, folks remember the positives: a new spirit of optimism; economic expansion; the invasion of Grenada to oust leftist revolutionaries; and nuclear arms reduction treaties with the Soviet Union.

At the Ronald Reagan Birthplace, Tampico residents still serve cake every year on Reagan’s birthday. A few years ago, they erected a statue of Reagan as a boy playing on a cannon in the town park.

In Dixon, they’re fixing up Reagan’s boyhood home again. Numerous rehab projects were undertaken in 2017 to repair deteriorated parts of the house, built in 1891.

See **REAGAN**, page A2



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REAGAN continued from page A1

Down the street in a restored three-story brick school building, the Northwest Territory Historic Center preserves Reagan’s grade-school classroom and has a display of his movie posters.

Two statues commemorate Reagan: one portrays him wearing a suit outside the boyhood home, and the other, in the city’s downtown riverfront park, shows him, clad in riding clothes, astride a stallion – just as he appeared in a local parade in 1950.

An effort to erect a statue of young Reagan as a lifeguard at Dixon’s Lowell Park has yet to bear fruit. Over seven summers, he rescued 77 struggling swimmers from the Rock River.

Reagan’s tough stance against communism is recalled in Dixon’s downtown, where a replica of the Berlin Wall stands. Less than a year after he left office, the Cold War-era wall fell.

Reagan’s name would be preserved on everything from a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, to an airport, government buildings and roads, to Dixon’s own Reagan Middle School.

His post-presidency, which included publishing his memoir, “An American Life,” in 1990 and dedicating his presidential

library in Simi Valley, California, in 1991, was dominated by his bout with Alzheimer’s disease. He bore the illness for nearly 10 years until his death in California on June 5, 2004. He was 93.

All that still lay ahead as Reagan stood at the Dixon High School podium on Feb. 6, 1984, and thanked “everyone who made this terrific day possible.”

The president praised the spirit of small-town America that had the nation “back on her feet and moving forward with confidence.”

And he said: “So, you see, the reason I came home today was not to celebrate my birthday, but to celebrate Dixon and America. Honor, integrity and kindness do exist all across our land.”

Honor, integrity and kindness are qualities that inspired a president. He learned to appreciate them in small-town Illinois – Reagan’s Illinois.

Jim Dunn can be reached at jdunn@saukvalley.com.

Timeline for the life of President Ronald Reagan, 1911-2004

The Associated Press (from 2004)

Feb. 6, 1911: Born in Tampico, Ill., younger of two sons

of Nelle and John Reagan.

1932: Graduates from Eureka College, Eureka, Ill.

1932-1937: Works as radio announcer at WOC, Davenport, Iowa, and then WHO, Des Moines.

1937: Makes film debut with “Love Is on the Air.”

Jan. 26, 1940: Marries Jane Wyman, actress. Children: Maureen, born 1941, Michael, born 1945, and Christine, born four months premature in 1947 and died the next day. Marriage ends in divorce in 1949.

1940: Plays “the Gipper” in “Knut Rockne, All-American,” one of his best-known roles.

1942-45: Serves war effort by making air force training films.

1947: Becomes president of the Screen Actors Guild.

March 4, 1952: Marries Nancy Davis, actress. Children: Patti, born 1952, and Ronald, born 1958.

1952, 1956, 1960: Though a Democrat, campaigns for Republicans Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard Nixon. Formally switches to Republican Party in 1962.

1954-62: Works as host and performer on General Electric Theater, tours as speaker for GE.

Oct. 27, 1964: Gives influential speech in favor of GOP presidential candidate Barry Goldwater.

Nov. 8, 1966: Elected California governor over incumbent Democrat Edmund G. “Pat” Brown.

1968: Makes last-minute bid for Republican presidential nomination.

Nov. 3, 1970: Elected to second term as governor.

1976: Challenges President Ford unsuccessfully in the Republican primaries.

Nov. 4, 1980: Elected president over incumbent Jimmy Carter, garnering 51.6 percent of the popular vote to 41.7 percent for Carter and 6.7 percent for independent John Anderson.

Jan. 20, 1981: Sworn in as 40th president of the United States. Iranian hostages released.

March 30, 1981: Wounded by one of six shots fired as he left a Washington hotel after giving a speech.

June 5, 1981: The AIDS crisis begins when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control reports five gay men in Los Angeles are suffering from a rare pneumonia.

July 7, 1981: Announces he is nominating Arizona judge Sandra Day O’Connor to become the first female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

August 1981: Fires more than 11,000 air traffic controllers after they go out on strike against the Federal Aviation Administration.

Oct. 23, 1983: 241 U.S. Marines and sailors are killed in a suicide truck-bombing in Lebanon.

Oct. 25, 1983: U.S. troops invade island of Grenada after a leftist coup there.

Nov. 6, 1984: Re-elected, besting former Vice President Walter Mondale with nearly 60 percent of the popular vote. He took 49 out of 50 states for an Electoral College vote of 525-13, the most lopsided since Franklin Roosevelt defeated Alf Landon in 1936.

May 5, 1985: Visits German military cemetery at Bitburg as a gesture of reconciliation, inciting worldwide protests because 49 of Adolf Hitler’s dreaded Waffen SS troops are buried there.

July 13, 1985: Undergoes successful surgery for colon cancer.

Nov. 19-21, 1985: Summit in Geneva with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Reagan calls it a “fresh start” in U.S.-Soviet relations.

April 15, 1986: United States launches an air raid against Libya in response to the bombing of a discotheque in Berlin 10 days earlier. Libya says 37 people, mostly civilians, were killed.

Oct. 11-12, 1986: Summit in Reykjavik, Iceland, on arms reduction, U.S. strategic defense initiative or “Star Wars.”

November 1986: The Iran-Contra affair becomes public. White House admits selling arms to Iran but denies it sold arms for hostages. Later in the month, Reagan announces aide Oliver North has been fired and national security adviser John Poindexter has resigned. It is disclosed that up to \$30 million in arms-sale profits were diverted to Nicaraguan rebels, known as the Contras.

March 4, 1987: Reagan acknowledges in a televised speech that his Iranian initiative deteriorated into an arms-for-hostages deal, saying, “It was a mistake.”

Oct. 23, 1987: Senate rejects Reagan’s nomination of Robert H. Bork for the Supreme Court.

Dec. 8-10, 1987: Summit in Washington. Reagan, Gorbachev sign treaty to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces, but disagreement over Star Wars blocks progress on a strategic arms reduction treaty.

May 29-June 2, 1988: Summit in Moscow. Reagan, Gorbachev exchange ratified texts of the INF treaty, discuss strategic and conventional arms and stroll in Red Square.

Nov. 8, 1988: Reagan’s vice president, George H.W. Bush, defeats Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis for the

presidency.

Dec. 7, 1988: Summit in New York City. Gorbachev’s plan to reduce Soviet armed forces is discussed. President-elect Bush takes part.

January 1989: Returns to California after second term ends.

November 1990: Publishes his memoir, “An American Life.”

Nov. 4, 1991: Reagan presidential library in Simi Valley, Calif., dedicated; with President Bush and former Presidents Reagan, Carter, Ford and Nixon in attendance.

Nov. 5, 1994: Discloses he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

March 4, 2001: Christening of the aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan.

Aug. 8, 2001: Daughter Maureen dies of cancer.

Oct. 11, 2001: Becomes the longest-lived president ever, having lived 33,120 days. The nation’s second chief executive, John Adams, lived 33,119 days, from 1735 to 1826.

July 12, 2003: U.S. Navy commissions its newest aircraft carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan, the first carrier to be named for a living president.

June 5, 2004: Reagan dies at age 93.

Editor’s note: The weekly Illinois Bicentennial series is brought to you by the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors and Illinois Press Association. More than 20 newspapers are creating stories about the state’s history, places and key moments in advance of the Bicentennial on Dec. 3, 2018. Stories published up to this date can be found at 200illinois.com.

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It has been 3 years since **the Tornado** that roared through the Sublette and **Woodhaven Lakes Campground**.

To celebrate our **gratitude** to God for all who have helped us to recover and to pray for the repose of our beloved **Mary Henkel**, we will celebrate the

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 7:00 pm on Friday, June 22nd at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

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SCHOOL continued from page A1

Thake noted that in the coming weeks there will also be a proposal for a second lease for 45 larger touchscreen Chromebooks with stylus capability. These larger laptops will be

for use by staff members. Although the staff currently uses MacBook Pro laptops, for the next year they will have both types in preparation for a switch the following year to exclusive use of Chromebooks within the district.

• A two-year managed services agreement with Single Path for technology was approved by the board. Thake noted that the district has been very successful working with Single Path in the past. Additionally, the company hired an AHS student to help them during the summer, which is funded in the agreement.

• The board approved a co-op agreement with the LaMoille and Ohio school districts to consolidate football, football cheerleading, boy’s and girl’s track and field, and wrestling for the coming school year. In a second agreement,

they approved a co-op with LaMoille, Ohio and Ashton Franklin Center for boy’s and girl’s cross country and boy’s and girl’s golf.

* Student handbooks were approved per Illinois Principals Association suggestions for language and legal updates. Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) policy revisions were also approved.

PERSONNEL

Following closed session, the board approved Joshua Nichols as superintendent of Amboy Community Unit School District 272, with a three-year contract from June 15 through June 30, 2021.

The board accepted the resignation of Kim Sondgeroth as Spanish teacher at AHS and of Barbara Lowery as assistant cook at AJHS. They hired Eduardo Escatel as a Spanish teacher at AHS for the 2018-19

school year and approved extra curricular positions at AHS and AJHS/Central School for the coming school year.

The board also approved the employment of Maverick Lindenmeyer as summer help at the bus garage.

The next regular board meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 19 at Amboy High School.

In addition, a special board meeting to discuss the future of the Amboy Junior High building will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26 at Amboy High School.

Representatives from CTS will attend the meeting to present information about alternative plans.

The community is encouraged to come to the meeting, where they will be able to ask the board any questions they may have regarding the project.



TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP ALL MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED IN SUBLETTE ON THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 30TH AND JULY 1ST.

Saturday, June 30th

4:00 pm

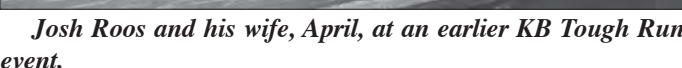
Sunday, July 1st

8:00 am and 10:30 am.

Note: there will be no Masses in West Brooklyn or Maytown this weekend. For more information call: 815-849-5412

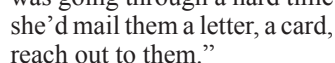


“Most Holy Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, how sweet it is to climb into Your arms imploring Your perpetual help. If earthly mothers cease not to remember their children, how can You, the most loving of all mothers forget me? Grant then to me, I implore You, Your perpetual help in all my necessities, in every sorrow, and especially in all my temptations. I ask for Your unceasing help for all who are now suffering. Help the weak, cure the sick, convert sinners. Grant through Your intercessions many vocations to the religious life. Obtain for us, O Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, that having invoked You on earth we may love and eternally thank You in heaven.”



KB Tough Run continues without its leader

The tough run will continue for now, but Josh said April told



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AMBOY-The Amboy Lions

AMBOY-The 2018 Summer Concert Series changes days for this concert!! Eileen Quest will perform on Sunday, July 1, at 7 p.m. at the bandstand in downtown. The Amboy Fireworks Family Event will take place at Amboy Sports Park beginning at 6 p.m. and the evening concludes with fireworks.

AMBOY-The City of Amboy committee meetings will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 2, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wason Rd.

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 not be held in July. The third Wednesday of the month drive, July 18, will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call 800-733-2767 or visit redcross-blood.org to make an appointment to donate.

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Please join us at Trinity Lutheran Church Kitchen, 308 Brayton Rd. Mount Morris July 16 through July 19, 9:30am to Noon. Pre-registration is required, there is no charge for Illinois Junior Chefs. Only 20 spots available, 15 spots currently remain.


University of Illinois Extension's Illinois Nutrition Education Programs provides nutrition education and healthy living classes to Illinois individuals and families.

For more information, contact us at Ogle County University of Illinois Extension, 421 W. Pines Rd., Oregon at 815-732-2191 or visit on the web at web.extension.illinois.edu/hdo

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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.



43rd Annual Tampico Fest

Tampico, IL • June 22-24, 2018



Friday – June 22

5:00 PM-Midnight - Beer Tent Open
 8:00 PM-Midnight - Music By NEW SHOES

Saturday – June 23

8:30 AM- 11:00 AM - Kids fishing derby at Hennepin Canal
 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM -Vendor show at Reagan Park (contact Katie Theim)
 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM – Co-Ed Mud Volleyball
 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Car Cruise Drive-In on Main Street (contact Rick Dean)
 10:00 AM – Midnight – Beer Tent Open
 8:00 PM – Midnight – Music by Dirt Road Rockers

Sunday – June 24

7:00 AM to Noon – Fireman's Pancake Breakfast
 8:00 AM - 5K Run/Walk at Booth Park
 (contact Miranda Wetzell - mirandawetzell@yahoo.com)
 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Vendor show at Reagan Park (contact Katie Theim)
 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM - Ice Cream Social at Community Center
 1:00 PM – 10:00 PM – Beer Tent Open
 1:00 PM – Parade
 2:00 PM – Bean Bag Tourney (Under Beer Tent)

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VINTAGE EQUIPMENT SHOW

A bit of history was on display at the Amboy Depot Museum on Saturday, June 16, as the vintage fire truck and equipment show took place. Fire trucks and equipment were brought in from West Brooklyn, Compton, Sublette, Mt. Morris, Polo, Amboy and Dixon Rural. First Federal Savings Bank offered free popcorn.

Mary Mays/Amboy News

Court leaves open window for ending gerrymandering

BY GREG BISHOP
Illinois News Network
SPRINGFIELD — Drawing political maps remains in the hands of Illinois lawmakers after the U.S. Supreme Court decided two cases Monday without addressing key questions about the limits of partisan gerrymandering.

The decisions left the door open for future challenges to the practice.

The nation’s high court issued opinions on two cases dealing with how political maps are drawn in the United States. One was Gill vs. Whitford, where the court sent the case back to the lower courts. Bill Whitford, a plaintiff in the Wisconsin case, said he was encouraged by the guidance the opinion provided, but discouraged by delay in resolving the case.

“This case was filed in 2015,”

Whitford said. “We’ve had 2 elections under what I think is a clearly unconstitutional apportionment already.”

Whitford’s case centered on Democrats in Wisconsin frustrated with Republican-drawn maps.

In the Maryland case, the Supreme Court said the lower court didn’t abuse its power by refusing to have the maps redrawn. Republicans were upset with Democrat-

drawn maps there. The court affirmed a lower court’s ruling in Besinek vs. Lamone, saying there was no standing because the plaintiffs delayed filing their case for several years.

“While people across the nation, regardless of political ideology, increasingly see gerrymandering as stain on our democracy, entrenched political powers will not surrendered easily,” said John Sirek, interim executive director of Change Illinois, a group promoting a new process to drawing political maps in the Land of Lincoln. “But the tide of change is clearly growing. Our work will continue and ultimately the voice of Illinois voters will be heard.”

Jeff Raines from Change Illinois said the nation’s high court kicked the can down the road on the issue of gerrymandering.

“Whether or not partisan gerrymandering is constitutional and whether or not Illinois should be proactive in fixing its maps, that decision is still out there,” Raines said. “We can’t demonstrate any kind of definitive proof to (state lawmakers) at the moment.”

What the court didn’t do, Raines said, is answer the question of whether drawing maps for political reasons is legitimate or has limits.

While Illinois state lawmakers missed a deadline this year to get a constitutional amendment question in front of voters for the 2018 midterm election, Raines said there’s still a chance to create an independent commission to, as Change Illinois has put it, let voters pick their politicians instead of letting politicians pick their voters.

Byron power plant has one of the highest tax bills in America

BY COLE LAUTERBACH
Illinois News Network

BYRON — A plot of land in rural northern Illinois has the highest property tax bill in the United States outside of New York.

Assessed at \$546 million, Exelon’s Byron Nuclear Generating Station was charged \$36.5 million in property taxes in 2017. That’s a higher tab than all but 20 properties in the nation, all of which are in New York. The Byron plant’s bill put it at No. 21 on a list of the nation’s top 100 property tax bills, right ahead of Disneyland in Anaheim, California. The Willis Tower came in 28th (\$31,742,883), ahead of Woodfield Mall (No. 64, \$19,603,461) in Schaumburg and Chicago’s One Prudential Plaza (No. 77, \$17,910,028) and Water Tower Place (No. 79, \$17,677,503). The highest property tax bill in the U.S. was for Northport Power Station (\$82,093,239) in Fort Salonga, N.Y. The data was compiled by Commercial Café, a division of property management software provider Yardi.

When New York’s sky-high assessments were removed from the list, Illinois’ property tax bills accounted for half of the top 30 highest bills.

“The highest-paying office buildings are all in Chicago,” Commercial Cafe spokeswoman Adel Dobriban. “Three of the five top taxed industrial properties are in Illinois.”

In assessing commercial property like a power plant, output roughly equals assessed value. Newer power plants are given a higher assessment based on how long they’re expected to operate. Seventeen U.S. nuclear plants, however, were built in the same year or later than Byron. None but Byron’s have a property tax bill on Commercial Cafe’s Top 100 list.

This is because the local school district, Byron Community School District 226, brings its own assessor to evaluate the plant’s value and the district’s subsequent cut of the taxes.

“Exelon has been litigating the property tax assessments for Byron Station since the 2012 assessment, and anticipates receiving a ruling from the Property Tax Appeal Board sometime this year,” Exelon

spokesman Paul Dempsey said.

While Dempsey said the Chicago-based corporation is committed to paying its fair share of property taxes, he said Exelon is “of the opinion that the more than \$36 million in property taxes it pays each year for Byron Station is far in excess of its fair share based on a reasonable assessment of value.”

Of that total tax bill, \$18.6 million goes to Byron School District 226, whose annual \$30 million budget dwarfs its neighboring districts.

Oregon District 220, for instance, has an annual budget of \$15 million. It serves 53 fewer students than the Byron district.

Teachers and administrators in Byron School District 226 have higher average wages than their peers statewide. The average pay for administrators in District 226 was \$112,000 in 2017, \$6,000 higher than the state average of \$106,000. The average salary for Byron School District 226 teachers was \$73,000 in 2017, \$9,000 more than the state average.

With a 17-to-1 student-teacher ratio, Byron School District 226 was close to the state average in 2017. The district had an administrator-to-student ratio of 167:1 compared with the statewide average of 190:1. Officials with the school district did not respond to requests for comment.

The Byron nuclear plant pays property taxes to 11 separate taxing bodies.

Other power plant school districts have numbers similar to the Byron plant. Reed-Custer, which gets property tax revenue from Exelon’s Braidwood plant, spent \$28 million on roughly 1,500 students in the 2016-17 school year.

Byron started operations in 1985, employs 860 people and supplies power to more than 2 million homes. The plant’s two reactors are licensed to operate until 2044 and 2046, respectively.

Exelon got a boost from the state in 2016, when Gov. Bruce Rauner signed into law subsidies worth billions of dollars in gradual money and tax credits to help the corporation keep two other plants from closing prematurely.

Email news items to
tgreenfield@amboynews.com

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p>St. Patrick Church Rev. Timothy Draper 32 N Jones, Amboy 815-857-2315 • 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</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>First Baptist Church Pastor Rocky Fritz 24 N. Mason Avenue Church Phone 857-2682 www.fbcamboy.com Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m. Morning Service - 10:30 a.m. Evening Service - 6 p.m. Wed. prayer meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m. King’s Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday Reformers Unanimous additions program from 7-9 p.m.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>St. Mary Church Rev. Timothy Draper 912 Walton Rd., Walton 815-857-2670 Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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!” Come as you are and join us on the journey!</p>	<p>St. Mary’s Church Rev. Randy Fronek West Brooklyn Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday - 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Refuge Church Pastor John Kalebaugh Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52 Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930 10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows</p>
<p>St. Flannen Church Rev. Timothy Draper 213 S Second St., Harmon 815-857-2670 Mass: Sunday, 7:30 am</p>		<p>St. Patrick Church Rev. Randy Fronek - Maytown Mass - Fri. 8 a.m., Sun, 8 a.m.</p>	<p>Harmon United Methodist Church Pastor Leanne Keate 202 N. Grove, Harmon Phone 359-7302 Worship - 8:30 a.m.</p>

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The Book Nook

By :

Tatjana Kazan

The reader as hero

In Italo Calvino’s novel “If on a Winter’s Night a Traveler,” You as the Reader take center stage. You’ve bought the Calvino novel, you are advised to relax, to put up your feet, you open the book. It is about a traveler who has arrived at a provincial railway station where he is to exchange his suitcase with someone, a spy, perhaps. The atmosphere is tense, secret machinations are afoot, the police chief appears, everything has gone wrong with the exchange of suitcases. You turn the page and nothing. The story begins at the beginning, again and again. Furious, you run to the bookstore to confront the bookseller. You meet Ludmilla, the Other Reader, who is also there to complain about the Calvino book. So begins a romance between you (conceived as a young man) and Ludmilla that threads through the novel and is its only “real” element. The book seller cheerfully explains that there was a mix-up, that they put the Calvino cover on a Polish novel. You and Ludmilla decide to keep the Polish novel, but it too is defective. Thereupon you are treated to nine further novels, or more accurately, nine terrific, suspenseful introductory chapters, all interrupted by error in binding, author suicide, theft, sudden arrest, and so on.

These novels come from all over the world, and three are from invented countries. They are about murder, an airplane hijacking, terrorists, a paranoid billionaire, a prison escape. “If on a Winter’s Night a Traveler” was published in 1979, when the Soviet Union was the exemplar of repression and censorship, and is clearly the model for one of the stories on the danger that books pose for the state. The censor tells the Reader that “as long as there is a woman who reads for reading’s sake, censorship can do nothing.” Ludmilla represents that danger, she is a pure reader, she can’t bear the academic twaddle that surrounds each of the ten novels.

We meet one of the authors, a bestselling novelist who has lost the knack. He complains that “readers are my vampires.” But he also knows that “only when a book passes through the reader’s circuits is the book written.” In his study, a Snoopy Poster “It was a dark and stormy night” reminds him every morning that the magic of an opening yields to the tediousness of development.

Many thought-provoking ideas and comments surround these books, and some that are not so interesting. Our Reader-Hero has the tenacity to hunt down these novels. He is rewarded in the end when he is told, “Reader, you have circled the world. The ten novels that have evaporated the moment you have opened them can be found in this library.”

But of course all of them are checked out.



“Thomas Jefferson” to read the Declaration of Independence

FRANKLIN GROVE — “Thomas Jefferson” will again read the Declaration of Independence at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 4 at the Chaplin Creek Historic Village in Franklin Grove. Local speaker Tom Wadsworth of Dixon will again play the role of Thomas Jefferson in this annual event held continually since 2002.

Live patriotic music will be performed in this 30-minute program. Everyone is encouraged to bring your own lawn chairs. Chaplin Creek Historical Village is on the south edge of Franklin Grove at 1715 Whitney Road.

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THE PASTOR’S PEN

Bye, Jesus

BY FATHER TIMOTHY DRAPER

As a priest, shaking hands and saying goodbye make up part of my normal Sunday experience. While I do this dozens of times after each Mass on the weekend, what I hear from my parishioners is typically something like: “Have a good day,” “Thank you,” or “God bless you, Father.”

A couple weekends ago, however, one of my little parishioners, about three or four years old, surprised me with a farewell I hadn’t heard before. As the little girl was walking past me, she looked up and sweetly said: “Bye, Jesus.”

Now she had just been in church, so Jesus was rightly on her mind. Nevertheless,

I couldn’t help but laugh (along with the girl’s mother), thinking to myself: “What a cute mistake.” Reflecting on all of this a bit further, however, I think I was the one mistaken.

In the Gospel Jesus says to his disciples: “Whoever receives you receives me” (Mt 10:40). And later he says: “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Mt 25:40). Jesus so identifies himself with his disciples that he counts what is done to them as done to himself. In other words, Jesus takes personally how we treat each other.

To see Jesus in our brothers and sisters requires faith. And to speak to them as though we were speaking to Christ himself

requires even greater faith.

Do we have this faith? Do we pray for the faith to see Jesus in each other (our spouse, our children, our neighbors, even strangers and enemies)?

I’m grateful to God for my little parish-ioner and her faith. I’m thankful for her cute reminder to me of Our Lord’s teachings.

Quoting the Psalms, Jesus himself said: “Out of the mouths of infants and nurslings you have brought forth praise” (Mt 21:16).

I look forward to receiving my little parishioner again in the line of handshakes after Mass this weekend. Because, after all, Jesus also said: “And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me” (Mt 18:5).

AMBOY LIBRARY NEWS

BY EMILY GOFF

Head Librarian

New books for the month of June are in. If you see a book that you would like to read, but it is checked out, we will put your name on the waiting list.

In the Adult Library new books are:

“The President is Missing,” by Bill Clinton

“The Cutting Edge,” by Jeffery Deaver

“Before and Again,” by Barbara Delinsky

“The House Swap,” by Rebecca Fleet

“Lord of the Flies,” by William Golding

“Last Girl Gone,” by J.G. Hetherington

“The Perfect Couple,” by Elin Hilderbrand

“Liar, Liar,” by Lisa Jackson

“Her Last Goodbye,” by Melinda Leigh

“Line of Sight,” by Tom Clancy

“Bring Me Back,” by B.A. Paris

“The Moscow Deception,” by Karen Robards

“Fade to Black,” by David Rosenfelt

“Rainy Day Friends,” by Jill Shalvis

“Dreams of Falling,” by Karen White

“Turbulence,” by Stuart Woods

In the Children’s

Library:

“Acting Out,” by Laurie Halse Anderson

“End of the Race,” by Laurie Halse Anderson

“Fear of Falling,” by Laurie Halse Anderson

“Fight for Life,” by Laurie

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“Helping Hands,” by Laurie

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“Homeless,” by Laurie

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“Left Behind,” by Laure

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“Manatee Blues,” by Laurie

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“Masks,” by Laurie Halse

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“New Beginnings,” by Laurie

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“Say Good-Bye,” by Laurie

Halse Anderson

“Storm Rescue,” by Laurie

Halse Anderson

“Teacher’s Pet,” by Laurie

Halse Anderson

“Time to Fly,” by Laurie

Halse Anderson

“Trapped,” by Laurie Halse

Anderson

“Treading Water,” by Laurie

Halse Anderson

“Trickster,” by Laurie Halse

Anderson

“Fruits in Suits,” by Jared

Chapman

“Lulu is a Rhinoceros,” by

Jason Flom

“We Don’t Eat Your Class-

mates,” by Ryan Higgins

“She Loves You-Yeah, Yeah,

Yeah,” by Ann Hood

“Squish #5,” by Jennifer

Holm

“Hurricane Katrina Res-

cue,” by Kate Messner

“Lost Lullaby,” by Jason

Segal

“All Because of a Cup of

Coffee,” by Geronimo Stilton

“Attack of the Bandit Cats,”

by Geronimo Stilton

“Cat and Mouse in a Haunted

House,” by Geronimo Stilton

“Cheese-Colored Camper,”

by Geronimo Stilton

“Lost Treasure of the Emer-

ald Eye,” by Geronimo Stilton

“A Dog Named Doug,” by

Karma Wilson

Library hours are 11:30

a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Mondays and

Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.,

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9

a.m. – 1 p.m., Fridays and Sat-

urdays. Follow us on Facebook.

Pankhurst Memorial Library

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Amboy IL 61310

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Delbert and Susan Kessel

Couple to celebrate 50th anniversary June 22

AMBOY — Delbert and Susan Kessel, of Amboy, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 22, 2018.

Susan Thompson married Delbert Kessel on June 22, 1968, at the United Methodist Church in Amboy.

The couple are the parents of Deanna (Darrin) Barlow and Chris (David) Schauer, of Amboy, and grandparents of Drake and Dorian Barlow and Alexandria, Luke and Jake Schauer.

A family vacation is planned in July.

Those wishing to send cards may do so address to 1688 Mor-man Rd., Amboy, IL 61310.

Email calendar items to
mmays@amboynews.com

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Wednesday – Spaghetti w/meatsauce, steamed peas, whole kernel corn, garlic bread, apricots

Thursday – A) Hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes/gravy, country blend veggies, wheat bread, fruit cocktail B) Soup & Sandwich, chicken noodle & ham

Friday – Cheesy beef taco, flour tortilla, lettuce, tomato, Spanish rice, beans, fresh fruit

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Thank You Neighbor

This weekly feature recognizes small acts of kindness done for others. This week’s nominee can pick up a rose from The Main Flower Shop. Send your nomination in a signed note to

Thank You Neighbor,
c/o The Amboy News.

One Nomination Per Person Per Month

Limit 40 Words Per Nomination

I would like to nominate Mary Majewski for the Good Neighbor Rose.

She was so kind to return my billfold that I left at the Post Office.

Sandy Schamberger

Opinion

Raises should be based on merit, not ‘steps’

It’s been two weeks since Illinois lawmakers and Gov. Bruce Rauner began congratulating themselves for passing what they claimed was a balanced budget that spends every bit of last summer’s \$5 billion tax increase.

Don’t kid yourself, though. The \$38.5 billion budget – the highest ever approved in the state – never was balanced. It relies on accounting gimmicks and speculative savings and revenue projections – including, for the third year in a row, the sale of the Thompson Center in Chicago.

It also failed to include more than \$400 million in court-mandated raises for 14,000 members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 31 union that Rauner has continued to fight. But that fight is closer to coming to an end after a Tuesday ruling by the Illinois Labor Relations Board.

Rauner, and taxpayers, stand to lose big.

Shortly after taking office in 2015, Rauner froze automatic pay hikes known as “step increases,” saying lawmakers never appropriated the money. AFSCME challenged Rauner’s decision in court,

Guest Column

By Dan McCaleb



and the courts have sided with AFSCME ever since. Rauner tried one last appeal with the ILRB seeking a new hearing with an administrative law judge, but the board denied him this week.

Smelling blood, AFSCME issued a statement Tuesday evening saying it wants its members’ money – all three-plus years of it, and now.

“AFSCME has made clear that the remedy should include putting all employees on the appropriate step at once, and making whole all employees for step increases they have been wrongly denied from July 2015 to the present,” the union said in a statement issued Tuesday evening.

If AFSCME gets its way, taxpayers will be on the hook for an unbudgeted \$412 million in back step increases that will compound annually as additional step increases continue to mount on top of each other.

What exactly is a step increase? First, I’ll tell you what it is not. It’s not a merit-based raise given to state employees for their hard, efficient and quality work.

Essentially, it’s a guaranteed raise for employees who are at

least just competent enough not to get fired. Show up for work most days you’re supposed to, you get a step increase annually regardless how good your work actually is.

It’s an anachronistic system that exists almost exclusively in the public sector.

And it’s one of the many reasons why the state of Illinois is in such poor fiscal shape.

The cost of the raises alone for AFSCME members for fiscal 2015 is \$38.7 million, according to the Rauner administration. That spikes to more than \$170 million by fiscal 2019 because they are compounded – meaning the raises are added on top of the ever-increasing salaries, not the starting salaries.

The average salary of an Illinois state worker is \$63,000. That’s not counting the overly generous health care and pension benefits they receive. Their salaries and benefits combined are among the highest in the nation.

Everyone who works hard deserves to be paid a decent wage. But that wage should be determined by the marketplace and each individual’s performance. And it should not be overly burdensome on the taxpayers who pay the salaries.

Lest we forget, Illinoisans already pay the highest combined local and state taxes in the country.

Illinois’ budget will never be truly balanced until these cost drivers like step increases are reined in.

Dan McCaleb is news director of Illinois News Network and the digital hub ILNews.org. He welcomes your comments. Contact Dan at dmccaleb@ilnews.org.

On This Day in History

100 Years Ago June 21, 1918

One hundred German interned prisoners of war arrived at Camp Grant, Rockford last Friday under heavy guard. They will be put to work constructing the huge open air boxing arena that is to have its initial opening Thursday, July 4.

Carl Sartorius has purchased a new Overland Touring car of White and Brink.

Hotels, restaurants, clubs and other eating places must not place on their menus or serve boiled beef more than two meals weekly, beefsteak more than one meal weekly and roast beef more than one meal weekly. House holders should not under any circumstances buy more than one and one quarter pounds of clear beef weekly, or one and one half pounds, including the bone, per person in the household. We now wish to emphasize further reduction of beef consumption by the substitution of pork; Unites States Food Administration

75 Years Ago June 17, 1943

Five dens of Cub Scouts to include more than 25 local boys of nine to 12 years of age,

were organized Friday evening. Mothers of the five dens are Mrs. Eno Aschenbrenner, Mrs. H. C. Fleer, Mrs. James Jones, Mrs. L. J. Ullensvang, Mrs. O. C. Holt and Mrs. W. G. Hull. L. J. Ullensvang is Cub Master.

Employment of married teachers during wartime was decided upon recently at a meeting of the Spring Valley school board.

Bingo parties every Friday evening at St. Patrick hall, Amboy. Two jack pots.

50 Years Ago June 20, 1968

Dr. David Shapiro, first ward alderman of Amboy, served as master of ceremonies Saturday when the Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen came to Amboy to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of their union in this city.

Arthur Blocher returned home last Saturday after a two-week motor trip, accompanied by Buford Edmundson of Dixon. On May 31, they drove to Detroit, Mich., where Blocher gave a talk to a group on rocks. From there they went to Thedford and to Brantford, Ontario where they spent some time with friends and collected rocks in that area.

Various committees are working hard to complete plans for the two-day Sesqui-centennial celebration, scheduled to be

held in Sublette on Saturday and Sunday, July 13-14.

25 Years Ago June 24, 1993

Amboy FFA Chapter captured several awards at the 65th Annual Illinois FFA Convention June 8 – 10 at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall in Champaign.

Bill Apple raised questions about bills being paid from the Tort Immunity Fund at Monday’s Amboy Board of Education meeting. While Apple did not object to the bills themselves, he does not believe they should be paid through the Tort Immunity fund. Recent changes in the state law allow school boards wider latitude in paying bills through this fund and allows district to raise levies for the fund without taxpayer approval.

Newly elected mayor of Amboy, Hank Gerdes, spoke to Amboy Kiwanis members about accomplishments so far. Jokingly referring to what he likes about the mayors position, Gerdes replied having his own parking space in front of city hall. One of the things he most dislikes is the complacency among some of the cities residents regarding the junk on their property, also the tendency among some people to think that the mayor can get involved in neighborly disputes.

Want to be a better father? Get a bigger grill

Sunday morning I will awaken to sizzle of bacon and eggs, the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and shuffle of approaching feet as I lay in bed quietly thinking to myself, My God, my wife is leaving me.

Then I’ll remember, Wait – It’s Father’s Day! A day when we fathers are revered for our wisdom, patience and, in a few rare instances, our neckwear. For one whole day I’ll be the perfect father since my wife will be handling everything for me. She does this to help me relax and enjoy my special day. The problem is, it’s hard to relax when, by handling everything herself, my wife makes it clear I could be replaced by a dishwasher and a few extra power cords.

Okay, that’s not entirely true.

But our son already takes out the trash, leaving me with “The Grilling of Food” as my main contribution to the daily operation of our family. I have managed to keep this duty the way most men do, by making the task of grilling appear as complicated and miserable as possible, even if it means faking a heat stroke while grilling pre-cooked hot dogs.

I realize there are many new fathers who have made themselves indispensable during the diaper-changing phase. Just remember: your indispensability in this area – much like this morning’s tightly-wrapped dooty – will eventually disappear into the Diaper Genie. That’s when grilling even the simplest things, such as a bratwurst, should be made to look as difficult as possible.

To do this, you’ll need a large grill. The bigger the better. In fact, if a hibachi is your main grilling source, go now, hop into your vehicle, and accidentally back over your hibachi several times and replace it with something more practical.

And, practically speaking,

Guest Column

By Ned Hickson



we’re talking a grill roughly the size of an Oldsmobile.

Why?

You need a large cooking surface so that you can convincingly spray down flames and battle for control over a raging inferno that, if not for your grilling skill, would quickly consume everyone’s bratwurst – and quite possibly the county.

Unless you are highly experienced in pyrotechnics, or live near an open gas line, trying to produce this same effect on a hibachi is very difficult.

Once you have your giant grill, you’ll need to keep a spray bottle handy. Your wife will assume it’s to prevent charring. This is partially true. But mostly you’ll be using it to spray on your face and body to appear as though you are perspiring when, in fact, you are frequently supplementing any loss of body fluid with liberal amounts of ice cold beer hidden behind the grill.

Lastly, you should purchase a special, custom-made spatula that is so enormous and so heavy it can only be wielded with two hands.

This will make the grilling process appear even more difficult by requiring a “spotter”

every time you flip someone’s burger.

Put all of this together – spray bottle, giant grill, two-handed spatula – and you’ll have the dramatic image you want, which is that of a sweat-stained father staggering in and out of the flames of his grill, both hands gripped tightly around the handle of his 50-pound spatula as he devoutly retrieves the evening meal.

Sure, this may sound like a lot of effort; you could fold clothes instead.

But the effort is worth it when it comes to family.

Besides, it’s really hard to keep beer cold when it’s hidden in the laundry.

You can write to Ned Hickson at nhickson@oregonfast.net, or at the Siuslaw News at P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR. 97439.



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

Established In 1854

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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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Educational Briefs

Audrey Rod performs in Wheaton College commencement celebration concert

WHEATON — Wheaton College student Audrey Rod of Amboy, recently performed in the 2018 Commencement Celebration Concert. Rod played flute with the Symphonic Band.

The Wheaton College Conservatory of Music provides students with comprehensive instruction that cultivates creativity, proficiency, and achievement in a Christ-centered environment. For more information, please visit wheaton.edu/conservatory.

Wheaton College is a coeducational Christian liberal arts college noted for its rigorous academics, integration of faith and learning, and consistent ranking among the top liberal arts colleges in the country. For more information, visit wheaton.edu.

Daszkiewicz graduates from Bradley University

PEORIA — Benjamin Scott Daszkiewicz, of Amboy, received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree from Bradley University during commencement ceremonies on May 12.

Bradley University is a top-ranked, private university in Peoria, Illinois, offering 5,800 undergraduate and graduate students the opportunities, choices and resources of a larger university and the personal attention and exceptional learning experience of a smaller university. Bradley offers a comprehensive array of undergraduate and graduate academic programs in business,

communications, education, engineering, fine arts, health sciences, liberal arts and sciences, and technology. The University is located on an 85-acre campus in the largest metropolitan area in central Illinois.

Loras College Announces Spring 2018 Dean's List

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Loras College has announced the names of students who achieved Dean's List status for the 2018 spring semester. A student must earn a 3.5 grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours to be recognized.

Locally, the following students were named to the Dean's List:

Dixon
Kennedy L. Dewey
Rachel E. Heiderscheit

Millikin University announces Spring 2018 Dean's List

DECATUR — Brooke Smith, of Franklin Grove, was named to the Dean's List at Millikin University for spring 2018. Smith is a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences studying Biology: Molecular Cell.

Students who attempt 12 graded credits during a fall or spring semester and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher earn Dean's List honors. Students earning a perfect 4.00 grade point average on 12 graded credits attempted earn High Dean's List honors.

Big Rig Show comes to Franklin Grove

FRANKLIN GROVE — The Franklin Grove Harvest Festival will be host to the Big Rig 2018 Show.

The show will be held Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Chaplin Creek show grounds, 1715 Whitney Road in Franklin Grove.

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. Trucks and trailers need to be in place by 10 a.m. The event will be held rain or shine. Truck entry fee is \$25. All proceeds from the event are donated to Shriners Hospitals for Children in Chicago.

Other activities include a kids jump house, a 50/50, silent



auction and food stand vendors. Friday night parking is also available.

You can follow the show on Facebook at Big Rig Show of

Franklin Grove Illinois or on the web at www.BigRigShow.org.

For more information contact Brian Atkinson at 815-440-8304.



Chester

Chester came to the shelter from animal control and was soon adopted. He is a 2 1/2 year old neutered male Beagle/Boxer mix. His short brindle and white coat is very attractively marked, and he weighs 40 pounds. Chester does sound like a hound when he barks. He was returned and he is looking for a fresh start. He is house broke and knows his obedience commands very well. This is a smart boy. Chester is energetic and playful, and loves attention. He needs an owner that will be firm but fair, and continue his training and socialization. Chester does not care for other dogs, but adores his people. A home with a fenced yard would be best – he loves to run and do “zoomies”. Chester is quite smart and enjoys solving puzzle treat toys. To see Chester, 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 submitted

Amboy FFA members attend 90th Illinois Association FFA State Convention

SPRINGFIELD - The 90th Illinois Association FFA State Convention was held at the Bank of Springfield Convention Center on June 12-14, 2018 with the Convention Theme “Be Bold.” This event serves as a meeting place for FFA members from all over the state of Illinois to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and dedication exhibited by the members of the Illinois Association FFA.

Amboy FFA Members Ashley Althaus, Bailey Bickett, Emma Bickett, Evan Bickett, Samantha Goldman, Tristan Graves, Florian Mimini, Austin Norman, Andrew Thier, Margaret Vaessen, Nastaja Vaessen, Ashley Winters, and Josh Yocum were just 13 of the more than 5,000 members who were in attendance at this year's State Convention.

They had the incredible opportunity to attend sessions and workshops, explore the college fair and convention center, purchase items at the souvenir booth, and discover the wonderful city of Springfield.

They also were able to witness a remarkable milestone for the Illinois Association FFA when

Amboy delegates Ashley Winters and Margaret Vaessen, along with over 400 other delegates from chapters all around the state, took the extraordinary bold steps of electing the first all-female Major State Officer Team in state history.

The Amboy FFA members were also fortunate enough to have had the support of Amboy CUSD #272 Board of Education Secretary Katie Pratt, who served as the 1996-1997 Illinois Association FFA State Reporter, and Amboy Junior High School teacher Stacey Dinges, who served as the 1997-1998 Illinois Association FFA State Reporter.

The Amboy FFA Chapter would like to thank the faculty of Amboy High School, the Amboy CUSD #272 Board of Education, and the Amboy FFA Alumni for their continued and unwavering support of FFA and Agriculture Education Programs.

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.



Construction underway

Construction is well underway at Dixon Habitat for Humanity with the interior and exterior walls being erected on Saturday, June 16, 2018, by G&M Distributors of Dixon. The crew from G&M Distributors were (left to right) Jimmi Patterson, Tim Godbold, Tom Peterson, Vicki Patterson, Jared Patterson, Jordan Black, Dustin Vock and John Carroll.



Photo submitted



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With every one year subscription to the Amboy News at regular price (\$37.25), the News will donate \$10 to the Amboy Legion to put towards improvements at Veterans Park.

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Early Deadlines

The Amboy News will have
EARLY DEADLINES

for our issue on July 4 due to the Fourth of July Holiday.

The advertising deadline will be Thursday, June 28 at 5 p.m.

The editorial deadline will be Friday, June 29 at 10 a.m.

The office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4 to celebrate the Fourth of July. Open again on Thursday, July 5 at 8 a.m.





Session I campers

Girls in fourth, fifth and sixth grades that attended the Amboy Girls' Basketball Camp, front row, left to right, are Alyvia Whelchel, Brittlyn Wittman, Jady Whelchel, Sydney Whelchel, Kennedy Kane, Madison Althaus and Jasmin Scott. Back row, Tyrah Vaessen, Peyton Payne, Kiera Karlson, Addison Pertell, Olivia Ketchum and Myla Davis.

Amboy hosts girls basketball camp

AMBOY — The Amboy Girls' Basketball Camp was held May 29-June 1 and June 4-8 at the AHS gym.

It was nine days of camp instruction, shooting contests, lots of fundamentals and games.

The first session was for fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders and the second session was for seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders.

Award winners for each session are as follows:

Jady Whelchel; 2nd place — Kennedy Kane; 3rd place — Alyvia Whelchel

Hot Spots: 1st place—Alyvia Whelchel; 2nd place — Jady Whelchel; 3rd place — Tyrah Vaessen

Hustle: 1st place — Tyrah Vaessen; 2nd place — Kennedy Kane, Sydney Whelchel, Myla Davis

Best Rebounder: 1st place — Peyton Payne, Kiera Karlson; 2nd place — Tyrah Vaessen, Addison Pertell

MVP: Addison Pertell

Free Throws: 1st place — Olivia Dinges; 2nd place—Courtney Orgiesen; 3rd place — Haidyn Zimmerly

Hot Spot: 1st place — Lexi Ketchum; 2nd place — Olivia Dinges; 3rd place — Courtney Orgiesen

Hustle: 1st place: Lexi Ketchum, Elly Jones; 2nd place — Maeve Larson, Courtney Orgiesen, Olivia Miller, Addison Shaw

Best Rebounder: 1st place — Olivia Dinges; 2nd place — Haidyn Zimmerly

MVP: Olivia Dinges

Tennis tournament planned at Mendota Sweet Corn Festival

MENDOTA — The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the 71st Annual Sweet Corn Festival, which will be held Aug. 9-12, has announced that preparations are being finalized for the 2018 Sweet Corn Festival Tennis Tournament. OSF Saint Paul Medical Center will sponsor the tournament.

The Sweet Corn Festival Tennis Tournament will offer Junior and Adult Divisions, with the juniors playing on Friday, Aug. 10 and adults playing on Saturday, Aug. 11 and Sunday, Aug. 12.

The Mendota Chamber has announced the competition will be a first round consolation draw, so everyone will be able to play a minimum of two matches.

Juniors will now play an 8-game pro set no “ad”, and adults a 10-game pro set with ad, championship two or three sets. All events are a blind draw.

The Junior events are: 13-under singles (boys

and girls may play each other depending upon the number of registrants for this category); 17-under singles (B & G) and doubles (B & G). Just a reminder you can only play in one singles bracket 13 & under or 17 & under.

Adults are competing in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. Adult doubles and mixed doubles are on Saturday, Aug. 11. Adult singles will be held Sunday, Aug. 12.

All matches of this year’s tournament will again be played at the Mendota High School tennis courts on the high school grounds on U.S. 52 north of town.

Entry forms may be picked up at the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce office or by visiting sweetcornfestival.com.

The entry deadline is Monday, Aug. 6 by 4 p.m.

For more information contact the Chamber office at (815) 539-6507 or email scftennis@mendotachamber.com.



Session II campers

Girls in seventh, eighth and ninth grades that attended the Amboy Girls' Basketball Camp, front row, left to right, are Maeve Larson, Elly Jones and Olivia Miller. Back row, Courtney Orgiesen, Haidyn Zimmerly, Olivia Dinges and Lexi Ketchum.

Photo contributed

Annual Reagan Run 5K set for July 7 during Petunia Festival

DIXON — The Reagan Run began in the year 2000 with 315 runners and walkers.

In 2017, there were 1,350 participants on race day, this included participants from 28 states and two countries. The Reagan Run 5K Race is an annual event held in conjunction with the Petunia Festival in Dixon, during the first week of July.

The 19th annual Reagan Run 5K will be held at 8 a.m., on Saturday, July 7, at the Ronald

Reagan Boyhood Home, 816 S. Hennepin Ave. Registration is available online at getmeregistered.com or at the Dixon Chamber and Main Street office, 87 S. Hennepin Ave. Registration fees are as follows: \$25 June 2 through June 22, \$30 June 23 through July 6, \$35 on race day before 7:30 a.m. at Haymarket Square, and \$10 for Active Military personnel.

Packet Pickup is from 11 a.m. — 5 p.m., on Friday, July 6, at the Dixon YMCA, 110 N.

Galena Ave. or on race day at Haymarket Square.

The Free Kid’s Fun Run will start promptly at 7:30 a.m. This is a fun and safe event for kid nine and under. The course is 6/10ths of a mile, it will begin at the corner of Hennepin Ave. and Eighth Street and end at Haymarket Square. T-shirts available while supplies last, pre-registration is encouraged.

For more information and a link to registration please visit www.reaganrun.com.

Amboy Police

Speeding

On June 18, at 7:30 a.m., Dylan L. Rowe, 21, of Polo, was issued a traffic citation for speeding 46 mph in a 30 mph speed zone. He was issued a traffic citation and released after posting bond.

Speeding

On June 18, at 10:10 a.m., Kimberly S. Krieger, 61, of Freeport, was issued a traffic citation for speeding 44 mph

in a 30 mph speed zone. She was issued a traffic citation and released after posting bond.

Driving while license revoked

On June 16, at 7:08 p.m., Justin T. Smothers, 29, of Amboy, was arrested for driving while license revoked and operating an uninsured vehicle. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.

Failure to secure child

On June 16, at 11:20 a.m.,

Joe G. Vargas, 59, of Chicago, was issued a traffic citation for failure to secure child. He was issued a traffic citation and released after posting bond.

Lee County warrant

On June 12, at 5:47 p.m., Dalton A.W. Bautista, 20, of Amboy, was arrested on a Lee County warrant for domestic battery and unlawful consumption of alcohol as a minor. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.

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Teen Turf

UP COMING EVENTS

Summer Splash Pre-K to Fourth through July 2018
Clean & Green Fifth grade and up 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Movie in the Barn Friday, June 22, 6 p.m.
United Way Day of Caring Saturday, June 23
Concessions for Music downtown Saturday, June 23, 7 p.m.

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

On Saturday, June 23, the Teen Turf workers will be working together with other United Way of Lee County volunteers to help people in our community. Last year we assisted 18 families that needed help with their gardens or yards. If you are elderly or have health problems please call 815-857-4800 to get on the list.

CLEAN & GREEN TEAM

This is for anyone fifth grade and older. Call to get your youth signed up. The kids that are registered have been given forms and calendars of times and dates. They have helped with the community garden; park, road side and community clean up. They bagged food for the food pantries at the 4-H Center with the University of Illinois Extension. They weeded at the Depot Museum. They laid mulch at the Amboy Community Building and at the Amboy City Park. At 11:30 a.m. they come back to Teen Turf and are fed lunch and become camp counselors for our Summer Splash Program. The youth that earn enough points by helping out are then taken swimming. At the end of summer

those with enough points go to Magic Waters all day and then to the Hometown Buffet for supper. This summer program gets our youth away from their electronic devices is a great way for our youth to grow and become school and community leaders. This Friday, June 22 we will be going to the 4-H Center for Movie in the Barn.

SUMMER SPLASH CAMP

It's not too late to join the fun. This program is for Pre-K and Kindergarten kids up to fourth grade. The program is from 1 - 3 p.m.

This program goes through July. Pre K and Kindergarten are Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m.

First and Second graders come on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

Third and Fourth graders come on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

The University of Illinois will be doing STEAM on Wednesdays just like last year.

Please make sure your child comes with their swim wear on under their clothes. They also need to have sun screen and bug spray on when they get here.

If the above dates don't work for your family please call 815-857-4800 and we will work it out.

Also, your child does not have to come every day. Just sign them up for when they can come. Hope to see you this summer.

This great summer program is funded by the United Way of Lee County.

SUMMER MUSIC DOWNTOWN

Teen Turf will be selling popcorn and drinks during the Summer Concert Series. Kagy & Torenc Flying Fish will be performing at 7 p.m., on Saturday, June 23, at the Bandstand downtown. The remaining concerts are: July 1, Eileen Quest, Women of Country; July 28 Jim Henkel with a Special Guest; Aug. 11 Barbershop Spontaneous Combustion.

HIGH FIVES

Big thanks to everyone that donates: to the people who drop off items and never leave their names. Our community is what makes Teen Turf work. It is the whole community that has made Teen Turf stay alive and able to help so many. To Donna Wellman with her weekly sweet treats that she hands out. To Leffelman Insurance for the large monetary donation from their week of special events. To Pete Ayling for the special bike.

The recycle program helps maintain our van and also helps our environment.

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.

AEROBICS

Chair aerobics will be held at 10 a.m., every Tuesday and Thursday. Aubrey Burke has high intensity aerobics from 5-6 p.m., on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Our philosophy is pay or pray. So, if you cannot afford a donation then say some extra prayers for Teen Turf. The donated money helps with the high utility bills.

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 materials are tied and secured in bags or boxes. High Fives to everyone that donates cans and to Pete Rood for elevating them almost daily. It helps our environment and our van upkeep. If you have cans that need to be picked up just call 815-857-4800.

LOST & FOUND

Please call 815-857-4800 if you are missing anything. Any of the coats, hats, and gloves will be donated next month.

BOARD MEMBERS

Our board members are Deb Albee, Rich Geiger, Kim Watley, Cindy Phillips, Scott and Janine Huffman, Kaylee Jones, and Mark Grossman.

Please do not drop off TV's - We cannot recycle them.

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/container

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99¢
/bag

7-Up Products

6 pack bottles



2/\$5
Reg. Price \$3.99 ea.

Pepsi Products

6 pack bottles



2/\$5
Reg. Price \$3.99 ea.

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89¢
ea.

Reg. Price \$1.69 ea.

Planters Peanuts

Assorted 16-20 oz

BUY ONE @
\$4¹⁹
GET ONE FREE!



Kraft BBQ Sauce

Assorted 17.5-18 oz

BUY ONE @
\$2⁰⁹
GET ONE FREE!



Cow Belle Ice Cream

Assorted 48 oz



2/\$5
Reg. Price \$3.89 ea.

Johnsonville Brats Frozen or Fresh

14-18 oz

\$3⁹⁹
ea.

Reg. Price \$4.19-5.89 ea.



Shurfine Sweetened Coconut Flakes

7 oz

99¢
ea.

Reg. Price \$1.59 ea.



WEEKLY SPECIALS

A-1 Steak Sauce

10 oz



\$3⁴⁹
ea.

Reg. Price \$5.29 ea.

Knorr Pasta or Rice Sides

4-5 oz

\$1²⁵
ea.

Reg. Price \$1.59 ea.



Kellogg's Eggo Waffles

Assorted 8.4-16.4 oz

\$1⁹⁹
ea.

Reg. Price \$2.89 ea.



Flav-R-Pac Frozen Vegetables

10-12 oz



99¢
ea.

Reg. Price \$1.69 ea.

Gatorade Assorted

32 oz



2/\$2
Reg. Price \$1.69 ea.

Shurfine Charcoal

15.4 lb bag



\$5⁹⁹
ea.

Reg. Price \$7.99 ea.

Lawry's Marinade

12 oz



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Vlasic Pickles

Assorted 16-24 oz



\$1⁹⁹
ea.

Reg. Price \$2.99 ea.

Tombstone Pizza

Assorted



3/\$12
Reg. Price \$4.99 ea.

Charmin Essential Strong Bath Tissue

12 Rolls



\$4⁹⁹
ea.

Reg. Price \$6.99 ea.

Folger's Coffee

Assorted 24.2-30.5 oz



\$6⁹⁹
ea.

Reg. Price \$7.49-9.39 ea.

Summer Home and Garden



*Amboy News
June 20, 2018 · Section B*



What is a smart home?

Refrigerators that inform their owners when it's time to buy more eggs and thermostats that learn homeowners' heating and cooling preferences may once have seemed like futuristic ideas straight out of a sci-fi movie. However, such products are no longer a dream but a reality.

The term "smart home" refers to a residence that has appliances, HVAC, lighting, entertainment systems, security, and many more devices that communicate with one another. Such devices can be controlled remotely, according to Smart-HomeUSA, an automation product retailer. Proponents of smart home technology say features can help people save money on utilities and conserve natural resources, all the while providing peace of mind to homeowners.

In 2016, 80 million smart home devices were delivered worldwide. That marks a 64 percent increase from 2015, according to the research data firm IHS Markit. The smart home trend is only expected to grow in coming years.

Although there's interest in smart home technology, the industry remains fragmented. Consumers are trying to figure out which devices are simply fun and which provide practical benefits. Furthermore, the range of smart devices is expanding rapidly, making potential compatibility issues a concern. Companies that plan to educate consumers further about the advantages of smart

home features and are open to standardization may have the best chances of survival.

Those interested in dabbling in some smart home technology and testing the waters may want to start with the following household items.

- **Smart bulbs:** Manufacturers offer various types of smart light bulbs. Some are color-changing, others react to doorbells or alarms, and others can simulate typical lighting patterns when homeowners are away. Integrated apps enable remote access to scheduling so people can arrive home to a well-lit house.

- **Home security:** Wi-Fi enabled doorbells with video capabilities allow residents to see who is at the door without having to open it. Cameras can even be accessed remotely, simulating that someone is at home at all times. Never wonder if you've locked the door again with smart locks that can be engaged via a smartphone. Make sure that homes are secured or that pets are behaving while out with smart cameras.

- **Flood sensor:** Get peace of mind against damaging floods with Wi-Fi flood sensors.

- **Appliances:** A new breed of smart appliances can make it possible for users to turn on the washing machine while out of the house, close refrigerator doors from afar or even start their vacuum cleaners remotely.

Smart technology is taking over and is likely to continue changing the way people live and work.

Design a dream outdoor entertaining space

Upon the arrival of warm weather, many individuals prefer to spend their free time outside, relishing the fresh air and sunshine and evenings spent under the stars.

But cracked patios and makeshift chairs and tables may not establish the desired ambiance. An outdoor entertaining area that offers the same amenities found inside a home can make outdoor retreats both comfortable and functional. Creative planning can help homeowners design dream areas perfect for hosting friends or family.

Establish goals

As with any project, the first step when coordinating outdoor living areas is to determine what you hope to achieve with the space. Will it be a location for lounging? Will people be cooking meals outside? Is the pool the central focus of the yard? Answering these questions and more can help homeowners decide how to design their entertaining spaces. Remember, however, that goals may evolve as landscape designers and even architects make their own suggestions for the space or present limitations.

Evaluate the space

Look at the lot and decide what will go where, such as where to place the party space, where to create a quiet hideaway and where to locate a poolhouse or outdoor shower.

A large, flat yard can be divided into a series of patios that serve different purposes. Yards that

are built on a hill or a slope can still be utilized with creative design elements, such as multi-tiered decking. By working with qualified designers, homeowners can bring their ideas to life.

Easy food and drink access

Traipsing in and out of the house for refreshments can become tiresome when entertaining outside. In such situations, people also can track dirt inside of the home or leave a trail of pool water in their wake. Outdoor kitchens allow easy access to food and drink that makes outdoor entertaining much easier. The experts at Angie's List suggest outdoor kitchens be built close to the house to make it easier to run electricity and plumbing to the outdoor kitchen. Outdoor kitchens should include a sink, small refrigerator, built-in grill, and bar area.

Creature comforts

Homeowners should think about the things that make the inside of their homes so comfortable and then replicate that outside. Sofas and loveseats covered in fabric suited for outdoors and plenty of pillows can make for great lounging. Lighting that can be adjusted for day or night, or even to set the mood, is another consideration. Shade structures, like a trellis or retractable awning, will keep the area comfortable and can also define outdoor "rooms" and establish privacy.

Entertaining outdoors is made that much more enticing with a dream outdoor living space full of amenities.



Which renovations are worth an investment

The cost of remodeling a home is easier to stomach when homeowners can expect to recoup a sizable percentage of the costs of the renovation. While basing renovations on their potential impact on resale value may be unwise, return on investment is something homeowners must consider when mulling renovation projects.

Many homeowners wonder which renovations will resonate most strongly with potential buyers when a home is put up for sale. According to Remodeling magazine, homeowners are less likely to recoup their investment in a major kitchen or bathroom remodel than they would with basic home maintenance, such as new siding.

That's because buyers are most interested in how the bones of the house — or those elements that keep the house protected and can be costly to fix — were maintained.

Each year Remodeling magazine issues its "Cost vs. Value Report," which highlights the projects that offer the most return on investment. In



2016, the No. 1 project was the installation of fiberglass attic insulation, which could produce 116.9 percent recouped cost and a resale value of \$1,482. Rounding out the top five were manufactured stone veneer for the exterior, a standard new garage door, a steel entry door, and an upscale garage door.

Projects with the least return on investment tended to be more expensive undertakings that offered returns of roughly 57 percent. Such projects included bathroom additions, upscale bathroom additions, upscale master suite additions, upscale bathroom remodels, and deck additions.

For those considering more expensive renovations, keep these figures in mind, courtesy of Forbes.

- Replacing 1,250-square feet of siding with new fiber siding can cost \$13,000, but homeowners can expect to recoup 80 percent of that cost at resale.

- Replacing 10 existing double-hung windows with vinyl low-e glass windows is valued at \$14,000, and the return can be between 68 and 73 percent.

There are even renovations that seem like good ideas but can actually hurt the resale value of a home.

MSN Money lists these projects as money-wasters for those who want to sell soon.

- Lavish lighting fixtures can look dated in a few years when trends change.

- Wallpaper or textured walls can be notoriously hard to change, and buyers know that.

- Kitschy renovations, such

as 1950s diner tiles, may appeal to only a select number of people. Neutral renovations are better if resale is the goal.

- Many real estate experts warn against converting a bedroom into anything other than a bedroom — even for the purposes of a home office. Such conversions can immediately devalue the property. The same can be said about combining two small bedrooms into one larger space.

Homeowners should investigate potential renovations before committing the time and money to something that may offer little value at resale.

Did you know?

Standing water is a common sight at many homes during summer.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, standing water is a breeding ground for various microorganisms. When those microorganisms become airborne, they can be inhaled by men, women and children, potentially triggering allergic reactions. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that studies have indicated that female mosquitoes like to lay their eggs in water that collects or is stored in manmade containers. If it rains and water covers mosquito eggs, the eggs can hatch and become adults in roughly one week.

The CDC advises men and women to protect themselves from mosquitoes by walking their properties once per week, turning over, scrubbing and covering any containers that hold or may hold water. Vases, pet water bowls, flowerpot saucers, buckets, and pool covers are just a handful of the items that can make attractive places for mosquitoes to lay their eggs.

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Create more closet space without major renovations

Closet space is at a premium in many homes and apartments. Many older homes were not built to accommodate large wardrobes, while rental properties are often designed to maximize living space at the expense of storage.

Closets vary depending on the size of the home, but many tend to be a minimum of 24 inches deep so they can store garments without the clothes brushing against the walls. Bedroom and hallway closets can be four feet in length or more.

Walk-in closets are the largest options, but such spaces tend to only be available in modern homes or custom-built properties.

It is not always practical or possible

to undergo renovations to create more closet space. Apart from moving to a new residence, homeowners or renters must evaluate the space they have and make some more efficient choices in how they utilize available areas.

Clear out clutter

The first step to more closet space is to eliminate unused items. Clothing that no longer fits or items that can be stored elsewhere should be removed from the closet. Donate as much as possible. Some organizations will even pick up donations at your convenience.

Upgrade hangers and rods

Replace existing hangers with slimmer, more uniform alternatives that more easily fit into your closet.

In addition, remove empty hangers, which are likely just taking up space.

Consider dual closet rods if space will allow them. Hang the second rod below an area reserved for shorter clothing to achieve a two-tiered design. Grouping short items together also can free up valuable floor space.

Stack taller

Many closets are as tall as the ceilings of the rooms where they're located. However, the upper area may go unused because if it is not easy to reach. Install shelving above the closet rod with small swing-out style cabinet doors to offer access. In such areas, store seasonal items that you won't need to reach for each day. Keep a step stool close by for easy accessibility.

In small rooms, homeowners may want to find another way to utilize vertical space. A loft bed, which raises the bed up to a level where it might be on the top bunk of a bunk bed, will free up plenty of storage space beneath the bed. This can be turned into a floor closet.

Create storage for small items

Bookends, bins, boxes and drawers can be used to contain items that don't easily conform to closets. These may be purses, scarves, ties, and more. Don't overlook the possibilities of hanging items on the wall inside the closet or on the back of closet doors.

When finishing closet makeovers, be sure to install lighting inside the closet so items are more visible.



The various ways to repurpose dressers

One of the benefits to becoming a skilled do-it-yourselfer is the chance to embrace projects that can breathe new life into objects that others might designate for the trash or donation pile. Renovating such items can save money and provide an entirely different purpose for the object.

After upgrading design styles or moving, there's a good chance the average homeowner has a spare dresser or chest of drawers he or she may no longer use.

Repurposing such furniture can make for an enjoyable weekend DIY project.

With a change of color, removal of drawers or a few minor modifications, dressers can be transformed in many different ways. Here are a few ideas to get started.

- **Television stand:** Sand and paint or stain the dresser to match the color scheme of your living room or family room. Remove the top row of drawers from the dresser to have cubby

space to house electronics, such as cable boxes or DVD players. The remaining drawers can hold movie collections, spare remote controls, gaming systems, and much more.

- **Serving bar:** Paint the dresser in an eye-catching shade and make sure to seal-coat it with a finish that is impervious to moisture. If time or budget allows, attach a piece of glass or tiles on top of the dresser to create a water-resistant, strong surface area. Store various

serving glasses and cocktail accoutrements within the drawers. Place a few bottles of your favorite spirits and a decanter on a decorative tray.

- **Storage shelving:** Remove the drawers from the dresser and turn it into a storage mecca by using stackable plastic containers in spaces once occupied by the drawers. Keep craft supplies, collectibles or anything else you can think of inside.

- **Kitchen island:** Small dressers can be repurposed into

kitchen islands with a few modifications. Install casters on the feet so it can be moved around when necessary. Place butcher block wood or stone on top so you'll have a sturdy cutting or preparation surface area. Hooks hung on the side can hold frequently used kitchen utensils.

- **Changing table:** Turn an older dresser into a changing table for a new baby. In addition, add a cushioned pad and some decorative trim to serve as a frame that keeps the pad in place. The drawers will keep wipes, diapers, onesies, and

other supplies at the ready.

- **Bench:** Remove the top drawers from the dresser. Add a piece of plywood to make a seat. Use the removed drawer faces on the inside back of the dresser since this area will now be visible.

Paint the entire piece or stain it as desired. Fashion a cushion for the seat, and the bench is ready for an entryway or wherever you have space.

Before discarding an old dresser, think of all the ways it can be transformed into another useful piece of furniture.

Learn to downsize before a move

As aging men and women often take inventory of their lives in an effort to focus on activities or lifestyle changes that can ensure happy retirements. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows there are some 76 million baby boomers — those people born between 1946 to 1964 — across the country.

With the youngest of the boomers in their mid-50s and the majority having already reached retirement age, many boomers are trying to decide if it's time to move out of their family homes and into smaller, more manageable abodes.

Many older adults find they do not need the same amount of space as they did when they had children living at home. Retirees and those on the cusp of retirement may find that downsizing is a smart financial move that frees up more time for recreation.

However, it can be challenging to cut down on living space and then deal with figuring out how to make furniture, belongings and stored items fit in more condensed areas. Moving can be stressful even without having to cut down on prized items. Taking an inventory of belongings can help the process go smoothly.

Before moving, men and women can go room by room, making piles of items that will be kept, donated, sold, or discarded. This can be a tedious



task, but it is necessary to avoid clutter in a new home.

People downsizing can attempt to sell items they do not need via newspaper classified sections or online classified sites. Appliances and furniture in excellent shape may fetch good prices. Any extra cash can be put toward buying new items that are size-appropriate for the smaller home.

Another way to clear out clutter is to sort duplicates from the stock of items. A person may no longer need multiple sets of dishes or silverware. If the move involves switching from a king-sized to a queen-

sized bed, donate or trash bed linens that will no longer fit. Pay close attention to kitchen and bathroom items, which tend to accumulate over time but might not be discarded when clearing a home of clutter.

People moving from a detached home to a condominium or a townhouse may learn that homeowner's association fees cover everything from snow removal to lawn maintenance to pool upkeep. If so, it's unnecessary to bring lawn and garden supplies.

Homeowners are advised to look at the floor plan of their

new dwellings and pay attention to storage space. This can make it easier to plan ahead for what may fit, what will need to be purchased new and which storage solutions may be needed.

Having a plan in place can make unpacking and settling in go smoothly. The organizing company Organize Me says that homeowners should consider how cabinets and closets will be used before moving in.

Downsizing can free up time and money. When done right, downsizing can make retirement easier and create more leisure time for retirees.



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Simplify paving stone installation

Paving stones can add beauty to walkways, driveways and backyard patios, providing that eye-catching finishing touch to a property while enhancing its curb appeal. Even though the installation of pavers can be a labor-intensive process, with the right tools and tips, this can be a do-it-yourself project for homeowners with renovation experience. Consider these tricks and how-to tips courtesy of The Home Depot, DIY Network and Unilock.

Get your supplies

To begin a paver project, homeowners will need to stock up on some supplies they may not already have at home. Marking paint, mason line, wooden stakes, leveling sand, paver base, and more will be required. A manual tamper can be used. However, for larger areas, it can be worth the cost to rent a plate compactor.

Measure the area

The number of bags of sand, paver base and paving stones needed for the project depends on the size of the area. For example, according to the Home Depot, for 60 square feet, homeowners will need about 30 12 x 12-inch paver stones, 40 bags of paver base and 12 bags of paver leveling sand. Spray or mark the area where the paving stones will be laid. Measure carefully so you can order exactly how many stones you will need. Have the materials delivered to reduce heavy lifting and trips to the store. Be sure to have all utility lines marked prior to excavation to avoid damage.



Prepare the base carefully

One of the most important aspects of paver installation involves preparing the base. If you cut corners in this process, the finished results can be sloppy, weeds can grow through and/or stones may loosen.

It's essential to grade the area away from the house. That means that the highest point of the patio or walkway should be closest to the house and then the incline gradually flattens out as it moves away from the home. This allows proper water runoff. Mark the height on the stakes and adjust the mason line. Remember to slope the area away from your home with a drop-off of about one inch for every 8 feet.

The base of many DIY applications should be between four and six inches deep. Work incrementally, raking and tamping until the base is firm. Lightly wetting the material can help it solidify.

Sand helps inhibit weed growth and anchor the pavers together. Plastic lining will not be practical.

Installation

Use edge restraints and a string line to keep the design straight. Do not hammer the pavers together. Paver sand will need to be swept over and settled between the stones to help set them in place.

It helps to read tutorials and watch videos on paving stone installation prior to beginning the project. With practice, the installation will go more smoothly.

Tips for staining wood

Staining wood can transform the look of everything from fencing to decking. While wood can be beautiful in its natural state, staining can protect the wood and complement landscaping and other home design elements.

Staining can seem like a simple project, and that is often true. However, certain woods, such as pine, cherry, maple, and birch, can be difficult to stain. Boards with attractive grain patterns also can absorb stain differently, resulting in blotching and uneven tone.

Before beginning a staining project, it is important for homeowners to test the stain chosen on a sample piece of wood to see how the color and absorption turn out. This gives homeowners the chance to understand what they're dealing with and time to make any necessary accommodations to achieve a more even look.

Begin by gathering the necessary supplies. A pair of latex or vinyl gloves will protect your hands. Drop cloths will catch any drips or spills. Safety goggles and a dust mask provide protection if sanding is required prior to staining. If sanding is necessary, homeowners will need an orbital sander, hand sander and sandpaper.

Start with the coarsest grit sandpaper and move to a higher grit for a smooth finish. Wood that is covered in paint may need to be stripped prior to sanding.



Follow the directions carefully when using chemical strippers.

Natural bristle paint brushes are handy for oil-based stain applications. Synthetic paint brushes can apply water-based finishes. Many do-it-yourselfers find that foam brushes or paint pads are the most handy because they provide a smooth finish and there's no need to clean up the brushes afterward.

Many professionals recommend using wood conditioners or pre-treaters so that the stain will not leave blotches on the wood. This is especially important for homeowners who determined their wood is prone

to uneven color absorption. Allow the conditioner to dry according to product directions.

Stain should be applied so that it is evenly coated. Wipe off the excess to get the preferred color. Apply more stain as necessary to get the desired color. Many stains only offer color, so you'll need to apply a finishing coat to protect the wood. Otherwise, look for a product that combines stain color and a finish to save time.

Remember to remove knobs, hinges, and handles from a piece before staining, as the stain may affect the color of any metal hardware and damage it.

Fast-growing vegetables for the impatient gardener

Stepping outdoors and picking a freshly grown vegetable is a joy for many homeowners who like to garden.

Growing vegetables at home offers many benefits. In addition to providing a worthwhile hobby that can increase your physical activity, having control over your own produce can reduce exposure to a number of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. This translates into foods that are healthier for the body and the environment. Gardens also can help the average person save money on often costly produce, all the while reducing gardeners' carbon footprints.

Waiting to reap the rewards of a harvest can try the patience of those accustomed to satisfying their needs on a moment's notice. This is especially true for young gardeners who have grown up in a society that in-

creasingly provides immediate gratification.

While tomatoes, peppers and watermelons require long growing seasons, many other fruits and vegetables grow much faster. This offers plenty of bounty in a short time for those who may have gotten a later start on their gardens or simply don't have the patience to wait on the more time-consuming growers.

- Arugula: Some people call arugula "rocket" because of just how quickly it grows. The green has been growing in popularity as a salad starter or vegetable side dish. Simply cut the leaves when they are large enough and as needed for recipes. Other fast-growing greens include kale, chard mustard greens and watercress.

- Radishes: Radishes are typically ready for harvest about one month after planting, making them among the fastest-

growing vegetables around.

- Snap beans: Beans can be steamed, added to salads or eaten raw with dips. They're often a summer staple. Some of the fastest producers are ready to harvest in about 50 days.

- Turnips: Both the roots and the leaves of turnips can be eaten, and this old-fashioned vegetable makes a great addition to soups and stews. Because the plants tend to be tolerant across many gardening zones, they're handy and easy-to-grow even as the weather cools.

- Squash: Don't mistake the squash in the garden for cucumber. Both look similar but green squash, or zucchini, can be much more versatile. Zucchini can be grilled, baked, sautéed, stuffed, fried, and even turned into noodles.

- Green onions: To add fresh flavor to foods, green onions (scallions) grow much more quickly than it takes onion bulbs



Leafy greens can be fast-growing additions to a home vegetable garden.

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Factors to consider when choosing carpeting

When the time comes to choose flooring for their homes, homeowners may be overwhelmed by the vast array of options at their disposal. The choice between carpet and hardwood flooring, laminate or tile is a matter of personal preference. People have long extolled the virtues of hardwood flooring, but carpeting can be just as stylish and provides a host of other benefits as well.

Carpeting insulates rooms in the summer and winter, adding

that extra level of protection against the elements. Carpeting also absorbs sound in a home. Many appreciate the warmth and cozy feeling of carpet, especially when stepping out of bed. Carpeting also can increase the level of safety at home. According to the Carpet and Rug Institute, carpeting makes areas of play safer and may also reduce the severity of an injury in the event of a fall.

Today, there are many different types of carpeting available. Selecting the right carpeting for

a room comes down to identifying the level of traffic in a particular room, the attributes homeowners would like the carpet to have and any other needs that fit with their lifestyles. The following guidelines can make carpet shopping a bit easier.

Type of carpeting

There are many different types of carpeting, some of which are best suited to certain situations. For example, plush and saxony carpets are better in low-traffic areas. These carpets may show footprints and also

vacuum tracks and dirt, but they're higher on the comfort spectrum than other types of carpet. Berber, which is more flat and dense, helps mask stains and tracks. It is durable in high-traffic areas. Textured carpets like frieze are cut from fibers of different heights, so they mask stains and are also softer on the feet than berber.

Padding

Padding can impact the way carpeting feels and how long it lasts. It isn't always necessary to purchase the most expensive or thickest padding. However, it is wise to pick a pad that matches the type of carpeting you're selecting and one that aligns with how you plan to use the room. You may be able to go with a thinner pad in low-traffic rooms and beneath dense carpeting like berber. In high-traffic rooms, choose a thicker, more durable padding. Padding prevents carpet backing and fibers from coming apart over time. It pays to invest in a padding that will last as well.

Installation

Select a reliable carpet retailer and installer for your business. Competent installers will lay the carpeting in the correct manner so that it will look beautiful and maintain its durability for the life of the product. Shop around to find the right installer or even do the work yourself if you feel capable.

Take time when shopping for carpeting, which is a substantial investment that can last for many years if the right material is chosen and installed correctly.

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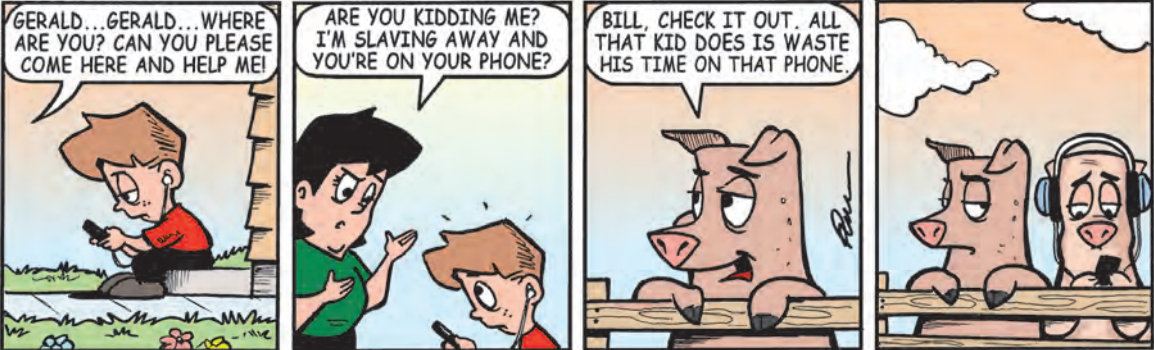
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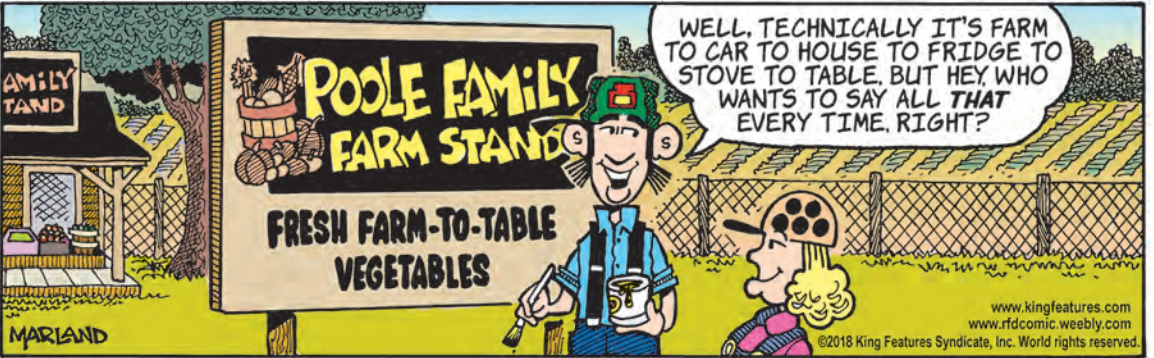
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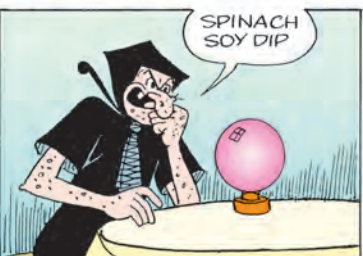
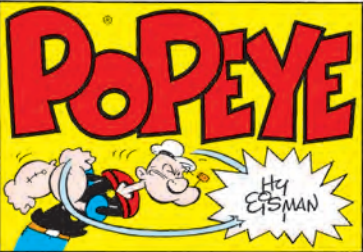
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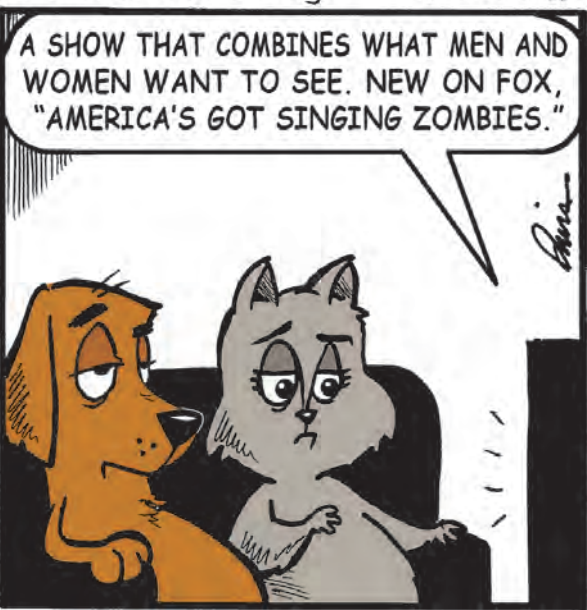
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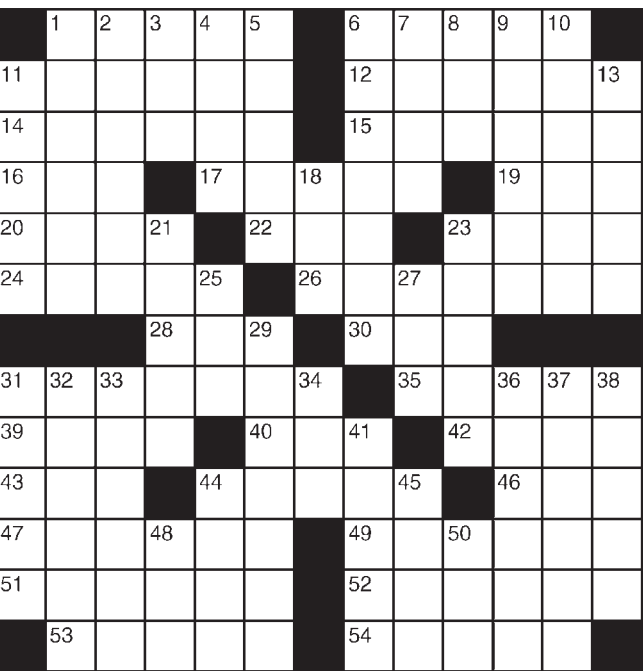
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- 12 Consecrate with oil
- 14 Green club
- 15 Say under one's breath
- 16 "Eeewww!"
- 17 Down in the —
- 19 Spell-down
- 20 Actress Perlman
- 22 Zilch
- 23 Stunned sensation
- 24 Bra part
- 26 Floods
- 28 Yon bloke
- 30 Operated
- 31 Poison in a 1939 play
- 35 "Caribbean Queen" singer Billy
- 39 Titleholder's proof
- 40 Apprehend
- 42 Facility
- 43 Sternward
- 44 Went outwith
- 46 Bus bldg.
- 47 Bowling alley border
- 49 Bread spread
- 51 Intertwine

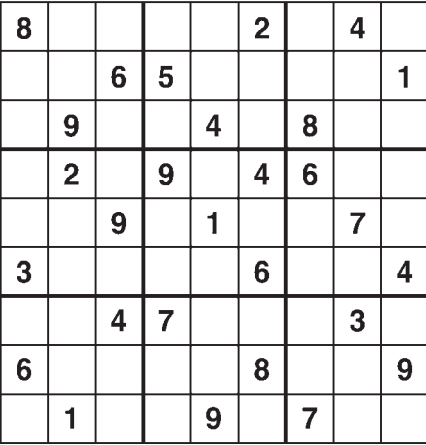
King Crossword



- 8 Barracks bed
- 9 Knapsack of a sort
- 10 Earn a blessing?
- 11 Boot attachments
- 13 Kilmer poem
- 18 Central
- 21 Oohed and —
- 23 Conical-cap wearer
- 25 Wrestling win
- 27 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
- 29 Mosque tower
- 31 Saw
- 32 Money back
- 33 Resolve
- 34 Garfield, for one
- 36 Festive spring day
- 37 Michaelmas daisies
- 38 Approaches
- 41 Jazz style
- 44 Art —
- 45 Mussolini title
- 48 Spigot
- 50 Commonest English word

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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Trivia test

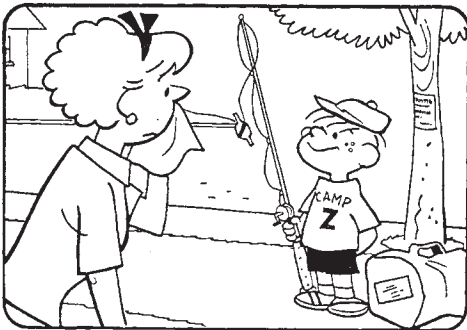
by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only bird that can fly backward with precision?
- 2. EXPLORERS: What was the name of the ship that explorer Henry Hudson sailed up a river that bears his name today?
- 3. LITERATURE: What was the name of Hermione's pet cat in the "Harry Potter" book series?
- 4. FOOD & DRINK: What type of bread also is commonly known as "pocket bread"?
- 5. BIBLE: In which book does the phrase "the love of money is the root of all evil" appear?
- 6. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the famed Trevi Fountain located?
- 7. MUSIC: Which band was named after an 18th century agriculturalist who invented the seed drill?
- 8. GEOLOGY: What kind of black, glass-like rock forms when magma cools suddenly?
- 9. HISTORY: When did the great fire of London occur?
- 10. LANGUAGE: What is the meaning of the Latin phrase "anno domini"?

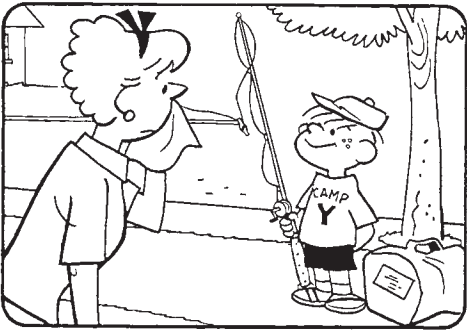
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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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: H equals S

CESGV UQQARJP CS WX YPUX

LQQAZCHG, WX JGRPBLQV ZVRGN

"XQY HBQYUN LG CHBCWGN QE

XQYV HBQUE!"

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CAMERA

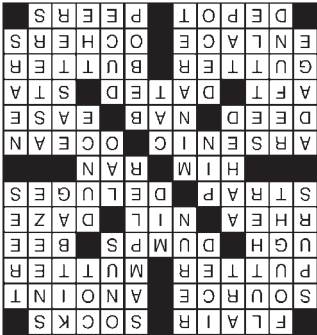
Today's Word

3. Direct; 4. Patrol

1. Amaze; 2. Range;

solution

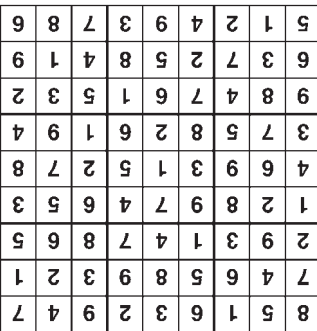
SCRAMBLERS



Solution time: 24 mins.

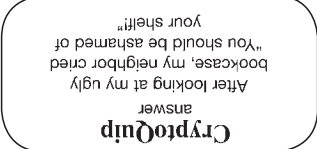
Answers

King Crossword



Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



Answer

After looking at my ugly bookcase, my neighbor cried "You should be ashamed of your shelf!"



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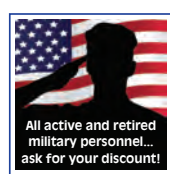
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Serta
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 Set \$1349
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