

Amboy Police launches new sex offender registration, public notification website

AMBOY — Recently, Amboy Police Chief Jeff Blake and the Amboy Police Department launched a new sex offender registration and public notification website called OffenderWatch®.

Amboy Police Department will now be part of a nationwide network of more than 5,000 law enforcement agencies. The new service is a citizen-friendly, easy to use website that enables citizens to search for potentially dangerous sex offenders and predators, which may be in close proximity to their homes, places of work, schools, churches and day care centers.

The information is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is updated in real time by the Amboy Police Department as offender information changes and is reported. As part of this new, innovative service, citizens may enter any address of interest to them, and see a map and listing of all offenders within a user defined radius, of a quarter mile out to two miles, of that address.

Citizens can then register the address to be continuously monitored by the chief, who will send to them an email alerting them if an offender or predator should register an address within their specified radius of their address. Citizens may confidentially register as many addresses as they like, at no cost to them.

“Citizens have a right to know who may be living near them and could potentially pose a threat to their families. The Illinois Sheriff’s and Police Departments using OffenderWatch® have the most up to date information on all offenders registered in the state and I am happy to be able to provide that information to them,” says Blake.

The chief has also made available additional web based resources designed to educate and inform the public on ways to keep their families safe. The purpose of the program is to lessen the anxiety of citizens by proactively alerting them should an offender/predator move within proximity to them, and to provide the highest level of security and safety to all Amboy citizens.

See **WEBSITE**, page A2



Agencies to host Safety Day Saturday in Amboy

AMBOY — The Amboy Fire Protection District is partnering with the Amboy Police Department and Lee County Emergency Management to bring you and your family a safety day from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., on Saturday, April 21, at

the Amboy Fire Department. This event will feature multiple safety stations where you can learn about how to keep you and your loved ones SAFE in the event of an emergency situation.

See **SAFETY**, page A2

Council approves Main Street resurfacing

BY TONJA GREENFIELD
General Manager

AMBOY — Amboy’s downtown has been seeing improvements over the last year, and after Monday night, the downtown will see one more major improvement – Main Street being resurfaced.

The Amboy City Council met at its regular monthly meeting on Monday night in the Amboy Community Building. All members were present.

On the agenda was the approval of a bid from Martin and Co. for \$123,980.99 for resurfacing Main Street.

Amboy Alderman Eric McLaughlin said that this project, if approved, would be done by Depot Days and the resurfacing would go from the highway to past the shelter.

When asked about the cost of the project, McLaughlin said the engineer first gave an estimate of about \$185,000 for the project, and then the engineer came back with a lower estimate. But

even the lower estimate from the engineer was still higher than the actual bid from Martin and Co.

The board approved the motion to resurface Main Street unanimously.

In other board news:

- The council voted to table a motion to approve a bid for new flooring for the community center. Amboy Mayor John Schamberger said they wanted to do more research before accepting either of the two bids.
- Schamberger said the YMCA committee has created a survey for the community on what the community would like to see at the proposed YMCA. He added that the committee will be starting to share the link for the survey. The committee will be in attendance at the Amboy Chamber Business After Hours on Thursday night at the Long Branch Saloon. Residents can take part in the survey during the chamber event.

See **COUNCIL**, page A2



The Amboy Lions Club donated an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) on Thursday evening for each of the community buildings in Amboy and Sublette. Lions Club president Roger Wittenauer presented the Sublette Community Building AED to Kyle Kellen (left), Don Dinges and John Stenzel on behalf of the club. Below, Julie Dearthmitt received the AED for the Amboy Community Center.

Mary Mays/Amboy News

Amboy Lions Club provides AEDs for local community buildings

BY MARY MAYS
Staff Writer

AMBOY - The Amboy Lions Club, in keeping with its mission statement of serving the community, donated two Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) on Thursday evening. An AED was provided for each of the community buildings in Amboy and Sublette. The AEDs will be available for all functions and activities held at the two community buildings.

The Philips AEDs were purchased from AED Essentials of Rockford and Hanne Reiger provided an in service class on using the AEDs to the recipients and other community members present. The units are fully automated with voice instructions on use of the machine itself as well as for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The first three to five minutes of heart failure is critical to the survival of the victim and having the AEDs on site will them give lifesaving time.

The AEDs provided for the Community Buildings are not the same exact units as those carried by fire departments or law enforcement vehicles, but use of the units is the same. Reiger suggested that community members attend a CPR and AED training class the next time one is held at their local fire departments. She demonstrated the machines and invited attendees to “have a go” using it. The unit has visual helps and vocal instructions to help even those who have never used the unit before to have success with it. Community members should make themselves aware of the location of the AED unit in their building so that precious time is not lost when an emergency arises.

Maintenance of the units will be up to the community buildings and support for them will be provided by AED Essentials.



Wire stresses preventive medicine is key to health of all animals

BY MONETTA YOUNG
Reporter

AMBOY — If you have visited the Amboy Veterinary Office you have probably seen Dr. Stephanie Wire. She works part time at the Amboy clinic helping Dr. Toni Trego care for both small and large animals, in and around Amboy.

Wire moved to the United States from Munich, Germany when she was just 16 years old. She received her degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2007. She is a member of the Army Reserve, Veterinary Corps. She spends time with the reserve unit occasionally throughout the year, practicing veterinary medicine.

She started helping out in the Amboy clinic in 2014 and officially became a part-time employee in 2016. She is at the clinic two to four days a week. She does surgery and pro-

vides medical attention to both small and large animals. She stresses that preventive medicine is key to the health of all animals.

“Use a monthly heartworm preventative,” said Wire. “And it is nearly flea and tick season so treat that as well.”

Wire doesn’t claim to have a favorite animal, but admits she is partial to horses and dogs. At home she has three dogs, including a lab mix, two evil twin Dachshunds, a horse and three ponies, one of which just had a foal.

“I like a variety of animals,” she said. “I think I would get bored with just one kind.”

When she isn’t taking care of animals in Amboy, Wire has her own ambulatory veterinary service, Starved Rock Veterinary Services out of Oglesby, serving LaSalle and Grundy counties.

Wire lives in Ottawa with her husband and four year old son. She still has family in Germany as well.



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Another effort is underway to save a northern Illinois landmark

BY SCOT BERTRAM
Illinois News Network
OREGON — The Eternal Indian statue at Lowden State Park near Oregon had been scheduled for renovations until promised money from the state never showed up. State Rep. Tom Demmer, R-Dixon, said the long-term budget impasse was to blame.

“During the course of the impasse, there were no reapropriations,” Demmer said. “Many projects have been left

in a state of limbo in two areas — one, in finding the actual dollars to pay for the program and two, then getting the statutory authority to spend those dollars.”

State officials pledged \$350,000 to go along with private money previously raised to restore the 50-foot-tall statue, which sits on the bluffs overlooking the Rock River. Supporters have no idea if, or when, those funds might be released.

“We don’t know when [state

money] might happen,” Demmer said. “Given the fact the statue continues to be exposed to weather and elements, we want to be sure we can act quickly on the renovations before it passes a point where it’s too difficult or too costly to restore the statue. Really what’s motivating the desire to talk to private individuals right now is uncertainty from a state funding perspective.”

Organizers now are asking for donations in an effort to raise \$500,000 to jumpstart the renovations. The previous fundraising campaign helped pay for engineering studies and official plans for repairs.

“There was a lot of testing and analysis that went on in the first phase,” said Eric Schenck, president of the Illinois Conservation Foundation. “The good

news is that although there wasn’t a great deal of progress on the physical restoration work, there was a lot of the information needed and other kinds of project coordination that occurred. We’re at a stage where now, we’re really ready for the true restoration phase.”

Demmer said as they push forward on private fundraising, they aren’t giving up on the possibility of help from Springfield.

“We’re still pursuing the option to get some state funding, even if it’s not the full amount originally pledge,” Demmer said. “After all, it’s a statue owned by the state, it’s on the grounds of a state park, it’s something the state has responsibility for being a caretaker of.”

The previous fundraising effort took five years. Supporters worry they might not have that kind of time before the 107-year-old statue crumbles beyond repair.

“A half-million dollars is a lot of money,” Schenck said. “I think, realistically, there’s a need or opportunity for a charitable angel to come forward, who may have a statewide perspective about the importance of this particular statue as a work of art and a historic piece. I think we may have to be looking beyond the local community to engage one or more charitable interests at the statewide level.”

The Eternal Indian statue, also known as the Black Hawk statue, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Officials say it helps to draw about 400,000 visitors a year into the state park.

“You see every single day ... how many people come to visit the community and eat in local restaurants and fill up their car with gas,” Demmer said. “There’s certainly a big economic component to this that supports a tourism industry that’s really alive and well in Oregon.”

The statue has been restored twice in the past. Supporters are hopeful the third time is not far away.

“This project is ready to roll,” Demmer said. “There’s been a lot of study and analysis. We’re now ready to begin the actual restoration work that will make sure this thing lasts for another generation.”

Rallying for Ryon fundraiser planned at Amboy High School

AMBOY - The Amboy High School Student Body will be sponsoring a fundraiser for Ryon Richardson from noon until 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 29.

Richardson, the victim of a farm accident, is a fellow student and Rallying for Ryon is an effort to show him how much the other students and community support him. A bake sale, silent auction and t-shirt sales are planned Sunday afternoon at the High School, 11 E. Hawley.

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- The council approved the 2018-2019 budget. At the end of the meeting, Schamberger thanked the council for meeting for two hours to go over the budget, and also gave thanks to Alderman Dennis Weidman and Brett Dewey for their work on preparing the budget.
- City Attorney Matt Keegan told the council that new building codes are being purchased for the city. The new codes will move the city to use the International Building Codes. He added that the Cities of Dixon and Rock Falls, and soon to be Sterling, all have

SAFETY continued from page A1

- They will also have kid-oriented activities.
- Stations include:
- JULIE Safety
 - ComEd Safety
 - Kinder Morgan Pipeline Safety
 - Car Seat Checks
 - Fingerprints
 - Weather Information
 - Sex Offender Registry
 - Scam Information
 - OSF Lifeflight Helicopter
 - Touch-a-Truck

Paw Paw Townwide Spring Garage Sales and Paw Paw PTO Craft & Vendor Fair

Saturday, April 21

Garage Sales: 8am-3pm

Sponsored by Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce

- Over 35 Sales
- Maps available at Sales
- Balloons mark the Sales

Craft & Vendor Fair: 9am-3pm

Sponsored by Paw Paw PTO

- Over 25 Vendors
- High School Gym
- Concessions available, provided by the Sophomore Class

04182018

- adopted the International Building Codes. An ordinance will need to be approved by the council at the next meeting.
- The council approved a 25 cent raise for employees Rick Schrock and Emmitt Hicks after they completed a spraying certification class.
 - The council approved a 50 cents raise for full time employees.
 - The City of Amboy will host Clean-Up days April 26-30.
- The next Amboy City Council meeting will be held at 7 p.m., on Monday May 21, in the Amboy Community Building.

WEBSITE continued from page A1

The program also enables the chief to verify that offender addresses do not violate any safety buffers that may be implemented around protected institutions in the county, such as schools, day cares and parks, and helps law enforcement schedule compliance checks for verifying information provided by offenders.

Citizens can access the OffenderWatch® registry at the Amboy Police Department sex offender search page at <http://www.communitynotification.com/il/amboy>.



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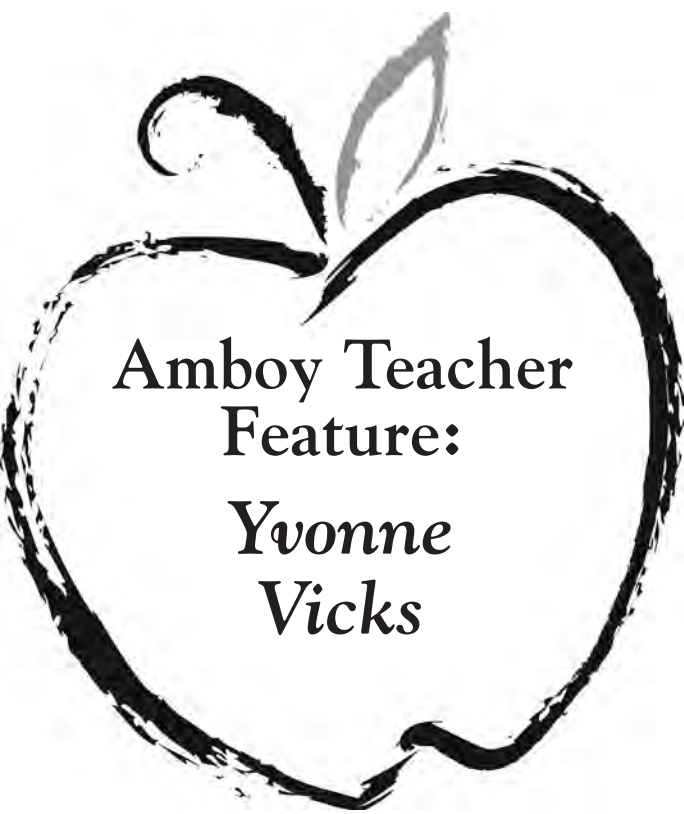
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Yvonne Vicks has been teaching for 10 and a half years, with 10 of those years in Amboy. She teaches eighth grade English and language arts.

She attended Sauk Valley Community College for her general education courses, Northern Illinois University to earn her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and Aurora University to earn her Master of Arts in Reading Instruction.

“I knew I wanted to be a teacher at a pretty young age,” said Vicks. “School was always something that I loved. Growing up, there were many times I would play school. Not many of my friends wanted to play school with me, so I ended up pretending to teach my stuffed animals. As I grew older, there were many teachers that influenced me, but the one that stands out the most is Mr. Frank Cahill at Dixon High School. At the time, he taught my favorite subject, science. He was an amazing teacher and we always had a great time with him. Twenty years later, there are still so many conversations and lessons that I remember from his classes.”

“There are many things that I could add to a book about my teaching experiences,” said Vicks. “The one thing that I would hope readers would take away from my book is, I love working with kids. No matter what is going on in your personal life, they are always able to distract you and make you laugh. My eighth graders are great at making bad days so much better with their lively personalities.”

Chamber event planned for Thursday night

AMBOY — Everyone is invited to the next Amboy Chamber Business After Hours mixer on Thursday, April 19, at the Long Branch Saloon. Please note the location has changed.

The event will be held from 5:30- 7:30 p.m.

Join the chamber for a business networking event. Appetizers and door prizes. Meet new contacts. Promote your business. Build business relationships in the community. Everyone is welcome.

Bids being accepted for Name the Street event

AMBOY — Since 1997 the Amboy Civic Organization (A.C.O) has been sponsoring a program called “Name the Street” a chance whereby individuals/families can name the street behind the business district to either memorialize a loved one or honor a living person in our community.

The sign will hang for one year beginning on May 1 and at the end of the year the sign will go to the donor. Currently the sign is in memory of Andy Conderman.

Previous honorees were Linda Glenn, Avery Lovgren, Jake Metzen, Gary Hart, Howard and Ruth Shaw, Doug Blaine, Louie Grasser, Doug Antoine, Dave Yentzer, James “Mort” Hinkle, Jeff “Bodine” Bonnell, James Mead, Bob Smith, Lisa Nauman, Dave Payne, Dale Etheridge, Elmer “Rocky” Sensenig, Arnie Stahr, and Bob Machen.

The minimum bid is \$200 and the money raised will go to the Pankhurst Memorial Library.

So, if you would like to be the successful bidder this year please get your bid in to city hall by Thursday April 26.

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All Editorial Deadline: 4 p.m. Friday

Letters Policy: The Amboy News encourages letters from readers on current issues. Letters should be brief and must be signed, with a street address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes.

The newspaper reserves the right to publish, edit, condense, revise or reject any submissions.

DIXON-The Lee County Health Department, 309 S. Galena Ave., will have Childhood Immunization Clinics, by appointment only, on 19, 20, 24, 25 and 26. Call 815-284-3371 to schedule an appointment or to find out about other services offered, like Adult Vaccines.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 2 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, at Dixon Sinissippi Center, 325 IL Route 2. For an appointment, call 800-448-3543.

AMBOY-Business After Hours will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, at The Long Branch Saloon, 55 S. East Ave. The public is invited to mingle with local business owners.

AMBOY-Amboy High School FFA will hold a Petting Zoo from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the High School, 11 E. Hawley, on Friday, April 20. The petting zoo is open to the public. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Deanna Drew at ddrew@amboy.net.

DIXON-The Alzheimer’s Association will present “The Basics-Memory Loss, Dementia & Alzheimer’s Disease” at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 20, at Post House Community Center, 100 W. Second St. Call the Association at 800-272-3900 or the Post House at 815-288-9236 for more information.

AMBOY-The U of I Extension’s Around the Table Monthly Webinar will be from noon to 1 p.m. on Friday, April 20. The April Webinar, “Establish Healthy Credit”, is a free webinar session available for everyone. For more information or to register online go to: go.illinois.edu/ATTwebinar.

AMBOY-The Pankhurst Memorial Library Book Club will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 23, at the Library, 3 S. Jefferson. Call the Library at 815-857-3925 for more information.

AMBOY-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 23, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

STERLING-The U of I Extension Educator, Karla Belzer, will lead Wits Fitness, exercises for the brain, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 24, at Sterling Public Library, 815-625-1370. Register online at go.illinois.edu/witsfitness.

AMBOY-A Novel Idea Book Club will meet at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 26, at Pankhurst Memorial Library, 3. S. Jefferson. Call the Library at 815-857-3925 for more information.

AMBOY-The Amboy CUSD #272 Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m. at Amboy Junior High School, 140 W. Appleton, on Thursday, April 26.

DIXON-The Petunia City Quilt Guild will hold Sophie’s Garden of Quilts Show from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Friday, April 27, and from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, at Northside Baptist Church, 598 River Lane. Vendors, bake sale, basket raffles and quilt raffle. Quilt appraisals by appointment, call Pat at 815-625-2006.

DIXON-The 14th Annual Expressions Art Sale Reception will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. at The Next Picture Show, 113 W. First St. The silent auction will end at 8 p.m. For more information, call the Sinissippi Foundation at 815-284-9380 for email at info@sinissippi.com

DIXON-The Goodfellows Spring Giveaway will take place from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, April 28, at 113 S. Peoria Ave. (lower level of Telegraph building). Free to anyone. Clothes, household items and miscellaneous. Cally 815-973-5135 for more information.

DIXON-The Post House, 100 W. Second St., will host the Lee County Council on Aging’s 7th Annual Spring Prom on

Saturday, April 28. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Advance tickets are available at LCCOA or tickets may be purchased at the door. Must be 21 to attend. Call 815-288-9236 for more info.

AMBOY-Fundraiser Rallying for Ryon will be held from 12 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 29, at Amboy High School, 11 E. Hawley. Bake Sale, Silent Auction and T-shirt sale.

STERLING-The U of I Extension will host the program “Developing the Creative Economy” at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, at Champs Banquet Venue, 9 E. Third St. Register online at go.illinois.edu/CreativeEconomy.

DIXON-The U of I Extension will host a program with Pam Schallhorn “5 Strategies for Retaining and Attracting Youth to Rural Communities” at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 2, at Sauk Valley Community . Register online at go.illinois.edu/RetainingYouth.

AMBOY-University of Illinois Extension Community and Economic Development will provide an at home webinar

on the Open Meetings Act at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3. Register online at http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lge/ .

ROCKFALLS-The American Red Cross, in coordination with Mayor William B. Wescott of Rock Falls and Bethany Bland, President/CEO of Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, will hold two monthly Blood Drives on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Rock Falls Community Building, 601 W. 10th St. The first Wednesday of the month drive will be held from 1 to 6 p.m., May 2. The third Wednesday of the month drive, May 16, will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call 800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment to donate.

AMBOY-The City of Amboy committee meetings will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 14, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

AMBOY-The Amboy American Legion Post 453 will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 7, at the Amboy Family Restaurant community room.

Email calendar items to mmays@amboynews.com

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Senior Dining Menu

April 23 - 27

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Tuesday – A) Citrus baked ham, sweet potatoes, Capri blend veggies, wheat bread, fruit cocktail B) Soup & Sandwich, cream of mushroom & roast beef

Wednesday – Baked chicken quarter, mashed potatoes/gravy, broccoli, tossed salad/drsg, roll, pumpkin bar

Thursday – Mushroom swiss burger on bun, tator tots, baked beans, apricots

Friday – Fish patty, wheat bun, tartar sauce, potato pancakes, Calif. blend veggies, applesauce

Meals served Mon.-Fri. at 11:30 am

Reservations needed 10:00 am day before

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CENTRAL SCHOOL MENU
April 23 - 27

All Breakfast meals will include fruit, juice and a milk

All Lunch meals will include veggies, fruit and a milk

Monday

- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart
- Pizza burger w/cheese on a toasty crust, baked beans, sweet tator tots, peaches, cupcake
- Early Dismissal – 1:20 p.m.

Tuesday

- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart
- Creamed chicken, biscuit/jelly, cheese stick, steamed spinach, fresh cut veggies/ranch, pears

Wednesday

- Breakfast pizza
- Pasta w/meat sauce, garlic bread, cheese cup, fresh cut veggies/ranch, broccoli & cheese, pineapple

Thursday

- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart
- Roast pork in gravy, mashed potatoes, peanut butter sandwich, roll, peas, carrots, mixed fruit

Friday

- Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart
- Grilled cheesewich, tomato soup, goldfish crackers, fresh cut veggies/ranch, salad, applesauce

04182018

JR HIGH MENU
April 23 - 27

Milk served at each meal

Breakfast option of cold items or the featured item

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

Monday

- Waffles & syrup
- Pizza burger w/cheese on a toasty crust, baked beans, sweet tator tots, peaches, cupcake
- Early Dismissal 1:25 p.m

Tuesday

- Egg & cheese sandwich
- Creamed chicken, bisuit/jelly, cheese stick, steamed spinach, fresh cut veggies/ranch, pears

Wednesday

- Breakfast bosco
- Pasta w/meat sauce, garlic bread, cheese cup, fresh cut veggies/ranch, broccoli w/cheese, pineapple

Thursday

- Cinni minis
- Roast pork & gravy, mashed potatoes, peanut butter sandwich, roll, peas, carrots, mixed fruit, cobbler

Friday

- French toast stix
- Grilled cheesewich, tomato soup, goldfish crackers, fresh cut veggies/ranch, salad, applesauce

04182018

OBITUARIES

Kathleen J. Gray

May 24, 1937 - March 17, 2018

TACOMA, Wash. — Kathleen J. Gray, 80, passed away on March 17, 2018. Kathleen (Kathy) was born on May 24, 1937, to Frank and Florence McCaffrey, in Amboy.

Kathleen was a strong woman. Strong in love with her husband of over 55 years, owning and operating a business together for over 30 years. Strong in faith. She attended St. Patrick’s church in Amboy, and for over 30 years at St. John of the Woods in Tacoma. Strong in family. Coming from a family of 14, having eight children and hosting and attending many family gatherings. Strong in humor. She was a published author of humorous short stories. Strong in fun. Nothing wrong with an occasional visit to the casino.

Kathleen attended Mount Saint Clare College in Clinton, Iowa.

Kathleen was predeceased in death by her husband, Robert J. Gray.

Survived by daughters, Deborah Gray, Denise Hall,



Valerie Gray and Neeve Gray; son, Robert J. Gray, Jr.; and 13 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by siblings, Bette Johnson, Patrick McCaffrey (Helen), Janet McCaffrey (Joe Veliz), Gene McCaffrey (Mary), Jim McCaffrey, Sharon Blunt, Cheryl Balsam (Don); and numerous nieces and nephews.

Also predeceased in death are Kathleen’s parents, three infant sons, and six siblings.

A Memorial Service was held at 1 p.m., on April 5, 2018, at



St. John of the Woods Catholic Church in Tacoma, Wash., with a reception that followed in the church hall. Inurnment at Calvary Cemetery at a later date. The family would like to thank Dr. Douglas Sorenson of Franciscan Ear, Nose & Throat Associates for the excellent care and compassion he showed to our precious Kathleen. Memorials can be made in Kathleen’s memory to St. John of the Woods Catholic Church, 9903 24th Ave E, Tacoma WA 98445 or the charity of your choice.

Christian comedian to host annual Mother’s Day event

DIXON — Christian comedian Lisa Janes is hosting her annual Mother’s Day event, Saturday, May 5, at Sauk Valley Community Church located at 498 IL Route 2, Dixon. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with the event starting at 9 a.m.

Ladies, join Janes for laughter, inspiration, music and great food. More importantly find out how you are more precious, more valuable to God than you could imagine.

Guest speakers are Elizabeth Tribley of “Pink Heals” and

Ercella White. Musical talent includes Ginger Awalt, Scott Coblentz, Carter Gremba and Patti Wragg and of course there will be comedy.

A delicious Italian meal will be catered by Mimmo’s Pizza and Lounge, of Forreaston, which includes special salad, baked mostaccioli, chicken alfredo, cookies and tea, water and coffee.

Registration is \$20 cash or check, and due at door day of event. Reserve by Thursday, April 26 by phone or text 815-441-8424 or on Facebook at Lisa Janes- comedian’s page.

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Pictured from left to right are, Rep. Tom Demmer, Nastaja Vaessen, Ashley Winters, Alyssa Gascoigne, Andrew Thier, Ashley Althaus, Margaret Vaessen, Ms. Deanna Drew, Rep. Daniel Swanson.

Photo submitted

Amboy FFA members meet with State Legislators

SPRINGFIELD — On Wednesday, April 11, Amboy FFA members Ashley Althaus, Alyssa Gascoigne, Andrew Thier, Margaret Vaessen, Nastaja Vaessen, and Ashley Winters participated in the annual Agriculture Legislative Day at the Illinois State Capitol Building. They had the incredible opportunity to meet with State Representatives Tom Demmer and Daniel Swanson.

The Amboy FFA members shared with Representatives Demmer and Swanson the impact that FFA has had on their lives, discussed different issues that the agriculture industry faces, and

had the opportunity to ask questions and have their photo taken.

When asked about the experience Chapter Reporter Ashley Winters said, “It was an honor to be able to spend time with Representatives Demmer and Swanson discussing such an important issue and learning more about the legislative process in Illinois.”

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

Prairie group to host annual banquet and program April 29

OREGON — Mark your calendar now for the Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County’s (PPSOC) annual spring banquet Sunday, April 29, at the Lorado Taft Campus, 1414 N. River Road, Oregon.

Social hour begins at 5 p.m.; dinner follows at 6; the evening concludes with a 7 p.m. program. Dinner will be the usual mouth-watering turkey and fixings or vegetarian Moroccan stew. Native plants and books will be for sale. A silent auction

will also be held. The program and dinner are \$25; children under 12 are half price.

The program will be interesting and appropriate: Grasslands, Bison, and Indigenous People. Paul Rieger will make the presentation. He is a retired teacher and school administrator from Crystal Lake and later an adjunct professor with NIU.

He is also a Master Naturalist who works on the prairie and gives Bison tours at Nachusa Grasslands

He lives in Dixon on the Rock River where he participates in water-oriented recreation and biking. He has grown and teenaged children.

His presentation will provide

a historical look at how we arrived at our current state of nature for prairies and bison. The concept of “Manifest Destiny,” and the national belief that the frontier was an endless bounty to be utilized by Euro-Americans heading westward will be explored.

How and when did the rapid changes occur to grasslands, bison, and indigenous people across North America?

His presentation will conclude with a discussion of local efforts to restore prairies and Bison, and ways for all of us to increase prairie stewardship.

To register for the program, email lin.vogl@gmail.com or phone 815-973-4926.

*Email news items to
tgreenfield@
amboynews.com*

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p>St. Patrick Parish Rev. Timothy Draper, Pastor 32 N. Jones, Amboy Parish Office Phone 857-2315 www.stpatrickamboy.org Mass Monday, Wednesday, & Friday - 5 p.m. Tuesday, & Thursday - 7 a.m. Saturday - 4:30 p.m. Sunday - 7:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Confessions - Saturdays 3:30-4:15 p.m. Wednesdays - 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Fridays, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.</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 - Walton Rev. Timothy Draper, Pastor Mass Saturday, 6 p.m. Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.</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 Fronек 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 Fronек West Brooklyn Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday - 5:30 p.m. St. Patrick Church Rev. Randy Fronек - Maytown Mass - Fri. 8 a.m., Sun, 8 a.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 - Harmon Rev. Timothy Draper, Pastor Mass Sunday, 9 a.m. Thursday, 8:30 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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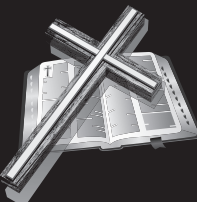
Mihm-Jones Funeral Home
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First National Bank
in Amboy
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815-857-2311



The Book Nook

By:
Tatjana Kazan

A cruel pease

It is March 1991. The ceasefire in the Gulf War is holding. Operation Desert Storm is a spectacular success. But not for the Shiites and Kurds who rose up against Saddam Hussein. They are left at the mercy of Saddam's murderous Republican Guard. Thousands are slaughtered, towns and villages are razed. Thomas Benton, a British journalist embedded with the American Forces approaches Checkpoint Zulu about 100 miles from the Kuwaiti border. Arwood Hobbes, a young soldier from Kansas, is manning the machine gun. Benton wants to sneak into a nearby Shiite town to get a closer look at the Shiite rebellion. Arwood, a follower of the great philosopher Ferris Bueller, turns a blind eye.

So, begins Derek B. Miller's very fine novel, "The Girl in Green," about two men who are scarred for life by what took place in that town shortly after Benton entered it. The people of the town want to know when are the Americans coming to help them. Benton is talking with the pharmacist when two helicopters appear and begin the systematic destruction of the hospital, the school, and every dwelling in town.

Saddam's Republican Guards stage house-to-house searches for those still alive. After several hours, Benton runs outside toward a truck, where he comes upon a girl in a green dress. He flees with her and sees that Arwood is heading straight for them, but the Iraqis are gaining on them. No more than ten yards from the American side, the two men and the girl are surrounded by the Iraqis. A colonel demands the girl, but Arwood pulls a gun on him. Behind them, Arwood's lieutenant is screaming for him to desist. The colonel smiles and shoots the girl in the back and kills her. Enraged, Arwood attacks his lieutenant, and ends up with an "other than honorable" discharge.

Twenty-two years later, Arwood believes he saw the girl in green on TV reporting a particularly heinous bombing of Syrian and Kurdish civilians. Benton readily joins Arwood at the refugee camp on the Syrian border. Convinced themselves that she is still alive, the two men go in search of the girl, to right old wrongs. This time the enemy is ISIS and the two men are on their own.

Miller's prose style is cool, yet compassionate, with a good deal of humor to lighten the load. He relates an event that actually happened in 1991: the FFCs – Flying Frozen Chickens – that were dumped from an airplane, turning into lethal weapons as they bombarded people in a UN refugee camp. Miller quotes an adage that seems to sum up his attitude: "The US army was designed by geniuses and run by idiots."



Dixon church to host 5th Annual Spuds and Splits Extravaganza

DIXON — The 5th annual Spuds & Splits Extravaganza will use all funds raised this year to support Shiloh, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church's comfort dog.

Shiloh serves in the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Police Ministry as well as the K-9 Comfort Dog program. Funds are utilized to send Shiloh to places where a disaster happens such as the Parkland, Fla., aftermath of the Margory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting or when comfort is needed here in Dixon.

The Planning Committee members put finishing touches on the plans for the event to be held on Saturday, May 5. A delicious baked potato with choice of toppings followed by a homemade banana split will be served between 4 and 7 p.m., on Saturday, May 5.

When tickets are purchased in advance, adults are \$7 and children 10 and under are \$4. At the door, adults will be \$9 and children \$5. Tickets are available at the church, Monday thru Friday between 8 a.m. and noon, or by calling (815) 284-4554.

Tickets may also be purchased from a church member. Limited tickets available—get them while they last. The church is located just north of Dixon at 2035 Illinois Route 26.

SVCC Theatre presents The Lesson

DIXON — The SVCC Theatre Department, under the direction of Monique Elmendorf, presents an intriguing look at a classic French work from the 1950s, "The Lesson," by Eugene Ionesco.

Show dates are Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m. Tickets may be reserved or purchased at the

door one hour before show time in Sauk's Dillon (East) Mall.

Prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and \$2 for students with ID.

To reserve your tickets or for more information, please contact Monique Elmendorf, theatre@svcc.edu.

THE PASTOR'S PEN

Keep your words sweet

BY PASTOR JACK M. BRIGGS

Think of the sweetest words you ever heard. Were they "Congratulations, you got the promotion" or were they "I love you"? When we hear good words like "I love you" from the right person, they can be life-transforming and we never feel the same again. On the other hand, careless and unkind words can be difficult to forget. Sarcasm, rudeness, or slander can be hurtful.

Have you caught yourself saying things you have never meant to say? They just kind of slipped out, right? I figure we all wish we had not said those careless words or made that too-quick retort? (It's okay to admit; you are among friends here.)

Whoever came up with the saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me" must never have had a parent scold them harshly, or a partner say, "it's over," or a doctor say, "I have the test results, and the news is not good." So, words can indeed hurt us, or at least sting. Oh, yes, they can.

In Chapter 3 of his Epistle, James has a lot to say about words and considers the tongue, the instrument of words, a tyrant that is managed by an even greater power: the human heart because the words we say reveal a lot about what is going on inside of us.

Like a ship's rudder, or a small flame that ignites an inferno, or a bit in a horse's mouth, these small things control their larger complements. So, James calls the tongue not only evil, but poisonous and is refers to all the misuses of the tongue, such as gossip, backbiting, slander, and rumor-mongering.

Although we may think of words as belonging in a separate bucket from thoughts and deeds, words are deeds because speaking is an action. Wise gals and guys are those who use words wisely, for "You will have to live with the consequences of everything you say. What you say can preserve life or destroy it." (Proverbs 18:20-21)

You know, we don't have to say everything that is on our mind; there is an edit function if we choose to use it. But if you

absolutely have to speak, pause for a moment and ask three things: "Is it true?" "Is it loving?" "Is it necessary?" If it is not true, then don't say it. If it is not loving, it's probably best not to express. If it is not helpful or constructive, it may be best just to keep it to yourself. We find this notion in Ephesians 4:29: "Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you."

A good friend of mine, a retired pastor in Florida, once shared this little nugget that bears repeating: "The kindest words you ever speak may be the unkind words you never speak." Or as our moms told us, in their motherly wisdom: "If you don't have something nice to say, then..." (I think you all know the rest of that one.)

Finally, if you are tempted to blurt something impulsively without thinking first, just remember to keep your words sweet; you may have to eat them someday.

Thanks be to God.



BY EMILY GOFF

Head Librarian

New books for the month of April: "The Fallen," by David Baldacci "The Family Gathering," by

Robyn Carr

"I've Got My Eyes on You," by Mary Higgins Clark

"The Sixth Day," by Catherine Coulter

"Dead Girl Running," by Christina Dodd

"If You Knew Her- Emily Elgar

"Pretty Baby," by Mary Kubica

"Warngler's Challenge," by Lindsay McKenna

"Lone Rider," by Lindsay McKenna

"Our Little Secret," by Roz, Nay

"The 17th Suspect," by James Patterson

"The Bride next Door," by Hope Ramsay

"Twisted Prey," by John Sandford

"All the Beautiful Lies," by Peter Swanson

"Shoot First (Think Later)," by Stuart Woods

In the Children's Library

"Back to the Future," by Kim Smith

"Dude!," by Aaron Reynolds

"Emily Windsnap and the Falls of Forgotten Island," by Liz Kessler

"Fly Guy and the Alienzz," by Tedd Arnold

"Made for Me," by Zack Bush

"Noodhead Nightmares," by Tedd Arnold

"Noodleheads See the Future," by Tedd Arnold

"Rebound," by Kwame Alexander

"Unicorn (and Horse) ," by David Miles

"Waste of Space," by Stuart Gibbs

"The Wild Robot," by Peter Brown

"The Wild Robot Escapes," by Peter Brown

Library hours are 11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays.

Follow us on Facebook. Pankhurst Memorial Library 3 South Jefferson Avenue Amboy IL 61310 815-857-3925

Sauk Valley Community Concert

Association announces 2018-19 season

DIXON — The Sauk Valley Community Concert Association is proud to present its 2018-2019 season as they kick off this year's membership drive.

Current members and recent members have received their membership material, and the Association is offering several incentives to encourage renewal and to bring in new members.

• Anyone becoming a new member by April 28, the date of our last current season concert, featuring Alias Brass,

will be admitted free to that last concert.

• Anyone joining or renewing their subscription by April 28 will be able to join for the current season price of \$45. After April 28 the single membership price will increase to \$50.

• Current members are encouraged to bring a new member to the April 28 concert, and they both can sign up for only \$40 each.

The 2018-2019 concert season is one of the most exciting

and talent laden series we have ever presented. The season will open on Oct. 12 with a performance by the Sons of Serendip. They play a combination of contemporary music, but with a twist, and mixing in a bit of Motown for good measure. The Sons of Serendip performed, and took fourth place, on the 9th season of America's Got Talent, and are sure to open the season in great style.

Next on the schedule, Oct. 29, is Steinway artist Charlie Albright, whom the Washington Post has called "among the most gifted musicians of his generation with a dazzling natural keyboard affinity." Classical and contemporary music lovers alike will be thrilled by this concert.

Warm up your winter and get nostalgic on Jan. 31, 2019, when Paul the Beatle visits Sterling. Bob Halligan, Jr. presents a

brilliant one-man Beatlemania show, highlighting the career of Paul McCartney, both as a solo artist and with the Beatles. Not just a Beatles tribute show, Halligan takes it to a different level by shining a light on the mastermind of McCartney. You don't want to miss it.

In April 2019, local favorite Home Free's founder Chris Rupp brings his group, 7th Avenue to town. Chris and Home Free were Grand Prize winners in the Sing Off in 2013 and play to sold out audiences whenever they are in the area. Now hear Chris and his three co-singers in what he is calling his "Greatest Project."

To subscribe, or for more information about the Sauk Valley Community Concert Association, check their website at www.svcca.org, visit them on Facebook, or call 815-677-6676.



Steinway artist Charlie Albright will perform on Oct. 29.

Photo submitted

CLIPPER KIDDIEZ

This Week's Student of the Week is:
Annelise Considine

Student's Favorites:
 Favorite Color - Pink
 Favorite Animal - Giraffe
 Favorite Food - Grapes and Tacos
 Favorite Book - My Little Pony
 Favorite Game - Super Mario Brothers
 Favorite Song - You Are My Sunshine

Thank You Neighbor

If someone has done something kind for you, let them know by nominating them for the "Thank You Neighbor" Rose. Send a brief description of their act of kindness to: The Amboy News, P.O. Box 162, Amboy, IL 61310

One Nomination Per Person Per Month
Limit 40 Words Per Nomination

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Opinion

Tax time means finding a way to claim that inflatable whale as a dependent

Just as we’ve done for many years, my wife and I arranged to have some quiet time so that we could go insane doing our taxes together. This process generally requires an entire day because my wife insists on keeping accurate financial records. These records are then piled on the kitchen table next to tax forms, booklets, a calculator, and last year’s tax returns, all of which she organizes and obtains weeks in advance — and NONE of which, I remind her, would matter without my own contribution of: Two sharpened pencils.

After more than a decade of doing taxes together, we have developed a system. Something that utilizes her talent for working with numbers and complicated tax formulas, and my talent for writing legibly in small boxes. It’s a combination that, year after year, has never failed to result in—you guessed it: A big fat argument.

There are several reasons for this.

Guest Column

By Ned Hickson



The first is that, as man of the house, I really have no idea what goes on here. I’m a father of two, which means I’m essentially a pack mule with a mustache. Most of my time is spent moving things from the car to the house, and then back to the car again — often for days at a time.

In a lot of cases, decisions are being made while I’m still outside stuffing an inflatable whale into the car.

Even so, it’s important for me to at least look like I know what’s going on. This requires maintaining a difficult balance between satisfying my natural instincts as a man to be in charge while, at the same time, assuming as little responsibility as possible.

After years of practice, I’ve learned to strike this balance every day except tax day, when I’m reduced to chewing on a pencil and waiting for my wife to call out sum totals.

With that underlying tension already in place, it doesn’t help that most instructions in the federal tax booklet read like this:

On This Day in History

100 Years Ago April 19, 1918

A row of a dozen young elm tress was set out this week around the Amboy hospital, between the sidewalks and the street. If they thrive and live, they will furnish shade and comfort to Amboy’s sick people for generations to come.

If you run your household on three pounds of sugar a month, per person, when fall comes the grocer won’t have to hang up the sign, “No Sugar.” Coffee without sugar is said to be much healthier than with it. If you will try this for a week, you will not return to its use and can have more sugar for preserving fruit.

Mrs. L. S. Griffith returned home Friday from a visit with her sister at Alexander, Illinois.

75 Years Ago April 15, 1943

Arthur Blocher and his father, F. P. Blocher went to Sterling Friday where the former gave a lecture on “Cacti” for the Sterling Women’s Club in the Y.W.C.A. building.

The following bowlers from Carr’s Recreation went to LaSalle Sunday to bowl in the sweepstakes. Ed Whitver, Marvin Moseley, George Carr, Joe Grennan, Al Smith, Walter Ellis, Clarence Michel, Charley McFadden, Kenneth McCracken, Milo Blue, George Missman and Ralph Wiser.

Corporal Middendorf and his wife of Jacksonvillle, Miss., have returned to Mississippi after spending some time visiting with Mrs. Middendorf’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Fitzpatrick in Walton.

50 Years Ago April 18, 1968

Merrill Draper of East Grove and Jerome P. Hochstatter, D. D. S. incumbents were re-elected to the Board of Education Of Amboy Community Schools District 272 Saturday.

Two Amboy residents, both seniors at Amboy High School, plan to enter North Central College in Naperville next fall. They are Janet L. Forman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Forman and Patricia L. Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Young. North Central is a private, coeducational, liberal arts college.

Begg’s Certified Foods advertises Swifts

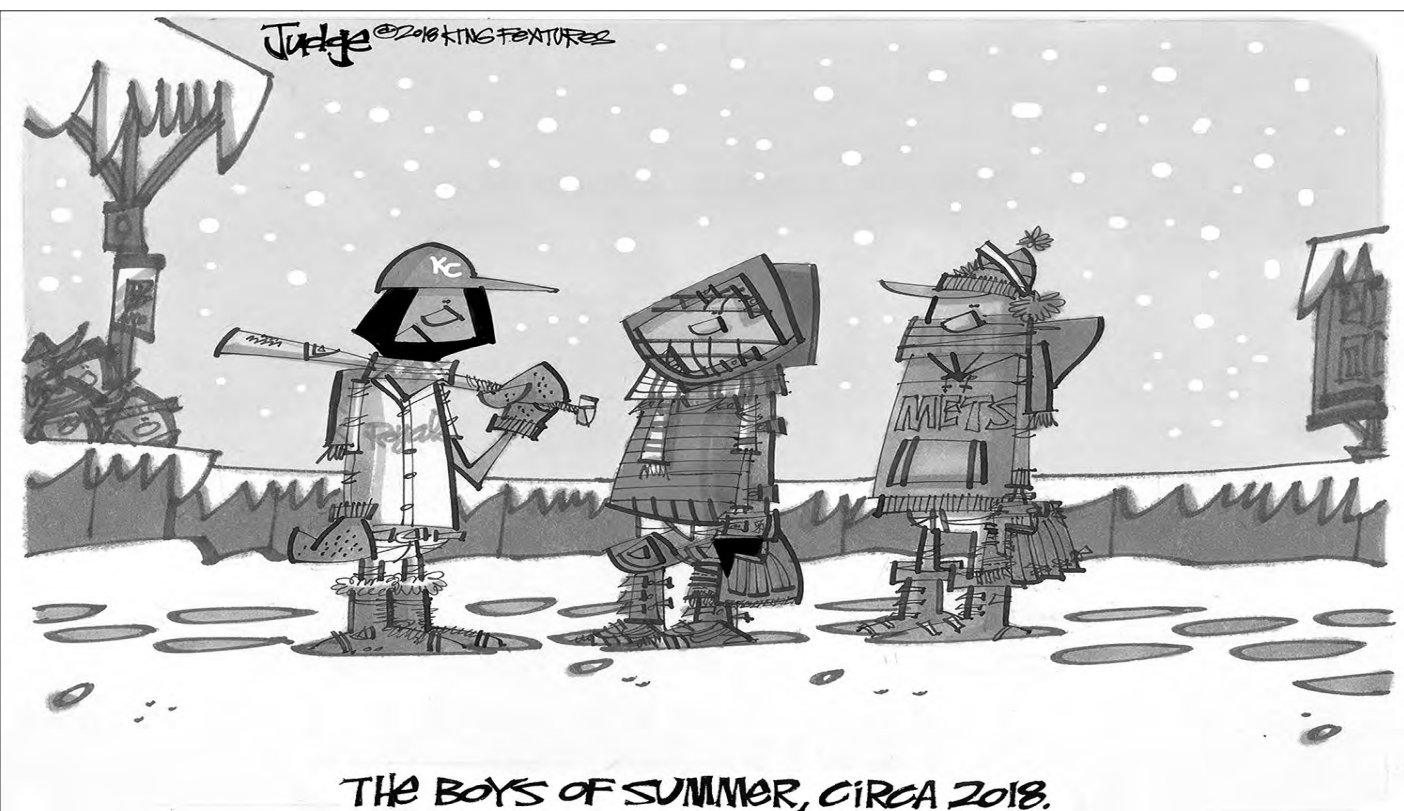
Proten boneless Beef stew meat for 79 cents per pound, Dubuque Royal Buffet Wieners for 59 cents per pound and California fresh strawberries, 3 pints for \$1.

25 Years Ago April 22, 1993

Members of the Franklin Center FFA were busy scraping and painting walls at the Depot Museum Saturday. They included Hunter Williams, Matt Drew and Jared Gallagher.

Amboy was host to the second annual Amboy Road Race sponsored by Amboy Lions and Northwest Illinois Bicycle Club Sunday. Over 200 bicycle racers from all over the United States and an international licensed rider from England competed for over \$2,000 in awards.

Henry “Hank” Gerdes was elected mayor and Darlene Hinkel retainer her city clerk’s office in Tuesday’s balloting that also saw two incumbent aldermen defeated for re-election. With over 900 ballots cast, the voter turnout was heavy in this, the most contested Amboy city election in recent memory.



How to kill a tax hike

Taxpayer victories are all too rare in Springfield. But those Illinoisans concerned about how much they send to state government and where that money goes have something to celebrate.

The progressive income tax is dead ... for now. House Minority Leader Jim Durkin and 49 other Republican state lawmakers have signed a resolution pledging opposition to a progressive income tax in Illinois. This cuts into the supermajority support needed to pass a progressive tax constitutional amendment out of the House. While often sold as a tax on the rich, Illinois’ state spending problems mean middle-class families would be whacked by a progressive tax structure, where rates rise with one’s income.

It’s a big win. The petering out of the progressive tax proposal offers Illinoisans protection from potentially billions of dollars in income tax hikes.

But how did it happen? And how can Illinoisans push for more?

One major lesson from this fight: the accountability brought about by grassroots action matters. The Republican caucus really can be the taxpayer advocate it claims to be, especially when it’s clear Illinoisans will hold members to their word.

This lesson began last summer. In the seven days leading up to the income tax hike, Illinoisans sent more than 37,000 emails through the lawmaker contact tool on illinoispolicy.org. Nine of the 15 Republicans who voted for that tax hike didn’t even attempt to run for re-election. And another lost his primary race in March.

In the past month, more than 12,000 Illinoisans signed on to a petition opposing the progressive tax through the same tool.

But Republicans are the minority in Speaker Mike Madigan’s House. And Democratic gubernatorial candidate J.B. Pritzker is campaigning on a progressive tax hike. That means in order to make sure the progressive tax doesn’t rear its ugly head again, bipartisan support for Durkin’s resolution is crucial.

Pressuring Democratic members to sign on should be the No. 1 priority for Illinoisans interested in keeping their income taxes from going up.

Guest Column

By Austin Berg



Of course, the future of Illinois depends not just on beating back bad ideas. It depends on passing the good ones into law. A flat income tax doesn’t fix Illinois’ problems, it just stops them from worsening.

Here’s a solution that deserves attention: a spending cap.

A state spending cap is sorely needed for two reasons. First, it ensures Illinoisans are getting a state government they can afford. State spending has consistently grown faster than state incomes – 25 percent faster from 2005 to 2015. Instead of reform, that spending yields calls for more debt and tax hikes. Better budgets and more certainty for Illinoisans means slowing the growth of state spending.

The second key reason is that right now, lawmakers can’t even figure out how much money they have to spend. Try as they might to offer accurate projections, state officials consistently produce revenue estimates that don’t match one another or the actual amount of revenue the state ends up generating. This broken process contributes to unbalanced budgets year after year. The General Assembly hasn’t even bothered adopting an official revenue estimate since 2013.

But a spending cap would provide a magic number to lawmakers – a set amount of money they can spend in a given year. No more, no less.

There’s no excuse for partisan politics when it comes to getting Illinois’ finances in order. Thankfully, the spending cap has bipartisan support, with state Sen. Tom Cullerton, D-Villa Park, filing a constitutional amendment tying state spending growth to economic growth. State Sen. Steve Landek, D-Bridgeview, has also signed on, along with three Senate Republicans.

Taxpayers have won the defensive battle against a progressive tax hike.

Now it’s time for some offense.

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

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

In order to determine the amount on line 17, please complete the simple, 37-step tax formula found on page 197 of this handbook which, due to budgetary reasons, ends on page 196. If you have any questions, visit the IRS website and join millions of other Americans who are just as confused as we are.

Because my wife likes to be prepared, she went ahead and grabbed one of every tax form available. This meant we had everything we needed should we decide to file as blind, millionaire yak farmers living as part-year residents with our adopted 65-year-old child.

As you might’ve guessed, we met none of those qualifications this year, which meant choosing between taking the Standard Deduction, or filling out the dreaded Schedule “A” and itemizing our deductions.

I say “dreaded” because, on average, you must complete at least six additional schedules before you can determine, through a progressive series of special tax equations, how much you’ll be losing by not taking the Standard Deduction in the first place.

This isn’t always the case, however, as any blind, millionaire yak farmer can tell you.

Regardless, we once again itemized our deductions and, for the first time EVER, realized almost immediately that we were definitely going to go with the Standard Deduction. This not only saved a us lot of time, but allowed us to get back to more important things.

And even though I’m not sure what those things are, I’m pretty sure they include at least one trip to the car.

Write to Ned Hickson at nedhickson@icloud.com, or c/o SiuLaw News, 148 Maple St., Florence, Ore. 97439.

Established In 1854



The Amboy News

The Depot Museum

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The limit is 300 words. Letters exceeding this will either be edited to fit or not published. The deadline for letters is 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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Real colors: Assessing your temperament workshop offered

DIXON — Do you want to understand yourself better? Could you use some insight on how to better relate to, interact with, and communicate with others? Real Colors is for you. Real Colors is a dynamic workshop experience using a personality type test with goals to provide participants with the skills to understand human behavior, uncover motivator’s

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ticipants gain an understanding of each of the four colors that correspond to a personality type and discover where they fall as an individual on the Real Colors spectrum. Participants will also learn to recognize characteristics of each of the four colors and discuss with fellow workshop participants what it’s like to be each color.

From the very beginning, participants begin to see the world from a new perspective...and have fun doing it. Real Colors can improve your interpersonal communication skills in your workplace, home, and community. The Real Colors workshop will be facilitated by NCTI certified Real Colors facilitator, Karla Belzer. Belzer is the

Family Life Educator with the University of Illinois Extension. The workshop will be held from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, May 22, at the Post House Community Center, 100 West Second Street in Dixon. Cost of the workshop is \$10, which includes the Real Colors assessment booklet at all materials. Light snacks will be provided.

Pre-registration is required by May 18. Register at go.illinois.edu/realcolors or by calling 815-632-3611. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programming and employment. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact the Extension office at 815-632-3611.



Petey
Petey is a rescued stray. He is an older kitten at 10 months and is neutered and fully vaccinated. Petey has an attractive shorter orange tabby coat. He craves attention and likes getting petted and played with. This young guy can be quite playful and silly when pouncing on his toys. Petey has personality plus! Other cats are mostly ignored and it is unknown if he would like a dog. Petey is ready for some new adventures. To see Petey, 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



Rocco
Coming to you from Happy Tails in Rock Falls, it's Rocco the tri-colored Tree Walker Coonhound. I'm about two years old and ready to make your house my house. It's an arrangement we'll both love. I'm very sweet boy who needs to have someone, and it could be you, to take long walks everyday (yes you read it right). If they like to run around and play, that's just icing on the cake. Come see me and you'll see I'm all I said and some more.

Photo submitted

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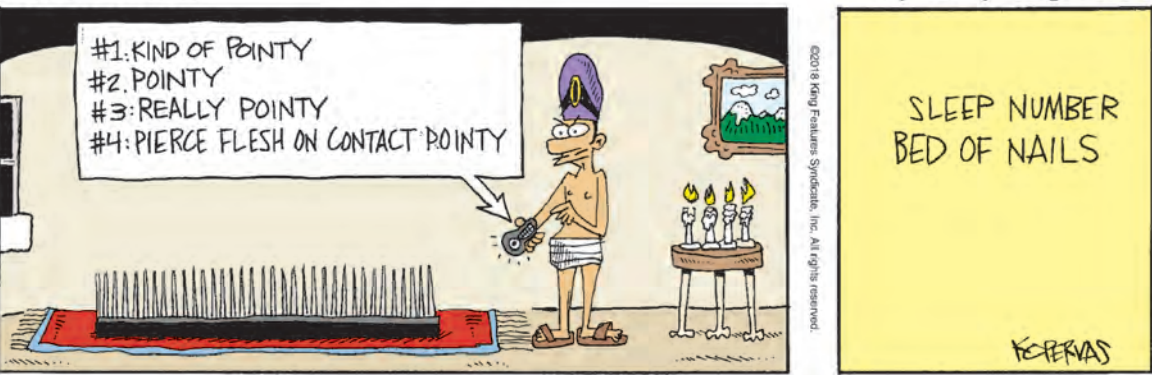
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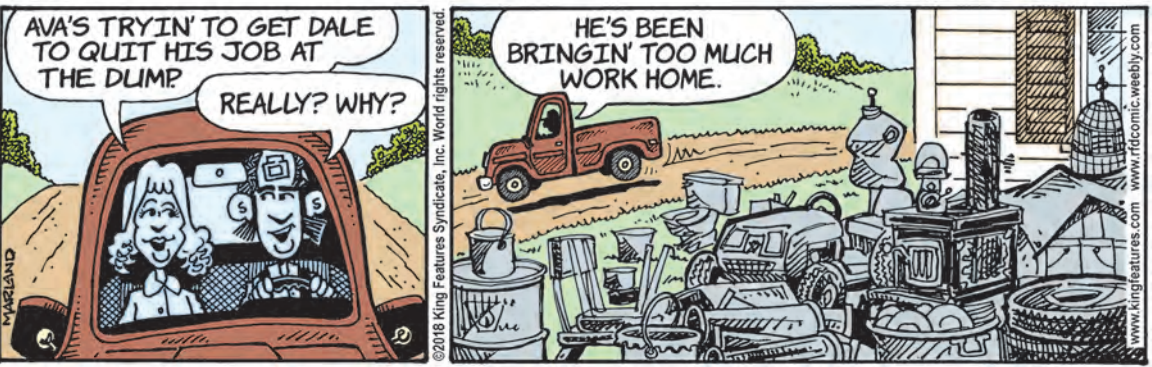
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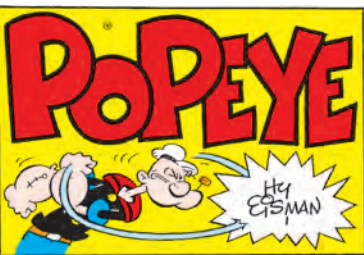
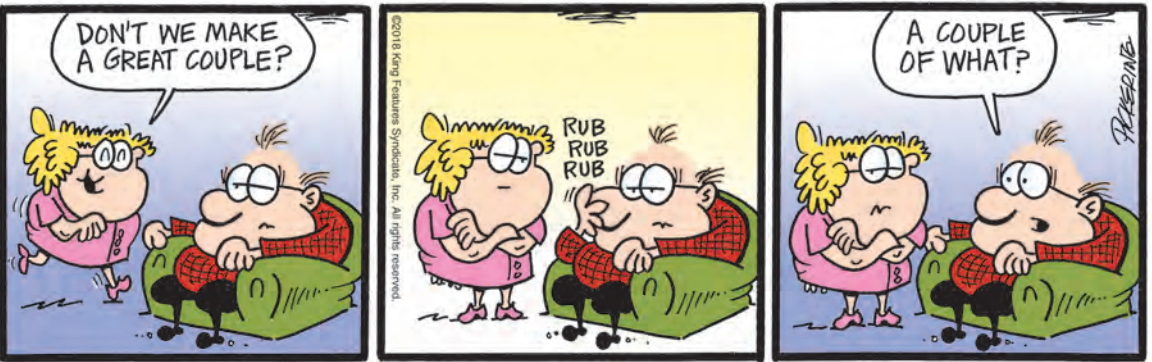
Out on a Limb



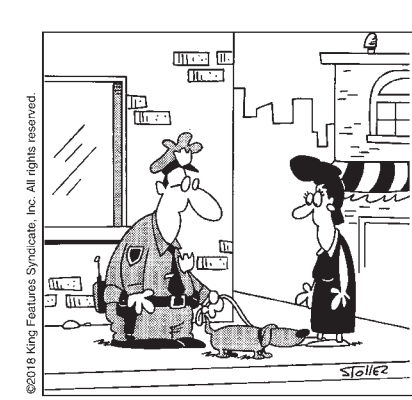
R.F.D.



The Spats



Just Like Cats & Dogs



SCRAMBLERS

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

Swoop

GULPEN

Taunt

LESASH

Rebuke

CLODS

Consume

SIGNET

TODAY'S WORD

by Dave T. Phipps

by Gary Kopervas

by Mike Marland

by Jeff Pickering

LAFF - A - DAY



ACROSS

- 1 Bandleader Kyser
- 4 Equitable
- 8 Frizzy hairdo
- 12 Hockey surface
- 13 Andy's pal
- 14 Circulate
- 15 Historic time
- 16 Twist
- 18 "Aida" composer
- 20 Expert
- 21 Food
- 24 Poolroom supply
- 28 Bring together
- 32 Hammer or sickle
- 33 Inseparable
- 34 Casino machines
- 36 "Kitchy- —!"
- 37 Young female
- 39 Remorseful
- 41 Milkmaid's place
- 43 Analgesic target
- 44 — long way
- 46 Fortunetellers' reading matter?
- 50 Recite a verb's forms
- 55 Verily
- 56 Notion
- 57 —
- 58 Brockovich
- 59 Uncooked
- Consider

King Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 60 Transmit

61 Type measures
- 10 Deteriorate

11 Have bills

17 Sphere

19 Dict. info

22 Body powder

23 Urban hang-out

25 Mischievous Norse god

26 Swag

27 — gin fizz

28 Gear teeth

29 Not procrastinating

30 Pianist Peter

31 Sicilian spouter

35 Grad student's income

38 Blockage of a
- sort

40 Genetic letters

42 "Skip to My —"

45 Quite some time

47 Muse's instrument

48 Intend

49 Cutting implements

50 "El —"

51 Praise in verse

52 Born

53 Exist

54 Can matter

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

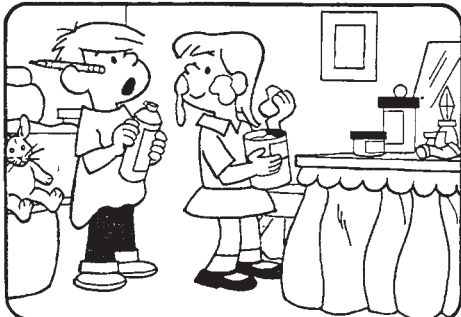
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

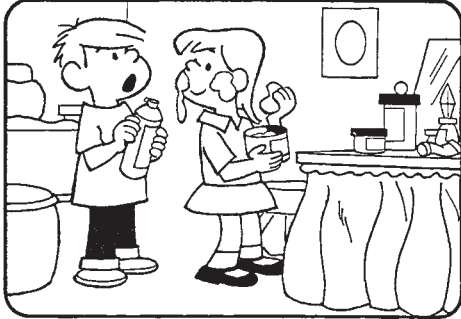
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pencil is missing; 2. Burnt is missing; 3. Shirt is different; 4. Can is smaller; 5. Picture is different; 6. Ruffle is different.

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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: G equals H

U QLTULYL PIL EGPCTF ILYLV
GUZBGGUJL MKZLV FMVJ. DPC
BPCTF EMD UZ'E QLLI RD VCTL
PK ZGCRQ.

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CANINE

Today's Word

- 1. Plunge; 2. Hassle;
- 3. Scold; 4. Ingest

SCRAMBLERS

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- INVENTIONS: Who invented the first successful electric razor?
- U.S. STATES: What is Ohio's official gemstone?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Griffith Observatory located?
- ORGANIZATIONS: What volunteer organization celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many gills are in a pint?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the heaviest?
- LITERATURE: Who popularized the term "The Jazz Age" in a book title?
- MUSIC: Who had a 1961 hit with the song "Hit the Road Jack"?
- GEOLOGY: The terms "carrara" and "calacatta" refer to what type of stone?
- PROVERBS: What is the end of the proverb that begins, "What's good for the goose ... "?

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S	N	S	D	S	E	M	D	E	E
N	E	N	I	N	I	N	I	I	I
W	A	V	E	A	T	E	E	E	E
S	P	A	L	M	S	G	O	A	
S	N	I	N	I	N	I	N	I	N
G	I	R	L	T	R	I	T	E	
O	O	K	S	T	O	L	S	E	N
S	O	L	S	A	T	E	C	O	N
S	B	A	L	L	S	E	A	T	S
O	O	P	O	R	I				
S	C	O	N	O	V	O	L	U	T
I	C	E	A	M	O	S	F	L	O
K	A	F	A	I	R	A	F	R	O

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
6	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
4	3	2	1	0	9	8	7	6	5
6	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
6	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
6	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
6	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
6	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
6	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
6	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

I believe one should never hitchhike after dark. You could say it's been my rule of thumb.



Justin Hart, a senior basketball player at Amboy High School, is one of 10 winners of the 2018 Victor Zeinfeld “Spirit of Perseverance” Award in conjunction with Northbrook based The Charity Stripe. Presenting Hart, pictured center, with the \$1,000 cash prize were Andy and Suzanne Zeinfeld. Photo submitted

Hart awarded Victor Zeinfeld “Spirit of Perseverance” Award

AMBOY — Justin Hart, a senior basketball player at Amboy High School, is one of 10 winners of the 2018 Victor Zeinfeld “Spirit of Perseverance” Award in conjunction with Northbrook based The Charity Stripe.

Andy and Suzanne Zeinfeld presented Hart with the \$1,000 cash prize to help further his education during a ceremony on Thursday, April 12, attended by Amboy High School administrators, basketball coaches, family members and Charity Stripe representatives.

In fulfilling a wish to honor their late father’s love and passion for basketball, as well as his meritorious service in World War II, the Zeinfelds judged essay nominations from high school basketball coaches throughout Illinois including Mike McCracken, varsity head coach at Amboy High School. They then selected five boys and five girls basketball players to win this award based on how well they exemplified the spirit of perseverance and demonstrated true character to themselves, their teammates, schools and

communities.

According to the Zeinfelds, “Our father attributed much of his success off the court to so many lessons he learned on the basketball court: the importance of commitment, dedication, leadership, sportsmanship and perseverance: to be part of a cohesive team, to compete honestly and fairly regardless of the game’s outcome. To inspire and motivate others through your attitude and actions, and above all, never ever quit.”

They added, “We hope this award will inspire young basketball players to maximize their abilities and demonstrate perseverance against all challenges and successfully overcome all adversities throughout their lives.”

The Charity Stripe is a 501©3 organization that features 12 sports programs that enables and empowers young athletes to use their sports skills and talents playing the games they love to help deserving military families in need, as well as help cancer patients and their families find comfort and a cure.

Lady Clippers finish second at home meet

AMBOY – Seven first-place finishes and seven second-place showings powered the Amboy-LaMoille girls’ track team to a second-place finish in the team standings of a six-team meet at the AHS track on April 12.

Forreston claimed the top spot in the standings with 159 points, while the Lady Clippers tallied 144 points. Rounding out the standings were Pecatonica-Durand (88), Ashton-Franklin Center (39), Morrison (32) and Earlville (20).

The Lady Clippers dominated the running events, breaking the tape in the 100- through 3200-meter runs. Competitors were Ashley Althaus in the 100 (13.27), Brooklyn Whelchel in the 200 (28.0), Althaus in the 400 (1:03.23), Margaret Vaessen in the 800 (2:31.42) and 1600 (6:13.38), and Kelynn Boyle in the 3200 (14:32.4).

The other top finish for A-L was Emma Lundquist in the long jump at 13-6.

“We finally got an outdoor meet and the performances were

outstanding considering we had over two weeks since our last indoor meet,” said A-L coach Bob Halberg. “We were extremely competitive in all of the events that we entered.”

April 12 at Amboy

Forreston 159, Amboy-LaMoille 144, Pecatonica-Durand 88, Ashton-Franklin Center 39, Morrison 32, Earlville 20

A-L 1st place: Ashley Althaus, 100m dash, 13.27; Brooklyn Whelchel, 200m dash, 28.0; Althaus, 400m dash, 1:03.23; Margaret Vaessen, 800m run, 2:31.42; Vaessen, 1600m run, 6:13.38; Kelynn Boyle, 3200m run, 14:32.4; Emma Lundquist, long jump, 13-6

A-L 2nd place: Sidney Corcoran, 100m dash, 13.44; Althaus, 200m dash, 28.33; Whelchel, 400m dash, 1:05.21; Kaitlin Ortgiesen, 800m run, 2:44.22; Ortgiesen, 1600m run, 6:22.32; Lundquist, 100m hurdles, 19.88; Lundquist, 300m hurdles, 56.22

A-L 3rd place: S. Corcoran, 200m dash, 28.88; S. Corcoran, 400m dash, 1:05.97; Macy Mershon, 800m run, 2:53.08

Lady Clippers split games with Orangeville

AMBOY — Amboy and Orangeville split a pair of softball games, each winning on its home turf two days apart.

The Lady Clippers traveled to Orangeville on April 10 and the home team escaped with a 7-6 victory.

Amboy trailed 6-5 entering the top of the seventh when it pushed across the tying run, but Orangeville scored in the bottom of the seventh to post the win.

Bailee Highbarger had three singles to pace the Lady Clippers. Shannon Lytle smacked a home run for Amboy and Noelle Jones added a double.

Highbarger was the losing pitcher.

Orangeville made the return trip to Amboy on April 12 and this time the Lady Clippers prevailed, 5-1.

Amboy jumped out to a 4-0 lead after three innings and was never seriously threatened.

Three Lady Clippers had two hits apiece, with Kallie Appleman drilling a home run and adding a single. Summer Bulfer collected a triple, single and two runs batted in, while Alison O’Rourke singled twice

Highbarger was in the circle and gave up four hits in gaining the win. She walked two and struck out six.

Amboy is 3-4 overall and 3-3 in conference play.

Clippers earn wins over Orangeville

AMBOY — The Amboy Clippers Baseball team traveled to Orangeville on April 10. Hunter Zimmerly was dominant on the mound, striking out 11 Bronco batters on his way to a no-hitter. The only trouble Zimmerly had was allowing three walks.

The defense quickly eliminated any threat with catcher Justin Hart throwing out a would be base stealer in the first and Clayton Kemp, Mitchell McLaughlin and Maverick Lindenmeyer turning a double play in the second.

Hart and McLaughlin led the way on offense, each had 2 hits including a double. Kemp and Reece Vaessen each reached base twice. In the end, the Clippers came away with a 4-0 win.

On April 12, Amboy hosted the Broncos of Orangeville.

McLaughlin was very solid on the mound. He allowed 4 runs over 6 1/3 innings, while striking out nine batters in a 9-4 win.

The first five batters in the Clippers line up did most of the damage – collecting a total of 10 hits and scoring 7 of the 9 runs.

Lindenmeyer led the way with 3 hits, followed by Zimmerly, McLaughlin and Kemp with 2 hits each.

Sophomore Andy Their got the start in left field. He walked twice, singled and scored 2 runs.

The Clippers record now stands at 3-5 overall and 3-2 in conference play.

Clippers finish in the middle

AMBOY — The Amboy-LaMoille boys’ track team finished in the middle of the pack of the 10-team Fulton Relays on April 10.

The Clippers scored 50 points, which placed them in the fifth position in the team standings. Sterling Newman ran away with the team title with 102 points, followed by Erie (68), Morrison (58) and Galena (54).

Austin Lundquist had the lone first-place finish for the Clippers, taking the top spot in the discus with a distance of 135-4.

A-L was second in three events – Brady Becker in the shot put (41-7) and Casen Cherry in the triple jump (36-4), and also the distance medley 1600. Running a time of 3:57.34 were Austin Norman, Marcus Winn, Cherry and Thomas Stamberger.

April 10 – Fulton Relays

Sterling Newman 102, Erie 68, Morrison 58, Galena 54, Amboy-LaMoille 50, Fulton 44, Camanche 38, West Carroll 38, Milledgeville 7, Riverdale 3

A-L 1st place: Austin Lundquist, discus, 135-4

A-L 2nd place: Casen Cherry, triple jump, 36-4; Brady Becker, shot put, 41-7; distance medley 1600 (Austin Norman, Marcus Winn, Casen Cherry,

Thomas Stamberger), 3:57.34

A-L 3rd place: 4x400 relay (Travis Eames, Stamberger, Hunter Walzer, Cherry), 3:58.2

A-L 4th place: 4x200 relay (Norman, Cherry, Lundquist, Winn), 1:43.57; 4x800 relay (Thomas Molln, Stamberger, Calvin Deering, Wyatt Fultz), 9:33.13

A-L 6th place: Winn, high jump, 5-4; Fultz, long jump, 17-8

Four first-place finishes helped the Clippers to second place in the team standings on April 12 at the AHS track.

Galena dominated the competition with 198 points, while the Clippers checked in with 129 points. Other teams competing in the meet were Pecatonica-Durand (75), Pearl City (69), Earlville (31) and Ashton-Franklin Center (14).

Stamberger had half of A-L’s first-place finishes, taking the 800-meter run in 2:05.63 and the 1600-meter run in 4:56.58. Also placing first were Travis Eames in the 300-meter hurdles (43.51) and Kyle Hunter in the shot put (44-8.5).

April 12 at Amboy

Galena 198, Amboy-LaMoille 129, Pecatonica-Durand 75, Pearl City 69, Earlville 31, Ashton-Franklin Center 14

A-L 1st place: Thomas Stamberger, 800m run, 2:05.63; Stamberger, 1600m run, 4:56.58; Travis Eames, 300m hurdles, 43.51; Kyle Hunter, shot put, 44-8.5

A-L 2nd place: Marcus Winn, 100m dash, 11.56; Thomas Molln, 3200m run, 11:54.53; 4x100m relay (Austin Norman, Calvin Deering, Eames, Winn), 47.01; 4x200m relay (Austin Lundquist, Casen Cherry, Hunter Walzer, Winn), 1:39.39; 4x400m relay (Cherry, Norman, Eames, Stamberger), 3:46.57; Winn, high jump, 5-4; Cherry, triple jump, 37-4; Lundquist, discus, 137-8.5

A-L 3rd place: Molln, 1600m run, 5:32.09; Mike Zaller, high jump, 5-2

A-L 4th place: Brady Becker, shot put, 40-6; Hunter, discus, 119-4

A-L 5th place: Darin Yocum, 100m dash, 11.87; Deering, 1600m run, 5:55.74

A-L 6th place: Deering, 3200m run, 12:50.13; Becker, discus, 104-7.5

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Girls Track

Emma Lundquist

Boys Track

Austin Lundquist

Softball

Kallie Appleman

Baseball

Clayton Kemp

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SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Thurs., April 19	AJHS 7th & 8th Grade Scholastic Bowl (H) Sterling Challand – 4:00 p.m. AHS Girls & Boys Track (H) – 4:00 p.m. AHS Varsity Softball & Baseball (H) Durand-Pecatonica – 4:30 p.m. AHS JV Softball (H) Durand – 6:00 p.m. AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball @ Pecatonica – 4:30 p.m.
Fri., April 20	AJHS Dodgeball Tournament – Gym – 5:00 p.m. AHS Girls Track @ Oregon – 4:00 p.m. AHS Boys Track @ Rock Falls – 4:00 p.m.
Sat., April 21	AJHS Track (H-AHS) – 9:00 a.m. AHS Fresh/Soph Softball @ Byron Tournament – TBA AHS Varsity Baseball @ Putnam – 12:00 p.m.
Sun., April 22	AHS Fine Arts Awards Ceremony – Gym – 5:00 p.m. AHS Spring Concert – Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.
Mon., April 23	EARLY DISMISSAL – SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DAY AJHS – 1:20; Central – 1:25; AHS – 1:30 AHS Girls & Boys Track @ Bureau Valley – 4:30 p.m. AHS Varsity Softball & Baseball @ Bureau Valley – 4:30 p.m.
Tues., April 24	AJHS Track @ Rock Falls HS – 4:30 p.m. AHS Varsity Softball & Baseball (H) Dakota – 4:30 p.m. AHS Fresh/Soph Softball & Baseball @ Dakota – 4:30 p.m.
Wed., April 25	IESA Scholastic Bowl Regional @ TBA
Thurs., April 26	AHS Varsity Softball & Baseball @ Dakota – 4:30 p.m. AHS Fresh/Soph Softball & Baseball (H) Dakota – 4:30 p.m. School Board Meeting – Junior High School – 7:00 p.m.

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Spring Home and Garden



*Amboy News
April 18, 2018 · Section B*

Tips for surviving a home renovation



Planning, patience and an understanding of what the project entails can make home improvements easier to survive.

Homeowners invest large sums into improving their homes to make them more comfortable living spaces or to increase their odds of selling quickly. The Remodeling Futures Program at the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University predicted U.S. spending on home renovations and repairs to peak at \$327 billion in 2017.

Whether one is doing a large renovation or a small remodel, life may be turned upside down during the project. Furniture may be moved out of the room, walls may be demolished, water or electricity may be turned off, and appliances may be missing or not hooked up.

Home improvements often drum up dust and disarray. Such projects can try the patience of any homeowner, and things may get worse before they get better.

Even though remodeling can be taxing, the end result is often worth it. Here's how to look forward to the silver lining and come

out unscathed.

Discuss the project before it starts.

All family members should be in agreement before the first hammer is swung. Decide on as many details as you can ahead of time and have a firm plan in place. Establish back-up choices for tiles or color schemes in case the items you want are out of stock. Trying to make decisions under duress may result in bad choices.

Do one project at a time.

It's tempting to want to improve as much as possible at once to maximize motivation and renovation materials. However, having no place in which to escape the mess can elevate stress levels. Do not think about renovating kitchens and bathrooms all at once, or you will not have any working fixtures for tasks like washing up.

Have everything in place ...

Before demolition even begins, have building materials bought and stored, contractors and subcontractors lined up, and

see what you can do to minimize the time workers need to spend in your home.

... but expect delays.

In a world where things move at lightning speeds, renovations have not gotten the memo. Home projects take lots of time and will likely take longer if you are doing the work yourself in your free time. Build lots of extra time into the project so you are not disappointed when delays happen — even when you've done your best to avoid them.

Plan an escape zone

Construction environments can be messy, loud, smelly, and a host of other unsavory adjectives. The chaos that ensues when life is turned upside down can be overwhelming, particularly for the person who spends the most time in the home while work is being done. Build escape moments into the plan and make sure everyone else at home is on board. During the real grind of the project, a night or two at a hotel may be a welcome respite.

Avoid aches and pains when gardening

People who have not spent much time in a garden may not consider this rewarding hobby much of a threat to their health. But as veteran gardeners can attest, gardening can contribute to nagging aches and pains that can force even the most ardent green-thumbers indoors.

Gardening is a physical activity that, despite its peaceful nature, can be demanding on the body. Thankfully, there are several ways that garden-

ing enthusiasts can prevent the aches and pains that can sometimes pop up after long days in the garden.

- Use ergonomic gardening tools. Ergonomic gardening tools are designed to prevent the types of aches, pains and injuries that can cut gardeners' seasons short.

Gardening injuries can affect any area of the body, but injuries or aches and pains affecting the back, wrists and hands are among the most

common physical problems gardeners endure. Look for ergonomic tools that reduce the strain on these areas of the body.

Even arthritis sufferers who love to garden may find that ergonomic tools make it possible for them to spend more time in their gardens without increasing their risk for injury.

- Alternate tasks. Repetitive-strain injuries can affect gardeners who spend long periods of time performing the same activity in their gardens. By alternating tasks during gardening sessions, gardeners can reduce their risk of suffering repetitive strain injuries. Alternate tasks not just on muscle groups worked, but also level of difficulty. Remember to include some simple jobs even on busy gardening days so the body gets a break.

- Take frequent breaks. Frequent breaks can help combat the stiffness and muscle aches that may not appear until gardeners finish their gardening sessions.

Breaks help to alleviate muscles or joints that can



become overtaxed when gardening for long, uninterrupted periods of time. When leaning down or working on your hands and knees, stand up to take breaks every 20 minutes or the moment aches and pains start to make their presence felt.

- Maintain good posture. Back injuries have a tendency

to linger, which can keep gardeners indoors and out of their gardens.

When gardening, maintain good posture to prevent back injuries. Gardening back braces can protect the back by providing support and making it easier for gardeners to maintain their posture. Tool pouches attached

to gardening stools or chairs also can be less taxing on the back than gardening belts tied around the waist.

Gardening might not be a contact sport, but it can cause pain if gardeners do not take steps to prevent the onset of muscle aches and strains when spending time in their gardens.

Transform bathrooms with technology



Technology is infiltrating every room of the house. Many new home buyers are millennials, and this tech-savvy demographic covets technological innovations.

A recent survey by Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate indicates 77 percent of Generation X and Y home buyers want their homes equipped with the tech capabilities they have grown accustomed to. Many of these involve smart innovations, including those that can transform one of the most private rooms in the house — the bathroom.

Automated home theater rooms and Wi-Fi-enabled home security systems have become the norm, but what tech improvements are available to make the powder room more in touch with today's digital lifestyle? According to the home improvement resource The Spruce, bathrooms have the most potential of any rooms to be improved with technology. The following are just some of the bathroom gadgets and gizmos no one should resist before giving a try.

- Automatic faucets: Infrared sensors have been helping keep public restrooms more hygienic for years. The same technology can be used in home bathrooms to curtail water waste and keep faucets and sinks from becoming infested with germs. In addition, faucets with built-in timers can be programmed to set tasks for brushing teeth or washing your face.

- Musical shower: Instead of having to blast the volume on the portable speaker you use in the bathroom, a wireless speaker is built into some showerheads. This enables those who like to sing in the shower or listen to podcasts while washing up to enjoy this luxury effortlessly.

- Smarter weight management: Bathroom scales have gone high-tech as well, with various options enabling users to measure weight, BMI and body fat percentage before sending the data wirelessly to a phone, tablet or computer. This can put you in greater control of fitness goals.

- High-tech toilets: Borrowing ideas from bidets and trends around the world, modern toilets do not require hands or paper. These toilets have temperature-controlled water, spritzing wands and air dryers to clean and sanitize. Self-cleaning toilets help busy professionals save time and are ideal for those who always want their bowls as clean as possible. And if you desire extra comfort, toilet seat warmers are available, while LED lights can make nighttime restroom visits easier.

- Soaking tubs: As fast as stand-alone showers were introduced to the modern bathroom, tubless designs have been replaced with streamlined soaking tubs. Tubs come with different features, including chromatherapy, which employs colored lights to enhance mood. Air baths are controlled electronically and provide different levels of sensation for those who are skipping the hot tub.

Round out these innovations with automated lights, chilled medicine cabinets and aromatherapy, and your bathroom will indeed become a technological spa.

Did you know?

Spring cleaning is a ritual that many people participate in as the last vestiges of winter disappear.

Spring cleaning is a time to open windows, deep clean rooms and closets and take down and launder window treatments and linens. Others use spring cleaning as a time to sort and donate or discard clutter that might have accumulated over the winter.

Even though spring cleaning seems like a modern invention, the act of spring cleaning is believed to have originated centuries ago. Some say that the ancient Chinese cleaned in preparation for their New Year as they hoped to wipe away any bad luck and misfortune from the previous year.



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Choosing materials for decking

Warm weather often gives rise to thoughts about spending time in the great outdoors. Decks can expand outdoor living spaces, making them popular home additions. However, when it comes time to map out a deck building plan, individuals may be unsure as to which deck material will meet their needs. Wood and composite decks are among the most popular choices today, and the popularity of aluminum is growing steadily.

Wood

Wood is a versatile and attractive decking material. According to the wood resource Real Cedar, some people think that wood is too expensive and requires too much maintenance. In fact, domestic softwoods can be very cost-effective decking options. According to Remodeling Magazine’s “Cost vs. Value” report, wood decks retain considerable resale value.

In terms of maintenance, choosing a rot-resistant wood can result in less maintenance. Durable woods include cedar and redwood. Popular Mechanics says both species contain tannins and oils that make them naturally resistant to decay, rot and voracious insects. Periodic cleaning and inspection/repairs will be needed, but wood can be much more durable than people may think.

Composite

Composite decking and its close cousin, plastic lumber, are some of the fastest-growing decking materials on the market. Many products are made from polyethylene or polyvinyl chloride. Some composites will be comprised of recycled plastic and wood fibers to create a weather- and stain-resistant material that doesn’t warp, rot or splinter. Composite manufacturers continually experiment with manufacturing processes to duplicate the look of natural wood grain.

Homeowners are often drawn to composite decking because such decks require little maintenance. These decks do not need to be sanded, stained or refinished. However, mold and mildew can grow in shady, damp areas, so homeowners must realize that these products are not completely maintenance-free.

Aluminum

Although aluminum decks are not seen that often, there are reasons why this decking material is becoming more popular. According to a manufacturer of aluminum decking materials, power-coated aluminum does not need to be replaced due to rotting, cracking or warped boards.

Most planks have interlocking edges that create gap-free, wa-



tertight decks. Aluminum also has the advantage of being a very strong but lightweight material.

Some people may think that aluminum decks would be hot underfoot, but the material actually stays cooler in the sun because

of its heat-dissipation properties. For those who have green goals in mind, aluminum is totally recyclable.

Various decking materials can meet the look, price point and maintenance level homeowners desire.

Preparing garden beds for spring and beyond

Gardening enthusiasts may have been thinking about their landscape plans throughout the winter, eager to once again get their hands dirty with soil. Whether a home gardener is making preparations for edible crops or beautiful flowers, he or she must take time to make the soil amenable to planting. To establish hearty, durable plants, gardeners can focus on three main areas: addressing soil composition, cultivating and adding nutrients.

Soil composition

Complete these home improvements over the weekend

Home improvement projects ramp up when the weather warms up, as homeowners channel the rejuvenating feelings of spring and tackle their home to-do lists. Large-scale renovations can greatly affect a home, but smaller projects can yield impressive results and be completed over the course of a single weekend.

If time is of the essence, these weekend or one-day projects may satisfy homeowners’ desires to fix up their homes.

- Create an accent wall.

Painting a focal wall in a home can create a serious impact. The bonus is it will not take as long or require as many materials as painting an entire room. Accent walls frequently feature a bold color, so decide on placement and tackle this project in less than a day.

- Install stair runners. Dress up hardwood stairs with decorative carpet runners. Runners come in elongated pieces of carpeting or individual pieces that can be placed on each step. If carpeting doesn’t fit with the home’s design, painting individual stair treads also can create visual appeal.

- Dress up the entryway. An entryway is a guest’s first impression of a home. Many entryways can use a minor overhaul, both inside and outside. Paint the front door a different color so it pops from the curb. Install a new mailbox or decorative house numbers. A new welcome mat can change the look as well. Inside, consider laying a new floor. Resilient vinyl tiles come in many different patterns and can mimic the look of wood, travertine or marble. Installing a floor can take a day or two.

- Install a new faucet. Instantly improve a kitchen or a bathroom with new fixtures. New faucets can provide aesthetic appeal and low-flow faucets can help conserve water.

- Create a gallery on the staircase. Gather and arrange framed photos, artwork or wall accents so that they ascend the wall of a staircase. This creates a designer touch and can dress up an often barren area of wall

space.

- Install a fresh light fixture. Improve drab spaces with a little illumination. Better Homes & Gardens suggests replacing an existing fixture with something new and vibrant. If hanging a new fixture is not within one’s skill set, free-standing table or floor lamps also can cast a new glow on a space.

- Add molding. Molding can add instant aesthetic appeal to a room. Molding is appropriate near the floor, at the top of walls where they meet the ceiling, or even mid-wall as a chair rail. Some homeowners like to create framed molding on walls in formal living spaces.

- Update kitchen or bathroom hardware. Replacing hardware is a fast and easy project, but one that can have immediate impact. Swap out tired or outdated hardware for newer brushed metals and more impactful shapes and designs.

Home renovations do not need to take weeks or months. Many projects can be completed over the course of a weekend.

Many gardeners prefer growing a variety of plants in their gardens. Such an approach requires taking inventory of the type of soil in one’s garden and making the necessary modifications so that the types of vegetables, herbs, shrubs, or flowers that will be planted can grow in strongly. In fact, according to the plant company Proven Winners, the most important step to developing good roots is preparing the soil.

Take a sample of the soil and examine it to see what is present. If the soil is too full of clay, too sandy, too dense, or too loose, that can lead to problems where plants cannot grow in strong. Work with a garden center to add the right soil amendments to make a rich soil. This may include organic compost or manure, which will also add nutrients to the soil.

Cultivation

Cultivating the soil can involve different steps. Removal of weeds, errant rocks, roots, and other items will help prepare the soil. Mother Earth News suggests working on garden soil when the soil is damp but never wet; otherwise, garden soil can become messy and clumpy. Use a digging fork or shovel to lightly turn the soil when it’s mostly dry. Gentle tillings also can open up the soil to incorporate the nutritional amendments and relieve compaction that likely occurred from freezing temps and snow pressure. Tilling also helps with drainage and oxygen delivery to roots. The DIY Network suggests turning over soil at a depth of 12 inches to work the soil — about the length of a shovel spade. However, the resource Earth Easy says that existing garden beds have a complex soil ecosystem and simply top-dressing with compost or manure can be enough preparation for planting. Gardeners can experiment with the methods that work best for their gardens.

Nutrition

Testing the pH and the levels of certain nutrients in the soil, namely nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, will give gardeners an idea of other soil additions that may be needed. Soils with a pH below 6.2 often can benefit from the addition of lime several weeks before planting. Soil tests will determine just how much fertilizer to add to the soil. Complete fertilizers will have equal amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. Individual fertilizers can amend the soil with only these nutritional elements that are needed.



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Begin preparing garden bed soil early for new plants.

Top-dressing empty beds with a layer of mulch or compost can prevent weed growth and preserve moisture until it is time to plant. If existing shrubs or plants are in garden beds, use more care so as not to disturb roots or dig too deeply.

Preparing garden beds takes some effort initially, but can be well worth the work when plants flourish throughout the growing season.

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An organized and efficient laundry room setup can make washing and drying clothes easier.

Laundry room renovation ideas

To former apartment dwellers or those who have never enjoyed the benefit of a dedicated laundry area, even the smallest washer and dryer space can seem like a luxury.

The benefits of dedicated laundry rooms abound. However, disorganized laundry rooms can nullify such benefits. Depending on the needs and preferences of each homeowner, laundry room designs can be customized for convenience.

Employ vertical space

Floor space may be at a premium in a laundry room, especially for those who want to devote as much space as possible to bulk-size washer and dryer units. Therefore, utilizing wall space is key. Use shelving, wire racks, hooks, and other organizational tools to store items on the wall.

Shelves can be tucked into just about any space, and there are different options that can fit into corners or shallow areas. These are a great option for keeping detergent or other laundry essentials nearby.

Clean designs reduce clutter

Simple, clean designs can be an asset in a laundry room. If budget and space permits, cabinetry built into the design will help keep items out of sight in the laundry room. Cabinets hung directly above the appliances can store detergent, bleach and fabric softener. Use cabinets elsewhere in the room as catch-alls for cleaning supplies used in various other rooms around the house.

Incorporate a sink in the design

Some older laundry room setups have a slop sink to drain discharged water from the washing machine.

However, newer homes may have plumbing installed directly through the floor or walls. It is still a worthwhile idea to have a sink in the laundry room for rinsing out stains, handwashing items and having a go-to sink for messier cleanup.

Utilize a tension rod

A rod installed between two cabinets or across a narrow width of space in the laundry room is a handy spot to hang shirts

or pants to prevent wrinkling. Repurposing a ladder and suspending it from the ceiling also creates a spot to hang clothes.

Consider laundry room flooring

It's important to select flooring materials that will not be damaged by contact with moisture or spills. Vinyl, tile and some composite products often make good laundry room floor materials.

Resilient flooring that mimics the look of hardwood may add a classy touch, and give the appearance of wood without having to worry about damage. To alleviate fatigue while spending long moments in the laundry room, invest in a memory foam mat that can be placed underfoot.

Keep lighting in mind

Lighting can be important in the laundry room. Rely on task lighting, under-cabinet strip lighting and overhead lights as needed for efficiency.

Laundry room design can maximize the space available and make it more convenient to launder and sort clothes.

How empty-nesters can transform their homes

After bringing home a bubbly baby boy or girl, it can be hard for parents to imagine that a day will come when their kids are off to college and then onto their own apartment or house. After spending decades nurturing and caring for children, parents are then left with a suddenly quiet house and probably much more time to spare. If saying goodbye to the kids also means to downsize or make that extra space more useful.

Homeowners who choose to stay put can renovate vacant rooms into spaces that meet their newfound needs.

· **Hobby haven:** If you've always meant to set up a crafting room, home-brewing station or an artist's studio, now is an ideal time to do just that. Figure out which supplies you will need and begin reworking that former bedroom into a new sanctuary for leisure interests.

· **Guest suite:** If you've never had a spare bedroom

to entertain guests, a child's former bedroom can fit the bill. It may not be that difficult to transform such spaces into relaxing and inviting rooms for overnight guests. Be sure there is at least a queen-sized bed and a dresser or chest of drawers to stash belongings. Select paint colors and linens in neutral tones so the room will be inviting to guests.

· **Living room redo:** When there's an entire soccer team coming over to hang out, that large sectional sofa or modular seating may be ideal. Now that the kids are out of the house and their friends are no longer coming over for movie night, living rooms can be made more intimate with small-scale seating. A small sofa and two comfortable chairs may be a more fitting option.

· **At-home gym:** Save on gym membership fees by building a mini studio right at home. Choose one of the larger bedrooms and then fill it with some fitness equipment,

such as an elliptical trainer, a bench press bench and some free weights. Store rolled-up mats in the closet for yoga or Pilates sessions.

· **Expanded bathroom:** If space has always been at a premium in the bathroom, borrow area from an empty bedroom and turn it into a spa. Install a soaking tub separate from the shower, and fill the room with other amenities, such as a warming lamp or even a small sauna.

· **Home office:** Working from home a few days a week may be more plausible when nearing retirement, as it will be a smoother transition from heading to the office each day to spending more time at home. Turn a bedroom or den into an office space with a new desk and bookshelves.

An empty nest can be a bit-sweet experience, but parents can make such situations work for them by transforming their homes to better reflect their current needs.



Stock up on gardening essentials

Gardening attracts new devotees year after year.

While Baby Boomers may spend more on gardening than any other demographic, even millennials are getting on the gardening bandwagon.

A 2016 National Gardening Survey from the National Gardening Market Research Company found the average amount spent on backyard or balcony gardening projects exceeded \$400 per household.

More than \$36 billion was spent in 2015, and the vast majority of the six million "new" gardening households belonged to millennials.

When it comes to outfitting a gardening shed, gardeners will not want to be without certain tools and gear.

- **Digging shovel:** A rounded-blade digging

shovel is needed to plant shrubs and trees as well as to excavate areas in a landscape.

· **Rake:** A rake can be used to clear the ground, remove thatch and leaves from a lawn and level soil in a garden bed.

· **Hand tools:** Hand tools, such as a hand fork and trowel, are essential for small digging jobs, especially when working with flower pots or containers.

· **Edging spade:** This flat-blade shovel is handy to have around because of its versatility. Edging spades can slice turf, edge gardens and cut through roots.

· **Pruners:** Sharpened pruners can cut through stems and branches effortlessly.

· **Hose:** Choose a high-quality hose that is lightweight and durable, as hoses will always be necessary.

Safety renovations for seniors' homes

Feeling safe and secure at home is a priority for any homeowner. But safety is of particular concern for aging men and women who are at greater risk of being involved in accidents at home than younger men and women.

Harvard Health Publishing says that accidents at home are among the leading causes of injury and death in the United States. The chances for fatalities increases as one ages, and by age 75 and older, men and women are almost four times as likely to die in a home accident as people a decade younger.

As people age, their balance, eyesight and general physical abilities can begin to diminish. Furthermore, a fall or incident that may only bruise a younger individual can cause more serious breaks or damage for seniors, resulting in potentially lengthy recovery times.

The Home Care Assistance organization says that one

million elderly people are admitted to the emergency room for injuries every year. People concerned about the safety of their homes or the homes of their aging loved ones can retrofit such properties to make them safer.

Falls

According to The Senior Social Club, which offers care and community services to seniors, falls are the most common accidents affecting seniors. One out of every three seniors aged 65 and older falls at least once a year.

In addition to working with doctors to improve mobility and modify medications that may cause unsteadiness, changes around the home can help. Grab bars placed in bathrooms and high-traffic areas can help seniors get stay more stable when changing from sitting to standing positions.

Potential tripping hazards should be assessed. Area rugs

without nonskid backings, clutter on floors, extension cords that extend into walking areas, and uneven flooring pose tripping hazards. Anti-slip coatings can be added to floors to reduce the risk of tripping.

Poorly lit staircases and entryways also can contribute to falls. Consider the installation of motion-activated lighting so that dim areas can be automatically brightened when necessary. A nightlight or LED lights placed near molding can help guide seniors to the bathroom during midnight visits.

Physical limitations

Arthritis can impede seniors' ability to turn on and off appliances, water faucets or handle certain kitchen tools. Kitchen and bathroom modifications can include the installation of ergonomic and user-friendly handles and spigots.

Task lighting can make it easier to prepare meals, and appliances that automatically turn off after a certain period of time can be a safety feature



for forgetful individuals.

Reorganize kitchen cabinets to make commonly used items as accessible as possible.

Smart Homes

Friends or family members can have greater control over seniors' homes by installing smart home systems. This way they can remotely adjust thermostats, control lights, view cameras, engage locks or alarm systems, and much more without having to be at the home. This can seniors allow seniors to maintain their independence while offering peace of mind to their loved ones.



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Severe Thunderstorms & Tornadoes

The season is here. Be prepared.

In the United States, “tornado season” is generally in the spring. Tornadoes are more prevalent from April through July, with May and June being the peak months. But like thunderstorms, tornadoes can form any time of the year. The area in which tornadoes are most prevalent is known as “tornado alley,” typically defined the region from Texas north to Nebraska. But, of course, tornadoes can and do occur in every state in the country. For accurate and timely storm updates in your area, watch The Weather Channel, check for severe weather alerts, listen to NOAA Weather Radio, or get free severe weather alerts on your phone and in your email from The Weather Channel.

Tornado Watches and Warnings

Two key alerts relate specifically to tornado conditions. Tornado Watch - Conditions are conducive to the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area. Tornado Warning - A tornado has actually been sighted by spotters or indicated on radar and is occurring or imminent in the warning area. In addition, severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes, or cause damage of their own from wind gusts of 58 mph or greater and/or hail ³/₄-inch in diameter or larger. Severe Thunderstorm Watch - Conditions are conducive to the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area. Severe Thunderstorm Warning - A severe thunderstorm has actually been observed by spotters or indicated on radar, and is occurring or imminent in the warning area. While tornadoes can still occur without a watch or warning being in effect, advances in the science and technology have greatly increased the ability of meteorologists to provide advance notice of them. It is difficult to generalize the clues that portend tornadoes, and even potentially dangerous, because people looking for given conditions may be led to a false sense of security when these conditions are not present.

Tornado Facts

A tornado may be in close proximity to sunshine, or it may be totally enshrouded in heavy rain. Sometimes the air before a twister hits is eerily calm; in other cases strong, gusty winds are followed by a tornado. Large hail and tornadoes can be produced by the same thunderstorm. However, many hailstorms are not accompanied by tornadoes, and vice versa. While many tornadoes move from a southwest direction, they can also travel from other directions such as west or northwest. Twisters can take a variety of not only sizes but also shapes: from the traditional Wizard-of-Oz-like funnel, to snake-like “multiple vortices,” from a drawn-out rope shape to a wide, churning, “smoky” appearance. The sound of a tornado has been likened to that of a freight train or a jet engine, but there is no guarantee that you will hear such a noise before it’s too late.

When a Tornado Threatens

You can improve the odds of your home surviving high winds by taking these precautions, but you won’t make it tornado-proof. Nor do these measures guarantee your safety. Take these additional steps to protect yourself and your family as fully as possible:

- Decide in advance where you will take shelter (a local community shelter, perhaps, or your own underground storm cellar or in-residence “safe” room). When a tornado approaches, go there immediately. If your home has no storm cellar or in-residence “safe” room and you have no time to get to a community shelter, head to the centermost part of your basement or home —away from windows and preferably under something sturdy like a workbench or staircase. The more walls between you and the outside, the better.
- Become familiar with your community’s severe weather warning system and make certain every adult and teenager in your family knows what to do when a tornado “watch” or “warning” sounds. Learn about your workplace’s disaster safety plans and similar measures at your children’s schools or day care centers.
- Study your community’s disaster preparedness plans and create a family plan in case you are able to move to a community shelter. Identify escape routes from your home and neighborhood and designate an emergency meeting place for your family to reunite if you become separated. Also establish a contact point to communicate with concerned relatives.
- Put together an emergency kit that includes a three-day supply of drinking water and food you don’t have to refrigerate or cook; first aid supplies; a portable NOAA weather radio; a wrench and other basic tools; a flashlight; work gloves; emergency cooking equipment; portable lanterns; fresh batteries for each piece of equipment; clothing; blankets; baby items; prescription medications; extra car and house keys; extra eyeglasses; credit cards and cash; important documents, including insurance policies.
- Move anything in your yard that can become flying debris inside your house or garage before a storm strikes. Do this only if authorities have announced a tornado “watch,” however. If authorities have announced a tornado “warning,” leave it all alone.
- Don’t open your windows. You won’t save the house, as once thought, and you may actually make things worse by giving wind and rain a chance to get inside.
- Don’t try to ride out a tornado in a manufactured home. Even manufactured homes with tie-downs overturn in these storms because they have light frames and offer winds a large surface area to push against. In addition, their exteriors are vulnerable to high winds and wind-borne debris.

Finally, review your homeowner’s insurance policy periodically with your insurance agent or company representative to make sure you have sufficient coverage to rebuild your life and home after a tornado. Report any property damage to your insurance agent or company representative immediately after a natural disaster & make temporary repairs to prevent further damage.

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Classified Advertising

A large, stylized graphic of the word "CLASSIFIED" in a bold, blocky font, resting on a classical column. The text is white with a thick black outline and a 3D effect. The column is also white with black outlines, featuring a fluted shaft and a simple capital. The entire graphic is set against a black background.

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Rochelle
News-Leader
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/
 NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION**

The Rochelle News-Leader has an immediate opening for a Graphic Designer/Production Artist.

This is a four-day, 28-hours per week schedule (Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) in the Rochelle office.

The position involves a daily deadline heavy production environment while assisting sales people in creating advertisements and promotional graphics for multiple newspaper and magazine publications.

Duties Include:

- Designing advertisements and promotional graphics for several publications
- Compositing publication pages for final approval and printing
- Sending finalized pages to CTP unit for run on press
- Creating accurate files for in-house and out-of-house printers
- Using FTP services and other means to distribute files for production
- Managing and backing up file and image archives

Skills Required:

- Firm grasp of latest Adobe Creative Suite programs, including InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator and Acrobat
- Ability to operate a computer running Mac OSX software
- Ability to creatively take basic ideas and layouts from sales people and accounts and turn them into nicely designed ads
- Ability to preflight files and check for accuracy
- Ability to trouble shoot design/production problems, general problem solving
- Ability to communicate clearly and efficiently in person over the phone and through e-mail
- Be willing to revise designs and accept critique
- Time management and ability to prioritize is essential, as is the ability to multi-task in a deadline-oriented position

Previous experience working in a newspaper or magazine production department would put a candidate at the top of the list.

**Applicants may e-mail their resume
 and sample work to**

**js Shank@rochellenews-leader.com or mail
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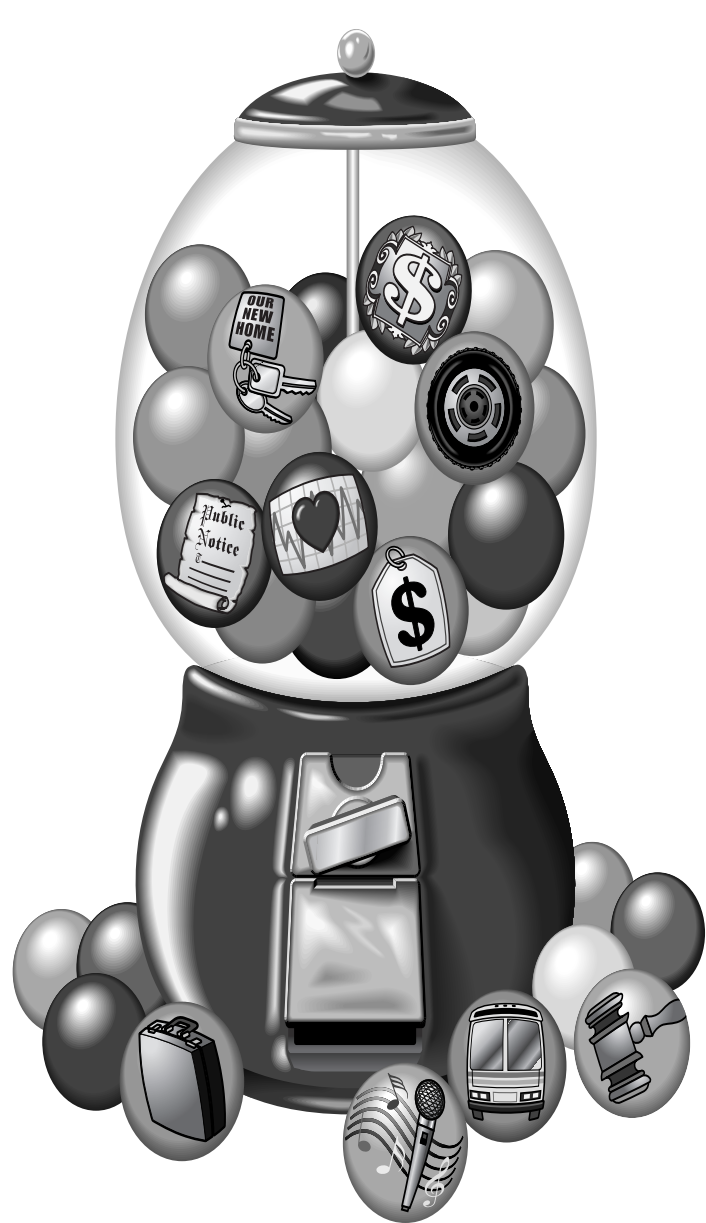
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