



FIRE SCHOOL
The 2018 Amboy Fire & Extrication School was held on Saturday. About 400 firefighters from more than 80 departments were in attendance for this hands-on training event. This 10th bi-annual event offers classes designed for students using local, regional, and national fire department instructors. This training is the premier training event for all first responders in the Midwest. Pictured above, Auto X, an instructional training company, was on hand to teach auto extrication. Pictured middle, firefighters learned about hose management. Pictured below, firefighters gear up to enter a training structure filled with smoke.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



City asks residents to check sump pump and gutter connections

AMBOY — In the City of Amboy, the sanitary and storm sewer systems are separate. All stormwaters, surface waters and ground waters shall be directed only to the city’s storm sewer system. The city reminds all property owners within the city that Section 78-197 of the city code of the City of Amboy prohibits the discharge of any stormwater, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, and subsurface drainage into the city’s sanitary sewer system.

The City of Amboy is currently investigating changes that need to be made to its sanitary sewer collection and treatment systems to ensure that the city has adequate capacity for its current population, and to accommodate future growth.

The City of Amboy is requesting all owners of real estate within the city to check all sump pump and gutter connections to confirm such connections are not improperly connected to the city’s sanitary system. If such illegal connections to the city’s sanitary system exist, owners shall cause them to be promptly disconnected and connected only to the city’s stormwater system.

See SEWER, page A2



The other new addition to the Amboy Fire Department is the special ops trailer.
Monetta Young/Amboy News

Amboy Fire welcomes two additions to department

BY MONETTA YOUNG
Reporter

AMBOY — The Amboy Fire Department is excited to share with the residents in and around the area, two new additions to the department.

For the past 20 years or so, there have been three weather sirens around the perimeter of Amboy: one at the sports park, one at the campground and another at the trailer park. But the department still wanted to have one available in the city limits.

“The sirens operate on a battery and if another storm should come through, there is a possibility that the batteries are exhausted and won’t sound again,” said Scott Wittenauer.

The siren that has been installed in front of the fire department will serve as a back up to the other sirens. It is mounted on a 40-foot tower and revolves so that the warning will go out to all areas of the city. Fire department personnel can remotely activate the new siren. The siren was purchased from government surplus.

The tower has a dual purpose as it can also be used as a training center for the local fire department.

The other new addition to the Amboy Fire Department is the special ops trailer. The special ops trailer will be utilized in special circumstances and emergency situations.



The Amboy Fire Department added a weather siren in the city limits of Amboy.

Monetta Young/Amboy News

The trailer can provide air conditioning for those who are overheated or heat for those who are cold. The trailer is stocked with equipment for water rescue, grain bin rescue and other specialized needs. It has cold-water rescue suits, an inflatable boat and motor, an

ATV to reach remote areas. It also has rehabilitation chairs will are used for those who are overheated and a drone that can assist with emergency situations.

See FIRE, page A2



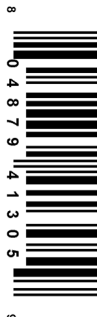
GRAND OPENING

Dollar General’s newest store at 510 E. Lisa Lane in Amboy, held it’s grand opening and ribbon cutting on Saturday morning. Customers lined up in the cold to be one of the first 50 adults shopped to receive a \$10 Dollar General gift card. Pictured at the ribbon cutting were, left to right, Amboy Alderman Dennis Weidman, Amboy Dollar General Manager Pam Habben, Amboy Alderman Brett Dewey and Amboy Alderman Darly Stuckemeyer.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News

STAY LOCAL!

Local News	Pages A2, A3, A4, A7, B1
Community Calendar	Page A3
Obituaries	Page A4
Church Directory	Page A4
Social News	Page A5
Opinion.....	Page A6
Sports	Pages B1
Classifieds	Page B3



SEWER continued from page A1

Illegal connections cause the city’s sanitary sewer system to be overloaded during periods of heavy rains and the thawing of winter snow and ice.

Amboy’s current treatment facility is designed to treat an average 500,000 gallons of sewage per day, with a maximum emergency capacity of 1.25 million gallons. In February 2018, the city pumped over 25 million gallons, an average of just under 900,000 gallons per day. Based on data from the water plant, actual sewer flow was just over 11 million gallons for February. That means 14 million gallons of the water that that city pumped to the sewer lagoons was rain water or ground water. Most wet months are like this.

Some of this water comes from ground water, seeping in through cracks in the pipes, but most comes from sump pumps that are improperly connected to the sanitary sewer. Sump pumps are capable of pumping 60 gallons per minute. If a pump runs for half the day, cycling on and off every 30 seconds, it runs for 720 minutes. At 60 gallons per minute, it will have pumped 43,200 gallons of water. Ten sump pumps running at this rate will pump as much as the city’s normal sewer flow.

How does Amboy’s collection and treatment system work?

To move from the main sewer trunks to the city’s lagoon system, the wastewater from each house/business must be pumped, either at either the Commercial Street lift station, or Rockyford lift station.

Once in the lagoon system, if flows are at the design limit of 500,000 gallons per day, it takes about 60 days to move through

and exit the ponds. During this time, the city adds air to the water, and use air mixers to provide oxygen to the microbes that break down the sewage. The water then moves by gravity to the river.

Flows larger than the design limit of the lagoon system mean that the water must move through the system more quickly, reducing the time for the bacteria to break down the sewage. To combat this, the city has to add more air, an extra blower, and they purchase bacteria and enzymes to add to the wastewater. This is necessary to ensure that the city meets the limits for the quality of the water being discharged to the Green River, keeping it safe for recreational uses.

Why does it matter?

When storm water is pumped into the city’s sanitary sewer system, it causes issues in many different ways:

- Excess flow in the sanitary sewer lines causes backups in those lines, which may lead to basement backups and overflows into nearby creeks and yards, putting public health at risk and violating state and federal regulations.
- All water that goes into the city’s sanitary sewer system must be pumped out to the lagoons. Extra rainwater means more electricity to run the pumps.
- Costs to treat the water in the lagoons increase with the increase in flow. Those costs are paid to customers.
- The cost to expand the city’s lagoon system to treat the increased flow is very high and would be paid for by sewer rate increases.

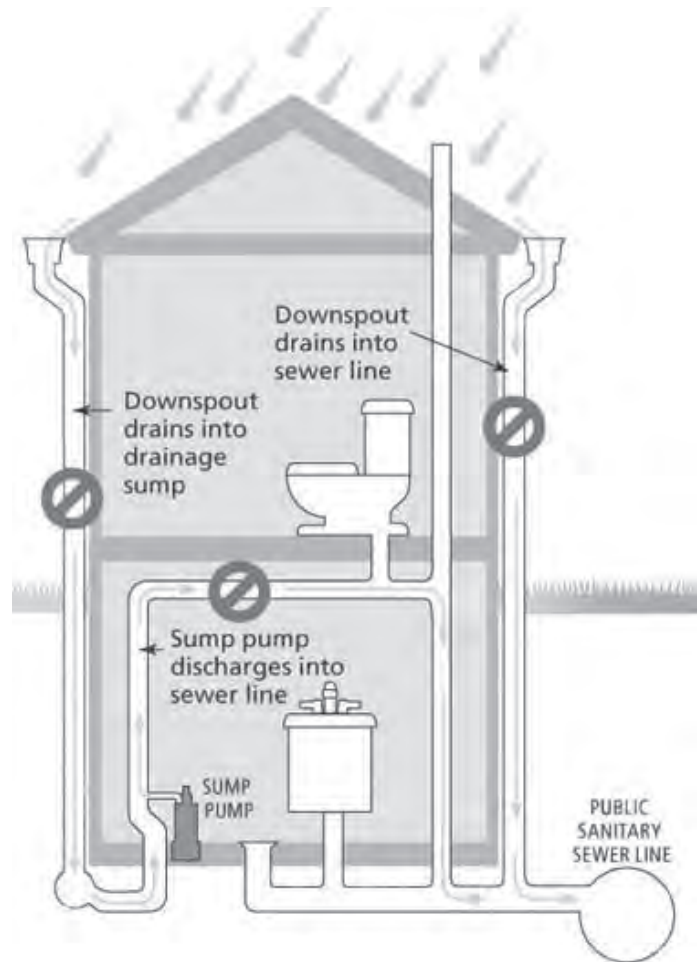
The City of Amboy is asking its residents to check your sump pump. If it is connected to the sewer, it needs to be re-routed to pump into the ditch or your yard, not into your neighbor’s yard. If you are unable to inspect the connection, or are not sure if the connection is proper, contact City Hall at 815-857-3814 and they will have someone assist you.

Who can change the connection?

The homeowner can do this. If you don’t feel comfortable making the change, but have a handyman that does work for you, they can do it. If not, any licensed plumber is able to make the change.

Do I have to do this?

In an effort to reduce infiltration of stormwaters and drainage into the city’s sanitary system, the city plans to begin testing the city’s sanitary system to discover illegal connections.



Any real estate owner who is discovered to have an illegal connection will be required to disconnect the illegal connection from the sanitary system.

Amboy City ordinance #78-197 makes it illegal to have a sump pump connected to the sanitary sewer, and provides for a fine of up to \$720 per day if it is not corrected.

Board to retain Phalen Steel to design proposed new maintenance building

BY TONJA GREENFIELD
General Manager

SUBLETTE — After a lengthy discussion, and a tie vote resulting in the village president casting the deciding vote, the Village of Sublette Board voted to approve retaining Phalen Steel of Mendota, as a design firm to help with the new maintenance building project.

The village board met on

Monday night for its regular monthly meeting in the Ellice Dinges Center in Sublette.

Once the motion made by Village trustee Richard Klaser to retain Phalen Steel as a design firm, was seconded, discussion followed.

Sublette Village Trustee Julie Kessel said she felt this project needed to be engineered out.

“We need to bid it out,” Kessel said, adding that she never saw a price from Phalen Steel.

Sublette Village President Michael Vaessen explained that the board wasn’t voting to build to the building tonight. Adding that the board was voting on Phalen Steel to do the design of the proposed new maintenance building and give the village a cost.

He continued that if the motion was approved, the village would be hiring Phalen Steel in place of an engineering firm to do the design.

Vaessen added that the board could hire an architectural firm to do the design, but with Phalen, if they design it, Vaessen said, the cost of the design goes into the cost of the building.

Village Trustee Laura Jackson said she was under the impression if the board used Phalen Steel for the design then they had to go with the company to build the building.

Vaessen said if Phalen Steel does the design, but does not build the building, there would be a cost for the design from

Phalen Steel, but he did not know that cost.

Sublette Village Trustee Scott Hanson asked what alternatives did the village have.

Vaessen said if the motion does not pass, then the village could get a hold of another engineering firm to the design the building and then it would go out for bid for completion. He said if the board went that route, then the bidding process might be ready in 60-90 days.

A voice vote was taken with trustees Klaser, Brian Wilson and Hanson voting yes, and trustees Kessel, Jackson and Jerry Leffelman voting no. With a tie vote, Vaessen broke the tie and voted yes.

Jackson said the reason she voted against it is because she feels the village needs to use people in town before the village leaves town to hire out a job.

In other board news:

• The board approved purchasing three new trees for the Mini Park.

• Vaessen said the Sublette Indians 4-H Club is looking to take out the gravel out of the memorial in front of the Ellice Dinges Center and replace it with concrete. The group is hoping to have it done by Memorial Day. If it looks like it won’t be done by Memorial Day, then the group will complete it after Memorial Day.

• Klaser told the board he has gotten calls from residents asking about the Sublette clean-up day. Vaessen said he would talk to the park board and Republic and see if something can get scheduled.

The next Sublette Village Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m., on Monday, May 14, in the Ellice Dinges Center.



**TODAY’S COMPETITORS.
TOMORROW’S CHAMPIONS.**
Celebrating all of the student athletes competing on the track this season. Keep up the pace and tomorrow is yours.
Trust in Tomorrow.®



Tess Fleming

GRINNELL
MUTUAL.

LEFFELMAN
& ASSOCIATES INC.
Our Family Protecting Your Family
Like us on facebook
P.O. BOX 349, Sublette, IL 61367
Sublette 849-5219
LaMoille 638-2171 • Amboy 857-2125
04112018

FISCH MOTORS INC.
WALNUT FORD CENTER

(815) 379-2191

401 W. North St. – Walnut

www.fischmotors.com

1st Travel
At The First National Bank
SAVE THE DATES!

Friday, April 27, Dinner Theater at Circa 21, Rock Island - “Church Basement Ladies - Rise Up O Men”	Wednesday, June 27, Dinner Theater at Fireside, Ft. Atkinson, Wis. – “Church Basement Ladies - A Second Helping”	Wednesday, July 18, Dinner Theater at Drury Lane, Oakbrook - “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”	Wednesday, Aug. 15, Dinner and Music Entertainment at Starved Rock - Dave and Daphne, Nashville Connection	Wednesday, Sept. 19, Dinner Theater at Paramount, Aurora - “Legally Blonde”
--	--	--	--	---

Call Carol for Reservations
815-857-7827

The First National Bank in Amboy

**Amboy • Dixon
Franklin Grove
815-857-3625**

“Where you come first” www.fnbamboy.com

FIRE continued from page A1

The drone has been used to assist in a Peru standoff and in searching for a fugitive in Winnebago County.

A communication center with laptops is also located in the interior of the trailer.

“It will be the chief’s call as to when the special ops trailer will be deployed,” said Bill

Gerdes. “It will depend on the nature of the call.”

Everything on or in the trailer has come to the department with no cost to the citizens of Amboy. Many of the items were purchased through funds received from the profits of the annual car show or through government surplus.

Police Blotter

Operating uninsured vehicle

On April 6, at 8:44 p.m., Nolan C. Dickey, 18, of Amboy, was issued a citation for operating uninsured vehicle. He was issued a traffic citation and released after posting bond.

Speeding

On April 9, at 6:52 p.m., Shawn R. Todd, 29, of Rock Falls, was issued a citation for speeding 48 mph in a 30 mph

speed zone. He was issued a traffic citation and released after posting bond.

Driving while license suspended

On April 9, at 6:29 p.m., Joseph K.S. Lewis, 24, of Rock Falls, was issued citations for driving while license suspended and speeding 83 mph in a 55 mph speed zone. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.

Email news items to
tgreenfield@amboynews.com

INCOME TAX PREPARATION

- ELECTRONIC FILING
- FREE CONSULTATION
- REASONABLE RATES
- OVER 35 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ADVISING AVAILABLE
- VARIOUS IRA PROGRAMS

Call For An Appointment:

NEIL BRINKMEIER

IRS Registered Tax Practioner

402 N. Jones • Amboy, IL 61310

Home Office (815) 857-2471



Amboy Teacher Feature: Wendy Shiaras

Wendy Shiaras is in her first year as third grade teacher at the Amboy Elementary School. Prior to this, she taught Pre-K for 10 years. She received her degree from Kendall College. “I knew I wanted to teach since I was in high school,” said Shiaras. “I helped my mom teach Pre-K at our church while I was in high school and through college when I was home. I have always worked with children teaching or coaching gymnastics and swimming.” She says there are so many experiences to choose from, that probably working with a Pre-K student that had severe behavior problems and it too months to develop a relationship and strong bond with her but once it happened, it was magical and unforgettable. Shiaras won’t be retiring anytime soon.

AHS Fine Arts award ceremony planned for April 22

AMBOY — The AHS Fine Arts Awards Ceremony will be held at 5 p.m., on Sunday, April 22, in the AHS gymnasium. Art, theater, music, and flag corps students will be recognized for their efforts this school year. There will be a dessert bar to be enjoyed by all in attendance before the awards ceremony begins. The Spring Concert will be held immediately after the ceremony at 7 p.m in the AHS auditorium. All are invited to come and enjoy a variety of music performed by the AHS Band and Chorus. There is no admission charge.

A.C.O. to accept bids for street naming

AMBOY — It’s that time of year again when the A.C.O. will be taking bids to name the street running behind the business district. Andy Conderman is currently being honored. Bids must be turned in to city hall by April 26. The minimum bid is \$200. The money received will benefit the Pankhurst Memorial Library.

Email news items to
tgreenfield@amboynews.com

HOW TO MAKE A LEAK-PROOF ROOF

Industrial • Commercial • Residential
For Low-Pitched, Flat Roofs
• New Construction • Re-Roofing

Seamless Roofing The successful contractor of tomorrow... is installing Duro-Last today!

705 Illinois Avenue, Mendota, IL
815-539-5142

**DURO-
LAST**
Roofing, Inc.

Keep your health flowing with chiropractic care!

GREEN RIVER CHIROPRACTIC

Dr. Colin Baker, D.C. - CCSP®

Kids - Family - Athletes - Auto Accidents - Worker's Comp

305 E. Joe Dr., Ste. 110 • Amboy
815.857.2458 Fax: 815.857.2749
www.greenriverchiro.com • info@greenriverchiro.com

Established In 1854

The Amboy News

Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854

Kip Cheek, Publisher
Tonja Greenfield, General Manager
Bonnie Morris, Editor

Published weekly on Wednesday by The Amboy News
245 E. Main St., Amboy, IL 61310

Phone: 815-857-2311 Fax: 815-857-2517
Periodicals postage paid at Amboy, IL
Publication Number USPS 016820

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Amboy News, PO Box 162, Amboy IL 61310

Subscriptions: \$37.25 yearly in Lee,
LaSalle and Bureau counties.
\$42.00 yearly elsewhere in the United States.

Display Advertising Deadline: 10 a.m. Monday
Classified Advertising Deadline: 10 a.m. Monday
All Editorial Deadline: 4 p.m. Friday

Letters Policy: The Amboy News encourages letters from readers on current issues. Letters should be brief and must be signed, with a street address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes. The newspaper reserves the right to publish, edit, condense, revise or reject any submissions.

Community Calendar

DIXON-The Lee County Health Department, 309 S. Galena Ave., will have Childhood Immunization Clinics, by appointment only, on 12, 13, 17, 19, 20, 24 and 25. Call 815-284-3371 to schedule an appointment or to find out about other services offered, like Adult Vaccines.

AMBOY-Immanuel Lutheran Church, 960 US RT 52, will host Community Bingo at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 12. A light lunch will follow. Call the church at 815-857-2225 for more information.

DIXON-The University of Illinois Extension will sponsor “Cooking and Booking” on the second Thursday of each month, beginning April 12 and ending November 8. The club, for 8 to 12 year olds, will be held at the KSB Hospital Private Dining Room at 4:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Call 851-632-3611 or register online at go.illinois.edu/CookinBookin.

AMBOY-The Green River Saddle Club Turkey Shoot and Raffle will be held Saturday, April 14, with check-in at 11 and the shoot beginning at 12 p.m. Call Don Phelps at 815-973-5300 or Roxanne Albers at 815-830-0366 for more information.

ASHTON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 1:30 to 6 p.m. on Monday, April 16, at Ashton-Franklin Center High School, 611 Western.

PAW PAW-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 2 to 6 p.m. on Monday, April 16, at Paw Paw High School, 511 Chapman. For an appointment, call 800-448-3543.

AMBOY-The City of Am-

boy Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 16, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

DIXON-The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, at KSB Hospital, 403 E. First St. Walk-ins are welcome after noon. For an appointment, call 800-448-3543.

AMBOY-The Lee County Extension Office, 280 W. Wasson Rd., will host a Four Seasons Horticulture Webinar, “A Garden Calendar”, at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17. Pre-registration necessary one week before by calling 815-632-3611 or online go.illinois.edu/4seasonsCLW.

ROCK FALLS-The American Red Cross, in coordination with Mayor William B. Wescott of Rock Falls and Bethany Bland, President/CEO of Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, will hold two monthly Blood Drives on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Rock Falls Community Building, 601 W. 10th St. The third Wednesday of the month drive, April 18, will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The first Wednesday of the month drive will be held from 1 to 6 p.m., May 2. Call 800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org to make an appointment to donate.

AMBOY-The Homemakers Education Association Monthly Lesson for Life, “Teas-Types and Uses”, will be presented by Sherri Stauffer at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 18, at the Lee County Extension Office, 280 W. Wasson Rd. Call the office at 815-857-3525 to register one week prior to the class.

AMBOY- The Lee County Council on Aging will provide assistance with accessing services and benefits for seniors

or disabled citizens from 10 until 11 a.m. at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Road, on Wednesday, April 18. Call Ruth at LCCOA for more information, 815-288-9236.

AMBOY-The Lee County Health Department will provide a Blood Pressure Clinic from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 18, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. Call 815-284-3371 for more information.

SUBLETTE-The Lee County Council on Aging will provide assistance with accessing services and benefits for seniors or disabled citizens from 11:10 a.m. until 12:10 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Hall on Wednesday, April 18. Call Ruth at LCCOA for more information, 815-288-9236.

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-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, Demen-

tia & 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.

Get Your Air Conditioner Checked & Cleaned at Grasser's

Call Us For
Spring
Specials

Free
Estimates

GRASSER'S
(State ID No. 58-100249)
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.
404 W. Main St., McNabb
815-882-2111 or 815-875-2540
grassersplumbingheating.com

04042018

LYEESCAPE

COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

Senior Dining Menu

April 16 - 20

8 oz. of low-fat milk served with each meal

Monday – Chicken strips, bbq packet, seasoned potato wedges, peas, dinner roll, diced pears

Tuesday – Baked ziti w/meatsauce, Italian blend veggies, garlic bread, hot applesauce

Wednesday – A) Meatloaf, mashed potatoes/gravy, glazed carrots, dinner roll, peach cobbler B) Liver & onions

Thursday – Sloppy joe, wheat bun, tator tots, green beans, apricots

Friday – Cheese omelet, turkey sausage, hash brown potatoes, blueberry muffin, fruit juice

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

Reservations needed 10:00 am day before

United Way
A United Way Agency

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

04112018



CENTRAL SCHOOL MENU

April 16 - 20

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
- Beef taco on soft or hard tortilla, salad, salsa, onion, tomato, jalapenos, beans & rice, peaches

Tuesday - Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart
- Pizza dunkers w/meaty sauce, peas, carrots, fresh cut veggies/ranch, pears

Wednesday - Blueberry minicakes
- Baked chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, fresh cut veggies/ranch, roll/butter, mixed fruit

Thursday - Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart
- Breakfast for lunch-Scrambled eggs, cheese cup, juice box, oranges, bakery donut

Friday - Choice of fresh pastry or pick two from breakfast cart
- Cheesy garlic frenchbread pizza, broccoli & cheese sauce, applesauce, dried fruit mix

04112018

ON THE MENU

JR HIGH MENU

April 16 - 20

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 - Cinnamon bun
- Beef taco on soft or hard tortilla, salad, salsa, onion, tomato, jalapenos, beans & rice, peaches

Tuesday - Sausage breakfast pizza
- Pizza dunkers w/meaty sauce, peas, carrots, fresh cut veggies/ranch, pears

Wednesday - Blueberry minicakes
- Baked chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, fresh cut veggies/ranch, roll/butter, mixed fruit

Thursday - Cheese omelet
- Breakfast for lunch-Link sausage w/gravy & biscuit, cheese stick, juice box, oranges, cinnistick

Friday - Biscuit & gravy
- Cheesy garlic frenchbread pizza, broccoli & cheese sauce, applesauce, dried fruit mix

04112018

OBITUARIES

Joseph A. Morrissey

Aug. 16, 1929 - April 2, 2018

ROCKFORD – Joseph A. “Joe” Morrissey, fourth of 13 children of William R. and Aileen (Brady) Morrissey, passed away peacefully, Monday, April 2, 2018, surrounded by family, with Irish music playing softly in the background.

Earthly life began for Joe on Aug. 16, 1929 on a family farm near Amboy. Joe and his siblings were all born at home except for the youngest, born at the former Amboy Hospital. Joe grew up a resilient and entrepreneurial young man during the Great Depression. Although the family had little, they were rich in faith and love. Joe learned early on the discipline of milking cows at 5 a.m. every day, bailing hay, feeding pigs and chickens, living a farm boy’s life. He scrapped metal and sold eggs to make side money during World War II. He served in the military during the Korean War. Studying to become a lawyer didn’t look too bad after all that.

Joe attended St. Anne Elementary, graduating from Amboy High School in 1947 and St. Ambrose University in 1951. Following college, Joe served four years in the U.S. Air Force. After service, Joe studied law at the University of Illinois, obtaining his Juris Doctorate in 1958. Upon gradu-

ation, Joe worked in the State Farm Claims Department until 1964, after which Joe began a private law practice in Rockford concentrating in personal injury claims for over 50 years.

Joe helped many people through his law practice. Yet, the part of Joe’s life that helped him survive and allowed Joe to keep helping others began Dec. 13, 1978 when Joe celebrated his other birthday, his last drink of alcohol and his first step into Alcoholics Anonymous. Joe attended AA meetings nearly every day thereafter, helping people from all walks of life and being helped, as well. The empathy and sympathy Joe shared reflected onto his family, including his youngest son, former Rockford Mayor, Larry, as well as his daughter, Eileen and oldest son, Bill, who were each blessed to be close to their Mom and Dad. Joe’s beloved wife, Josephine, stayed true to Joe through thick and thin; including 18 years of Joe’s active alcoholism which blossomed into 39 years of blessed sobriety. Thankfully, Josephine gave Joe a second chance after their first meeting at the Saddle and Cycle when she learned that he had a brother who was a priest and a sister a nun. Joe was also enamored by Nana Matranga’s

cooking and Papa Matranga’s garden.

Empathy for the community lead Joe to listen to his son, Larry, which moved Joe to spend countless hours and nearly all of Joe’s life savings to help redevelop downtown Rockford and other impoverished parts of the City. Joe started with the former Rockford Morning Star building on Wyman Street, turning a largely vacant and unused building into four beautiful loft apartments, wood paneled offices, modern video and engineering spaces and calming views for social workers. Marble touches and an Egyptian style ceiling in the bank space could have been lost if Joe had not invested; years before the Rockford Public Library had talked about razing the building for surface parking.

Joe’s next endeavor was Garrison School, originally built in 1887. The neighborhood had its issues. Turning classrooms into exquisite loft apartments was a rewarding but expensive feat. Joe didn’t just invest his life’s savings, he walked the neighborhood, picked up trash, engaged the neighbors and worked with the authorities to improve the area. As a result of his vision and work, the area saw many new professionals

including lawyers, doctors, medical students and professional hockey players lease apartments, bringing hope to an area that had not seen a lot of investment in years.

Joe adopted Rockford as his second hometown and his vision and civic commitment encouraged others to follow, including his children, each of whom are blessed to share his servant’s heart. A pastor was also inspired to move from the far east side of Rockford to just south of Garrison School; motivated to fix up his home because Joe fixed up Garrison. Others, who lived in Joe’s Wyman Street apartments, bought the building across the street and turned the upper floors into awesome lofts where they have lived for years. Those same people organized the group which helped advocate for turning the former Ziock building into the first new hotel for downtown Rockford in 85 years. Although the Great Recession challenged Joe financially, Joe truly became the “rich man who fit through the eye of the needle;” because Joe diminished his wealth for the good of others.

Joe entered Heaven’s Door at the age of 88. Along with his wife, Josephine and kids, Bill (Melissa) Morrissey, Eileen (Joe) and Larry (Stacy) Morrissey, Joe is survived by grandchildren Larissa, Joseph, Josh, Matt, Andrew, Grace, Seanna, Sophia, Dillon and AJ. Also

surviving, Joe’s sisters: Rita, Lois, Frances, Monica, Barband Colleen; sisters-in-law Corrine and Linda and brother, Larry.

Joe did many things very well. From milking cows and gardening, to practicing law and campaigning for his son, Larry, he was a fierce competitor but also a kind gentleman, loyal friend, and faithful Catholic. In fact, many neighbors will recall the time he had a giant load of manure dropped into his large garden lot just before an unseasonably warm May. He had a gregarious and warm personality, a great sense of humor, and was a thoughtful observer of life in the tradition of great Irish poets. He enjoyed morning coffee with his buddies and, as a former waiter, appreciated the kindness from many servers over the years, especially his friends downtown at Octane. In his last days, he enjoyed the beautiful views from his bed, incredible care from Agrace Hospice and caregivers Al, Kojo and Deborah, and letting us know how appreciative he was for his life and how prepared he was for the journey ahead.

Predeceased by parents, William and Aileen; grandson, Michael Joseph Morrissey; brothers, Robert, John “Tiny” and Reverend William Morrissey; sisters Rosie and Bette; brothers-in-law: Leroy Goy, Doug Koch, George Hawks, Louis Wilhelm, Alvin Glenn, Gene Carroll, Lloyd Considine,



Jack Scorby and Joe (Marge) Matranga; brother and sister-in-law Cosmo and Antonette Matranga; three infant Matranga brothers-in-law; nephew and godson, Tim Considine, and nephews, Jay Hawks and Brian Goy.

Mass of the Lord’s Resurrection was celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 7, 2018 in Holy Family Catholic Church, 4401 Highcrest Rd. Visitation was held from 6-8 p.m. Friday in Holy Family Church and from 9 a.m. until time of the Mass on Saturday. Burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the family to be divided up among several interests that were very important to Joe.

Arrangements were completed by Fitzgerald Funeral Home & Crematory, Mulford Chapel. Express condolences and share memories at www.fitzgeraldfh.com.

Mary Alice Nesler

April 28, 1926 - Jan 25, 2018

CHICAGO — Mary Alice Nesler was born on April 28, 1926 in Chicago, to Clarence and Mary Godshalk.

She and her younger brother, Jim, were raised in the unique setting of the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, as their father was the director there for many years. Mary Alice grew up a lover of horses, and never tired of riding and teaching tricks to her pinto, “Queenie.” M.A. as she was known, loved the out-of-doors and enjoyed swimming, ice skating, hiking, fishing, golfing, horseback riding, hunting, and gardening.

In 1946 M.A. married Ted Fredenhagen, of Naperville. Together they raised five children: James (Victoria) Fredenhagen, of Anchorage, Alaska, Laura (Don) Schaefer, of Amboy, Gary (Sue) Fredenhagen, of Boulder Junction, Wis., Jane (Dale) Herron, of Newburg, Mo., and Debra Zellhofer, of Amboy.

Summers for the family were spent at “Singwakiki,” the cabins and lake in northern Wis-

consin. Mary Alice’s adult life focused on raising her children and enjoying family activities.

After raising her five children, Mary Alice began an antique furniture and refinishing business. Her skill became will-known and she enjoyed developing personal relationships with her clients. During this time, she met and married Bill Nesler, and the couple moved to a home in Wisconsin. Over the course of 20 years they traveled and lived in Florida, Louisiana, and Missouri, but always returned to their beloved north woods of Wisconsin where they sang in the choir at the United Methodist Church in Mercer.

After Bill’s death in 2002, Mary Alice began enhancing her fishing skills. No longer satisfied with catching the elusive Muskie, she went after Sturgeon, the giant of northern lakes and rivers. For the last 20 years of her life, M.A.’s favorite times were those spent with her beloved George Brien, of Park Falls, Wis. Each year



they traveled together to Shonto Ranch in Texas to hunt big game and fish the lakes. Family and friends enhanced their lives together in Park Falls before Mary Alice’s passing.

A family memorial will be held in June near the north fork of the Flambeau River in northern Wisconsin to celebrate Mary Alice’s life.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Condolences may be sent online at www.thejonesfh.com.

Eugene E. Ketchum

Sept. 25, 1948 - April 5, 2018

OREGON — Eugene E. Ketchum, 69, of Oregon and formerly of Amboy, died Thursday April 5, 2018 at Oregon Living and Rehab. Center in Oregon.

He was born Sept. 25, 1948, in Amboy, the son of Perry and Doris (McLindsay) Ketchum.

He had been a millwright at Northwestern Steel and Wire in Sterling for 27 years prior to retirement.

Gene was a veteran of the Army and served in Germany during the Vietnam War.

He married Jean Lake on Sept. 15, 1990, in Dixon. She preceded him in death Feb. 25, 2008. He was also preceded in

death by his parents, one son, Joseph Ketchum and one grandson, Coleman Perry Ketchum.

Gene is survived by one son, Joshua Ketchum, of Rock Falls; three grandchildren, Gabby Ketchum, Mackenzie Ketchum and Keegan Oltmans; and one brother, Rick (Kathy) Ketchum, of Amboy.

A memorial service was held at 4 p.m., on Monday April 9, 2018 at the Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Visitation was held on Monday from 2 p.m. until the time of the service.

Burial of cremains with Military Honors will follow in Prairie Repose Cemetery in



Amboy.

Condolences may be sent online at www.thejonesfh.com.

Obituary Policy

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY
 Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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.	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.	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.	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.
St. Mary Church - Walton Rev. Timothy Draper, Pastor Mass Saturday, 6 p.m. Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.	Grace Fellowship Church – Amboy Pastor Brian McWethy 37 S. East Avenue, (Farm Bureau Bldg.) 815-857-3900 Sunday Worship Service 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. www.graceisforyou.com	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.	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Rev. Randy Fronek Locust Street, Sublette Phone 815-849-5412 Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass -10:30 a.m. Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. Thursday - 8:30 a.m.
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.	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!	St. Mary’s Church Rev. Randy Fronek West Brooklyn Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday - 5:30 p.m. St. Patrick Church Rev. Randy Fronek - Maytown Mass - Fri. 8 a.m., Sun, 8 a.m.	Refuge Church Pastor John Kalebaugh Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52 Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930 10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows
St. Flannen Church - Harmon Rev. Timothy Draper, Pastor Mass Sunday, 9 a.m. Thursday, 8:30 a.m.	Harmon United Methodist Church Pastor Leanne Keate 202 N. Grove, Harmon Phone 359-7302 Worship - 8:30 a.m.		

The Following
 Community
 Businesses
 Sponsor Area
 Church News:

Sensient Flavors, LLC.
 815-857-3691

Gehant Bank
 West Brooklyn
 Member F.D.I.C.
 815-628-3121

Mihm-Jones Funeral Home
 815-857-2611

First National Bank
 in Amboy
 Member F.D.I.C.
 815- 857-3625

Vaessen Brothers
 Chevrolet
 815-849-5232

KSB Medical Center
 815-857-3044

The Amboy News
 815-857-2311



The Book Nook

By :

Tatjana Kazan

Surviving the angel of death

Ever since the discovery of the more than 40,000 camps established in the 12-year reign of the Nazi regime, fictional accounts of the Holocaust have been controversial. On one side are those who argue that the torture and murder of millions of people is “unspeakable” because it elevates the murderers and the culture that produced them to subjects of literature. As the German philosopher Theodor Adorno famously said, “To write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric.”

On the other side are those who argue that not to fictionalize these evils is to be condescending. Moreover, art is better at memorializing – “lest we forget” – these events than mere history. Affinity Konar’s “Mischling” is on this side. It is a highly poetic account of the appalling tortures inflicted at Auschwitz on children, specifically sets of twins and dwarfs, by Dr. Josef Mengele, the notorious Angel of Death.

“Mischling” (mixed blood), like the English word “mongrel,” is an offensive name for someone of mixed Jewish and Aryan descent. But in the case of the twins Pearl and Stasha, the 12-year-old heroines of the novel, in the unimaginable horror that is Mengele’s laboratory next to the Birkenau crematorium, Mischling is a positive attribute since some Aryan blood is present. Stasha thus becomes a Mengele favorite, though she is by no means spared the tortures he calls medical experiments, such as pouring boiling water into her left ear.

The girls were brought to Auschwitz-Birkenau in the spring of 1944, a year before war’s end. The children are relatively well fed in the “Zoo,” until “Uncle” Mengele has no further use for them. Parentless, sick and maimed, they spend their time inventing stories and playing games, described in a poetic language that sentimentalizes rather than bears witness. When the girls come upon rows upon rows of carefully preserved human eyeballs, Konar renders the scene so lyrically, I lost patience.

The children know their fate: twins are separated, “experimented” upon, and killed, or abandoned to die of whatever disease Mengele has injected into them, or from their plundered insides, or from starvation. When Pearl is separated from Stasha, Mengele injects poison into her eye and she is thrown into a cage in a cold, dark room, her ankles broken to fit her into the cage, rats her only companions.

The second half of the novel is the liberation of Auschwitz by the Soviet army. Mengele had left weeks before, leaving the children at the mercy of the SS guards who go on a murderous rampage, followed by the death march of some 20,000 inmates from Poland into Germany in the dead of winter. The novel follows the girls as they separately struggle to survive and re-enter the world: “We had to learn to love the world once more.”

AHS Music Department to present Spring Concert on April 22

AMBOY — The AHS Music Department will be presenting its Spring Concert at 7 p.m., on Sunday, April 22, in the AHS auditorium following the Fine Arts Awards Ceremony.

The AHS Chorus will be singing “May It Be,” “Heart and Soul,” “For Good,” “Imagine” and “The Prayer.”

The AHS Band will be performing “Disney At The Movies,” “Selections from Les Miserables,” “Moana,” “In The Mood,” and “Wipe Out.”

“Uptown Funk” will be conducted and performed by Dr. Jeff Thake, Superintendent of Schools. Mason Costner and Alison O’Rourke will perform a trumpet duet; vocalists Sydney Friel, Evelyn Curl, and Ben Clark will perform “The Rising,” and Lucas Blake will sing “Bring Him Home” from “Les Miserables.”

The band will also play “Jeannie’s Carroussel” as a tribute to Mr. Greg Knutson who was a past band director at Amboy Junior High School.

The chorus and band students have been working very hard to put on a great concert with a variety of music for all to enjoy. Please come and enjoy the sounds of music. There is no admission charge.

Sauk Valley Community College to host Jobs/Careers Fair April 18

DIXON — SVCC will hold their annual Jobs Fair on Wednesday, April 18, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the West Mall.

Learn about Sauk’s career programs and degrees, and network with more than 40 local businesses.

The Jobs Fair is free and participants are encouraged to bring up-to-date resumes as several businesses are collecting applications and filling positions.

Professional attire is recommended. For additional information, contact Anita Carney, anita.j.carney@svcc.edu/815-835-6294.



THE PASTOR’S PEN

The Charcoal Fire

BY FATHER TIMOTHY DRAPER

From Jan. 31 through March 3, I was in the Boston area for a 30-day Ignatian retreat. This retreat was a time of silence and intense prayer with Sacred Scripture (four to five hours a day).

It was a great grace and privilege to be able to attend this retreat and spend so much silent time in prayer with the Lord. One of the fruits of this time of prayer was the following poem, which I wrote during the last days of the retreat. I share it in the hope that it will help you more deeply appreciate Jesus’ infinite love for you during this Easter season. Though personal, the poem is written from the perspective of St. Peter. The Charcoal Fire.

From night to night,
In cold and fright,
Stood I near charcoal fire,

And, warming there,
Did curse and swear,
And show myself a liar.

“Are you not he
From Galilee,
The friend of Him all meek?”

The cock did crow.
“I do not know
The Man of Whom you speak.”

But then He turned,
And in me burned
A flame, lit from His gaze,

At which I wept
For oaths unkept
And all my lukewarm days.

When He was tried
Him I denied

And failed to pass the test,

Though promised I
With Him to die,
Should fail Him all the rest.

Filled with regrets
And empty nets,
I turned to former hire.

But when dawn came,
He spoke my name,
While burned the charcoal fire.

Now at the shore,
He asks once more
If I will be His friend

And, on the sands,
With pierced hands,
Gives me His sheep to tend.



FUNERAL SERVICE

When a veteran dies, the Amboy American Legion will perform a graveside military honors services. The Legion performs about 30 of these graveside services each year. On Saturday, Legion members boarded a van headed to Rockford to perform the graveside services for former Amboy American Legion member Joseph A. “Joe” Morrissey who passed away on Monday, April 2, 2018. Morrissey was born and raised in Amboy. Following college, Morrissey served four years in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. This isn’t the first time the Legion members have traveled to perform the graveside military honor. In April of 2017, 14 men, members of the Amboy American Legion and a trumpeter, boarded a rental van for Hillside on to reenact the graveside honor services for the movie What They Had. The movie is written and being directed by Elizabeth Chomko, one of the granddaughters of Clifford Becker, Sr. According to the Internet Movie Database, the release date for What They Had is Oct. 12, 2018.

Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News

SVCC to host 34th Annual Child Fair April 21

DIXON — Sauk Valley Community College will host the 34th Annual Child Fair “Western Roundup” on Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Once Upon A Dream Performance Spider Hero and Belle characters will be available for pictures and autographs from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Child Fair features more than 40 exhibit booths including hands-on activities and games or giveaways for participants. Children and families can visit the emergency vehicles display, car seat safety checks, barrel rides, and a petting zoo. Each year, The Child Fair attracts more than 1,000 participants.

The Sauk Valley Child Fair is free to the public and all children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 815-835-6212.

Quilt guild to host show in Dixon

DIXON — The Petunia City Quilt Guild will host Sophie’s Garden of Quilt Show on Friday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Northside Baptist Church, 598 River Lane (corner of River Lane and Rt. 2) Dixon.

There will be over 100 beautiful quilts, wall hangings and homemade items on display. There will also be vendors, a bake sale, raffle baskets, boutique items and scissor sharpener. Quilt appraisals will

also be available, appointment required contact Pat at 815-625-2006.

The raffle quilt is Sophie’s Garden designed by Pamela Curo. This is a full size wool applique on cotton design. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Need not be present to win. Tickets will be available at the show.



ART ESPE
Agent
221 N. Mason
Amboy, IL 61310
(815) 857-2624
art@artespe.com
0907504.1

Family is why we do it all.

We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. Helping you meet your insurance needs is part of my commitment to you.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

CALL ME TODAY.

 **State Farm**®
State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

2018 Living History Antique Equipment Association Swap Meet & Benefit

1674 Whitney Rd, Franklin Grove

8 AM - 1 PM Saturday, April 21

(Rain Date April 28)

Bring your items for auction!
Consignment Auction 11 AM
Good Food & Drink All Day
Flea Market, Womens items & More!
Free Admission - Selling Charge \$15

Mike Jahn 815-440-0691
Paul Erisman 815-535-1688
LHAE SHOW - AUGUST 4 & 5

Thank You Neighbor

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

Thank You Neighbor,
c/o The Amboy News.

One Nomination Per Person Per Month

Limit 40 Words Per Nomination

I would like to nominate **Coach McCracken** for the Good Neighbor Rose for sending out letters to colleges on my behalf. He also submitted my name for a scholarship which benefits someone whose life has been affected by cancer, which I was selected to receive.

Thank you, Coach McCracken. ~ Justin Hart

MENDOTA MONUMENT CO.

606 S. Main St. • Mendota, IL 61342

1-800-845-5809 (815)539-7276

Steve Schmitt (815)538-5276

Family owned since 1913


Ron Schmitt (815)539-7068

Official Retailer of

SINCE 1839

chaeffer's

SPECIALIZED LUBRICANTS

 Jones-Berry Lumber Co.

HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8 - 5
Sat. 8 - 3 • Sun. 10 - 1

HARDWARE & BUILDING MATERIAL

1 South Commercial Amboy • 815-857-2525

Serving The Amboy Area For 100 Years

Save Time, Save Money...

Opinion

Frozen lima beans: The gift that keeps on gagging

It was 88 years ago this month that Clarence Birdseye, inspired by ancient food preservation methods used by Arctic Eskimos, made history by introducing the very first frozen food option: “Savory Caribou on a Stick.”

Though his first selection was met with little enthusiasm, Birdseye persisted, and eventually created a line of frozen vegetables that many of us are still gagging on today. I, for one, am still unable to walk past lima beans in the frozen food section without getting the dry heaves. This reaction stems from my childhood, and a spoonful of lima beans I’ve been trying to swallow since 1973.

Unless you’ve been hermetically sealed and stuck in a freezer, you already know this is “National Frozen Food Month.” Coincidentally, I should mention this happens to fall in the same month as “National Ear Muff Day,” “Extraterrestrial Abduction Day” and “National Pig Day,” meaning that,

Guest Column

By Ned Hickson



for anyone whose pig happened to be wearing ear muffs at the time it was flash frozen by alien abductors, this is a big month for you.

When I was a kid, I couldn’t wait for Mom to pull my Libbyland “Sundown Supper” from the oven. That’s because the makers of Libbyland provided enough games, toys and other distractions that, for all I knew, I was eating breaded eel.

In fact, I’m pretty sure I remember seeing an actual eel on the cover of the Libbyland box. This should have sent my childhood gag reflex into high alert. And it probably would have if not for the fact that this particular eel was wearing a cowboy hat and spurs.

It didn’t matter that a sea creature leading a wagon train through the high plains made no sense whatsoever. Or that the cowboy cook was a prairie dog who appeared to be stirring a pot of buzzard beaks. What mattered was that each dinner came with a packet of “Milk Magic” that turned my milk

the color of gangrene and, even more importantly, grossed my mother out.

With those fond memories in mind, I went looking for the same kind of frozen dinner excitement for my own children several years ago. This led me to a collection of entrees that were either (a) the ultimate example of truth in advertising, or (b) menu items submitted by Hannibal Lecter.

The first thing I found was something called Jurassic Fried Chicken, which, for all I knew, meant really, really old fried chicken. I also grabbed Cheese Blaster Mac & Cheese, a Carnival Corn Dog meal and, against my better judgement, Bug Hunt Fun Nuggets.

The idea was to cook all four meals and let the kids have a frozen dinner buffet. This plan began to fade once I actually started reading through the meal descriptions, beginning with the Carnival Corn Dog: “A batter-dipped Frank made with chicken, pork and beef on a stick.”

In this case, it wasn’t the combination of meats that concerned me; it was the fact that “Frank” was capitalized.

This made the whole Bug Hunt Fun Nuggets concept of “finding” processed nuggets in the shape of insects a little hard to swallow. And to be honest, I had my concerns about how my then five-year-old’s intestinal tract would react to a meal that included the term “Cheese Blaster.”

Of course, none of these concerns mattered to my kids; all that mattered to them was that Dad was grossed out.

Things probably would’ve ended there. But I felt obligated, as a concerned father, to show them my lima beans.

You can write to Ned Hickson at nedhickson@icloud.com, or c/o Siuslaw News, 148 Maple St., Florence, Ore. 97439.

On This Day in History

100 Years Ago April 12, 1918

Wanted: Women and girls to work in one of the largest and oldest shoe manufacturing concerns in the west, which wishes to establish a stitching plant in Amboy. Rates are \$9.50 to \$15 per week. Contact Amboy Commercial Club.

Mrs. J. P. Brierton, Mrs. Maude Brierton, Mrs. A. Tuttle and Mrs. Jennie Crampton entertained 40 people in the Methodist Church Parlor Saturday evening charging them 25 cents each and donating the money to the church pavement fund.

No more concerts will be given in the German language in Chicago as long as the war lasts.

75 Years Ago April 8, 1943

The vegetable gardens will be an absolute necessity to everyone who can obtain

a lot of land in 1943, if the intentions of the OPA, Army and Navy and Lend-Lease go through. Fifty to fifty-two percent of all canned goods of 1943 has been earmarked for the Army and Navy and Lend-lease.

Mrs. Marven Hubbell and Mrs. Roy Wisner are now employed at the Green River Ordinance Plant.

The Amboy Public Hospital superintendent, Mrs. Augusta Fischer, R.N., and staff wish to thank Mrs. Grace Reid for a donation of dishes.

50 Years Ago April 11, 1968

Deane Belcher, recipient of the VFW Award for the Outstanding Senior Athlete of Amboy High School in 1962, will be the toastmaster for the 1968 annual athletic banquet on April 25.

Amboy’s Chamber of Commerce is urging all Amboy offices and places of business to close from noon until 3 p.m. on Good Friday. Observance of these Good Friday

closing hours has been custom in this city for a number of years.

Dean Cater, of Lee Center, a Franklin Center High School senior, is listed among the winners in the 1968-69 Illinois State Scholarships Program.

25 Years Ago April 15, 1993

Jeff Bryant as Claude, Al Stenzel as Mr. Nelson, Dave Stenzel as Mr. Quigley and Jim DeGeorge as Harry will be among the talented performer in this weekend’s Amboy firemen’s play, Finders Creepers.

As Mayor Ken McCracken’s 19 years in city government draws to a close, he’s servicing notice on owners of unlicensed vehicles that they must be removed from Amboy.

Ken Jones was re-elected president of Amboy Area Chamber of Commerce at last Wednesday’s reorganizational meeting and Terry Lynch was chosen to serve another term as vice president.

The game is rigged here

Guest Column

By Dan McCaleb



jeopardy of being worse, but it’s only April so why worry.

In the meantime, Florida, which doesn’t have an income tax at all, already has a balanced budget for next fiscal year. It was approved by lawmakers and signed by Gov. Rick Scott last month.

Granted, Florida’s state government is controlled by one party. Scott is a Republican and both chambers of the state legislature have GOP majorities. But they also managed to finalize their budget after the tragic mass murder at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School sent lawmakers scurrying to find solutions to try to prevent further such gun violence in Florida schools.

Keep in mind, too, that Illinois had one-party rule for three full terms prior to the election of Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, but that didn’t help much here.

Florida also has set aside more than \$3.5 billion in reserves despite dealing with the aftermath of two hurricanes last summer. Illinois has an unpaid bill backlog of \$8 billion and Moody’s Investor Services says the state’s unfunded pension

liability is about \$250 billion.

Texas, meanwhile, has a population more than twice Illinois’ – 28.3 million people to 12.8 million, according to 2017 Census estimates. But the Texas Legislature managed to pass next year’s fiscal budget last year, despite declining oil and gas revenue.

Texas lawmakers, who pass a two-year budget every other year, have been more productive in 2018 than their Illinois counterparts, and they adjourned 13 months ago.

Pennsylvania’s state government is similar to Illinois’ politically but in reverse. In Illinois, Rauner has a contentious relationship with the Democrat-controlled General Assembly. In Pennsylvania, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf often is at odds with the Republican-controlled legislature.

Last summer, Pennsylvania lawmakers approved and Wolf signed a \$32 billion budget that was short about \$2.2 billion in revenue. But, as in Illinois, the state’s constitution has a balanced budget requirement.

Wolf initially said he would use his executive powers to borrow up to \$1.25 billion against future Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board payments to make up for part of the shortfall, a move that led to a lawsuit claiming Wolf’s actions were illegal. Wolf and lawmakers later agreed on a series of revenue measures, including the expansion of gambling, to balance the budget.

Heading into this year’s session, Pennsylvania lawmakers also have been distracted by a

state Supreme Court decision throwing out the state’s congressional maps. But they’re at least managing to try to work together through their issues.

Wolf wants to balance next year’s budget with a controversial severance tax on oil and gas production in the state. While Republicans are clearly skeptical of the idea, in budget hearings they are seeking data, exploring what it would mean if it were to pass. Yes, many of their questions are pointed and designed to highlight why they think it’s a bad idea. But a lot of their questions are purely to seek information. So a GOP-controlled legislature that is far from supportive of a proposal from a Democratic governor is still giving his ideas a full and legitimate hearing in full view of its citizens.

That doesn’t happen in Illinois.

Rauner won in a blue state running on a turnaround agenda to help improve Illinois’ economy and overly burdensome tax situation. His reform proposals have no shot in the Madigan-controlled House, where legislation unfavorable to the speaker goes to die without an open vetting.

Lawmakers are returning to Springfield next week, but don’t expect much to happen until Madigan is ready for it to happen.

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

Established In 1854

The Amboy News

The Depot Museum

Publisher
Kip Cheek
kcheek@mendotareporter.com

General Manager/Advertising
Tonja Greenfield
tgreenfield@amboynews.com

Editor
Bonnie Morris
bmorris@mendotareporter.com

Reporter
Monetta Young
myoung@ashtongazette.com

Office Manager/Circulation/Commercial Printing
Mary Mays
mmays@amboynews.com

SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

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

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

Political endorsements will be published, however letters from candidates endorsing themselves will not be printed.

Letters may be dropped at the Amboy News office, 245 E. Main Street, mailed to the Amboy News at PO Box 162, Amboy, IL 61310, or emailed to tgreenfield@amboynews.com

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

ADVERTISING POLICY

The Amboy News is in no way responsible for errors in copy furnished by the Customer. Adjustment or republication in the next available issue will be made for that amount of space involved in errors resulting from failure of the Amboy News to correct errors plainly noted on proof. Customers shall notify the Amboy News of errors in time for correction before the second insertion.

The Amboy News shall not be liable to the Customer for any loss that results from the incorrect publication of its advertising. The Customer agrees to assume responsibility for all errors in copy proofread by Customer when the advertisement printed corresponds to the returned proof.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Lee, Bureau and LaSalle Counties

1 year	manual pay	\$37.25
	auto pay	\$35.25

10 weeks	manual pay	\$9.78
	auto pay	\$9.33

Non-local

1 year	manual pay	\$42.00
	auto pay	\$39.75

10 weeks	manual pay	\$10.96
	auto pay	\$10.51

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.,
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Tuesday and Friday by appointment only.
Closed Saturday, Sunday and major holidays.

Phone **815-857-2311**
Fax **815-857-2517**
Website **www.amboynews.com**



FUNERAL HOME

Mihm-Jones
Funeral Home

Patrick Jones
303 E. Main Street • Amboy
815-857-2611
www.thejonesfh.com

AMBOY FOOD & LIQUOR

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

Hours

Monday - Saturday

7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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

242 E. Main Street, Amboy IL. 61310

Now Accepting EBT
Link Cards and WIC

815-857-7020

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

Check Out Our New Selection Of Gluten Free Items

Sale Prices Valid April 12-18, 2018 – Limited Quantities – While Supplies Last

PRODUCE

Little Potatoes
Oven Ready or
Microwavable
Assorted 1 lb.



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

Red, Yellow or
White Onions
2 lb. bag



2/\$4

Curly's Pulled
Chicken
1 lb.



\$3.99
Reg. Price \$6.29 ea.

Green Bell
Peppers




2/\$1

Dole Lettuce



\$1.49
/head

Cucumbers



79¢
ea.

Blueberries



\$1.99
/container

JIF Peanut Butter
Assorted 28 oz.



\$3.99
Reg. Price \$4.49ea.

HOT BUYS

Tropicana Orange
Juice
Assorted 59 oz.



BUY ONE @ \$5.39
GET ONE FREE!

Sweet Baby Rays
BBQ Sauce
Assorted 18 oz.



BUY ONE @ \$2.29
GET ONE FREE!

Shurfine Steam and
Easy Vegetables
Assorted 12 oz.



BUY ONE @ \$2.29
GET ONE FREE!

Knorr Pasta or Side
Rice
Assorted 4-5.7 oz.



BUY ONE @ \$1.59
GET ONE FREE!

Kemp's Ice Cream or
Frozen Yogurt
Assorted 48 oz.



\$2.99
Reg. Price \$5.29 ea.

King Arthur Gluten Free
Baking Mix, Bread & Pizza
Mix and All Purpose Flour
18 - 24 oz.



\$5.99
Reg. Price \$6.89 ea.

WEEKLY SPECIALS

International Delight
Coffee Creamer
Assorted 32 oz.



\$2.99
Reg. Price \$3.79 ea.

Johnsonville Brats and
Sausage, Frozen and
Fresh
Assorted 19 oz.



\$3.99
Reg. Price \$5.89 ea.

Kellogg's Poptarts
Assorted 13.5-14.7 oz.



2/\$4
Reg. Price \$2.99 ea.

Kraft America
Cheese
12 oz.



2/\$5
Reg. Price \$3.59 ea.

Stouffer's Entrees
Assorted 6 - 12.75 oz.



2/\$5
Reg. Price \$3.19-3.99 ea.

Prego Pasta
Sauce
Assorted 23 - 24 oz.



BUY ONE @ \$2.79
GET ONE FREE!

Charmin Essential
Strong Bath
Tissue
12 Rolls



\$4.99
Reg. Price \$6.99 ea.

Doritos Chips
Assorted 8.5-9 oz (excludes party size)



2/\$5
Reg. Price \$4.29 ea.

Pepsi Products
24 Pack Cans



\$6.99
Reg. Price \$7.99 ea.

Coke Products
2 Liter Bottles



4/\$5
Reg. Price \$1.99ea.

7-Up Products
2 Liter Bottles



99¢
Reg. Price \$1.69 ea.



PINNING CEREMONY

Rock River Hospice and Home is a partner in the “We Honor Veterans” program in conjunction with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. “We Honor Veterans” is designed to assist hospices in meeting and understanding the needs of veterans who are receiving hospice care. The goal is to comfort and honor patients with a history of military service and experience. Veteran volunteers are an excellent resource to our Veteran patients and offer respectful inquiry, compassionate listening, and grateful acknowledgement of their experiences and service to their country. A recent pinning was conducted by our Veteran volunteer, Jason Wittenauer for Clifton Judd, in honor of his service in the United States Army. Pictured, left to right, Shane Bufford, Judy Judd, Clifton Judd and Jason Wittenauer.

Photo submitted

Special Olympics Illinois kicks off 50th Anniversary celebration

CARBONDALE — Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner joined athletes and volunteers for the Special Olympics Illinois 50th Anniversary Kickoff celebrations on April 6 at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center in Carbondale.

“The Special Olympics has its roots in Illinois and is a major source of pride in our state history,” said Rauner. “For the past fifty years, the Special Olympics has made the world a more compassionate and inclusive place. We thank those who laid the foundation for this life-changing organization.”

In the 1950s, Southern Illinoisan Dr. William H. Freeberg, an early leader in therapeutic recreation, started a camp for children and adults with intellectual disabilities at what later became the Touch of Nature Environmental Center. His pioneering work provided invaluable guidance as Eunice Kennedy Shriver built out programs across the country for the special needs community through The Kennedy Foundation. Dr. Freeberg was also a consultant for Shriver and co-founder Anne Burke as they collaborated to plan the first Special Olympics, which was held at Chicago’s Soldier Field in July of 1968.

“On that beautiful day in Soldier Field, while observing the gorgeous sunrise over Lake Michigan, 1,000 athletes from twenty-six states and Canada competed in the first Special Olympics,” Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke said. “Fifty years later, the games that were ‘born in Chicago’ started earlier as seedlings at Touch of Nature Educational Center in Carbondale. Special Olympics changed the world forever by celebrating the abilities of people who have disabilities.”

The 2018 Special Olympics USA Games will be held in Seattle, Wash., from July 1 to July 6. The Games will host 3,500 athletes from across the country competing in 14 sports.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

• 2018 Licenses Now Available: Don’t forget to buy 2018 Illinois fishing, hunting and sportsman combination licenses now from DNR Direct license and permit vendors throughout Illinois, or online through the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov. The new license year in Illinois began on April 1, and 2018 licenses are valid through March 31, 2019.

• LWCF Grant Applications Due May 15: The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is accepting applications for grants through the federally-funded Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which provides up to 50 percent funding assistance to eligible local units of government to acquire land for public outdoor recreation areas. Local agencies must possess the ability to finance the cost of an approved land acquisition project prior to receipt of grant reimbursement funds. LWCF grants are awarded through a competitive application process. The deadline to apply for this round of LWCF grants is May 15. Local units of government interested in applying for a LWCF grant should contact the IDNR Office of Grant Management and Assistance, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1272; phone 217-782-7481; email dnr.grants@illinois.gov.

• Apply Now for Firearm/Muzzleloader Deer Permits: Residents of Illinois can apply now through April 30 for the first lottery drawings for 2018 Illinois Firearm and Muzzleloader-

only Deer Season permits. Hunters can apply online through the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov. The first lottery drawings for firearm and muzzleloader-only deer permits are for Illinois residents only. Resident hunters can apply in both the firearm and muzzleloader-only lotteries. The 2018 Illinois firearm deer seasons are Nov. 16-18 (first season) and Nov. 29-Dec. 2 (second season). The 2018 muzzleloader-only permits may be used Dec. 7-9 (and in the second firearm season, Nov. 29-Dec. 2).

• Turkey Hunting Safety Reminder: Visitors to Illinois state parks, fish and wildlife areas, and other IDNR-managed sites with spring turkey hunting programs in April and May are reminded that hunting areas are closed to activities other than spring wild turkey hunting from one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m. daily during the spring turkey season. The hunting area safety restrictions apply to all visitors, including mushroom collectors. For turkey season dates, check the IDNR website.

• Mushroom Collecting: No license is required for mushroom collecting in Illinois, but mushroom collectors always need land-owner permission. On public sites, mushroom collectors must adhere to approved regulations and hours. Collection of mushrooms is allowed in many IDNR state parks, fish and wildlife, and other recreation areas, but it is prohibited in any area designated as a dedicated nature preserve. Areas under the jurisdiction of the

IDNR that offer spring turkey hunting are not open to mushroom collecting until after 1 p.m. daily during turkey season to ensure the safety of all site visitors. Mushroom collectors should call ahead to the IDNR site they intend to visit to learn of any site-specific regulations.

• Hunter and Boating Safety Education Courses: Register now for Hunter Safety Education and Boating Safety Education courses from the IDNR. Check the IDNR website for class dates and locations.

• Fishing Information Booklet: The 2018 Illinois Fishing Information guide is available at many IDNR license and permit vendor locations, and in PDF format online. Regulations in the guide took effect on April 1.

LIMITED TIME OFFER

DOUBLE YOUR POWER

Purchase a GENERAC® Automatic Standby Generator and receive a

FREE INVERTER GENERATOR

Quiet, compact and easy to use.

\$500 VALUE!

Great for camping, tailgating or other activities on the go!

OFFER VALID THROUGH APRIL 22, 2018

Terms and Conditions Apply.

JD BELCHER ELECTRIC

1696 State Rt. 17 • Lacon

jdgenerators.com • info@jdgenerators.com

Sales • Service • Installation

309-246-2102

04042018

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

From the week of March 28-April 3

Softball
Bailee Highbarger

Baseball
Hunter Zimmerly

The First National Bank in Amboy

Amboy • Dixon
Franklin Grove

815-857-3625

www.fnbamboy.com

“Where you come first”

04112018

SCHOOL SCHEDULE	
Thurs., April 12	AJHS 7th & 8th Grade Scholastic Bowl (H) Holy Cross – 4:00 p.m. AJHS Track @ Milledgeville – 4:00 p.m. AHS Girls & Boys Track (H) – 4:00 p.m. AHS Varsity Softball & Baseball (H) Orangeville – 4:30 p.m. School Board Finance/Building & Grounds Committee Meeting AHS – 7 p.m.
Fri., April 13	AHS Varsity Baseball @ Ashford University Field, Clinton, IA – 5:00 p.m.
Sat., April 14	AHS Girls Track @ Hall – 9:30 a.m. AHS Varsity Softball @ Lena – 11:00 a.m. AHS Fresh/Soph Softball @ Lena – 1:00 p.m. AHS Varsity Baseball @ Fulton Tournament – TBA
Sun., April 15	Spanish Honor Society Induction Ceremony – Auditorium – 6:30 p.m.
Mon., April 16	AHS Boys Track @ Forreston – 4:00 p.m. AHS Varsity Softball @ Paw Paw – 4:30 p.m. AHS Fresh/Soph Softball @ Orangeville – 4:30 p.m.
Tues., April 17	AJHS Track @ Mendota (Old Track) – 4:15 p.m. AHS Girls Track @ Fulton – 4:15 p.m. AHS Varsity Softball @ Durand – 4:30 p.m. AHS JV Softball @ Durand – 6:00 p.m. AHS Varsity Baseball @ Pecatonica – 4:30 p.m. AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball (H) Durand-Pecatonica – 4:30 p.m.
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.

SAUK JOBS FAIR

APRIL 18 • 11 – 3PM

SVCC WEST MALL

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Network with more than 50 area employers. Learn about available job opportunities and skills needed for local jobs.

For event information, contact Anita Carney 815.835.6294.

Your chance to win your share of \$90,000 toward furnishing your home!



Gustafson's 90th Anniversary Sweepstakes!

Submit your entry for Round 2
before the next drawing on April 10th

Congratulations
to our 1st winner:
Alisha R.
of Rockford, IL

6651 East State Street, Rockford, Illinois

Mon-Fri 10am - 8pm | Sat 10am - 7pm | Sun 12pm - 5pm

Prices good through April 14, 2018

No purchase necessary. Complete an official entry form at either location.
For official rules and details see store or visit: www.gustafsonfurniture.com/rules.inc

SPRING SALE

ASHLEY
Furniture Industries, Inc.

Harmony Queen Bed
Displayed at State Street Location.

Was \$479⁹⁹
NOW \$399⁹⁹

SPRING SALE

ASHLEY
Furniture Industries, Inc.

Your choice of Sofa or Loveseat
Also available in Charcoal
Displayed at State Street Location.

EACH \$499⁹⁹

SPRING SALE

MATTRESS 1ST
American Mattress Company

Dickinson Firm, Plush or Eurotop

Queen Price	
Twin Set	\$389 ⁹⁹
Full Set	\$499 ⁹⁹
Queen Set	\$539 ⁹⁹
King Set	\$839 ⁹⁹

Displayed at State Street Location.

NOW \$539⁹⁹

SPRING SALE

Serta

Waitrose Queen Set
Eurotop

Displayed at State Street Location.

NOW \$599⁹⁹

SPRING SALE

UltraComfort

Free heat & massage

PL340 Lift Chair
5 colors to choose from
Displayed at State Street Location.

NOW \$758⁹⁹

SPRING SALE

Best Home Furnishings

Over 20 fabrics and colors to choose from!

2 for 1 Recliners

Both for **\$599⁹⁹**

2 recliners for 1 low price.
Displayed at State Street Location.

GUSTAFSON'S
furniture / mattress

6651 East State Street • Rockford, Illinois

Mon-Fri 10am - 8pm
Saturday 10am - 7pm
Sunday 12pm - 5pm

* Photos for illustration only. Not responsible for typographical errors. We reserve the right not to honor any incorrect pricing.

All active and retired military personnel... ask for your discount!

SPRING SALE

Flexsteel

Double Reclining Sofa
Displayed at State Street Location.

Was \$1889⁹⁹
NOW \$1699⁹⁹

MOVING and SALE

808 W. Riverside Location Only

**Every Room* at our
Riverside location is up to
50% OFF**

All Mattresses, Living Room Sets, Bedrooms, Dining Rooms, Accessories

and we would rather move it to YOUR house
than to our State Street Location, so

HURRY IN!

*Only while supplies last. Only at Gustafson's Riverside Location. Not combinable with other sales or promotions.