

Amboy, Harmon hold meeting discussing plan to merge fire departments

BRANDONLaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – During an informational hearing Wednesday, Jan. 3 at the Amboy fire station, Amboy Fire Chief Jeff Bryant Sr. and Harmon Fire Chief Dave Carrington addressed the matter of the Harmon Fire Department merging with the Amboy Fire Department.

Amboy looks at the merger as a way to grow and improve, while the merger is an act of survival for Harmon.

“It’s going to allow us the potential to grow. Both areas are small rural departments and becoming one is going to help us grow and share resources,” said Amboy Fire District Chief Jeff Bryant Sr., who also serves West Brooklyn and Ohio as outlying district



Amboy Fire Department Chief Jeff Bryant Sr., at the podium, speaks in front of 30 people at an informational hearing on Wednesday, Jan. 3 at the Amboy station about the Amboy and Harmon fire departments potentially merging into one department. Brandon LaChance/Amboy News

communities. “The work we’re doing here, we’re planting a tree, but we won’t be enjoying the shade right away. As it grows forward, we’ll have

two departments serving as one and taking care of our friends and family.

“We’ve been going to Harmon for a long time. We provide services for

them. Because of lack of manpower, they can’t reciprocate, but being able to recruit people in that area, we may have more help coming this direction.

That’s our goal.”

The Village of Harmon Board told Bryant Sr. the budget for the Harmon Fire Department is \$14,400 a year.

At the meeting, Harmon Fire Chief Dave Carrington said they have 10 volunteers.

“To me, it’s not an ego thing. I know past chiefs had egos. My thing is, I made a commitment to the village to make the department better than it was when I took over,” said Carrington, who has been the Harmon chief for 3 ½ years and has been filling in shifts for Amboy for the last 1 ½ years. “We’re at the point now, financially, where the village doesn’t want to keep supporting us. I can’t keep the doors open with a budget of \$14,400.

“If I have a truck break down, my entire budget is gone. I have to juggle, do I purchase a piece of life safety equipment or do I fix a truck. It’s important to get the truck out, but it’s also important to have compliant gear to keep my people safe and to keep the community safe.”

The conversation for the two fire departments to join began two years ago at a Village of Harmon Board meeting.

However, nothing moved past preliminary chats.

“We opted to say, ‘What can we do to make the department stronger and better in Harmon?’ It didn’t happen,” said Bryant Sr. “This is the results of the meeting two years ago.

See **Harmon** page A7



First baby born at OSF in 2024

MENDOTA – Say hello to Layla S. Madrigal, the first baby of 2024!

Layla was born at OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center on January 1 to parents Yuridia Rivera and Miguel Madrigal Jr. of Depue, IL.

The little bundle of joy weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 20 inches long.

Illinois Department of Revenue provides taxpayers with tips to prepare for 2024’s tax season

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) is providing taxpayers with tips and alerting them to changes they may encounter when filing their 2023 state income taxes early next year.

“The 2023 tax filing season is just around the corner and we want to ensure taxpayers are prepared and have the necessary documents and are also aware of improvements that have been made to simplify the filing process,” said IDOR Director David Harris. “We strongly encourage electronic filing as it is the easiest way to file and also ensures the fastest refund when one is due.”

Tips for Filing 2023 Returns
Gathering 2023 Tax Documents
Some common documents, records, or receipts taxpayers may need to file include:

- Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from 2022 IL-1040,
- Copy of federal income tax return and schedules,
- Copies of all W-2 and 1099 forms,
- Property Number and amount of property taxes paid if claiming a property tax credit,
- Voluntary emergency worker credit certificate,
- Receipts for qualified education or moving expenses, and
- Routing and account number if due a

refund and choose to deposit refund directly into checking or savings account.

Determining Eligibility for Tax Credits

Depending on circumstances, taxpayers may be able to reduce the amount of taxes owed through tax credits. Some popular tax credits include the Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Illinois K-12 Education Expense Credit, and the Property Tax Credit.

New this year -- The Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has been increased to 20% of the

Federal EITC and expanded to include those who are:

- 18-25 years of age and older and 65 and older without a qualifying child, and
- filing with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) or have children with an ITIN.

The Volunteer Emergency Worker Credit is a \$500 non-refundable tax credit given to volunteer fire emergency workers who qualify, apply, and are awarded the credit.

Filing Taxes
There are several ways to file a state tax return. MyTax Illinois, IDOR’s free online account management program, has been enhanced and allows taxpayers to file returns with or without an account, operates with a simple question and answer format, and works to reduce

errors by using automated calculations and prepopulated information from previous returns. In addition to free filing of Form IL-1040 through MyTax Illinois, individuals may also utilize the site to make payments, respond to department inquiries, and check the status of their refunds using the Where’s My Refund? link. Taxpayers may also look up IL-PINs, amounts of any estimated tax payments made, and when necessary, amounts reported on Form 1099-G with MyTax Illinois. Individuals may also choose to file using tax-prep software, a tax professional, or the paper Form IL-1040.

Expecting a Refund, Here’s What to Know

Taxpayers are encouraged to file electronically as early as possible in the tax season and choose direct deposit to ensure the fastest processing and issuance of any refunds. If taxpayers electronically file an error-free return, they should receive a direct deposit refund in approximately four weeks. Taxpayers receiving notices from IDOR should respond as quickly as possible to help expedite processing and minimize any delays in issuing refunds. IDOR continues to increase and enhance efforts to protect taxpayers from identity theft and tax fraud.

See **Taxpayers** page A2

A Tribute to the fallen of World War I

Editor’s note: The Amboy News will be publishing a series of articles on Lee County veterans who served during World War I. These heroes are part of Amboy’s history and it is our honor to publish these articles so you can learn about their service to our country. This article was researched by Jack Mead and Tom Dempsey, and written by Dempsey.

Pvt. William Powell

369th Infantry Regiment,
93rd Division

“Harlem Hell-Fighters”

The prevailing winds of history too often scatter the lives of individual people in a direction they never imagined, sometimes moving ordinary people to a cause larger than themselves. So it was for Private William Powell, a young African American man from Dixon who went on to sacrifice his life in the Great War to “make the world safe for democracy” at a time when America was challenged to ensure democracy and freedom for all her citizens at home. William was born during the Jim Crow era in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 1896, the same year the United

States Supreme Court ruled that black Americans were subject to “separate but equal” treatment in all aspects of life, making racial discrimination legal and normal.

As he grew to adulthood, William Powell moved north to Dixon where he resided on Madison Avenue with George and Rose Collins while employed at the cement plant. After the United States declared war on Germany in April of 1917, William, like hundreds of thousands of young people, must have faced a moral reckoning on how to find his path through a world on fire. Although the Selective Service Act of 1917 included African



Americans, they were placed in segregated units (mostly non-combat) commanded by white officers. William’s life path took him to New Jersey that year, where he resided at 50 Newark Avenue in Jersey City, just across the Hudson River from lower New York City. On September 28th (exactly one year before being killed in action), he en-

listed with the New York National Guard at Camp Slocum, N.Y., assigned to the 369th Infantry Regiment comprised entirely of African American soldiers commanded by Colonel William Hayward, a white officer. White soldiers in the New York National Guard joined the “rainbow division” (42nd Infantry Division) named so because of the wide variety

of backgrounds among the ranks drawn from guard units all across America. When the rainbow division left New York for France, a large parade was held on Fifth Avenue to honor their service. The 369th Regiment was denied participation in that parade because “black is not a color of the rainbow.”

See **Powell** page A4

**RECYCLE!
RECYCLE!
RECYCLE!
RECYCLE!**



Obituaries

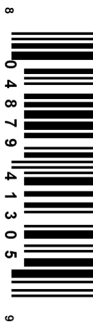
Everett Vivian

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Inserts

Snyders



LOCAL NEWS

Kimber Zitelman named Amboy High School's December Student of the Month

AMBOY — Kimber Zitelman, daughter of Mikael and Kelly Zitelman, has been named the Amboy High School Student of the Month for December.

GPA: 3.98
Memberships and involvement: NHS Vice president, Basketball Cheerleading Captain, Thrower for girls track
Best Memories of AHS: Trying out

many different sports and becoming part of a team. And Dingers Math class
Future Plans: Goto Aurora University to major in criminal justice, and minor in psychology
The Amboy Student of the Month is chosen by Amboy High School faculty and a scholarship is awarded by The First National Bank in Amboy.



Lee County Sheriff's Office receives Depot Days donation
Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee Treasurer Ginger Daniels, left, presents a check for \$1,200 to Kyle Kellen of the Lee County Sheriff's Office for the Shopping With The Sheriff Program. The Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee will be donating more than \$48,000 to local organizations this year.
Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



Car Show Committee delivers donation to Pankhurst Library
Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee Treasurer Ginger Daniels, left, presents a check for \$1,000 to Emily Goff of the Pankhurst Memorial Library. The Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee will be donating more than \$48,000 to local organizations this year.
Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



Amboy Lions Club doantes to AFD
Amboy Lions Membership Chair Jim Travi, left, gives a check to Amboy Fire Department members Kayla Oury and Duane Dickison, while Amboy Lions Club President Patty Ohlendorf helps Travi deliver the check. The Amboy Lions Club made holiday donations to local Amboy food pantries. Anyone interested in joining the Amboy Lions Club is invited to attend any meeting at 6 p.m. on the second or fourth Monday of the month at the Amboy Community Center. Photo contributed



First Baptist receives Lions' check
First Baptist Church Pastor Rocky Fritz and Food Pantry Director Carol Fritz, middle, received a donation from the Amboy Lions Club Membership Chair Jim Travi, left, and Amboy Lions Club President Patty Ohlendorf. The Amboy Lions Club made holiday donations to local Amboy food pantries. Anyone interested in joining the Amboy Lions Club is invited to attend any meeting at 6 p.m. on the second or fourth Monday of the month at the Amboy Community Center. Photo contributed



Holiday donations given to St. Pats
Amboy Lions Membership Chair Jim Travi, left, and Amboy Lions Club President Patty Ohlendorf recently gave St. Patrick's Food Pantry Coordinator Bab Harrison a check for \$300. The Amboy Lions Club made holiday donations to local Amboy food pantries. Anyone interested in joining the Amboy Lions Club is invited to attend any meeting at 6 p.m. on the second or fourth Monday of the month at the Amboy Community Center. Photo contributed

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Taxpayers continued from page A1

These highly successful methods combat criminal activity all while striving to disperse tax refunds as quickly as possible.

Needing more time?

While the state of Illinois does grant an automatic six-month extension to file an IL-1040 each year, taxpayers must still pay any money owed

on their returns by April 15, 2024, to avoid penalties and interest. If a return cannot be filed by the due date, taxpayers may make an extension payment electronically through MyTax Illinois. To pay by mail, they may use Form IL-505-I, Automatic Extension Payment for Individuals Filing Form IL-1040, to calculate and make payments.

Some Changes to the 2023 Form IL-1040, Illinois Individual Income Tax Return, and Schedules

The 2023 personal exemption amount is \$2,425.

The original due date for filing the 2023 Form IL-1040 and paying the 2023 individual income tax liability is April 15, 2024.

The extended due date for filing a return is October 15, 2024.

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LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

After school program

If you have a third grader or above, they may be able to attend. They will ride the bus, have a meal, a fun place to play, and of course complete homework. Applications are in our hallway, which is open 24/7 days a week.

Volunteers

We welcome all volunteers for our afterschool program, which runs normally Monday through Thursday from 3:15 to 5 p.m. Volunteers help serve lunch, supervise kids, and help with various homework tasks. If interested, please call us at 815-857-4800. You can volunteer whatever time you have. We even have volunteers come in the morning to help with other prep tasks.

Glow Dance/Lip Sync Contest

5th graders and up are invited to this great event on Friday, Jan. 19, from 7-9 p.m. Students are being asked to email teenturf@yahoo.com to sign up for the Lip Sync contest. Songs need to be appropriate and limited to two minutes (no matter how long the song is). The students can do a solo, duo, or a trio, but no singing is allowed. Sign-ups are limited to twenty spaces. There will be first, second, and third place winners. This is the annual glow dance. Students are welcome to dress up and put on make-up prior to the dance. There will be games, food, and fun. The cost to get into the dance is \$5 and chaperones are always welcomed.

Valentine's Auction

Save the date, Feb. 6-8. We will be having a Valentine's auction on Airauctioneer.com to raise funds for our free year-round programs. More info to follow.

Thank You's

We are always grateful to those that help us in our endeavor to help the community: Gina and Andy McCoy for the food and clothes; Anonymous donation of a monetary donation; Tim and Deb Hopkins for the Christmas tree; Carolyn Leake for the Amboy State Winning Clipper Shirts; Pam Payne for the cereal bars and Pop tarts; Donald Duck for the granola bars; Kathy and Don Bonnell for the fruit and snack bars; Mark and Veronica Grossman for the items and Mari Velasquez and Mark Jr. for bringing them over; Linda Thomas for the books; Hayden Thomas for the books; Donna Wellman for the cookies and Kathy Kessel for the Rice Krispy treats.

Needs

For Afterschool program-Fruit granola bars

Final Note

Father God, though the world is chaotic, You are the source of all serenity. Living in this chaotic world takes a toll on us. We beg You bestow us with Your transcendent calm. Put an end to the tempest in our souls. Send unto us Your Holy Spirit to walk beside us through the darkest places in our lives. God grant this to us that we may become stronger. Amen.

From the Heart

December 2023 From The Heart Calendar Winners
 Dec. 1 - Tim Postula
 Dec. 2 - Erin Odle, Steward, \$25
 Dec. 3 - Daniel and Niki Tobler, Davis Junction, \$50
 Dec. 4 - Karen Cech, Rochelle, \$25
 Dec. 5 - Rochelle Area Community Foundation, \$25
 Dec. 6 - Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, \$25
 Dec. 7 - Heather Hensley, Rochelle, \$25
 Dec. 8 - Eric Van Hise, Rochelle, \$25
 Dec. 9 - Velimir Kuzmanovski, Rockford, \$25
 Dec. 10 - Emily Harness, DeKalb, \$50
 Dec. 11 - Kim Duval, Rochelle, \$25
 Dec. 12 - Sara Hall, Rochelle, \$25
 Dec. 13 - Clay and Becky Fraley, Kings, \$25
 Dec. 14 - HOPE of Ogle County, \$25
 Dec. 15 - Liquor N Wine, \$25
 Dec. 16 - Marge Charboneau, Rochelle, \$25
 Dec. 17 - Scott and Alana Hill, Thomson, \$50
 Dec. 18 - Christian Neale, Rochelle, \$25
 Dec. 19 - Zekelman Employee, \$25
 Dec. 20 - Gabriela Ortiz, Rochelle, \$25
 Dec. 21 - From the Heart, \$25
 Dec. 22 - Vickie Eschenbaum, Spring Valley, \$25
 Dec. 23 - Sherry Morris, Amboy, \$25
 Dec. 24 - Rochelle Chamber, \$50
 Dec. 25 - Mark Bucey, Byron, \$1,000
 Dec. 26 - Joe Kearns, Ashton, \$25
 Dec. 27 - Steve Barron, Rochelle, \$25
 Dec. 28 - Kathy Wayman, Oregon, \$25
 Dec. 29 - NICE Center, Lee, \$25
 Dec. 30 - From the Heart, \$25
 Dec. 31 - Rochelle Chamber, \$50
 Checks to winners will be mailed out at the end of each month.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DIXON-The Lee County Health Department will have Immunization Clinics for Children and Adults by appointment only. Call 815-284-3371 to make an appointment or for information on other services available. You may also visit the website at www.lchd.com for a list of services available.

AMBOY-You are invited to join fellow senior citizens for a free exercise program. The program has moved from The Amboy Sports Park to indoors at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 960 US Highway 52, Amboy. Sessions are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. Chairs are provided for an approximate 30-minute workout. For more information, call Chris at 815-857-3963.

AMBOY-The Amboy Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at the township building, 106 S. Prospect.

LEE CENTER TWP-The Lee Center Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11, at the Township Building, 2202 Shaw Rd., Amboy.

AMBOY-The Amboy American Legion will meet on Monday, Jan. 15, at 6 p.m., at the Old NAPA Building, 399 N Metcalf, Amboy.

AMBOY-The City of Amboy Council will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 15, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

SUBLETTE-The Sublette Village Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 15, at the Ellice Dinges Center, 202 S. West St., Sublette.

MENDOTA- OSF HealthCare will host two community blood drives in January with ImpactLife. On Tuesday, Jan. 16, the ImpactLife Donor Bus will be located in the OSF Medical Group parking lot at 1650 Midtown Road, Peru, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. OSF Saint Paul Medical Center will host a blood drive on Friday, Jan. 19, from noon to 5 p.m. in conference room C. To schedule an appointment for donation, call (800) 747-5401 or schedule online at www.bloodcenter.org or via the Blood Center's mobile app.

AMBOY- The Amboy CUSD School Board will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 18, at Amboy Junior High School cafeteria.

AMBOY-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd., on Monday, Jan. 22. Anyone interested in joining or wants more information on the Lions Club is invited to attend.

Maytown Comets 4-H Club held meeting in November; next meeting is January 18

By Madison Rod
Club Reporter

The Maytown Comets 4-H Club held its monthly meeting on Nov. 30 at the Maytown Hall.

At the meeting, the Comets discussed old and new business. Following the meeting, there was a potluck with lots of delicious food. After the potluck, Madison Rod did her talk and demonstration on raising her bottle kitten, Tag Along.

If you have a child interested in joining 4-H, the next meeting will be held on Jan. 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

AMBOY POLICE

DUI/Revoked License/Disobeyed Stop Sign

William C. Whitford, 30, Earlville, was arrested and taken to Lee County Jail after being arrested at 1:02 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, for drinking under the influence, driving on a revoked license and disobeying a stop sign.

Suspended Registration

S.L. Mead-Stephenson, 35, Dixon, was charged with suspended vehicle registration after being arrested at 11 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21. Mead-Stephenson was given a notice to appear in court.

AMBOY- Please mark your calendars for the annual ACO (Amboy Civic Organization), Amboy High School Red Cross Blood Drive. It is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 1 – 6 p.m., at the Amboy Community Building. You may sign up now at redcrossblood.org or call Judy Brinkmeier at 815-238-8927 and she will be happy to sign you up. If you plan to give blood at this drive, you cannot give blood after Dec. 1 or if you give Power Red, after Oct. 3. Please consider signing up and giving the gift of life.

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Friday - A). Crispy fish sandwich, wgr wheat bun/tartar sauce, hash browns, peas, diced peaches B). Turkey/minestrone

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Everett D. “Joe” Vivian June 27, 1946 - Jan. 5, 2024

AMBOY — Everett D. “Joe” Vivian, 77, of Amboy, passed away, in his home, surrounded by his family on Friday Jan 5, 2024.

He was born on June 27, 1946 in Mendota, the son of Henry and Mildred (Wasson) Vivian. Joe was a licensed Cattle Dealer and Dairy Farmer. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and served his country in the Vietnam War. He was a member of

the American Legion, former member of the Lions Club, American Hampshire Sheep Association, and the Illinois Holstein Association. Joe lived life to the fullest! He was one of the best story tellers and boy did he have some good stories to tell. After retiring from buying and selling cattle across the country, he enjoyed fishing, hunting and tending to his garden.

Joe married Theresa Liston on Oct. 4, 1969 in

Amboy.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Joe is survived by his wife Theresa; children, Scott (Josie) Vivian, of Amboy and Stephanie (Kelley) Richardson, of Harmon. He was a proud Papa to eight grandchildren, Samantha (Noah) Evans, Mackenzie (Jacob) Ricketts, Courtney (Cody) Stahl, Brandi (Tim Thompson) Richardson, Cody (Sami Hatten) Rich-

ardson, Presley (Zachary Freeman) Richardson, Ryon (Delaney) Richardson, Lauren (Lane Christians) Richardson; and 13 great-grandchildren with two more on the way. He is also survived by four siblings, Evelyn Eisenberg, of Amboy, Robert (Glenda) Vivian, of Amboy, Linda (Ray) Ramsdell, of Franklin Grove, and Patricia (Rick) Summers, of Lee Center; a brother in law, Jim (Karen)

Liston, of Indianapolis, Ind.; and several nieces and nephews.

A private graveside funeral service with military honors will be on Sunday Jan. 14, 2024 at Woodside Cemetery in Lee Center. A celebration of life will follow at the VFW in Dixon from 1 to 4 p.m. A memorial has been established to the Lee County 4-H Center.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral



Home in Amboy.
Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.

Powell continued from page A1

On Dec. 27, 1918, the 369th Infantry Regiment arrived in France, at first assigned to menial duties and manual labor. As the British and French desperately pleaded for replacement soldiers, and in part due to the reluctance of many white soldiers to fight alongside black troops, Pvt. Powell and his 369th were placed under the command of the 16th Division of the French Army. Over the course of that year, they demonstrated extraordinary courage and ferocity in combat, earning the nickname “Harlem Hellfighters” given by German officers who faced them in battle. Serving over 191 continuous days in combat (the longest of any American unit in the entire war), the 369th became one of the most highly decorated units in World War I, fighting at Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, the Marne, and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. On Nov. 20, the Harlem Hellfighters were the first to reach the Rhine River – nine days after the armistice.

On Sept. 28, 1918 at age 22, Pvt. William Powell became one of 1,500 casualties suffered by the 369th Regiment. Like his fellow Hellfighters, he is remembered and honored for his sacrifice in the cause of freedom and democracy for all people at home and

abroad. Private Powell is buried in grave 7, row 22, block B at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial in France.

NOTE: If you know of other Lee County Soldiers who died in service during World War I, or if you can locate a photo of Private Powell, we urge you to share that information to demps60@gmail.com so that all Gold Star soldiers may be honored and remembered for their sacrifice.

Sources:
National Archives
New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center. Saratoga Springs, New York.

New York State National Guard. “New Jersey Soldiers Serving in the NY National Guard, 1918.” New York State Military Museum, Albany, New York.

“Remembering the Harlem Hellfighters”. Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture, 2018.

American Battle Monuments Commission

“Soldiers of Dixon: A Centennial Tribute to the Men of Dixon Who Died During the First World War”. Dixon Public Library, 2018.

OSF Healthcare welcomes new specialist

OTTAWA – OSF HealthCare is pleased to add a new obstetric and gynecology provider to its staff to better serve the Streator and Ottawa communities and the surrounding areas.

The addition of Shai Nyi, MD, on December 10 ensures increased access for patients in need of obstetric and gynecology care at OSF Medical Group – Obstetrics and Gynecology, located at 111

Spring Street in Streator and OSF Medical Group – Obstetrics and Gynecology, located at 1614 East Norris Drive in Ottawa.

Dr. Nyi offers a comprehensive range of services, including obstetrical care, annual wellness exams, and the skilled treatment of various medical and surgical issues in women’s health. His expertise extends to overseeing deliveries at OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Med-

ical Center, ensuring the highest quality of care for expectant mothers.

He received a Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University and a medical degree from Washington Hospital Center.

New or existing patient appointments with Dr. Nyi can be made by calling 815-431-0435. For more information, please visit osfhealthcare.org/saint-elizabeth.

Tricia Kessel, RN, recognized with a DAISY Award

OTTAWA – As a partner in the international DAISY award program that recognizes the extraordinary clinical skill and compassionate care of nurses, OSF Home Health recently presented its DAISY award to Tricia Kessel, RN.

Kessel joined OSF HealthCare following the closure of Praireland Home Care, where she had served the local community with home care for five years. Residing in Oglesby, Kessel’s commitment to providing compassionate and high-quality care has now been acknowledged through the DAISY award.

Connie Banks, one

of the Ottawa managers at OSF Home Health, expressed gratitude for the daily contributions of compassionate RNs and emphasized that the DAISY award is a meaningful way to acknowledge the dedication of individuals like Tricia Kessel.

The nomination for Kessel highlighted her proactive approach to patient care. When faced with an unfamiliar medical situation, Kessel went above and beyond by seeking guidance from the hospital that performed the procedure, contacting OSF supervisors, and ensuring necessary supplies were ordered for the patient’s next visit. The nomina-

tion spoke to Kessel’s determination to provide the best care possible, even in challenging situations.

The DAISY award program can be found in over 2,000 healthcare facilities in all 50 states and 14 other countries. OSF HealthCare encourages patients, family members, and fellow staff to recognize caregivers who have provided exceptional care and service by nominating them for an award to honor their dedication. For more information about the DAISY and Sunflower awards or to submit a nomination, visit: <https://www.osfhealthcarefoundation.org/gratefulpatient/>.

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www.LeeCenter-UCC.org
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SOCIAL NEWS

Local nature and history

By Jim "Mazie" Long

Up in Smoke

The story of our early prairies



Jim "Mazie" Long

Long before the pioneers came to Lee County, almost this entire area was covered by timberlands. This wooded area had a ground cover of plants that were mainly confined to woodlands. In time, the climate became drier and prairie plants from the West began to invade the region. Prairie fires and a drier climate almost completely eliminated the woodlands and their flora.

By the early 1800s, much of Lee County was becoming prairie with a few scattered groves. The groves were relics of the vegetation that once covered the county.

Today, Knox Grove, Franklin Grove, the woods bordering Rock River,



Unlike the modern controlled grass fire shown in the photo above, out of control fire-setting turned most of our forests into prairies by the mid 1800s. Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.

and several other groves are all that remain of what once was a large forest. The vegetation of these groves is almost identical, even though separated by miles of prairie. They are all located near streams on land filled with gullies and seeping springs. The gullies and streams provided water in times of draught and prevented the prairie fires from destroying the woods.

If it hadn't been for nature's water-borne erosion of soil and rocks, forming streams and ponds, we would not have the beautiful groves today of Franklin and Knox and many others.

Did you know?

Researchers recently conducted the largest study ever of the history of prairie fires in our region. The research debunked the theory that

most prairie fires were started by lightning. By studying data dating back to the early 1700s, it was learned that most fires back then were started deliberately by Native Americans as a method of hunting bison, and to kill snakes and insects. Soon, European settlers began setting fires to clear the land for crops. Across much of the Midwest, the frequency of fires increased between 1830 and 1850, with witnesses describing some fires as massive devouring armies, burning homes, stables, grain storage, and livestock. The unmanaged fires often destroyed what settlers built, blocking out the sun for days. The forests that remain today are due to the presence of streams and ponds, railroad expansion, subsequently improved farming practices and controlled grassfire burns.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3GK-ZLnq>

Editor's Note: James Brady Long was born in Amboy on June 12, 1926. Known by many as "Mazie", he grew up in Amboy, served in the army during World War II, then studied forestry at the Michigan College of Mining and Technology. His studies in botany and forest protection continued as he ventured into farming here. A beloved story-teller, his farm became a place of learning and adventure for relatives and friends. In his later years, he contributed a series of local nature articles to The Amboy News. Upon his death in 2000, his many hand-written drafts were gathered and initially curated by Brenda Boyle. The present, renewed series draws from those drafts, both unpublished and previously published.

Kishwaukee College holds Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremony

Kishwaukee College held its Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 16, in the gymnasium, with 102 students attending to commemorate their achievements.

The ceremony recognized

graduates who earned Associate Degrees, Certificates of Completion, Short-Term Training credentials, and Illinois High School Diploma credentials. Overall, 257 students completed a program or certificate requirement for

the Fall 2023 semester.

Britney Calin, who graduated with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Hospitality and an Associate in Arts degree, served as the Student Speaker during the ceremony. Calin offered ad-

vice on how to handle life's obstacles without feeling overwhelmed.

"We're all here today to celebrate our success. Let's remember this day. I recommend to all of you that you take life one day at a time.

Enjoy the ups. Have patience with the downs. Because if you push through life too quickly, you will be missing out on some of the best memories," Calin said.

Along with Calin, students heard remarks from Dr.

Laurie Borowicz, President of Kishwaukee College; Bob Johnson, Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees Chair; Barbara Leach, Vice President of Instruction; and Kyra Rider, Associate Professor of Mathematics.

Kish recognizes 22 nursing students during Fall 2023 pinning ceremony

Kishwaukee College nursing students were honored during a pinning ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the College. Kish recognized 22 students for their successful completion of the Registered Nursing program and presented each graduate with a special pin before family and friends during the ceremony.

The registered nursing graduates of Fall 2023 are:

Kaylee Abbott, Sabrina Brake, Marili Cervantes-Valdes, Kimberly Dennis, Whitney Dulzo, Tiffany Frazier, Yessenia Games, Carmen Hettel, Baleigh Howlett, Cullin Hultgren, Nicole Klassen, Kendra Licht, Kya Logston, Beatrice Makinde, Ilse Molina, Jordan Myatt, Jonathan Nguyen, Kaitlynn Ost, Olivia Ramos, Guadalupe Rangel, Vanessa Salinas and Traisey Tolbert.

Abbott, Frazier, Klassen, Nguyen, Ramos and Salinas were recognized as members of the Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honors Society. Kaylee Abbott was named the Fall 2023 Outstanding Student. Abbott provided an address highlighting the close-knit atmosphere of her class and how they supported each other.

"We're not just wearing our hearts on our sleeves today. We're pinning them right over our chest because that's where our true strength lies," Abbott said. "We've

laughed together. We've cried together. And we've leaned on each other more times than we can count. We have formed a bond that is stronger than any suture, and it is time to celebrate that. Today signifies the incredible journey we've all been on together."

The ceremony included an address from Dr. Laurie Borowicz, President of Kishwaukee College, and Angela Delmont, Director of Nursing. Delmont shared the history and importance of the nursing pinning ceremony as both a college and career achievement.

"This pinning ceremony marks a significant milestone in your journey. It's not just a celebration of your academic accomplishments, but a testament to your passion to serve, your resilience in facing challenges, and your readiness to step into the noble profession of nursing," Delmont said.

During the ceremony, each graduate was individually pinned by a friend or family member who had supported the student or acted as a mentor while completing the program.

The Registered Nursing program at Kishwaukee College prepares students to become fully licensed registered nurses in Illinois. For more information on nursing at Kishwaukee College, visit kish.edu/nursing.

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Opinion

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

What in the Super Bowl?

This has been the weirdest NFL season to date.

There haven't been any standouts you can positively place a monetary pledge or a family/friend for pride wager toward with 100 percent ease.

There haven't been any horrible teams who you don't think will beat anyone, except the Carolina Panthers. Usually, there are two or three.

Quarterback injuries which usually stiffen a team's playoff hopes isn't the case this year as the Cleveland Browns, Houston Texans, the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles are all in even though they either lost their starting quarterback during the season or have had to play games without QB1 because of a lesser injury or incompetent play (all words pointed to Pittsburgh's Kenny Pickett).

Every single team, the ones I've mentioned excluding the Panthers, plus the Miami Dolphins, Kansas City Chiefs, Buffalo Bills, Green Bay Packers, Dallas Cowboys, Los Angeles Rams, Detroit Lions, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Baltimore Ravens, and the San Francisco 49ers have looked amazing and awful at times.

It has been the most bizarre year if you ask me, someone who has been watching football since 1992. And then someone asks me who is going to win Super Bowl LVIII (58) on February 11.

Hahahahahahahahahahaha. I almost spit out water when my cousin asked me through text.

I almost thought about flipping a coin, but I thought it would land standing up because, well, it just seems like it would try to be similar to the NFL season... weird.

Laughs aside, quarters remaining in the piggy bank, I went with the Dallas Cowboys.

The NFC No. 2-seeded Cowboys start with the Green Bay Packers and their mediocre defense, and at times great other times bad, quarterback Jordan Love. I think the playoff spotlight knocks out the worst NFC playoff team, No. 7 Green Bay. Sorry cheese heads.

Column

By Brandon LaChance



The No. 3 Lions and No. 6 Rams should be a good game, I see going either way. Dallas' defense is strong enough to stop the offenses of either squad while the defenses have just enough holes for Cowboy's QB Dak Prescott to hush the haters and finally win a big game.

Hopefully the No. 5 Eagles can quit playing around and play the football they were playing in the beginning of the season and not the second half and slide past No. 4 Tampa Bay.

After receiving the bye, No. 1 San Francisco should be able to move past the Eagles because does anyone have faith in them at this point to put two solid games together?

This means, the Cowboys and the 49ers in the NFC Championship, which feels nostalgic to the 1980s and 1990s when they were the most dominate teams in the conference.

If it truly gets to Dallas and San Fran, it is a 50/50 crap shoot of who would win. I would absolutely not put any jellybeans on the table to predict a winner. But if family is asking or I'm putting together a column and need a pick, one would think the Cowboys want revenge for the 42-10 massacre they suffered to the 49ers on Oct. 8.

The Cowboys have been flowing as of late, hot going into the playoffs with two losses since Nov. 12, and have pulled out close wins against tough teams such as the Lions (20-19) and Seahawks (41-35) and big wins including the Giants (49-17), Panthers (33-10), Commanders (45-10), Eagles (33-13), and the Commanders once again (38-10).

One would think blowout wins against the Giants and Commanders (who fired coach Ron Rivera this morning) don't matter, but the Commanders were only beat in their two contests against the Eagles by a combined 10 points and one game went to overtime, while the Eagles and Giants split.

Contrary to my argument, the 49ers beat both the Giants and Commanders handily.

See the vicious mind game the NFL has been playing all season?

I feel the AFC is easier to pick in terms of who will be in the Super Bowl as the conference's No. 1-seeded Baltimore Ravens seem to be head and toes ahead of the rest.

Just to make predictions, No. 5 Browns over No. 4 Texans, No. 6 Dolphins over No. 3 Chiefs, and No. 2 Bills over No. 7 Steelers in the First Round. In the Divisional Round, Ravens over the Browns and Bills over the Dolphins. Ravens best the Bills in the AFC Championship game.

Leaving us with the Super Bowl of which could be great QB will actually be great instead of leaving their team hanging in a big game, which both Prescott and Lamar Jackson have been known to do.

The battle of the defenses will be just as entertaining as linebackers Roquan Smith (Ravens, should be Bears) and Micah Parsons (Cowboys) will take no prisoners.

I'm siding with the Cowboys.

However, when it's the Buccaneers and the Browns in the Super Bowl to cap off the craziest NFL season of all-time, I won't have a prediction.



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 Years Ago Jan. 4, 1924

The weatherman who had been giving us gentle April days all through December, changed his tactics on Christmas morning and sent just enough snow to make it seem more like Christmas. Then the temperatures rose again and continued warm for a week with rain and muddy days.

The Colson Clothing Company, who has stores in Amboy and Mendota, ran a full page ad for their "Great Storewide Sale."

75 Years Ago Jan. 6, 1949

Bert Howe announced the sale of Howe's Pool Room to Joe Lynch. The new owner will assume possession after the close of business on Jan. 15.

Thieves broke into the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. O.H. Barlow on

New Year's Eve and took about \$4 in change.

Every day special at the Arch Café – hamburger, fries, and drink for 40 cents.

50 Years Ago Jan. 3, 1974

The Amboy Clippers boys basketball team captured their second consecutive Amboy Holiday Tournament championship.

Facts for a proposed park district were published.

25 Years Ago Jan. 7, 1999

The Amboy frosh-soph boys basketball team competed in the Somonauk Tournament last week and came home with fourth place in the 16-team tournament.

Thirteen communities throughout Illinois will play host to the University of Illinois Extension's 1999

Dairy Days Program. "Optimizing Opportunities" is the theme of the program that will be presented in January. Programs in North Central Illinois will be held at the Holiday Inn in Rock Falls on Jan. 19; Highland Community College, Freeport, Jan. 20; Community Center, Elizabeth, Jan. 21.

Effective Oct. 20, 1998, Secretary Glickman declared Lee County in Illinois as a natural disaster area. This is due to damages and losses caused by a severe storm consisting of heavy rains, wind, and wind shear gusts that occurred on August 24, 1998. Emergency loan applications will be received through June 21, 1999.

On sale at Beggs' Certified Foods is ½ gallon Prairie Farm Ice Cream at \$1.99, Coca-Cola and Allied Brands 2 Lt. bottles six-pack at 99 cents, gallon of Purex liquid laundry detergent at \$2.99, four-pack of Kleenex-Cottonelle double roll bath tissue at \$1.99, and 28 oz. Heinz ketchup for 99 cents.

Established in 1854

The Amboy News

Publisher/Commercial Printing
Tonja Greenfield
tgreenfield@amboynews.com

Legals/Circulation
Jennifer Griffith
jgriffith@mendotareporter.com

Editor
Brandon LaChance
blachance@mendotareporter.com

Reporter
George Howe
ghowe@amboynews.com

Account Executive
Jamie Stanford
jstanford@mendotareporter.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, 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342, 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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LOCAL NEWS



Amboy Fire Department members, left to right, Wes Shaw, Jason Ramos, Nate Shaw, Demi Becker, and Kevin Glenn were named Top Gun Call Response Award winners for being quick to respond. Honored but not present was Angel Dunn. BrandonLaChance/AmboyNews

Amboy Firefighters, EMTs awarded for service

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – In a night filled with great cuisine, cards, dice, and laughs, Amboy Fire District firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) were awarded for their service over the last year during the 2023 Amboy Fire Department Awards on Saturday, Dec. 31.

Firefighter Kevin Glenn was named the Fire Fighter of the Year and Lieutenant Angel Dunn was named the EMT of the Year. Deputy Chief Jason Ramos earned the Mr. Consistent Award and Captain Nate Shaw received the Pride and Ownership Award.

Chief Craig Haigh accepted the Making It Happen Award, Call of the Year went to fire fighter and paramedic Nick Dinges and Glenn, Above & Beyond had Lieutenant Demi Becker's name on it, and Rookie of the Year was candidate Kayla Oury.

The Life Saving Award, given to those

who performed CPR, worked with ALS, and saved patients' lives with quick actions, was given to EMT Director Wes Shaw, Nate Shaw, Becker, Tonia Warner, Shelly Bonnell, and Ramos.

Top Gun Training was received by Ramos, Dave Carrington, Fire Chief Jeff Bryant Sr., Tammy Bryant, Glenn, Nate Shaw, Becker, and Bill Hartman, while Top Gun Call Responses (first to respond to calls) went to Nate Shaw, Becker, Dunn, Glenn, Ramos, and Wes Shaw.

The Ken Bouvier Award was given to Wes Shaw and EMS Director Kim Stram.

Firefighters and EMTs with long tenures of service were recognized as retired fire chief and lifetime member Frank Stenzel celebrated 50 years, Bryant Sr. was honored for 35 years, lifetime members Les and Betty Shaw celebrated 25 years, Assistant Chief Duane Dickison, Dinges, Trustee President Ed Lilja, and Trustee Secretary Joel Hochstatter received an ovation for 15 years.

Amboy Civic Organization, Amboy High School link to host a blood drive

Blood is urgently needed in our area. The Red Cross has requested that we schedule 45 donors and at this point we only have 20. So please consider giving blood. Amboy A.C.O. members, in coordination with Amboy High School, are hosting a Red Cross Blood

drive on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at the Amboy Community Building from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Please call Judy Brinkmeier at 815-238-8927 or sign up directly at redcrossblood.org for an appointment. Please consider giving "the gift of life".

Harmon continued from page A1

"We're excited for the merger to happen. We would not be named Harmon and Amboy. We would be one department known as the Amboy Fire Department. The Harmon station would be called Amboy 2."

The process of Harmon being taken under Amboy's wing will start happening as soon as the agreement between the two parties is signed at the next Harmon meeting.

However, the merger isn't official until the citizens of Harmon vote yes or no for the merger in the November election.

Carrington, who grew up in the Harmon area, spent 40 years on the west coast, and moved back to Illinois in 2016, is strongly pushing for Harmon and Amboy to merge.

He knows a merger is going to have to happen if Harmon's facilities

age room or abandoned. "I've been in a rob Peter to pay Paul situation for several years. I don't care what my shirt says, as long as I can still provide protection to my community and the outlying community of the rural area," Carrington said. "I have a Harmon shirt on, and I have an Amboy shirt on underneath right now. I don't care what the name is, it's about the quality of care and the service we can provide. Struggling over the years, we've tried the fundraisers. If we do a pancake breakfast, we're out \$400 because we don't make money."

"With people in the township not paying fire dues (it was reported 40 percent of Harmon village and rural citizens are paying), it falls down to the Harmon population of 130 people trying to support the fire department. We can't force people to pay

the fire dues, but if they call 911, we're going to respond and come, whether they pay or not."

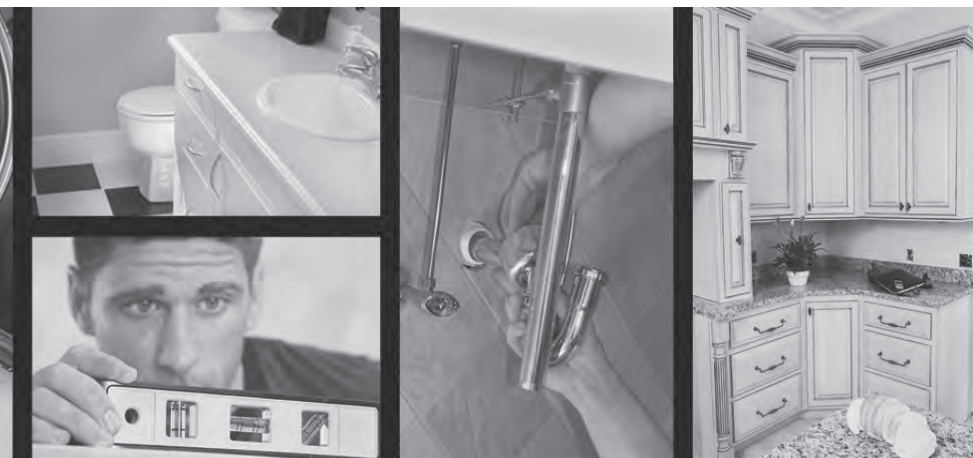
"When a gentleman came to the village meeting in July and said other departments could take over the Harmon Fire Department, it opened the village's eyes to the fact that it was going to happen at some point. We might as well have control over it."

"To me, Amboy is the best choice."

Carrington added, Harmon is already in Amboy's tax district for schools and the Pankhurst Memorial Library in Amboy, while there are already mutual aid agreements between the Harmon and Amboy fire departments.

Also, Harmon and Amboy are 12 minutes from each other, while other suitors for a potential merger are 15-20 minutes away.

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NOTICE
TAX DEED NO.:
2023TX00041
FILED: 12/12/2023
TAKE NOTICE
County of Lee
Date Premises Sold:
October 27, 2021
Certificate No.: 2021-
00002

Sold for General Taxes
of (Year): 2020
Sold for Special As-
essment of (Municipal-
ity) and Special Assess-
ment Number: N/A
Warrant No.: N/A
Installment No.: N/A
**THIS PROPERTY HAS
BEEN SOLD FOR DE-
LINQUENT TAXES**
Property Located at:
1192 Corregidor Road,
Amboy, IL 61310
Legal Description or
Property Index No.: 02-
15-06-101-001
This notice is to ad-
vise you that the above
property has been sold
for delinquent taxes
and that the period of
redemption from the
sale will expire on May
15, 2024.

The amount to redeem
is subject to increase
at 6 month intervals
from the date of sale
and may be further
increased if the pur-
chaser at the tax sale
or his or her assignee
pays any subsequent-
ly accruing taxes or
special assessments
to redeem the property
from subsequent for-
feitures or tax sales.
Check with the County
Clerk as to the exact
amount you owe before
redeeming.

This notice is also to
advise you that a peti-
tion has been filed for
a tax deed which will
transfer title and the
right to possession of
this property if redemp-
tion is not made on or
before May 15, 2024.
This matter is set for
hearing in the Circuit
Court of Lee County
in 309 S. Galena Ave.,
Room 410, Dixon, IL
61021, Room 410, on
June 6, 2024 at 9:00
AM.

You may be present at
this hearing, but your
right to redeem will al-
ready have expired at
that time.

**YOU ARE URGED TO
REDEEM IMMEDI-
ATELY TO PREVENT
LOSS OF PROPERTY**
Redemption can be
made at any time on or
before May 15, 2024 by
applying to the County
Clerk of Lee, Illinois at
the Office of the County
Clerk in Dixon, Illinois.
**FOR FURTHER IN-
FORMATION CON-
TACT THE COUNTY
CLERK**

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December 15, 2023
Bret Alan Maynard
Occupant
Rick Morris for Staff
House Area Well Book-
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City of Amboy c/o City
Clerk
City of Amboy c/o City
Attorney
Nancy Peterson, Coun-
ty Clerk of Lee County,
Illinois
Claimants, Judgment
Creditors, and Decree
Creditors, if any of the
above described as
"Unknown Owners"
"Unknown owners or
parties interested in
said land or lots"
No. 1205
(Dec. 27, 2023 and Jan.
3 and 10, 2024)

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby
given that on Decem-
ber 28, 2023 A.D. a
certificate was filed in
the Office of the Coun-
ty Clerk of Lee County,
Illinois, setting forth the
names and post-office
addresses of all of the
persons owning, con-

ducting and transacting
the business known as
Good News Club locat-
ed at 229 Knox Road
Mendota, IL. 61342.
Dated this 28th day of
December A.D. 2023.
Micah Brandt Applicant.
No. 0102
(Jan. 3, 10 and 17,
2024)

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LOCAL NEWS

January 8, 2024 Posting Date

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



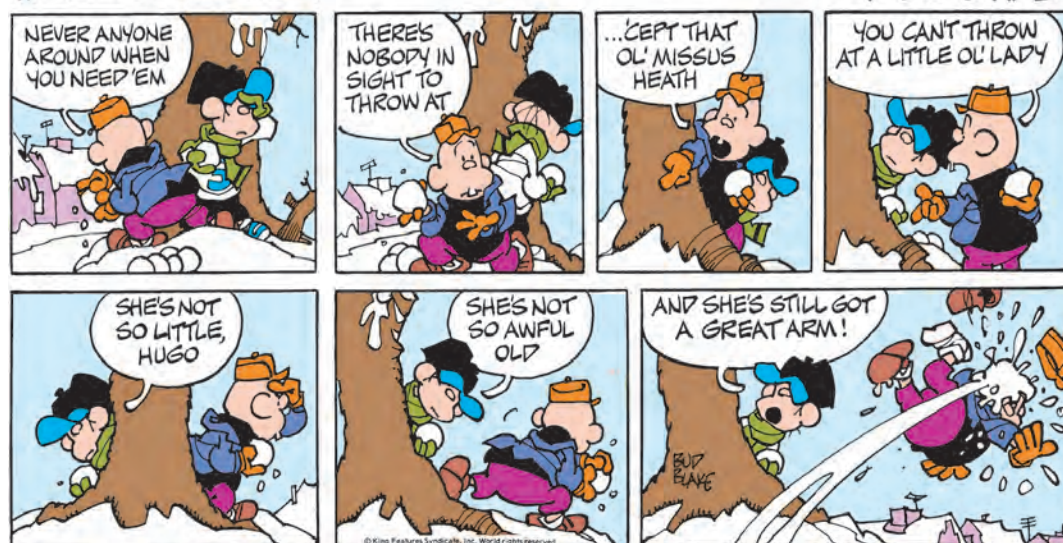
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

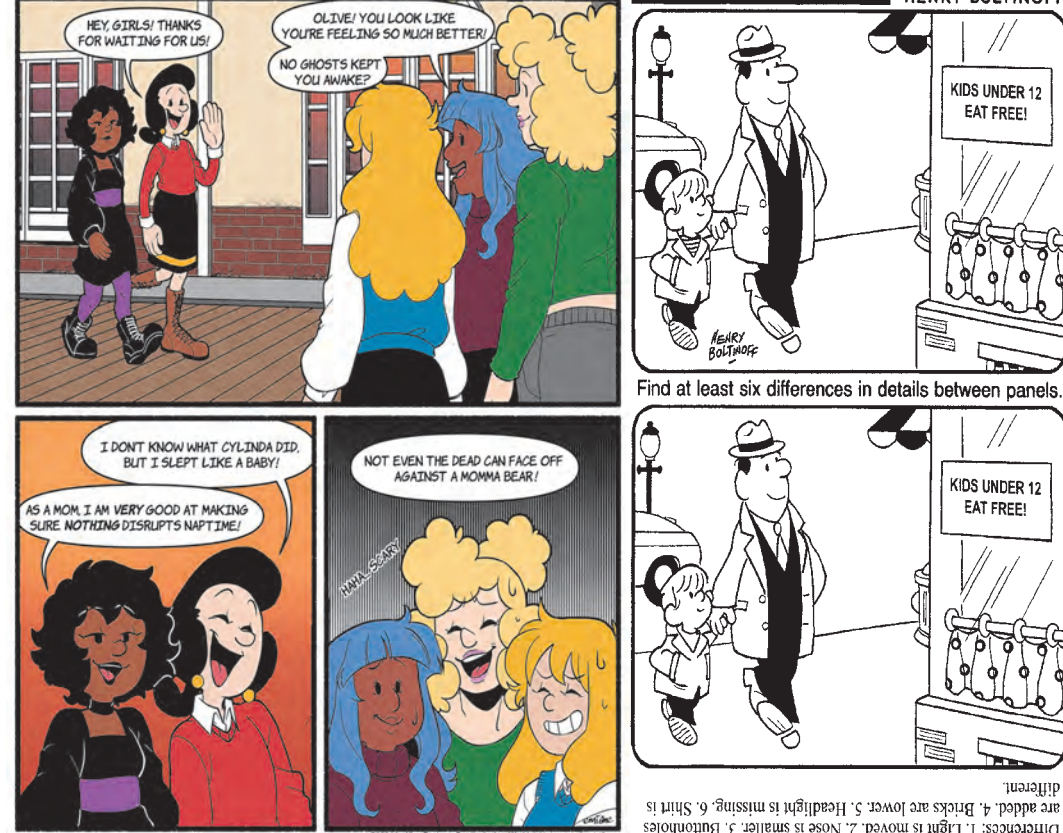
by BUD BLAKE



OLIVE

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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: V equals L

FA J SQFVV ZBQYBJWR KCGGJWSZ
ZCVSFBQZ RC QFZB RC REBFQ
ABBR, F'S KJVV REJR J
ZRJWSFWY CQSBQ.

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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!

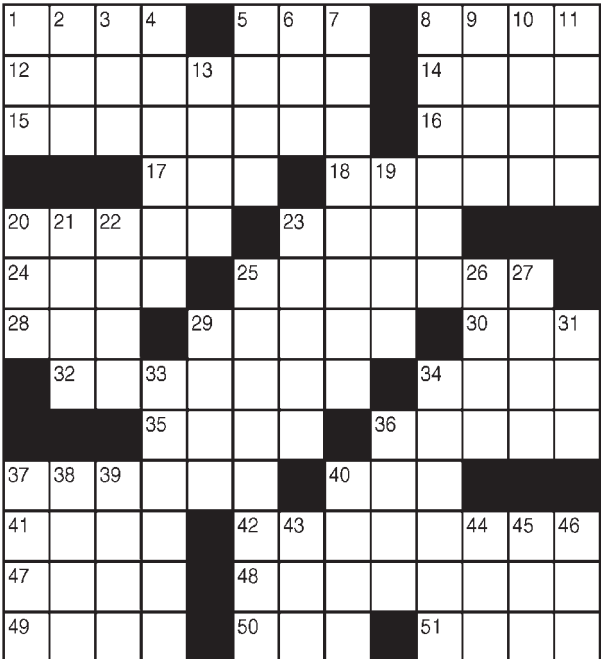
Mobile ICEVAT
Rotate GREATY
Trick ELUDED
Ban SCORE

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Muscat's land
- 5 Droid
- 8 — Romeo
- 12 Squid dish
- 14 Crowd noise
- 15 Earring shape, often
- 16 Rock's Moetley —
- 17 Little louse
- 18 Great —
- 20 Spiral
- 23 Cannon of film
- 24 Sofa brand
- 25 Cake mixes
- 28 Links org.
- 29 Los —, California
- 30 Satisfied sigh
- 32 "Say something!"
- 34 "Alfred" composer
- 35 Flower part
- 36 Run-down
- 37 Sudden bursts
- 40 Aachen article
- 41 Dog's bowlful
- 42 Fly at a low altitude
- 47 Grate
- 48 Points of view
- 49 Pro votes
- 50 Bit of butter



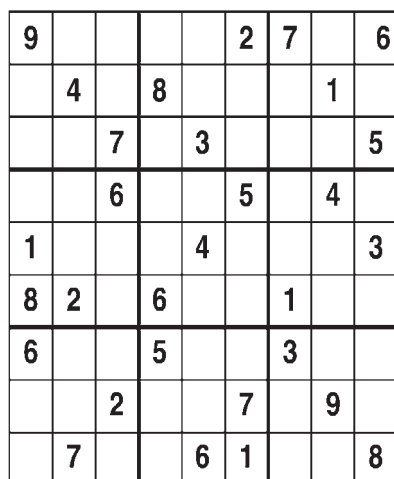
DOWN

- 1 Calendar
- 2 Actress West
- 3 Pie — mode
- 4 Land created by C.S. Lewis
- 5 Lisa's brother
- 6 Spanish gold
- 7 Apex
- 8 Esoteric
- 9 Chicago's Mayor
- 10 Mythic man-goat
- 11 War god
- 13 1509, to Cato
- 19 Back muscles, for short
- 20 Trendy
- 21 Heart charts
- 22 Bound
- 23 Fact
- 25 Pastry store
- 26 Scarce
- 27 Hourglass fill
- 29 Portal
- 31 "Psst!"
- 33 Prevents, legally
- 34 Virgil epic
- 36 Billboard
- 37 Poet Teasdale
- 38 Theater production
- 39 Church section
- 40 Work on proofs
- 43 Clean air org.
- 44 — polloi
- 45 Single
- 46 Calif. clock setting

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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WORD LADDERS

Can you go from PLOYS to SHIPS in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

PLOYS

SHIPS

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: The Darien Gap separates which two countries?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is Three Kings Day also known as?
3. MOVIES: What's the name of the supervillain character in the animated film "Despicable Me"?
4. LITERATURE: Who is the author of "The Kite Runner"?
5. TELEVISION: What is the name of the motorcycle-riding greaser in the sitcom "Happy Days"?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which musical instrument does former President Bill Clinton play?
7. GAMES: In the game Battleship, how many ships does each player have at the beginning?
8. MUSIC: Which famous rock singer was born with the name Farrokh Bulsara?
9. HISTORY: What was the name of the first U.S. Space Shuttle?
10. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Mammoth cave system, believed to be the longest in the world?

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- 10. Kentucky.
- 9. Columbia.
- 8. Freddie Mercury.
- 7. Five.
- 6. Saxophone.
- 5. Fonzie.
- 4. Khaled Hosseini.
- 3. Cru.
- 2. Epiphany.
- 1. Panama and Colombia.

Answers

Today's Word

3. Delude; 4. Censor

1. Active; 2. Gyrate;

solution

SCRAMBLERS

SHOTS, SHOPS, SHIPS

Answer

WORD LADDER

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

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Answer

Answer

Answer

Answer

LOCAL NEWS



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Amboy senior wrestler Lucas Blanton wrestles a Genoa-Kingston opponent during a triangular Tuesday, Jan. 2 in Sandwich. The Clippers beat G-K but fell to Sandwich. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Bontz

Varsity wrestling splits triangular; junior varsity takes fourth at home tournament

There was plenty of rest for the Amboy wrestling team as they hadn't taken the mats since December 20. Rust scratched off quick as the varsity team split a triangular Tuesday, Jan. 2 in Sandwich as the Clippers beat Genoa-Kingston but lost to Sandwich.

In a 39-30 victory over the Cogs, 106-pound freshman Ty Florschuetz earned a 4-0 decision over Caleb Lancaster, freshman Chase Huggins recorded a pinfall in 3:00 at 120 pounds, freshman Caiden Heath pinned Lucas Lancaster in 1:45 at 138 pounds, 144-pound freshman Jose Lopez secured a pin in 1:20, senior Lucas Blanton pinned 175-pound Xander Gleissner in 3:50, and 215-pound freshman Evan Flanagan earned a pin fall over Azariah Alrect in 3:00.

Forfeit-win points were earned by Amboy 126-pound sophomore Landon Blanton.

In a 48-17 loss to the Bulldogs, Amboy points came from Landon Blanton with a 19-3 technical fall at 126, Lucas Blanton with a fall in 2:35 over Kai Kern at 190, and Flanagan with a fall in 2:00 at 215.

The Clippers junior varsity team hosted an 18-team tournament on Saturday, Jan. 6.

Amboy finished fourth with six podium placers out of seven participants.

Florschuetz was the champion and 106, Lopez stood atop of the 144-pound podium, and Flanagan won the 215-pound bracket.

Heath finished second at 138, Huggins was fourth at 113, and Montavon took fourth at 126.

Tough start to 2024 for Amboy boys basketball

The Amboy boys basketball team ran into a week of tough games to start the new year as the Clippers fell to Eastland in Amboy, and Fulton and Indian Creek on the road.

Junior Eddie Jones scored a team-high 10 points against Eastland, but it wasn't enough to earn a victory as the Clippers fell, 53-16.

Sophomore Casen Tailor had three, junior Quinn Leffelman added two, and sophomore Ezra Parker tallied one free throw.

On Thursday, Jan. 4, Amboy fell to Fulton 53-28 after falling behind 18-6 after the first quarter, 25-16 at halftime, and 39-19 after three frames.

The Amboy scoring was led by Jones' 14 points, five from senior Troy Anderson, three from junior Kabe Daniels, and two apiece from Leffelman, Parker, and junior Brody Christoffersen.

Jones scored a team-high for the third straight game during the first week of 2024 with 17 points in a 58-41 loss to Indian Creek.

Helping Jones were Troy Anderson (eight points), Parker (seven), sophomore Rylan McNinch (five), Leffelman (two), and Christoffersen (two).

Jeff Probst carried Indian Creek with 30 points.

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SPORTS

Amboy ties run deep

Former Amboy athlete stays in touch with Clippers

BRANDON LaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – After Ashton Henkel had finished fifth grade, his family moved from Amboy to Byron.

This of course took the student-athlete away from his friends in the classroom and in sports.

However, Henkel and his Amboy friends didn't let the 33 miles between the towns rupture the bonds they had created. Instead, they made sure to stay in touch.

Now, in their senior year, all involved parties had plenty to talk, text, or Facebook message about as the Clippers won the Illinois 8-Man Football Association State Championship and the Tigers won the IHSA Class 3A State Championship.

"I grew up in Amboy. I lived there until sixth grade, and I still have a lot of family down there. It's cool. It's really unique for me to win a state title and my Amboy friends to win a state title in the same year," Henkel said. "Before the season started, some of the kids in Amboy and I were texting and they said, 'You should come back to Amboy, we're going to win

a state championship.' I told them that I thought we had a really good chance in Byron, too. To see it come full circle, both of us win titles, means a lot.

"I did not tell them to move to Byron. They have a great thing going on down there. I was really confident that they would win it based on what I saw their junior year. You could tell they had a chip on their shoulder after losing the championship last year."

Most of the bonds formed in sports while he was in Amboy happened on the baseball field or basketball court as he didn't start playing football until sixth grade, when he was in Byron.

However, both Henkel and the Amboy guys know he would have been on the field with them if he stayed in Amboy.

"I haven't stayed in touch with him as much as some of the other guys, but Ashton and I have had our fair share of texts. It's always nice to talk to him," Amboy senior Brennan Blaine said. "I was hoping Byron would win the state title. With Ashton on the team, I wanted Byron to win, for sure.

"Ashton has always



Back in the day, this was the Amboy crew joining every sport it could as, left to right, Brennan Blaine, Landon Whelchel, Ashton Henkel, Quinn Leffelman, and Trey Payne played baseball, basketball and other sports. However, after fifth grade, Henkel moved to Byron. Over the years, the crew stays in touch. Photo contributed by Cammie Henkel.

been a good athlete. I played different sports with him growing up. I played travel baseball with him, and his dad coached us. I was sad to see him move away because I knew he'd be a big help to us, but I'm happy we both won state titles this year."

Henkel had actually already had a state title with Byron as they won Class 3A in 2021.

However, Byron fell late in the 2022 postseason, while A-L-O fell in the 8-man final.

With both the Clippers and the Tigers experiencing agonizing loses, the squads commanded the 2023 season as Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio and Byron didn't lose a game on their way to state tro-

phies.

"Ashton and I are still really good friends. We talk at least once a week. It was weird when he first left, but you kind of just get used to it," Amboy senior Landon Montavon said. "We still talk to each other a lot, so it's still close to the same.

"It's a great feeling to get the championship win, but to see a friend get it done with another team is also a great feeling. It was meant to be. If we would have had him, who knows what we could have done, but it's good to see we both won titles and are successful."

During the Byron senior night game against Dixon, some of the Amboy guys had a chance to make it to Henkel's game

because the Clippers weren't playing.

Landon Whelchel, an Amboy senior, was one of them.

"It's a good feeling. Ashton and I were close friends until he moved. To see both of us have a lot of success in a sport we love, that's pretty crazy," Whelchel said. "Both of us winning a state title is really cool. I had a lot of confidence in him."

Besides Montavon, Whelchel, and Blaine, Henkel also stays in contact with Quinn Leffelman and Tucker Lindenmeyer, who graduated from Amboy last year.

The Henkel family moved to Byron because Ashton's father, Matt Henkel, was the Prairieview Golf Club superin-

tendent.

When his father passed away a little more than two years ago, he couldn't give up playing sports.

"When we lived in Amboy, he had to wake up at 4 a.m. and wouldn't get home until 5-6 p.m. Moving to Byron really helped him with work and the course," Henkel said. "He meant a lot to me in the process of me being an athlete. When he would come home from work, we would go to the fields and practice with me. He would give me tips. A lot of my success comes from that. Him believing in me, whether I had a bad game or not, he knew it was part of being an athlete and I had to keep my head high."

Henkel has one more baseball season left and he's trying to talk Byron High School into letting him run in a track and field relay team, also, this spring.

With his guardian angel and his friends from Amboy staying in touch, the moves on the field or track come easy.

"When the 5-8 guys came to my senior night game, it means a lot to know they still care and support me even though I'm not with that community anymore," Henkel said. "To know they still have love for me means a lot."

Win, win, win to start the new year for the Lady Clippers

After winning their Amboy Girls Basketball Holiday Tournament, the Lady Clippers didn't want the tally marks to stop adding up in the win column.

The Excel spreadsheet stayed in the win column to begin 2024 as Amboy beat Somonauk, Fulton, and Freeport on the road.

On Wednesday, Jan. 3, the Lady Clippers (16-4) beat Somonauk 28-18 behind a double-double of 18 points and 13 rebounds from senior Meave Larson.

Senior Elly Jones had five points, sophomore Kiera Karlson tallied three, and junior Emily Sachs added two, while junior Tyrah Vaessen recorded seven rebounds and five assists.

Jones and Vaessen upped their scoring production to 15 points apiece in a 55-24 win at Fulton on Friday, Jan. 5.

Seven more Lady Clippers scored against the Steamers as junior Addison Pertell had seven, Larson

five, Sachs four, freshman Alexa McKendry three, and juniors Kenley Wilson, Blanca Heidkoetter Mendez, and Gloria Parker added two points apiece.

Larson grabbed 11 rebounds, Jones dished five assists and snagged four steals, Vaessen hauled in six boards and Sachs had five rebounds.

At the Eastland Shootout on Saturday, Jan. 6, Pertell led the Lady Clippers with 15 points and five rebounds to lead Amboy to a 41-32

victory over Freeport.

In foul-heavy game (Freeport 15/Amboy nine), Jones and Larson added nine points apiece, and Sachs and

Karlson scored four points apiece.

Vaessen recorded seven assists, five rebounds, and four assists, while Larson

grabbed eight rebounds, Karlson had six rebounds and three steals, and Jones tallied five assists and five rebounds.

DNR to host public meetings on chronic wasting disease

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will host two public meetings in Lee and Bureau counties to provide information about the recent detection of chronic wasting disease, its effect on free-ranging deer populations, and IDNR's efforts to control the disease.

IDNR staff biologists will be available to discuss current management strat-

egies and answer questions about the disease, commonly referred to as CWD. Landowners, hunters and concerned citizens are encouraged to attend. CWD is an important issue that will continue to dominate future deer management discussions in northern Illinois.

The scheduled meetings are:

• Lee County: 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, Winifred

Knox Memorial Library, 112 Elm St., Franklin Grove

• Bureau County: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, Hennepin Canal State Trail office, 16006 875 East St., Sheffield

Meetings will include a 45- to 60-minute presentation followed by a discussion. ntly, CWD was detected in Lee County in 2021 and Bureau County during November 2023.

Amboy Community Unit School District #272

Monday, Jan. 15

No School

Tuesday, Jan. 16

AHS Boys Basketball (H) Milledgeville-6 pm

Wednesday, Jan. 17

AHS Boys Basketball @ Hinckley Big Rock-5:30 pm

AHS Art Club-3:30-4:30 pm

AHS Girls Basketball @ Polo-6 pm

AJHS 7th/8th Girls Basketball @ Ladd-5 pm

Thursday, Jan. 18

AHS Wrestling @ Polo w/Fulton-5:30 pm

AJHS 5th/6th Girls Basketball @ St. Mary's, Dixon-6th-5 pm/5th-6 pm

AJHS 7th/8th Girls Basketball (H) Dixon Catholic-8th-5 pm/7th-6 pm

School Board Meeting-AJHS Cafeteria-6:30 pm

Friday, Jan. 19

AHS Wrestling @ Orion Tournament-TBA

AHS Girls Basketball (H) Eastland-6 pm



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