

Red Cross: Emergency blood shortage may delay medical procedures

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. The Red Cross blood supply has fallen to critically low levels across the country, and blood and platelet donors are urged to make a donation appointment to help alleviate the shortage and help ensure lifesaving medical procedures are not put on hold.

Over the last 20 years, the number of people donating blood to the Red Cross has fallen by about 40%. When fewer people donate blood, even small disruptions to blood donations – such as the nearly 7,000-unit shortfall in blood donations the Red Cross experienced between Christmas and New Year’s Day alone – can have a huge impact on the availability of blood products and dramatic consequences for those in need of emergency blood transfusion. Blood products are currently going to hospitals faster than blood donations are coming in, and in recent weeks, the Red Cross has had to limit distributions of type O blood products – among

the most transfused blood types – to hospitals.

“One of the most distressing situations for a doctor is to have a hospital full of patients and an empty blood bank without any blood on the shelves. Doctors often can’t operate without blood available to make surgeries, medical procedures and treatments possible,” said Dr. Eric Gehrie, executive physician director for the Red Cross. “More challenges lie ahead as the potential for severe winter weather and seasonal illness may compound the dire blood supply situation. Donors of all types – especially those with type O blood and those giving platelets – are urged to give now.”

Don’t wait – to make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

The Red Cross and the National Football League (NFL) are partnering this January, during National Blood Donor Month, to urge individuals to give blood or platelets and help tackle the emergency blood shortage. Those

who come to give blood, platelets or plasma in January will automatically be entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Jan. 8-31:

DeKalb County Sycamore

1/20/2024: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 675 Fox Avenue

Lee County Amboy

1/23/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Amboy Community Building, 280 W. Wasson Road

Dixon

1/15/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Elk’s Lodge, 1279 Franklin Grove Rd

Paw Paw

1/9/2024: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Paw Paw Elementary School, 511 Chapman



Bybee has 82 stories to share

BRANDON LaCHANCE Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – Doug Bybee has been a lot of places, done a lot of things, and seen a lot of scenes.

Born at the Amboy Hospital on July 29, 1941, he has stories of small town living and action adventures a young kid may have outside of city lights.

Moving to Dixon at 15, he has teenage tales in a city bigger than Amboy, but not the biggest in the state.

He played basketball for Loyola University of Chicago before being kicked off of the team, which won the NCAA Championship in 1963, and the school for breaking every rule he could creating myths and legend in the Illinois epicenter.

Bybee had different jobs, but two have hung on for long hauls as he worked in information technology (IT) until he retired at 63 and, writing, to tell stories.

“I fell into the IT business and made my living in the field,” said Bybee, who has lived in Springfield for the last 51 years after becoming a resident because of an IT position. “I’ve been everything from the head of IT at a small university to a state agency to losing money in the private sector to everything else. I had articles published in some computer magazines. That’s how it really started. I had helped develop and provided input into a floppy disc into one of the first vanity presses. I actually have a couple of books published that I didn’t want published.”

See Bybee page A5

Food trucks rolling to Amboy regularly in 2024

BRANDON LaCHANCE Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – Kirstyn Carter wanted to do something different in Amboy.

She racked her brain for ideas and came up with Food Truck Thursday which took place September 7 in the Depot Museum parking lot.

It was a hit.

The community enjoyed the variety of vendors, and the vendors enjoyed the quantity of customers.

The success of the event had many people asking Carter when she was going to set up another. The answer is, once a month throughout April-September 2024.

“I think it’s awesome. I wanted something where the community could come

together. It blew my mind that the Food Truck Thursday in September was such a hit,” said Carter, who is a secretary at Amboy High School. “I’m glad people are looking forward to other food truck dates and I’m glad I can do something for the community to bring us all out regularly instead of once a year for Depot Days.

“This is something different everyone can look forward to.”

The food truck dates for 2024 are April 29, May 20, June 17, July 22, August 12, and September 23.

All are Mondays.

“I’m moving it to Mondays, so I don’t take away from businesses in Amboy,” Carter said. “I don’t want to step on toes, but I want to offer some different

options. I’ve been booking food trucks for 2024 since the fall of 2023 because they’re starting to cover their schedules. I wanted to make sure I got in there first.”

In mid-December, Carter had eight vendors booked for April 29 including HoneyBee Apiary, Home Grown in Illinois, Taco Guzman, Deebo’s Taco Truck, Philly Factory, Flo’s on Pulaski, JYD’s, and Southwest Taco.

Coqui Comfort will debut in June.

“I’m still looking for other vendors, including BBQ. I still have some other vendors in discussions, but we’re ranging from 5-8 vendors on each of our dates,” Carter said. I’m open to any vendors



who want to join. We’re still going to be at Amboy Depot Museum parking lot.

“In September, the vendors were asked for a donation to go toward the museum. This time around, the donations will go to a different organization within the Amboy

area each month. We will also have a donation jar at HoneyBee Apiary for extra donations.”

The vendor donations will be \$25 for each food truck event and the first organization receiving the donations will be Clipper Kiddies.

Amboy News unveils revamped website

AMBOY — As of Monday, Jan. 15, the Amboy News’ revamped website at www.amboynews.com has been unveiled.

Work on the site has been ongoing in recent months in an effort to bring the best online experience possible to readers in the Amboy and Sublette area and abroad.

The Amboy News’ editorial staff will now have access to a state-of-the-art content management system to bring a more informational and immersive experience to subscribers. Editors will be able to customize the site and

story features as they see fit to deliver local news in the most efficient ways possible to the site’s visitors.

As they have in the past, readers will be able to keep up with the top local news and sports stories on the site, as well as police reports, obituaries and opinion pieces.

The revamped site also includes more streamlined methods for those looking to view e-editions and subscribe to the Amboy News online. Feedback from subscribers and readers over the years was considered as the site’s

design was made. The site will also include an upgraded advertising experience for local advertisers looking to reach readers online.

Marking the special occasion of the upgraded site, access to stories online will be free to all users for two weeks, from Jan. 17-31. No paywall will be in use on the site during that time.

The Amboy News appreciates your continued readership and looks forward to providing local news to its subscribers in the best ways possible in the future.

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. Lonnie Alsman

Co. M, 329th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division

Never before had mankind fought a war with millions of soldiers travelling from every part of the globe to the battlegrounds of Europe. The Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire) fought against the Allied Powers (Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan, Canada, and the United

States) from 1914-1918. At the heart of this war was the question of whether nations would be ruled by kings or by laws established by free people. The citizens of Lee County, Illinois would help to answer that question during 1917-18.

Lonnie Alsman was born in Danville, Kentucky on May 20, 1892. Later in his youth he moved to Lee County residing near Lee Center. After the United States declared war on Germany in the spring of 1917, Lonnie registered

for the first scheduled military draft on June 5 at age 25. He continued working as a farm hand near Lee Center until he was called to the Army at Camp Gordon, Georgia in May of 1918.

Assigned to a replacement infantry regiment, he left New York Harbor on July 21 aboard the transport ship Anchises bound for the battlefields of France, later joining the 329th Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division. His regiment was bound for the Argonne Forest and saw fierce fighting against

mechanized warfare, including machine guns, heavy artillery, and poison gas attacks. To add to the misery of war, soldiers on both sides were victims of the worldwide flu pandemic that took millions of lives in 1918.

On Sept. 28, 1918, Private Alsman became ill and was transferred to an army hospital near Paris where he died of the flu on Oct. 2. Buried with honors at the Oisne-Aisne American Cemetery in France, Lonnie is remembered as a Lee County hero who

gave his life in “the war to end all wars”.

NOTE: If you know of other Lee County Soldiers who died in service during World War I, we urge you to share that information to demps60@gmail.com so that those soldiers may be honored and remembered.

Sources

“War History of Lee County Illinois, 1917-1919”, Dixon American Legion Post 12, 1919.

Soldiers of the Great War, Volume I.

U.S. Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1914.

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Obituaries

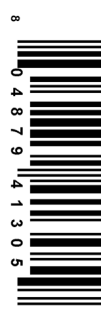
Robert Montavon
Everett Vivian

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Snyders



LOCAL NEWS

Amboy High School's December Student of the Month: Emma Dinges

AMBOY — Emma Dinges, daughter of Nick and Stacey Dinges, has been named the Amboy Student of the Month for January.

GPA: 3.9
Memberships and Involvement:
Amboy FFA- Greenhand Rep. '20-'21, Vice President '21-'23, President '23-'24
Section 2 FFA- Vice President '22-'23, President '23-'24

Amboy Student Council- Member '20-'21, Secretary '21-'22, Vice President '22-'23, President '23-'24

Amboy Choir-Member '20-'24
National Honor Society-Member '22-'23, President '23-'24

Amboy Golf Team- Varsity Golfer '20-'24
Amboy Class of 2024 Officer- President '20-'23, Treasurer '23-'24

Amboy High School Fall Play- Backstage Manager '21-'23

Amboy High School Spring Musical: Actress '21-'24

Member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church
Sublette Indians 4-H Club: Vice President '20-'22, President '22-'24

Amboy High School Band: '20-'22

Amboy High School Track: '20-'22
Leo's Club: Secretary '21-'22, and Member '20-'23
Scholastic Bowl: Member '20-'24, Captain '22-'24
Awards and Honors:
Member of Amboy FFA State Parliamentary Procedure Team: '21,'22,'23

Second Place at Section 2 Livestock Judging: 2023
Amboy FFA Star Greenhand: 2021
Illinois FFA Greenhand Degree: 2021

Illinois FFA Chapter Degree: 2022
Illinois FFA State Degree: 2023
Highest Honors: '21 and '22
High Honors: '23

National FFA Delegate for Illinois for the 96th Annual National FFA Convention
Amboy FFA Delegate at the 94th and 95th Illinois FFA State Convention

Academic All Conference: '21,'22,'23
Best Memories of AHS: The FFA Petting Zoo that we have every spring for National FFA Week.

Future Plans: Attend Iowa State University in the fall to pursue a degree in animal science in hopes of becoming a large animal veterinarian.

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.



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Garrett Pertell of Sublette named to Olivet Nazarene University's Dean's List

BOURBONNAIS — Garrett Pertell of Sublette, was named to the dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University during the recently completed fall 2023 semester. To qualify for inclusion on the dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts university offering more

than 140 areas of undergraduate and graduate study, including the Doctor of Education in ethical leadership. Olivet's 275-acre park-like main campus is in Bourbonnais, Illinois, 45 miles south of Chicago. Additionally, Olivet offers Graduate and Continuing Studies via online education. From Oxford to Tokyo, hundreds of Olivet students also experience the global classroom each year through study abroad opportunities, internships and worldwide mission trips.



Depot Days gives to Depot Museum

Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee Treasurer Ginger Daniels, left, presents a check for \$20,000 to Gary Mason of the Amboy Depot Museum. The Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee will be donating more than \$48,000 to local organizations this year. Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News

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Local students named to Clarke University's Dean's List

DUBUQUE, Iowa - Clarke University is proud to announce that 188 students earned a spot on the Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. The list recognizes full-time Clarke students who have earned a 3.65 grade-point average or above, on a 4.0 scale, with a minimum of 12 graded hours. Please join us in congratulating these students on their hard work!

Ashton
Brittney Mundell
Dixon
Marlie Beauchem



Teen Turf receives DD donation

Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee Treasurer Ginger Daniels, middle, presents a check for \$2,000 to Pam Thomas, right, and Brian Wedekind, left, from Teen Turf. The Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee will be donating more than \$48,000 to local organizations this year. Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News

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Southern New Hampshire University names Chelsey Ulrich to President's List

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Chelsey Ullrich, of Amboy, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Fall 2023 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit

institution with a 91-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF



Thank you to Bubba-Bug Popcorn
A huge shout-out to Natalie Pratt who has donated the last giving Tuesday campaign from Bubba-Bug Popcorn <https://bubbabugpopcorn.com/>. Please support their endeavor by purchasing some. Natalie and her brother, Ethan gave their first giving Tuesday to us and we are honored and blessed to be the last.

Photo submitted

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

Fifth 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 welcome.

Valentine's Auction

We will be having a Valentine's auction on Airauctioneer.com to raise funds for our free year-round programs. It starts Tuesday, Feb. 6 at noon and ends Thursday, Feb. 8, at 8 p.m. and will be on airauctioneer.com. Some of the items that will be auctioned off: Ice Hogs tickets, Valentine's basket, cream puffs, fudge, and chocolate chocolate chip cookies. Winning bidders will be able to pick up items on Feb. 9 or 10. We accept Venmo (@Teenturf-235), cash, and check.

Thank You's

We are always grateful to those that help us in our endeavor to help the community: Mr. Happy New Year for the food and snacks; Donna Unrath for the milk; Mike and Marsha Koppen for the paper goods; Sharon Kelly for the books; Donna Wellman for the prize money for the dance and cookies; Amboy Wrestling Club for the cases of chips; Sandy Draper for the toys, books, and ice pops; Frank and Karen Stenzel for the Christmas items; Lora Thomas for the monetary donation; Natalie Pratt and Bubba-Bug Popcorn for their giving Tuesday monetary donation; Les Cook and Larry Piper for plowing snow; Mark and Veronica Grossman for the various items and Mari for bringing them; Anonymous donation of food and Katey Dickinson for the food.

Needs

None currently.

Final Note

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on our lives. You have provided us with more than we could ever have imagined. You have surrounded us with people who always look out for us. You have given us family and friends who bless us every day with kind words and actions. They lift us up in ways that keep our eyes focused on you and make our spirits soar.

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 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.

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.

DIXON-Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation in cooperation with Northwest District Elks Lodges will sponsor a free children's podiatry assessment clinic on Tuesday, Jan. 23, at Yeager Podiatry located at 841 N. Galena Avenue Suite 300 Dixon with Dr. David Yeager

Local students named to Marquette University's fall 2023 Dean's List

MILWAUKEE - The following students have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Amboy

Jairon Hochstatter, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Sciences

Dixon

Ethan Sherman, Bachelor of Science, Human Resources

To make the Dean's List, students must have earned at least 12 credits for the fall 2023 semester and have no disqualifying grades. The GPA threshold varies by college - for the College of Education and the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences, undergraduate students must have at least a 3.7 to be named to the Dean's List.

The undergraduate

GPA requirement is 3.5 for the following colleges: the Diederich College of Communication, the College of Business Administration, the College of Health Sciences, the Opus College of Engineering and the College of Nursing. All other programs have a 3.75 GPA minimum.

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university that draws over 7,600 undergraduate and 3,700 graduate and professional students from nearly all states and more than 60 countries. In addition to its nationally recognized academic programs, Marquette is known for its service learning programs and internships as students are challenged to use what they learn to make a difference in the world. Find out more about Marquette at marquette.edu.

Iowa State honors fall graduates

AMES, Iowa—More than 1,700 graduates received degrees from Iowa State University this fall. Graduate and undergraduate ceremonies were held Dec. 15-16 at Hilton Coliseum.

Of the 1,705 students who graduated this semester, a total of 1,742 degrees were awarded (1,431 undergraduate, 311 graduate) with some students earning multiple degrees.

Following are graduates from your area:

Dixon

Madaline Jacobs, Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education, Summa Cum Laude

as the clinician in charge. The Clinic starts at 8 a.m. and is by appointment only. To make an appointment call the Illinois Elks Children's Care office at 1-800-272-0074 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. There are no charges for any services at this clinic.

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MARCH 19, 2024, GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

REGISTRATION
Nancy Petersen, Lee County Clerk, states that voter registration is open in the Election Department of her office. Notice is hereby given that February 20, 2024, is the last day registrations or transfers can be accepted. Please contact the Election Department at 815-288-3309 for the names of Deputy Registrars in your area.

Anyone who has never registered in Lee County, has moved within the county, or has had a change of name since the last election must be registered and have the correct name and address if they wish to vote in this election. First time registrants shall (by March 19, 2024, General Primary Election) have resided in their precinct for 30 days and must be 18 years of age on or before the November 5, 2024, General Election.

VOTE BY MAIL – AVAILABLE TO ANY PROPERLY REGISTERED VOTER – NO EXCUSE NECESSARY
Nancy Petersen's office complies with the federal voting accessibility laws. All properly registered voters are eligible to vote by mail. Voters wishing to vote by mail may contact her office to request an application. Upon receipt of a signed application, a ballot will be mailed to the voter. The last day a ballot can be mailed is March 14, 2024, five days before this election.

EARLY VOTING – Will be conducted in the Election Department, first floor of the Old Lee County Courthouse beginning on February 8, 2024. Voting hours are: Monday through Friday, 8:15 AM until 4:15 PM and 9 AM until noon on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

To comply with the federal voting accessibility law, election judges are allowed to deliver a ballot to any voter who is not able to get into the polling place. A request must be made to the Election Department prior to Election Day to make arrangements for two judges to deliver a ballot to a voter within 50 feet of the polling place. To reach the Election Department please call 815-288-3309 during normal business hours.

Once a ballot is cast, it cannot be rescinded. Excluding legal holidays, all above dates apply for the March 19, 2024, General Primary Election.

Nancy Petersen
Lee County Clerk & Recorder

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OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Richard C. Montavon Jan. 8, 1936 - Jan. 12, 2024

DIXON — Richard C. Montavon, 88, of Dixon, passed away on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024 at Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon, surrounded by his children.

He was born on Jan. 8, 1936, in West Brooklyn the son of George and Catherine (Boyle) Montavon. Richard married Joyce M. Nauman on Sept. 6, 1958 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Joyce, on June 2, 2020; daughter, Ann Kathryn Montavon; and one sister, Donna Rapp.

Richard is survived by his children, Kathleen Rosignal, of Dekalb, Julia (Tim) Langan, of Peoria, Richard "Dick" (Susan) Montavon, of Oregon, and Sara (John) Stimac, of East Alton; 11 grandchildren, Jessica (Mark) Szachowicz, Jacqueline (Victor) Bompreszi, Kate (Joseph) Vitucci, Mitchell (Amanda) Langan, Patrick (Dani) Langan, Natalie (Dino) Vitale, Lucas Langan, Bailey Montavon, Lauren Montavon, Megan (Rob) Stanfield, Jacob Spaniol;

and 10 great-grandchildren, Colette, Sloane, and Ivy Szachowicz, Sienna and Victor Jr Bompreszi, Oliver Vitucci, Richard "Beau" Langan, Logan Langan, and Jax and Stormi Stanfield. He is also survived by two brothers, James (Janet) Montavon, of Dixon, and Peter Montavon, of Sandwich, and one sister, Mary Jo Harms, of Somonauk.

Richard worked for Northern Illinois Gas in Aurora, owned and operated Rich's Place in Amboy from 1965 to 1972, was an agent for Country Companies for over 22 years, and in retirement he was a crop adjuster for Country Companies. He was a gifted singer who enjoyed singing at many weddings, funerals and any other occasion where he could share his beautiful voice. One of his favorite places was at the cabin on Dry Gulch, where he spent many weekends with his family and friends. His hobbies included golf, fishing and hunting to name a few. He was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church



in Dixon, the Knights of Columbus Council 690, the Fr. Boland Assembly of the 4th Degree, the Dixon Elks Club, and Moose Lodge.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at St. Anne Catholic Church in Dixon. Burial will follow at St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery in Amboy. Visitation will be on Tuesday Jan. 16, 2024 from 4 to 7 p.m., and again on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024 from 9 until 10 a.m., at the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon. Memorial donations can be directed to Kreider Service in Dixon and Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon.

Everett D. "Joe" Vivian Jan. 5, 2024 at 77

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

A private graveside funeral service with military honors will be on Sunday Jan. 21, 2024, at Woodside Cemetery in Lee Center. A rescheduled 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.

Online condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.

OSF Medical Group – Obstetrics & Gynecology clinic opened Jan. 9 in Peru

PERU — OSF HealthCare is thrilled to announce the opening of a new OSF Medical Group—Obstetrics & Gynecology office in the Illinois Valley. The clinic, located at 920 West St, Ste. 100 in Peru, was set to open on Tuesday, Jan. 9, offering women's services to the community.

The Peru clinic will be open Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except every other Wednesday, 8 a.m. to noon, providing convenient access to care for residents in the region. Individuals looking to schedule appointments at any of the OSF Medical Group - Obstetrics & Gynecology offices, including Mendota, Ottawa, Peru, or Streator, are encouraged to call 815-431-0435.

This expansion reflects OSF HealthCare's ongoing commitment to enhancing healthcare accessibility and meeting the community's needs. The obstetrics and gynecology clinic will provide comprehensive care for women's health, further strengthening OSF HealthCare's presence in the Illinois Valley region.

For further inquiries or to schedule an appointment, please contact OSF Medical Group – Obstetrics & Gynecology at 815-431-0435.

OSF HealthCare strives to provide high-quality, patient-centered care, and the addition of the new clinic in Peru marks another step forward in this mission.

Nicor Gas remains ready for snowstorm, extreme low temperatures

NAPERVILLE — As temperatures drop and snowfall is expected throughout much of its northern Illinois service territory, Nicor Gas' teams are prepared and ready to meet customers' needs around the clock.

The National Weather Service is predicting a winter storm that will produce widespread, significant weather impacts across the country. In Illinois, snow totals could exceed half a foot.

"When conditions worsen, our most important work begins," said Wendell Dallas, president and CEO of Nicor Gas. "In times of extreme weather and emergency situations, Nicor Gas employees head straight to the front lines, dispatched at any time of the day or night, to ensure the continued delivery of

clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy.

"No matter the weather, customers can be assured we will deliver the natural gas service they know and expect to heat their homes and keep businesses running," Dallas said.

Nicor Gas recommends customers take the following steps to help them stay warm, safe and save money.

In the event of inclement weather, it's important to check that outdoor vent openings and air intakes are not obstructed by snow and ice to ensure the safe, proper operation of natural gas appliances, such as a furnace or water heater, and to prevent the potentially hazardous buildup of carbon monoxide within your home or business.

Exercise caution removing snow or ice from your natural gas meter assembly. Use your hands or a broom, not a shovel, to brush away snow or ice from your meter and regulator. Never kick or hit your gas meter or its piping with a hammer or other hard object to break away built-up snow or ice.

Heavy snow and ice may weigh down power lines and tree limbs, causing them to fall. If a natural gas meter is damaged or underground gas line is exposed, immediately leave the area and call 911 or the 24-hour emergency response line 888.Nicor4U (642.6748) from a safe location.

Nicor Gas customers have the most efficient and cost-effective way to heat their homes. Natural gas is three times more affordable than heating with electricity, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Every family deserves reliable energy at a price they can afford. For many, wages have stayed the same while the cost of living continues to rise. Nicor Gas offers a variety of programs to help customers pay their natural gas utility bills. If eligible, households can take advantage of more than one bill payment assistance program offered. To learn more about how customers can benefit from available bill payment assistance programs, visit nicorgas.com/energyassistance.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

<p>St. Patrick Church Fr. John Gow 32 N Jones, Amboy 815-857-2315 • www.stpatrickamboy.org Masses: Monday - Thursday Daily Mass 8 am Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 7 am & 10:30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday, 4-6 pm with Confessions and Mass at 6 pm</p>	<p>First Congregational United Church of Christ of Lee Center Pastor Jack M. Briggs 1140 Inlet Road, Lee Center www.LeeCenter-UCC.org Phone 815-732-7032 Family Worship - 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>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 addictions program from 7-9 p.m.</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Rev. Randy Fronek Locust Street, Sublette Phone 815-849-5412 Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass - 10:30 a.m. Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. Thursday - 8:30 a.m.</p>
<p>St. Mary Church Fr. John Gow 912 Walton Rd., Walton 815-857-2670 Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm</p>	<p>Grace Fellowship Church Amboy-Sublette Pastor Kyle Kelly 500 W. Main Street, Sublette Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. www.graceisforyou.com</p>	<p>St. Mary's Church – West Brooklyn Rev. Randy Fronek Mass - Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday - 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Refuge Church Pastor John Kalebaugh Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52 Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930 10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows</p>
<p>St. Flannen Church Fr. John Gow 213 S Second St., Harmon 815-857-2670 Mass: Sunday, 8:30 am</p>	<p>East Grove Union Church 449 Reuter Road, Amboy, IL Phone 815-440-5321 ½ Mile East of Route 26 at Union Rd Sun., 9:00 am, Morning Worship Youth Church, Ages 3 – Grade 4 10:15 am Sunday School, Age 3 – Adult Come as you are and join us on the journey!</p>	<p>St. Patrick Church - Maytown Rev. Randy Fronek Mass – Friday - 8 a.m. Sunday - 8 a.m.</p>	<p>Harmon United Methodist Church Pastor Leanne Keate 202 N. Grove, Harmon Phone 359-7302 Worship - 8:30 a.m.</p>
<p>United First Church of Amboy Pastor Mark Glenn East Main & Jefferson 815-440-0745 Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m. Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 p.m.</p>		<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church Interim Minister Douglas Wood S.A.M. 960 U.S. Route 52 Phone 857-2225 960 U.S. Route 52 Phone: 815-857-2225 Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.</p>	

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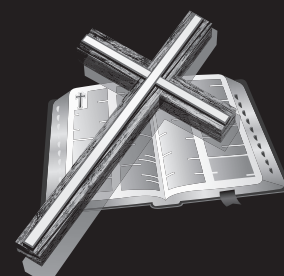
First National Bank
in Amboy
Member F.D.I.C.
815- 857-3625

Mihm-Jones Funeral
Home
815-857-2611

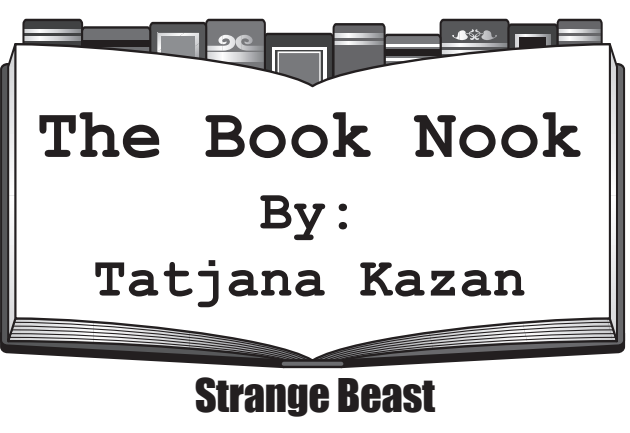
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815-857-2311



SOCIAL NEWS/LOCAL NEWS



The Book Nook

By:
Tatjana Kazan

Strange Beast

Jeremy Robinson's "Alter" is not for the faint of heart. It opens with a gleeful description of a pilot's innards exploding into the cabin of a mangled Cessna airplane, followed by the second pilot's entrails splashing all over the narrator's hands. The narrator, Dr. Gregory Zekser, manages to kick open the Cessna's door and tumbles to the ground of the Amazon rainforest. The good doctor hardly has the time to tell us that he was in this predicament because he wanted to provide medical support for the tribal peoples of the Amazon, when a jaguar appears at the crash site. Again with extravagant blood and gore details, the doctor tells us how he saved himself by tossing chunks of the two pilots to the big cat.

He has absolutely no clue how to survive in the jungle, but he does have the pilots' backpack containing a gun, bullets, a machete, lots of marijuana, and \$5,000. He knows that dehydration will do him in, so he decides to have a little fun. He rolls a joint even though he has never smoked marijuana before. He loves it, and happily welcomes an anaconda. But the giant snake doesn't appreciate the smoke he blows at its head and soon slithers away. Trekking aimlessly through the jungle, lonely and regretful for having neglected his wife and young daughter because he was too busy with his good works – he was director of a food pantry – when he hears a scream.

He rushes toward the scream and comes upon a girl fighting off a young man as an older man, the boy's father, looks on. The doctor intervenes and shoots the boy dead, making a powerful enemy of the father. The young woman returns the doctor's favor when she finds him close to death. She revives him and stays with him. Her name is Ashan, the sole survivor of her tribe, slaughtered by the boy's father. She is a hunter and she means to kill him. She teaches the doctor how to survive in the jungle, and they teach each other their language. As their friendship deepens, the jungle becomes a kind of Eden. But the killing of the boy was only the first of many killings.

As they stalk their prey and are themselves stalked by a monster, the doctor inevitably turns his back on his old life: "It's instinctual. Modern man might pretend that life has evolved beyond such things. But it's a ruse. I know that now. People haven't become civilized. They've become controlled by the illusion of morality, imposed by governments and religions. But out there in the jungle with Ashan, I've had the veil lifted." So begins his descent into madness, and love and mercy and primal violence. He becomes a strange beast.

Local bank sponsors Agricultural Buisness Conference

MENDOTA – First State Bank, Mendota, announces a special conference for area farmers. The 24th Annual First State Bank Ag Conference is scheduled for 10:00 am Thursday, January 25th at the Mendota Civic Center.

Starting the program will be Kelly Jackson Hardy, Principal, Clifton Larson Allen. Kelly serves client needs related to tax consulting, planning and compliance. She serves primarily the agribusiness industry and cooperatives. She comes from a farm background and understands the nuances of agriculture. Her talk will focus on the areas of ag taxation and farm succession planning.

Following Kelly will be Daniel Overberg. Daniel is Director – Customer Risk for Archer Daniels Midland Company. Overberg specializes in

risk management solutions for producer and end use customers. He has been with ADM for 17 years in various Trading and Risk Management Roles.

Our key note speaker, Mike Pearson, will take a deep dive into What is Driving Agriculture Now? Mike interviews over 1,000 professionals in the ag industry each year. These folds range from experts on the volatile commodity markets to Washington DC politicians, and trade experts from around the world. In this talk, Mike will synthesize what he has learned from these professionals and helps the audience understand what might be ahead in the markets, ag policy and in trade. Mike was born and raised in South Central Iowa where he grew to love agriculture on his family's hog and cattle

farm. He's previously hosted "Market to Market" on Public Television, the Ag News Daily podcast, and currently, viewers can find him behind the anchor desk on "This Week in Agribusiness" on RFD-TV and listeners can hear him every day as the host of Agriculture of America, a daily ag-focused radio show carried by affiliate stations across the country.

Area Farmers are encouraged to contact First State Bank at 815.539.3834 prior to Saturday, January 20th to confirm reservations for the event. ADM Grain Company, Mendota, and Prairie State Tractor, Mendota, will serve as major co-sponsors of this event and will provide lunch for all those in attendance. First State Insurance will be sponsoring the morning coffee and donuts. Clifton Larson Allen is sponsoring the soda. Door prizes are

being provided by several area businesses including: Amanda Andreoni-Hageman Realty, Beck Oil Co., Cantlin Law Firm, Chris Eller – the Retirement Specialists, Country Village Meats, Crop Productions Services, Dinges Fire Company, Earlville Farmers Coop, Guilfoyle & Stevenson Law Firm, Hornung Tiling, Inc, Foster's Tax & Accounting, LLC., Leffelman & Associates, Leone Grain & Supply, Maplehurst Farms, Mendota Mutual Insurance, Meriden Grain-Pioneer Seed, Northern Partners Cooperative, Prescott Bros Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, Schimmer Automotive Group, Sublette Farmers Elevator Co., Sublette Mechanical, Troy Grove Coop, Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet, Vaessen Implement & Repair, & West Brooklyn Farmers Coop.

Kishwaukee College Early Learning Center receives accreditation through 2027

MALTA — The Kishwaukee College Early Learning Center (ELC) has received continuing accreditation from the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC) through 2027. The Kish ELC provides high-quality early childhood care and education for children ages 1-5.

Serving more than 1,300 early learning programs in 35 states, NAC offers early childhood leaders the opportunity to demonstrate and document quality performance using research-based criteria and evidence-based practices. The Kish ELC last received accreditation in 2019 and has worked to complete an intensive program evaluation to maintain NAC accreditation standards. Following

its review, the NAC granted the Kish ELC continuing accreditation in November.

"The ELC staff works hard every day to make sure the quality measures outlined in the NAC standards are met, allowing us to provide high-quality care to children and their families. We work to create a welcoming, safe environment where we can foster the development of the children in our care," said Maria Lombardo, Director of the Early Learning Center.

The ELC has undergone various improvements since its last accreditation in 2019. In 2020, the College received a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to relocate the ELC. State Rep. Jeff Keicher (R-Sycamore) and former state

Rep. Tom Demmer (R-Dixon) were instrumental in helping the College secure funding to support the project. The center moved to a newly renovated space in the College's Campus Operations Building in 2021, allowing the ELC to increase enrollment, expand services and improve facilities.

Along with the NAC accreditation, the ELC has received the Gold Circle of Quality rating in the Excellence Illinois Quality Rating and Improvement System administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

The Kish ELC offers part-time and full-time enrollment options and is open to the public. To learn more about the ELC or enrolling a child in the program, visit kish.edu/elc.

Teen Turf Valentine's Online Auction

- All proceeds benefit Teen Turf's "FREE" afterschool and Summer Splash programs
- Starts at noon Tuesday, Feb. 6 and ends at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 on <https://airauctioneer.com/teen-turf-valentines-day-auction/public>
- The items pictured will be like those that are won. Some are gift certificates, and some will be ready in time for Valentine's Day. All items are made to order with love
- Here are some of the items that will be auctioned off: chocolate, chocolate

- chip cookies, cream puffs, Valentine's gift basket, gift certificate, and fudge
- Winning bidders will be able to pick up their winning items on February 9-10
- Rules and regulations will be listed on AirAuctioneer.com
- We will be able to accept Venmo (@Teenturf-235), cash, or check

Teen Turf doesn't receive any state or federal money. Teen Turf survives based on the generosity of the community

Bybee continued from page A1

When he retired, he didn't know what to do except take his writing to another level as he had approximately 100 columns published in the State Journal Register and the Illinois Times from 2005-2013.

When his 82nd birthday was approaching in July 2023, he had a mission to transform those newspaper stories into a book.

"I really enjoyed writing for the newspapers, but mainly because of the emails I received from the readers," Bybee said. "I had fun arguing with them back and forth. It's hard to put my writing in a genre. It's odd and sarcastic.

"I thought on my 82nd birthday, I would pull 82 stories that I enjoyed and put them in a book. It was an idea to put it on Amazon and Barnes & Noble and see what I want to do with it. Actually, without any advertisement and it's kind of hard to find, I've sold more than I thought I'd sell. There are 82 columns slash stories that were published in newspapers, I own them, and I put them together for this book.

"My plan was to publish it on my 82nd birthday but that didn't work out. I'm still 82 and had it published when I was 82. It's something for an old, retired guy to do. I think some of these stories are quite good and worth reading. Others, maybe I'm the only one who enjoys, but there are some stories people should read."

The book, "82", which Bybee says has no serious content, was published in September 2023 containing stories of 700-800 words each.

Although 11 of them are based on his time in Amboy, the town is never named.

However, for the time period, readers will recognize the scenes of the stories.

"I wouldn't call it a memoir. I call it 82 years of observing. Period. It fits in four topic areas. One is called, back in the day, which would be some Amboy stuff when I was a kid," said Bybee, whose father, Ray

"Razzmatazz" Bybee, ran The Store in Amboy in the 1940s and 1950s. "Another one is, politics and government, which is satire. Another one I call, park bench, because it's time floating between reality and fantasy sitting on a park bench. The other one is about being old and aging.

"There is always a certain good feeling about people reading your words and thoughts and enjoying them."

"82" can be found and purchased on Amazon after searching for 82 in the book search.



Senior Dining Menu

Jan. 22-26
8 oz. of low-fat milk served with each meal

Monday – Salisbury steak, mashed potato/gravy, lima beans, wgr dinner roll, Mandarin oranges
Tuesday – Sweet/sour chicken, fluffy rice, stir fry veggies, wgr dinner roll, apricots
Wednesday – Meatball sub on wgr roll, peas and carrots, seasoned potato wedges, diced peaches
Thursday – A). Turkey burger, wgr wheat bun, sweet potato fries, broccoli, apple crisp B). Tuna salad/chicken rice
Friday – Hot ham and cheese, wgr wheat bun, tator tots, baked beans, chilled applesauce

Meals served Mon.-Fri. at 11:30 am
Call 800-779-1189 to make reservations 24 hours in advance
Amboy Community Center
280 W. Wasson Road

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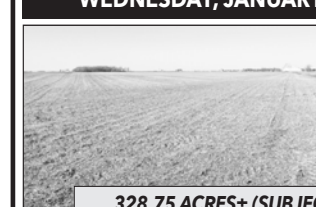
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Opinion

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

C'mon Chicago Bulls fans

This column was originally about the Orlando Magic retiring Shaquille O'Neal's No. 32 jersey he wore for them during his four year stay before leaving for the Los Angeles Lakers and the Miami Heat, which both have retired his jersey already, before bouncing around the league.

Then my idea shifted toward Pete Carroll leaving the sideline of the Seattle Seahawks, followed by Nick Saban retiring from the University of Alabama, capped off with Bill Belichick parting ways with the New England Patriots and its owner Robert Kraft.

Until, the moment I was embarrassed to be a Chicago Bulls fan happened.

On Friday, Jan. 12, the Chicago Bulls played the Golden State Warriors at home, the United Center in Chicago, and held a special ceremony for its inaugural class of the newly formed Ring of Honor.

In hindsight, a Ring of Honor or Hall of Fame for a team is awesome and sometimes more than not gives players from the franchise recognition they don't receive from the rest of the league or nationally.

I was all for it.

We, as in all Bulls fans, knew Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman, Bob Love, Artis Gilmore, and Phil Jackson were locks to be in the first class and receive yet another ovation for what they did for the franchise over the years.

Especially, Jordan, Pippen, Rodman, and Jackson for being key cogs in the dynasty years of 1990-1998, which brought in the only six championships the franchise has to this day.

Others were named to the Ring of Honor, including former Bulls General Manager Jerry Krause.

Krause passed away in 2017 at 77, so he was represented by his widow Thelma Krause.

The Bulls fans in attendance booed when Jerry was initially introduced into the Ring of Honor where Thel-

Column

By Brandon LaChance



ma's face was on the jumbotron shaking her hands in reaction. They showed her again, the fans booed, and she began crying.

What a shameful, dispicable way to treat people.

Whether you hate Krause or not for dissembling the dynasty Bulls, there was no reason for him to be booed almost 30 years later or for his widowed wife who was asked to be there by the team you're supposedly a fan.

And maybe at first, Krause deserved some criticism for the team being dissembled.

But, so could Michael Jordan for his attitude and behavior.

Scottie Pippen for his ego and greed.

Dennis Rodman for his crazy antics and

placing Hollywood events over basketball or the team who pays him and made him a star.

Phil Jackson for his ego and demands.

They were all to blame, not just Krause.

So, in 1998 when the team disintegrated, it was understandable for Krause to get booed, heckled, slammed in press, and talked harshly about by every Bulls' supporter. And to some level, the rest of the names associated also.

At the same time, Jackson isn't hired as the Bulls coach without Krause.

Jordan remains a great player on a mediocre team because Krause wouldn't have made the moves he did to build a team around the superstar.

Pippen stays with the Seattle SuperSonics, who originally drafted him before Krause traded his pick, Olden Polynice, to Seattle for Pippen.

Rodman stays a underperforming player on the San Antonio Spurs roster because Krause wouldn't have made the trade for him.

Krause didn't play a second of basketball for the Bulls, but he was the mastermind behind the mixing and matching, the piecing, the pressure, the stress, the financial

decisions which made the Bulls dynasty possible.

There are only three franchises who have more championships than the Bulls - the Boston Celtics, the Los Angeles Lakers, and the Golden State Warriors, who won most of theirs after Krause wasn't with the Bulls.

After almost 30 years later, Krause deserves respect for giving the Chicago Bulls and its fans the dynasty to be proud of and talk about in the first place.

I'll end this with my words on Facebook, which actually had someone unfriend me because my opinion differed than his. He said adios, I say peace.

From my Facebook: Of course, I know Krause ended the team. Everyone knows. I'm not defending everything the man did. However, at the end of day in 2024, there is negative surrounding every positive in sports. There is absolutely no reason our society, a fan base should be as petty as it was to loath someone who made the Bulls what they were in the first place.

If someone asked every player and coach currently in the NBA, would you sign a contract to win six NBA Championships in eight years, but the end result is the team being dismantled and everyone associated going their separate ways.

Everyone would sign. Absolutely everyone.

Illinois agriculture remains resilient amid year of challenges, uncertainty

Everyone can point to *that year* in their lives — the year when 23 inches of snow blanketed the state, the year an EF3 tornado ripped through a rural community, or the first holiday without mom or dad. There are some years that stick out more than most.

Last December, I called on everyone in Illinois agriculture to come together to make 2023 the “Year of the Farmer,” but for many Illinois farm families, this year was shaping up to be full of heartaches and hardships.

Tornadoes, hailstorms and derechos blasted much of the state in early spring and summer, exacerbating already challenging planting conditions and damaging

homes. Severe thunderstorms producing dozens of devastating tornadoes tore through fields of farmland and rural communities.

Families lost their homes, and many were left with extreme damage to their livelihoods. Others lost family members, neighbors and friends.

Then drought hit nearly every corner of the state as farm production, equipment and land costs reached record highs, squeezing our pocketbooks. At the same time, global conflicts put a new focus on food security and the need to pass a modernized farm bill that meets the needs of all Americans.

Yet, in the face of un-

certainty, our farm families remained resilient. Through thunderstorms, drought, inflation and global unrest, Illinois farmers dug in their heels and got to work producing three billion bushels of grain in the 2023 crop year. And, together, farmers across the country grew the largest corn crop on record, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Despite the challenges, Illinois farmers rose to the occasion. We started off the year strong with the Illinois Farm Families coalition launching the “We are the 96 percent” campaign during Super Bowl LVII to bring awareness to Illinois' nearly 70,000 family-owned farms.



Guest Column
Richard Guebert

This campaign showed consumers that our farms might look different than they did 100 years ago, but that's because they've evolved so that multiple generations of families can continue farming together.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 Years Ago Jan. 18, 1924

The J.P. Canavan dry goods store will inaugurate a big January clearance sale commencing Saturday.

The American dollar is the most popular money in Germany, Austria, Poland, and Russia. Its stability and purchasing power varies, but little.

75 Years Ago Jan. 20, 1949

The Announcement of Rev. Dennis J. Bennett, pastor of the Amboy and Lee Center Congregational Churches, leaving Amboy is being received with much regret, not only by members of the two congregations, but by his many friends throughout the whole community.

Richard I. Garland, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Garland of Amboy, enlisted in the Army and Air Force at Rockford.

50 Years Ago Jan. 17, 1974

The Amboy BiCentennial Commission met Jan. 7 to discuss the lease agreement offered by the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad for the Amboy Depot. The 20-year lease at \$50 per month was thoroughly discussed. It was decided at the meeting by the

25 Years Ago Jan. 14, 1999

Amboy PEO Chapter FD announces the awarding of a \$1,000 scholarship grant to Jan Mason of Paddock Lake, Wis. Mason, who graduated from Amboy High School, received her bachelor's degree from Illinois State University in 1978, and her master's degree

in curriculum and instruction from Concordia University in River Forest in 1996. She is currently teaching fifth grade at W.C. Petty Elementary School in Antioch. With the help of the scholarship grant, she will complete her Certificate of Advanced Studies and obtain an Administrative Type 75 Degree from Lewis University in the summer of 1999.

O'Connell's Yogi Bear Jellystone Park Camp-Resort in Amboy was honored recently by Leisure Systems, Inc. (LSI), the parent franchise company of the Yogi Bear Jellystone Park system. The O'Connell's continue in a long tradition of receiving national recognition and awards and were recently honored to be among the top five Camp-Resorts in the franchise system to receive the Pinnacle Club Award for outstanding excellence.

The Amboy High School varsity scholastic bowl team competed in the 6th Annual Sterling Invitational. Amboy beat Erie in the first round by a score of 110-25, but lost their next three rounds with Moline, La Salle-Peru, and Winnebago. Jessica Harrison scored five toss-ups, Kirk Spielman scored three and Chad Greskiwcz and Josh Hintz, both scored one. Amanda Albee and Sean Hickey also played for Amboy and aided in the bonus questions.

Established in 1854

The Amboy News

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SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letters may be dropped at the Amboy News office, 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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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.

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LOCAL NEWS

Amboy High School proudly announces Fall 2023 Honor Roll

AMBOY — Amboy High School announces its Fall 2023 Honor Roll.

Highest Honor Freshman

Madison Althaus, Callan Christoffersen, Aaron Costner, Lainey Davis, Morgan Kreiser, Liliann Leffelman, Jose Lopez, Gage Mumm, Henry Nichols, Chloe Vaupel

Sophomore

Grace Althaus, Kiera Karlson, Ellie McLaughlin

Junior

Corida Asencio, Brysen Full, Blanca Heidkoetter Mendez, Brianna Henkel, Quinton Leffelman, Adrian Mimini, Emersyn

Noble, Addison Pertell, Hunter Rasmussen, Grace Royer, Brooklyn Strub, Tyrah Vaessen, Kenley Wilson, Alainie Wittenauer

Senior

Brennan Blaine, Rilyn Karrow, Maeve Larson, Alexa Morris, Aaliyah Pointer, Austin Shugars, Landon Whelchel, Kimber Zitelman

High Honors Freshman

Jacob Dinges, Ty Florschuetz, Leighton Gulley, Madisyn Heath, Chase Huggins, Logan Ketchum, Anthony Linder, Alexa McKendry, Emily Steger

Sophomore

Anna Carlson, Myla Davis, Molly Hassler, Samantha Hummel, Rylan McNinch, Micah Miller, Samantha Nauman, Stephanie Nave, Peyton Payne, Bradley Schmidt, Brittlyn Whitman, Isabella Yanos

Junior

Vanessa Allevan, Jarrett Althaus, Carson Barlow, Saydee Benavidez, Joel Billhorn, Emma Chandler, Ava Cline, Atticus Goff, William Jones, Dillon Merriman, Alena Shaw, Caleb Shugars, Pannart "Lyn" Topiboon, Karagen Welch

Senior

Lucas Blanton, Carter Boehle, Elizabeth Clarida, Emma

Dinges, Zachary Dunne, Teagen Jergens, Elly Jones, Gabriel Jones, Emily McLain, Nicholas Ochoa, Trey Payne, Angeles Salgado, Eliseo Vazquez-Tapia, Skyler Ware

Honors Freshman

Jason Dickinson, James Eisenberg, Lane Goff, Liam Ketchum, Leia Maxfield, Gavin Nichols, Alyxandria Shepard, Jack Thomas, Tanner Welch, Aubrey Wells

Sophomore

Jack Cline, Kaitlyn Dempsey, Andrew Fisher, Barbara Grotti, Victor Lopez-Belmontes, Collin O'Malley, Em-

ilie Reed-Dempsey, Landon Roath, Aubrey Schaeffer, Birgen Tucker, Michael Walker, Alyvia Whelchel, Jadyn Whelchel, Cooper Whitney

Junior

Fabian Arteaga, Kabe Daniels, Tyler Huggins, Cierra Kessel, Joshua McKendry, Gloria Parker, Devyn Pasley, Natalie Pratt, Emily Sachs, Michael Shoemaker, Haleigh Stenzel, Caleb Yanos

Senior

Keaten Altizer, KayLynn Bopes, Luke Corcoran, Alexis Ketchum, Cole Larson, Landon Montavon, Madison O'Malley

Rezin named co-chair of National Conference of State Legislators' energy committee

SPRINGFIELD — In recognition of State Senator Sue Rezin's (R-Morris) dedication to advancing policies that address critical issues impacting energy needs, she has been appointed as one of the co-chairs of the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment Standing Committee.

"I am honored for the opportunity to serve as the co-chair of NCSL's Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment Standing Committee," said Sen. Rezin. "As our state and nation continue to navigate the complexities of the ever-evolving energy

world, I look forward to working collaboratively with fellow legislators throughout the nation to develop more impactful and informed policies that will help ensure a better energy future."

The Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment Standing Committee is responsible for protecting states' interests in federal decisions on everything from agriculture to wastewater including biotechnology, electric grid and transmission, fossil fuels, and nuclear and renewable energy. The committee provides legislators and legislative staff with an opportunity to share and learn from the experiences



of other states.

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves the nation's 7,383 state lawmakers and more than 30,000 legislative staff, providing research, technical assistance, and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on a variety of issues.

DAR seeks scholarship entries

ROCHELLE — Rochelle Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is seeking entries for scholarship contests. Entries can be submitted from regional public, private, parochial, or homeschooled students. No DAR affiliation is required.

A very important part of the DAR is promoting education. Each year, Illinois Daughters award college scholarships. These are limited to students who are U.S. citizens, graduating seniors from high school, and those who will attend colleges or universities in Illinois (two-year junior colleges and four-

year institutions). To qualify for the Illinois State Scholarships, a student's financial need and academic consideration are both factors.

Rochelle Chapter will sponsor one high school senior for a \$1000 general scholarship competition, as well as one high school senior for the General Henry Dearborn American History Scholarship at the state level. The General Henry Dearborn History Scholarship has no financial need component but is for a student interested in pursuing a career in some phase of history. Details about the Illinois scholarships and applica-

tion requirements, as well as scholarships available through the National Society, can be found at <https://ildar.org/assets/pages/education.html>.

The deadline to submit entries to Rochelle Chapter is January 31, 2024; and no entries postmarked after that date will be considered. All entries should be submitted in one mailing and incomplete entries will not be considered. Entries should be mailed to: Rochelle Chapter, NSDAR, Attn: Scholarships, PO Box 104, Rochelle, IL 61068. Questions can be emailed to laurieannperry@hotmail.com.

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

SUBLETTE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ANNUAL TAX LEVY ORDINANCE FOR YEAR 2023-2024 ORDINANCE 23-02

An ordinance for the levy of taxes for the 2023 tax year payable 2024, for the Sublette Fire Protection District of Lee County, Illinois.

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2023, the President and Board of Trustees of the Sublette Fire Protection District passed an Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the District for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2024, the amount of which is ascertained to be the aggregate sum of *Two Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy and 80/100 Dollars* (\$239,870.80) for corporate purposes and *Two Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars* (\$261,456.00) for Ambulance Fund, which Ordinance was published on September 20, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the President and Board of Trustees of the Sublette Fire Protection District of Lee County, Illinois, that:

Section 1 - General Corporate: There be and is hereby levied upon all taxable property within the corporate limits of the District subject to taxation for the tax year 2023 payable in 2024 the total sum of *Eighty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Seven and 19/100 Dollars* (\$84,687.19) for the following general corporate purposes mentioned in said appropriation ordinance in the respective sums as follows, to wit:

CORPORATE FUND		
Items of Appropriation and Levy	Amount Appropriated	Amount Levied
For 2023 -2024 Budget For 2023 payable 2024		
Firefighters (calls)	\$25,000.00	\$16,000.00
Firefighters (on call)	\$25,000.00	-0-
Officer fees	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00
Trustee fees	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Fire Officer fees	\$4,600.00	-0-
Utilities	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Gasoline/fuel	\$8,320.00	\$6,000.00
Purchase fire equipment vehicles	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00
Equipment tanker payments	\$23,045.00	\$1,000.00
Reserve-Pursuant to 70 ILCS 704/14	\$25,000.00	-0-
Accumulation of funds for the purposes of procuring firehouse land or sites, firefighting apparatus and equipment, and for procuring appropriate apparatus, equipment and training for emergencies involving hazardous substances		
Supplies	\$5,200.00	\$3,000.00
Telephone	\$2,080.00	\$1,800.00
Insurance	\$20,225.80	\$15,000.00
Professional fees	\$5,720.00	\$4,000.00
Building repairs and maintenance	\$10,400.00	\$2,000.00
Equipment repairs and maintenance	\$8,320.00	\$2,000.00
Audit and bookkeeping	\$12,000.00	\$6,800.00
Training expenses	\$8,320.00	\$4,500.00
Contingency (Misc. Fire Expense)	\$3,640.00	\$400.00
Fire Equipment/Gear (Grant funds)	\$25,920.00	\$2,387.19
Medical expenses/exams	\$2,080.00	-0-
CORPORATE TOTAL		\$84,687.19

Section 2 - Necessity: Each of said sums and the aggregate thereof are deemed necessary by the President and the Board of Trustees to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities for the District for corporate purposes for the 2023 tax year payable in 2024.

Section 3 - Ambulance Fund: There be and is hereby levied upon all taxable property within the corporate limits of the District subject to taxation for the tax year 2023 payable in 2024 that total sum of *Eighty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Six and 39/100 Dollars* (\$85,856.39) for the following ambulance purposes mentioned in said appropriation ordinance in the respective sums as follows, to wit:

AMBULANCE FUND		
Items of Appropriation and Levy	Amount Appropriated	Amount Levied
Allocation to Ambulance for building and overhead expense	\$72,000.00	\$17,000.00
Ambulance billing fees	\$6,240.00	\$6,000.00
Ambulance supplies	\$5,500.00	\$5,000.00
EMT calls	\$21,000.00	\$19,000.00
Ambulance maintenance & repair	\$10,400.00	\$10,400.00
Gasoline/fuel - ambulance	\$6,000.00	\$5,556.39
Contingency (Misc. ambulance expenses)	\$3,200.00	\$3,000.00
Training (ambulance)	\$10,600.00	\$10,000.00
New vehicle/building capital fund - Reserve	\$73,840.00	\$2,500.00
New equipment	\$42,000.00	\$5,000.00
Vehicle - first response vehicle	\$6,000.00	-0-
EMS Coordinator	\$400.00	\$400.00
Medical expenses/exams	\$4,276.00	\$2,000.00
AMBULANCE FUND TOTAL		\$85,856.39

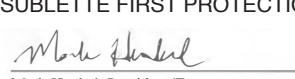
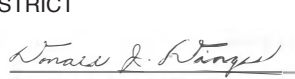
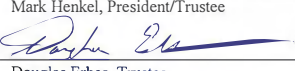
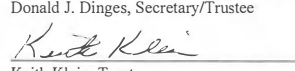
Section 4 - Necessity: Each of said sums and the aggregate thereof are deemed necessary by the President and the Board of Trustees to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities for the District for corporate purposes for the 2023 tax year payable in 2024.

Section 5 - Filing of Certified Copy: The Secretary of the District is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this Ordinance with the County Clerk of Lee County, Illinois, as required by law.

Section 6 - When Effective: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approved in accordance with law and shall be known as Ordinance 23-02.

Passed: December 12, 2023

SUBLETTE FIRST PROTECTION DISTRICT

 Mark Henkel, President/Trustee	 Donald J. Dinges, Secretary/Trustee
 Douglas Erbes, Trustee	 Keith Klein, Trustee

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF LEE)

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Sublette Fire Protection District, Lee County, Illinois, and as such, I am the keeper of the records of said District. I further certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Annual Tax Levy Ordinance of said District for the 2023 tax year payable 2024, and that said Ordinance was adopted by the Board of Trustees of said District on December 12, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my hand this 12th day of December, 2023.

Donald J. Dinges, Secretary
No. 0103
(January 17, 2024)



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101 LEGAL NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on December 28, 2023 A.D. a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Lee County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Good News Club located 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)

PUBLIC NOTICE

TREE TRIMMING ACTIVITIES IN UNINCORPORATED LEE COUNTY, IL AND NEARBY AREAS TO THE PATRONS OF AMEREN ILLINOIS: Please be advised that Ameren Illinois will trim trees and other vegetation in and around the town(s) of IN Unincorporated Lee County, Illinois. Our qualified utility arborists will trim trees and vegetation that could interfere with electric lines that run from pole to pole and elsewhere. This work is necessary in order to minimize the likelihood of outages and safety hazards. There is no charge to you for this service.

If you have any questions about this work, please call 1-800-755-5000 or visit our website at MySafeTrees.com. You may address your concerns in the manner specified on our website. You may also call the Consumer Services Division of the Illinois Commerce Commission at 1-800-524-0795. Maps have been provided to the mayors and the county board chairpersons of the affected areas.

Sincerely,
Ameren Illinois Forestry Department
No. 0104
(Jan. 17, 2024)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

NOTICE Advance Fee Loans or Credit Offers Companies that do business by phone can't ask you to pay for credit before you get it. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP. A public service message from your hometown newspaper and the Federal Trade Commission.

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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2022 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4WD, Z71, 37K Miles, Blue.....\$45,900	2019 Chevy Equinox FWD LT, 49K Miles, Silver.....\$19,900
2021 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4X4, Diesel, Z71, 74K Miles, Black.....\$59,900	

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2021 Chevy K-1500 Custom 4x4 4cyl Turbo, 90K Miles.....\$29,500	2018 Chevy K-1500 Crew LTZ 4x4 Z71, White Red Line Edition.....\$32,900
2021 Chevy Equinox FWDLT, Sunroof, Navigation, 78K Miles, Black.....\$18,900	2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LT, 115K Miles, Silver.....\$28,900
2020 Chevy K-3500 Crew, LTZ 4x4 Z71, Diesel, 79K Miles, Maroon.....\$52,900	2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab, LT, 4x4, 98K Miles, Maroon.....\$27,900
2020 Chevy 2500 Crew, LTZ Diesel 4x4, Z-71, 77K Miles, Silver.....\$51,900	2017 Chevy 1500 Double Cab, Custom, 4x4, 97K Miles, White.....\$24,900
2020 Chevy Equinox AWD LT, Leather, 103K Miles, Black.....\$19,900	2017 Chev Equinox, AWD LT, 76K Miles, White.....\$15,900

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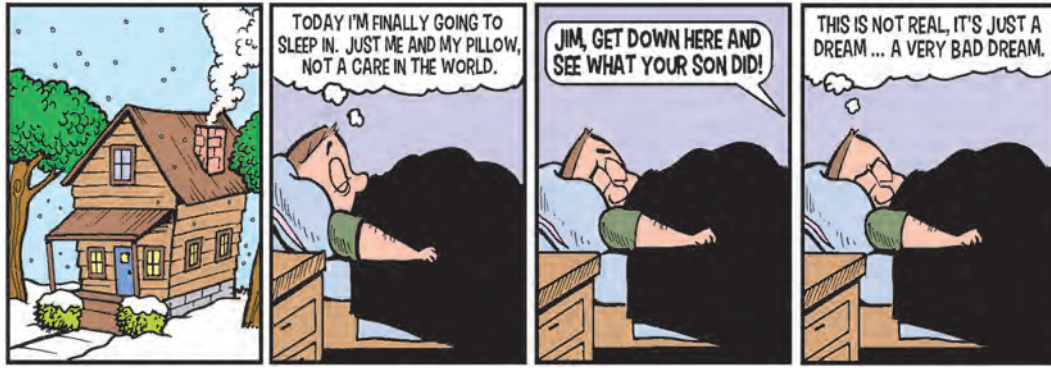


CHEVROLET

LOCAL NEWS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



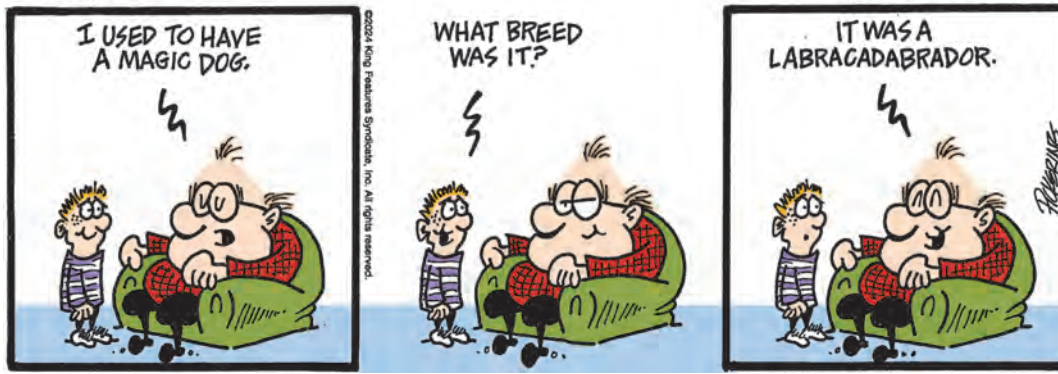
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



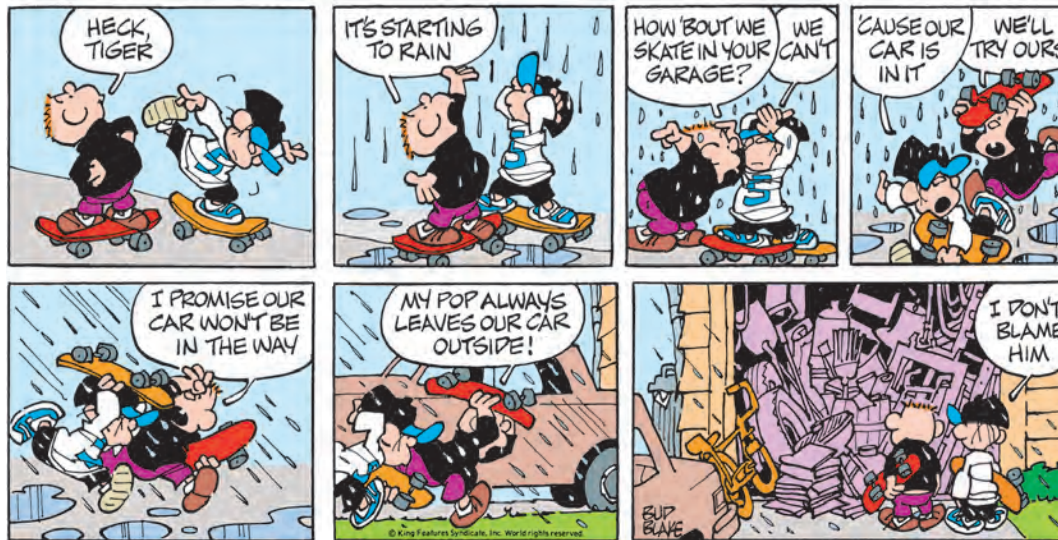
The Spats

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: D equals G

LO BZP PN UNPDOI IOUH NP ESZE
NUK INBJOE EN UYAE NAA ESO
DINCPK. YE'F PNE ESICFE-LNIESH.

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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!

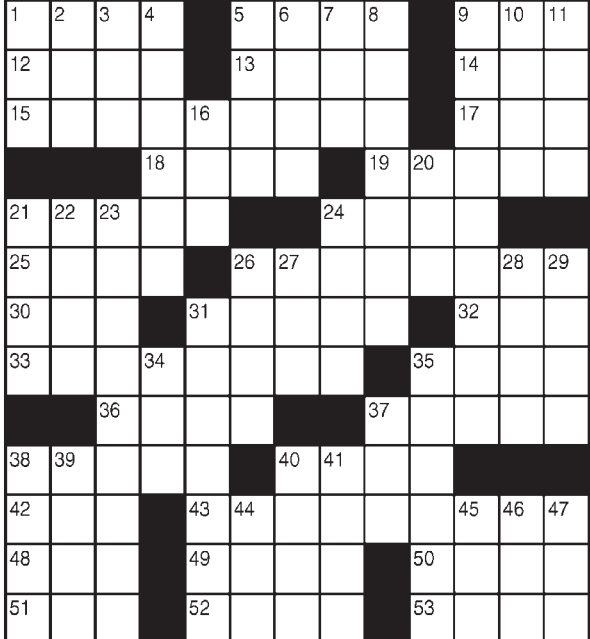
Rancor
CLAI ME
Delight
RI PE D
Cruise
ASC OT
Cease
PE AL S

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Essence
- 5 Sprint
- 9 Weed whacker
- 12 Part of a French play
- 13 Draft status
- 14 Jackson 5 hit song
- 15 Bribe of a sort
- 17 Kanga's kid
- 18 Hindu hero
- 19 Mature, as fruit
- 21 Laugh track sounds
- 24 Painter Joan
- 25 "East of Eden" son
- 26 College life
- 30 Kitten's cry
- 31 Nearby
- 32 USN bigwig
- 33 Wagered
- 35 Shade provider
- 36 Candied veggies
- 37 Plano's state
- 38 Recap
- 40 Wild hog
- 42 — pro nobis
- 43 Website assistance features
- 48 Motorist's org.
- 49 Biblical grain measure



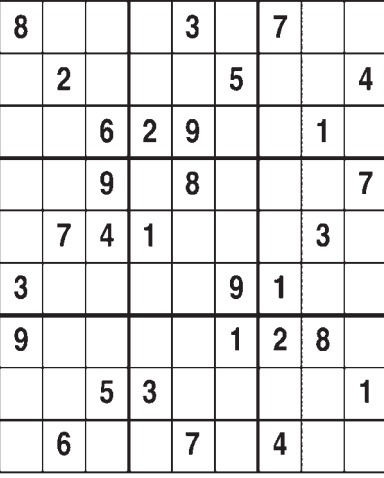
DOWN

- 1 "How frustrating!"
- 2 Hosp. section
- 3 Map lines (Abbr.)
- 4 Capital of Iran
- 5 Unhappy destiny
- 6 Editor Wintour
- 7 Observe
- 8 October outing
- 9 Brother of Groucho
- 10 Bassoon's kin
- 11 Nobel Prize subj.
- 16 More (Sp.)
- 20 Fury
- 21 Soccer star Mia
- 22 Region
- 23 Cowboy's greeting
- 24 Sail support
- 26 Priests' garments
- 27 Runner Sebastian
- 28 Notion
- 29 Iowa city
- 31 Moth repellent
- 34 Vichy water
- 35 Nobel-winning Mother
- 37 Highland hat
- 38 Drench
- 39 Russian river
- 40 Ran in the wash
- 41 Nashville venue
- 44 Outback bird
- 45 Refusals
- 46 Show to a seat, slangily
- 47 Utter

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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 ARMED to PILES in 6 words?
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

ARMED

PILES

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: What state is the setting for the 1990s movie "Twister"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Lake Okeechobee is in which U.S. state?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president adopted the expression, "Speak softly and carry a big stick"?
- MUSIC: Actor/singer Jared Leto also is the front man for which rock music band?
- HISTORY: The U.S. Civil War ended in 1865 when Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union forces in which Virginia town?
- SCIENCE: Which element has the symbol Pb?
- GAMES: What is the destination in the board game Candy Land?
- TELEVISION: Who was the long-running host of "American Bandstand"?
- U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Alaska?
- LITERATURE: Who is the author of the autobiographical work "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"?

- Oklahoma.
- Florida.
- Theodore Roosevelt.
- Thirty Seconds to Mars.
- Apollomatox.
- Lead.
- Candy Castle.
- Dick Clark.
- Juneau.
- Maya Angelou.

SCRAMBLERS

SECRET
Today's Word
3. Coast 4. Lapse
1. Malice 2. Pride;
solution

TIMES, TILES, PILES

ARMED, AIMED, TIMED,

Answer

WORD LADDER

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

COMMUNITY MATTERS

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SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

Local students named to Northern Illinois University’s Fall 2023 Dean’s List

DEKALB — Northern Illinois University announces its fall 2023 Dean’s List students. To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Students from your area who achieved this honor include:

Amboy
Tyler Stewart, Mechatronics Engineering, Amboy High School

Ashton
Ireland Bradfield, ELED-Early Childhood Educ, Ashton Franklin

Center High School
Emalie Vogeler, Art Studio-Design & Media Arts, Ashton Franklin Center High School

Jared Warner, Accountancy, Ashton Franklin Center High School

Dixon
Shelby Love, Art - B.S., Dixon High School
Brian Podkulski, Psychology - B.S., Faith Christian School
Arbri Riska, Accountancy, Dixon High School
Ellenor Zimmerman, Health-Sci-Pre-Physical Therapy, Dixon High School

Franklin Grove
Madison Runkle, Art and Design Education, Ashton Franklin Center High School

Northern Illinois University

is a student-centered, nationally recognized public research university, with expertise that benefits its region and spans the globe in a wide variety of fields, including the sciences, humanities, arts, business, engineering, education, health and law. Through its main campus in DeKalb, Illinois, and education centers for students and working professionals in Chicago, Hoffman Estates, Naperville, Oregon and Rockford, NIU offers more than 100 courses of study while serving a diverse and international student body of about 19,000. The 17 NIU Huskie athletic teams compete in the Mid-American Conference at the highest NCAA Division I level. For more information, visit www.niu.edu.

Amboy boys fall to Forreston, 54-32, on the basketball court

Junior Eddie Jones scored 12 points, but it wasn’t enough for the Amboy boys basketball team as it suffered a 54-32 defeat to Forreston on Wednesday, Jan. 10 on the road.

Classmate Quinn Leffelman scored eight and senior Troy Anderson tallied six while juniors Kabe Daniels and Joel Billhorn, and sophomore Ezra Parker added two points apiece.

Found something interesting?

Send news items to the Amboy News Editor
Brandon LaChance

Email news items to
blachance@mendotareporter.com

Better Business Bureau reveals Top 10 red hot local scams of 2023

ROCKFORD – The annual Scam Tracker report from the Better Business Bureau of Chicago and Northern Illinois has been completed. The results show that fraudsters keep coming up with various schemes and ways to entice all age groups to snare as victims.

With a stabilizing economy, low unemployment, and holiday spending remaining vigorous, menacing Online Shopping scams remain dominant at the #1 position for the fourth year in a row. The pandemic has forever changed the fact that shopping on websites and apps is the most common purchase method. Scams remain at an all-time high since the pandemic. Scammers continue to add twists and technology, even setting traps with AI and conducting fake virtual or phone interviews, especially in employment scams.

Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional Office of the Better Business Bureau, says, “Scammers are notorious for taking advantage of current events and news and innovating new twists to fool people. With phony online sales, they can offer hard-to-get items below market price. One thing always remains the same – playing people’s emotions and rushing them to make a quick buying decision are fraudsters’ favorite tools.”

Horton adds, “The only way to stop scammers is not to give them your business, and that requires vigilance.”

Phishing scams continue to be the #2 scam reported locally for the third year. Phishing scams not only flood consumers’ e-mail inboxes and text messages but are also a dangerous weapon cyber criminals use to infiltrate businesses.

Rounding out the Top 10 for 2023 in order are Identity Theft, Phony Tech Support, and Debt Collections. Here is a recap of the BBB list.

Top 10 Local Scams of 2023:

1. Online Purchase – (#1 for the fourth year in a row – most often fake websites – often Pets)
2. Phishing Scams – (Clicking on scam links can lead to malware – imposter scams)
3. Employment – (Scam job offers – often “work from home”)
4. Counterfeit Products (Clothing, electronics, shoes, purses, etc.)
5. Home Improvement Scams
6. Healthcare/Medicare/Medicaid
7. Advance Fee Loans (Loans that can be outright scams or, as consumers allege, very misleading)
8. Identity Theft (It’s not a matter of if, it’s a matter of when. It’s Important that you take all safeguards like difficult passwords and keep your computer and apps up to date. While safeguards will keep you safer, it’s still possible to have your ID stolen.)
9. Tech Support
10. Debt Collections

For More Information

If you’ve spotted a scam (whether or not you’ve lost money), report it to BBB ScamTracker. Visit BBB.org or follow us @ChicagoBBB on social media. Look for the BBB seal, The Sign of a Better Business.

St. Norbert College’s Dean’s List features area students

DE PERE, Wis. – The following student(s) have been named to the 2023 fall semester dean’s list at St. Norbert College. A minimum 3.5 grade-point average is required for academic eligibility.

Dixon
Thomas Powers
St. Norbert College - celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2023 - is known for its academic excellence, focus on international awareness, and leadership and service opportunities. The academic excellence and character-building qualities of the college are nationally recognized by U.S. News & World Report, Forbes, Princeton Review and others.

The college is in the midst of the Support What Matters campaign, a \$125 million fundraising initiative timed to align with the college’s 125th

anniversary that focuses on preserving, enhancing and amplifying the things that

make a St. Norbert education unique. Find more information at www.snc.edu.



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Amboy Community Unit School District #272

Monday, Jan. 22
AHS Boys Basketball (H)
Oregon-5:30 pm
EARLY DISMISSAL-SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DAY-AHS/
AJHS-11:20/Central-11:25

Tuesday, Jan. 23
AHS Girls Basketball (H) AFC-6 pm
AJHS 5th/6th Girls Basketball @ Rock Falls-6th-4 pm/5th-5 pm
AJHS 7th/8th Girls Basketball @ East Coloma-8th-5 pm/7th-6 pm

Wednesday, Jan. 24
AHS Art Club-3:30-4:30 pm
AHS Boys Basketball @ Polo-6 pm
AHS Wrestling @ Dakota w/Du Pec-5:30 pm

Thursday, Jan. 25
AHS Wrestling (H)
Winnebago-5:30 pm

Friday, Jan. 26
AHS Boys Basketball @ Eastland-5:30pm

Saturday, Jan. 27
AHS Fresh/Soph Wrestling @ Oregon Tournament-TBA
AHS Girls Basketball (H)
Mendota-1 pm



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1 pint



\$2.99/ea.

Michigan Apples

3 lb bag



\$2.49/ea.

Dole Chopped Salad Kit



\$3.49/ea.

Russet Potatoes

5 lb bag



\$2.99/ea.

Avocados



\$0.99/ea.

Baby Bella Mushrooms

8 oz Sliced or Whole



\$2.29/ea.

Bolthouse Farms Carrots

2 lb bag



\$1.99/ea.

Organic Rainbow Petite Carrots

12 oz bag



\$1.99/ea.

Limes



\$0.79/ea.

The Little Potatoes

16 oz



\$2.99/ea.

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Ale-Haus Pizza

26 to 31.8 oz



\$7.99/ea

Reg. Price \$8.69/ea.

Pepsi Products

6 pk

16.9 oz



\$4.99/ea.

Reg. Price \$5.99/ea.

Doritos

6 to 10.75 oz



\$3.99/ea.

Reg. Price \$5.99/ea.

Food Club Bacon

16 oz



\$4.49/ea.

Reg. Price \$4.99/ea.

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Food Club Hard Boiled Eggs

6 ct



\$2.49 ea.

Reg. Price \$2.99/ea.

Pillsbury Pie Crust

14.1 oz



\$3.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$4.99/ea.

Pillsbury Cookie Dough

9.1 or 16.5 oz



\$3.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$4.39/ea.

Food Club Vegetables

10 to 12 oz



\$1.29 ea.

Reg. Price \$1.69/ea.

On-Cor Entrees

24 to 28 oz



\$3.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$4.99 ea.

Kellogg's Eggos

8.4 to 14.8 oz



\$2.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$3.69 ea.

Food Club Chicken

25 to 29 oz Assorted



\$6.49 ea.

Reg. Price \$7.19 ea.

Food Club Tomatoes

14.5 to 15 oz



\$0.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$1.29 ea.

Wide Awake Coffee

11 or 12 oz ground



\$4.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$6.29 ea.

Food Club Apple Sauce

6 pk



\$1.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$2.29 ea.

Prego Pasta Sauce

23.5 to 24 oz



\$2.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$3.69 ea.

Manwich Sauce

15 to 16 oz



\$1.49 ea.

Reg. Price \$1.99/ea.

Pop-Tarts

13.5 oz



\$2.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$3.89/ea.

Bush's Beans

8.3 to 16 oz



\$1.49 ea.

Reg. Price \$2.09 ea.