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The Depot Museum

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‘Thank You Coach Payne’

BRANDONLaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – Throughout the 2023 football season we spoke with Amboy-Ohio-LaMoille football coach Scott Payne after or before every game.

During every chat, the fourth-year coach gave props to his players and coaching staff for a job well done.

Now it’s time to pay it forward and hear what players and assistant coaches of the 2023 Illinois 8-Man Football Association state champion Clippers have to say about their head coach, Scott Payne.

Landon Whelchel
Senior, RB, LB

“With Coach Payne, he was our first high school coach, and we were his first freshman class. His first year

was the COVID-19 year, so it doesn’t really count. The second year we made it to the semifinals. The third year we lost at state. It gave us a sour taste.

“He has the right in between of being a friend and a coach. When it’s time to coach, he gets serious and is good about keeping our head straight. He explained to us earlier in the year, if he’s yelling at us, it means he cares. You learn to brush it off and realize he’s trying to help us.”

Landon Montavon
Senior, OL/DL

“Coach Payne is a great coach. He’s very deserving of Coach of the Year. He’s always been there to push us to do our best. He’s a great guy to mentor us. He makes sure we do it right.

That’s what helped us get as far as we did the last couple of years.

“He watches ton of film to make sure we got our game plan set. He makes sure we know what the other team is going to do in certain formations. It makes us play better when we see how bad he wants to win the game.

“It makes us want to win even more.”

Tyson Powers
Assistant coach

“What Coach Payne does well is he builds relationships. Our program focuses on building relationships because it’s about building the person. He does a really good job of being on that line of there is a time to work and there is a time to take a step back and have some fun. You



Coach Scott Payne, center, led the Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio football team to a 13-0 record and an Illinois 8-Man Football Association State Championship in his fourth year as the Clippers’ head coach. Photo courtesy of Brenda Merriman

run into some coaches that are grind, grind, grind. Coach Payne can draw the line and I think it keeps it fresh.

“He can get on Brennan

Blaine, or any other player, for making a mistake one minute and 30 seconds later he’s cracking a joke and they’re having a good

time. Having a relationship with the players and the coaches was a big key to our success.”

See **Payne** page A4

AFD Promotions: Wes Shaw named EMS Director

Editor’s note: On November 8 it was announced five members of the Amboy Fire Department received promotions. The Nov. 29 edition of The Amboy News featured the first promotion story. This is the fifth and final story of the series where we had the opportunity to get to know each of the promoted individuals a little better. We thank them and all members of the AFD for their service and show gratitude for what they do for Amboy.



BRANDONLaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – Wes Shaw’s Amboy Fire Department polo shirt reads W. Shaw.

Being everyone calls him Wes; one would think Wes is the name on his birth certificate.

However, his legal name is William E. Shaw Jr. His father is William E. Shaw, referred to as Bill, and his uncle is Willy. With the William names already being used, the Shaw family began calling him by his initials as Wes means William E. Shaw. The J for

junior was dropped because Wesj would be weird.

Wes Shaw grew up in Amboy and graduated from Amboy High School in 1992 with an idea of what to do next, but without a concrete plan.

“I didn’t have much direction and I was trying to figure out what I was going to do in life. I ended up going into the military, the Air Force, a year after I graduated, 1993, and enlisted as a medic,” Shaw said. “I knew I wanted to do something in the medical field. My dad was an EMT

for the Amboy Fire District at the time and I really liked being involved in this area as a young kid and watching them go on calls.

“I was a surgical scrub technician initially, so passing instruments sterilely in the operated room. I specialized in orthopedics. I did that job in the Air Force for 10 years. While I was enlisted and all over the place, I got my undergraduate education for the Physician Assistant (PA) Program and I applied and got accepted to the Air Force’s PA program.”

See **Shaw** page A2



Adam Henkel, left, Lee County Farm Bureau President, and Brian Duncan, newly elected Illinois Farm Bureau President accept plaque for LCFB being recognized for outstanding grassroots agriculture policies. Photo contributed

Lee County Farm Bureau engage in grassroots agricultural policy process; recognized for outstanding programming

AMBOY – Lee County Farm Bureau members recently participated in Illinois Farm Bureau’s traditional grassroots process during the organization’s 109th annual meeting, bringing forth new policies on farmland preservation and addressing rural healthcare. Lee County Farm Bureau was also recognized for its outstanding programming.

Members gathered at the Palmer House in Chicago, Dec. 2-4, to conduct annual business, introduce new policy and celebrate the year’s successes. In total, IFB’s 329 voting delegates ad-

opted more than 20 new policies on a variety of topics, including farmland preservation, rural healthcare, energy and pipelines.

“Lee County Farm Bureau members remain engaged in our statewide agricultural policy development process and were pleased to see all four of our submitted proposals adopted by the voting delegates,” said Adam Henkel, Lee County Farm Bureau president.

See **LCFB** page A3

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. Claude Edward Heldman

Co. H, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division

At age 25, Claude Heldman became the first Lee County hero of the Great War when he died in battle at Soissons, France during the Second Battle of the Marne. Born to Adam and Olga Heldman on December 30, 1892, Claude would spend his early years working the family farm on Eldena Road.

In early 1917, three

years after the start of the war in Europe, America’s relations with Germany took a turn for the worst as U-Boats continued relentless attacks on U.S. ships in the Atlantic. After the United States declared war on Germany in April, Claude registered for the June 5th selective service draft in his home county. Almost a year later, he was called to service at Camp Grant in Rockford along with seven other boys from Marion and thousands of young men from the region. The American Expeditionary Force (as the U.S. Army was known then) began moving soldiers into France during 1917, but the worst fighting awaited

the men of Lee County in the last half of 1918.

On April 30, 1918, Pvt. Claude E. Heldman was listed on the manifest for the transport ship Powhattan as it left Hoboken, New Jersey bound for the battle front in France. Two months later, his parents received a letter from Claude saying that he enjoyed the trip across the Atlantic, and that he expected to be at the front very shortly attached to the 1st Infantry Division, which would play a major role in defeating the German army in the Battle of the Marne.

Months before his arrival, the German army had launched large scale offensives that pushed

the allies back to the Marne River, threatening to achieve a decisive victory. In July, the 1st Division received orders to report under the command of the French army, arriving just in time for the allied offensive during the night of July 17th.

During only five days of combat, the 1st Division advanced about seven miles suffering 1,500 dead. On July 18th, Pvt. Claude Edward Heldman became the first Lee County soldier to be killed in action. His remains were never recovered, and he is honored forever on the Tablets of the Missing at the Aisne-Marne Ameri-

can Cemetery in France.

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.

McGeorge, Stephen C., & Watson, Mason W., “The Marne 15 July – 6 August 1918”. Center of Military History, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C., 2018.

Find A Grave Memorial National Archives



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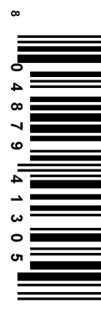


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William Kirchhofer
Glenda Smith

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LOCAL NEWS



AFD receives donation from Amboy Depot Days Car Show

Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee Treasurer Ginger Daniels, left, presents a check for \$3,000 to Nathan Shaw of the Amboy Fire Department. The Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee will be donating more than \$48,000 to local organizations this year. Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News



Depot Days donates to Lee County Honor Flight

Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee Treasurer Ginger Daniels, left, presents a check for \$1,100 to Jim Travi of the Lee County Honor Flight. The Amboy Depot Days Car Show Committee will be donating more than \$48,000 to local organizations this year. Tonja Greenfield/Amboy News

Shaw continued from page A1

Shaw got through the two-year program, close to 99 credit hours in one year, and wound up with a physical assistant master's degree and a PA national certification in the Air Force.

Before retiring from the military in 2015, he was a commissioned officer who had been to Las Vegas, Germany, California, Boston, San Antonio, Scott Air Force Base in St. Clair County in Illinois, South Dakota, Honduras, and Missouri.

After retirement, he got back into orthopedics, which he'd done before PA school, and currently works at KSB Hospital in Dixon.

But once a multi-faceted Shaw, always a multi-faceted Shaw, and he added Amboy Fire Department to his resume in 2020; right around COVID-19.

"When COVID-19 kicked off, I talked to Jeff about my training and background, and how I could help the Amboy Fire Department," Shaw said. "I offered my assistance to him to help guide the department through that COVID time. It kind of morphed into me coming on board as a full-time member. At first, I was going to serve as an advisor. Jeff encouraged me to learn how to drive a fire truck and next thing you know, I'm a full-time firefighter and doing EMS stuff as well."

"You would think with my military training as well as being a PA, I could come on board and help out medically on the ambulance. However, the state doesn't recognize the background. Even as a PA, I had to go back and get my EMT cer-

tification. I had to go to Sauk Valley Community College and take a class so I could ride along and provide care in the ambulance. Since then, Jeff helped push for Senator Dick Durbin to change the Illinois rules, which modified state training and bylaws for career physician assistants and registered nurses."

Shaw came on as a chief medical advisor. He still is, but in November, he was given a promotion to dual titles as he is now the EMS director.

His entire family is involved with the Amboy Fire Department as his dad is on the board, his uncle and aunt Les and Betty Shaw are lifetime members, his brother Nathan Shaw was promoted to captain in November, and Wes' wife Kerry and their children Keegan, 25, Liam, 22, and Alison, 18, have all been part of the department at one time or another.

"Do I have to do this? No. I do this because I want to help the community," Wes Shaw said. "I know the men and women at the station and want to help them. I think everyone who does this is kind of an adrenaline junkie. We like the urgency. You almost have to want to do this job."

"I want to make sure people get treated the right way. I hope I can pass that along to the new EMTs coming aboard. You want to give the right environment for a young EMT to foster the desire to be in medicine and maybe go to PA school or RN school down the road."

"Plus, it's a family thing. My dad and my brother are here. I have to stick around."

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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.

The Christmas Dance

What a wonderful "Giving dance" we had. For those that did not know, we didn't charge the usual entrance fee because many in the community paid for the kids. We had about 50 kids. First, we had a guessing contest, congratulations to Grace for winning. Then we had an ugly sweater contest. Congratulations to the following winners: Peyton was in first place, Enrique was second, and Lilly was third. Thank you, Brian, Will, and Amber for judging. They said it was hard to pick. All sweaters were very creative. Then we played scoop the snowballs and finished up on limbo. Thank you to the following chaperones because we could not do without them: Ally, Mark, Sid, Shelli, Evalyn, Maddy, Christine, Shannon, Patricia, and Laura. Of course, none of this would happen without Mr. and Mrs. Piper. Thank you, Amber, for taking more pictures.

Thank You's

We are always grateful to those that help us in our endeavor to help the community: Anonymous donation of toys; Joe and Mariah Faivre for the books from our Amazon Wish list; Kelli Kempsen for the posters from our Amazon Wish List; William Klein for the monetary donation; David and Colleen Charitable Foundation; Everyone who donates cans; Sheila Bucco for books from our Amazon Wish List; Donna Dewey for the canes; Mark and Veronica Grossman for the items and Linda Thomas for the monetary donation.

Needs

For Afterschool program-Fruit granola bars

Final Note

Heavenly Father, Thank You for answering our prayers and performing miracles in our lives every day. Just the fact that we woke up this morning and can take a breath is a gift from You. Help us to never take our health and loved ones for granted. Help us to always stand in faith and keep our focus on You when unexpected circumstances arise. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

LCFB continued from page A1

"This grassroots process allows our members to have a voice on issues that matter. We are thankful to our members who take time from their busy schedules to discuss and vote on policies that will ultimately guide our organization."

Delegates advanced a proposal made by Lee County, which supports reducing the required acreage to be enrolled in an agricultural area. Current state statute requires at least 350 acres of contiguous land for populations under 600,000 and 100 acres for denser populations over 600,000. The policy adds language to existing Illinois Farm Bureau policy supporting farmland preservation. Delegates emphasized enrollment in ag areas is a voluntary commitment and would still need to be approved by a local county board.

Additionally, delegates approved two other Lee County submittals addressing rural healthcare, changing IFB policy to support all specialties, not just family physicians, as well as supporting capital investment into rural and "tweener" hospitals. These are hospitals with more than 25 beds, making them too large to be considered a Critical Access Hospital but with fewer than 275 beds, the threshold for being considered a rural referral center.

Other policy highlights include:

A new policy to support the use of Argonne National Laboratory's Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Technologies (GREET) model for carbon intensity scoring for agricultural biofuel feedstocks.

Delegates supported policy that safety regulations include adding a distinctive odor to carbon dioxide, utilize enhanced leak detection and automatic shutoffs, provide notification of emergency services if leaks are detected, and training and equipment donations for first responders in pipeline areas.

IFB delegates also expressed their concern regarding eminent domain and decided to support legislation that would prohibit its use for carbon dioxide pipelines.

Delegates also adopted a new policy on food waste and resource recovery, focusing on composting, compost facilities and food scraps. The policy supports tax deductions or credits for food donors to offset the costs associated with food donation, incentives for farmers to donate surplus crops, clarification from Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on food safety donation regulations for pre-cooked and pre-packaged food items, updating U.S. Department of Agriculture's definition of composting to entice more purchasers of compost, streamlining the permitting

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 Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd., on Monday, Jan. 8. Anyone interested in joining or wants more information on the Lions Club is invited to attend.

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.

STERLING-Join University of Illinois Extension Educator Kara Schweitzer each month as she leads participants

through interactive activities designed to exercise the brain to maintain and enhance cognitive function and memory. We will be offering this program at the CGH Health Foundation Community Room, Sterling, on Jan. 9, from 1-3:30 p.m. New participants are welcome to join at any time.

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.

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.



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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Glenda L. Smith

Sept. 2, 1957 - Dec. 18, 2023

LEE CENTER—Glenda L. Smith, 66, of Lee Center, passed away on Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at her home.

She was born on Sept. 2, 1957 in Oregon, the daughter of Jerry and Viola (Griswold) Smith. Glenda worked for Fantasy Flavors later named Sensient Flavors in Amboy for over 25 years. She was a member of the HOG and ABATE motorcycle groups and enjoyed playing in dart leagues.

Glenda is preceded in death by her father Jerry. She is survived by her

four children, Gary Dale (Amy) Atkinson, of Rockford, Nicole (Dallas) Dunbar, of Oregon, Timothy Ryan Buckley, of Amboy, Steven Edward (Andrea) Buckley, of Amboy; nine grandchildren; her mother, Viola Garver, of Harmon; two brothers, Don (Cathy) Smith, of Amboy, David (Janet) Smith, of Oregon; two sisters, Irene (K.Z.) Clair, of Harmon, and Jamie (Roy) Rogers, of Ohio; and many cherished nieces and nephews.

Cremation rites have been accorded with a celebration of life and



memory ride to be planned at a later date. Memorial contributions can be made in Glenda's name to the donor's favorite animal shelter.

Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.

William (Bill) Kirchhofer

1925 - Dec. 24, 2023

FRANKLIN GROVE — William (Bill) Kirchhofer passed away peacefully on Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023 in his home at The Meadows in Franklin Grove, Illinois.

Bill was born in 1925 in Effingham County, Illinois to William and Augusta (Stuckemeyer) Kirchhofer. He married Elinor Ann Steagall on July 15, 1945 at Boca Raton Air Field, Boca Raton, Fla.

Bill enlisted in the Army Air Corps the day after his 18th birthday in 1943 and was accepted. He completed extensive training at bases in Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Florida and became a flight officer. The war ended before his time to be deployed overseas and he served until 1946. Bill's five brothers also served either during WW II or the occupation following World War II.

Bill received a degree from the University of Illinois and taught high school agriculture near Champaign, before becoming the manager of a grain and livestock farm

near Ashton,. In the early 1960s, Bill and Ann purchased and moved to their farm south of Ashton and, at about the same time, purchased the insurance agency in Franklin Grove. Bill became licensed to sell insurance and not long after that, added real estate brokerage and income tax services at The Kirchhofer Agency. Bill remained active in The Kirchhofer Agency into his early 90s and active in farming even through this last harvest season.

Bill was a man of deep faith in Christ Jesus. He was proud of the community in which he and his family lived. Bill was active in and served at Reynolds United Methodist Church, the Lions Club, and in the Franklin Grove American Legion Post.

Bill is survived by his children, Doug (Lana) of Knoxville, Tenn., Bruce (Jamie) of Naples, Fla., John (Nan), of Dallas, Texas, Brad (Emma) of Houston, Texas, and Neil (Kristi) of McKinney, Texas. He was blessed with 13 grandchildren, and 19



great-grandchildren.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Ann; his brothers Clarence, Art, Ervin, Don, and Norman and sister, Edna.

Bill's sons are deeply grateful to the staff at The Meadows of Franklin Grove who provided excellent care and treated Bill as family.

In lieu of a funeral and according to Bill's wishes, a Celebration of Life will be planned for Spring of 2024. Burial will be in Ashton Cemetery, Ashton.

Online condolences may be shared at Legacy.com. Memorials may be made to Franklin Grove Public Library, 112 S. Elm Street, Franklin Grove, IL, 61031.

Payne continued from page A1

Brennan Blaine

Senior, tight end/def. end

"I feel like a lot changed from last year even though it was the same team. We felt last year's championship loss and none of us wanted to feel that again, even coach.

"Practice was a lot different. We never missed a day of conditioning. You talk about summer lifting and conditioning; it was year-round for us. We never slowed down. He had us in shape and ready to go every game. Add him watching film and studying everything about our opponent, he put us in position to win every week.

"We trust coach Payne and we were bought in. He wanted it just as bad we did. We complained about practices and training, but after we won the state title, some of the guys and I were talking and we agreed, it was

worth it."

Trey Payne

Senior, lineman

"It's pretty cool having my uncle as my coach. He's helped me become a better player at the sport I love my entire life. He made us work hard every day. It made us better as a team.

"He got us fired up before every game with his pregame speeches. He helps motivate us every week."

Kenny Shrimplin

Assistant coach

"He is a very close friend. He's someone that truly cares about the kids. He has his game plan in his head and the game face to match. He knows how to have fun. He's a serious guy, but he knows how to relax and take it easy.

"He flat out told the kids, 'You have to work to earn anything in life. What's nice about him is, he's not always

about football. He wants to make sure these boys turn into men. His mentality is, 'If you want this, you have to go get it.'

"He pushed the kids, but he was positive and showed them what could happen if they worked to earn something."

Abel Sustaita

Assistant coach

"He was focused. He had his game plan for the season. He thought about it all summer. When we came in, he had everything mapped out of how we wanted to do it. He stayed with it. He stayed driven and kept the kids driven. It felt like he wasn't going to take no for an answer.

"The big thing I noticed was the accountability. Coach Payne focused on keeping everyone the same and to have the team's focus on the same thing. He held

the players accountable on the field, how they act in town, and in the classroom. He was high on discipline and keeping the athletes accountable. They fed off of it. He refused to lose, so they refused to lose.

Quinn Leffelman

Junior, fullback/def. end

"His willingness to win helped us. I think he thought winning comes first all of the time. It wasn't the player's

feelings. Not the fans or parent's feelings. It was winning first. He always pushed us to do our best because it would result in wins. Winning football came first. He's also real good at putting the team first and doing what he thinks will be best. He likes to make things as enjoyable as possible.

"Coach Payne was real good about expressing how important it is to do our job. If everyone did their job, we would win games."

Eddie Jones

Junior, QB/def. back

"He helped me with reading the defense and calling audibles. He worked with me through everything I had to do as the starting quarterback. At first, I had issues with a six-man front defense. I communicated with Trey on

what to do if we were running a pass play and how the line was going to block."

Jeramey Wittenauer

Assistant coach

"When we were in practice, it was business. Every once in a while, he mixed some pleasure with business, but at the end of the day, the kids knew what was expected of them. They responded well because of the respect they have for coach Payne.

"With success and expecting to get to the championship, comes pressure. He tried to keep as much pressure off of them as he could. It's been a thrill to coach with him. We've had ups and downs, but it's been a blast. We've been around each other so much over the years, we can almost tell what the other is thinking."

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

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	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.	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.	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.
St. Mary Church Fr. John Gow 912 Walton Rd., Walton 815-857-2670 Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm	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	St. Mary's Church - West Brooklyn Rev. Randy Fronek Mass - Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday - 5:30 p.m.	Refuge Church Pastor John Kalebaugh Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52 Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930 10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows
St. Flannen Church Fr. John Gow 213 S Second St., Harmon 815-857-2670 Mass: Sunday, 8:30 am	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!	St. Patrick Church - Maytown Rev. Randy Fronek Mass - Friday - 8 a.m. Sunday - 8 a.m.	Harmon United Methodist Church Pastor Leanne Keate 202 N. Grove, Harmon Phone 359-7302 Worship - 8:30 a.m.
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.		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.	

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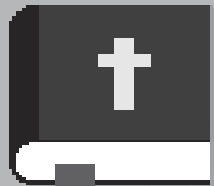
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SOCIAL NEWS



THE PASTOR'S PEN

The Power and Promise of the Advent Season

By Pastor Rick Wulf

The East Grove Union Church of Rural Amboy

Hello, Friends,
Happy New Year. I trust that your Christmas celebration was special for you this year. I continue to marvel at how fast time flies. Christmas Eve was special for us this year, falling on Sunday. In our church we do observe Advent and our young people lit the last two candles on the Advent Wreath on Sunday. According to the schedule we follow, the two candles represent peace and love. It seems as we look back through human history that there have not been too many years on Earth that has not had some sort of political unrest in our world. Certainly, there is generally a lack of peace all around us, even here in America. There has also been a great lack of real love as well. This is such a sad commentary on our society today.

As we read God's Word, the Bible, we should not be too surprised. We know that mankind's basic nature is ruled by sin and the Devil just loves to wreak havoc in peoples' lives. Jesus said in John 10:10, speaking of the Devil, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." That certainly is "bad news" for mankind. Jesus offered good news, however, when He went on to say, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." Possessing that Good News is what He uses to produce real peace and love in our lives as Christians. A good definition for peace that I have come across is that peace is not the absence of conflict in our lives, but the presence of the Prince of Peace in our lives controlling every aspect of it. Because of his sinful human nature, mankind cannot help himself, that's why God interjected Himself into Human History, by being born as a man, a miraculous virgin birth, so that He could be born without a sin nature. God showed the World how much

He loved His creation by allowing His Son to be born, to live among sinful men and then to die the most horrible death on a cross, bearing the sin of all mankind upon Himself, in order to pay the price for that sin, so that any who believe by faith may receive His free gift of eternal life. We are reminded that in the shadow of the cradle of Bethlehem stood the cross on Calvary.

Thinking about what the fourth and fifth candles represent is very important to our Christian faith.

The concept of true peace is that which is produced in our lives as Christians by the Holy Spirit of God. The Apostle Paul identifies it along with love as spiritual fruit according to Galatians 5:22. In the Gospel account in Luke 2 an angel from God is sent to the shepherds of Bethlehem with this birth announcement: "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." The account goes on, "a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"

His birth announcement was one of promised peace with God. As we remember the Christmas account and that amazing announcement of God's coming to Earth, we understand that it initially brought more conflict by the forces of evil that had long controlled mankind on planet Earth. Even though the promise was made of peace on Earth, it was the start of the process. As we read the Bible, there won't be any permanent peace on this Earth until Jesus returns from Heaven and establishes His Millennial Kingdom, and that will only be for a thousand years and then after the recreation, He will finally restore permanent eternal peace.

The last candle called the "Christ Candle," represents God's love for mankind. Love is a major theme in the Bible. The Apostle John in both his Gospel account and first letter gave us a great insight into God's love. A favorite verse of many is John 3:16, He wrote: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." This amazing passage informs us what kind of love that God has for His creation, mankind. This self-sacrificing expression of His love is mind-blowing. Later on in his life, and ministry John would write in 1 John 4:8-16: "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." John makes it very clear. God is love in His divine nature.

It is my prayer for you that as we face this new year before us that you will know and be filled with the peace and love that only God can produce in your life as His child. It is the greatest experience of all. He has promised to do it for you, if you will let Him do so.

May God continue to bless and sustain you.

Dixon Elks free children's podiatry clinic on Jan. 23

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, January 23, 2024 at Yeager Podiatry, located at 841 N. Galena Avenue Suite 300 Dixon, with Dr. David Yeager 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 800-272-0074 between the hours of 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

No medical referral is necessary for the clinic, but physicians are welcome to refer patients to the clinic for a specific reason or second opinion. School nurses are welcome to refer children and families to the clinic. The Elks Organization

has been working with physically challenged children since 1928 and this is one of 15 clinic locations throughout Illinois.

The clinic is an ideal time to have a child reviewed for bone and joint development. If your child has feet pointing inward or outward or complains of foot pain they can be seen at this clinic.

There is no charge for any services at this clinic. The Elks will provide

financial assistance to the best of their ability for children needing further treatment or specialty equipment when the family lacks sufficient resources to do so.

In the past, the Elks have purchased therapy services, corrective shoes, braces, wheelchairs and augmentative communication devices to help children overcome a variety of physical challenges.



Toil and Trouble

Eleanor Catton's brilliant novel, "Birnam Wood," (2023) opens with a catastrophe. A landslide has killed five people and closed the Korowai Pass on New Zealand's South Island. The town of Thorndike is cut off and a sizeable farm near the accident is withdrawn from sale by its owners, the Darvishes. From this disaster an intricate and often appalling sequence of events unfolds. Mira Bunting, "aged twenty-nine, a horticulturalist by training, and the founder of an activist collective known among its members as Birnam Wood," notices that the Darvish farm is no longer on the market. Birnam Wood is a gardening collective that sometimes legally, but mostly illegally, plants their gardens on unused land. The isolated Darvish farm would be ideal.

Mira visits the farm, and while trespassing, meets an American stranger who knows too much about her. He is Robert Lemoine, the billionaire drone manufacturer who is secretly responsible for the landslide. Lemoine is in New Zealand pretending to build a covert apocalypse bunker on the Darvish farm. Korowai, the national park that sits beside the farm, possesses rare-earth minerals, which if Lemoine succeeds in extracting them, will make him "the richest person who had ever lived." He can use Birnam Wood as another smoke screen, a way to launder his presence through a local, eco-friendly organization. He offers Mira access to

the farm and a hundred thousand dollars. Mira is over the moon.

Their bargain will powerfully affect all the major characters. But none of them, including Lemoine, the master manipulator, pays attention to what really matters until it is too late. They think snap impressions will tell them all they need to know. By her willingness to let her characters be mistaken, Catton shows how much our inner lives, our intentions can come to nothing, frustrated and misunderstood, despite all our efforts. Thus Shelley Noakes, Mira's best friend and second in command, who is looking for a way out of the collective, is thrilled when Lemoine picks her to run the show. And Tony Gallo, a former member of Birnam Wood and moodily in love with Mira, in an outburst of sexual jealousy, decides to write an exposé of Lemoine, and in so doing blunders upon Lemoine's mining operation, even though he misreads too many clues.

But there are instances in "Birnam Wood" where someone is not reduced to a type. Catton suggests that there are things you just won't know about other people, even if you intercept every text and e-mail, unless you have loved them for a long time. Thus Lady Darvish, reflecting on her long marriage, thinks that her husband "took a certain pride in being so predictable...for the simple reason that he loved to see her demonstrate how well she understood him."

LEESCAPE COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. Senior Dining Menu Jan. 8-12

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Monday - Hamburger patty wgr wheat bun, mac and cheese, California blend veggies, diced peaches

Tuesday - BBQ Chicken breast, au gratin potatoes, seasoned green beans, wgr dinner roll, fruit cocktail

Wednesday - Salisbury steak, mashed potato/gravy, brussel sprouts, wgr wheat bread-1, apricots

Thursday - Sweet and sour meatballs, fluffy rice, blended veggies, wgr dinner roll, diced peras

Friday - A). Tuna noodle casserole, broccoli/carrots, pineapple tidbits, wgr dinner roll B). Chicken salad/tomato

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



Amboy Civic Organization's blood drive is 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23

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.

Have a news item??

Email news items to Amboy News Editor Brandon LaChance

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Opinion

White Christmases are long gone

There are some facts I don't want to hear or address.

LeBron James passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the all-time most points scored in the NBA regular season.

Minimum wage keeps rising but people who put the time and money toward college and/or advancing their careers are not making more.

Pulling out your own teeth with pliers is a calmer and smoother situation than dealing with Verizon, Blue Cross Blue Shield, or Xfinity representatives on the phone.

Watching Christmas movies, I've realized another harsh truth we don't want to recognize.

There will not be a white Christmas.

Maybe not forever, but for the foreseeable future and most definitely not in 2023.

I'm writing this on Thursday, Dec. 21 and it was warmer than 50 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and currently at 8:26 p.m., it's 42 degrees.

...in December.

Snow forms when it is 32 degrees or colder. But it doesn't always form when it's less than 32.

Four days away from Christmas and it is 28 degrees-plus warmer than snow creation during the day and 10 degrees warmer at night.

I realize we live in a state where it seems like a blizzard, a tornado, a heat stroke, and a tsunami could happen in the same day, but it doesn't seem realistic Illinois is going to see snow on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day because of the additional sun rays.

And it's not the first time.

Every year feels warmer and warmer in November and December as January, February, March, and even the beginning of April seems more likely for snowflakes, snow men, and snow angels.

Column

By Brandon LaChance



Some will blame the greenhouse effect, while others like me, just realize seasons are changing their schedules more often than athletic directors are changing theirs because of weather delays.

I mean it makes sense.

Have you ever witnessed anything on an axis or a regular rotation stay on the same path forever?

Tires can't do it as they go bare, lose lugnuts, or are punctured.

An assembly line.

A flow in a stream.

Electric current.

There are factors influencing change, whether manmade or natural, in everything.

Including when and how our seasons change; the Earth's spin axis tilting with respect to its orbital plane. When the Earth's axis points toward the sun, it is summer for the focused hemisphere. When the Earth's axis points away, winter is upon us.

However, the axis points we are used to have changed.

And they're going to become even weirder as time marches on.

According to Northrop Grumman writer Laura Faye Tenenbaum in "Are Summers Getting Longer, or Are the Seasons Shifting?" published on March 8, 2023, by the end of this century, spring and summer may start about a month earlier, while autumn and winter may start about half a month later. By 2100, summers may last nearly half the year, and there may be less than two months of winter.

I don't know many people who will complain about less than two months of winter. Even those of us who favor winter, like me, are done with it a month or so in.

However, if there is only a month and a half of winter and it starts after December 25, Santa Claus won't need his big red jacket and a sleigh can be replaced with a

luxurious speed boat.

How do we change it?

We can't ask Mother Earth to fix her axis rotation schedule.

We can't move the reason we celebrate Christmas, Jesus' birthday.

We can't ask every household to pay for and run snow machines; although it would be cool.

We can erase the perception of Christmas not being as awesome as we want it to be without snow.

Hopefully I tricked you with the can and can't, but honestly, this is going to be the only solution because we can't change Mother Nature, religious beliefs, or financial situations (no matter how hard Joe Biden tries).

The only way to enjoy Christmas and the holiday season to its fullest, without snow, is to relinquish the thought of Christmas only being Christmas with snow.

I know, it will be rough.

But so is LeBron taking the record from Kareem, more and more people making the same amount of money when some don't deserve it, and the agony of siphoning through automated machines or people who don't understand what you're asking on the other line of an important phone call.



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 years ago January 4, 1924

Richard Gooch, a resident of Lee County for over 70 years, died on Christmas Day. He came with his parents from England to Illinois when he was 15 months old. The family lived in Ashton until 1878 when the deceased moved to the farm near Shaw Station.

Too much Christmas cheer caused "Judge" George Hines to fall off the water wagon and into the arms of Officer Fred Washburn. He spent the night in the city's free lodging house.

75 years ago December 30, 1948

Members of the Amboy News staff enjoyed a three-pound fruit cake sent to them by the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company.

At the Theater - Jeanne Crain and Dan Dailey in "You Were Meant For Me."

50 years ago December 27, 1973

Sheryl Lyons of Amboy was appointed to the Illinois Farm Bureau Women's Committee by the board of directors of the Illinois Agriculture for a two-year term.

The Amboy Volunteer Firemen brightened the holidays for a large number of Amboy residents when they delivered 38 food boxes and 23 fruit baskets. Committee members were co-chairmen Richard Wittenauer and Bill Haws, Bob Machen, Lane McMillion, Roger Cassidy and Terry Kelly.

25 years ago December 31, 1998

Earlier this year, Tom Nauman, Jan Bonnell, and Mary Olson went to Springfield to present their request for a Department of Natural Resources grant to help complete the

Amboy Sports Park. They recently received word that they had been awarded a \$97,400 grant for use in constructing the park.

Franklin Grove Police Chief Glenn Rosenberg announced three male juveniles have been arrested in connection with a burglary to the Franklin Grove Fresh Market Supermarket and two automobile burglaries in Franklin Grove recently.

For many grain producers, fertilizer costs are the largest non-land crop production expense. According to Dale Baird, Crop Systems Extension Educator, soil fertility is one of the most important yield determinants, therefore, producers and suppliers need to be very knowledgeable about its use and application. A Soil Fertility Workshop has been scheduled to help provide answers to a variety of fertilizer questions and concerns.

Playing at Plaza Cinemas in Dixon is You've Got Mail, The Faculty, and Prince of Egypt.

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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LOCAL NEWS

Rep. Fritts honors Candlelight Inn Restaurant for December Local Business Highlight

DIXON – For his December 2023 local business highlight, State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Candlelight Inn Restaurant in Rock Falls. Rep. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the manager, Tom Frump, with a certificate of appreciation for their contributions to the community.

“This month, I chose to honor Candlelight Inn Restaurant because they have gone above and beyond in giving back to the Sauk Valley community,” said Rep. Fritts. “They support Youth Football and Cheer-leading, provided free meals for veterans on Veterans Day, and contributed over \$130,000 to Sauk Valley through the Candlelight Gives Back Program, among many other community contributions.”

The first Candlelight Inn opened in June of 1967 under the ownership of Chuck Sisson, Lyman Prescott and Bob Prescott.

In 2000, Bob’s son Matt Prescott took over the family business and has since expanded their operations by opening multiple new locations.

“The things they do for our community are immeasurable. I have always been amazed at their generosity. It’s no secret things are tough for small businesses right now, and I commend Matt Prescott and the entire Candlelight team for their selfless dedication to our community.”

The Candlelight Inn Restaurant in Rock Falls is located at 2200 First Avenue. They are open from 11 am to 9 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. For more information about the restaurant, visit their website at CandlelightInnRestaurant.com/RockFalls.

To nominate a local business in District 74 for a future highlight, visit RepFritts.com and select Local Business Highlight Submission Form under Resources.

First State Bank announces transition of president and chief executive officer roles

MENDOTA – First State Bank is announcing that Timothy J. McConville, President/CEO First State Bank, is transitioning to President/CEO of Tri-County Financial Group (TYFG), the holding company of First State Bank. The bank is appointing Kirk Ross, current Executive Vice President, as President/CEO of First State Bank beginning January 10, 2024.

McConville started his career at First State Bank in 1978 as an Agricultural Representative. He was promoted several times throughout the years, becoming President/CEO on October 1, 1994. Tim has served as a director of FSB’s bank board since 1991, and will continue to do so as President/CEO of Tri-County Financial. Under his remarkable leadership, the bank has grown from 4 branches and an asset size of \$30.M to 19 branches and \$1.5B through several acquisitions and new market growth. As President/CEO, he has provided executive leadership throughout the company, along with leading the enhancement of our operational infrastructure to support this tremendous growth for our employees and shareholders. Tim has created an atmosphere at FSB that encourages community involvement across

the company footprint and allows employees to operate with a sense of purpose and feel as though they are a part of something larger. His keen ability to identify and cultivate leaders, has ensured that FSB has an outstanding talent base to carry its purpose forward and continue to make a difference in people’s lives.

Tri-County Financial Board of Directors Chair Tom Prescott commented, “Congratulations to Tim on this transition and his remarkable 46-year banking career! It is hard to overstate the impact he has made during his time at First State Bank. Tim’s hard word and dedication have undoubtedly contributed to the pillars of FSB’s success. His leadership has taken our company to new heights. It’s great that Tim will now have more time for family and other interests. First State Bank is simultaneously fortunate that his wisdom and insight will still be retained as he continues his service as a Director of our company.”

Prescott continued, “Our Board is very pleased to appoint Kirk Ross as Tim’s successor. Kirk has been an integral part of First State Bank’s success over his 30 years on the team. Succession planning has been a top priority at our company and we are very confident



Tim McConville, left, is transitioning from First State Bank President/CEO to President/CEO of Tri-County Financial Group, while Kirk Ross is being promoted from FSB Executive Vice President to President/CEO of FSB. Photo contributed

that Kirk has the essential skill set to continue on our legacy of success.”

Mr. Ross commented, “First State Bank has built an incredible team in the markets in which we are privileged to work with our customer base. I am excited and honored to continue to be of service to our team and the customers we serve.”

Ross joined FSB in November 1994 as an Assistant Vice President & Ag Loan Officer. In 1997 he was promoted to Vice President & Ag Loan Officer. 1999 brought a promotion as VP Commercial Lending. In May of 2022, he was appointed Secretary of Tri-County Financial, and promoted to Executive Vice President/

Sr. Lending Officer in July. Ross was born and raised in Mendota where he currently resides with his wife, Kathy. They have 3 children, Emily, Luke and Olivia. Kirk is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mendota Lions Club, Treasurer of Mendota Education Foundation and a Mendota Police Pension Trustee.

Regarding this transition, Mr. McConville commented, “Over the past 46 years, I have thoroughly enjoyed working side by side with our talented and tremendous organization of bankers. They continue to serve the hardworking customers in our markets and create a culture of teamwork that makes us an FSB Family.”

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mezandmezzie@gmail.com

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101 LEGAL NOTICE

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 Assessment of (Municipality) and Special Assessment Number: N/A
Warrant No.: N/A
Installment No.: N/A
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT 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 advise 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 purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures 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 petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption 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 already have expired at that time.
YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY 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 INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK

112 E. Second Street
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 288-3309
Myriad Capital LLC
Purchaser or Assignee
December 15, 2023
Bret Alan Maynard
Occupant
Rick Morris for Staff
House Area Well Book-keeper
City of Amboy c/o City Clerk
City of Amboy c/o City Attorney
Nancy Peterson, County 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)

NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT
FOR BIDS
DATE: December 29, 2023
PROJECT: Renovation Project at
Amboy Central Elementary School for Amboy CUSD #272
LOCATION: Amboy Central Elementary School
30 East Provost Street

Amboy, Illinois 61310
OWNER: A m b o y CUSD #272
11 E. Hawley Street
Amboy, Illinois 61310
ARCHITECT: Richard L. Johnson Associates, Inc.
4703 Charles Street
Rockford, Illinois 61108
(815) 398-1231
(815) 398-1280 FAX
SCOPE: Bids shall be submitted for a single contract for all Work.
DATE DUE: Sealed bids will be received by Amboy CUSD #272 for the Renovation Project until 11:00am, Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at the Amboy CUSD #228 District Office and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.
PRE-BID MEETING: A Non-Mandatory Pre-bid Meeting is scheduled at 11:00am, on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at the Amboy Central Elementary School.
PRE-BID SITE VISIT: Contractors are required to make a mandatory survey of the existing conditions prior to bidding.
ACCESS TO BIDDING DOCUMENTS
Bidding Documents are on file for reference at the Office of the Architect, Rockford, Illinois
Bidding Documents may be secured from the office of the Architect.
Plans and Specifications are available for download at www.rljarch.com under "Bidders".
DEPOSIT REQUIRED: Bidders may secure up to two (2) sets of bidding documents by submitting \$50.00 non-refundable deposit per set, or \$60.00 per set if documents are to be mailed.
BID FORM: Bids shall be submitted in duplicate on forms included in the specifications by the Architect.
P E R F O R M A N C E BOND: A performance and payment bond for the full amount of the Contract will be required of the successful bidder. All costs associated with the bond shall be included in the bid amount.
BID SECURITY: Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least 5% of the total amount of the base bid and all additive alternate bids. This may be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, or bid bond, payable to the Owner as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract with the Owner and will furnish the proper performance and payment bond within the time limited by the Owner. If the successful bidder so files the contract and performance and payment bond, upon the execution of the contract by the Owner, the Bid Security will be returned to all bidders. If he/she fails to file such contract and performance and payment bond the amount of the Bid Security will be forfeited to the Owner as liquidated damages.
WAGE RULES: The general prevailing rate of wages in the locality in which the work is to be performed for each craft or type of worker or mechanic needed to execute the contract will adhere to all Federal Laws and Laws of the State, and to all local ordinances and regulations applicable to the work hereunder, and having force of law.
RIGHTS RESERVED BY OWNER: The Owner reserves the right to waive any irregularities and/or reject any or all bids when, in the opinion of the Owner, such action will serve the best interests of the Owner.

ests of the Owner.
WITHDRAWAL OF BIDS: No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening of bids without written consent of the Owner.
By order of the Board of Education for Amboy CUSD #272.
No. 0101
(January 3, 2024)

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)

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

"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."

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

"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."

127 SERVICES AND REPAIRS

FURMAN'S Lawn Care and Tree Work. Mowing, bushes, spring clean up, weeding and much more. Call Jeremy Furman 815-761-9619. Please leave a message will return call ASAP. Fully insured, in business since 1999. Servicing Rochelle and surrounding areas.

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. A childcare facility that is licensed or operating under a

permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. Your Hometown Newspaper strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.

203 HELP WANTED

Help Wanted, full time live in housekeeper to help with cleaning, laundry, cooking and helping with my 54 year-old daughter. Room and board included with pay options. 779-251-0161(RNL01032024)

301 ANTIQUES

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Metal and Wood Signs, Milk Bottles & Local Advertising, Oak Icebox, Iron Door Stop and Antique Lighting... Call Dick Harms at 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

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307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

BUNDLED Newspaper -\$3 per Bundle. End Roll- Cost Depends on Weight of Roll. Available Monday-Friday 815-562-4171 (8AM-NOON ONLY) Rochelle News Leader.

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

Grass Hay \$5 per Bale, Small Bales average 60 lbs, 200 Available. Hay has been kept off of the ground & in a dry loft since cutting. Bruce 815-234-3099 (RNL01032024)

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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American Lung Association. ad COUNCIL

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

2019 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab RST Z71 4x4

2019 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab RST Z71 4x4, 50K Miles, Maroon, GM Certified, 1-owner, local trade, leather interior, heated seats, Tonneau cover & more!
\$37,900

2023 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab LT, Lthr, 4x4, Z71, Long Box 6 1/2 ft, 38K Miles, Red.....	\$49,900	2020 Chevy Equinox LT, FWD, 64K Miles, Silver.....	\$20,900
2022 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4WD, Z71, 37K Miles, Blue.....	\$45,900	2019 Chevy K-1500 Crew RST, Z71, 4x4, 50K Miles, Maroon.....	\$37,900
2021 Chevy 3500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4X4, Diesel, Z71, 74K Miles, Black.....	\$59,900	2019 Chevy Equinox FWD LT, 49K Miles, Silver.....	\$19,900
2021 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab Trailboss Z71, Custom, 4x4, 36K Miles, Blue.....	\$39,900	2019 Chevy Trax, LT AWD, 55K Miles, Black.....	\$19,500
2020 Chevy Equinox LT, AWD, 2.0 LTR., 63K Miles, Silver.....	\$21,900	2019 Chevy Equinox, FWD, LT, Sunroof, 66K Miles, Blue.....	\$18,900

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2021 Chevy K-1500 Trail Boss 4x4 Z71, Loaded, Snrf, Lthr, 45K Miles, White, Crew Cab.....	\$47,900	2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LT, 99K Miles, Silver.....	\$28,900
2021 Chevy K-1500 Custom 4x4 4cyl Turbo, 90K Miles.....	\$29,500	2018 Chevy Equinox, AWD, Premier White, 110K Miles.....	\$17,900
2020 Chevy K-3500 Crew, LTZ 4x4 Z71, Diesel, 79K Miles, Maroon.....	\$56,900	2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab, LT, 4x4, 98K Miles, Maroon.....	\$27,900
2020 Chevy Equinox AWD LT, Leather, 103K Miles, Black.....	\$19,900	2017 Chevy 1500 Double Cab, Custom, 4x4, 97K Miles, White.....	\$24,900
2019 Chevy Blazer Premier AWD, White, Loaded.....	\$26,900	2017 Chev Equinox, AWD LT, 76K Miles, White.....	\$15,900
2018 Chevy K-1500 Crew LTZ 4x4 Z71, White Red Line Edition.....	\$32,900	2012 GMC K-2500 Crew SLE 4x4, 6.0 Gas, Red.....	\$21,900

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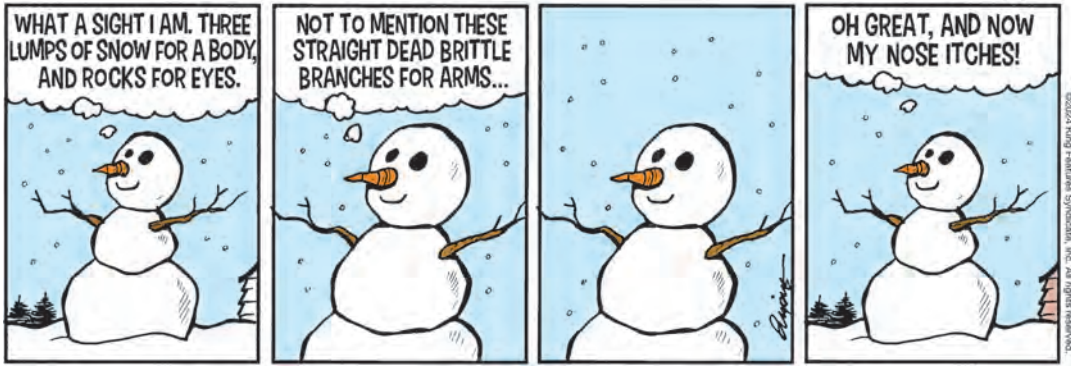
The Anthony News

The Anthony News

LOCAL NEWS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

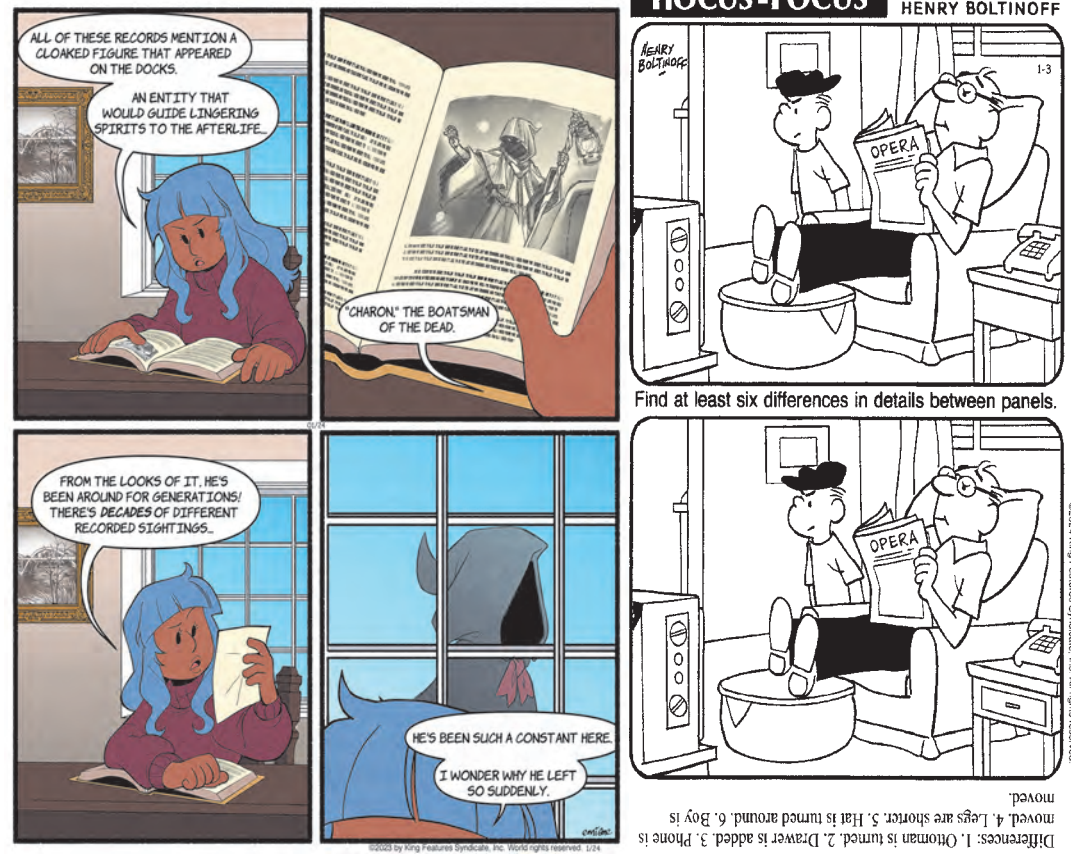
by BUD BLAKE



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: L equals N

XTLFU MCWX OBU LMFSPBLOW
OLR GBMVOWWI ZM QPLSTLZ OS
LTZQS, T CMPWR FOWW SQUO
VURSTDU GBUIUBX.

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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!

Merge
ITUNE
Blunt
PUBRAT
Chunk
PLUM
Cad
SACRAL

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

January 1, 2024 Posting Date

ACROSS

- 1 Melville cap-
tain
5 Male swans
9 Luau dish
12 Humorist
Barry
13 Med. plan
options
14 PC program
15 Barrel bottom
bit
16 Concerning
17 Old Olds
18 Voice in an
iPhone
19 Half of XIV
20 Rooters
21 Formerly
called
23 "Morning
Edition" aier
25 Humidor con-
tents
28 Salad base
32 Maxim
33 Sean of
"Rudy"
34 Bequest
36 Surround with
light
37 Judge Lance
38 Approves
39 Iowa crop
42 WWII service
member
44 "See ya!"
48 Some
49 "Legally
Blonde" role

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

- 50 Branches
51 Wish other-
wise
52 Intend
53 Harvest
54 Curvy letter
55 "Garfield" dog
56 Catches
some rays
6 Hotel chain
7 Ho-hum
8 Away from
NNW
9 Brazilian rub-
ber
10 Frank
11 Wall St.
debuts
20 Clean slate
22 Upright
24 Bit of mischief
25 Baseball's
Ripken
26 Chemical suf-
fix
27 Joke
29 JFK info
30 Goose egg
31 — -cone
35 Cried in pain
36 Tertiary Period
epoch
39 Give a darn
40 Burden
41 Deli loaves
43 Jai —
45 Bailiwick
46 Eliot Ness,
e.g.
47 Nile vipers
49 Punk rock off-
shoot

DOWN

- 1 Totals
2 Mata —
3 Say it's so
4 2013 Keira
Knightley film
5 Sour cream
tidbits
6 Joke
7 JFK info

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 HAPPY to LANDS in 6 words?
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

HAPPY

LANDS

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: When is Three King's Day celebrated typically?
- TELEVISION: In the drama series "Mad Men," what product is presumed to be Don Draper's last advertisement?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is a chain or collection of islands called?
- MOVIES: To which city is the McCallister family traveling in the holiday classic "Home Alone"?
- LEGAL: What is a moot court?
- LITERATURE: What is the name of the heroine in "The Scarlet Letter"?
- FOOD & DRINK: What kind of nut is used in marzipan?
- MUSIC: What is the gift on the 11th day in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?
- SCIENCE: How much of the Earth's surface is covered with water?
- HISTORY: What are the two Japanese cities that the United States hit with atomic bombs in WWII?

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10. Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
9. Almost 71%.
8. 11 pipers piping.
7. Almond.
6. Hester Prynne.
they have learned.
students a chance to practice what
5. A simulated court to give law
4. Paris, France.
3. An archipelago.
2. Coca-Cola.
1. Jan. 6, the 12th day of Christmas.

Answers

SCRAMBLERS
Today's Word
1. Unite 2. Abrupt;
3. Lump; 4. Fascal
solution

WORD LADDER
Answer
HAPPY, HARRY, HARDY,
HANDY, HANDS, LANDS

Weekly SUDOKU

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Cryptoquip

Since owls are nocturnal
and probably go hunting at
night, I would call them
bedtime prayers.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

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100 W. Main St. • Sublette • 815-849-5222

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srwoodproducts.com

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1212 Currency Ct. • Rochelle
815-561-8500
1201 Meriden St. • Mendota
815-538-1800

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Chapelhilldixon.com

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Sublette • 815-849-5171

SPORTS

Lady Clippers win their holiday tournament for second straight year; Jones, Larson named to all-tournament team

BRANDONLaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – In less than three minutes in the first quarter of the Amboy Girls Holiday Basketball Tournament Championship on Friday, Dec. 29, the Lady Clippers found themselves trailing Newman by seven as the Comets drained three 3-pointers.

Wanting to win their tournament, the girls rallied to take a first quarter lead, and only gave it up for two minutes in the second quarter before winning the game and the tourney, 43-35.

“We knew coming in that they were going to hit shots and they’re really good and tough. We also knew they ran the floor,” said senior Meave Larson, who hauled in 11 rebounds and scored eight points. “We came prepared, but we weren’t prepared for them to be that hot from the beginning. We never gave up. We kept running and got back into the game by knocking down our shots.

“We do a really good job of talking to each other by saying, ‘Lock in, good D,’ and telling people to keep shooting. We never make each other feel bad if someone misses a shot. We hype each other up.”

The Lady Clippers (13-4) led the Comets 15-11 after the first quarter and 19-17 at halftime as junior Tyrah Vaessen hit a 3-pointer with 20 seconds left in the first half.

Amboy made adjustments in the locker room and started the third quarter strong by scoring the first



six points and nine of the first 11.

With a 32-22 third quarter advantage, the Lady Clippers held off the Comets fourth-quarter push.

“Last year we peaked at this time. We didn’t seem like we were peaking until we faced Newman,” said

Amboy coach Mike McCracken. “We came through and pulled out a win against Hall on Wednesday when we were down five with a little over a minute left in the game. Against Newman, I think they were more mentally prepared.

“We got off to a bad start

because we gave up three 3s early in the first quarter to Newman, but we came back and did a great job from then on. Our defense was probably the best it has been this year because Newman has four quality shooters and a great post inside (Jess Johns). Outside of the post players at Dixon, she’s the best post we’ve played all year.”

The Lady Clippers were led by Vaessen’s 13 points, nine from junior Addison Pertell, Larson’s eight, Elly Jones scored seven, and junior Emily Sachs added six.

Larson had the game-high 11 rebounds, while Sachs grabbed seven, sophomore Bella Yanos had four, and

sophomore Ellie McLaughlin and Jones grabbed two each.

“We’ve been on Tyrarh to shoot more, and she knocked down some big shots. We feel like we have five players who can score. Some nights we’re not as good in the post and we have a tendency to get into foul trouble every once in a while.

“We used Bella Yanos off of the bench as an extra post player and she came up big. She had four rebounds, and she was pushed out of bounds once otherwise she would have had five. She’s been driving to the basket in junior varsity games, and she’ll start doing that during varsity games before we

know it.”

On Friday, Hall won the third-place game 62-31 against Mendota, and Somonauk beat Hiawatha 50-7 in the fifth-place game.

Jones and Larson were named to the all-tournament team along with Mendota’s Grace Wasmer, Somonauk’s Haley McCoy, Hiawatha’s Delaney Wood, Hall’s McKenna Christiansen, and Newman’s Johns and Elaina Allen.

Amboy defeated Mendota 53-22 during the first day of tournament play on Tuesday, Dec. 26, came back to beat Hall 37-36 on Wednesday, Dec. 27, and outlasted Somonauk 51-35 on Thursday, Dec. 28.

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