

# New play, new track, new opportunity

**By BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
*Amboy News Editor*

**AMBOY** – Although the Thursday, Feb. 15 Amboy Community Unit School District #272 Board meeting was shorter than normal, there were plenty of keynote conversions.

Amboy Junior High special education teacher Katie Henkel presented to the board about a request from many of the junior high teachers to use the summer theater fund for a play they’re putting on called Law & Order Nursery Rhymes.

The play tentatively scheduled for April 12-14 is something new to the district and has peaked interest of 40 student-performers.

“It should be a lot of fun. It’s something new that we don’t do,” Amboy Superintendent Joshua Nichols said. “The teachers wanted to run with it and there is a large number of kids who are involved and excited.”

In his superintendent report, Nichols spoke about the property once holding the Amboy Junior High as the project is ready to turnover to the City of Amboy.

“At the old Junior High property, the construction

company, Fuller, has put up a fence,” Nichols said. “With that process complete, the property is going to be given to the city because it bought the property from us for \$1.

“The splash pad the city is going to create there will be an exciting thing. It’s a great space for that area of town. It’s a great opportunity for the city. It wasn’t something we were going to use. We still have the football field and the buses over there, but we consolidated all of it to one side.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for that property.”

Also in the report, Nichols discussed the new track which is scheduled to start immediately after the school year ends.

“Willett, Hoffman & Associates is going to redo our track . They were here doing all of the topographical surveying work,” Nichols said. “They’re taking up the track because it has a lot of cracks. It’s not in good shape. We hoped to do it last summer, but it didn’t work out. They’ll pull up the track, take it down to the base, check out the base, redo the base, put down new asphalt, and put down a new top.

“It’s going to be great. We can’t use Lane 1 right now

because it’s in such bad shape. We’ve had to reduce the amount of home meets. The track is 20 years old, so we got good life out of it. I’m excited for there to be a new surface for our athletes to run on and use.

“It’s not just students. A lot of community members use it after hours and on weekends. It’s also used for physical education classes. It’ll be nice to have a track in full operational status for us to use.”

Every year teachers who are set to retire are discussed and mentioned to the Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

This year, Kelly Foster, a junior high social studies teacher, is planning to retire at the end of the school year.

“Kelly is a great teacher. She’s been with us for a long time,” Nichols said. “On a personal note, I’m starting to run out of people I taught with as they’re retiring. I started as a teacher and then made the transition to superintendent. I taught with Kelly. I’ll miss having her around.”

There was also a board policy review featuring Section 1: School District Organization and adding a naming policy.

## Time for a spelling bee with the Amboy musical

**AMBOY** – Spell ‘hilarious’. That’s the word to describe this year’s spring musical presented by Amboy School High School. “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” is scheduled for March 8, 9, and 10 at the Amboy High School Auditorium.

An eclectic group of students vie to be named champion of the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee at Putnam Co. Middle School. Students spell their way through a series of potentially made-up words and candidly share hilarious and touching stories about their lives. They hope to never to hear the soul-crushing ‘ding’ of the bell signaling a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter. One leaves a champion! Complete with audience participation, this musical promises laughter and fun featuring several AHS students on stage,



The cast of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee have been rehearsing since January for the musical setting stage March 8-10 at the Amboy High School Auditorium.

Courtesy photo

backstage and in the pit orchestra. The musical is directed by Mrs. Amy Schwamberger. The music director is Mr. Travis Kemmerer.

Tickets will be available to purchase at Amboy High School, March 4-8, during school hours. General admission tickets will also be available at the door prior to each performance. All tickets are \$5.00.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented through special arrangement with and all materials are provided by Music Theatre International.

## Sublette Village Board accepts, approves, passes

**By BRANDON LaCHANCE**  
*Amboy News Editor*

**SUBLETTE** – The February Village of Sublette meeting had three common words, accept, approve, and pass.

The key words at the meeting on Monday, Feb. 12 at the Ellice Dinges Center surrounded different projects and happenings in Sublette that have been on the agenda for some time.

At a committee meeting on Feb. 6 the groundwork was discussed about many projects including the water main, storm sewer, and street work needing to be completed on Richmond, Virginia, and Reeve streets. This carried over to a meeting on Feb. 8 where an engineer from Willett, Hoffman & Associates was in attendance to talk about the surveying work.

The committee meeting on Feb. 6 also discussed sidewalk repair around the Ellice Dinges Center and downtown Sublette.

At the village meeting, the board approved a motion to elicit bids for contractors to replace the broken concrete on the front sidewalk, entrance way and by the backdoor of the EDC, as well as a 6x8 section on the Main Street sidewalk.

Recently, the Village of Sublette message board was turned off.

President John Stenzel and the board members acted quickly to reverse the result of miscommunication.

See **Sublette** page A2

## Earlville’s William Whitford arrested for vehicle theft in Dixon

At approximately 10:26 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 18, deputies from the Lee County Sheriff’s Office responded to 291 IL Route 2, in Dixon, for a report of motor vehicle theft.

The vehicle was located by the Dixon Police Department and stopped as it came into Dixon city limits.

The driver was identified as William Whitford, 31 years of age, from Earlville, IL.

Through the investigation, William Whitford, was arrested and charged with the following:

- Unlawful Possession of a Stolen Vehicle – Class 2 Felony
- Aggravated Battery to a Peace Officer – Class 2 Felony
- Resisting/Obstructing a Peace Officer – Class 4 Felony
- Criminal Trespass to Vehicle – Class A Misdemeanor
- Driving while License Revoked – Class A Misdemeanor
- Failure to Appear Warrant for Parole Violation

## 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.*



**P.F.C. Nicholas Albert Knapp**

Co. C, 353rd Infantry Regiment, 89th Division

On April 18, 1892, Nicholas Knapp became one of eight children born to Gottlieb and Matilda Knapp at their family farm near Harmon. He spent his childhood there with six brothers and one sister, and attended one of Hamilton Township’s country school houses through the eighth grade. During the spring of 1917 America declared war on Germany and announced



C of the 353rd Infantry Regiment, 89th Division, based at Camp Funston (later Camp Leonard Wood) in Kansas. The 89th was ordered to proceed by train to Hoboken, New Jersey for transport to Europe in late May. On June 3rd, embarkation began aboard the British transport ship Karmala. One American soldier recalled his experience that day:

“Each man called his name as he walked past the Embarkation Officer up the gang plank. In order to expedite the loading of the ship, the men were sent on different routes when they reached deck. Consequently, all were mixed in the holds called ‘compartments’ below. It seemed impossible for the required numbers to get into the space allotted, much less to live there. But officers and men must stay below until the ship is completely loaded. Shouts of ‘air’, ‘let me out’ came up through the hatches. ‘Stay down’ was the order. Every man was soon busy fixing his hammock to the hooks in the ceiling and adjusting his life belt, assuring himself of whatever comfort and safety was available for the voyage.”

By June 16th, the 353rd Regiment had arrived in England and would soon cross the channel into France where tens of thousands of American soldiers were massing to provide much needed reinforcements for the allies. During the summer, P.F.C. Knapp and his company engaged in battle at St. Mihiel and later in the Meuse-Argonne, the final offensive of the war.

On Oct. 25, Knapp’s company was ordered to finish clearing the north section of Bantheville Woods in the Argonne Forest after taking days of non-stop artillery shells, gas attacks, and machine gun fire. The official regimental report from that day describes the action:

See **Knapp** page A3

RECYCLE!  
RECYCLE!  
RECYCLE!  
RECYCLE!

AMBOY  
MINUTE

**Obituaries**

Mary Alice Hardy

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# LOCAL NEWS



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**10 am – 3 pm**  
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LOCATION: Mendota Civic Center  
 1901 TOM MERWIN DRIVE, MENDOTA, IL

## Sublette continued from page A1

“The Sublette Business Association used to own the village message board and then it turned it over to the Village of Sublette,” Stenzel said. “The invoice was never delivered because it was being sent to the association. The board was shutoff, but the contract is now renewed.”

“We have some decisions to make because the company that supports the board is no longer going to have parts readily available for it. The Sublette board is going to start looking at other possible options. The message board could run for many

more years, but we have to decide what we’re going to do when it no longer runs.”

Updates were given to the Sublette Comprehensive Plan as it should be officially completed by May after one more public hearing and it is presented to the village board.

Then a copy will be given to Lee County to be included into the county’s plan.

“You develop a zoning map within a 1 ½ mile of the village borders to see how the village wants to be built whether it’s commercial, residential, or light industrial,” said Stenzel, who was part of the board that put together the last Sublette Comprehensive Plan in 2005. “It shows which

direction the village wants to go in. When you have a comprehensive plan that has been developed that states what’s going to go where, since we don’t do our own zoning the county can make changes, but when we have a plan, it has more poll or weight baring of what the village wants to do. The county then takes it into consideration before they say this should go there when it’s different than our comprehensive plan.”

“It also lets us know what we’re lacking in Sublette and what residents want to see more of in town. We did a survey with the campgrounds and residents in town last February. We’ve compiled the surveys to help with the comprehensive plans.”

Also approved was for Stenzel, as acting mayor, to sign the agreement for the electric supply bid for the village electrical account which expires in May.

It was passed for the Municipal Aggregation Program Resolution, which is a combination of 11 communities.

On the Sublette calendar, Sublette 365 is hosting Dueling Pianos on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Township Community Building.

The Ellice Dinges Center will be open Tuesday, March 19 for the General Primary Election.

The next Village of Sublette meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, March 11.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## TEEN TURF

### Mardis Gras/Valentine's Dance

As you can see, the balloon drop was back and they had a blast. Some kids won money, some kids one beads some kids one food and some kids one glow sticks. We had over 70 kids. Huge shout out to our chaperones: Will, Shelli, Laura, Patricia, Katrina, Bob, Maddy, Sid Bonny, Wayne, Brian, Mari, Kristy, and Amber. We can't do anything without them. Thank you to our SVCC Impact Program volunteer Chloe for helping in the kitchen. Congratulations to Jovvee and Avarie for winning the guessing contest. Congratulations to Jaxon for winning the limbo. We also had a table game for searching with roses with chopsticks. And at the end of the night whoever had the most beads won a prize as well. They had to be kind to get more beads. Congratulations to Grace on that one. And as always thank you to Mr and Mrs Piper for having the vision of Teen Turf and sustaining it.

### Thank You's

We are always grateful to those that help us in our endeavor to help the community: Lynn and Tim O'Laughlin for the monetary donation; Shiela Buccola for the monetary donation; Jillian Rieskamp for the clothes; Nathan and Alicia Costner for the muffins; Anonymous for the goldfish; Britany and Taylor Kaleel for the clothes; Margaret and Jerry Shaw for the monetary donation; Irene and Eileen Ramsdell for the meat, cheese, bread, and lovely cupcakes; Donna Wellman for the yummy cookies; Amboy Food and Liquor for the bread; Lora Berogan for the books; Mark and Veronica Grossman for the planner and printer and Miriam Alonso for the milk.

We are indebted to our afterschool volunteers: Bonny, Sandy P, Sandy D, Mary, Amber, Brian, Karen, Candy, Kathy Donna, Shannon, and our Impact Volunteers.

Couldn't make the decisions or hold events without our Board members: Brian, Barb, Mark, Shelli, Amber, Madison. Of course, our treasurer, Roxy

### St. Patrick's Day Dance

Save the date, Friday, March 1, from 7p.m.to 9 p.m. More info to follow

### Drive-Thru Fish Fry

We are having our Teen Turf Fish Fry on Friday, March 15, 2024, from 4 - 7p.m. Tickets are \$12 each and are available at the building or you can see any of our board members: Brian Wedekind, Mark Grossman, Barb Harrison, Shelli Bump, Amber Horner, and Madison Thomas. Our kids will be selling them as well. Any questions, call us at 815-857-4800.

### Needs

Fruit roll-ups

### Final Note

Dear Lord, thank you for your forgiveness. Thank you for not abandoning us to our mistakes, but for reaching out instead to bring us home. Help convict us of sin and help us accept your mercy without shame. Thank you for the love you have poured out for us and all of your children. Help us live out of that love today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



### Teen Turf

## Drive-Thru Fish Fry

**Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**

4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Pick-up only

Boehle Youth Center  
(Teen Turf Building)

235 W Main Street, Amboy  
(815)857-4800

Dinner includes:

Fish, Coleslaw, Bread, Potato Salad & Cookie

Cost \$12

Please see Eileen Piper and Pam Thomas at the building and Board Members for tickets

Brian Wedekind, Barb Harrison, Mark Grossman, Shelli Bump, Amber Horner, and Madison Thomas





## AMBOY POLICE

### NOISY VEHICLE

Luke J. Cororan, 18, of Amboy, was issued an ordinance citation for a noisy vehicle with a \$100 fine at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 11 E. Hawley St.



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## 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](http://www.lchd.com) for a list of services available.

**AMBOY**- You are invited to join fellow senior citizens for a free exercise program 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, Feb. 26. Anyone interested in joining or wants more information on the Lions Club is invited to attend.

**FRANKLIN GROVE**- Wouldn't it be terrific for all ages to learn more about gardening? The Lee County Master Gardeners have started their gardening series again, "Big and Small Gardening." This series will be held at the Winfred Knox Library in Franklin Grove the first Tuesday of each month, with alternating months offering a youth program at 4 p.m. or an adult program at 6 p.m. Join the Master Gardeners for a youth lesson on March 5 to learn more about the variety of plants to grow this summer and how to properly take care of them. One may register for these programs by calling the library at 815-456-2823.

**DIXON**- Explore the enclosed world of bottle terrariums, self-contained plant environments within glass. Join the Lee County Extension to explore terrariums, their needs, and how to create a bottle version of a terrarium to take home with you. This session is offered on March 9, from 9:30 - 11 a.m., at Sauk Valley Community College. If students would like to turn a specific bottle into a terrarium, please bring it; otherwise, one will be provided. This class would be for an individual or a great family activity. Supplies are included. (Ages 10 & Up) Register online at [go.illinois.edu/CommunityEdSVCC](http://go.illinois.edu/CommunityEdSVCC)

**DIXON**- Experience a monthly journey with Kara Schweitzer, an educator from University of Illinois Extension, as she leads participants through interactive activities crafted to stimulate the brain and enhance cognitive function and memory. The Wits Fitness Monthly Workshop will be held from 1 - 2:30 p.m., on March 11. We will be offering this program at the Edward Murphy Room at KSB Town Square, 101 W Second St.; new participants are welcome to join at any time.

**DIXON**- Join the Master Gardeners of Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside counties for this one-day event

## Knapp continued from page A1

"...the constant sniping and bursts of machine gun fire, together with the reports of our patrols, announced that the enemy still occupied in considerable force the northern half of the Bois de Bantheville, despite efforts by the 356th to mop the woods. The total amount of enemy property [we seized] comprised 10-12 machine guns, two 47 mm canon, and numerous maps. Our casualties were 11 killed and 27 wounded."

Among those killed in action that day was P.F.C. Nick Knapp. Along with thousands of fellow American doughboys, Private Knapp was laid to rest in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France, a young farmer from Lee County forever honored and remembered for his supreme sacrifice.

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](mailto: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.

Dienst, Charles F., "History of the 353rd Infantry Regiment, 89th Division, National Army, Sept. 1917 - June 1919". 353rd Infantry Society, 1921.

### National Archives

Find A Grave Memorial



## The Amboy News

*Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854*

Tonja Greenfield, Publisher  
Brandon LaChance, Editor

Published weekly on Wednesday by The Amboy News,  
703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342

**Phone: 815-539-9396**

Periodicals postage paid at Amboy, IL  
Publication Number USPS 016820

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

**Subscriptions: \$59.00 yearly in Lee, LaSalle and Bureau counties.  
\$69.00 yearly elsewhere in the United States.**

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offering participants information about horticulture, backyard gardening, pest control and more. This event will be held from 8 a.m. - noon, on March 23, at the Loveland Community House, Dixon. Registration is online at [go.illinois.edu/readyssetgrow](http://go.illinois.edu/readyssetgrow).

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### NOTICE OF VOTE BY MAIL AND EARLY VOTING

Nancy Petersen, Lee County Clerk and Recorder would like to announce that beginning THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024, VOTE BY MAIL and EARLY VOTING will be conducted in the Election Department of her office, first floor of the Old Lee County Courthouse, 112 E. Second St., Dixon.

**VOTE BY MAIL~** signed applications will be accepted through Thursday, March 14, 2024, and are available for properly registered Lee County voters. Applications are available on the website or by contacting the Election Department of her office.

**EARLY VOTING~** must be conducted in person Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. and Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

**PLEASE NOTE: Lee County Courthouse will be closed February 12, 2024 and February 19, 2024.**

The votes cast during this time will not be counted until the polls close on Election Day. Once a ballot has been cast it cannot be rescinded.

**Website:** [www.leecountyil.com](http://www.leecountyil.com)  
**Email:** [election@countyoflee.org](mailto:election@countyoflee.org) **Phone:** 815-288-3309

*Nancy Petersen*  
**Lee County Clerk & Recorder**



# OBITUARIES/LOCAL NEWS

## OBITUARIES

### Mary Alice Hardy May 23, 1944 - Feb. 13, 2024

**AMBOY** — Mary Alice Hardy, 79, of Amboy, passed away on Feb. 13, 2024, after facing complications from post-polio syndrome, alongside other health issues. She was born on May 23, 1944, in Dixon, the beloved daughter of Alvin Donald and Margaret (Cooper) Ortgiesen.

Mary found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She enjoyed reading, bird watching, sewing, baking, and writing letters to her friends. Mary also had a green thumb and loved planting flowers and plants, creating a vibrant and blooming environment around her. Staying connected was important to her, and she embraced keeping in touch with family through Facebook.

She is preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Nancy K. Daniels.

Mary Alice is survived by her loving children: Josephine (Scott) Vivian, of Amboy, Kirsten (Shawn) Pjesky, of Sugar Grove, Caleb (Christina) Hardy, of Byron, and Tyler Hardy, of Nashville. She leaves behind a legacy through her seven grandchildren: Samantha (Noah), Mackenzie (Jacob), Courtney (Cody), Carter, Dylan, Addlyn, and Bowen; as well as four great-grandchildren: Nellie, Jack, Cullen, and Rhett; and a great-granddaughter on the way.

Mary Alice is also survived by her sisters: Julia (James) Schmidt, of Morrison, Colo., Helen (Robert) Jackson, of



DeKalb, Peg Ortgiesen, of Indio, Calif., Sharon Ackerson, of Vaughan, Mont., and her brother, Edward (Sharon) Ortgiesen, of Brownsburg, Ind.

A Celebration of Life in honor of Mary Alice will be held on June 29, 2024, at the Byron Forest Preserve in Byron, Illinois, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A memorial has been established.

For online guestbook visit [www.dieterlememorialhome.com](http://www.dieterlememorialhome.com)

### Red Cross Bloodmobile at Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Sublette

**SUBLETTE** — A Red Cross Bloodmobile was held on Feb. 13 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Sublette.

There were 45 total products collected, including from several walk-ins. Multi-unit collections were from Steve Crook (86), Gaylene Noble (71) and Pete Rood (64).

The next Red Cross Bloodmobile will be Tuesday, April 9 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Sublette.

### Kishwaukee College announces Fall 2023 part-time student honors list

Kishwaukee College has announced the students named to the Fall 2023 Part-Time Student Honors List. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have completed a minimum of six (but less than 12) semester hours of college-level courses at Kish with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. The following students have been named to the Kishwaukee College Fall 2023 Part-Time Student Honors List:

**Ashton** — Jennah Asbury, Kelsie Bell, Ryan Sage

**Davis Junction** — Leah Harrolle, Autumn Kittoe, Erin Welch

**DeKalb** — Sari Akers, Natalia Sanchez Alamia, Jacinta Allen, Giuliana Alvarez, Edlyn Arellano, Yesenia Aspera, Parker Asselborn, Idalis Bahr, Bettina Banda, Deborah Beeman, Bella Boyd, Harold Brown, Keenan Buckle, Emma Carmichael, Ana Castellanos, Alexander Chavez, Bryan Chesser, Lashawn Chisolm, Brianna Crawford, Olivia De La O, Isabel Diaz, Rafael Diaz, Caleb Diefenderfer, David Doherty, Eloy Duran, Tamika Ellis, Vivian

Evans, Fern Evins, Diego Fabian Moreno, Kevin Finnelly, Benjamin Fleming, Hakeem Fleming, Benjamin Flood, Alma Reyna Forney, Josephine Foss, Tiffany Frazier, Josephine Frazier, Chiquita Fullilove, Yessenia Gamez, Evelyn Garcia, Zarina Grych, Trinity Harms, Evan Harrelson, Torrencia Harris, Logan Heffernan, Jennie Henrikson, Nancy Hernandez, Leslie Hernandez, Jesus Hernandez, Mia Hernandez, Leonela Herrera Peralta, Hailey Hoffman, Maryah Holden, Matt Holuj, Melissa Huneke, Meimuna Ibrahim, Ebuwa Igbinoia, James Jackson, Diamond Jackson, Sylvia Johnson, Jonah Keck, Hailey Knight, Autumn Kunkel, Elena Lara, Steven Lavoie, Jailiyah Lawson, Mikaili Little, Roxanne Lule, Taylor Lupton, Hannah MacCabe, Melanie Martin, Cortney McFadden, Jackson McPartlin, Brittney Moberg, Marisol Nunez, Dirtha Ortega Perea, Ari Owens, Suleyma Perea-Castellanos, Cassandra Puentes, Anna Reaves, Austin Reidl, Christopher Robinson, Penelope Roehrig, Melissa Ruel, Jessie Saenz, Mayra Sam,

Minerva Sandoval, Taylor Smith, Emily Stewart, Lydia Taylor, Christopher Thunder, Kavaundra Ticey, Angela Trujillo, Matthew Tunk, Charlie Vanderbleek, Vanessa Villa, Aleena Vogel, Priscilla Washington, Samella Waters, Khalil Watford, Jaquida Wynn, Kyle Young, Jane Zacny, Francis Zaylik

**Dixon** — Luis Xique

**Earlville** — Elizabeth Bend

**Kings** — Michelle McCandless

**Malta** — Rebecca Seldal

**Oregon** — Jackson Glendenning, Brent Gross

**Paw Paw** — Sally Diaz, Kathryn Fabiszak, Reagan Gibson, Italia Howell, Jessica Solis

**Peru** — Mary Whaley

**Rochelle** — Kendall Ansteth, Vanessa Avolio, Kyleigh Boehle, Alex Burnette, Tatnai Carcasses

Suarez, Marili Cervantes, Allison Cole, Hunter Dalen, Martin Garcia, Ester Gomero Tamayo, Katrina Hada, Tiffany Hardcastle, Julissa Hernandez, Graciela Hernandez, Jaderi Ibarra, Ellie Kinn, Lindsey Lidren, Michelle Lopez, Kaden Lovett, Ceceilia Martinez, Jaime Martinez, Kaylee May, Alexander McBride, David Menez, Monique Murray, Sarah O'Connor, Michelle Ocampo, Kaitlynn Ost, Troy Papke, Nathan Sergeant, Jason Sims, Cierra Thomas, Sandra Torres, Autumn True, Humberto Valdez, Alexavier Villatoro, Morgan West, Asher Wiegartz

**Sublette** — Eden Lindenmeyer

### UW-Platteville announces Dean's List

**PLATTEVILLE, Wis.** - The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announces its Dean's List, honoring those full-time students who earned high honors in the fall 2023 semester.

College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture and the College of Liberal Arts and Education require grade-point averages of 3.75 and above for

Dean's List honors, while the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science requires students to reach at least a 3.50.

Students from this area on the Dean's List include:

**HOMETOWN, STATE; NAME, MAJOR, CAMPUS**

**Amboy, IL**

Kathryn Noble\*, Elementary Education BS, UW-Platteville

**Dixon, IL**

Riley Kavanaugh\*, Elementary Education BS, UW-Platteville

**Did you make the Dean's List for the fall semester?**

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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](http://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

**St. Mary Church**  
Fr. John Gow  
912 Walton Rd., Walton  
815-857-2670  
Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm

**St. Flannen Church**  
Fr. John Gow  
213 S Second St., Harmon  
815-857-2670  
Mass: Sunday, 8:30 am

**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.

**First Congregational United Church of Christ of Lee Center**  
Pastor Jack M. Briggs  
1140 Inlet Road, Lee Center  
[www.LeeCenter-UCC.org](http://www.LeeCenter-UCC.org)  
Phone 815-732-7032  
Family Worship - 10:30 a.m.

**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](http://www.graceisforyou.com)

**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!

**First Baptist Church**  
Pastor Rocky Fritz  
24 N. Mason Avenue  
Church Phone 857-2682  
[www.fbcamboy.com](http://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.

**St. Mary's Church - West Brooklyn**  
Rev. Randy Fronck  
Mass - Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m.  
Saturday - 5:30 p.m.

**St. Patrick Church - Maytown**  
Rev. Randy Fronck  
Mass - Friday - 8 a.m.  
Sunday - 8 a.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.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church**  
Rev. Randy Fronck  
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.

**Refuge Church**  
Pastor John Kalebaugh  
Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52  
Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930  
10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows

**Harmon United Methodist Church**  
Pastor Leanne Keate  
202 N. Grove, Harmon  
Phone 359-7302  
Worship - 8:30 a.m.

**The Following  
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**Mihm-Jones Funeral  
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815-857-2611

**Vaessen Brothers  
Chevrolet**  
815-849-5232

**KSB Medical Center**  
815-857-3044

**The Amboy News**  
815-857-2311





## SOCIAL NEWS



# THE PASTOR'S PEN

## Going Through it All with Him

**By: Pastor Rick Wulf**  
*East Grove Union Church of Rural Amboy*

Hello, Friends,  
 As part of my daily quiet time with God, I use the daily devotional published by Our Daily Bread Ministries. I have included a link to their website for those unfamiliar with this ministry. [www.odb.org](http://www.odb.org). Each daily devotion is written by many different Christian authors, using a passage from the Bible along with a variety of personal stories or current or past events that illustrate the truth that the Bible passage illustrates. I have gained great inspiration and insight using the tools of this ministry, and the neat thing about this ministry, everything they offer is free. They do ask that if you could send an offering to help cover the cost that it would be appreciated but not required.

In the Feb. 17, 2024 devotional post, they used the passage from 2 Corinthians 12:6-10 where the Apostle Paul wrote: "Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, or

because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Author Karen Huang tells of her personal experience growing up believing that grown-ups were wise and incapable of failure. She shares now as a "grown-up," it's not always true. I can relate to that as well. As I have share in past posts, the Lord has allowed me to experience many health issues over the past eight years to remind me that I am not to be a self-sufficient person, but to rely on Him for the help that I need. It's not that He needs the devotion because God is, All-in-all, and He is in need of nothing. He knows that I need to

rely upon Him alone and not upon my own knowledge and abilities in life. I would be so much better off when I do that. I also believe that God has taught me to be more empathetic with others as they face serious health issues. At the writing of this article, I am preparing for a nine week course of radiation therapy to battle prostate cancer. I don't claim to understand it all but my faith in God tells me to trust Him through it all.

Now for the Apostle Paul, he had a lot going for him, Jesus after His resurrection personally called him to be the Apostle to the Gentiles. He had quite the resume of spiritual experiences. Look up and read his account of those not so pleasant experiences in 2 Corinthians 11:24-26. Just as his faith in Jesus got the Apostle Paul through all that he experienced in his life, if you have a similar faith in Jesus, He get you through your tough times in life as well. I know for myself and my wife, Rose, we are really upon Him, because we have no other place to go but to Jesus. Our weaknesses are made strong and complete with His help.

May God continue to bless and sustain you.

## The Book Nook

By:

Tatjana Kazan

## A Family Saga

A character in Louise Erdrich's novel, "Antelope Woman," neatly sums up the history of his ancestor: "We developed as a people over many thousands of years. Our culture. Our ways. Our adaptations. Then all of a sudden in one generation – wham. Warp-speed acculturation." "Antelope Woman" is the story of two families of the Ojibwe tribe, beginning at a massacre in the 1860's and ending in 1990's Minneapolis. The novel is magical realist and non-linear, which, I must say, was at times rather trying. It is also funny – a good part of it is narrated by a dog called Almost Soup – and as always with Erdrich, the prose is exceptional.

Magical realism sets itself against the notion of progress, which by its nature attempts to eliminate those things deemed backward and antiquated. Against the ideology of individualism, the novel sets a family saga, populated by humans and animals who are related by blood. But "Erdrich indulges little moralism: she knows that the progressive dream of eliminating evil – yes, even evils like racism or rape – is at one with the eliminationist dreams of those who led the march of progress across the Plains that trampled indigenous America."

The family saga begins when a Quaker Union soldier named Scranton Roy kills an old woman during a massacre at an Ojibwe village. Instantly remorseful, he sees a dog with a baby strapped to its body. He follows the dog and after several days, befriends him and begins to care for the baby. He builds a sod house for himself and the baby he calls Matilda after his mother. The baby's mother, Blue Prairie Woman, goes nearly insane. She marries a man named Showano and bears twins, the first of four sets of twin girls. After seven years, Blue Prairie Woman abandons the twins and walks west in search of her daughter. When she finds Matilda, she secretly takes the girl, but she soon dies of fever. Alone, Matilda follows a herd of antelopes and then joins them. With her beauty and passion, Matilda becomes the archetype of the antelope woman.

Scranton Roy is sad when Matilda disappears, but he marries the school teacher Peace McKnight who bears a son, Augustus. Augustus will later marry Blue Prairie Woman's twins, and they will have the children whose descendants populate this most crowded of novels. Their loves and lives in modern Minneapolis are related in numerous anecdotes, both tragic and hilarious, such as how the dog Almost Soup got his name. The closing judgment: "Something happened in our family that cannot be explained by the culture we live in now. When our mothers tell the stories they heard from their grandmothers and great-grandmothers, we listen and nod as if we think the stories are true. But we don't think they're true."

## Scammers strike hard as tax season opens; victims face losing vital information, money, refunds

**ROCKFORD** – The 2024 tax season begins January 29, so the Better Business Bureau is alerting the public to the schemes that con artists will use over the next several weeks to take your money, personal identity information, and peace of mind.

According to the IRS, taxpayers lost \$5.7 billion due to tax scams and fraud in 2022.

For the first time in five years, the tax filing deadline is the traditional April 15. It can be nerve-wracking as many people prepare to file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). And scammers will capitalize on the pressure taxpayers are under.

"Regardless of how you choose to have your taxes prepared, you could encounter a scam attempt," says Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional Office of the BBB. "As the 2024 tax season opens, tax scammers come out of the woodwork. They often start with fear, utilizing imposter phone calls, texts, emails, and phony letters playing on their target's emotions."

Tax Identity Theft occurs when a scammer uses your Social Security number to file a tax return in your name and collect your refund. Scammers steal your tax information in several ways. It could be a phony tax preparation service, a data breach, a hack, or a phishing scam, where you are tricked into clicking on a link in a text message that

downloads malware to your device.

Victims of tax identity theft typically don't realize they've been targeted until they file their taxes or even later.

Email Phishing Scams appear to be from the IRS and include a link to a bogus website intended to mirror the official IRS website. These fraudulent emails direct you to update your IRS e-file immediately, or there is a problem with your taxes and sometimes mention USA.gov or a variation of the real IRS site. Scammers want you to call the fake number in the email or click on a link to steal money and ID information.

IRS Impersonation Scams most often start with a phone call and take two basic forms. In the first version, the IRS "agent" says you owe back taxes and pressures you into paying by prepaid debit card or wire transfer. The scammer threatens you with arrest and fines if you don't comply. Scammers can also claim they are issuing tax refunds and need your information.

The scammer might even give a fake badge number and name or use a spoofed Caller ID, looking like it's coming from an official agency.

Scammers usually try to push you into action before you have time to think and often insist that payment be made immediately by wire transfer, prepaid debit card, or other nontraditional payment methods, which are mainly untraceable and

nonreversible.

"Ghost" shady tax preparers set up shop around tax time, usually in a vacant storefront. They will often promise tax filers fast or large refunds. These "ghost" tax preparers can be individuals who bypass checks and balances in the tax preparer certification system. You might lose your refund and pay high fees, and if something goes wrong with your return, they are nowhere to be found.

BBB Tax Time Tips:

- Check out businesses before you hire them and a great place to start is at BBB.org.

- The best way to avoid tax ID theft is to file your taxes as early as possible before a scammer has the chance to steal your information and file a fake tax return.

- Always check out a new tax preparer before you do business with them. Visit BBB.ORG for ratings and reviews.

- Ask any tax preparer what security steps they will take to protect your data.

- Check out websites carefully and make sure you access the actual IRS website when filing your taxes electronically or inquiring for additional information.

- When in doubt, contact the IRS directly to verify any contact, not a number in an email or text. • The IRS will never threaten you, demand immediate payment, require a specific form of payment, or ask for credit card or

debit card numbers over the phone.

- Be wary of a tax preparer offering fast refunds or large returns. What you owe is solely based on your past year's tax information and the current tax laws.

- Only allow funds to be deposited into your personal accounts. Some ghost tax preparers will have funds deposited into their own accounts "to be later distributed."

- Review your tax return before it's submitted to ensure it was correctly signed by your tax preparer.

- Be wary of spectacular promises. Avoid tax preparers who offer "refund anticipation loans" as you'll probably lose a large percentage of your return to commission fees.

- Think about availability. If the IRS finds errors in your tax forms or decides to perform an audit, will your tax preparer be available to help you with the details?

- Contact the IRS immediately if you get a written notice from the IRS about a duplicate tax return, a notice stating that you received wages from a company that you never worked for, or any notice that "additional taxes are owed, the refund will be offset, or a collection action is being taken against you."

- Protect your Social Security number (SSN). Do not give out your SSN unless you are 100% sure you are dealing with someone you trust.

## Is it summer yet?

**CLIPPER kIDDIE 2**

This Week's Student of the Week is:

**Sam Gonigam**

**Student's Favorites:**

- Favorite Color – Blue
- Favorite Animal – Cat
- Favorite Food – Sweet Corn
- Favorite Book – The Little Engine That Could
- Favorite Game – Hide and Seek
- Favorite Song – I've Been Working On The Railroad

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**CLIPPER kIDDIE 2**

This Week's Student of the Week is:

**Levi Nelson**

**Student's Favorites:**

- Favorite Color – Red
- Favorite Animal – Giraffe
- Favorite Food – Cereal
- Favorite Book – How The Grinch Stole Christmas
- Favorite Game – Basketball
- Favorite Song – "Baby" by Justin Bieber

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**Wednesday** – Polish sausage, sauerkraut, potato wedges, baked beans, chilled applesauce, wgr hot dog bun

**Thursday** – Beefaroni, California blend veggies, corn muffin, apricots

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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

## No longer a slam dunk

Growing up, the NBA All-Star weekend was always one of my favorites.

Favorite weekends, favorite event, favorite time to appreciate my favorite sport and favorite players.

Although I was alive, I'm too young to remember the

Michael Jordan and Dominique Wilkins dunk contests, the Larry Bird 3-point contest victories (three times, including the first), 5-foot-7 Spud Webb out dunking his taller piers, or Magic Johnson winning the All-Star Game MVP in 1992 after he announced his retirement because of HIV and then returned.

Thank you, NBA TV and YouTube, for allowing me to witness the greatness after the face.

However, I did see Jason Williams elbow pass, Kobe Bryant's first All-Star Game and dunk contest, Allen Iverson delight, Dwight Howard vs. Nate Robinson in the dunk contest, Stephen Curry and Damian Lillard light it up behind the 3-point line, and of course, Vince Carter's legendary performance at the 2000 dunk contest; the greatest of all time.

I've watched every single contest, skills challenge, and full-fledged game since I was little and have enjoyed each one.

But as the years go by, the excitement is a little less and less.

Maybe it's because my childhood basketball idols

are now in their 60s, and my high school and college must-watch stars are retired, except for LeBron James and Chris Paul.

It could be we just get tired of things, and we need change.

### Column

By Brandon LaChance



I used to love eggs, until I ate them every day.

I used to enjoy certain songs until I heard them on the radio every day.

I used to love the NBA All-Star festivities until I saw the same things every year.

And it's a shame because according to Facebook and X (formerly Twitter), I am not alone with this thought process.

Creating new dunks, we haven't seen by a real-life player or on a video game, is almost impossible.

There are only so many props, Blake Griffin over a car, we can use. There are so many tall legends, like Shaquille O'Neal, to jump over. He was actually used twice this year. My point exactly.

When Mac McClung, the champ this year and last, did a different dunk no one had seen before, he got his lowest score of the night from the judges.

I agree with Reggie Miller, the 3-point contest should be the main event now.

Time has moved on, the game has changed since each team chucks up 25-plus 3-pointers a night, and the competition is actually captivating.

Four guys finished the first round with 26 to force a

shootout to see which two would go to the next round. It was exciting.

So was Curry against WNBA star Sabrina Ionescu in a 1-v-1 battle. I wouldn't be surprised if it becomes a yearly event, and more people get involved.

I know you're probably waiting for me to bash the actual All-Star Game because there wasn't any defense, most of the players looked uninterested, and the score was more inflated than our economy.

With how the sport is going in terms of superstars with injuries, fouls being equally inflated, and at times deflated, shooting behind the arc being more important than the extra pass, it didn't surprise me.

I don't think I'd call it a bad game; I'd just call it a 2024 exhibition game.

The NBA All-Star weekend will always be on my TV or tablet because it's a tradition and I still want to see the best of the best, but it doesn't have the same feel, the same electricity it once did.

Hopefully it can come back.

Magic Johnson did. Michael Jordan did. LeBron James probably will.

The NBA All-Star Weekend can come back to an all-around entertaining level.

## You may be tempted to tune politics out, but here's why you shouldn't

Back in January, the Pew Research Center released the results of an intriguing set of focus groups they carried out last year.

Ordinarily, of course, survey research organizations test the sentiments of registered or likely voters to check in on their mood. But these groups were voters who, in Pew's words, "look at the nation's politics as a topic better avoided than embraced."

What those voters had to say is a sign of these highly polarized, highly politicized times.

They're overwhelmed with information and not certain what they can trust. They're tired of all the arguing, and so while they're willing to vote, they have no desire to get more engaged than that—in some cases because they say they're trying to protect their mental health.

They're also frustrated with both the Democratic and Republican parties, saying they don't find a comfortable home in either and don't much like what they see of the parties' leaders. And they believe, as Pew sums up their sentiments, that "there is too much fighting and not enough progress being made on issues that are important to everyday people." So, for the most part, they've chosen to disengage.

One intriguing finding of those focus groups: While participants

generally coalesced around their complaints, they were all over the map on what to do about it. Some

suggested structural changes to how our system works (like term limits or reducing the role of money in politics); some argued politicians should refrain from negativity; others thought a third party might be helpful. My own suggestion would seem counter-intuitive, but here it is: Rather than shy away from involvement, these people

should become more engaged. Let me explain why I say that. Over the course of a long political life, I've heard pretty much every excuse there is for non-participation in American political life: lack of time, lack of interest, lack of knowledge, impatience with conflict and negativity. These are all understandable objections. We all get discouraged from time to time, or question whether we have anything to contribute or will even be allowed to contribute. Sometimes, we blame this on the system as a whole, or on the people who are participating in it.

But this is a recipe for losing our democracy. Our system depends on the willingness of ordinary Americans to get involved, whether it's tackling a problem up the street or in the state capital or in Washington. There's no one else coming to our rescue: It's up to

us to make our system do what we need it to do in order to make progress on the challenges we face. Which means we have to accept our democracy as it is and try to make it better. Being critical is fine. Being so critical that people drop out is a problem.

I get that participation is a pain. It takes a lot of effort and a lot of thought, and I'm not surprised that people get upset and vow to ditch the whole thing.

Yet it's the very people who see the problems and wish things were otherwise who need to be involved. The corrective for a political culture that drives participants away isn't to tune it out; it's to get involved and work to fix it, so that you—and others who think like you—can find a more comfortable home there. If everyone who's tired of the arguing and negativity and rank partisanship and political maneuvering that distracts from the tough issues we face as Americans were to run for office themselves or work for someone who thinks as they do or even just roll up their sleeves and set about solving some local problem, we'd have a different political world.

Don't get me wrong. Change wouldn't happen overnight—it's taken decades of evolution for us to reach our current state. But we're there because we've allowed and sometimes even encouraged partisanship and sniping to flourish; if that's going to change, it will only be because people who believe there's a better way get involved.

### Guest Column

By Lee Hamilton



## ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### 100 Years Ago Feb. 15, 1924

A brand new locomotive arrived for the Lee County Electric Railway.

Iya Mayhill was in Chicago last week to take her exam before the Examining Committee for Barbers of the State Division. Of the 50 members of the class, she was the only one to receive a 100 percent score.

### 75 Years Ago Feb. 17, 1949

Dr. W.L. Berryman, Amboy dentist, retired from Illinois Central Lodge No. 178 AF & AM, after 31 years of service.

Earl Antonie won fourth place in Class A at the Lincoln Park trap shoot in Chicago, breaking 69 out of 75 birds. He was accompanied to Chicago by William Fischer o Dixon.

Protected by gas masks, firemen spent four hours in the smoke-filled basement of the Northwestern Steel & Wire Company's main warehouse after a welding torch ignited a quantity of burlap sacks.

### 50 Years Ago Feb. 21, 1974

Alvin Montavon received the Lee County Conservation Farmer of the Year Award at the Lee County Soil & Water Conservation District's annual meeting.

A simulated disaster was staged at Amboy High School as a training session for the men taking the EMT A classes. The situation was an explosion at the high school where 17 people were injured.

### 25 Years Ago Feb. 18, 1999

Bernard Bushman, Amboy's 1998 Citizen of the Year, presented one of his hand carved, wooden name plaques to State Representative Jerry Mitchell to place on his desk in Springfield.

Neighbors helped a neighbor as nearly 400 people, many from the Sublette area, jammed the Amboy Center on Feb. 6 to benefit the Bill Althaus family, injured in an Oct. 17 auto accident. Several neighbors, especially Dean Stephenitch and Tom Dinges, decided to hold a benefit with an auction for the family.

A recent incident involving a dog biting an adult within the city limits took the main stage at the monthly city council meeting. Amboy Mayor Hank Gerdes said there is a dog ordinance in place, but an incident where a Rottweiler bit an adult and chased two children may force him to change the ordinance.

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](mailto:tgreenfield@amboynews.com)

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

## ADVERTISING POLICY

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

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

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

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	auto pay	\$50.00
10 weeks	manual pay	\$10.50
	auto pay	\$9.50

#### Non-local

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	auto pay	\$60.00
10 weeks	manual pay	\$11.75
	auto pay	\$11.00

### OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.,  
Monday-Friday

Closed Saturday, Sunday and major holidays.  
703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342

Phone **815-539-9396**  
Website **[www.amboynews.com](http://www.amboynews.com)**



# LOCAL NEWS

## Building gardeners cultivate skills and compassion in Jr. Gardener Special Interest Club

**DIXON** – The Lee County 4-H Program is thrilled to announce another season of the Jr. Gardener Special Interest (SPIN) Club, a club aimed at empowering young minds to explore the wonders of gardening, while also making a positive impact in the community. Under the guidance of experienced Master Gardeners, participants

in the Jr. Gardener SPIN Club will embark on a journey of discovery, learning the ins and outs of planning, prepping, and caring for a garden throughout the summer. A portion of the produce harvested by our young gardeners will be donated to support those in our community facing food insecurity. By combining hands-on learning with a spirit

of giving, the Jr. Gardener SPIN Club aims to cultivate not only gardens but also a sense of social responsibility. Participants will have the exciting opportunity to showcase their gardening achievements at the Lee County 4-H Show in July. The event promises to be a celebration of green thumbs and creativity, where our Jr. Gardeners can proudly display

the fruits (and vegetables) of their labor. When: Tuesdays, April 16- July 30, 4 PM- 5:30 PM Where: Dixon, IL Ages: 8-18, as of September 1, 2023 Cost: \$10 for enrolled 4-H members, \$30 for non-members (\$10 supply fee, \$20 enrollment fee) Register by April 9, 2024 at [Go.Illinois.edu/LeeCoJG](http://Go.Illinois.edu/LeeCoJG)

## Inaugural Pirate's Treasure Sale

The Ottawa FFA Alumni Group is hosting the inaugural Pirate's Treasure Livestock Sale at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23 at the Reel Livestock Center in Congerville, Illinois. Cattle (bred cows, bred heifers, bulls, and open heifers) will be available for viewing on March 22 and prior to the sale with lunch provided on sale day. This sale has been created with the purpose of giving students the experience of planning a sale, contacting consignors, marketing, accounting, communication, and livestock management. The sale will be entirely student run in order for them to gain skills to carry forward into careers within agriculture.

## 3M awards stethoscopes to Kish College nursing students

**MALTA** – Five Kishwaukee College students in the Registered Nursing program received the Littmann Stethoscope Award from DeKalb's 3M Community Support Group for the Spring 2024 semester. The students who received the award (pictured left to right) are Katherine Anderson, Lauren Maddox, David Andrade, Ariyana Turks and Laura Torres. The 3M

Community Support Group in DeKalb has awarded Littmann stethoscopes to Kish nursing students each semester since 2010. The Littmann stethoscopes are manufactured by 3M and are considered high-end equipment in the health care field. To learn more about the Kish Registered Nursing program, visit [kish.edu/nursing](http://kish.edu/nursing). For information on the 3M Corporation, visit [3m.com](http://3m.com).

## Lee County Sheriff's Office announces Super Bowl weekend enforcement results

**LEE COUNTY** – The Lee County Sheriff's Office today announced it made one (1) DUI arrests and issued seven (7) seat belt citations during the recent Super Bowl enforcement campaign. Deputies also issued three (3) speeding citations, five (5) distracted driving citations, two (2) driving while license suspended citations, seven (7) citations for other moving violations and one (1) criminal arrest.

The Super Bowl weekend "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" enforcement effort ran from Friday, Feb. 10, through the early morning hours of Monday, Feb. 13. The goal was to keep impaired drivers off the roads and ensure more people buckle up and follow all traffic safety laws. "Motorists should understand that we are serious about cracking down

on impaired drivers and seat belt and other traffic safety law violators. We do it to save lives," said Chief Deputy Ranken. The recent law enforcement campaign was made possible by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of the statewide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" campaigns.

## Augusta College releases fall semester Dean's List

**ROCK ISLAND** – Charlie Dickinson, a Augie Ages major of Amboy (61310), was named to Augustana College's fall semester Dean's List. The college named

more than 1,100 to the Dean's List for the 2023-2024 fall semester. Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher

on a four-point scale for courses taken during the term. Augustana College is a vibrant, welcoming liberal arts college located on a 115-acre campus in the

Quad Cities (pop. 400,000) along the Mississippi River. Augustana, a residential campus, has 100 majors and programs, 160 student organizations and 28 varsity athletic teams.



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Holly Bruington - Manager

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**Assumed Name Publication Notice**  
Public Notice is hereby given that on January 26, 2024 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 Word Path located at 229 Knox Road Mendota, IL. 61342. Dated this 26th day of January A.D. 2024. Micah Brandt Applicant. No. 0201 (Feb. 7, 14 and 21, 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

**Personal Assistant**  
needed for 30 year old male with special needs for laundry, housework, errands & socialization. Call 815-988-6931. (MR02282024)

## 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

**ANTIQUES WANTED:**  
I pay cash for antiques; furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decoys. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or email dickharms@hotmail.com

## 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

## 405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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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.

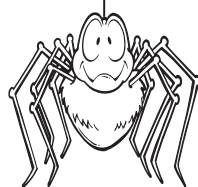
## 511 STORAGE UNITS

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10x20 Inside Storage, Outside and Inside Storage for semi-trucks/trailers, boats, campers, etc. Call 815-857-2252 02092022

## 517 WANTED TO RENT

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## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

**Amboy Fire Protection District Seal Bid**  
All bids need to be submitted to the Amboy Fire Department, sealed in an envelope with your name and phone number on it. Bidding ends March 1st. Funds will be used for purchasing a new Engine at Station 2.

1984 GMC C7000 S/A Engine  
6.0L V8 Gas Engine  
Darley Champion 1000 gpm pump  
1000 gallon tank  
Driver side:  
Two 2.5" discharges  
One 5" and one 2.5" intakes  
Officer side:  
Two 2.5" discharges  
One 5" and one 2.5" intakes  
100ft 1" booster reel  
Mileage: 19255 (original)  
Pump Hours: unk  
Runs after jumping; needs batteries



No. 0203 (Feb. 21, 2024)

**Amboy Fire Protection District Seal Bid**  
All bids need to be submitted to the Amboy Fire Department sealed in an envelope with your name and phone number on it. Bidding ends March 1st. Funds will be used for purchasing a new Engine at Station 2.  
2001 KAWASAKI PRAIRIE 400  
Ran for 10 mins then died. Needs a battery and fuel system likely needs attention.



No. 0204 (Feb. 21, 2024)

Not sure why  
business is slow?

OUT OF SIGHT  
OUT OF MIND...

is not just a saying in  
business.

**Advertise today and let your  
business be in sight and in the  
minds of your customers.**

## 601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

**2021 Chevy Tahoe Premier**

2021 Chevy Tahoe Premier, 4WD, One-Owner, Local Trade, Panoramic Sunroof, Leather Interior, Navigation, Heated/Cooled Seats, 69K Miles, Blue, Much More!

**\$53,900**

2023 Chevy 1500, Crew Cab, LTZ Z71, 4x4, Sunroof, Blue.....\$51,900	2021 Chevy Equinox FWD LT, 29K Miles, White.....\$21,900
2023 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab LT, Lthr, 4x4, Z71, Long Box 6 1/2 ft, 41K Miles, Red.....\$44,900	2020 Chevy Traverse AWD, LT 72K Miles, White.....\$24,900
2022 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ, 4WD, Z71, 37K Miles, Blue.....\$45,900	2020 Chevy Equinox LT, AWD, 2.0 LTR., 63K Miles, Silver.....\$21,900
2022 Chevy Equinox FWD LT, 42K Miles, Black.....\$22,900	2020 Chevy Equinox FWD, LT, 64K Miles, Silver.....\$18,900
2021 Chevy Tahoe High Country, 4WD, Loaded, Maroon.....\$55,900	2019 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab, LT 4x4, 59K Miles, White.....\$32,900

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2021 Chevy Equinox FWDLT, Sunroof, Navigation, 78K Miles, Black.....\$17,900	2018 Chevy Equinox FWD, LT, 36K Miles, Maroon.....\$18,900
2020 Chevy Equinox AWD LT, Leather, 103K Miles, Black.....\$16,900	2017 Chevy Suburban 4x4 LTZ, Loaded, 61K Miles, Maroon .....\$36,900
2019 Chevy K-1500 Crew LT, Leather, 4x4, 95K Miles, Gray.....\$27,900	2017 Chevy 1500 Double Cab, Custom, 4x4, 97K Miles, White .....\$21,900
2018 Chevy K-1500 Crew, LTZ 4x4 Z71 100th Ann. Edition, 14K Miles, Blue.....\$39,900	

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TASTE."**

**WE SAY  
SAVE IT**

Learn how to save for your  
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National Institute on Retirement Security, 2016.

**ad COUNCIL**

**AARP**

**RIESGO DE PREDIABETES:  
1 DE CADA 3 ADULTOS**

**LA VIDA NO SIEMPRE TE DA  
TIEMPO PARA CAMBIAR  
EL RESULTADO.**

**LA PREDIABETES SÍ.**

**RIESGO DE UN  
ATAQUE DE TIBURÓN:  
1 DE CADA  
11.5 MILLONES**

**TOMA LA EVALUACIÓN DE RIESGO HOY EN  
PodriaTenerPrediabetes.org**



# LOCAL NEWS

February 19, 2024 Posting Date

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Pep  
4 "Get Here" singer Adams  
9 Opposite of "post-"  
12 Equal (Pref.)  
13 Jeremy of "Entourage"  
14 Corn serving  
15 Prepaid convenience for cell users  
17 Texter's "Enough!"  
18 Common verb  
19 Spiritualist  
21 Oliver Twist, for one  
24 Cabinet dept. head  
25 "Norma —"  
26 Snake's warning  
28 Mexican snacks  
31 Actor Richard  
33 UFO crew  
35 Commanded  
36 Enticed  
38 Rep.'s rival  
40 "Diamonds" singer  
41 Goatee's spot  
43 "O Pioneers!" author  
45 Long recliner  
47 Magic, on scoreboards  
48 "A spider!"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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48				49	50				51	52
54				55					56	
57				58					59	

- 49 Cell user's practical joke  
54 Conk out  
55 Dodge  
56 Classic car  
57 Hosp. areas  
58 Opposite of most  
59 Watch chain  
Gabor  
7 Semesters  
8 "Still ..."  
9 Fund for minor expenses  
10 Malek of "Bohemian Rhapsody"  
11 Guitarist  
16 "Unh-unh"  
20 Wound cover  
21 Pitcher  
Hershiser  
22 Pasta sauce brand  
23 Fruity baked goods  
27 Norm (Abbr.)  
29 Garfield's pal  
30 Blacken  
32 Classic soda brand  
34 Extra helpings  
37 Put to rest  
39 Grocery store  
42 Audacity  
44 Patient's need, briefly  
45 Give up  
46 Estate recipient  
50 Bond rating  
51 Canine cry  
52 Zodiac feline  
53 Arced tennis shot

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



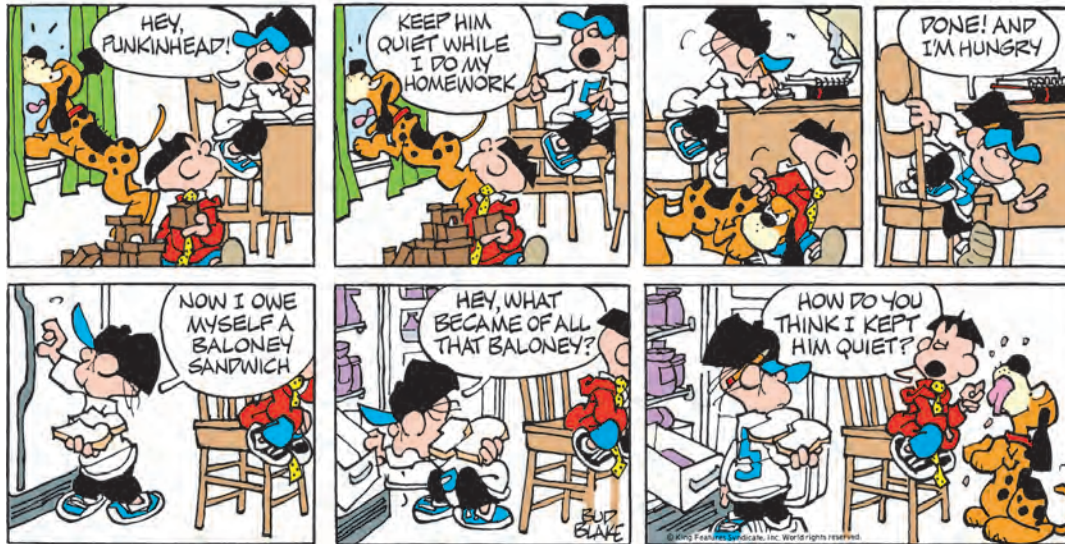
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## OLIVE

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF



## 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: Q equals F

SPG MY LTD OKLPTRZLE  
TBSTGE EKKO XY MDZRJ  
LYQQKK TX SYDJ? HKLTAEK  
ZX'E HDKTJ QBAZM!

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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!

Stash  
CHEAC  
Froth  
HALTER  
Deduce  
FINER  
Lowly  
MALINE

TODAY'S WORD

\_\_\_\_\_

# LOCAL NEWS

February 19, 2024 Posting Date

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Pep  
4 "Get Here" singer Adams  
9 Opposite of "post-"  
12 Equal (Pref.)  
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36 Enticed  
38 Rep.'s rival  
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41 Goatee's spot  
43 "O Pioneers!" author  
45 Long recliner  
47 Magic, on scoreboards  
48 "A spider!"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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48				49	50				51	52
54				55					56	
57				58					59	

- 49 Cell user's practical joke  
54 Conk out  
55 Dodge  
56 Classic car  
57 Hosp. areas  
58 Opposite of most  
59 Watch chain  
Gabor  
7 Semesters  
8 "Still ..."  
9 Fund for minor expenses  
10 Malek of "Bohemian Rhapsody"  
11 Guitarist  
16 "Unh-unh"  
20 Wound cover  
21 Pitcher  
Hershiser  
22 Pasta sauce brand  
23 Fruity baked goods  
27 Norm (Abbr.)  
29 Garfield's pal  
30 Blacken  
32 Classic soda brand  
34 Extra helpings  
37 Put to rest  
39 Grocery store  
42 Audacity  
44 Patient's need, briefly  
45 Give up  
46 Estate recipient  
50 Bond rating  
51 Canine cry  
52 Zodiac feline  
53 Arced tennis shot

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 BEAST to BOOST in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

BEAST

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

BOOST

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## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Canada?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What was the first animal to be cloned?
- LITERATURE: In the children's book series "The Bobbsey Twins," what are the names of the two sets of twins?
- CHEMISTRY: What is the symbol for the chemical element platinum?
- MUSIC: What is the title of Elvis Presley's first commercial single?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the first U.S. national park?
- MEDICAL: What is a common name for xerosis?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is a sommelier?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to visit all 50 states?
- HISTORY: What were the principal powers of the Axis in WWII?

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1. Ottawa.
2. A sheep.
3. Nam, Bert, Flossie and Freddie.
4. Pt.
5. "That's All Right."
6. Yellowstone National Park.
7. Dry skin.
8. Wine expert.
9. Richard Nixon.
10. Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan.

### FATHER

Today's Word

1. Cache
2. Lather
3. Infer
4. Menial

### SCRAMBLERS

ROAST, ROOST, BOOST

BEAST, BLAST, BOOST

Answer

### WORD LADDER

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

Answer

### Weekly SUDOKU

Solution time: 22 mins.

### Answers

## King Crossword

## CryptoQuip

Why do car mechanics always seem to drink coffee at work? Because it's break fluid!



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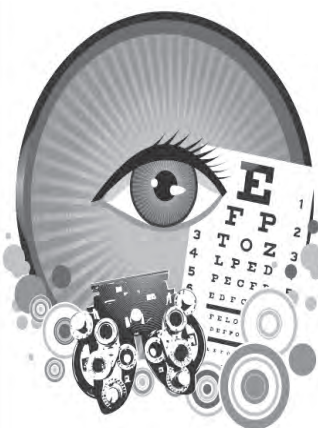
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# SPORTS



Left: Senior Lucas Blanton, top, works a 175-pound match at the IHSA Class 1A State Tournament held Feb. 15-17 at the State Farm Center on the campus of the University of Illinois in Champaign. Above: Sophomore Landon Blanton, top, wrestled in the state tournament for the second straight year. Russ Hodges/Rochelle News Leader

## Lucas, Landon Blanton wrestle at the IHSA Class 1A State Tournament

**CHAMPAIGN** – Landon Blanton and Lucas Blanton wrapped up the 2023-24 wrestling season by participating in the IHSA Class 1A State Wrestling Tournament held Feb. 15-17 at the State Farm Center on the campus of the University of Illinois in Champaign.

Landon Blanton wrestled three matches at 120

pounds, winning one. He opened the action with a 13-3 loss to Clinton VerHeecke of Unity Christian. Blanton’s next match resulted in a 7-2 win over Landon Dooley of Wilmington before he was pinned by Dean Wainwright of Riverdale at the 5:06 mark to get eliminated from further competition.

Landon Blanton concluded the season with a

37-12 record.

Lucas Blanton dropped both of his matches by a narrow margin in the 175-pound weight division. He fell by 3-1 count to Ty Carter of Red Bud in the opening round and then was edged by Josue Hernandez of DeLaSalle, 7-6, in his final match of the season.

## Season comes to an end for Lady Clippers

**BRANDONLaCHANCE**  
Amboy News Editor

**OTTAWA** – Points came at a premium for both the Amboy and St. Bede girls basketball teams during the IHSA Class 1A Marquette Regional Championship on Friday, Feb. 16 at Marquette Academy in Ottawa.

The Lady Clippers hung close and made a run, but they couldn’t get shots to go through the hoop when they were needed in the second half as Amboy lost 50-39 to end its season with a 24-8 record.

“Our shooting was horrible. It just was. You can’t beat a team that big without shooting,” Lady Clippers coach Mike McCracken said. “We didn’t shoot free throws. We

didn’t do anything that we did in the semifinal victory over Putnam County.

“We got ourselves in foul trouble. I know they were in foul trouble. We just got to the point where shots wouldn’t fall, and we got frustrated.

“We’ve had nights like this, but you can’t have a night like this in a regional final.”

Amboy shot 10-28 from two, 4-28 from the 3-point line, and 7-17 from the free throw line, while committing 15 turnovers.

St. Bede (26-7) shot 14-36 from two, 2-11 from the 3-point line, 15-23 from the charity stripe, and had 18 turnovers.

The Lady Bruins, who entered the regional final

on a 14-game winning streak not losing a game since December 28, took an 11-8 lead after the first, had a 22-14 advantage at halftime, and were up 35-26 after three frames.

In the opening minutes of the third quarter, Amboy went on a 6-0 run to cut the deficit to four but couldn’t get closer.

“We hit our only good shots of the night and made a little run. But they answered us, and we didn’t have an answer for them on defense,” McCracken said. “It’s good any time you have 24 wins. We didn’t do as well in the conference as we should. We lost some close games. We lost five close games, that’s how many we lost in the conference,

you’re not going to win the conference like that.

“Overall, Meave Larson played with a bad knee down the stretch. We have two seniors, Larson and Elly Jones, and I feel worse for them.”

Junior Addison Pertell led Amboy with 13 points, Larson had nine, junior Emily Sachs scored six, Jones finished with five, junior Tyrah Vaessen made a 3-pointer, sophomore Kiera Karlson had two, and sophomore Bella Yanos made a free throw.



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## Amboy Community Unit School District #272

**Monday, Feb. 26**

AHS Scholastic Bowl (H) Fulton  
- 4 pm  
AJHS 7th/8th Scholastic Bowl (H)  
Dimmick-4 pm

**Tuesday, Feb. 27**

AJHS 5th/6th Girls Basketball @  
St. Andrew’s, Rock Falls-6th  
- 5 pm/5th-6 pm  
AJHS 7th/8th Girls Basketball (H)  
Sauk Valley Catholic-8th  
- 5 pm/7th-6 pm  
FAFSA Application Parent Night-  
AJHS Cafeteria-6-7:15 pm

**Wednesday, Feb. 28**

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

**Thursday, Feb. 29**

AJHS 7th/8th Girls Basketball @  
AFC-8th-5 pm/7th-6 pm

**Friday, March 1**

AHS MORP-Clipper Cove-7 pm

**Saturday, March 2**

AHS Varsity Scholastic Bowl  
Masonic Finals @ Bloomington  
High School-8:30 am  
AJHS 5th/6th Girls Basketball @  
Morrison (RRVC Tournament)-  
TBA  
Amboy FFA Alumni Trivia Night-  
Amboy Community Building-6:30  
pm (Doors open at 5:30)

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<b>Blueberries</b> 1 pint  <b>\$3.49/ea.</b>	<b>Baby Bella Mushrooms</b> 8 oz Whole or Sliced  <b>\$2.29/ea.</b>	<b>Green Peppers</b>  <b>2/\$2</b>	<b>Dole Spinach</b> 8 oz bag  <b>\$1.99/ea.</b>	<b>The Little Potato Company Potatoes</b> 16 oz  <b>\$2.79/ea.</b> <small>Reg. Price \$3.39/ea.</small>

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Sale goes through Feb. 27, 2024