

The Amboy News

Amboy, Illinois

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\$1.00



Amboy Police Officers promoted to full-time

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – The City of Amboy was in a promoting mood during its Monday, Feb. 19 meeting.

Police Chief Paul Smith is now full-time earning \$37 an hour, Tom Lehman also went from part-time to full-time, \$30 an hour, and Officer Lisa Hart, who was already full-time, was given a raise to \$30 an hour.

“We’ve promoted Paul Smith to full-time from part-time. He’s a retired police officer and his pension only allowed him so many hours a year,” said Amboy Mayor Frank Stenzel, who was at the helm for his second meeting as mayor. “He’s put that on hold, and he agreed to work full-time for the city. Tom Lehman said if Smith was going to be full-time, he would cut back on his business and be a full-time officer.

“The people of Amboy have been hollering for this. There are not many towns around with a full-time police force. It’s expensive, but people want it and with our three

full-time officers, Smith, Lehman, and Lisa Hart, and a few part-time police officers, we’re going to have pretty good coverage.

“I’m pretty proud that we got that done.”

Stenzel added the law services will not be 24 hours, seven days a week, but will cover Amboy as much as possible.

City ordinance letters were mailed to homeowners with unkept homes or yards. For those who are ignoring the ordinances and their property, Stenzel said the City of Amboy is looking into different avenues to enforce the ordinances.

Committee Reports

Community Building – The city crew finished constructing a small edition on the Amboy Community Building, which is a 12x14 space to be used as a storage unit for chairs and tables. Also, the building has more renters for events than in previous years.

See **Amboy** page A1



Illinois Farm Bureau President Brian Duncan talks to more than 400 attendees of IFB’s Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference about what it means to build the organization for success. The daylong event in Springfield featured speakers, breakout sessions and a legislative reception. (Photo by Catrina Rawson)

Lee County Farm Bureau works to advance legislative priorities at GALC

SPRINGFIELD – More than 400 Illinois Farm Bureau members gathered in Springfield for IFB’s Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC) on Feb. 20. Local, state, and national political leaders and legislators met with Farm Bureau leaders from across the state, including six members of Lee County Farm Bureau to discuss IFB’s 2024 legislative priorities.

The event culminated in a legislative reception, with nearly 80 elected officials in attendance to meet with IFB members.

“As an organization, the most powerful thing we can do is connect our members with lawmakers,” said IFB President Brian Duncan. “Our members consistently make an impact on policy by giving legislators a true, boots-on-the-ground expert in agriculture.”

See **Farm Bureau** page A1

IESA serenaded by Amboy Junior High pep band, twice

By **BRANDON LaCHANCE**
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – During the last two Februarys, the first round of the seventh grade boys basketball IESAClass 4A State Tournaments have featured a few similarities.

There were players and coaches forming eight teams vying for a spot in the semifinals.

There were fans.

There were trophies.

There was the Amboy Junior High School pep band.

“Playing in the last two tournaments has been

great. Last year was nerve racking because we didn’t know what we were doing,” said AJHS Band Director Avery Kerly. “We went to Bloomington, which is a two-hour drive for us. Going down last year, there were a lot of nerves, we didn’t know what we were getting ourselves into, and we didn’t know how things were going to be when we got down there. This year was much easier because as an organizer I knew what to expect. I knew how to do everything that we did last

year. We were at the same school, so we even knew where to park the bus.

“This year’s band has a little more tenacity than last year. Last year, I had some really, really strong players but when you do the semifinals for a state tournament, you’re playing four games. It’s a long, long day. We started playing at 10 a.m. and we didn’t get out of there until 3:30 p.m. You’re playing a lot and the kids got tired last year. When we got to the fourth game, we were still playing well, but you could tell

some of them were falling asleep in their seats.

“This year, they powered through to the end of the fourth game. It was smooth.”

Kerly, who graduated from Vienna High School and obtained a bachelor’s degree in music education from Southern Illinois University before teaching and directing music at AJHS for the last six years, is excited his band members received the opportunity two years in a row.

See **EIGHTH** 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.



SGT. Gilbert A. Stephenitch

Co. K, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division

In 1929, Mrs. Catherine Stephenitch bought a train ticket, mostly likely headed for New York City where she would board an ocean liner bound for France. Her destination was the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial where she would visit the grave of her only son Gilbert who was killed in action eleven years earlier on the battlefields of France.

In the decade after the First World War had ended, the Gold Star Mothers Association lobbied Congress for a federally-funded program to allow Gold Star Mothers to travel to Europe to visit the grave of their sons. Although some of these mothers had first undertaken that trip at their own expense, they realized that many families could not afford the travel expense to Europe and back. When the program took effect in 1929, Mrs. Stephenitch was one of the first to make the Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage to bring a mother’s love and tears of grief to Gilbert’s



final resting place.

Born on May 17, 1896, Gilbert joined his older sister Florence and his parents John and Catherine. The Stephenitch Family made their living as farmers near Sublette when America was moving from a horse-driven economy to one powered by gasoline engines. Like many Lee County citizens, they understood hard work and sacrifice. In 1908, when Gilbert was eleven years old, his father died leaving Catherine and the children to manage the farming. With the aid of two hired hands, the family was able to stay on the farm until Gilbert and his sister reached adulthood, later moving to Dixon.

After America declared

war on Germany in the spring of 1917, Gilbert was called to service with the army at Camp Grant in Rockford. On May 10, 1918, he left Hoboken, New Jersey on the Transport Ship Conserta assigned to the 47th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Division. After arriving in France, SGT. Stephenitch was transferred to the 342nd Infantry Regiment, 86th Division, known as the “Blackhawk Division”. By September, the Allies had suffered a large number of casualties and badly needed replacement soldiers. The 86th Division provided some of these reinforcements as the final allied push was getting underway – the Meuse-Argonne Of-

fensive. The objective was to drive the German army back into retreat, bringing a decisive end to the war.

On October 10th, during some of the fiercest fighting, SGT. Gilbert Stephenitch was wounded by artillery shrapnel and sent to an army field hospital where he died five days later. When the war ended, the majority of American soldiers who had died in battle were re-buried in official American Cemeteries in various French towns. SGT. Gilbert A. Stephenitch, a Lee County hero, is buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial, plot D, row 34, grave 15 where the memory of his sacrifice lives forever.

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

**AMBOY
MINUTE**



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Inserts

Snyders



LOCAL NEWS

Celebrate Jane Fenwick turning 100

Jane Fenwick is celebrating her 100th birthday! She grew up outside of Harmon and is a 1942 graduate of Catholic Community High School in Sterling.

Fenwick worked at the Green River Ordnance Plant during WWII. In 1945, she married Raphael (Ray) F. Fenwick. They had 13 children, three of whom are deceased.

The family matriarch graduated from Dixon State School of Practical Nursing in 1966 and was employed at the state school for 20 years. She resided in Amboy 25 years, Dixon for 20 years,

and faithfully attended St Patrick's Church in both Amboy and Dixon.

A past president of the Amboy Women's Club, Jane also volunteered at Amboy Depot Days, and at St. Patrick's Church in Amboy for funeral dinners and the pantry. As a life-long practice she quietly and generously helps where she sees a need.

Besides her 10 living children, Jane has 17 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

Friends and relatives are invited to her open house from 1-3 p.m. Sat-



urday, March 23 at Bethel Church, 131 North Court Street in Dixon.

Please, no gifts. Cards may be sent to Mary Jane Fenwick, Franklin Grove Nursing Home, 502 N. State Street, Franklin Grove, IL 61031.

SCHOOL continued from page A1

Featured speakers included former Arizona U.S. Sen. Martha McSally, who was the first woman in the U.S. Air Force history to fly a fighter jet in combat and command a fighter squadron, and Kirk Bado, editor of the National Journal Hotline. Breakout sessions featured experts on topics including the active state legislative term, stabilizing the ag workforce, livestock, soil productivity and more.


GALC is the annual central event around

IFB's longstanding efforts to connect members and legislators. IFB's Adopt-A-Legislator program, which is more than 20 years old now, fosters long-term personal relationships between urban legislators and farmers across the state. IFB's annual Leaders to Washington trip connects farmers with national legislators.

This year's conference, themed "Building for Success," identified obstacles agriculture may face in

the coming years and how to build relationships with governmental leaders. Many breakout sessions focused on IFB's legislative priorities for the upcoming year, including a new bipartisan estate tax reform bill, stabilized labor wages, California's Proposition 12 and more. During the sessions, members had opportunities to share their perspectives with Farm Bureau leadership and staff.

"Every year, our members demonstrate both depth of knowledge on key ag topics and a desire to grow and absorb the latest information on emerging issues," said Duncan.



CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Pancake Breakfast

MARCH 16, 2024
7AM-11AM

COME CHECK OUT OUR BOOK FAIR!!!

At the school cafeteria:
2000 18th Avenue
Sterling, IL 61081
(815) 625-3800

Suggested donation \$8/person

Christ Lutheran School hosts Spring Pancake Breakfast/Book Fair on March 16

STERLING—Christ Lutheran School will hold its Spring Pancake Breakfast from 7-11 a.m. on Saturday, March 16 at the school, located at 2000 18th Ave. in Sterling.

A delicious breakfast including pancakes, scrambled eggs, farm fresh pork sausage, applesauce and juice or coffee will be served.

A free will donation will be accepted for admission. The suggested donation is \$8.

Also, a book fair will be held during the pancake breakfast. Books will be available on site for purchase at Christ

Lutheran School.

Christ Lutheran School is a private school whose mission is: Christ Lutheran School guided by the Holy Spirit, aspires to nurture, educate, and witness to God's children the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in God's word.

For more information on the Spring Pancake Breakfast, from 7-11 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, please contact Christ Lutheran School at 815-625-3800. For more information on Christ Lutheran School, please visit www.christlutherschool.com

HAD ENOUGH?

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION • CRIME • INFLATION

VOTE REPUBLICAN

The Lee County Republicans are encouraging you to exercise your right to get out and vote.

Early voting is now open for the Primary Election Monday through Friday 8:15 am to 4:15pm and Saturday, March 16th from 9am to noon at the Old Lee County Courthouse at 112 E Second St in Dixon. Election Day is March 19th. If you don't know your voting location, check with your county clerk. So take action and get out and vote Republican!

This add was brought to you and paid for by the Lee County Republicans.

Sip-n-Shop

30+ Vendors

Saturday, March 23, 2024
10 am – 3 pm

SPRING CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

LOCATION: Mendota Civic Center
1901 TOM MERWIN DRIVE, MENDOTA, IL

Amboy continued from page A1

Park – The Amboy Lion's Club is interested in implanting a nine-hole frisbee golf course on the east end of the Amboy City Park. The frisbee golf course hasn't been

finalized as the park board plans for more meetings with more details.

Library – Greg Noble and Stenzel attended the last Pankhurst Memorial Public Li-

brary Board meeting and noted the library looked nice and the staff is working hard to improve the library.

Water/Sewer – Former mayor Jeremy Wittenauer reported \$300,000 of sewer lining is going to be installed within the next month. The project was on the top of his to-do list before he resigned in December.

Concerns from the council

While at the library board meeting, Noble and Stenzel were made aware the library staff hadn't received raises in quite some time. Similar to the police officers, raising the part-time employee's hourly wages was added to the agenda.

Stenzel added he was shocked raises hadn't been put into

place because of their hard work to revitalize the library.

A city-wide clean-up is taking place in April, while a tire pick-up has been scheduled.

The tire pick-up will be from 7 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 13. The City of Amboy is taking passenger tires only, attendees must show ID for proof of Amboy residency, and there will be a \$2 fee as Amboy will pay the other half.

Stenzel ended the meeting by stating he was interested in finding grants for electrical vehicle charging. He thinks it would be a good thing for Amboy as other communities are installing them and more people are purchasing electrical vehicles.

Collision? Hail? Critters?

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LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Thank You's

We are always grateful to those that help us in our endeavor to help the community: Dorine and Carl Ackert for the books; Andy and Gina McCoy for the clothes; Dan Nauman for the chair and t.v. stand; Barb Harrison for the books; Chelcie O'Connell and Lynne Leider for the misc. kitchen items; Guido Sanchez and Sue Faivre for donating books for Bonny's birthday; Nichols family for the books and fruit roll ups; Michele Cheshire and family for donating books in memory of Fran and Bern Kessel; Carol Ely for the sheets; Meddling Sheep Mushrooms for the casters; Thomas family for the books; Laura and Jim Hubbel for the special prize for the St. Patrick's Dance; Dixon Rural Fire department for the beds and Issac Dimmig for delivering them; Jeff and Eileen Wagner for the beanie babies; Donna Wellman for the cookies and Lynn and Tim O'Laughlin for the hygiene items.

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

We could not 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

A full thank you will be in next week's paper.

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 are also selling them as well. Any questions, call us at 815-857-4800.

Needs

Kleenex and Mouse pads for our computers upstairs

Final Note

Heavenly Father, we humbly come before You today, thanking You for the precious gift of family. We understand that our families are the pillars of our lives, the haven of our hearts, and the fortress of our faith. We beseech You, Almighty God, to shower Your divine blessings on our families, and to strengthen our bonds of love, respect, and mutual understanding. In Jesus name, we pray, Amen.

Dinges Fire Company appointed "Authorized Dealer" of Amkus Rescue Tools

AMBOY – Dinges Fire Company is thrilled to announce it is the official "Authorized Dealer" of Amkus Rescue Tools, a manufacturer of high-performance battery powered and line extrication tools and accessories for the fire rescue industry. Dinges Fire is the official authorized dealer in seven states – Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

"Dinges Fire Company continues to grow and expand, and we are thrilled to be an "Authorized Dealer" for Amkus Rescue Tools," said Dinges Fire Company CEO Nick Dinges. "With our experience in selling fire rescue tools, and Amkus' solid reputation in the industry, it offers tremendous opportunity and allows us to better serve our customers in the Midwest."

Dinges Fire Company is also the "Authorized Dealer" for LION PPE & Training Products, a company that delivers firefighter turnout gear and PPE innovations and HME Fire Trucks, a privately held manufacturer of custom fire trucks and chassis for fire departments and fleets in the USA and Canada.

LEE Co. POLICE

Deputies from the Lee County Sheriff's Office responded to a two-vehicle head on collision at approximately 6:18 a.m. Friday, March 1 in the area of IL Rt. 26 and Pilgrim Road in rural Dixon, Lee County, Illinois.

The investigating Deputy learned a 1998 GMC pickup truck driven by 26-year-old Jackie R Scott III, of Forreston, Illinois, was traveling southeast on IL Rt. 26. A 2017 Chevrolet SUV driven by Scott A Sublett, of Dixon, IL, was traveling northwest on IL Rt. 26. The 1998

GMC was passing two other vehicles, when the involved vehicles collided. Both drivers were transported to KSB Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Jackie R. Scott III was issued citations for Improper Traffic Lane Usage and Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid an Accident.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Illinois State Police, Dixon Rural Fire Department, Dixon City Fire Department and Advance EMS.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

AMBOY- You are invited to join fellow senior citizens for a free exercise program 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- Fall/Winter cleanup up will begin on March 15, at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Amboy. Spring items are allowed.

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

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.

AMBOY-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd., on Monday, March 11. 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, March 11, at the Ellice Dinges Center, 202 S. West St., Sublette.

AMBOY-The Amboy Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, at the township building, 106 S. Prospect.

LEE CENTER TWP-The Lee Center Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, at the Township Building, 2202 Shaw Rd., Amboy.

AMBOY-The Amboy American Legion will meet on Monday, March 18, 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, March 18, at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd.

DIXON- Through 4-H Mindful Mechanics, teens age 13-19 are encouraged to build positive relationships by expressing care, concern, and gratitude for others, build beliefs in themselves, practice self-discipline, self-control, and self-reflection, and serve others. This workshop will be held March 18, 25, April 1 and 8, from 5 – 6 p.m., at Sauk Valley Community College. The overall program aims to promote mindful practices that lead to improvements in managing one's goals, developing a sense of self, time management, stress management, and emotional regulations. Supplies are included. Register online at go.illinois.edu/CommunityEdSVCC.

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

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AMBOY-The Amboy Lions Club will meet at 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd., on Monday, March 25. Anyone interested in joining or wants more information on the Lions Club is invited to attend.



Lisa Quest

Lisa Says...



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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
Email: election@countyoflee.org **Phone:** 815-288-3309

Nancy Petersen
Lee County Clerk & Recorder

Established in 1854

The Amboy News

Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854

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Brandon LaChance, Editor

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LOCAL NEWS

WACC’s December Student of the Month

STERLING – White-side Area Career Center named Amboy junior Tyrah Vaessen as the December Student of the Month. Vaessen is studying health occupations.



BBB Alert: Wild weather creates perfect storm for scammers

ROCKFORD – The Better Business Bureau urges consumers to get prepared for turbulent spring weather and be on the lookout for scammers. March 4-8 is the Official Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Illinois. The weather in March is usually a dynamic bridge from winter into spring storms that can bring flooding, tornados, lightning, and high winds.

“Whenever spring storms hit, storm-chasing scammers will soon follow, preying on homeowners’ emotions in their times of need and repairs,” says Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional Office of the Better Business Bureau. “As a part of your storm planning, along with emergency kits, it’s always wise to create a contact list of trusted contractors in case you need emergency repairs. You can go to the Better Business Bureau, BBB.org, to find contractors you can trust.

Storm chasers could be scammers or substandard contractors knocking at your door or calling you on the phone, hoping to use high-pressure tactics to have you pay upfront or sign

papers without time to think.

The BBB urges consumers to do homework on companies to avoid getting soaked by these opportunists. “Safety and shelter are the most important aspects of storm preparedness,” says Horton, “But when the skies clear, reveling post-storm damage, that creates a perfect opportunity for substandard contractors to catch people off guard. These storm chasers swoop into affected areas and play on distraught victims’ shock and emotion. For example, you would want to resolve roof damage immediately. People are much more vulnerable dealing with this devastation than they would be under normal circumstances.”

BBB receives complaints from consumers paying fly-by-night door knockers who never return or perform fake or substandard repairs that further damage your home.

Although scammers often prey on residents after damaging weather with offers of fast, low-cost repairs, these scams can happen at any time. Home improvement scams ranked No. 5 in BBB’s Top Local Scams of 2023.

Amboy High School presents “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”

AMBOY – Amboy School High School presents “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee» at 7 p.m. Friday March 8 and Saturday, March 9, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 10 at the Amboy High School Auditorium.

Tickets are \$5.00 and available at the door.

“The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” follows contestants at Putnam County Middle School through the emotions and silliness of the school’s spelling bee.

Six spellers enter. One leaves a champion! Each show includes audience participation from AHS musical alumni. During intermission, cast members will “Dash for Cash”. This popular fundraiser has raised more than \$6,000 the last two years to assist in continued upgrades for the high school auditorium.

Also available for purchase at the musical are pillows made from the recently replaced auditorium curtains. “These pillows are the perfect way for people



to have a tangible piece of AHS with them,” said parent volunteer, Katie Pratt.

Pillows are \$25.00 and pillow covers are \$15.00.

“The 25th Annual

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

Calling all green thumbs: Winfred Knox Library hosts seed starting programs for kids

FRANKLIN GROVE — Hey, young garden enthusiasts of Franklin Grove! Get ready for an awesome adventure into the world of plants with the Winfred Knox Library’s Youth Seed Starting Program, on March 5th at 4 PM. It’s going to be a blast! Join us for a super cool time as we team up with

the amazing Lee County Master Gardeners to learn all about growing plants. Whether you’re into flowers, veggies, or something totally unique, this program is for you.

During the program, we’ll dive into the fascinating world of plants. We’ll learn how to pick the perfect seeds, give them all the love they need to grow

big and strong, and maybe even discover some new favorites along the way.

“The Lee County Master Gardeners can’t wait to see all the young gardeners in action,” says Marilyn Kemmerer, Master Gardener Coordinator. “We’re going to have a blast exploring, planting, and watching our gardens grow together.”

Parents, make sure to sign up your awesome kids for this exciting program by calling Winfred Knox Library at 815-456-2823. Spaces are limited, so don’t wait! Come join us for a plant-tastic time and let’s make some green magic happen at the Winfred Knox Library. See you there, budding botanists.

Rep. Fritts responds to State of the State Address

SPRINGFIELD – Following today’s State of the State Address, State Representative Brad Fritts (R-Dixon) released the following statement:

“Today we heard this year’s budget priorities from Governor Pritzker.

I was deeply disappointed by his divisive, partisan rhetoric that showed us he is more focused on his national political ambitions than the people he was elected to represent.


“Healthcare in rural Illinois is drowning

right now. Hospitals are closing and specialty providers are packing up and leaving town. But instead of adequately funding Medicaid reimbursement rates to ensure hospitals across the state are able to keep their doors open,

Governor Pritzker is paying an estimated \$2.8 billion of taxpayer dollars for undocumented immigrants.

“I am more than willing to come to the table and have these conversations with my colleagues across the aisle, but the doors to bipartisan cooperation remain closed. I urge my colleagues to offer us a seat at the table so that every part of Illinois is represented in the final FY25 budget.”

For more information about Representative Fritts, visit RepFritts.com



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<p>St. Patrick Church Fr. John Gow 32 N Jones, Amboy 815-857-2315 • www.stpatrickamboy.org Masses: Monday - Thursday Daily Mass 8 am Saturday 4 pm • Sunday 7 am & 10:30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday, 4-6 pm with Confessions and Mass at 6 pm</p>	<p>First Congregational United Church of Christ of Lee Center Pastor Jack M. Briggs 1140 Inlet Road, Lee Center www.LeeCenter-UCC.org Phone 815-732-7032 Family Worship - 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>First Baptist Church Pastor Rocky Fritz 24 N. Mason Avenue Church Phone 857-2682 www.fbcamboy.com Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m. Morning Service - 10:30 a.m. Evening Service - 6 p.m. Wed. prayer meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m. King's Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday Reformers Unanimous addictions program from 7-9 p.m.</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Rev. Randy Fronek Locust Street, Sublette Phone 815-849-5412 Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass -10:30 a.m. Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. Thursday - 8:30 a.m.</p>
<p>St. Mary Church Fr. John Gow 912 Walton Rd., Walton 815-857-2670 Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm</p>	<p>Grace Fellowship Church Amboy-Sublette Pastor Kyle Kelly 500 W. Main Street, Sublette Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. www.graceisforyou.com</p>	<p>St. Mary's Church – West Brooklyn Rev. Randy Fronek Mass - Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday – 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Refuge Church Pastor John Kalebaugh Mendota Hills Campground • 642 Rt. 52 Amboy, IL 61310 • 815-849-5930 10 a.m. Sunday, potluck follows</p>
<p>St. Flannen Church Fr. John Gow 213 S Second St., Harmon 815-857-2670 Mass: Sunday, 8:30 am</p>	<p>East Grove Union Church 449 Reuter Road, Amboy, IL Phone 815-440-5321 ½ Mile East of Route 26 at Union Rd Sun., 9:00 am, Morning Worship Youth Church, Ages 3 – Grade 4 10:15 am Sunday School, Age 3 – Adult Come as you are and join us on the journey!</p>	<p>St. Patrick Church - Maytown Rev. Randy Fronek Mass – Friday - 8 a.m. Sunday - 8 a.m.</p>	<p>Harmon United Methodist Church Pastor Leanne Keate 202 N. Grove, Harmon Phone 359-7302 Worship - 8:30 a.m.</p>
<p>United First Church of Amboy Pastor Mark Glenn East Main & Jefferson 815-440-0745 Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m. Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 p.m.</p>		<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church Interim Minister Douglas Wood S.A.M. 960 U.S. Route 52 Phone 857-2225 960 U.S. Route 52 Phone: 815-857-2225 Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.</p>	

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SOCIAL NEWS

The Book Nook

By:

Tatjana Kazan

The Glass Castle

As I was reading Jeannette Walls’s memoir, “The Glass Castle,” I was reminded of the change the Grimm brothers made in quite a few of the folk tales they had collected. Perhaps to soften the old tales, they replaced the evil mother with the evil stepmother. But children who have suffered abuse at the hands of parents know that the loving mother or father can also be the evil mother or father. In “The Glass Castle,” it takes years for Jeannette and her brother Brian and sisters Lori and Maureen to come to that realization. Walls writes in an unembellished style that does not get in the way of her story, nor does she indulge in psychoanalytic asides or theorize about the causes of her family’s dysfunction. But what she does show is how she and her siblings were absolutely certain that their hardscrabble life was a grand adventure.

Rex Walls (played by Woody Harrelson in the movie version) was a talented, charming and deeply damaged and abusive man whose drinking made it impossible for him to hold a job for more than two months. For years he was obsessed with designing a glass castle with a glass staircase for his family. Rose Mary Walls was a painter and writer with a college degree she abhorred because she was a free spirit and “excitement addict.” Her child rearing philosophy was simple: “What doesn’t kill you will make you stronger,” though she was too kind-hearted to kill flies and armies of roaches.

Constant hunger was the children’s greatest deprivation. Other nightmares that they were encouraged to view as exciting or comic chapters in the family romance were the many getaways from pursuing bill collectors, come so hasty that Dad tossed Jeannette’s recalcitrant cat out the car window. In another escape, Jeannette was accidentally hurtled from the station wagon onto a railroad. She had to wait hours in the desert sun until the parents came back for her. While she scraped off the blood, Dad plucked pebbles out of her face with pliers. The worst incident occurred when Jeannette was three. She was standing on a chair, boiling hot dogs, when her dress caught fire. She was burned so badly she required skin grafts and spent six weeks in the hospital. Dad smuggled her out of the hospital to keep from paying the bill. He removed the bandage from her torso, leaving reddish scars for the rest of her life.

Lori, the oldest, upon graduation from high school they lived in West Virginia –escaped to New York, followed by Jeannette, who was accepted by Barnard College. Brian and Maureen followed as they came of age. The parents also came and cheerfully ended up homeless and later became squatters in the South Bronx.

Farm Bureau accepting nurse practitioner scholarship applications

Farm Bureau accepting nurse practitioner scholarship applications

The Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for nurse practitioner scholarships. This year, a total of 15 scholarships, each worth \$4,000, will be granted.

This scholarship program, which has been running for 32 years, aims to encourage and develop a strong pool of rural health practitioners to address primary healthcare needs in rural areas of Illinois. Recipients of the scholarships are required to practice for two years in an approved rural area within the state.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be Illinois residents and either accepted or

enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program as Registered Nurses. The funding for this program is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP).

Applications can be obtained from county Farm Bureaus® across the state, the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by contacting Donna Gallivan, the Program Manager, at Illinois Farm Bureau, 1701 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701. The deadline for applications is May 1.

For further information, please feel free to reach out to Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350 or via email at dgallivan@ilfb.org.

THE PASTOR'S PEN

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND

By Pastor
John Kalebaugh

“Dear friends, I warn you as ‘temporary residents and foreigners’ to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.” (1 Peter 2:11 NLT.)

My wife and I were blessed this year to vacation with some friends who allowed us to travel with them and stay in their time-shares. We began in the panhandle of Florida (where they live) then headed south to Miami Beach and Key West and then ending up near Orlando. Though the temperatures in Illinois were warmer than average at the time we were gone, we were thankful to be in warmer places and “see the beauty of God’s creation in other places” as I like to say.

And we did. We saw beautiful beaches on the Gulf and Ocean, palm trees, alligators, manatees, and a host of birds which we don’t have in Illinois. We had a very nice time indeed. Yet, as you might expect, when our trip was over, it was also good to be home. There is something about “home” which no other place on earth offers. It’s a source of comfort, familiarity, and peace which just feels good. As Dorothy said, “There’s no place like home.” And I concur.

In our text, St. Peter was writing to Christians who had suffered persecution for their faith and had been displaced from their homes. He identified them as “temporary residents and foreigners”. And he reminded them that their conduct

in foreign places was important as it reflected their faith as followers of Jesus Christ. This is a good reminder for Christians even today no matter where we live. But in a larger sense we are also reminded in Scripture that this world (wherever we are located) is not our true home. “But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for Him to return as our Savior.” (Phil 3:20 NLT.) Heaven is our true home – ultimately. And as Christians I believe that even though we can have wonderful experiences in this life, there will always be a certain amount of “unrest” that we feel because this world is not our true home. It is good for us to always remember this because knowing

it should influence our perspective on everything. It will help guide and direct how we live this life that God has blessed us with.

Hopefully this serves as a reminder to all of us, because how we live our lives will be the witness to other people... that we are Christ’s followers. We belong to Him. It is also an encouragement for us to know then when difficult times come to us... that they are only temporary. Heaven will have no sin, death, pain, temptation, sadness, or tears. Instead, there will be inexpressible love, joy, peace, and contentment as we enjoy eternity with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in His Father’s Home.

May God bless and encourage you with these words.

Local food infrastructure program proves enormously popular at grant application deadline

SPRINGFIELD – The new Illinois Local Food Infrastructure grant program application process recently ended, but not before many Illinoisans put in their bids for a taste.

From Dec. 1 through Jan. 31, Illinois Stewardship Alliance asked for proposals from across Illinois for nearly \$2 million in state funds to be distributed in March under the Local Food Infrastructure Grant program. It’s a new program administered by the Stewardship Alliance this year, as part of its ongoing efforts to advocate for addressing one of the biggest challenges facing the state’s food system: getting food from local farms to markets and consumers near and far.

Overall, 247 applications were submitted, worth more than \$23.5 million in funding requests – more than 10 times the amount of money available to distribute this year.

Project proposals were submitted from more than 60 Illinois counties, representing farmers, food businesses, nonprofit organizations, local governments, and educational institutions with a variety of exciting concepts

to strengthen the local food system. The ideas reach across the agricultural sectors: meat and poultry, dairy, produce, and much more.

A committee of local agricultural and food specialists has the tough task of selecting projects that will have the most impact, among the highly competitive and innovative proposals. The review committee will be looking for projects that have established community support, a positive economic impact on the local food sector, and those that support long-term economic development in local foods.

Grants will be awarded of up to \$150,000 per project, and a minimum of 12 projects are expected to be funded in this round with decisions being made and recipients expected to be announced in March.

Program administrators hope this is just the beginning of a long-term state commitment to building out local food infrastructure.

Senior Dining Menu

Mar. 6-15

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

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 pears

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

Monday – Baked chicken breast, mashed potato/gravy, steamed peas, wgr dinner roll, applesauce

Tuesday – Meatloaf, cheesy potatoes, California blend veggies, wgr wheat bread-1, diced pears

Wednesday – Baked pork chop, baby red potatoes, green beans, wgr dinner roll, cherry crisp

Thursday – Italian sausage w/peppers on wgr bun, seasoned potato wedges, Italian blend veggies, apricots

Friday – A). Crispy fish sandwich, wgr wheat bun/tartar, potato pancakes, peas, diced peaches B). Turkey/minestrone

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

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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

Why not talk about politics?

“There are two things you shouldn’t talk about, religion and politics.”

The amount of times I’ve heard this statement over the years has to be in the same realm as phrases such as “Love you to the moon and back” (thank you loved ones for making me feel I’m worth hopping in a spacesuit and spaceship, and leaving Earth behind, seriously, ditto), “Time flies when you’re having fun”, and “Good morning, how are you?”

Ok, maybe not the last one, but hopefully you understand what I’m trying to say, religion and politics is routinely avoided by the masses when it comes to conversation center pieces.

I’m not one to speak on religion because I don’t have a positive or negative spiritual background and I don’t have knowledge to back up a conversation because deep rooted religion hasn’t really been in my life.

Although I don’t take part in the speaking side of the conversation, I’ll listen and hear what you have to say. Or what God has to say through you, as you’ll tell me.

So, we’ll make this column about politics.

Why don’t we talk about the backbone of our society?

Whether we like to admit it or not, the United States of America was founded on overthrowing a government and starting its own based on the assumption we, as a people not individually, could put the ones right for important leadership roles in place to move the country forward and push through any issues.

Which, for the most part, I believe the USA has done. Sure, there are conflicting sides of everything the country has been through, but we’re all here, breathing, living, and not chained in a boot camp unless, well, unless you’re chained in a boot camp which is more than likely your fault.

Column

By Brandon LaChance



I was about to start listing some of the country’s challenges, but they’ve already been listed in a history book or on Wikipedia. We’ve been through colossal difficulties, loss, problems, conflicts, and all of those other words meaning the same thing, and we’ve survived and moved to the next day or the next one of those words.

Maybe the right people were in office when they were supposed to be.

Maybe the right social norm or standard was in place to meet the right moral at the right time to advance forward in life.

On the other hand, there is a chance we goofed up and another decision or choice would have been a better option.

The crazy thing is, it’s our option, as a people and as a country because we get to vote. We get to have a say. There are those who feel a vote doesn’t matter, but there have been many instances in history where it has been proven there is power in every vote.

Ask Donald Trump if he wants to count each vote again...he wouldn’t be the only president or candidate who would take part in tallying every check mark.

Something else I’ve heard, ‘You learn the most from your toughest lessons’.

So, why not talk about politics and what is go-

ing on in our government (city, state, federal) to personally learn more about our choices, right or wrong, and prepare to make a better judgement the next time around.

Being in media for a year short of 20 years, may have heard “Word of mouth is the best form of advertising or spreading the word” once or twice. If this is the case, why are we trying to stop the pendulum from swinging and be quiet instead of sharing thoughts, knowledge, and wisdom.

There is a lot I don’t know about religion and politics, but how are we supposed to know anything if we don’t want to talk about it?

We’ll talk about who is better Michael Jordan or LeBron James.

We’ll talk about the trail of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard.

We’ll come to blows after a discussion of which beer is better, Budweiser or Miller, or what rapper had the better songs, 2-Pac or Notorious Big (I’ve seen fisticuffs for both debates).

But we don’t want to talk about the nuts and bolts of the country we live in?



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 Years Ago March 7, 1924

Saturday was a busy day in Amboy with the opening of the new Eichler Bros. store. They reported a good trade, and everyone seemed pleased with the turnout. Other stores also ran specials to take advantage of the extra number of shoppers in town.

Specials at Turnquist & Mattivi this week are 10 pounds of sugar for 98 cents; bulk cocoa, three pounds for 25 cents; smoked whitefish, 30 cents per pound; and tender quality peas, two for 27 cents.

Dixon’s Second Annual Auto Show was to be held the first weekend on March at Moser Motors Garage on West Second Street.

Colson Clothing Company of Amboy and Mendota announced their initial display of men’s spring hats. Keith Specials were \$4 and \$5; Stetsons were \$7.

At the Dixon Theatre – famous cartoon stars Barney Google and Spark Plug.

75 Years Ago March 3, 1949

Three foxes were bagged near Franklin Grove when about 50 men from the Amboy Sportsman’s Club held a fox hunt.

At the Amboy Theater – Cary Grant, Myma Loy, and Melvyn Douglas in “Mr. Blandings Builds his Dream House.”

50 Years Ago March 7, 1974

Amboy High School edged the Franklin Center Eagles, 50-48, to win their third straight regional title. Tim McCaffrey sank crucial free throws in the final 50 seconds of the game to clinch the victory. However, the Clippers lost to Elmhurst’s Timothy Christian at the Somonauk Sectional.

Ed Klein, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Klein of LaMoille, was named winner of the 1983 DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award.

25 Years Ago March 4, 1999

Police are still looking for a man allegedly involved in an attempted abduction of a 13-year-old Amboy girl. Amboy Police began investigating the matter after officers received information about the girl being approached by an unknown male who was approximately 40-50 years old. Amboy Superintendent of Police Paul Smith said the girl said when the man approached her to place her in the vehicle she ran from the scene. The actions of the victim prevented the abduction, Smith said.

The United Way of Lee County (formerly Dixon Area United Way) recently held their annual board of directors meeting. New officials were announced as Ed Grygiel was named as president, Ed Lynott as vice president and Don Lovett as treasurer. The new board members are Ed Bushman, Tracey Montgomery and Penny Thomas.

The Amboy School District was one of nearly 750 school districts throughout the state who will share in more than \$1.3 million in grants for school library services this year, announced Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White.

Established in 1854

The Amboy News

Publisher/Commercial Printing
Tonja Greenfield
tgreenfield@amboynews.com

Legals/Circulation
Jennifer Griffith
jgriffith@mendotareporter.com

Editor
Brandon LaChance
blachance@mendotareporter.com

Account Executive
Jamie Stanford
jstanford@mendotareporter.com

SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letters may be dropped at the Amboy News office, 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342, mailed to the Amboy News at PO Box 162, Amboy, IL 61310, or emailed to tgreenfield@amboynews.com

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

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LOCAL NEWS

'It was pretty cool to be at state with my brother'

Together, the Blanton brothers represented Amboy's wrestling program in the final tournament of the year

BRANDONLaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – Heading into the wrestling season, the Blanton brothers had two different paths but wanted the same finish.

Lucas Blanton, a 175-pound senior at Amboy High School, had never been to the IHSA Class 1A State Tournament and had treated the offseason like it was the season.

Landon Blanton, a 120-pound sophomore, wanted to return to state while growing in physical size and facing tougher competition.

After strong regular season campaigns, the brothers were able to go to the Feb. 15-17 state meet at the University of Illinois' State Farm Center together as both earned fourth place finishes in their Class 1A Byron Sectional on Feb. 9-10.

"It was pretty cool to be at state with my brother. I've been working toward the tournament," said Lucas Blanton, who finished the season with a 38-11 record. "I noticed early on that I was doing better this season than last season. I worked all summer. I quit football and wrestled all summer. I wrestled freestyle and in offseason tournaments.

His reason for focusing on wrestling his senior year

was simple.

He wanted to be better than last year and earn a chance to wrestle at U of I.

Lucas grappled valiantly but fell in the first round via a 3-1 decision and lost in the consolation bracket first round by a 7-6 decision.

"I wasn't that nervous. I was ready for it," Lucas Blanton said. "I just didn't wrestle as well as I wanted to. I could have been more aggressive getting into my shots.

"Coach (Brent) Montavon helped prepare us all season. When we got to state, he helped make sure we were ready."

Landon had been there before, but this year was different.

Different weight class.

People knew he was this time around.

And he had a travel partner.

"I had a partner this time, and he's my brother, so it felt really good. Our parents took a lot of pictures," Landon Blanton said. "I bumped up a weight class. My nerves were still there, but not as bad as last year. It's a plus. I wasn't as freaked out. My eyes weren't as big."

The sophomore lost his first match by a major decision, 13-3, won the consolation first round match with a 7-2 decision, and was defeated in the second round

via a 5:06 pinfall.

Montavon was impressed by the brother's dedication in the offseason and throughout the winter.

They were prime examples of the direction Montavon is attempting to point Amboy toward.

"We're trying to do some good for the Amboy wrestling program. We only had eight wrestlers go into the regional and we had six made it to the sectional," Montavon said. "That's a big thing for a little program like this. It just goes to show all of the hard work they put in at practice. When you only have eight kids, you don't have a lot of partners in the wrestling room. Having those kids qualify shows it is paying off. Lucas and Landon, and the entire team wrestled their butts off this

year. Everyone has been putting in the effort against each other. You're only as good as your partner.

"Lucas is by far a more aggressive wrestler. He's a very good wrestler, methodical and slow. He picked up the speed this year. He was more offensive minded with his shooting and trusting in his takedowns. The things he knew he was good at, he fine-tuned in the offseason and it worked out. Wrestling is not easy and it's a long grueling season. His work ethic is what it takes.

"I remember at the beginning of the season, we were at the preseason nationals and Landon was debating at staying at 113. When you kill yourself to make weight that low, you don't have any energy. He



was perfect at 120. It was a tough weight class at our sectional. There were probably six kids who were state tournament worthy, not just four. It shows the stiff competition they have to go against."


Also leading by example for the Clippers by making it to the Byron Sectional

were sophomore Chase Montavon at 126, freshman Caiden Heath at 138, freshman Jose Lopez at 144, and freshman Evan Flanagan at 215.

The Blantons and Montavon thanked assistant coaches Brian Appleman and John Janssen for their assistance through the season.

CLIPPER KIDDIEZ

This Week's Student of the Week is:
David Johnson




Student's Favorites:

- Favorite Color – Red
- Favorite Animal – Tiger
- Favorite Food – Pizza
- Favorite Book – Avengers storybook
- Favorite Game – Bluey Video Game
- Favorite Song – TMNT Theme Song

CLIPPER KIDDIEZ

This Week's Student of the Week is:
Gavin Nelson



Student's Favorites:

- Favorite Color – Red
- Favorite Animal – Tiger
- Favorite Food – Macaroni and Cheese
- Favorite Book – How The Grinch Stole Christmas
- Favorite Game – Mario
- Favorite Song – "Baby," by Justin Bieber

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LOCAL NEWS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



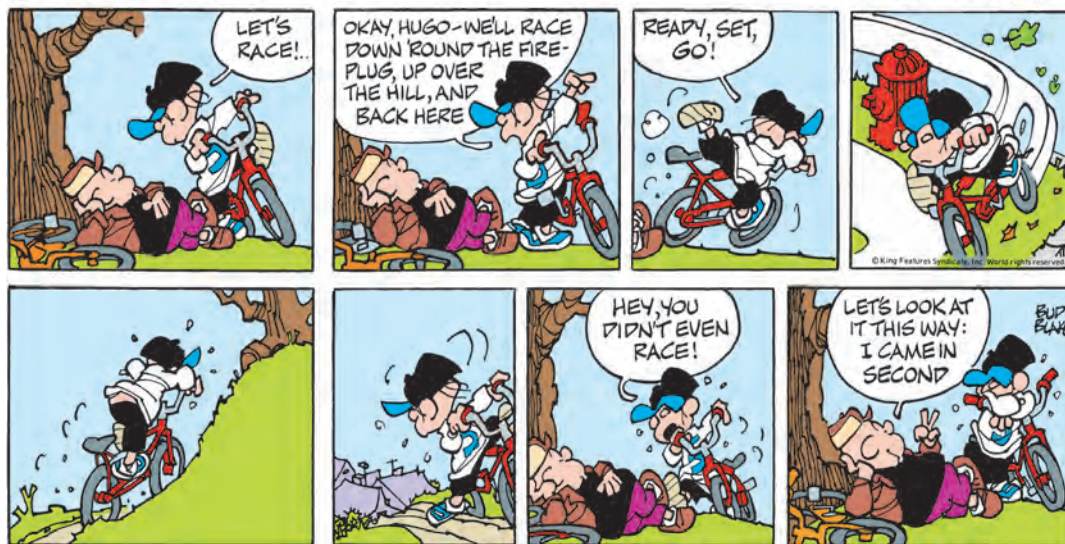
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

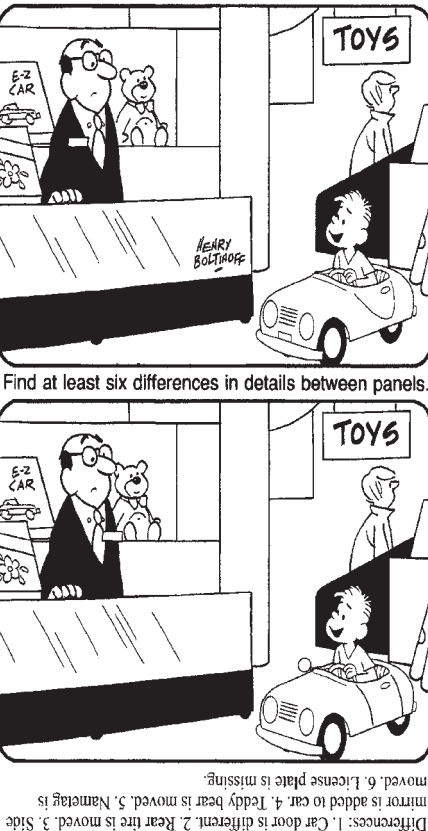


OLIVE



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: D equals P

NC Z DLKAGE RGAS Z VOGRL
PIEYO GC VLNQOS, WG HGI
AIDDGAL OL YGIRW QLS Z
EG-PLRRH DKNFL?

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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!

Beacon
ALIGNS
Value
THROW
Process
HOTMED
Record
IMAGER
TODAY'S WORD

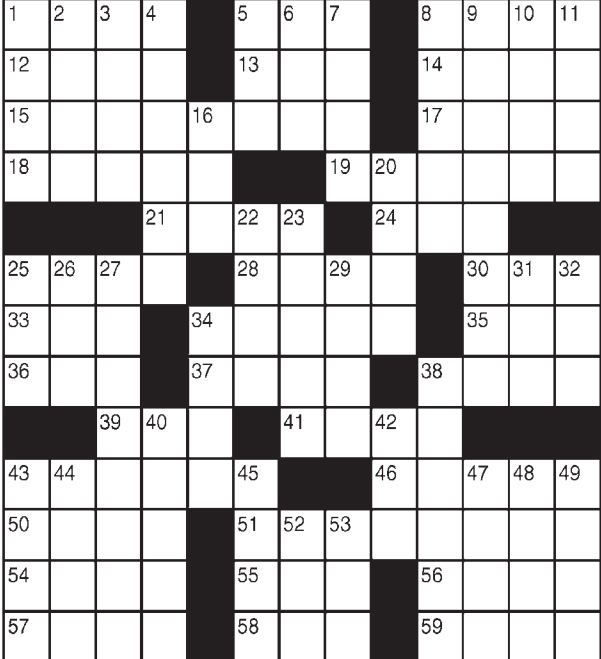


March 4, 2024 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Manhandle
- 5 Annex
- 8 Trig function
- 12 Within (Pref.)
- 13 "Ben- —"
- 14 Toledo's lake
- 15 "Sure, of course"
- 17 Bakery buy
- 18 "Yippee!"
- 19 Apple music service
- 21 Pride parade initials
- 24 "Let me think ..."
- 25 Valley in California
- 28 Indy event
- 30 Wall climber
- 33 Rocker Rose
- 34 Plains grazers
- 35 Formerly known as
- 36 Earth (Pref.)
- 37 Stink
- 38 "It's — real!"
- 39 Texter's "Enough!"
- 41 Bring up
- 43 Tell
- 46 Pink hue
- 50 Lena of "The Reader"
- 51 Sake, e.g.
- 54 Curse
- 55 Greek mountain

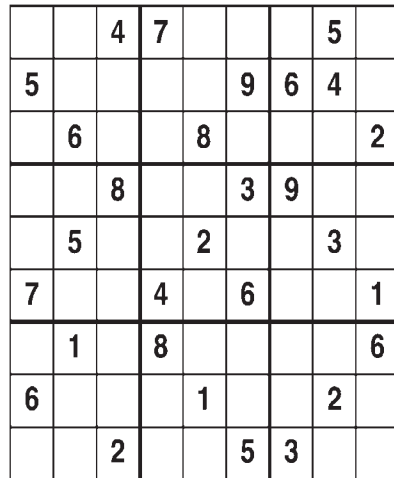


- 56 Zilch
- 57 Rosebud, to Kane
- 58 Camp bed
- 59 Flag feature
- 8 Blood part
- 9 Ore source
- 10 Aswan's river
- 11 Congers
- 16 Sailing hazard
- 20 Subsequently
- 22 Party cheese
- 23 Stunning gun
- 25 Pester
- 26 Chopper
- 27 Story thread
- 29 Pepsi rival
- 31 Victory sign
- 32 Longing
- 34 Telly watcher squad
- 8 Blood part
- 9 Ore source
- 10 Aswan's river
- 11 Congers
- 16 Sailing hazard
- 20 Subsequently
- 22 Party cheese
- 23 Stunning gun
- 25 Pester
- 26 Chopper
- 27 Story thread
- 29 Pepsi rival
- 31 Victory sign
- 32 Longing
- 34 Telly watcher squad

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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WORD LADDERS

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

BLAME

FLUTE

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which large U.S. city is nicknamed Rip City?
- 2. MOVIES: Which movie features the quote, "She doesn't even go here!"
- 3. GEOGRAPHY: Which national capital city is the northernmost in the world?
- 4. TELEVISION: Which long-running sitcom features a dad named Phil Dunphy?
- 5. GAMES: In chess, how many knights does each player have at the beginning?
- 6. GEOLOGY: What natural phenomenon is associated with igneous rock?
- 7. LANGUAGE: How many official languages are in the United Nations?
- 8. MUSIC: David Grohl was a drummer in which band before he became the frontman for the Foo Fighters?
- 9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of alligators called?
- 10. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of meat is used in Hasenpfeffer, a traditional German stew?

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- 1. Portland, Oregon.
- 2. "Mean Girls."
- 3. Reykjavik, Iceland.
- 4. "Modern Family."
- 5. Two.
- 6. Volcanic eruption.
- 7. Six.
- 8. Nirvana.
- 9. A congregation.
- 10. Rabbit.

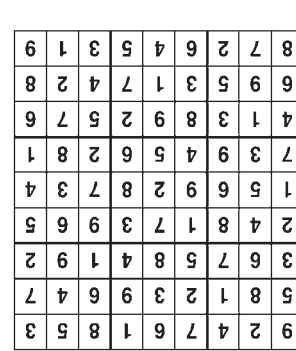
WEIGH

Today's Word
3. Method: 4. Mirage
1. Signal 2. Worth:
solution

SCRAMBLERS

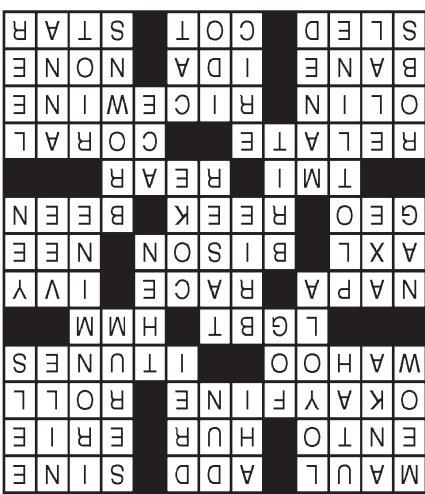
FLAKE, FLUKE, FLUTE
BLAME, BLARE, FLARE,
Answer

WORD LADDER



Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



Answer

Solution time: 24 mins.

King Crossword

Answers

Cryptoquip
Answer
If a person lost a whole bunch of weight, do you suppose he could get a No-Belly Prize?

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SPORTS

Anderson named to NUIC South Second Team

BRANDON LaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – With a tough non-conference schedule and a tougher slate of Northwest Upstate Illini Conference South opponents, the Amboy boys basketball team had a difficult season in terms of tallies in the win column.

But throughout the season one comment always associated with the Clippers was, “They work hard.”

No one showed it more than senior Troy Anderson, who was named to the NUIC South Second Team.

“It’s much deserved. No one is going to out-work Troy. No one beats him to the gym, and no one stays later than he does,” said Amboy coach Brad Dunlap. “He has put in a ton of hours in the last three years I’ve had the chance to coach him. He’s an incredible kid and an incredible person.

“He really, really deserves it. Even though his numbers don’t show it all, he had a huge impact on a lot of games. A lot of other coaches saw and that’s why he was voted on the all-conference team. It’s not just what our coaching staff saw, others noticed.”

Anderson, a student at Ohio High School, finished the season averaging 7.8 points, 6.2 rebounds, 1.7 assists, and 1.5 steals per game.

Although Anderson will not be there next

season due to graduation, Dunlap is hoping his work ethic sunk into some of the returning Clippers as they’ll try to improve on this season’s 4-27 record and change the culture of the program.

“Obviously, everyone wants to win. We’ve had this conversation with the team. There are just different levels to it. We want to get to a level where it’s expected in practice and in games,” Dunlap said. “This year, we had a lot of ups and downs. We had a good schedule. We played six teams that ended the season in the Top 20 of the state rankings. It’s not like our schedule was a cupcake.

“That’s what we want. We want to play the best



Troy Anderson, right, and Eliseo Vazquez-Tapia pose for a Senior Night photo as the only seniors on the 2023-24 Amboy boys basketball team.

Courtesy photo

because we want to be the best. It starts with our attitude in practice. We have to have mental toughness to finish tough games. We had a lot of games where we were hanging in there against good teams. Then we

would go up and down like a roller coaster.”



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Reg. Price \$4.99/ea.

Charmin Bath Tissue

12 Rolls



\$16.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$19.49 ea.