

# It is not a joke

Barb Harrison sold The Last Alarm to Rachel Miller on April Fool's Day after purchasing on the same day 20 years ago

By BRANDON LaCHANCE

Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – When Barb Harrison bought The Last Alarm on April 1, 2004, it wasn't an April Fool's Day joke.

When she sold the bar to Rachel Miller on April 1, 2024, it wasn't a laughing matter either.

"It was perfect to the day, 20 years. I bought and sold The Last Alarm in exactly 20 years. I decided to sell a year ago," said Harrison. "I started to look for the next buyer. I was asking people if they were interested. There was a lot of interest, which was a great thing because I had a lot of people to choose from. I had a list.

"As soon as Rachel said she was interested, she moved to the top of the list. She's been an employee of mine for the last 11 years."

At first, Miller was unsure if she wanted to buy the bar, but after further brainstorming and some in-house council, it became the right move for the 2005 Amboy High School graduate who has always lived in Amboy.

"Actually, my customers told me the bar was going up for sale before she did," said Miller, who began forming a bond with Harrison at The Main Flower Barn which Harrison owned for 11 years and was an employee for a bit before she bought The Last Alarm. "Shortly after Depot Days 2023, Barb made the comment, 'I don't know how many more Depot Days I have left in me.' It does take a lot out of someone to pull off a successful Depot Days in the bar. One of my customers said, 'Barb might be slowing down, she may retire.'

"I went home and made a comment to my husband. He gave me confidence by telling me not to be scared and to ask Barb, so one morning I came in and asked her about the sale of The Last Alarm.

"She said absolutely."

For Harrison, the sale was sweet.

The 20-year journey was fun. It brought pride and hardships like businesses tend to do.

Now she's ready for retirement.

"It's more sweet than bitter. It's a lot of work and a lot of hours," Harrison said. "I'm a florist by trade. Several years after I bought the bar, I started doing flowers on the side, at the bar, and my DIY's (do it yourself) at the bar. I was always busy with weddings on weekends and throughout the summer.

"I had a lot of irons in the fire and when it came time to quit, there really wasn't any bitterness. I'm ready to slow down and concentrate more on my personal time and the volunteering I do for the community. I'm just retiring from receiving a paycheck."

Along with The Last Alarm, Harrison has given up her floral design, except for her DIYS which she still plans to do a couple of times a month. Miller is excited to host Harrison and the flower group anytime they want.

When Miller was hired 11 years, she was on the schedule one day a week. In 2020, she took after the bar four days a week and became the daytime mainstay where she learned the ins and outs of running the bar.

Now, The Last Alarm has become part of her lifestyle and is excited for the future as the owner.

"I originally did this job to get out of the house. I have four children at home," Miller said. "When someone mentioned Barb wanted to retire, I couldn't imagine working for someone else because I knew I would be



Barb Harrison, left, sold The Last Alarm to Rachel Miller on April 1, 2024, April Fool's Day. Harrison owned the bar for 20 years as she bought it on April 1, 2004. Miller, who previously worked with Harrison at The Main Flower Shop, has worked at The Last Alarm for 11 years and has been the daytime bartender, learning the tricks of the trade, since 2020.

Brandon LaChance/Amboy News

left to answer a lot of questions on how we do this or how do we do that. I kind of went into it as I either buy the bar or I'm not doing it at all.

"I had a goal to open that day, April 1. We were not going to be closed. We were a couple of hours off of when I wanted to open, but we were still able to open, and that made me extremely happy. Customers were asking if it was an April Fool's Day joke because we didn't tell anyone for a long thing. It was the best kept secret for about five months in

the bar. It was driving residents crazy of who was going to buy the bar.

"We announced it at our Christmas party, which is a big shindig, and we had a packed house. They were all ecstatic to find out who was buying the bar."

Many have asked if there are going to be changes. Miller shakes her head no.

"It's business as usual," Miller said. "Queen of Hearts is still on Wednesday. Trivia is still on Tuesdays. Same workers. Same faces. Same specials."

## 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.



CPL. Stanley Sofolo

Co. L, 107th Infantry Regiment, 27th Division "OVER THE TOP"



– when soldiers were ordered to jump out of their trench and confront enemy fire head-on in the open.

On April 3, 1919, Mrs. Lena Sofolo received a letter from one of her son's

fellow soldiers who was the first to reach Stanley before he died on the battlefield in France. Most of us can only imagine her feelings upon reading this letter:

Dear Mrs. Sofolo:

You want to know how your son died and his last words. I will tell you the story of how I happened to get acquainted with your son.

See Sofolo page A3

RECYCLE!  
RECYCLE!  
RECYCLE!  
RECYCLE!  
RECYCLE!  
RECYCLE!

### AMBOY MINUTE



#### Index

Community Calendar.....A3  
Church Directory.....A4  
Obituaries.....A4  
Social News/Opinion.....A5  
Classifieds.....A8  
Sports.....A9

#### Inserts

JD Belcher

## Need A Loan For Home Improvement?

Ask Us



Franny Lilja  
NMLS#449810  
Amboy

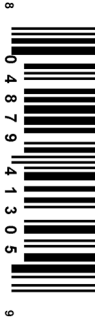
Annette Early  
NMLS#686407  
Dixon

Marion King  
NMLS#1493020  
Franklin Grove

Toni Pierce  
NMLS #329142  
Monroe Center

Elsa Payne  
NMLS#1248405  
Amboy

Amboy - Franklin Grove  
Dixon - Monroe Center  
815-857-3625, ext. 5306  
fnbamboy.com





# LOCAL NEWS

## Want to name an Amboy street in honor of a loved one?

Amboy Civic Organization is accepting bids until April 19 for the tradition established in 1997

A tradition started in 1997, honoring a loved one's memory by naming a street after them, is being done again this year. The Amboy Civic Organization (ACO) is accepting sealed bids until April 19, 2024 to name the street north of the business district. The sign will be hung on May 1 and will remain with the honored name for one year. The sign will then be given to the successful bidder. Currently the street, Cecil Harrison Way, is named after Cecil Harrison. Previous honorees were Bill & Lillie Kant, Makenzie Way, Cliff & Pat Weller, Allen Zip Sensenig, Bob & Mary Welty, Avery Lovgren, Jake Metzen, Gary Hart, Howard & Ruth Shaw, Douglas Blaine, Louis Grass-er, Doug Antoine, Dave Yentzer, James "Mort" Hinkle, James Mead, Bob Smith, Lisa Nauman, Dave Payne, Dale Etheridge, Elmer "Rocky" Sensenig, Arnie Stahr, Bob Machen and Jeff "Bodine" Bonnell. The money raised will be given to the Pankhurst Memorial Library. The minimum bid is \$200 and will be accepted at the Amboy City Hall.

## Elizabeth Clarida named Amboy High School's Student of the Month for April

Elizabeth Clarida was named the First National Bank in Amboy Student of the Month for April.

Parents/Guardians Names: Emily Clarida and James Clarida

Student of the Month for: April

GPA: 3.9

Memberships and Involvement:

President of Amboy Leos Club

Member of the National Honors Society

Member of Amboy Student Council

Member of the Volleyball Team

Education Pathways Program

Awards and Honors:

Education Pathways Endorsement

Over 100 hours of community service

Junior and Senior Year Homecoming Attendant

October Whiteside Area Career Center Student of the Month

Best Memories of AHS: My best memories of AHS was being involved in all of the homecoming activities such as skit night, float decorating, powderpuff, homecoming court, and the dance!

Future Plans: Next year I will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign to major in special education.

The Amboy Student of the Month is chosen by Amboy High School faculty and a scholarship is awarded by The First National Bank in Amboy.



**EL ZARAPE**  
MEXICAN RESTAURANT  
Mendota, IL

**Tuesday Lunch Buffet! \$12**

**Every Tuesday**  
11AM - 1PM

Buffet will include rice, beans, enchiladas, fried chicken, tacos, fajitas and cake

**Mendota (815) 539-5985**  
Open 7 Days A Week  
Sun-Wed. 11am-9pm  
Thur. 4pm-9pm | Friday & Sat. 11am-10pm

Online ordering now available, please check out website: [elzarapemendota.com](http://elzarapemendota.com)

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

THE ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER'S I-CASH PROGRAM WANTS TO RETURN OVER

**\$5 Billion**

TO OWNERS

**1 in 4**

ADULTS DISCOVER PROPERTY TO CLAIM WHEN THEY SEARCH

**ILLINOISTREASURER.GOV/ICASH**

To find out if you have cash or property, visit [www.illinoistreasurer.gov/icash](http://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/icash). If you do not have access to the internet to search for unclaimed property, a computer may be available at your local public library.

**ICASH BY THE NUMBERS**  
Reported to the Treasurer's Office 9/1/2023 - 2/29/2024

Reports:	9,478
Properties:	1,231,728
Cash:	\$259,077,753.61
Shares:	810,861

Returned to Owners 9/1/2023 - 2/29/2024

Number of Paid Claims:	240,705
Cash and Share Value Returned:	\$173,003,634.03

**ILLINOIS TREASURER'S ICASH**  
DISCOVER WHAT'S YOURS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT [unclaimedproperty@illinoistreasurer.gov](mailto:unclaimedproperty@illinoistreasurer.gov)

These properties have been placed in the custody of the State Treasurer, to whom all further claims must be directed. Information regarding the amount or description of the property and the name and address of the holder may be obtained by any persons possessing an interest in the property at [www.illinoistreasurer.gov](http://www.illinoistreasurer.gov) or by addressing an inquiry to the State Treasurer Illinois State Treasurer's Office, Unclaimed Property Division, PO Box 19495, Springfield, IL 62719-4945. Printed by the authority of the State of Illinois.

**Spring into Savings!**

**\$50 VISA GIFT CARD**  
Upon completion of appointment

**LeafGuard®**  
Get it. And forget it.®

**\$50 VISA GIFT CARD**  
Upon completion of appointment

**15% OFF TOTAL SALE\***  
Does not include cost of materials

- LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
- MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM.
- SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH

\*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free

Call Today for Your **FREE Estimate!**  
**815-673-7555**

**GOOD-HOUSEKEEPING**  
Since 1909  
LeafGuard®  
18 YEARS BACKED BY THE SEAL

**BBB**  
ACCREDITED BUSINESS

**A+**  
rating

**SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE**



## LOCAL NEWS

## TEEN TURF

## Thank You's

We are always grateful to those that help us in our endeavor to help the community: Trese McNinch and family for the stuffed animals; Amboy Lion's Club for the Easter Candy and Jim Travi for delivering it; Tammy, Scott, & Brooklyn Strub for various items; Tim & Diane Faivre for the games; The Center for Children's Books for the books and Bonny Faivre for delivering them; Donna Wellman for the cookies; Paul & Carolyn Lahman for the toilet paper; Donald Duck for the snacks; Mari Velasquez for the various items; Mark & Veronica Grossman for the various items and Walmart for the donuts and Katey Dickinson for bringing them.

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

We could not make the decisions or hold events without our Board members: Brian, Barb, Mark, Shelli, Amber, Joshua, Madison. Of course, our treasurer, Roxy

## 24th Annual Teen Turf Draw Down and Auction

It will be a little different this year. The Drive-Thru will be held on Sunday, May 5th from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with Long Branch catering and we will have the drawing on Facebook live at 4 p.m. Info on how-to pick-up food will be included with the ticket. Tickets still cost \$50 and include two dinners and a chance to win the \$1500 grand prize. We will be having our online auction on Airauctioneer.com again. It will start April 25th at noon and end at eight p.m. on May 2nd. If you would like to donate a basket or item to be auctioned off, we would need it the first week of April. Tickets are available at the building. Our board members will have them also. Thank you for your support!

## Needs

Fruit bars and Chocolate Chip bars

## Final Note

Heavenly Father, You're our ultimate source of strength. When we're weak, You're strong. You lift us up when we're down. You renew our strength, and we soar on wings like eagles. Thank You, God, for always raising us up with Your mighty hands. In our times of trials and troubles, God, we look to You. Life can hand us many different challenges that we know we cannot face on our own. But with You, O God, nothing is impossible. You'll always grant us the endurance to overcome any obstacle that may come our way. You're our strength when we're weak, God. And we're always grateful when You manifest Your power through our lives. All these we pray in Your Name, Amen.

## EIGHTH continued from page A1

September 29th, when the 107th Regiment went over the top my regiment, the 106th was behind the 107th; in other words we were moppers up.

Three hours after the attack the field was full of enormous sights, all American troops in a mob formation, most of our officers were picked before they went over and so the story goes.

After we got in the German trenches after they retreated, I met the unfortunate Stanley severely wounded. He had a machine gun bullet wound one inch below his heart. He asked me to help him. I was the only one around that side with him. I took off his shirt and bandaged him up. I tried to give him a drink of water. My canteen bottle had four machine gun bullets through it and I could give him no drink.

I questioned as to where he came from and how long he was lying in the place I found him. He told me only two hours and he was getting very weak. Then he gave me his wallet and photo which I had no time to look at and he said to give or send to his people. I put Stanley on my back and I went 50 yards. I was running very fast for the first aid station, 2 miles behind the line,

but he stretched out on my back and I could get no other word from him.

He died from loss of blood. If he could have received quick medical treatment perhaps your son would be home now. Mrs. Lena, I haven't answered your letter that I received. I just gave it the once over and I was so glad that I received your letter, so please when you receive this letter try to write to me about what you wrote in the last page of the letter I lost. These are the photos and the wallet that I received September 29, 1918 from your son, Stanley. I wasn't much acquainted with him but a few hours.

Having nothing else to say, I send you all my best regards and let's hope we make better acquaintance when I get around Illinois. I remain Stanley's friend, Salvatore Scarandino 1 Rivington St. New York City

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

## Sources:

Dixon Evening Telegraph, November 21, 1918, & April 12, 1919

## 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 Township meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, at the township building, 106 S. Prospect.

**FRANKLIN GROVE**- While our lives may be constantly on the move, and the convenience of having so much at our fingertips in digital form, there is a great deal of benefit to putting pen to paper. The benefits of bullet journaling can help organize life tasks, thoughts, and feelings, help identify stressors, help process emotions and intrusive or avoidant thoughts, gain insight and confidence, and promote empathy. Bullet Journaling class will be held from 5 – 6 p.m., on April 10, at Winifred Knox Memorial Library, Franklin Grove. Supplies are included and there is no cost to attend. Ages eight to 18. Call the library to register at 815-456-2823

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

**STERLING**- Youth Mental Health First Aid Workshop is planned from noon to 5 p.m., on April 10, at Whiteside Extension Office, Sterling. Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders in youth. This 6-hour training gives adults who work with youth the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to children and adolescents. To register [go.illinois.edu/youthmentalhealth](http://go.illinois.edu/youthmentalhealth)

**AMBOY**- The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., Friday, April 12, at Amboy High School, 11 E. Hawley St., Amboy. Call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to make an appointment to donate. Download the Blood Donor App.

**DIXON**- Bright and textured succulent wreaths are living plant wreaths for any occasion or holiday. Succulents are desert plants adapted as houseplants. Learn more about what succulents are, their biology, how to build your own wreath and how it needs to be cared for from 9:30 – 11 a.m., on April 13, at Sauk Valley Community College. Make and take home your own succulent wreath. This class would be for an individual or great family activity. Supplies are included. (Ages 12 & Up) Register online at [go.illinois.edu/CommunityEdSVCC](http://go.illinois.edu/CommunityEdSVCC).

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

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

**DIXON**-4-H Junior Gardener teaches children about the wonderful world of gardening through hands-on investigation of growing their own vegetables and flowers and learning to use the harvest. A portion of the produce grown will be given to food insecure situations. The club is for youth ages 8-18 and the cost is

## AMBOY POLICE

## THREE CHARGES

Zachary L. Gerlach, 29, Rock Falls, was arrested during a traffic stop at 11:40 a.m. Monday, March 25 at the intersection of Sterling Road and Rockyford Road. Gerlach was charged with driving while license suspended, operating uninsured vehicle, and wanted on a failure to appear warrant. Traffic citations were issued and Gerlach was taken to the Lee County Jail.

\$30 for non-4-H members and \$10 for 4-H members. This club will meet on Tuesdays, April 16 – July 30, from 4 – 5:30 p.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Dixon. For more information contact the Lee County Extension Office at 815-857-3525. Register online at: [go.illinois.edu/LeeCoJG](http://go.illinois.edu/LeeCoJG)

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

*Lisa says,*

# Be insured.

When bad things happen, make sure you have an insurance company that's committed to helping you repair, rebuild and grow. Rockford Mutual is that company. We've been putting lives back together for over 118 years.

Rockford Mutual Insurance Company provides insurance coverage for personal auto, homeowners, businessowners, commercial auto, and farmowners.

**ROCKFORDMUTUAL**  
INSURANCE COMPANY

For more information and a quote, contact your Rockford Mutual Agent:

**Lisa Quest**

**Leffelman & Associates Inc.**  
Our Family Protecting Your Family

Like us on facebook

P.O. BOX 349, Sublette, IL 61367  
Sublette 849-5219  
LaMoille 638-2171 • Amboy 857-2125

01122022

Keep your health flowing with chiropractic care!

## GREEN RIVER CHIROPRACTIC

**Dr. Colin Baker, D.C. - CCSP®**

Kids - Family - Athletes - Auto Accidents - Worker's Comp

**305 E. Joe Dr., Ste. 110 • Amboy**  
**815.857.2458 Fax: 815.857.2749**  
[www.greenriverchiro.com](http://www.greenriverchiro.com) • [info@greenriverchiro.com](mailto:info@greenriverchiro.com)

Call us today for a showing at Woodhaven Lakes or for a Market Analysis!

**Bonita Willis**  
Managing Broker  
815-849-5476

**Mary Lovgren**  
Realtor/Broker  
815-994-1449

**Justin Wiley**  
Realtor/Broker  
815-849-5390

**Nicci Leffelman**  
Realtor  
815-501-0408

**Woodhaven Lakes Realty**

Any type of property - any time of year (815)849-5476

Established In 1854

## 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.**

**Display Advertising Deadline:**  
noon Fridays

**Classified Advertising Deadline:**  
noon Fridays

**All Editorial Deadline:** noon Friday

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS Seamless Roofing INC.**

**Leak-Proof... Guaranteed!**

705 Illinois Ave.  
Mendota, IL 61342

**815-539-5142**

[nilsroofing.com](http://nilsroofing.com)

**DURO-FAST**  
THE WORLD'S BEST ROOF

Authorized Contractor. NRCA • BBB

**LIFESCAPE**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

### Senior Dining Menu

**April 15-19**  
8 oz. of low-fat milk served with each meal

**Monday** - Country meatballs, mashed potato/gravy, lima beans, wgr dinner roll, peaches

**Tuesday** - Chicken patty wgr wheat bun, peas and carrots, scalloped potatoes, pineapple

**Wednesday** - Spaghetti w/meat sauce, green beans, cauliflower, wgr garlic bread, apricots

**Thursday - A)** Hot turkey sandwich, mashed potato/gravy, winter blend veggies, wgr wheat bread-1, fruit cocktail B). Ham/chicken noodle

**Friday** - Cheesy beef taco, wgr flour tortilla, lettuce/tomato, Spanish rice/beans, fresh fruit, taco sauce

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

Call 800-779-1189 to make reservations 24 hours in advance

**Amboy Community Center**  
280 W. Wasson Road

United Way  
A United Way Agency

04102024



# LOCAL NEWS

## BBB Alert: Season opens for baseball and concert ticket scams

*Victims of ticket scams frequently find themselves left at the gate*

**ROCKFORD** – The entertainment excitement for baseball home openers and a new season starting, as well as mega concerts provides scammers with months of lucrative opportunities to steal fans’ money, identity, credit card info, and fun. The Better Business Bureau offers tips to make scammers strike out.

BBB anticipates extensive scam attempts because of 2024’s major concert line-up across northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin: The Rolling Stones; Billy Joel and Steve Nicks; Pearl Jam; Kenny Chesney and Zac Brown Band; Pink and many more. Plus, Lollapalooza, Pitchfork, Riot Fest, Ravinia, Summerfest, and other events in the Stateline. Many online platforms are already flooded with tickets for sale.

Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional Office of the BBB, says, “Fans need to be on the lookout for imposter websites, phony tickets, and counterfeit merchandise. There now are many ways for consumers to find tickets online; social media, online marketplaces, ticket sellers, resellers, and unfortunately, some are rip-offs. You don’t want to show up at the gate after waiting months and paying hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars, only to find out your ticket is fake.”

Horton notes, “Even in the era of pri-

marily electronic exchanges, the tickets and QR codes for entry may never be detected as fakes until you’re left standing at the gate. Scammers not only take money from consumers; they’re taking money from legitimate businesses.”

Last year, BBB received hundreds of complaints on BBB Scam Tracker about ticket scams related to sporting events, concerts, theatre, and other forms of entertainment. Hundreds more complaints were received from customers buying shoddy, counterfeit merchandise sold as official apparel.

“Online purchases rank the #3 riskiest scam type in the latest BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report,” adds Horton. “When entertainment is involved, people often are on a tight timeline, and emotions run high.”

Here are BBB tips for baseball and concert fans to help avoid money loss and identity theft:

– To reduce the risk of scams, always search ratings and reviews on BBB.org before you buy. Check out the seller/broker to learn what other customers have experienced.

– Buy tickets at the box office or from the venue’s official site and be careful because imitation sites often appear first in internet searches.

– Only deal with secure websites. These

will begin with “HTTPS” and have a “lock” symbol on the address bar.

– Fake websites will offer tickets at low prices to trick people into entering their credit card info. Scammers can then use your credit card to purchase big-ticket items. And you never receive your ticket.

– Use extra caution when buying tickets sold on Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, or other free online listings. Scammers are skilled at providing realistic looking tickets and fake receipts.

– Counterfeit tickets with forged barcodes look very professional with a copy and pasted logo of the actual ticket company. You will be denied access when you arrive at the concert and the scammer is long gone.

– Another devious trick: Fraudsters will copy and paste an actual ticket and then “sell” it to many purchasers, all of whom get a surprise at the gate when they learn the ticket is not valid.

– Use payment methods that come with protection. Always use a credit card, so you have some recourse if the tickets are not as promised. Debit cards, wire transfers, or cash transactions are money lost if the tickets are fraudulent.

– Know the refund policy. Only purchase tickets from a ticket reseller that provides clear details about the transaction

terms. Know what happens when an event cancels or changes dates.

– Red flag: Scammers use high pressure to make fast sales knowing people are desperate to see the show.

– Be very alert to high transaction fees on the final page of your purchase. Many low-rated ticket sellers collect all your information before indicating sometimes exorbitant fees at the end of the transaction.

For official Merchandise:

Only buy Merchandise at the Concert Venue, Ball Park or authorized MLB Vendors.

Know the refund policy. You should only purchase Merchandise from someone who discloses the terms and conditions of refunds or exchanges.

– Be aware that unlicensed and unofficial clothing are often made from inferior materials that shrink and ink that might run and cause problems in the wash.

For more information

Look for the BBB Seal, The Sign of a Better Business. If you’ve encountered a scam, report it to BBB Scam Tracker. Your report exposes scammer tactics. Sign up for BBB’s free consumer newsletter, BBB Edge, at [BBB.org/ChicagoBuzz](https://www.bbb.org/chicagobuzz). Visit [BBB.org](https://www.bbb.org) or follow us @ChicagoBBB on social media.

## Sens. Rezin, Tracy call for further financial support for Illinois parents

**SPRINGFIELD** – As Illinois families continue to face the challenge of how to pay the rapidly growing costs of nearly everything they need, Senate Deputy Minority Leader Sue Rezin (R-Morris) and Senate Republican Caucus Whip Jil Tracy (R-Quincy) have filed new legislation to provide additional financial support for struggling Illinois parents.

To accomplish this goal, Senators Rezin and Tracy have filed legislation to enact new state tax credits to help offset some of the costs that parents incur for both preschool and childcare. The two Senators held a press conference at the State Capitol March 21 to call for action on their legislation.

“Any parent or guardian of a young child will tell you that one of the greatest

financial hardships that growing families face is the lack of access to affordable, high-quality preschool and childcare,” said Sen. Rezin. “It is time for our state to ease some of that financial burden that has fallen upon parents and ensure that every child has a chance to access much-needed preschool education.”

Sen. Rezin’s Senate Bill 2717 would allow parents or guardians of one or more child between the ages of 3 and 5 who attend an eligible preschool program in the state to qualify for a tax credit equal to 100 percent, up to \$1,500 per child, for the expenses they incur in order to send their children to that preschool program.

Sen. Tracy is sponsoring Senate Bill 3104, which would give parents

a state tax credit for each qualifying child on their income taxes to help provide financial relief for those paying for childcare services. Under the proposal, qualifying families would receive a state tax credit equal to 25 percent of the current federal childcare tax credit for each child.

“Families throughout Illinois are finding it difficult to make ends meet as high inflation and other economic pressures impact their bottom line. Republican Senators have long been advocates for different plans to lessen the tax burden on Illinoisans,” Sen. Tracy said. “Today, we are renewing our call to provide much-needed relief for Illinoisans who are struggling to keep up with the state’s high cost of living.”

## Teen Turf plans Drawn Down & Drive-thru chicken dinner

**AMBOY** – Teen Turf is hosting a Draw Down & Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday May 5, followed by a live at 4 p.m. on Facebook.

Teen Turf will also have an online auction at [auctioneer.com](https://www.auctioneer.com) from noon Thursday, April 25 until 8 p.m. Thursday, May 2.

The pick-up chicken dinner will be at Long Branch Saloon (in the alley) at 55 S. East Ave. The \$50 tickets include two dinners and a chance to win prizes. All proceeds benefit Teen Turf’s free programs. The grand prize is \$1,500.

For tickets, contact Eileen Piper at 815-440-8195 or Pam Thomas for tickets, or see board members Brian Wedekind, Barb Harrison, Mark Grossman, Shelli Bump, Amber Horner, Madison Thomas, and Josh Gordon.

There are only 200 tickets sold prior to the event and no sales will be permitted that day.

### St. Bede hosts first Junior High Tour Day April 20

**PERU** – St. Bede Academy is excited to host our Junior High Tour Day from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 20. This brand-new event is for local sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students and their families who may be interested in seeing our school first-hand.

Families will be shown around the school by our student ambassadors, who will share their daily experience and welcome students into the building. Students will get to see all the new renovations of the building,

learn about what classes at St. Bede are like, and see a place where they belong.

Following the tours, families are also invited to join us at the baseball and softball fields to watch as the Bruins take on the Rockridge Rockets. All games are subject to weather conditions.

Students can sign up at [www.st-bede.com/jr-high-tour-day](https://www.st-bede.com/jr-high-tour-day), or by calling Jon Steben, director of enrollment management, at 815-250-0279.

# 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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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 Fronek  
Mass - Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m.  
Saturday – 5:30 p.m.

**St. Patrick Church - Maytown**  
Rev. Randy Fronek  
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 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.

**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  
Community  
Businesses  
Sponsor Area  
Church News:*

**Sensient Flavors, LLC.**  
815-857-3691

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

**Mihm-Jones Funeral**  
Home  
815-857-2611

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

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

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





SOCIAL NEWS/OPINION

The Book Nook

By:  
Tatjana Kazan

Old School Crime

The Golden Age of Detective Fiction was an era of classic murder mystery novels of similar patterns and styles, starting in the 1920s and ending in the late 1930s. Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers, among others, were called the Queens of Crime. Golden Age crime fiction is still with us, as in “Reykjavik: A Crime Story” by Ragnar Jonasson and Katrin Jakobsdottir. Jonasson is one of Iceland’s foremost crime fiction writers and Jakobsdottir is the Prime Minister of Iceland. They wrote their novel during the pandemic year, when Jakobsdottir had time on her hands. They dedicated the novel to Agatha Christie. As expected of a Golden Age mystery, “Reykjavik” starts slowly and does not pick up steam until the second half of the book. It is the story of an unsolved crime that enthralled the entire country for thirty years. In the summer of 1956, fifteen-year-old Lara Marteinsdottir worked as a maid for a wealthy couple on the island of Videy, off the coast of Reykjavik. In August she inexplicably disappeared without a trace. The story opens when young police officer Kristjan Kristjansson, the lead detective, visits the island on August 6. Lara’s disappearance haunts Kristjan, not least because he thinks the investigation was being undermined. The novel proceeds to the anniversary years of August 1966 and August 1976 where new and often shady characters are added to muddy the waters. August 1986 is the climactic

anniversary of the novel. “In this story, we invite readers on a journey back to the summer when Reykjavik celebrated its 200th birthday,” Jakobsdottir explained, “and when Iceland’s first private radio and TV stations first started broadcasting.” An aspiring investigative journalist Valur Robertsson from the Vikubladid Newspaper writes an anniversary article on Lara’s disappearance and becomes an instant celebrity. Valur decides to solve the crime, thus following another Golden Age element, that of the amateur detective. Valur’s sister Sunna, a graduate student bored with writing her dissertation, becomes Valur’s sidekick. Clues and suspicions proliferate, and by October 11, Sunna is rushing headlong after a vital lead, but she is thwarted by history. The streets are crowded with onlookers and hordes of reporters, the police guard every street corner. Sunna pushes her way through to Hofdi House. “The world was holding its breath... A black car drove up to Hofdi and out stepped none other than Ronald Reagan. Sunna halted, her breath catching in her throat. She had never expected to see the President of the United States, to be a first-hand witness to such historic events. The President greeted the press with a smile, then continued up to Hofdi House without answering any questions... Reagan reappeared on the steps and greeted the Soviet General Secretary. Sunna stood there as if turned to stone.”

Methamphetamine arrest in Dixon

DIXON – Lee County Deputies were made aware of individuals selling narcotics at the Magnuson Hotel in rural Dixon. At approximately 9:00 p.m. Friday, April 5, Blake A. Keane, age 21, of Sterling, Illinois and a 15-year-old juvenile of Morrison, Illinois, attempted to sell Methamphetamine to two Lee County Deputies. Both subjects were taken into custody without incident. The male juvenile was charged with Methamphetamine Delivery (a Class 2 Felony) and Possession of Methamphetamine - Less than 5 grams (a Class 3 Felony). The juvenile was processed at the Lee County Jail and released to their parents. Blake A. Keane was charged with Methamphetamine Delivery (Class 2 Felony), Possession of Methamphetamine, less than 5 grams (Class 3 Felony), Unlawful Possession of Cannabis with the In-

tent to Deliver, 30-100 grams (Class 3 Felony), Unlawful Possession of Cannabis, 30-100 grams, (Class A Misdemeanor). At the time of the new arrest on April 5, Keane was already on pretrial release conditions with a GPS monitor out of Whiteside County for pending charges of Unlawful Possession of Firearm Ammunition by a Felon. In accordance with provisions of Illinois SAFE-T Act, Blake was given a court date and released from the custody of Lee County Deputies. All charges are merely an allegation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Citizens are reminded to call the Lee County Sheriff’s Office at (815) 284-6631 or Crime stoppers at 1-888-CAUGHT-U. Callers can remain anonymous and receive rewards of up to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

There is such a thing as too much water

I’ll tell you a true story I think is funny and you can decide if it’s funny, ignorant, or factual. Last year when I was having internal issues with my colon and diverticulitis, the gastroenterologist (thank you Google) asked if I drank too much alcohol. I answered 5-8 drinks on a Friday and/or Saturday. She said that is too much and I am an excessive drinker which could be borderline abuse.

There was a giggle as I thought of all the people I’ve watched consume more than me while I sober up to give rides home and to make sure I’m 100 percent clear the next day to officiate a basketball, volleyball, baseball, or softball game, or to talk to people for stories. There was a cackle as I thought of younger Brandon who would have scuffed at eight drinks and said, ‘Bro, step your game up.’ Then I almost went into hysterics as I thought about how much water I’ve been told I needed to drink two months prior when I was hospitalized for a week and had an IV feeding me everything because I couldn’t eat or drink.

More water requests were summoned my way between the hospital and this gastro visit. When the gastroenterologist said what she said about my alcohol consumption, I instantly asked, ‘So, if I drink 8-10 glasses a water a day like you want me to, that’s not over consumption? That’s not putting too much of something in my body?’ She went flush for a second. She looked down. Then looked me in the eye and gave me doctor speech of how water can do no wrong, angel like, and alcohol is the devil. Maybe laughing at her, in her face, wasn’t the right call, but it was the one I made during the play on the court known as the doctor’s office. To her credit, she was professional and said what doctors will say about the benefits of water and told me I should drink water like I would alcohol and there shouldn’t be any issues. To my credit, I asked an almost out of line but completely appropriate questions in a creative, realistic way... We can’t drink too much water? It can’t hurt our body? The meeting or debate ended with her telling me I’d

have to have a surgery to cut out a portion of my colon if something didn’t change. I already knew this, and my diet had changed and was continuing to change. No more red meat. No more eating out. Limited sweets. If there was a flare up, go to a liquid diet and stop trying to act like nothing was happening, which I was guilty of previously. And more water. However, not 10 glasses a day. I’m a journalist, I looked for information to back up my argument of how drinking so much water could have negative effects. Don’t get me wrong, there is more negatives behind alcohol than water, we should all know this, but at the same time I believe you can overindulge in everything, including agua. From the Mayo Clinic, www.mayoclinic.org, when you drink too much water, your kidneys can’t get rid of the excess water. The sodium content of your blood becomes diluted, which is called hyponatremia and it can be life-threatening. The Institute of Medicine recommends 3.7 liters of water a day for males, which is 15-16 cups, and 2.7 liters for females, which is 11-12 cups. Quora.com says water excessiveness is when you chug two gallons (7.6 liters) because it can lead to overhydration or water intoxication. I agree one or two glasses or cups of water isn’t enough, but 8-10, and especially 15-16 or 11-12, is excessive and isn’t doing anything but raising toilet flush tallies and the amount on the water bill. Not to defy doctors or to risk health, I joyfully drink 5-8 glasses, more often 16.9 Fl. Oz. bottles, daily and have reaped the benefits. The next time I saw the gastroenterologist I told her what I’d done, she ran her tests, checked for cancer (there was nothing), and she told me she’s OK with the compromise of finding a happy medium with water because I didn’t have to have the surgery as my colon was in better shape and would continue to be if I kept doing what I had done since I left the hospital. Water can be good for you. Alcohol can be good for you. Water can be bad for you. Alcohol can be bad for you. Everything can be bad in over consumption.

Column

By Brandon LaChance



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 Years Ago April 11, 1924

Canavan’s advertised Easter dresses in a variety of styles and colors for \$14.50. Easter lilies priced \$1.50 and up at the Amboy Flower and Gift Shop.

75 Years Ago April 7, 1949

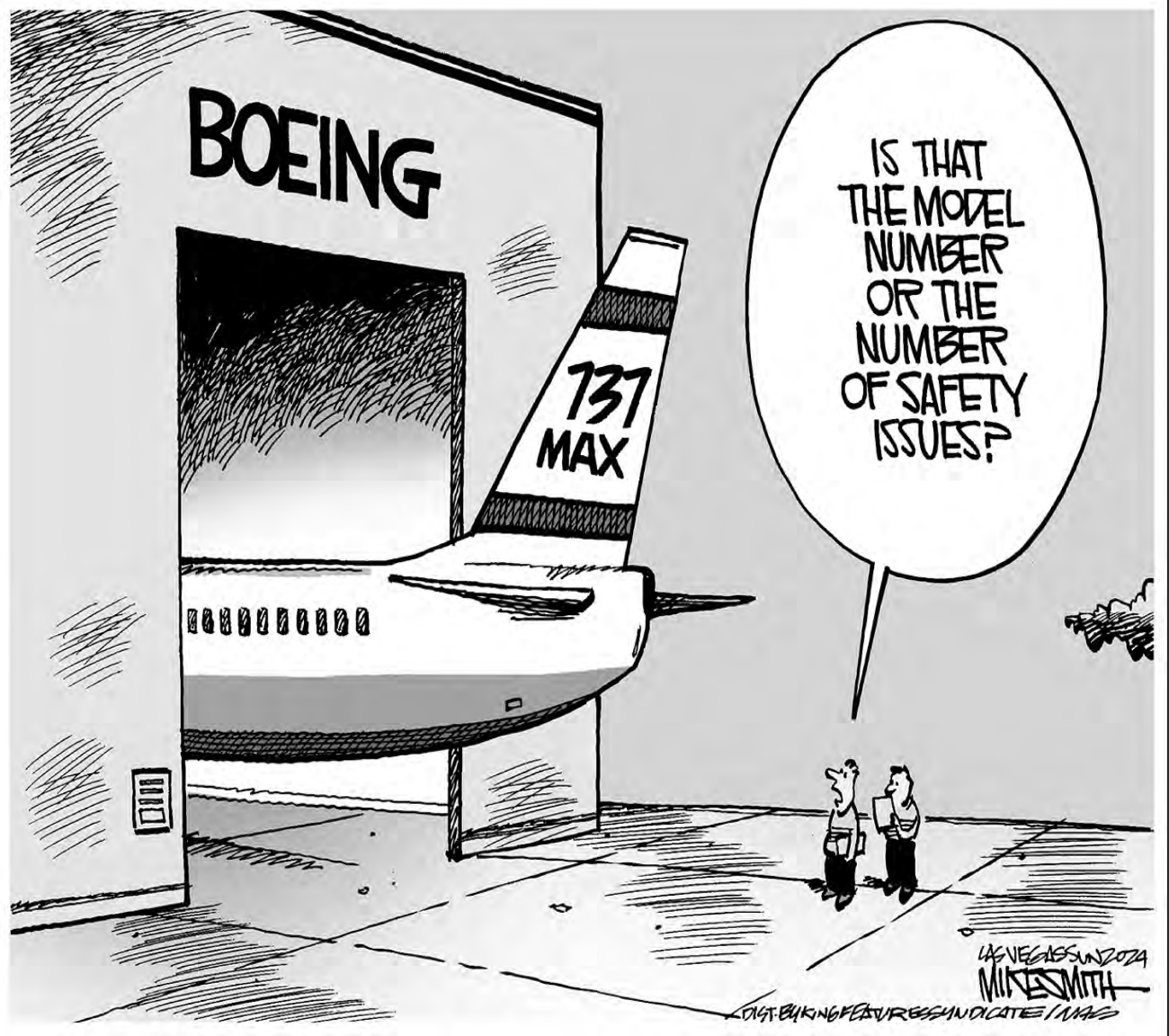
Robert A. Reinboth, Superintendent of Amboy Central Grade School, was elected Superintendent of the new Amboy Community School District. At the Theater: Myrna Loy, Fredric March, Dana Andrews, Teressa Wright and Virginia Mayo, starring in “The Best Years of Our Lives.”

50 Years Ago April 11, 1974

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schamberg purchased the home of the late a.D. Neis, located at 5 n. Blackstone Avenue in Amboy. Superintendent Don Skidmore, AHS Principal Jim Braida and Athletic Director Jim Mahar attended a meeting at Morrison to discuss the new athletic conference Amboy will become a part of in the 1975-76 school year. Featured at the 22nd Annual Firemen’s Ball was Ralph Pierce and his “Mad Cap Magic,” followed by the music of Art Busch and his orchestra.

25 Years Ago April 8, 1999

Glenda R. Gray, 39, Amboy, pleaded guilty to a federal charge that she embezzled approximately \$15,000 from the United Postal Service, said Scott R. Lassar, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. Two German couples spent time in Amboy as guests of Carol and Jim DeGeorge. The four were here visiting as part of Dixon (Illinois)-Herzberg (Germany) Sister Cities Exchange Program. Herzberg is located in the former East Germany section of the reunited Germany. Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park Camp-Resort in Amboy was awarded with the “Jim Webb Spirit” award recently. Owned and operated by Dan and Jane O’Connell and their son, Kevin, the park was named the winner of this Year’s award.





# LOCAL NEWS

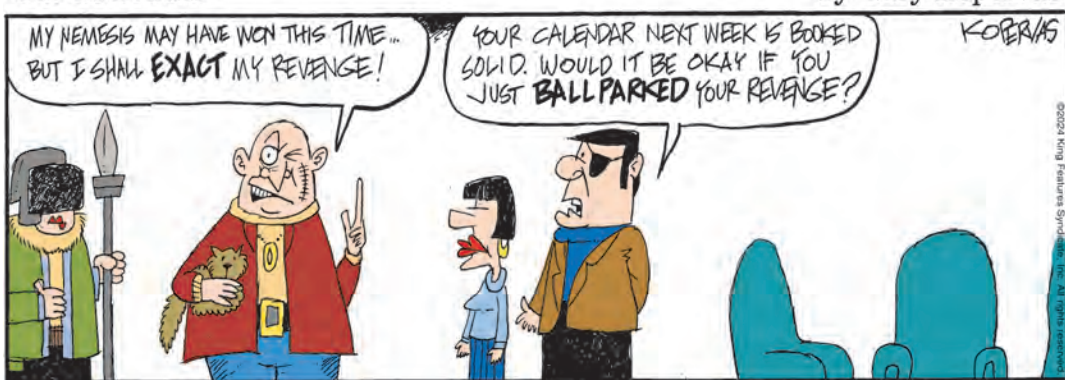
## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



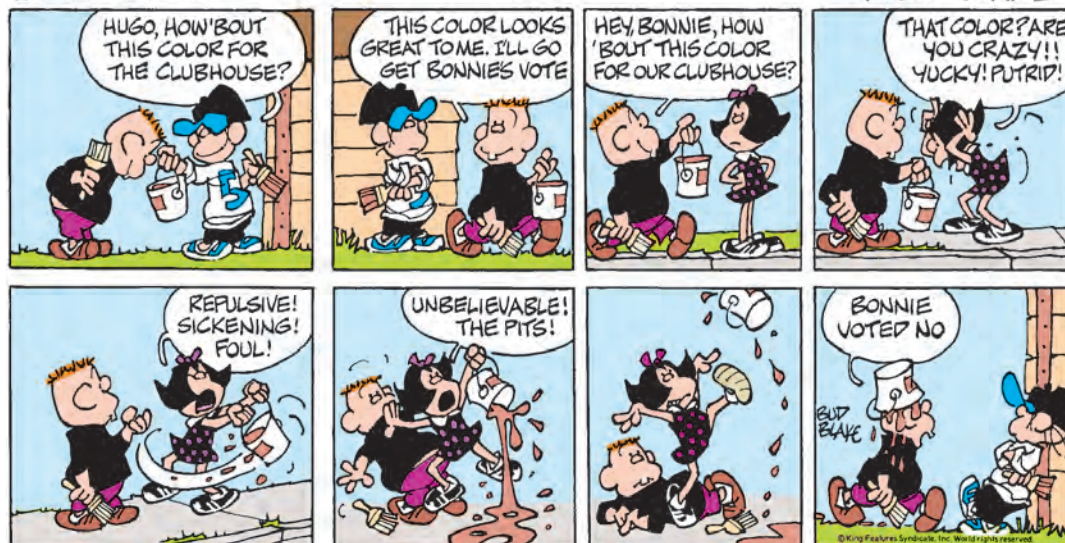
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

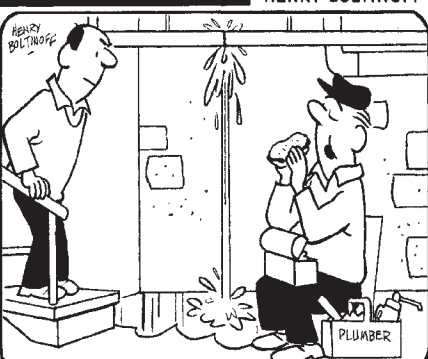


## OLIVE



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: Z equals R

FN E LZEKH DN OMFKEPEZU  
FB JKDPK RD LU ZUBFBREKR  
RD LZUEJFKC, FR MEB E CDDH  
OZEOJ ZUODZH.

©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## 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!

Persist CURER

Betray ADMILES

Slight BUSTLE

Breach VAINED

TODAY'S WORD

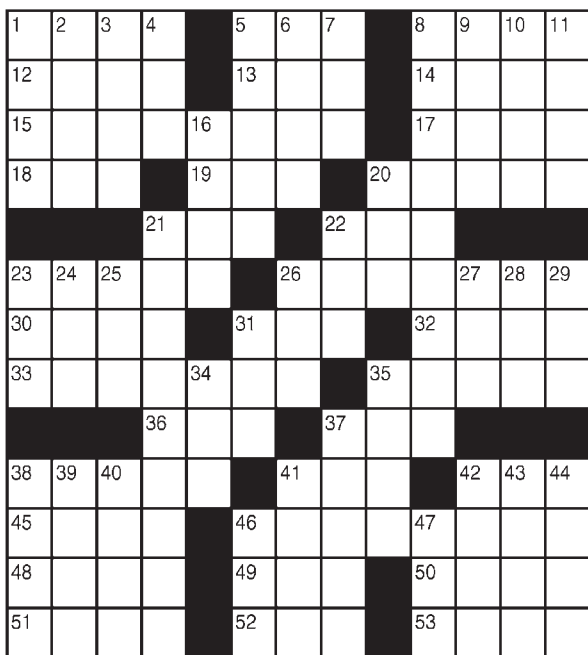
up to \_\_\_\_\_.

April 8, 2024 Posting Date

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Flair  
5 Enterprise letters  
8 Stuffing herb  
12 Taunt  
13 Aussie hopper  
14 Hockey legend Phil, to fans  
15 Home of the Packers  
17 Compared to  
18 Congeal  
19 Sturdy tree  
20 Spassky's game  
21 — -Manuel Miranda  
22 Huge  
23 Bottom  
26 Fear-stricken  
30 "E Pluribus —"  
31 Blue hue  
32 Lighten  
33 Arty area  
35 Hinder  
36 Sailor  
37 Soda container  
38 Norwegian inlet  
41 "It's c-c-cold!"  
42 Right angle  
45 Actress  
46 Chinese brew  
48 Diminutive suffix

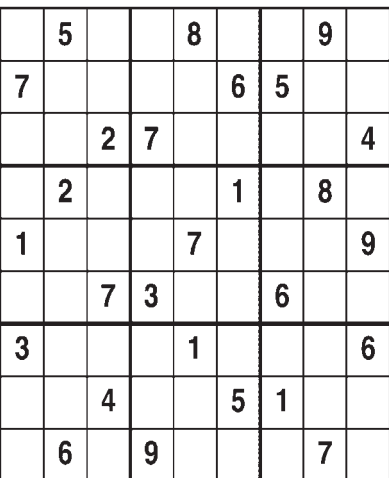


- 49 Mosquito barrier  
50 Cupid's alias  
51 Thames town  
52 Multipurpose truck  
53 Compass point  
Job" actor  
9 Tennis champ  
10 Transcript stats  
11 Eternities  
16 Dark film genre  
20 Spy org.  
21 Color named for a fruit  
22 Journalist Nellie  
23 Gist  
24 Year in Spain  
25 "Gee, ya think?"  
26 Alias abbr.  
27 Yoga pad  
28 Jargon suffix  
29 Aachen article  
31 Bro or sis  
34 '60s chic  
35 Challenge  
37 El Greco's birthplace  
38 Gratis  
39 Joan of rock  
40 Aware of  
41 Author Harte  
42 To be, in Toulon  
43 Some July babies  
44 Endure  
46 Wildebeest  
47 Up-to-date

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## 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!

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## WORD LADDERS

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

PLATE

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

REACT

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: The island of Ibiza belongs with which European country?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of flamingos called?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the island terrorized by a shark in "Jaws"?
- U.S. STATES: Which state capital has the highest elevation in the United States?
- ANATOMY: Where is the corpus collosum located?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the children's book "Where the Wild Things Are"?
- TELEVISION: Which 1970s TV show had a spinoff hit with "Laverne & Shirley"?
- MATH: How many sides does a dodecagon have?
- ASTRONOMY: Which one of the planets in our solar system has the Great Red Spot?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president ended the military draft?

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

10. Richard Nixon.

9. Jupiter.

8. 12.

7. "Happy Days."

6. Maurice Sendak.

5. In the brain, it connects the two hemispheres of the brain.

4. Santa Fe, New Mexico.

3. Amity Island.

2. A flamboyance.

1. Spain.

Answers

## MUSIC

Today's Word

1. Recur; 2. Mistlead;

3. Subtle; 4. Invade

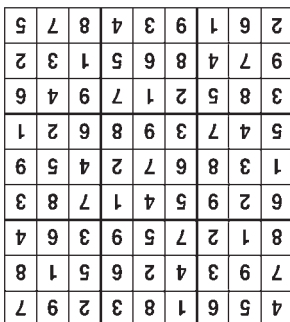
## SCRAMBLERS

PEACH, REACH, PEACE,

PLATE, PLACE, PEACE,

Answer

WORD LADDER



Answer

## Weekly SUDOKU

to breaking, it has a good crack record.

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



# LOCAL NEWS

## Phidian Art Club announces judge for 75th Phidian Art Show

**DIXON** – The Phidian Art Club has selected Tim Harrison of Milwaukee, WI, a creative director with over 15 years of experience working at global agencies and brands in New York City, to judge this year’s 75th Phidian Art Show. The awards presentation occurs at The Next Picture Show, at 113 W. First St. in Dixon.

Although Harrison’s professional career has been rooted in the digital arena, such as websites, social media, and video, he admires all mediums. He welcomes the opportunity to luxuriate in more traditional art forms, like painting and photography. He received a BFA in Visual Design from Loyola University Chicago (2004).

After graduating college, he spent two years in Spain, harnessing his art direction skills through Miami Ad School in Madrid (2010). After 12 years in New York City, he returned to the Midwest to run his creative agency in Milwaukee.

In addition to working

as a creative professional, Harrison has taught visual design courses at the Academy of Arts University in San Francisco and participated in various portfolio reviews for young professionals while in NYC.

The public will again have the opportunity to choose a “People’s Choice Award” by voting for their favorite entry from April 5-19 at the gallery during its operating hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

The Phidians are awarding more than \$3,500 in prizes donated by local businesses and individuals. Many are memorial awards in remembrance of extraordinary people. Through this generous support, the art show continues to be the year’s highlight for the Sauk Valley area’s ever-growing artistic and cultural scene.

For more information, guidelines, and entry forms, please contact Robin Canode at 815-718-3709 or email her at robin.canode52@gmail.com.



## Rep. Fritts honors Kennay Farms Distilling for March Local Business Highlight

**DIXON** – For his March 2024 local business highlight, State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Kennay Farms Distilling in Rochelle. Rep. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owners with a certificate of appreciation for their contributions to the community.

“This month, I chose to honor Kennay Farms Distilling because of their commitment to helping our local veterans, first responders, and other community organizations,” said Rep.

Fritts. “Kennay Farms hosted a Hops for Heroes event where they created a new beer and donated all proceeds to local veteran organizations. They also helped first responders with their Back the Blue bottles during the pandemic and continue donating items and baskets to local auctions and raffles.”

Kennay Farms was founded in 2019 by owners Doris and Rick Kennay. The Kennay family has been farming for six generations.

Rep. Fritts concluded, “I

commend the Kennay family on their excellent products, hard work, and continued dedication to helping our community.

Kennay Farms Distilling is located at 416 Lincoln Highway in Rochelle. For more information about Kennay Farms, visit their website at KennayFarms-Distilling.com.

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

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

HOME REMODELING

RNB Home Repair & Remodeling

17 years doing business in Amboy  
Over 25 Years in Service!  
Robert Moore  
Owner  
815-857-3246

REAL ESTATE

Woodhaven Lakes Realty

Woodhaven Lakes Realty, Inc.  
PO Box 110  
Sublette, IL 61367  
815-849-5476  
www.woodhavenlakes.com

AVON

Avon Independent Sales Representative Betty Meznarich

576 N. 3859th Rd.  
Rt. 2  
Mendota, IL 61342  
815.343.4750  
mezandmezzie@gmail.com  
To Buy or Sell. 41 Years as an Avon Lady.

COMMUNITY CENTER

AMBOY COMMUNITY CENTER

Available For  
Receptions, Meetings, Fund-Raisers  
280 W. Wasson Rd. • Amboy, IL 61310  
(815) 440-5784 • (815) 857-2324  
Holly Bruington - Manager

CABINETS AND STAIRS

STARVED ROCK WOOD PRODUCTS

Kitchen & Bathroom Cabinetry  
Millwork • Staircases  
& Custom Projects  
  
1605 Division St., Mendota  
www.starvedrockwoodproducts.com  
815-538-7797

FUNERAL HOME

Mihm-Jones Funeral Home

Patrick Jones  
303 E. Main Street • Amboy  
815-857-2611  
www.thejonesfh.com

ELECTRICAL

Carriage House Electric

For All Your Electrical Needs  
Call 815-538-5598

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

MAIN STREET REPAIR

STIHL Husqvarna  
205 W. Main St. | Sublette, IL  
815-849-5225  
mainstreetrepair16@yahoo.com  
SALES & SERVICE  
• Stihl Outdoor Power Equipment  
• Husqvarna Mowers  
• Dixon ZTR Parts

PRINTING SERVICES

Call The Amboy News for your printing needs!

815-539-9396

REAL ESTATE

ERBES REALTY LLC

1922 Tower Rd, Sublette, IL  
815-535-6295  
Lori Erbes, GRI  
Designated Managing Broker

MOWING

YARD CLEAN-UP MOORE'S MOWING & MORE

Amboy, IL  
779-861-1886  
Robert Moore

ROOFING

Craftworks Custom Homes

Local Remodeling & Home Repair  
  
• Roofing • Decks  
• Siding • Additions  
Dan Truckenbrod  
Call us for a free estimate for all your general contracting needs  
815-780-0259 | Craftworkscustomhomes@yahoo.com

Your Business can advertise for  
\$30.00 per month.  
Call the Amboy News at 815-539-9396 today!



# Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL  
Place A Classified Ad



AMBOY • SUBLETTE • WEST BROOKLYN • LEE CENTER • PAW PAW • LAMOILLE

## 101 LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Sublette Township, Lee County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 445 LaMoille Rd., Sublette, IL from and after 6 p.m. on April 1, 2024.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be at 7 p.m. on May 14, 2024 at Sublette Twp. Bldg., Sublette, IL and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at a meeting to be held at Sublette Twp. Bldg., Sublette, IL at 7 p.m., May 14, 2024.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2024.  
Daniel Stephenitch, Supervisor  
Deborah A. Schultz, Clerk  
No. 0401  
(April 10, 2024)

### NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Sublette Road District, Lee County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 445 LaMoille Rd., Sublette, IL from and after 6 p.m. on April 1, 2024.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be at 7 p.m. on May 14, 2024 at Sublette Twp. Bldg., Sublette, IL and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at the public hearing.  
Dated this 1st day of April, 2024.  
Daniel Stephenitch, Supervisor  
Deborah A. Schultz, Clerk  
No. 0402  
(April 10, 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. In business since 1999, weekly mowing, bushes, spring clean up and much more. Fully Insured, Free Estimates, Call Jeremy Furman, 815-761-9619. Please leave message and I will return call ASAP.

## 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.

## 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

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

## 511 STORAGE UNITS

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

## We Help You Help.

When you help care for a loved one, you take care of everything.  
But are you taking care of yourself?

AARP can help with information and useful tips on how you can maintain a healthy life balance, care for your own physical and mental well-being, and manage the challenges of caring for a loved one. Because the better care you take of yourself, the better care you can provide for your loved one.

You're there for them. We're here for you.

Find free Care Guides to support you  
and your loved one at [AARP.org/caregiving](https://www.aarp.org/caregiving)

**AARP**  
ad COUNCIL

## 601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

### 2022 Buick Encore AWD GX Select



2022 Buick Encore AWD GX Select, 31K Miles, White

**\$22,900**

2023 Chevy 1500, Crew Cab, LTZ Z71, 4x4, Sunroof, Blue.....\$51,900	2022 Chevy Equinox FWD LT, 42K Miles, Black.....\$22,900
2023 Chevy K-1500 Crew Cab LT, Lthr, 4x4, Z71, Long Box 6 1/2 ft, 41K Miles, Red.....\$44,900	2022 Buick Encore AWD GX Select, 31K Miles, White.....\$22,900
2023 Chevy K-1500 Crew LT 4x4, Long Box, Diesel, 70K Miles, White.....\$39,900	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 Blazer Premier, Sunroof, Loaded, AWD, 15K Miles, Tan.....\$37,900	2019 Chevy Blazer, 2LT, AWD, 69K Miles, Maroon.....\$22,900
2022 Chevy C-1500 Reg. Cab, 2WD, Long Box, WT, Trlr Pkg, 13K Miles, White.....\$28,900	

### QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

2021 Chevy K-1500 Custom 4x4 4cyl Turbo, 90K Miles .....\$27,900	2017 Chevy K-1500 Crew LT, 4x4 66K Miles, Maroon.....\$28,900
2019 Chevrolet K-1500, Crew Cab, LT, 4x4, Leather, 87K Miles, Gray.....\$28,900	2016 GMC K-2500, Crew Cab, Denali, 4x4, Sunroof, Diesel, 76K Miles, Black.....\$44,900



**VVAESEN  
BROTHERS  
CHEVROLET, INC.**

"Great Deals - Great Service Since 1926"

Ally Financing and  
GMF Financing or Leasing

\* Plus Tax, title and license. Rebates applied.  
Subject to credit approval.

FIND NEW ROADS



HIGHWAY 52  
SUBLETTE, IL  
[www.vaessenbrothers.com](https://www.vaessenbrothers.com)

(815) 849-5232  
1-800-227-5203



"La detección temprana nos permitió  
tomar control de la situación y poder  
planificar juntos."

Si notan cambios,  
podría ser Alzheimer.  
Visiten un médico  
juntos.

[ALZ.org/Tiempo](https://www.alz.org/Tiempo)





# LOCAL NEWS



**Left photo:** Amboy 100-meter runners Caleb Yanos, left, and Josh McKendry lunge toward the finish line during the Don Gooden Invitational on April 6 in Mendota. Yanos finished seventh and McKendry was 12th. **Right photo:** Amboy senior Elly Jones approaches a hurdle during the 100-meter hurdles at the Don Gooden Invitational in Mendota on April 6. She finished in third place. Kip Cheek/Amboy News



## Amboy track competes at Mendota's Don Gooden Invitational

**MENDOTA** – El Paso-Gridley captured team titles for the boys and the girls in the Mendota Don Gooden Invitational track meet on April 6 at the MHS athletic stadium.

Only track events were held due to wet conditions in the field event areas.

The El Paso-Gridley boys piled up 109 points to easily outdistance second-place Sandwich, which scored 83 points. Harvard claimed third place with 41.5 points, while the Amboy-LaMoille boys' team landed in fourth place with 34 points.

The Clippers' best finishes on the day were two second-place efforts. Joel Billhorn raced to a second-place finish in the 400-meter dash with a time of 52.18, which was less than one second off the winning time.

The other second went to the 4x100-meter relay team in a time of 45.92. Competitors were Billhorn, Josh McKendry, Ed Fry and Caleb Yanos. The A-L foursome was narrowly edged out by first-place Sandwich, which was clocked in 45.8.

In the girls' meet, the Lady Clippers tallied 32 points to finish in sixth place. El Paso-Gridley took first-place honors with 89 points.

Elly Jones had the best finish on the day for Amboy-LaMoille, taking third place in the 100-meter hurdles in a time of 17.9.

Maddie Althaus claimed fourth place in the 400-meter dash with a clocking of 1:06.03.

### Don Gooden Invite at Mendota Boys

El Paso-Gridley 109, Sandwich 83, Harvard 41.5, Amboy 34, Kewanee Wethersfield 33, Bureau Valley 30.5, Hall 30, Princeton 27, Somonauk 27, Newark 20, Fieldcrest 15, Mendota 11, Hinckley-Big Rock 11

A-L 2nd place: Joel Billhorn, 400m dash, 52.18; 4x100m relay (Josh McKendry, Billhorn, Ed Fry, Caleb Yanos), 45.92

A-L 3rd place: McKendry, 200m dash, 24.57

A-L 4th place: 4x200m relay (McKendry, Tyler Huggins, Fry, Yanos), 1:40.04; 4x400m relay (Yanos, Fry, Huggins, Billhorn), 3:50.46

A-L 7th place: Yanos, 100m dash, 12.3

### Girls

El Paso-Gridley 89, Kewanee Wethers-

field 72, Bureau Valley 69, Newark 69, Sandwich 67, Amboy 32, Princeton 22, Fieldcrest 19, Harvard 15, Mendota 8, Somonauk 4, Ashton-Franklin Center 2

A-L 3rd place: Elly Jones, 100m hurdles, 17.9

A-L 4th place: Maddie Althaus, 400m dash, 1:06.03

A-L 5th place: 4x100m relay (Jones, Alexa McKendry, Lexi Ketchum, Bella Yanos), 54.9; 4x200m relay (McKendry, Jones, Stephanie Nave, Yanos), 1:56.27

A-L 6th place: Yanos, 200m dash, 28.91; McKendry, 300m hurdles, 56.02; 4x400m relay (Ketchum, Grace Althaus, Nave, M. Althaus), 4:50.93

A-L 7th place: M. Althaus, 100m dash, 13.89; Aubrey Wells, 800m run, 2:56.02

## Lady Clippers post 4-4 record as weather starts to lighten up

**AMBOY** – The Amboy softball team won two and lost one in its last three games.

More games were scheduled, but were wiped out because of bad weather, which happened to every softball and baseball team throughout northern Illinois.

In the games they were able to play, the Lady Clippers defeated Dixon, 5-0, on March 28, lost to Dakota 14-2 on March 30, and edged Milledgeville, 8-7, on April 4.

Against Dixon, sophomore Ellie McLaughlin was the winning pitcher with six strikeouts, four walks, and two hits. At the plate, sophomore Kiera Karlson went 2-of-4 with

two singles, and sophomore Brittlyn Whitman was 3-of-3 with a double and a single.

In the loss to Dakota, Whitman was the losing pitcher and junior Tyrah Vaessen was 2-of-3 at the plate.

Many bats found the ball for Amboy against Milledgeville. Karlson was 3-of-3 with three singles and two RBI, Vaessen was 2-of-4 with two singles and an RBI, sophomore Peyton Payne tallied a double, a single, and an RBI on 2-of-4 hitting, while junior Haleigh Stenzel was 1-of-4 with a single and three RBIs.

The Lady Clippers are 4-4 heading into a clearer slate of weather forecasts.

## Amboy skunks West Carroll in five

**WEST CARROLL** – The Amboy baseball team didn't take long to earn a victory on Thursday, March 28 as the Clippers skunked West Carroll, 10-0, in five innings on the road.

Amboy had 10 baserunners cross home plate as junior Quinn Leffelman and sophomore Rylan McNinch scored three runs apiece, and senior Austin Shugars, and juniors Carson Barlow, Dillon Merri-man, and Eddie Jones each tallied a run.



10 N US Hwy 34, Mendota

Great Business Opportunity! Sip n Snack has been in Business for 50 years! Awesome location with lots of traffic and close to Mendota golf course. So many opportunities with this restaurant/bar. Features include: large parking area, 70 KW generator, over \$100,000 in inventory and equipment, pop machine, freezer, fryers, refrigerator, some toy machines, tables, chairs, bar stools, everything you need to start today and so much more. Downstairs seats around 230 and upstairs seats around 70 people. Bar upstairs and down! Private back room for entertaining, 2 updated bathrooms. This business had a lot of take out business as well. Plenty of storage throughout. Add catering, deliveries and gaming machines to make more income! Beers signs are negotiable. Call for more information and for a showing!



**LORI ERBES, GRI**  
Designated Managing Broker  
Over 30 years experience  
lorierbes@gmail.com

**815-535-6295**

[www.Erbes-Realty.com](http://www.Erbes-Realty.com)

Amboy High School

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

**Softball:**  
Brittlyn Whitman

**Baseball:**  
Carson Barlow

**Girls Track:**  
Madison Althaus

**Boys Track:**  
Josh McKendry

Congratulations From Your Friends At **Amboy 1st**

**The First National Bank in Amboy**  
Amboy - Dixon - Franklin Grove - Monroe Center  
815-857-3625 - [fnbamboy.com](http://fnbamboy.com)

Member FDIC

**Did you win your NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament bracket pools?**

**Brings Growing Grass!**

**APRIL SHOWERS**

- Tree Extraction • Tree Trimming • Lawn Care • Patios •
- Fire Pits • Retainer Walls • Paver Edging •
- Residential & Commercial • Fully Insured • Gutter Cleaning • Stump Grinding

Ask about our Senior Citizen and Military Discounts!

**Arteaga**  
Tree Service & Landscaping

Call For Your Free Estimate!

**(815) 878-7504**

## Amboy Community Unit School District #272

**Sunday, April 14**  
AJHS Spring Play-AHS Auditorium-TBA

**Monday, April 15**  
AHS Boys Track @ Forreston-TBA  
AHS Varsity Baseball @ Forreston-4:30 pm  
AHS Varsity/JV DH Softball @ Forreston-4:30 pm  
EARLY DISMISSAL-SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DAY-AHS/AJHS-11:20/Central-11:25

**Tuesday, April 16**  
AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball (H) Eastland-4:30 pm  
AHS Softball @ Eastland-4 pm  
AHS Varsity Baseball @ Eastland-4:30 pm  
AJHS Scholastic Bowl @ Holy Cross, Mendota-4 pm  
AJHS Track @ Morrison HS-4:30 pm

**Wednesday, April 17**  
AHS Art Club-3:30-4:30 pm  
Central School Spring Concert-AHS Gym-6:30 pm

**Thursday, April 18**  
AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball @ Eastland-4 pm  
AHS Softball (H) Eastland-4 pm  
AHS Varsity Baseball (H) Eastland-4:30 pm  
School Board Meeting-AJHS Cafeteria-6:30 pm

**Friday, April 19**  
AHS Boys Track @ Rock Falls-4 pm  
AHS Girls Track @ Oregon-4:15 pm  
Amboy Invitational Art Show-AHS-6:30-7:30 pm

**Saturday, April 20**  
AJHS Track (H) Amboy Invite-9 am



# AMBOY FOOD & LIQUOR

Grocery delivery for disabled & senior citizens - in town only.

242 E. Main Street, Amboy IL. 61310

815-857-7020

Hours  
Monday-Thursday, 7am-9pm  
Friday-Saturday, 7am-10pm  
Sunday, 8am-8pm

Soup Is Back At The  
Amboy Deli!

Amboy Deli Hours  
Mon-Sat 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Sun 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Now Accepting EBT Link  
Cards and WIC

Sale Prices Valid Apr. 10 - 16 – Limited Quantities – While Supplies Last

## PRODUCE & WEEKLY SPECIALS

Personal Seedless  
Watermelon



\$3.49/ea.

Tomatoes on the  
Vine



\$1.89/lb.

Blueberries

6 oz pk



\$2.49/ea.

Idaho Baking  
Potatoes



\$0.79/lb.

Lemons



\$0.69/ea.

Asparagus



\$2.49/lb.

Dole Classic  
Romaine or  
Greener Selection

9 to 11 oz



\$1.99/ea.

Pineapple



\$2.99/ea.

Pomegranate



\$2.49/ea.

Green Canbage



\$0.69/lb.

## HOT BUYS

Butterfly Boneless  
Pork Chop



AMBOY  
DELI

BBQ Plain  
\$4.49/lb. \$2.99/lb.

Reg. Price \$4.99/lb.

Reg. Price \$3.49/lb.

U.S.D.A. Choice Beef  
Ribeye Steak



AMBOY  
DELI

\$11.99/lb.

Reg. Price \$14.99/lb.

U.S.D.A. Choice  
Sirlion Steak



AMBOY  
DELI

\$9.99/lb.

Reg. Price \$10.99/lb.

Sugardale Bone-in  
Ham Steak



\$2.99/lb.

Reg. Price \$3.99/lb.

Johnsonville  
Bratwurst

16 oz



\$4.99/ea.

Reg. Price \$5.99/ea.

Ale-Haus Pizza

26 to 31.8 oz



2/\$15

Reg. Price \$8.69/ea.

Pepsi Products

12 pk cans



2/\$15

Reg. Price \$8.49/ea.

Fritos and Cheetos

8 oz



\$4.99/ea.

Reg. Price \$5.89/ea.

## WEEKLY SPECIALS

Sugardale Bacon

16 oz



\$4.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$5.99/ea.

Fairlife Milk

52 oz



\$4.49 ea.

Reg. Price \$4.89/ea.

Bob-Evans Pork  
Sausage

16 oz



\$4.49 ea.

Reg. Price \$5.39/ea.

Kingsford Pulled  
Meats

16 oz



\$6.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$8.99/ea.

Hungry-Man  
Dinners

3.1 to 16 oz



\$3.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$4.99/ea.

Kellogg's Eggos

8.4 to 14.8 oz



\$2.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$3.69/ea.

V8 Juice

64 oz

Select Variety



\$2.79 ea.

Reg. Price \$3.19/ea.

Pringles

4.9 to 5.6 oz



2/\$5

Reg. Price \$2.89/ea.

Food Club  
Mayonnaise

30 oz



\$3.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$4.59/ea.

Food Club Cooking  
Spray

5 or 6 oz

Assorted



\$1.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$2.79/ea.

A-1 Steak Sauce

12 oz



\$5.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$7.19/ea.

Louisiana Wing  
Sause

12 oz



\$2.49 ea.

Reg. Price \$2.99/ea.

Post Cereal

10.5 to 14.75 oz

Select Variety



\$3.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$4.99/ea.

Cascade Small Tub

15.3 oz

Assorted



\$12.99 ea.

Reg. Price \$14.99/ea.



# Spring HOME

Improvement, Design & Decorating

Established In 1854

The **Amboy** News

The Depot Museum

Sec B | April 10, 2024



# HOME IMPROVEMENT

## Color tips to make your home exterior pop

Home exteriors make a first impression, setting the tone for neighbors, guests, and if a property is on the market—prospective home buyers. So how do you boost your curb appeal and make your exterior pop? According to those in the know, a lot of it has to do with color.

“Choosing deep, bold colors for your door or siding can provide eye-catching focal points and dramatically increase curb appeal,” says Jon Lapp, vinyl siding product manager at a leading home improvement company.

To help you make selections that work best for your home and vision, consider these insights:

### Siding

Color and texture play significant roles in the overall look and style of a home, so consider pairing your vinyl siding with other materials, such as manufactured stone, decorative shake, or board and batten. Whether you go for soft earth tones or deep hues of primary colors, color retention technologies will maintain the look through the years. To that end, here are a few qualities to look for in your siding:

- UV protection: Think

of it as sunscreen for your house. This layer of protection helps shield your siding from the destructive effects of the sun’s UV rays.

- Weather barrier shield: Anti-weathering materials on the siding’s surface can help ensure long-lasting color fidelity and low-maintenance freedom for your home’s exterior.

- Heat resistance: Heat-resistant inorganic pigments ensure exacting deep colors, reflect heat from exterior walls, and deflect solar rays to reduce solar heat build-up and unsightly weathering.

- Anti-fade protection: A strong molecular chain, found in super polymer vinyl siding, is engineered for superior color retention.

“At first, it might be difficult to tell the difference between a good vinyl siding panel and an outstanding one. But over time, the true strength and quality of each panel will be revealed,” says Lapp.

### The Entry Door

The entry door is an amazing place to make a color statement. However, if you buy an exterior replacement door and

try to finish it yourself, achieving the flawless finish you’re hoping for is easier said than done. Then there’s the trim, and possibly sidelights and a transom that also need to be painted to match or coordinate with the door color.

From classic hues, such as rustic bronze or forest green, to trending colors like avocado or burnt orange, you can ensure a consistent, beautiful and lasting finish by having your manufacturer paint the door before it leaves the factory floor. Bonus: the color will also be under warranty. Look for a manufacturer that crafts custom doors, allowing you to choose different interior and exterior colors and other specifications tailored to your taste.

To get inspired for your home exterior project, visit [provia.com](https://provia.com). In addition to photo galleries of finished projects, the site’s home designer tools allow you to visualize how various elements will look on your home.

By selecting professional-quality exterior products, you can ensure long-lasting durability and a big boost in curb appeal.



## Four trends to take muted interiors from drab to dreamy in 2024

While neutral tones continue to be popular this year among home DIYers, bold and colorful surroundings also are trending right now.

From adding dramatic style to the kitchen to giving an unexpected space a splash of color, these ideas—inspired by the 2024 FrogTape Design

Trends, as identified by celebrity interior designer Taniya Nayak—will make areas around your home pop in 2024.

### Colorful Kitchens.

Make the kitchen a focal point by painting the cabinets or panels on the island a vivid color. Calming blue will ensure a relaxed and laid-back feeling, while fuchsia will energize the design. Nayak recommends using FrogTape Delicate Surface Painter’s Tape to prevent paint bleed and achieve crisp paint lines. The low-adhesion tape is designed to prevent damage on surfaces like cabinets, freshly painted walls, wallpaper and more.

Dynamic Décor. If painting projects aren’t in the plan for this year, revive a living room

or bedroom by adding a collection of brightly colored pillows and throws, bohemian-style macramé, wall art and a rug with geometric patterns. As long as the colors are complementary to each other, the blend of styles and textures will catch the eye and make the room feel refreshed with little effort.

Nourishing Green. A simple, but effective, way to boost the mood of a space is to fill it with large blooms. Place a modern plant stand in an empty corner or between rooms as a divider, and layer in green houseplants or ones with

colorful leaves on the shelves. Accentuate the greenery with pops of the same color throughout the room to create a sense of cohesion.

Elevated Exteriors. It’s not just the interiors of the home that should speak to personal style, the outside should, too! Give the front door a facelift by painting it a daring color. Don’t be afraid to choose one hue for the outside of the door and another for the inside. For this project, apply FrogTape Multi-Surface Painter’s Tape before painting, so that trim around the door and doorknob is protected from paint bleed.

For more fresh decor ideas and design tips, visit [FrogTape.com](https://FrogTape.com).

Whether you choose one or all of these trends, they can be tackled by DIYers with a range of skillsets to transform dull living spaces into the home of your dreams.

## CELEBRATING OVER 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO AMBOY & THE SURROUNDING AREA Landscaping Supplies Topsoil - Mulch - Peat - Stone - Potting Soils

Topsoil - 40#	\$2.49	Black Mulch -2 cu. ft.	\$3.99
Potting Soil - 40#	\$2.99	Pond Rock	\$6.39
Red Mulch -2 cu. ft.	\$3.99	River Rock	\$4.25
Cypress Mulch -2 cu. ft.	\$5.49	Pea Pebbles	\$4.09



Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7 - 5  
Sat. 8 - 3 • Sun. 10 - 1

HARDWARE &  
BUILDING  
MATERIAL

1 South Commercial  
Amboy • 815-857-2525

Serving The Amboy  
Area For Over  
100 Years  
Save Time,  
Save Money...



04032024



### YARD CLEAN-UP

# MOORE'S

## MOWING & MORE

Amboy, IL

**779-861-1886**

Robert Moore

04132022



# HOME IMPROVEMENT

## What attracts pest to a home?

No homeowner wants pests to invade their homes or their yards. However, it's easy for pests to find their way into and around a home. In fact, certain conditions may be inviting pests to a property.

- **Garbage:** Piles of garbage offer food and shelter to pests. Removing garbage piles and cleaning up food waste promptly can make a difference.

- **Stagnant water:** Mosquitoes breed in standing water, which is water not affected by waves, current or a filtration system. Anywhere water has pooled, mosquitoes may be breeding.

- **Moisture or standing water:** Additional sources of water and moisture may attract pests like gnats, mosquitoes, stink bugs, and certain spiders. Damp areas are of particular concern, especially when combined with darkness.

- **Firewood:** Firewood may attract a variety of pests, including termites and weevils. Firewood also may contain eggs that were laid before trees were cut down. If firewood is needed, it should be stacked

far away from a home.

- **Clogged gutters:** Ignoring clogged gutters can lead to pest problems. Mice, squirrels, birds, ants, and spiders may be attracted to damp leaves in clogged gutters. Leaves offer shelter, nesting material and possible food sources of insect life.

- **Dirty dishes and indoor trash:** Leaving food-covered dishes in the sink invites pests. Leftover food attracts cockroaches, flies, ants, and more. Even if time is short, it's best to wash dishes or load them into the dishwasher. Overflowing trash also draws pests into a home.

- **Clutter:** Clutter provides hiding places for all sorts of rodents and insects, which can hide out in cluttered areas and remain comfortable. Going room to room and clearing out extraneous items may help reduce pest populations. Focus on the garage and basement, in particular.

Pests are attracted to certain conditions, and remedying these issues can help reduce pest infestations.



## Signs it's time to repair or replace your deck

Spring is a season of rejuvenation that compels millions across the globe to quit hibernating and get back to enjoying the great outdoors. Spring also marks a great time to assess a home's exterior, namely those areas like a deck where people will spend a lot of time in the warmer months to come.

Assessing a deck after winter can be eye-opening. Harsh winter weather can take its toll on a deck, and the following are some telltale signs that a deck could be in need of repair or replacement.

- **Wobbly underfoot and in hand:** Wobbly planks and railings are one sign of a deteriorating deck homeowners won't recognize as they hide from winter weather indoors. But these tend to reveal themselves rather quickly when examining a deck after winter. Wobbly planks in the middle of the deck can be inconvenient, but wobbly steps and railings can be dangerous. According to the home improvement resource Angi, wobbly railings can be a byproduct of rot. A local decking professional can assess the extent of the rot in railings and elsewhere and determine the best course of action. If the rot is isolated to an area or

two, a simple repair may be all that's necessary. Extensive rot may require a full replacement of the existing deck.

- **Faded paint:** Many homeowners paint their wood decks, and that paint will not last forever. Faded paint can turn an otherwise lovely deck into an eyesore, and paint can fade over the winter. Thankfully, a local painter can address a faded deck and may recommend some additional strategies to safeguard the deck against fading next winter and beyond.

- **Holes in the wood:** Many a homeowner has encountered curious-looking holes in their deck. This could be a sign of insect infestation. Termites, carpenter ants and carpenter bees are among the various types of insects that can bore holes through wood. Homeowners who notice holes throughout their deck are urged to call a deck professional and/

or pest control firm to assess the holes and offer a solution. Though small issues may be addressed with repairs, a deck littered with holes caused by insects may need a full replacement.

- **Rust:** Wood decks may be made of wood, but they can still exhibit signs of rust, namely in the nails and metal connectors that hold the deck together. If screws have rusted to the point where they are no longer holding the deck together, a full-scale replacement could be in the cards, as the deck could have substantial structural damage. Like other issues that can reveal themselves during a spring-time inspection of the deck, rust necessitates a thorough examination by an experienced decking professional.

Many people do not use their decks during winter, which only underscores the significance of a full deck inspection in spring.



## Renovations that can help sell homes

The adage "there's a lid for every pot" suggests that, even in relation to the real estate market, there's bound to be a buyer for every home on the market. Price is a significant variable in the minds of potential buyers, but there are additional factors that can affect the impression people get of a given home.

Certain home features can tip the scales in favor of sellers. In fact, various renovations can help sell homes more readily. And these renovations need not cost a fortune. Putting a home on the market can be stressful, but these renovations may help it sell fast.

- **A fresh coat of paint:** Although painting is relatively inexpensive and a job that some do-it-yourselfers can tackle, it's not a task relished by many. Painting is messy, it takes time, and requires moving furniture. In fact, prepping a room for painting often is the toughest component of any painting job. But fresh coats of paint can create a strong first impression. Choose a neutral color and get painting. Jennie Norris, chairwoman for the International Association of Home Staging Professionals, says gray is a "safe" color that has been trending in recent years.

- **Minor bathroom remodel:** Remove dated wall coverings, replace fixtures, consider re-glazing or replacing an old tub, and swap old shower doors for fast fixes in a bathroom. If there's more room in the budget, replacing a tub, tile surround, floor, toilet, sink, vanity, and fixtures can cost roughly \$10,500, says HGTV. You'll recoup an average of \$10,700 at resale, making a minor bathroom remodel a potentially worthy investment.

- **Redone kitchen:** The kitchen tends to be the hub of a home. This room gets the most usage and attention of any space, and it's a great place to focus your remodeling attention. The National Association of the Remodeling Industry estimates that homeowners can recover up to 52 percent of the cost of a kitchen upgrade upon selling a home. Buyers want a functional and updated kitchen. Trending features include drawer-style microwaves and dishwashers, commercial ranges, hidden outlets, and even wine refrigerators.

- **Updated heating and cooling system:** Better Homes and Gardens reports that homeowners may be able to recoup 85 percent of the cost of new HVAC systems when they sell their homes. Heating, cooling and ventilation components are

vital to maintain. You don't want buyers to be taken aback by an older system, and many millennial buyers are not willing to overlook old mechanical systems.

- **Fresh landscaping:** A home's exterior is the first thing buyers will see. If they pull up to a home with eye-catching landscaping and outdoor areas that are attractive yet functional, they're more likely to be intrigued.

**RNB**  
17 years doing business in Amboy  
Over 25 Years in Service!  
Robert Moore  
Owner  
815-857-3246

**Home Repair & Remodeling**

Let us make your home a special 1.

2518  
Johnson St.  
West Brooklyn

706  
Washington St.  
Mendota

firststatebank.biz | 800.362.9623



**NICKELS & DIMES**

**Residential & Commercial**  
Locally Owned Business

**Lawn Care Professionals**  
Lawn Care \* Snow Removal \* Seal Coating \* Crack Filling  
\* Lot Striping \* Much More!  
Call the professionals for all your **LAWN ROLLING NEEDS!**

**For free estimates call**  
**815-915-7773**  
Ask about our Senior & Military Discounts



# HOME IMPROVEMENT

## Five simple spring safety tips for your home

Refreshing your home in the spring is about more than organizing closets and cleaning floors. As winter melts away and warmer weather returns, proactively checking your home's systems will help keep it running efficiently while remaining a comfortable and safe space for you and your loved ones.

Upgrade fire and CO safety solutions. While you're ticking through your list of spring maintenance to-do's, don't forget about the smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. Proper smoke and CO alarm placement, regular maintenance and alarm replacement are essential to keeping your family safe. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that alarms be installed on every level of the home, including the basement, as well as in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Alarms should be tested regularly, and if the device is battery-powered, batteries should be changed at least every six months.

To make maintaining your smoke and CO alarms easier, upgrade to a 2-in-1 smoke and carbon monoxide alarm. A 10-year sealed battery alarm eliminates battery replacement and late-night battery chirps for a decade. Easy to install, 10-year alarms come equipped with a mounting bracket and installation kit—making safety simple for you and your family.

Check for winter wear and tear.

Winter's extreme temperatures can take a toll on the outside of your home

and its appliances. Examine the outside of your house and roof to check for fallen branches or debris that could block gutters or downspouts and cause a drainage problem. Inspect the driveway and sidewalks for new potholes or cracks that may have developed in the cold, and ensure all exterior lights are working properly.

Tune-up your cooling system.

When the weather gets milder, schedule a professional maintenance service to ensure that your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are operating optimally and won't quit after the first heat wave. If you don't already have one, upgrade to a smart thermostat, which allows you to adjust your temperature from anywhere and set different temperature schedules for various times of the day. ENERGY STAR certified thermostats can provide comfort when you're home, and energy savings when away.

Change your air filters.

Over a long winter, your heating system's air filters naturally accumulate dust and other airborne particles, which can clog your air filter, impact indoor air quality and affect system performance. Regularly replacing your air filters is a great way to help maintain indoor air quality and support a comfortable environment for your family. Clean air filters also allow for better air flow, reducing the stress on your home's HVAC system and promoting energy efficiency.



Secure windows and doors.

Warmer weather often breeds more home break-ins as burglars like when windows are open at night or garage doors are open during yardwork. But you can help lower the threat by hardening the target. Walk around outside of your home to inspect doors and windows for working locks and be mindful not

to leave valuables in sight. If you have cars parked in your driveway, keep them locked and garage door openers should be tucked away.

To help protect what matters most and learn more fire safety tips, visit FirstAlert.com. For assistance with HVAC or home security assessments, contact your local professional service.

## Illinois Commerce Commission reminds citizens how to reduce utility outages and accidents

April is Safe Digging Month in Illinois, and the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is reminding citizens they can help reduce utility outages and accidents by calling 811. With temperatures starting to rise, this annual proclamation is a reminder to all professional excavators and homeowners to call 811 to safely locate and mark utility lines before starting a digging project.

"With the days getting longer and warmer, digging season is upon us. Whether you plan to install a new mailbox or start a home addition, be sure to call 811 to have nearby utility lines marked for free before you dig," said ICC Chairman Doug Scott. "Hitting a utility line can

not only cause service outages, but potentially lead to injury or death."

Illinois law requires all homeowners and professional excavators to call JULIE, the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators, at the statewide number 811 before digging at least 48 hours or two working days prior to starting excavation. The project must begin within 14 calendar days from the call, and locate requests have a 28-day life. JULIE has been protecting Illinoisans for 50 years.

Underground utility line can be unintentionally damaged by those who fail to request the lines be located and marked before digging. Homeowners and excavators

may also face penalties for not making the 811 call, and utilities may be cited or fined for failing to mark lines in a timely manner.

The ICC is responsible for enforcement of the Illinois Underground Utilities Facilities Damage Prevent Act, referred to as the Illinois One-Call or JULIE law. In 2023, ICC Staff issued 127 warnings and 709 citations for safe digging violations, resulting in \$4,104,255 in penalties assessed.

For more information, visit the ICC's website at Illinois Commerce Commission, or JULIE's website at JULIE Before You Dig.

## Who's Who in Realty?

**My DREAM Job is Helping You find Your DREAM home!**

**Woodhaven Lakes Realty**

WOODHAVEN LAKES REALTY, INC.  
P.O. Box 110, Sublette, IL 61367  
(815) 849-5476  
www.woodhavenlakes.com

Mary Lovgren - Broker  
815-994-1449  
marylovgren@gmail.com

**ERBES Realty LLC**

Over 30 years experience

Lori Erbes GRI,  
Designated Managing Broker/Owner  
815-535-6295  
lorierbes@gmail.com  
www.Erbes-Realty.com  
1922 Tower Road, Sublette, IL 61367

**ERBES Realty LLC**

Marcia Kosowski, Broker  
815-582-2381  
mkosowski@erbesrealty.com  
www.Erbes-Realty.com

**Woodhaven Lakes Realty**

WOODHAVEN LAKES REALTY, INC.  
P.O. Box 110, Sublette, IL 61367  
(815) 849-5476  
www.woodhavenlakes.com

Justin Wiley - Broker  
815-849-5390  
jwiley@woodhavenassociation.com

**Everything I touch turns to SOLD!**

**Woodhaven Lakes Realty**

WOODHAVEN LAKES REALTY, INC.  
P.O. Box 110, Sublette, IL 61367  
(815) 849-5476  
www.woodhavenlakes.com

Nicci Leffelman  
815-501-0408  
nleffelman@woodhavenassociation.com

Erbes Realty is pleased to welcome the newest addition to our team.

**ERBES Realty LLC**

Mark Schuemann  
Broker  
815-677-6698  
markschuemann@erbesrealty.com | www.Erbes-Realty.com

**Residential/Commercial Land/Farm/Industrial**

Jori McRae  
Designated Managing Broker

Serving Amboy, Rock Falls, Sterling, Dixon, Walnut, Oregon, Sublette, Ashton, Rochelle, Paw Paw and ALL surrounding areas.  
Over 20 years experience.

**815-973-1197**  
www.rivercountryproperties.net  
Fax: 815-857-7073  
jori@rivercountryproperties.net

*What's on Your*  
**WISH LIST?**

**HILLIKER ELECTRIC** @HILLIKERELECTRIC

**456-7036**

EMERGENCY SERVICE 815-441-8207  
HILLIKER.ELECTRIC@GMAIL.COM  
FRANKLIN GROVE, IL • LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED

**GENERAC**

AUTHORIZED INSTALLATION & SERVICE

**SPRING SPECIAL!**

**Asphalt Paving**

by J. Allison & Son  
Owner Supervised  
Peru, Illinois

**815-252-0256**

**Call Now for Quick Scheduling**

Driveways • Parking Lots • New or Repairs

10% OFF Seniors  
10% OFF Veterans  
10% OFF Government Employees

**ALL AROUND LAWN SERVICE**

- MOWING - SPRING/FALL CLEANUP -  
- LAWN ROLLING - POWER WASHING -  
- TREE TRIMMING - AERATING -  
- DETACHING - OVERSEEDING -  
- STUMP GRINDING -

**Phone: 779-245-1587**  
**Email: allaroundlawnservice@gmail.com**

FULLY INSURED - DEPENDABLE - AFFORDABLE