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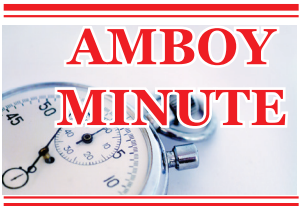
The Amboy News

Amboy, Illinois

Volume 171 - Number 4

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Index

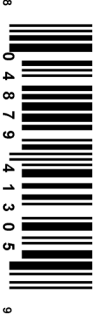
Local News.....A2
Community Calendar.....A3
Church Directory.....A4
Obituaries.....A4
Business Directory.....A5
State News.....A5
Opinion.....A6
Entertainment.....A7
Classifieds.....A8
AHS Honor Roll.....A9
AJHS Honor Roll.....A10
Sports.....A11

Obituaries

Genet Elaine Anderson

Inserts

Snyders



Rep. Fritts named secretary for House Republican Organization

DIXON — Today, the House Republican Organization announced the new board for the upcoming 2026 election cycle. State Representative Brad Fritts (R-Dixon) was named Secretary.

“I am humbled and honored to be named Secretary of HRO,” said Fritts. “I look forward to working alongside Leader McCombie, HRO Chair Elik, and the rest of the board as we recruit and support Republican candidates to bring balance back and common-sense governance to Illinois.”

Other board members include:

- Amy Elik – Chair (111th District)
- Travis Weaver – Treasurer (93rd District)
- Brad Fritts – Secretary (74th District)
- Dennis Tipsword (105th District)
- Mike Coffey (95th District)
- Patrick Sheehan (37th District)

“This new board is equipped with the experience and leadership we need to elect Republican House candidates and provide greater balance across the state,” said McCombie. “Their collective expertise in campaigning, candidate recruitment, and party-building will strengthen our ability to promote Republican values and win elections.”

Illinois joins \$80 million enforcement action against Block/Inc., Cash App for BSA/AML violations

CHICAGO – Illinois and 47 state financial regulatory agencies have taken coordinated action against Block, Inc., for violations of Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) and anti-money laundering (AML) laws that safeguard the financial system from illicit use.

More than 50 million consumers in the United States use Cash App, Block’s mobile payment service, to spend, send, store, and invest money.

“This enforcement action demonstrates the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation’s (IDFPR) continued commitment to ensuring the integrity of the financial services industry and protecting consumers,” said IDFPR Secretary Mario Treto, Jr.

“The Department will continue to take action, including collaborating with fellow regulators, to ensure compliance with all applicable laws.”

In the multistate settlement signed this week, Block agreed to pay a \$80 million penalty to the state agencies, hire an independent consultant to review the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of its BSA/AML program, and submit a report to the states within nine

months. Block then will have 12 months to correct any deficiencies found in the review after the report is filed.

“IDFPR makes every effort to identify risks to the financial services industry and consumers,” said Division of Financial Institutions Director Francisco Menchaca. “Protecting Illinois consumers is our top priority.”

State regulators in Arkansas, California, Massachusetts, Florida, Maine, Texas, and Washington State led the multistate enforcement effort. Block cooperated with the states in the settlement.

Under BSA/AML rules, financial services firms are required to perform due diligence on customers, including verifying customer identities, reporting suspicious activity, and applying appropriate controls for high-risk accounts. State regulators found Block was not in compliance with certain requirements, creating the potential that its services could be used to support money laundering, terrorism financing, or other illegal activities.

Through a strong, nationwide regulatory framework, state financial regulators license and serve as the primary supervisor of money

transmitters. States license more than 700 money transmitters, and 99% of transmission activity through those firms is governed by the state-developed Money Transmission Modernization Act (MTMA). To protect consumers and enforce safety and soundness requirements, state regulators regularly coordinate supervision of multistate firms and, when necessary, initiate enforcement actions. This coordination – Networked Supervision – supports consistency and collaboration, while preserving the authority of individual states to take direct action. Additional information on the state regulatory framework for money transmission can be found here.

State financial regulators license and supervise more than 33,000 nonbank financial services companies, including mortgage companies, money services businesses, consumer finance providers, and debt collectors.

Illinois residents who have questions about the enforcement action should visit the IDFPR Division of Financial Institutions website. Residents can also visit NMLS Consumer Access to verify that a company is licensed to do business in Illinois.

Starved Rock Country Community Foundation offers over \$45,000 in scholarship opportunities

LaSALLE – Through the generosity of several caring donors, over \$45,000 in scholarships is available in 2025 from the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation, including two new awards.

The SRCCF scholarship application period is underway through 5 p.m. Friday, March 7. Visit www.srccf.org for the application and information. Awards ranging in value from \$10,000 to \$500 include the:

- Rising Star Scholarship, a \$5,000 award established by retired teacher Ethel McConnell of Ottawa for a student pursuing an elementary education degree at Illinois State University.
- Carol and Dick Janko Scholarship for Promising Entrepreneurs is awarded to students who intend to create their own business upon college graduation. The Janko awarded \$8,000 to four students in 2024.
- Internet of Things (IoT) Scholarship for Science, Engineering and Technology presented by Advantech offers a pair of \$2,500 scholarships to a male and female student.
- Mac-Aero Scholarship for Aeronautics and Aviation is a \$10,000 award established by Ethel McConnell to honor her late husband Ed who had a passion for aviation.
- Tangled Roots Brewing Company Pie It Forward Scholarship offers \$1,000 for students pursuing a career in hospitality and/or culinary arts.
- Charles H. Beckett Scholarship for Culinary Arts, a \$2,500 award established by Chuck Beckett of Ottawa to support a student in the Culinary Arts Management program at Joliet Junior College.
- Women Inspired Network Young Leaders Scholarship, two \$3,000 awards for female students who have demonstrated significant leadership skills and accomplishments throughout their high school or college career.
- Stephen Charles Vogler Scholarship for Electronics and Communications, a \$1,220 award established by Starved Rock Media President John Spencer for students pursuing an electronics or communications degree at Illi-



Scholarship recipient Landon Whelchel of Amboy speaks at the June scholarship reception. Whelchel was one of two recipients of the Internet of Things Scholarship for Science, Engineering and Technology presented by Advantech. Photo contributed

nois Valley Community College.

Robert J. and Ellen G. Moore Memorial Scholarship for Fieldcrest High School and Wenona students. The amount will be based on financial need and more than one Moore scholarship may be awarded.

Molly Lenora Yacko Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 award funded by proceeds from the Run Today for Tomorrow 5K in Ottawa. It rewards a college junior or senior who is pursuing a mental health-related degree and plans to return after college to work in Starved Rock Country.

Streator Leading Ladies Maxine Wargo Working Women’s Scholarship, a \$500 award for women re-

turning to school after a year or more absence. It honors Maxine Wargo, a businesswoman and role model for women in Streator.

New Starved Rock Country Community Foundation scholarships include:

- Dolores “Dee” Hefflebower Memorial Nursing Scholarship, a \$3,000 scholarship for students pursuing an RN degree at IVCC.
- And the, Robert Cotner Memorial Scholarship for students studying English literature or fine arts. The \$1,500 scholarship will award students studying literature, painting, sculpture, photography, music, dance or theatre.

The application covers the student’s academic history, honors, leadership, community service, employment, and extracurricular activities. It also requires a separate essay for each scholarship and two letters of recommendation from educators.

For information, contact SRCCF Director of Operations Janice Corrigan at (815) 252-2906, ext. 2 or janice@srccf.org.



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LOCAL NEWS

Trivia by the numbers

AMBOY – The 4th Annual Trivia Night hosted by the Amboy FFA Alumni is Saturday, March 1 at the Amboy Community Building.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Trivia begins at 6:30 p.m.

Eight rounds of questions following the theme “Trivia by the Numbers” will cover a variety of topics including food, animals, history, and pop culture.

Prizes will be given for high team score, low team score, best team name and best dressed team.

Family style chicken including potato, spaghetti and salad is included with team registration. A cash bar, dessert auction and other opportunities to support FFA will be available. Amboy FFA members will be helping at the event and accepting bribes for the correct answers.

Trivia Night benefits Amboy FFA Alumni and their efforts to support Amboy FFA members through scholarships to conferences and conventions as

well as attendance at colleges and trade schools. Funds raised support scholarships to graduating seniors and Amboy FFA Alumni pursuing a post-secondary education. Last year, funds raised purchased eight new welders for the Amboy High School agriculture department.

Team registration for up to eight players is \$250.00. Online registration and sponsorship declaration can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/FFATrivia25>. Event Sponsors include \$150.00 to sponsor one round of questions or \$400.00 to sponsor the event. For more information, call Katie Pratt, Amboy FFA Alumni secretary at (815) 719-0405.

For up-to-date details about the event like Amboy FFA Alumni & Supporters on Facebook.

The Amboy FFA Alumni contributes positively to current activities and programs supporting the development of premiere leadership, personal growth, and career success in Amboy FFA members through agriculture education.

Rep. Fritts honors Happy Joe’s Pizza and Ice Cream for January Local Business Highlight

DIXON – For his January 2025 local business highlight, State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Happy Joe’s Pizza and Ice Cream in Morrison.

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 Happy Joe’s Pizza and Ice Cream because they provide an excellent, family-friendly dining establishment and remain incredibly involved in our community,” said Rep. Fritts. “They support local schools and sports teams and will offer a helping hand whenever someone needs it.”

Originally opened in 1987, Happy Joe’s Pizza and Ice Cream in Morrison is a franchised location owned and operated by Lynn and Kevin Kenady. Both of their daughters worked at the restaurant while growing up.

Rep. Fritts continued, “Kevin and Lynn are both incredibly involved in our



Happy Joe’s Pizza and Ice Cream Owner Lynn Kenady receives a certificate for being chosen as the January Local Business Highlight by State Representative Brad Fritts. Photo contributed

community, both in their capacity as business owners and private citizens. We are lucky to have such dedicated members of our community who work to build a better future for everyone.”

Happy Joe’s Pizza and Ice Cream is located at 109 West Main Street in Morrison. For more information, click here or

visit their website at HappyJoes.com and select the Morrison location.

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

Amboy High School Report

Janet Crownhart, Principal



Now that we are back from break, class selection is starting for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and current eighth-grade students.

Parent nights are scheduled for returning students on January 27 and eighth-grade parents on February 5th. Please watch Parent Square for times and locations.

The Ag classes have been busy getting the set designed for the spring

musical, which will be held on March 14-16.

Into The Woods, Jr. draws on multiple children’s fairytales. The cast has been busy working on it, and we are excited to see it come to life. Please keep an eye out for tickets that will be on sale in early March.

Also, a special thank you to a generous donation of new uniforms for the Amboy High School wrestling team.

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Temps are in the minus

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McLaughlin named WACC November SOTM

The Whiteside Area Career Center named Amboy High School junior Ellie McLaughlin the WACC November Student of the Month. McLaughlin, the daughter of Eric and Jennifer McLaughlin, is an allied health student at WACC.

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LOCAL NEWS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AMBOY – You are invited to join fellow senior citizens for a free exercise program at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 960 US Highway 52, Amboy. Sessions are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. Chairs are provided for an approximate 30-minute workout. For more information, call Chris at 815-857-3963.

AMBOY – The Amboy Lions Club meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27 at the Amboy Community Center, located at 280 W. Wasson Rd. The Lions Club meetings take place the second and fourth Monday of every month.

AMBOY – The City of Amboy committee meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3 at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. The meetings

take place the first Monday of every month.

AMBOY – The Board of Trustees of The Amboy Township will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 at the Amboy Township Building, located at 106 South Prospect St. in Amboy.

PAW PAW – The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Paw Paw will commence at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 at the Paw Paw Village Hall.

LEE CENTER – The Lee Center Township meeting will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13.

EAST GROVE – East Grove Township is holding its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday,

Feb. 11 at the East Grove Township Hall.

AMBOY – The Amboy/Lee Center Multi-Township meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 19 at the Amboy Township building, located at 106 South Prospect Ave.

AMBOY – The Amboy City Council will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17 at the Amboy Community Center, 290 W. Wasson Road. The council meets every third Monday each month.

SUBLETTE – The next Village of Sublette meeting is at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10 at the Ellice Dinges Center at 202 S. West Street in Sublette.

Better Business Bureau reveals 2024's Top 10 local scams

ROCKFORD –The Better Business Bureau of Chicago and Northern Illinois has released its annual Scam Tracker report. Online Shopping scams have topped the list for the fifth consecutive year, driven by a robust economy, low unemployment, and strong holiday spending. The top three scams from last year remain unchanged, with Phishing and Employment scams continuing to follow closely behind.

Notably, Investment scams have surged into the top 10, fueled by increased fraudulent social media messages and ads, particularly those promising quick riches through cryptocurrency.

"Fraudsters take advantage of new technology and current events to steal people's money, identity, and savings," says Dennis Horton, Senior Director of the Rockford Regional Office of the Better Business Bureau. "The results show that con artists keep coming up with various schemes and ways to entice all age groups to snare as targets."

Scammers continue to add twists, even setting traps with AI and deepfake technology. They conduct fake virtual or phone interviews, especially in employment scams. One thing always remains the same – playing with people's emotions and rushing them to make a quick buying decision are fraudsters' favorite tools.

Horton adds, "The only way to stop scammers is not to give them your business, which requires vigilance."

Below is the official list and some descriptions of the Top Local Scams

from 2024.

Top 10 Local Scams of 2024:

1. Online Purchase – (#1 for the fifth year in a row – most often fake websites – often Pets)
2. Phishing Scams – (Clicking on scam links can lead to malware – Imposter scams)
3. Employment – (Scam job offers – often "work from home")
4. Debt Collections
5. Counterfeit Products (Clothing, electronics, shoes, purses, etc.)
6. Travel/Vacation/ Timeshare
7. Government Agency Imposter
8. Sweepstakes/Lottery/Prizes
9. Tech Support
10. Investment Scams

Descriptions of the Top 10:

- Online Purchase: Numerous reports of online scams involving fake websites, fraudulent transactions, and non-delivery of purchased items. Shoppers have lost money through various schemes, including fake product sales, unauthorized charges, and phishing attempts.

- Phishing: Scammers often impersonate legitimate organizations or individuals to gain trust. Victims receive emails, messages, or phone calls that appear to be from trusted sources. The communication usually contains a sense of urgency, prompting people to act quickly. Scammers request sensitive information such as passwords, credit card numbers, or social security numbers. People may be directed to fake websites that mimic legitimate ones to capture their information. Phishing scams can lead to identity

theft, financial loss, and unauthorized access to personal accounts.

- Employment: There have been several job offer scams in which individuals were promised employment but asked to provide personal information, pay for training, or purchase equipment. These scams often involved fake companies and fraudulent checks.

- Debt Collections: Scammers pose as legitimate debt collectors or law enforcement officials. People receive threatening calls or messages demanding immediate payment of a supposed debt. Scammers often use aggressive tactics, including threats of arrest, lawsuits, or wage garnishment. People are pressured to pay using untraceable methods such as wire transfers, prepaid cards, or cryptocurrency.

- Counterfeit Products: There were multiple complaints about receiving fake or low-quality products that did not match the advertised descriptions. People faced difficulties in obtaining refunds or

sive customer service.

- Travel/Vacation/Time-share: People are often promised luxurious vacations or timeshares at a significantly reduced price. Scammers may request upfront payments or fees for booking or reserving the vacation. People may receive fake booking confirmations or travel itineraries. Scammers often use high-pressure sales tactics to convince targets to make quick decisions. People may find that the vacation or timeshare does not exist or is not as described upon arrival. Scammers may disappear after receiving payment, leaving people with no recourse.

- Government Agency Imposter: Scammers pose as officials from government agencies such as the IRS, Social Security Administration, or local law enforcement. People receive threatening calls, emails, or letters claiming they owe money or need to provide personal information. Scammers often use scare tactics, such as threats of arrest, deportation, or fines, to pressure people

tional forms of payment. Scammers may use spoofed phone numbers or official-looking documents to appear legitimate. Victims may be asked to provide sensitive information, which can lead to identity theft and financial loss.

- Sweepstakes/Lottery/Prizes: Scammers inform people that they have won a large sum of money or a valuable prize. People are often asked to pay fees or taxes upfront to claim their winnings. Scammers may

request personal information, such as bank account details, to process the prize. People may receive fake checks or documents that appear legitimate. Scammers often use official-sounding names and logos to appear credible. People may be pressured to act quickly to claim their prize, creating a sense of urgency. Scammers may disappear after receiving payment, leaving victims with no prize and financial loss.

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01/22/2025

CLIPPER KIDDIEZ

This Week's Student of the Week is:
Sawyer Zinke

Student's Favorites:
Color: Hot Pink
Animal: Cow
Food: Strawberries
Book: Goodnight, Sawyer
Game: Go Fish
Song: "Let It Go"

CLIPPER KIDDIEZ

This Week's Student of the Week is:
Archie Montavon

Student's Favorites:
Color: Black
Animal: Tiger
Food: Grapes
Book: Corduroy
Game: Bingo
Song: "Skibidi Toilet"

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Monday – Chicken parmesan pasta w/marinara, Sicilian blend vegetable, whole grain dinner roll, diced pears
Tuesday – Sausage gravy w/whole grain biscuit, hash brown potatoes, two sausage patties, orange juice
Wednesday – Polish sausage on whole grain hot dog bun, sauerkraut, potato wedges, baked beans, chilled applesauce
Thursday – Beefaroni, California blend vegetables, corn muffin, apricots
Friday – (A) Pepper steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, glazed carrots, whole grain wheat bread, mandarin oranges; (B) Turkey/vegetable

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Genet Elaine Anderson March 11, 1940 - Jan. 19, 2025

AMBOY — Genet Elaine Anderson passed away peacefully at 84 on January 19, 2025 in Dixon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, January 25, 2025 at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday January 25, 2025 at the Mihm Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Burial will follow at Leland Cemetery in Leland. Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com

Anderson was born in

Franklin Grove on March 11, 1940 to Ralph and Mary (Hall) Gilbert. Her father passed away when Genet was an infant. She was raised by her mother and stepfather E. Dale Gilbert.

Genet graduated Amboy HS in 1958. She completed Coppins Business College in Dixon and worked for Bradford Insurance Office in Franklin Grove. On June 4, 1961 she married the love of her life, Rolland Anderson, and started a family on a hog farm in Leland.

As their love continued to grow so did their family, and it grew and grew

and grew. Their love was so much that eventually their family consisted of eight boys and eighth girls.

Genet always said the reason for the large family is because she wanted 12 kids and Rolland wanted four and she was pretty good at adding.

Her family became a central part of her life always putting others ahead of herself as it was necessary in a family this size. In 1993 they sold the family farm and moved to Pueblo, Colorado with their four youngest children purchasing the Pueblo KOA campground

as camping was always a part of the summers when the children were growing up.

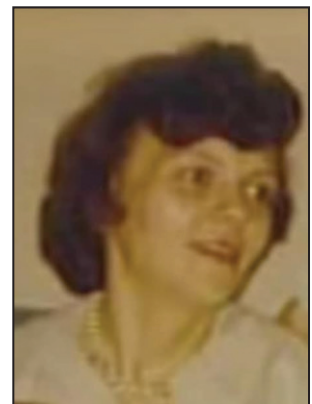
In 1998 they decided to move back to Amboy, the childhood town Genet graduated high school in.

Genet is survived by 15 children Patricia Blackledge, William Anderson, Katherine (Jeff) Laseman, Kenneth (Teresa) Anderson, David (Minghui) Anderson, Scott (Ginger) Anderson, Sandra (Mark) Danekas, James (Cynthia) Anderson, Robert Anderson, Mark (Angela) Anderson, Michelle (Paul) Buffington, Thomas (Suzanna) Anderson, Lisa

Combs, Rebecca Anderson, Jacqueline (Jeremy) Anderson.

She is also survived by 53 grandchildren, 63 great-grandchildren with two on the way, and her two loving sisters Linda (Garth) Dallam and Beverly (John) Bartmess, who always treated her children with great love.

Anderson is preceded in death by Rolland, her husband of 40 years on November 13, 2001, her parents Ralph and Mary Gilbert, her stepfather Dale Gilbert, her youngest daughter Stacy Anderson, son-in-law James Blackledge, and



daughter-in-law Debbie Anderson.

The family would like to thank the staffs at Oregon Living and Rehab, OSF St. Katharine Hospital in Dixon, and Unity Hospice for their wonderful care of Genet.

Agency issues first report on Sickle Cell gene, cell therapy treatments

CHICAGO — As required by Executive Order 2024-01, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly its first report from the Advisory Council on Financing and Access to Sickle Cell Disease Treatment and Other High-Cost Drugs and Treatment. The report evaluates the success and challenges of various value and outcome-based payment approaches implemented in other states and includes recommendations for financing and increasing equitable access for these drugs in Illinois. In fulfillment of the Executive Order, the advisory council met six times over the past six months, culminating in the production of this report. The full report can be found here.

“When I signed the Executive Order to create this council, it was with the clear goal of making life-changing gene and cell therapy treatments affordable and available to every Illinoisan,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “These recommendations are

a critical step forward in that effort, and Illinois remains committed to advancing this work to make transformative care more accessible.”

“Ultimately these recommendations are centered around the goal of promoting equitable access to healthcare for all Illinoisans,” said Acting HFS Director Elizabeth M. Whitehorn. “The state will continue to collaborate with other states, federal policy makers and stakeholders to build on these recommendations and ensure that Medicaid patients in Illinois are able to access the best care no matter their backgrounds.”

The healthcare landscape is rapidly evolving with the increasing availability of advanced treatments for serious and often life-threatening diseases. In the next decade many new cell and gene therapies are expected to become approved and available for use. Many existing and expected cell and gene therapies will target children and young adults, who are disproportionately insured by state

Medicaid programs. These therapies can often have high prices, often exceeding one million dollars per patient.

“A new age in medicine is upon us. The ability to address debilitating diseases at their root cause has the potential to change patient's lives in ways that were previously unimaginable,” said Dr. James LaBelle, Director of the Pediatric Stem Cell and Cellular Therapy Program at the University of Chicago. “I hope that access to these therapies will be dictated only on biology and not by lack of accessibility or cost. I commend the Governor and HFS for being at the forefront of addressing how to bring current and future transformative high-cost drugs, including gene therapies, to those in need throughout the entire state.”

In addition, many patients battling rare diseases face significant challenges to accessing available care even when a break-through treatment exists. Specialized provider shortages, a lack of geographically proximate care, and other financial and logistical barriers all stand as potential impediments to patient access to current standard of care practices. The recommendations in the report also aim to address these challenges.

“As a caregiver representative and oftentimes spokesperson for the Sickle Cell community, the creation of the Advisory Council was definitely a step in the right direction. Convening key stakeholder experts together in order to combat the many challenges, barriers and access to care that the rare disease community continues to face gave us a much-needed

platform,” said TaLana Hughes, MPH Caregiver and Executive Director of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Illinois. “As a council faced with the task of creating recommendations focused on the development of payment models and financing structures with a very tight timeline, we dove in. Many very thorough, healthy debate meetings led us to what we believe supports equitable access while contributing to a much larger national effort to formulate solutions.”

The report's recommendations are grouped into three categories and include the following recommendations:

Recommendations for HFS on Financing CGT and Other High-Cost Therapies include:

Ensuring that cell and gene therapies (CGTs) and other high-cost drugs are considered “covered outpatient drugs” to entitle the state to rebates and discounts on their use.

Evaluate the federal Cell and Gene Therapies (CGT) Access model and determine whether participation may improve access benefits and cost reductions.

Exploring all discounting and rebating strategies to help mitigate any financial burdens that may come with coverage for these drugs and therapies.

Recommendations for HFS on Ensuring Equitable Access to CGT and Other High-Cost Therapies include:

Consider stratifying managed care customers with Sickle cell disease and other rare disease as high-risk early in diagnosis to enable timely access to specialized care coordination.

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912 Walton Rd., Walton
815-857-2670
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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
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.
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East Grove Union Church
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Phone 815-440-5321
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Evening Service - 6 p.m.
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King's Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday
Reformers Unanimous addictions program
from 7-9 p.m.

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

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

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Interim Minister Douglas Wood S.A.M.
960 U.S. Route 52
Phone 857-2225
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Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m. -
Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
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Locust Street, Sublette
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Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday - 8:00 a.m.
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STATE NEWS



Rezin honored with State Government Affairs Council Leadership Award

MORRIS – During the annual National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) conference, State Senator Sue Rezin (R-Morris) was recognized with the State Government Affairs Council (SGAC) Leadership Award. This distinguished honor celebrates her dedication, excellence, and vision in state government affairs.

The SGAC Leadership Award, commissioned specifically for the organization and crafted by renowned American artist Michael Wainwright, has its design inspired by the domes of the nation's capital and symbolizes exceptional leadership and dedication to public service.

"I am truly honored to receive this

prestigious award," said Senator Rezin. "Public service is a privilege, and I remain committed to working tirelessly for the people of Illinois. I am grateful to the State Government Affairs Council and National Foundation for Women Legislators for their commitment to recognizing and empowering leaders across the nation."

The SGAC Leadership Award is presented annually to leaders in state government who demonstrate tireless efforts, steadfast commitment, and an unwavering belief in the power of public service. Senator Rezin's receipt of this award highlights her impactful contributions to the state of Illinois and her constituents.

Email news items
to
Amboy News Editor
Brandon LaChance
at
blachance@
mendotareporter.com

IDFPR, Illinois Attorney General warn of new scam targeting student loan borrowers

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) Division of Banking and Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul recently issued a warning for a new scam that seeks to take advantage of student loan uncertainty.

Scammers contact student loan borrowers and make false promises that they can guarantee lower monthly payments or loan forgiveness, often demanding upfront fees to do so and promising immediate results. Borrowers typically can request these services for free from the U.S. Department of Education or their student loan servicer. Scammers utilizing this scheme are known to have contacted targets by phone, text, email, and regular mail, and may falsely claim to have ties to government agencies (including the Department of Education).

While a few companies may offer legitimate student debt relief services, many make false promises to student loan borrowers and fail to deliver on the services they're paid for.

"The current landscape for loan repayment is especially confusing due to pending legal challenges to federal relief programs, and scammers may try to exploit that uncertainty," said Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul. "Borrowers should get their information from the Department of Educa-

tion or their student loan servicer, so they do not put themselves at risk of potential scams. I also encourage borrowers who have questions or concerns to contact my office. I will continue to advocate in support of students and will work to hold institutions that defraud students accountable."

"It is disheartening to learn of yet another scam targeting uncertain financial situations, but borrowers should take heart in knowing there are steps they can take to avoid falling victim," said IDFPR Secretary Mario Tretto, Jr. "Remember, you do not need to pay for student loan assistance. Borrowers should contact their loan servicer or the U.S. Department of Education to get the help you need."

"Consumer financial education, including creating awareness of scams that prey on Illinois residents, is one of our top priorities," said Susana Soriano, Acting Director of Banking. "The Division of Banking will continue promoting legitimate avenues for borrowers to learn about student loan forgiveness programs and initiatives."

Consumers can identify this scam by being on alert for these red flags:

- Promises of immediate loan forgiveness or cancellation. Student loan debt relief companies cannot forgive student loans. Any changes to federal student loan repayment plans will be made through one of the government's official

loan servicers (learn more about federal student loan repayment programs for free from the U.S. Department of Education). Private student loan borrowers should also contact their student loan servicer for accurate information.

- Requests to sign a power of attorney form. Legitimate student loan assistance programs will not typically require you to sign an agreement giving them legal permission to act on your behalf.

- High-pressure sales tactics attempting to force you into acting immediately by creating a false sense of urgency. Phrases used may include:

- o "Savings Plans Available for a limited time only!"

- o "Results Guaranteed!"

- o "Call Now!"

- o "Get Your Student Loans Forgiven Now!"

- For federal student loans, requests for your Federal Student Aid username and account in exchange for help with your student loans. Borrowers should never share their login credentials.

- Statements claiming relationships with government agencies, including the Department of Education. Again, borrowers should contact their student loan servicer for accurate information. Borrowers contacted by these scam companies should not engage with them, but should reach out to their student loan servicer or the U.S. Department of Education if they need help.



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Opinion

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances ~ The First Amendment

Different Illinois Valley football landscape in 2025

The football fields at Mendota, St. Bede, Hall, and LaSalle-Peru are all going to be in the same locations as previous seasons.

They will still be 100 yards from end zone to end zone with an additional 10 yards called paydirt.

The bleachers will still be steel, hard, warm in August and September, and cold in October and November.

However, there will be one huge difference with all four programs, a different head coach.

The Trojans will no longer have Keegan Hill after seven seasons and Logan Larson left the Red Devils' sideline after one campaign. Jim Eustice and Jose Medina were assistants with their respected programs before taking over the reins -- Eustice with the Bruins and Medina with the Cavaliers -- in 2015. Both will be replaced before the 2025 Illinois high school football season begins.

For a lot of players, player's parents, assistant coaches, administrators, fans, and local journalists there are a lot of different emotions. Unfortunately, there is the good riddance or why didn't the change happen before because he didn't win enough or make enough playoff appearances.

There is the, man, he will be missed because he was a great coach, was great for the kids, his energy and excitement for the game will not be matched, he knew who to manage a game, he was an amazing ambassador for the program and the community.

Then there is the curiosity of the great unknown.

Who will be next?

Is the school going to hire within? Is the school going to bring back a previous coach? Is the program going to look for a replacement in the Illinois Valley? Is the next head coach going to be from Illinois or another state?

After the hire, more questions are asked.

Have we ever heard of this person before? What is their pedigree? Are they head coach worthy? Did they get the job because they knew someone on the school board or did they get the job because of their resume?

These are all asked immediately throughout the process in every newsroom (well, those don't exist everywhere anymore) so through texts from one journalist to another. Or at the cafeteria, the teacher's lounge, the

walkie talkie from one forklift to another, and at the YMCA swimming pool during water aerobics.

And, obviously, in this column.

Mendota has already answered some of the questions traveling its way as it hired Eustice in an undetected, under-the-radar, unthinkable acquisition. Read more about Eustice becoming a Trojan in this very edition of The Mendota Reporter.

The other programs still have all of the questions to answer as rumblings and rumors have been created, but no answers or a name have filled the blank.

Will Hill or Medina switch to one of the remaining open jobs? Larson is traveling south on Rt. 39 to return to his stomping grounds to coach, so we know we won't see him in the Illinois Valley in 2025.

With the maneuvering and the change, no matter who it is, the final result or the grand question will always be, is the football team better than it was before with the new hire.

No offense to Hill, but Mendota will be in terms of Eustice being a proven coach who has advanced to the playoffs many times with rosters people didn't think SBA could be successful with. Plus, he has coached in the Three Rivers Conference in all but two seasons of his coaching career as the Bruins were a league anchor before moving to the Chicagoland Prairie Conference.

Hall has numerous seniors in the 2025 season who have been key cogs to the Red Devil operation for the last two years. Will the new coach push them to finish better than 2024's 2-7 record?

St. Bede was also 2-7 last year, but the Chicagoland Prairie has its own shakeups as Tom Jobst retired from Marquette, Dwight is losing a great class of seniors, and Seneca is dropping some of its bulk which helped them finish 2024 with a 9-2 mark, a state ranking, and a playoff appearance.

Every L-P fan has their fingers crossed Marion Persich will return to the Cavaliers instead of transferring to another school after wowing the bleachers with his inspiring play as a freshman. There are some nice pieces coming back to aid the star quarterback.

Each program has a different set of questions, concerns, and requirements, but for those watching, waiting, and paying 100 percent attention, the 2025 football

season in the Illinois Valley is going to be interesting to say the least.

I mean, I'm writing about it, two months after the 2024 state championship games were played.

And I'm saving the best for last.

The Amboy-LaMoille-Ohio football team is coming off back-to-back Illinois 8-Man Football Association state championships. A huge accomplishment the players, the coaches, the school, the community, and sports writers will never forget.

This of course brings up the monster question, can the Clippers do it again?

They were already questioned this past season because top tier players graduated after the first championship. Answering the haters, yes, yes, they could do it again. Now the same question and others are going to be asked more often, from more people, and probably a little bit louder.

Unlike the other programs discussed earlier, the Clippers will have Scott Payne as the head coach once again along with his assistant coaches. They didn't forget how to coach and have developed a program, a team, a family, every boy in Amboy wants to be part of.

It is incredibly hard to win a state championship and no program should justify success on whether they win one or not, including Amboy.

However, it's going to be a blast as the Clippers once again prove haters wrong with every tally they put in the win column.

Column

By Brandon LaChance



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 years ago
Jan. 23, 1925

Charles E. Yale, who for the past 3 1/2 years has served as agricultural supervisor at Mendota High School, signed a three-year contract to become farm adviser for Lee County. Mr. Yale will fill the position being vacated March 1 by the resignation of Farm Adviser Griffith.

75 years ago
Jan. 26, 1950

Fire, of unknown origin, destroyed the Amboy High School building which housed the bus garage, the auto mechanics shop, and the agriculture conference room and farm shop last week. Charles Clayton, auto mechanics instructor, was working in the building when he discovered flames shooting from the ceiling near a coal stove.

Henry M. "Heinie" Mortensen was elected president of the Amboy Chamber of Commerce when the newly-elected board of directors met in an organization session at the offices of Amboy Milk Products.

50 years ago
Jan. 23, 1975

"Theft was No. 1 and drug related crimes came next," said Henry M. "Heinie" Mortensen as he recalled his work as Lee County's adult probation officer. He retired from the job Dec. 31, 1974 after serving eight years and one month.

Amboy Junior High School was the setting for an exciting time for the Cub Scouts, their parents, and leaders when they gathered for the annual Pinewood Derby for Pack #62. Bob Machen and Stan Karpinski weighed in the cars. Jim Gould and Bob Gould were the car starters. Mark Powers and Steve Powers were the finishing line judges. Gordon Mool was the Master of Ceremonies. Kurt Schaible was the Grand Champion.

Earl Kellen retired Jan. 10 from Dean Foods, Amboy Packing Company Division, after 50 years of service for the firm and its predecessors.

The Amboy volleyball team defeated LaMoille in the first round of the Princeton District Tournament but lost in the semifinals to Mendota. Mendota defeated Princeton in the finals to advance to the sectional tournament in Dixon.

The boys basketball team took two giant steps toward the Clippers being this year's Shark Conference champions by edging Harvard, 60-52, and beating North Boone, 63-56.

25 years ago
Jan. 20, 2000

You light up my life. That's what children in Amboy may be saying to Amboy Mayor Hank Gerdes and the Amboy City Council if Gerdes gets his wish. The mayor told council members of his desire to possibly install lights at the ball diamonds during the latest council meeting at the Amboy Community Building.

You have an opportunity to have a street named after you or a loved one for one year and benefit the Pankhurst Memorial Library at the same time. Beginning March 1 and continuing for one year, the sign will be removed and given to you to keep as a treasured keepsake. Currently the street is named Bob Smith Blvd. and the previous year it was named Mort Hinkel at 227 E. Main St.

Lee County's 4-H Livestock Judging Team represented the state of Illinois at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in conjunction with the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Col. The team consists of Kelly Tilsy, Brent Hueber, Jacob Hueber, Maggie Fane, Jessie Faber, and coach Kathy Faber.

The Amboy News

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SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letters may be dropped at the Amboy News office, 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342, mailed to the Amboy News at PO Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342, or emailed to blachance@mendotareporter.com.

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

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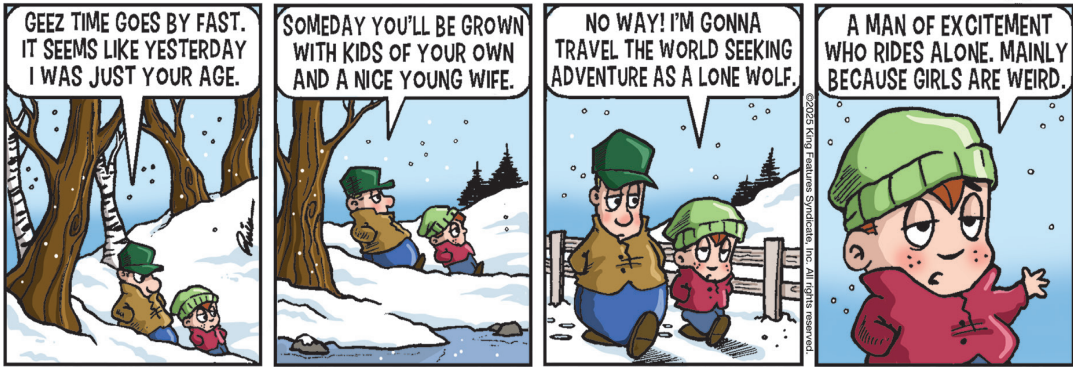
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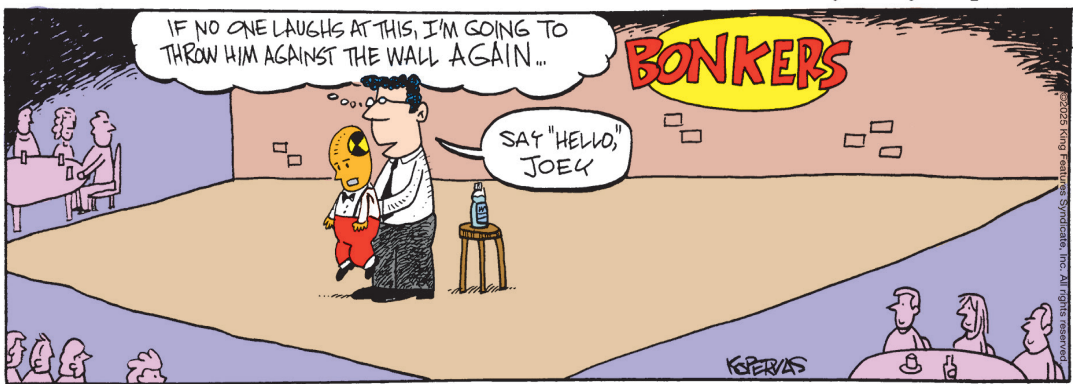
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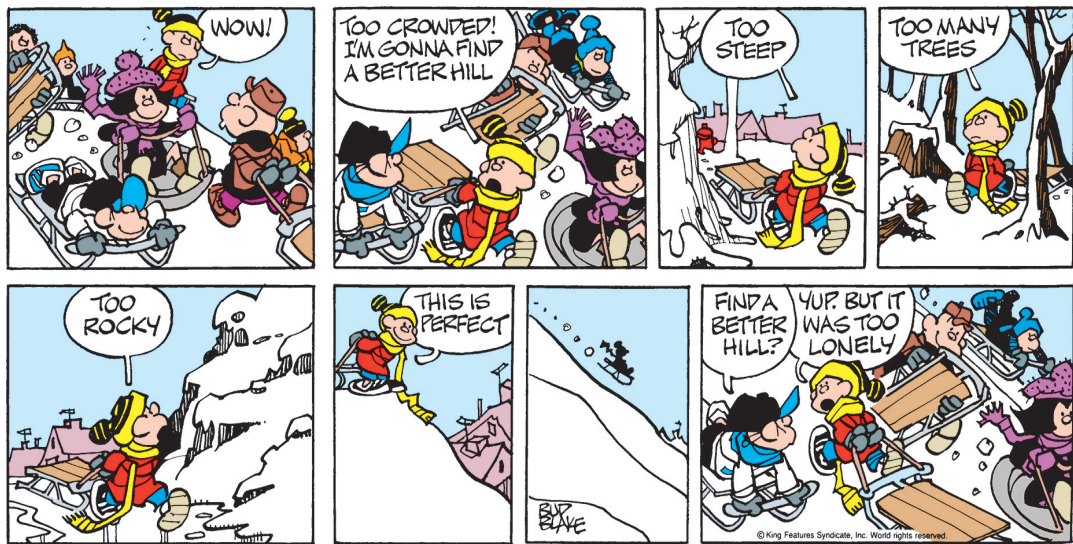
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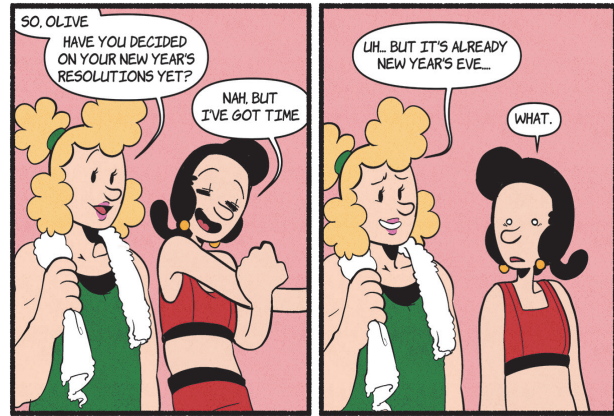
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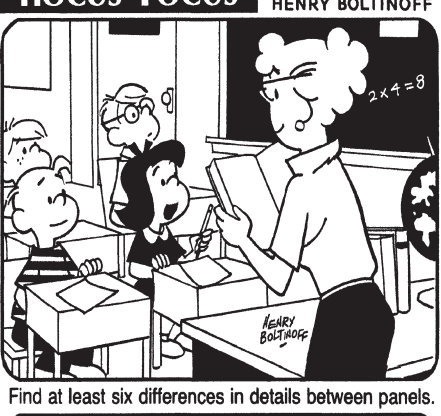
OLIVE

By Emi Burdge



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: H equals S

UWMB RL WI WVWMG FVRFP
UMRSOFTIQ BZY HROISH RL
LRVPH HZRRBTIQ BZY EMYKY:
BZY HFZGRRKY EOBRI.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Lessen
TIDULE
Abate
ANEW
Plod
GUTERD
Apart
ANOEL

TODAY'S WORD

January 20, 2025 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pickle holders
- 5 Klutz
- 8 Pre-weekend yell
- 12 Layered cookie
- 13 School org.
- 14 Nozzle site
- 15 Complaint
- 16 Mahal pre-ceder
- 17 Memory method
- 18 Jungle trek
- 20 Apple product
- 22 "Lunch break is over!"
- 26 Sports bar fixture
- 29 "Mangia!"
- 30 Avril follower
- 31 Marsh plant
- 32 "Blue Bloods" ainer
- 33 Nov. honor-ees
- 34 401(k) alter-native
- 35 Notable time
- 36 Trig terms
- 37 Consecutive
- 40 Puerto —
- 41 Small apes
- 45 Help a hood
- 47 Fanatic
- 49 Aswan's river
- 50 Roster

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19		20	21			
			22		23				24	25
26	27	28			29			30		
31				32			33			
34			35			36				
37			38			39				
		40			41			42	43	44
45	46				47	48		49		
50					51			52		
53					54			55		

- 51 Compass dir.
- 52 Radiate
- 53 — -bitty
- 54 Carried out
- 55 Lushes
- 8 Toss
- 9 Favorable sign
- 10 Follower (Suff.)
- 11 Service charge
- 19 Squealer
- 21 Soup cooker
- 23 Skewered entree
- 24 Assess
- 25 Smooch
- 26 Chicago paper, briefly
- 27 Actress Farmiga
- 28 "American Idol" host Ryan
- 32 Sang softly
- 33 Minnesota footballers
- 35 Catchall abbr.
- 36 Learning ctr.
- 38 Poker pot
- 39 Played a part
- 42 Actor O'Shea
- 43 Conspiracy
- 44 Stitches
- 45 Boxing legend
- 46 Morsel
- 48 Numerical prefix

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

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

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WORD LADDERS

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

TRADE

DRAIN

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: Who created the retro TV series "Stranger Things"?
- U.S. STATES: Which state is the home of Yellowstone National Park?
- ASTRONOMY: Which is the only planet in our solar system to rotate on its side?
- MOVIES: What is the given name of the large bird in the animated movie "Up"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which three zodiac signs are considered earth signs?
- LITERATURE: What is the name of Hagrid's half-brother in the "Harry Potter" book series?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital city of Australia?
- FOOD & DRINK: What type of nut is used in the chocolate spread Nutella?
- SPORTS: What kind of sports match is divided into 7-minute periods called chukkas?
- ADVERTISEMENTS: What type of horses often are used in Budweiser beer ads?

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WEDDING

Today's Word

1. Dilute 2. Vane; solution

SCRAMBLERS

TRADE, TRAIN, DRAIN

Answer

WORD LADDER

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Part of an alarm clock producing the sounds of folks shooting the breeze; the schmoose button.

CryptoQuip

Answers

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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301 ANTIQUES

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2023 Chevy Trailblazer AWD ACTIV, Sunroof, Loaded, 46K Miles, Yellow.....\$24,900	2020 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab Trailboss 4x4 Z71, 36K Miles, Black.....\$39,900
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LOCAL/STATE NEWS

Amboy High School Fall 2024 Honor Roll

AMBOY – Amboy High School wrapped up its fall semester in December.

But not before a long list of students made their teachers, their parents, and themselves proud by making the honor roll.

Here are students grinning ear to ear with pride.

Highest Honors

Freshmen: Addison Blaine, Faith Fenwick, Abigail Fox, Jason Hemmen, Henry Klein, Teagan Payne, Abel Valdez, Tinley Whitney

Sophomores: Madison Althaus, Callan Christoffersen, Lainey Davis, Logan Ketchum, Morgan Kreiser, Liliann Leffelman, Jose Lopez, Gage Mumm

Juniors: Grace Althaus, Myla Davis, Kiera Karlson, Ellie McLaughlin, Bradley Schmidt, Brittlyn Whitman

Seniors: Carson Barlow, Dominic Fonderoli, Cierra Kessel, Quinton Leffelman, Dillon Merriman, Devyn Pasley, Addison Pertell, Hunter Rasmussen, Grace Royer, Tyrah Vaessen, Kenley Wilson, Alainie Wittenauer

High Honors:

Freshmen: Landon Carter, Madelyn Clarida, Bella Daly, Gianna Dempsey, Kolton Greus, Tyler Mahar, Grady McLaughlin, Gabrielle Miller, Ella Noble, Charlotte Patterson, Chase Rasmussen, Kaylee Zimmerman

Sophomores: Aaron Costner, Jacob Dinges, Ty Florschuetz, Lane Goff, Leighton Gulley, Madisyn Heath, Chase Huggins, Andrew Hummel, Liam Ketchum, Anthony Linder, Alexa McKendry, Henry Nichols, Braden Shoemaker, Chloe Vaupel

Juniors: Anna Carlson, Andrew Fisher, Molly Hasler, Samantha Hummel, Olivia Ketchum, Owen Loomis, Tucker McCoy, Micah Miller, Samantha Nauman, Stephanie Nave, Peyton Payne, Landon Roath, Alyvia Whelchel, Jady Whelchel

Seniors: Fabian Arteaga, Cordia Asencio, Saydee Benavidez, Joel Billhorn, Emma Chandler, Brody Christoffersen, Ava Cline, Kabe Daniels, Atticus Goff, Tyler Huggins, Caden Hummel, Joshua McKendry, Adrian Mimini, Emersyn Noble, Gloria Parker, Sierra Rhodes,

Michael Shoemaker III, Haleigh Stenzel, Brooklyn Strub, Karagen Welch

Honors:

Freshmen: Owen Althaus, Channing Bellows, Bryden Boyer, Takota Brockhum, Amylia Bump, Makayla Burt, Brian Clements, Ayla Costner, Bryson Deery, Kilah Helm, Caylee Hummel, Lila Rieskamp, Aden Spinelli, Nicholas Warner III, Charles Wilson

Sophomores: Alexis Davis, Jason Dickinson, James Eisenberg, Hayden Hunsberger, Emily Steger, Trevor Stenzel, Jack Thomas, Tanner Welch, Aubrey Wells

Juniors: Jack Cline, Michelle Contreras, Gavin Eisenberg, Rylan McNinch, Lily Montantes, Nicholas Noble, Brayden Phalen Rapp, Isabella Yanos

Seniors: Vanessa Alleven, Jarrett Althaus, Brysen Full, Barbara Grotti, Eddie Jones, Natalie Pratt, Caleb Shugars, Caleb Yanos



Elton John, Billy Joel tributed in Rockford

ROCKFORD – The Coronado Theatre is introducing the U.S.A.’s first and longest running tribute to Billy Joel and Elton John at 8 p.m. Saturday, February 8 in Rockford.

Taking turns at an on-stage piano, the dual tribute artists of the Billy Joel and Elton John Face-2-Face Tribute Show conjure the beloved songsters in both sound and image.

Backed by some of the best and most sought-after musicians in the business, Levittown NY native MIKE SANTORO’s fingers flash up and down the keys on “Angry Young

Man” before he belts out high-energy Billy Joel classics such as “Movin Out”, “Scenes From An Italian Restaurant” and more.

Following Santoro’s set, of the roughly three-hour show, RONNIE SMITH dons the iconic sunglasses and bedazzled suits of Elton John as he charts his style from the ‘70s to the present. Timeless anthems such as “Tiny Dancer” and the epic treasure “Funeral For A Friend/Love Lies Bleeding” mixed with more whimsical material such as “Crocodile Rock”

and the fictional rock-group narrative “Bennie and the Jets.”

For the third act, both artists hit the stage for THE grand finale, trading the spotlight with more of the best of Billy Joel and Elton John. For over a decade, this event is not one to be missed!

Tickets are available on ticketmaster.com, by calling 815-968-5222, or in-person at the BMO Center box office (10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday) or the Coronado Theatre box office (noon-4 p.m. Monday-Friday).



Hollywood Nights brings The Bob Seger Experience to the Coronado stage

ROCKFORD – Hollywood Nights: The Bob Seger Experience is the ultimate tribute to Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band, and it’s coming to the Coronado Theatre at 8 p.m. Friday, April 11 in Rockford.

They are a nine-piece band based in New Jersey who continue to strive to recreate everything about Bob Seger and his music down to the core.

They pride themselves on carrying on the legacy of Bob Seger’s unforgettable high-energy shows, roaring raspy vocals, and the groundwork Seger has laid over the past 30 years. Hollywood Nights share the belief that only Bob and his fans have come to know, learn, and love – represent the voice of every fan, his or her values, working-class background, and the love of

rock ‘n’ roll.

If you are a true fan of Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band, you won’t want to miss Hollywood Nights.

Tickets are available on ticketmaster.com, by calling 815-968-5222, or in-person at the BMO Center box office (10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday or 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday), or the Coronado Theatre box office (noon-4 p.m. Monday-Friday).

State of Illinois earns Aetna Workplace Well-being Platinum Award for third straight year

SPRINGFIELD–The Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) received the 2024 Aetna Workplace Well-being Platinum Award this week, marking the third year in a row CMS achieved Aetna’s highest recognition at the Platinum level. This award is designed to recognize employers that create and support a healthier workplace with impactful programming, tools, and resources to help employees navigate their well-being journey.

“We are dedicated to providing a comprehensive benefits package that supports the overall well-being of State of Illinois employees, retirees, and their dependents,” said CMS Director Raven A. DeVaughn. “Earning this award, at the highest level offered, for the third consecutive year is an honor, and it confirms our deep commitment to having a healthy and engaged workforce.”

Managing \$7 Billion in annual expenditures and safeguards, CMS serves more than 466,000 lives by offering physical, mental, and financial wellbeing benefits and programs. CMS partners with healthcare providers,

insurance carriers, and labor representatives to provide affordable benefits to members.

Over the last year, CMS has reached significant milestones recognized by Aetna in enhancing the workplace environment. These achievements include:

Implementing a Wellness Ambassador Program, providing each State Agency and University a voice in the programming provided.

Expanding CMS Risk Identification initiatives by providing skin cancer screening to highest at-risk employees.

Expanding outreach from the Colorectal Cancer Detection campaign, impacting even more lives and amplifying cost savings.

Expanding CMS Mental Health Support initiatives through Active Minds, Mental Health First Aid, and Responder Health.

Increasing usage of Higi smart health stations, which generated positive user feedback at State facilities.

Developing a robust communication strategy through

webinars, email, webpages, and social media.

Providing regular educational opportunities through webinars and demonstrations.

The Aetna Workplace Well-being award, established in 2017, recognizes the achievements of public and labor employers across the United States who offer an Aetna medical plan to employees. Award recipients are selected based on their well-being strategy, communications and organizational engagement, and program implementation and evaluation.

About CMS

Central Management Services (CMS) is the operational engine working behind the scenes to enable the State’s more than 80 agencies, boards, and commissions to deliver efficient, reliable services to all Illinois citizens. The Agency’s mission is to support the State by delivering innovative, responsive, and effective services that provide the best value for Illinois State government and the people it serves.

For more information about CMS visit www.cms.illinois.gov

Rezin introduces legislation to protect Illinois’ energy infrastructure, national security

SPRINGFIELD – In an attempt to address growing concerns about Illinois’ energy demands and potential national security risks, State Senator Sue Rezin (R-Morris) has introduced legislation to prohibit data centers owned by foreign adversaries from operating in Illinois unless they generate their own power on-site, ensuring they do not strain Illinois’ energy infrastructure.

“With Illinois already facing an increased demand on our energy grid due to rapid data center expansion, we must take action to secure our infrastructure

and prevent potential threats,” said Sen. Rezin. “This legislation ensures that foreign-owned data centers from known adversaries do not compromise our energy stability or burden Illinois residents with increased utility costs.”

Senate Bill 3890, also known as the Data Center Construction by Foreign Adversaries Act, requires Illinois’ regulatory agencies to jointly assess any proposed data center’s energy impact before allowing the construction of the center if it will be owned by a company tied to a foreign adversary. This assessment

aims to confirm that the facility’s energy consumption is fully self-sustained, whether by on-site natural gas generation, battery storage, or renewable sources, so that no additional burden is placed on Illinois’ energy grid. The bill responds to

a concerning trend of foreign entities acquiring land in the Midwest for industrial purposes, a trend that experts warn could jeopardize national security.

“Senate Bill 3980 is a necessary safeguard for Illinois and our national security,”

continued Sen. Rezin. “We have to be vigilant about protecting our state’s resources and shielding our energy infrastructure from unnecessary risks.”

Senator Rezin believes that SB 3890 will prompt thoughtful dialogue among legislators on how best to

balance Illinois’ growing technology sector with the pressing need for energy security and national safety. If the legislation isn’t taken up before the conclusion of the 103rd General Assembly in January, Senator Rezin intends to refile the measure in the spring.

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LOCAL NEWS

Amboy Junior High School Quarter 2 Honor Roll

AMBOY—Congratulations to the Amboy Junior High students who worked hard to earn honor roll credentials. Below are all of the smarties who made the second quarter honor roll at AJHS:

- Eighth grade**
Highest Honors: Mallory Bodmer, Isabelle Klein, Adelynn Kreiser, Scarlett Payne, Charlie Schoenholz, Jaron Wittenauer, Parker Zimmerly
High Honors: Jacie Blaine, Owen Dallam, Erika Decker, Sophya Fonderoli, Mason Morris, Sydney Noble, Kinsley Pogue, Norah Shearer, Anthony Sus, Cooper Welch, Hannah Whitman, Parker Williams, Kylee Zellhofer
Honors: Mackenzie Alletto, Addison Bump, Laci Daniels, Leah Dempsey, Owen Eisenberg, Natalee Feaster, Seeley Goff, Ian Hassler, Joivvee Hirsch, Delilah Horner, Camryn Noble, Jasmine Rhodenbaugh, Hannah Shoemaker, Natalie Skrzypa, Cozette Schoenholz, Grace Zambrano, Myla Zambrano
- Seventh grade**
Highest Honors: Cooper Fox, Mason Heath, Jaxon Hudson, Amelia Kant, Rylen Koch, Teagan Moore, Blake

- Mumm, Amelia Nichols, Maxwell Patterson, Mason Payne, Madison Phillips, Kylee Zellhoffer
High Honors: Payton Angermeier, Leah Bonnell, Vanessa Gross, Tinley Helms, Eli Lewis, Jack McCoy, Abel Mumm, Caiddie Phelps, Nolan Scully, Kylie Vaupel, Alexis White, Kendyll Whitney, Bailey Wittenauer
Honors: Bricen Davis, Shawn Hummel, Cylias Jackley, Enrique Lara Alonso, Annabelle Leffelman, Wade McCoy, Thomas Payne, Hunter Roberts, Alivia Schultz, Scott Willstead, Avery Wittenauer, Jacob Wittenauer
- Sixth grade**
Highest Honors: Ali Althaus, Leah Bodmer, Brison Fenwick, Kensley Helm, Kaiya Kaleel, Alice Klein, Noah Lopez, Levi McLaughlin, Emersyn Miller, Makayla Phillips, Gillian Schneider, Cozette Schoenholz, Grace Zambrano, Myla Zambrano
High Honors: Mackenna Alletto, Gunner Christoffersen, Michael Dallam, Lilly Dolan, Averie Failor, Ethan Farster, Silas Grennan, Kyzin Gries, Emerson Gross, Brandon Hanson, Greyson Henkel, Julius Jones, Thomas Keene, Taylyr McNinch, Emily Meyers, Reagan Miller, Eyan O'Malley, Clayton Zimmerman

- Honors:** Blake Atkinson, Robert Bowman, Alexander Brown, Abel Dempsey, Nathan Dewey, Cam Florschuetz, Aliyah Holtzclaw, Cheyenne Hufford, Tanner Mares, Jr., Kayden McCrary, Jamison Meyer, Casey Stampfler, Zaelen Wilson
- Fifth grade**
Highest Honors: August Boyle, Everly Boyle, Evelyn Buckley, Mila Burke, Abel Camire, Liam Carter, Kainan Considine, Eli Kaleel, Paisley Kant, Timothy Marsh, Emersyn Moore, Summer Nantz, Rudra Patel, Taiden Payne, Jackson Scully, Ruth Shearer, Roman Spinelli, Emery Williams
High Honors: Ariyah Bellows, Evalyn Bump, Lillyanna Bunch, Annelise Considine, Charlotte Cook, JioVanny Fonderoli, Ellie Henkel, Savannah Hufford, Brooklyn Larson, Oliver Machen, Brycen Moore, Griffin Ohlendorf, Evelyn Payne, Mandi Ritter, Brooklyn Rutherford, Audree Schaefer, Owen Schaeffer, Ava Unzueta, Everett Walter, Aurora Wilhite, Catherine Wittenauer
Honors: Tuc Bergfeld, Jazlynn Campiran Ramirez, Selena Daffer, Jace Davis, Aubreyanne Kimball, Lainey Riley, Jace Williams

Kishwaukee College announces Fall 2024 Dean's List

- MALTA** — Kishwaukee College has announced the students named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List. To be eligible for Dean's List honors, a student must have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours (at the 100/200 level) during an academic term at Kishwaukee College with a semester grade-point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- The following Kishwaukee College students have been named to the official Fall 2024 Dean's List:
- Amboy — Eliseo Vazquez-Tapia
Ashton — Greta Horner, Angel Soto, Faith TBotzke
Aurora — Daniel Mancilla
Belvidere — Tyler Guajardo
Berkeley — Lennin Estremera
Bristol — Brandon Iskowitz
Byron — Macey Stoddard
Chana — Kennedy Adamski, Jack Anderson, Jade Brewington, Mallory Henert, Lauren Ponto
Clare — Brynn Ziegler
Cortland — Scarlet Bryant, Wyatt Bryant, Mya Chew, Kevin Farlinger, Landon Garcia, Elizabeth Garlisch, Davion Hines, Alexis Kwasniewski, Molly Livingston, Rylan Lottes, Zachary McCall, Raelsy Olmos, Abigail Orr, Brock Piechocki, Vincent Pinter, Jayson Quintero Romero, Natalia Serpico
Creston — Danica Ward
Crete — Julias Ferguson
Crystal Lake — Ethan Byham, Alexander Green
Davis Junction — Jonathan Avendano, Lillie Gebel, Autumn Kittoe
DeKalb — Josue Aburto, Joan Aburto Zarate, Dixie Belle Adkins, Joanna Alvarado, Hayden Anderson, Jennifer Arendt, Anna Arnold, Yesenia Aspera, Carson Bahrey, Joel Baptista, Justin Bell, Nathan Buchanan, Mindy Burchfield, Aliyha Burnham, Edgar Calderon, Alexander Collins, Riley Collins, Brianna Crawford, Kayla Cuellar, Nicholas Cyr, Jenavieve Davila, Claudia Diaz, Jaylen Edwards, Ainsley Edwards, Benjamin Flood, Jessica Flores, Alexandra Gamez, James Gargano, Ashley Gentry, Melanie Gonzalez, Daisy Guerrero, Richard Hansen, Davut Hanveliyev, Janice Hemp, Leslie Hernandez, Amixam Hernandez, Braxton Highbaugh, Darrell Honorable, Tanisha Jones-Robinson, Catlin

- Kersten, Jayson King, Jayden Kitanga, Max Kollwelter, Molly Kuntzi, Crystal Larrabee, Daniel Leverton, Gabriel Lopez, Josue Lopez-Contreras, Connor Lowe, Aidan Lueken, Hannah MacCabe, Christina MacDonald, Tyler Maciejewski, Sandra Madsen, Anita Mensah, Vianka Mercado-Corona, Amanda Metoyer, Antoine Murdock, Kyra Neiweem, Gabriella Norman, Guadalupe Nunez, Rachel Orkfritz, Ari Owens, Riley Payton, Phynix Peleska, Keli Perez, Edward Perez, Alexandra Perez Jaen, Yamile Ramirez, Tyler Reidl, Andre Riley, Penelope Roehrig, Ashleigh Rubin, Natalia Sanchez Alamia, Giselle Sandoval, Ethan Schultz, Theodore Sertuche, Elizabeth Staffey, Caleb Streight, Timothy Sutter, Evelyn Torres, Nathan Tumminaro, Areeba Usman, Natalia Villaseñor, Andrea Weitenbeck, Ocean Wilkerson, Trevor Winsler, Sean Zhu
Dixon — Bryce Feit
Elburn — Andrew Davison
Esmond — Gabriella Roschi
Franklin Grove — Lillian Searing
Genoa — Dakota Allen, Destiny Banner, Lacy Bardon, Ashlee Bero, Samantha Busse, Kendra Delgado, Benjamin Dries, Bradley Fowler, Taylor Fry, Kyleigh Jones, Cassandra Kerley, Emily Mendoza Aguilera, Jessica Mercado, Kari Morton, Kevin Munoz, Joseph Navarrete-Gomez, Kelsey Schmidt, Brandi Stover, Joanna Tomlinson, Kade Vonderheide, Jaelyn Wallace, Sabrina Whitten, Jessica Zweifel
Kingston — Lewis Bennett
Kirkland — Page Hyde, Makenzie Moser, Nicholas Rotstein, Avie Truran
Lake in the Hills — Hannah Stephansen
Lansing — Dillion Ford
Lee — Lenna Hulthen, Blake Johnson
Lindenwood — Rachel Lemay, Erica Prange, Austin Raleigh
Malta — Josue Azofeifa, Sean Mitchell, Alex Prince, Elizabeth Savchenko, Rebecca Seldal, Jamilethe Torres
Maple Park — Kyra Johnson
Marseilles — Trenton Averkamp
Matteson — Jada Trent
Maywood — Alan Eades
Mount Morris — Samuel Garncarz, Carson Sweeney
Mount Prospect — Caleb Romanowitz
Oregon — Alayna Benton, Sirena Benton, Ashley

- Cadie, Mariah Drake, Orianna Graham, Avery Salsbury, Reilee Suter
Paw Paw — Finn Clayton, Mahala Gonzalez, Italia Howell, Victoria McCannon, Jakob McNally, Bethany Odle
Pecatonica — Jonathan Hartline
Plano — Victoria Wentworth
Rochelle — Mavi Avila, Molly Boehm, Katelyn Burdin, Mary Chadwick, Rachel Cook, Edgar Cortes, Addison Friestad, Amanda Fry, Katrina Hada, Jason Hammer, Damen Harrington, Elise Horner, Alexis Huerta, Abigail Jarvis, Peter Koziol, Thomas Koziol, Lindsey Lidren, Karina Lopez, Zidaen Lopez, Catherine Macias, Kara Martinez, Annaleigh McKinney, Carlos Morales, Yuelma Ortiz, Frankie Pelan, Stephanie Penaran, Amelia Pixler, Joshua Reyes, Fernando Rocha, Aidan Rodriguez, Kendall Sachs, Erick Sepulveda, Francis Vowels, Zoe White, Ahtziri Zepeda, Riley Zimmerman
Rockford — Skylar Bachman, Nicholas Kingpavong
Sandwich — Melanie Cole
Shabbona — Taylor Gaston
Steward — Landon DeLille, Seth O'Rorke, Allie Peterson, Abigail Tarvestad
Sycamore — Anna Aska, Colin Bafia, Calvin Barleen, Will Baumgartner, Madyson Block, Tayla Brannstrom, Emma Carmichael, Rylie Cedillo, Sarah Celaya, Benjamin Clark, Nicole Clements, Tabitha Copenhaver, Zachary Daring, Gabriela Diaz Lopez, Quinton Dukes, Karie Eisman, Paige Estes, Robert Floersch, Nicole Forster, Rachel Gilbert, Grace Gineman, Ubaldo Gomez, Molly Griffey, Bon Ha, Jacob Hagen, Ryan Hein, Audrey Heth, Jacob Hull, Amiya Irving, Maximus Julian, Natalie Kaiser, Tanden Keaton, Alexander Kousoulas, Jasper Lake Rogman, Jersey Lankford, Grace Laraia, Boston Leifheit, Anna Lochbaum, Paige Lojko, Julia Moede, Krystal Mora, Gabriel Nagle, Emylie Nguyen, Joseph Parsons, Addison Perry, Kelli Petit, Taylor Pinter, Nicole Pitstick, Lilyan Polke, Mason Reynolds, William Romero, Charles Roots, Ellie Rothenbach, Austin Salter, Twanna Sampson, Laurel Schneck, Amanda Sellers, Hannah Sharp, Jadan Spartz, Noah Stanik, Joseph Start, Nathan Stringer, Haley VonSchnase, Tate Wheeler
Waterman — Makayla Bateman, Kyle Langston, Dustin Wielenga
Yorkville — Leo Johnson, Ryan Mehochko

Kish College announces Fall 2024 Part-Time Student Honors List

- MALTA** — Kishwaukee College has announced the students named to the Fall 2024 Part-Time Student Honors List. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have completed a minimum of six (but less than 12) semester hours of college-level courses at Kish with a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.
- The following students have been named to the Kishwaukee College Fall 2024 Part-Time Student Honors List:
- Algonquin — Anusha Amin
Amboy — Serenity Munk, Miguel Villegas, Kristen Widolff
Aurora — Erica Ramos, Leo Valerio
Belvidere — Faith Allen
Chana — John Jarrett, Samuel Merrick
Chicago — Tolulope Shokoya, Zaila Smith
Clare — Lillian Hetland
Cortland — Jacinta Allen, Woodfin Billingsly, Anthony Carrasco, Amanda Gamauf, Alyssa Griffith, Theresa Hamlin, Tanna Harms, Ryan Howieson, Jasmine Kemp, Tasha Kimble, Yao Kouadio, Ayanna Lisy, Jaden Longeville, Destiny McKinnie, Latosha Richardson, Lizbeth Ruiz, Mary Sanchez, Yessica Valdez
DeKalb — Sari Akers, Jorge Alvarez, Katherine Anderson, Cole Anderson, David Andrade, Edlyn Arellano, Kendra Ares, Aja Aspinwall, Eliya Baker, Ruari Bengford Breneisen, Gracie Bishop, Tristan Bogolin, Amir Boulware, Jason Bozek, Harold

- Brown, Keyle Brown, Alister Burke, Nia Burrows, Ciara Carifio, Emily Corbin, Jeffrey Cox, Ronald Craig, Skyla Craig, Matthew Dieckman, Ciara Dunham, Sakeenah Easter, Fern Evins, Andrew Flint, Nicholas Flores, Ja'Korie Flowers, Nicole Foerster, Desmond Foster, Donrick Foster, Keeshona Fox, Crisel Franco, Chiquita Fullilove, Raheeg Gabir, Jacob Garcia, Jessica Garcia, Duncan Gilkey, Bailey Gillis, Kaitlin Haley, Kleudy Hartwig, Monica Hernandez, Nancy Hernandez, Viviana Hernandez, Dulce Hernandez, Seth Hess, Camryn Hilliard, Maryah Holden, Matt Holuj, Benjamin Hood, James Jackson, Juan Jass, Nicole Jazo, Shenna Jenkins, Maurice Johnson, Oliver Kersten, Mikaela Kluxen, Ethan Knasiak, Holly Kobezak, Alissa Kocjan, Kayleigh Kozlowski, Jennifer LaDouceur, Elena Lara, Jacob Larsen, Esmeralda Lazaro, Jenna Luetkebuenger, Michelle Lysien, Loveel Mabiala, Isabelle Marsh, Ella Mathison, Maria Matos Sulbaran, Jesus Matus Lopez, Matthew McCormack, Kasaun McNeal, Diamond Moss, Samuel Murdock, Saad Nimri, Dirtha Ortega Perea, Olivia Ottilie, Claire Potter, Amayrani Ramirez, John Rinkenberger, Danielle Rohm, Amanda Rollins, Melissa Ruel, Laurie Ruiz, Mirakle Rundall-Kizart, Leslie Sanchez, Minerva Sandoval, Shawntae Simmons, Aaron Slade, Isabelle Smith, Josie Speed, Kristina Stewart, Emily Stewart, Lydia Taylor, Christopher Thunder, Fatima Torres Nunez, Angela Trujillo, Matthew Tunk, Ariyana Turks, Shayla Vanleirsburg, Kelsey VanVlerah,

- Silvina Vargas, Dominique Vaulx, Ernesto Villasmil, Daija Wallace-Wilson, Lisa Ward, Cooper Warren, Zora Watts, Tina Williams, Abrianna Wilson, Kyle Young
Dixon — Asucena Alvares, Joseph Catalano, Laura Herrera, Mariah Hoffman
Earlville — Elizabeth Bend
Esmond — Cody Grzywa
Geneva — Marcia Curran
Genoa — Olivia Arias, Maria Ayala, Hailey Bakley, Abigail Corbett, Ashley Dennis, Brandon Foley, Lucy Foss, Nora Foss, Brittany Giddings, Diane Hansel, Ava Hardy, Hayden Hodgson, Madyson King, Nathan Kleba, Hailey Knight, Felicia Kubica, Karlie Lang, Kaylie Martinez-Beach, Julie Matushek, Jazmine Mercado, Saul Mercado, Peyton Meyer, Caden Miller, Brandi Radloff, Jacob Reiss, Brooklyn Ristau, Rachel Schnell, Isabelle Sester, Emily Spence, Addison Vicary, Melanie Walitschek, Amelia Wellman, Zoe Wellman, Mia Wise, Patrick Young
Holcomb — Katie Toczykowski
Huntley — Fidel Ponce
Kings — Michelle McCandless
Kingston — Carly Coffman, Hope Hargrave, Nathan Jackson, Leyah Langley, Lauren Maddox, Laryssa Markham, Zoe Nieves, Dylan Pagel
Kirkland — Hayley Basler, Sophia Olson, Austin Thomas
Lee — Sydney Marshall
Lindenwood — Noah Garrelts
Malta — Aiden Dively, Michelle Garcia, Elizabeth Meeks, Anthony Schumaker,

- Jennifer Seldal
Maple Park — Lilli Delhotal, Tijana Milovancevich, Brody Pfund
Mendota — Gabriel Guzman
Mount Morris — Nickolas Hoffman
Oregon — Brent Gross, Allissa Martin, Candace Reynolds, Laura Torres
Paw Paw — Tamara Bittner, Saul Cardenas, Sally Diaz, Andrew Prescod
Pecatonica — Abigail Kessen
Peru — Mary Whaley
Plano — Destiny Bliss
Rochelle — Sihode Agbetrobu, Kendall Ansteth, Cheryl Bialas, Luis Blas, Jordan Brandau, Xitlali Brizuela, Margaret Brown, HaileyBunger, Kaitlin Burns, Johany Cervantes, Isabella Chavez, Allison Cole, Ryan Corson, Kylie Davis, Thomas Dorwaldt, Riley Doyle, Lauren Dyer, Skyler Foss, Abigail Fox, Giselle Garcia, Bianca Herrera, Finn Hintzsche, Philip Horvath, Leighla Howard, Danielle Hubbard, Jordan Isaacs, Andrew Johnson, Noah LeFevre, Michele Lidren, Jasmynn Lipscomb, Julia Livingston, Edwin Lopez, Elijah Luxton, Connor Macklin, Abby Metzger, Asia Miller, Janet Montano, Kaiden Morris, Erin Murphy, Alissa Nambo, Damian Nava-Barrientos, Alexandra Neece, Alison Ohlinger, Renato Ortega, Troy Papke, Alivia Ramsey, Michael Ramsey, Yandier Rincon, Taelynn Rodeghero, Leslie Rodriguez-Nambo, Sherlyn Rojas, Jackson Smith, Jordan Spears, Alexander Torres, Cecilia Vargas Magana, Anna Varner, Marinia Vazquez, Yaretzi Villalobos, Cassidy Vincent, Marisa Whaley, Brianna Williams, Teigan Young, Brisa Zepeda

SPORTS

Single-weekend state final formats coming to IHSA baseball, softball in 2026

BLOOMINGTON – The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Board of Directors met for its regularly scheduled meeting at the IHSA office in Bloomington on Jan. 15, where the Board approved a pair of advisory committee recommendations aimed at bringing the IHSA Baseball and Softball State Final schedules in alignment with other multiclass IHSA sports.

In recent years, the IHSA has made changes to its State Final schedules in boys’ soccer, girls’ soccer, girls’ basketball, and boys’ basketball. Each sport previously held their state final tournaments over the course of two weekends, contesting different classes on each weekend. Girls’ and boys’ basketball moved to a single-weekend state final format in 2021-22, and girls’ and boys’ soccer followed suit in 2023-24.

The changes approved by the Board at its meeting set the stage for baseball and softball to follow suit with

single-weekend state final formats beginning in 2026.

“The move to a single-weekend state final format in basketball and soccer has been very well received overall, which led our baseball and softball advisory committees to seek out a similar format,” said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. “I believe this has the potential to create an exciting culminating weekend for both sports.”

The schedule will call for the IHSA Softball State Finals in all four classes to be held in Week 48 of the IHSA calendar, which is when the IHSA Class 1A/2A Softball State Finals are currently held. The IHSA Baseball State Finals in all four classes will be held in Week 49 of the IHSA calendar, which is when the IHSA Class 3A/4A Baseball State Finals are currently held.

The IHSA’s hosting contract for the Softball State Finals at Louisville

Slugger in Peoria runs through the 2025 state tournament.

“We believe that Louisville Slugger is the premier softball facility in the state,” said Anderson. “We have enjoyed a fantastic partnership with the staff there and it is our intention to hold the IHSA Softball State Finals there in 2026, and beyond, as the tournament transitions to the single-weekend format. We believe there is mutual interest from Louisville Slugger, and the many community partners that help put on the event and expect to be able to work together to make this official very soon.”

The IHSA currently has a baseball state final contract for the 1A/2A tourney weekend at Dozer Park in Peoria, and a state final contract for the 3A/4A tourney weekend at Slammers Stadium in Joliet. The 1A/2A contract in Peoria runs through the 2025 state finals, while the 3A/4A in Joliet contract runs through the 2026 state finals.

“We intend to honor our current baseball hosting contracts and are open to multiple options in 2027 and beyond,” said Anderson. “Those options include holding the state finals at multiple venues in one city or continuing to contest the different classes at two sites on the same weekend. We have deep ties in both ballparks and communities, and will continue to work with both hosts, along with other key Illinois high school baseball constituents, to determine the best course of action for hosting the State Finals in the single-weekend format.”

The IHSA Board of Directors also indicated they will explore authoring a by-law proposal in the fall of 2025 that would bring alignment to the season lengths of both sports.

The IHSA will be releasing the dates for the remaining 2025-26 State Series rounds (Regional, Sectional, Super-Sectional) to schools in the near future.

Amboy headed to SBA wrestling regional

PERU – The Amboy boys’ wrestling team has been assigned to the Peru (St. Bede) Class 1A Individual Regional to be held Saturday, Feb. 8.

Other schools in the regional are Aurora (Central Catholic), Granville (Putnam County) [Coop], Lisle (Sr.), Mendota, Mooseheart, Ottawa (Marquette), Peru (St. Bede), Princeton, Sandwich and Somonauk [Coop].

In order to advance to the sectional round, a wrestler must finish first, second or third in his weight class. Advancing individuals will participate in the Oregon Sectional to be held Friday, Feb. 14 and Saturday, Feb. 15.

Happy Here!

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Poems about small town life

If you want to get things done
You need some helping hands.
No problem here,
We volunteer,
No matter the demands.

BBB: Families urged to use “code word” for verifying texts, emails, calls from relatives, friends

ROCKFORD – In response to the growing threat of fake “emergency” scams, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) is urging families to establish a unique code word to verify the identity of the person contacting them.

“With significant advancements in technology, scammers can now mimic a person’s voice so convincingly that fake phone calls sound indistinguishable from those of your relatives,” explains Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional BBB office. “You might also receive fraudulent emails or text messages.”

Most people have seen a rapid increase in getting phony texts, emails, and phone calls, many of them impersonating a friend or a well-known business like the post office, banks, and delivery services.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and deepfake technology pose serious threats to the public. Your “grandmother” might call to say she lost her wallet, or your “grandson” could text he was arrested or had a serious accident. The con artist sounds so much like your relative that you

wire money.

Horton notes, “The danger is you react immediately, without thinking, because you want to do everything possible for your loved one. That’s what scammers want you to do.”



“America’s Favorite Husband” Steve Trevino comes to Rockford to make you laugh

ROCKFORD – Comedian Steve Trevino is “America’s Favorite Husband.”

He can speak wife fluently, he never calls the guys for help on a home project, and he knows better than to make his own decisions since decision-making is a privilege reserved solely for his wife, Renae.

In part of his Good Life Tour, Trevino is coming to the Coronado Theatre Friday, May 2 in Rockford. Tickets are available

on ticketmaster.com, by calling 815-968-5222, or in-person at the BMO Center box office (10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-noon Saturday) or the Coronado Theatre box office (noon-4 p.m. Monday-Friday).

Trevino’s relatable approach affirms his status as one of the country’s fastest-rising comics, viewed over 223 million times, selling out shows coast to coast, amassing over 2 million social media followers and headlining specials

for Amazon, NETFLIX, Showtime, and more.

Trevino started cutting his teeth in Dallas, Texas, working as a door guy at the improv and earning himself a spot to open the iconic 2001 Three Amigos Comedy Tour. He quickly earned his stripes and an audience on the comedy club circuit, and he began headlining on his own by

the time he was 25.

He delivered side-splitting performances on The Late Late Show and Comics Unleashed, and produced and wrote for international GRAMMY® Award-winning superstar Pitbull’s La Esquina. His first Showtime special, “Grandpa Joe’s Son”, staked out a spot in the Nielsen Top 20.

Amboy Community Unit School District #272

Jan. 27
AHS Boys Basketball @ Oregon-5:30 pm
AJHS Girls Basketball @ Oregon-7th-4:00/8th-5:00
AHS Parent Course Selection
Night-Room 105-Fresh-5:45-6:30/
Soph-6:30-7:15/Junior-7:15-8:00

Jan. 28
AJHS Girls Basketball @ Morrison-6th-4:00/5th-5:00
FAFSA Application Night-AJHS Cafeteria-6:00-7:30 pm
AHS Girls Basketball @ AFC-6:00 pm
AJHS Girls Basketball (H) Montmorency-8th-5:00/7th-6:00

Jan. 29
AHS Art Club-Art Room-3:30-4:30 pm

AHS Boys Basketball @ Milledgeville-5:30 pm
AJHS Girls Basketball @ Montmorency-6th-5:00/5th-6:00
AHS Wrestling (H) Dakota & Dupac-5:30 pm

Jan. 30
AHS Wrestling (H) Kewanee & Marquette-5:30 pm
AJHS Girls Basketball @ East Coloma-6th-5:00/5th-6:00


Feb. 1
AHS Fresh/Soph Wrestling @ Oregon Tournament-TBA
AHS Girls Basketball (H) Stockton-1:00 pm
AHS Boys Basketball @ Stockton-1:00 pm

Amboy High School ATHLETES OF THE WEEK


Girls Basketball
Tyrah Vaessen

Boys Basketball
Rylan McNinch

Wrestling
Josh McKendry

Congratulations From Your Friends At 

The First National Bank in Amboy
Amboy - Dixon - Franklin Grove - Monroe Center
815-857-3625 - fnbamboy.com

Member FDIC 

AMBOY FOOD & LIQUOR

242 E. Main Street, Amboy IL. 61310

815-857-7020

NEW HOURS!

Store Hours
Everyday, 7am-10pm

Deli Hours
Everyday, 9am - 7pm











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

Soup Is Back At The Amboy Deli!

Sale Prices Valid Jan. 22 - 28 – Limited Quantities – While Supplies Last

Now Accepting EBT/Link Cards







PRODUCE

Blueberries 1 pint  \$2.99/ea.	Idaho Potatoes 3 lb bag  \$1.99/ea.	Vine Ripe Tomatoes  \$1.79/lb.	Avocados  \$0.99/ea.	Steak Cut Mushrooms 8 oz  \$2.99/ea.
Bolthouse Baby Supreme Carrots 12 oz  \$1.99/ea.	Lemons  \$0.69/ea.	Dole Garden Salad 12 oz bag  \$1.79/ea.	Tri-Colored Peppers 3 pk  \$4.99/ea.	Garden Cut Pico de Gallo 12 oz pkg  \$3.99/ea.

HOT BUYS

U.S.D.A. Choice Angus Boneless Chuck Roast  \$5.99/lb. Reg. Price \$6.99/lb. AMBOY DELI	Pork - BBQ Butterfly Pork Chops  \$4.99/lb. Reg. Price \$5.99/lb. AMBOY DELI	Fresh Boneless Pork Tenderloin  \$2.99/lb. Reg. Price \$3.99/lb. AMBOY DELI	~ Deli Special ~ Large Pizza Single Topping  \$9.99/ea. Reg. Price \$13.99/ea. AMBOY DELI
Jack's Pizza 13.8 to 15.3 oz  2/\$8 Reg. Price \$4.99/ea.	Campbell's Chunky Soup 18.8 oz Assorted  2/\$5 Reg. Price \$3.89/ea.	Tostitos or Ruffles 7.25 to 12 oz  2/\$9 Reg. Price \$5.99/ea.	Pepsi Products 12 pack cans  \$6.49/ea. Reg. Price \$8.99/ea.

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Farmland Bacon 16 oz  \$4.99 ea. Reg. Price \$6.19/ea.	Oscar Mayer Bologna or Cotto Salami 16 oz Select Variety  \$3.49 ea. Reg. Price \$4.19/ea.	Curly's Pork or Chicken 12 to 16 oz  \$4.99 ea. Reg. Price \$6.19/ea.	Pretzilla Pretzel Bites 12.3 oz  \$4.99 ea. Reg. Price \$5.99/ea.	
Coffee-mate Creamer 32 oz  \$3.99 ea. Reg. Price \$5.19/ea.	Pillsbury Pie Crust 14.1 oz  \$3.99 ea. Reg. Price \$4.99/ea.	Pillsbury Cookie Dough 16 or 16.5 oz  \$3.99 ea. Reg. Price \$5.79/ea.	Creamette Pasta 12 to 16 oz  2/\$3 Reg. Price \$2.19/ea.	Hostess Donettes 9.5 to 11.25 oz  \$2.49 ea. Reg. Price \$3.59/ea.
Prego Pasta Sauce 14.5 to 24 oz  \$2.99 ea. Reg. Price \$3.79/ea.	Nabisco Saltine Premium Crackers 9 to 17 oz  \$3.99 ea. Reg. Price \$4.49/ea.	Bush's Best Beans 8.3 to 16 oz Select Variety  2/\$3 Reg. Price \$2.29/ea.	Oreo Sandwich Cookies 13.29 or 14.03 oz Select Variety  \$4.99 ea. Reg. Price \$5.69/ea.	Kellogg's Raisin Bran or Frosted Mini Wheats 16.1 oz  \$3.99 ea. Reg. Price \$5.49/ea.