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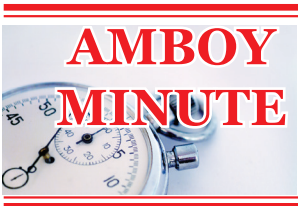
The Amboy News

Amboy, Illinois

Volume 171 - Number 9

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Elaine Violet Theiss



The 43rd Annual Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show is ...almost upon us

BRANDONLaCHANCE
Staff writer

SUBLETTE – Whether rain, sleet, snow, or sun, the 43rd Annual Sublette Antique Tractor & Toy Show will take over the streets of the Village of Sublette from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday, March 15-16.

Anthony Morgan, the first-year president of the show’s board of directors, anticipates a similar event to those of the past.

However, his fingers are crossed for the best possible weather.

“Last year was chilly, but there were thousands of people in and out of the buildings,” said Morgan, who may be a new president but has been on the board since 2020. “Talking to the vendors, they said they did pretty well even though there wasn’t a lot of people on the streets. They were in the buildings patronizing the vendors.

“Being the show is in March, you never know what the weather is going to bring. It could rain. It could be sunny. There has been snow before and we had to clean up the roads before the show. It could be windy. It could be a nice day.

“You never know what you’re going to get.”

As usual, there will be local vendors and there will be vendors from the surrounding area and surrounding states.

Toys will be presented in five different buildings (Sublette Community Building, Ellice Dinges Center, Main Street Repair, Jacoby Building, and the Sublette Elevator) antique tractors will be outdoors as well as a semi-tractor display, and there will be a train display set up by Ethan Orzech at Orzech Auto Truck & Tow LLC, located at 301 N. Richmond St. in Sublette.

“There are people who

have new stuff and a lot of the other vendors have the old, vintage models,” Morgan said. “We have some who make grain bin setups and can make you whatever you want while you’re at the show. There are a lot of different displays.

“There are craft vendors, too, where people will have operator manuals and books, and those kinds of things.”

This year, there are two featured tractor companies in the Oliver Farm Equipment Company (1929-1960) and Minneapolis-Moline (1929-1963).

Both companies were created separately by the same process, mergers of other companies as Oliver was constructed of four companies and Minneapolis-Moline was founded with three companies coming together.

Oliver and Minneapolis-Moline were both purchased by the White Motor Corporation in the 1960s.

See **Toy Show** page A3



The five buildings set up for vendors are rarely unoccupied by interested patrons during the annual Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show. Anthony Morgan, new president of the show’s board of directors, anticipates the same will be said during this year’s 43rd annual show on Saturday and Sunday, March 15-16. (Reporter file photo)

Sublette moves forward with Sidewalk Replacement Plan

BRANDONLaCHANCE
Staff writer

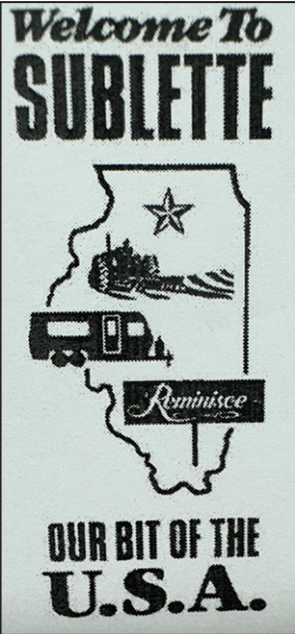
SUBLETTE – The February Village of Sublette Committee Meeting was short and sweet Monday, Feb. 10 as three trustees and the president formed the minimum of four people to authorize a reported council.

Many items were discussed including a recent committee meeting which took place to move the Sidewalk Replacement Plan forward.

“There was a committee meeting with an engineer from Willett, Hofmann & Associates. He let us know where he was with the sidewalk plan,” Village of Sublette Board President John Stenzel said. “We’re using the Rebuild Illinois funds, Motor Fuel Tax, and a \$25,000 grant on West Main Street. The meeting went well and he was authorized to submit the plan to the Illinois Department of Transportation for approval.

“It needs to be bid out and approved by July so we don’t lose the federal funding we have received. We’re taking the next step to getting it done.”

With a 4-0 vote, it was approved to use the



Motor Fuel Tax funds for the sidewalk project.

The Richmond, Virginia, Reeve Street Project is on hold because the ground is frozen thanks to Mother Nature’s winter cold front delaying domesticated digging. The weather is also putting a pause on the investigation of the Water Service Line Inventory, which Sublette received the first installment, \$15,000, to begin.

Lee County hasn’t validated a firm date, but the county is going to re-surface West Main Street between March and July.

See **Sidewalk** page A9



“Into the Woods Jr” is this year’s spring musical at Amboy High School. Left, Kai Vaupel, as the witch, points toward the bakery. Right, in the bakery, Logan Ketchum playing the baker, Natalie Pratt as Little Red Riding Hood, and Olivia Ketchum, the baker’s wife, have an interesting conversation. The performance will take to the James Braida Auditorium stage at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 14-15 and at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 16 at Amboy High School.
Brandon LaChance/Amboy News

AHS student-performers take you “Into the Woods Jr”

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – March is quickly approaching.

This means, the Amboy High School spring musical is also.

This time around the Amboy students are meshing different familiar characters such as Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, and Jack, of Jack and the Beanstalk, and putting them in one story.

“I love this show. It’s probably in the Top 10 of the shows I’ve ever done,” said Natalie Pratt, a senior who

will be seen skipping across the James Braida Auditorium stage as Little Red Riding Hood. “This is going to be my 17th show. I started when I was in the third grade. This is going to be my last one. It’s kind of bittersweet. I’ve been with the same people for so long and we all do this together. Every practice it’s like, ‘This is my last Monday practice’ or ‘This is my last Tuesday practice.’

“But it’ll be good because there are a lot of talented people here and a lot of good ones coming up after us. This is a great play to end on.”

The musical will be performed at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 14-15, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 16.

Pratt is excited to hit the baker with a basket, while senior Brooklyn Strub is anticipating a great argument.

“This is my ninth show. I love “Into the Woods Jr.” so much. It’s definitely one of my favorite shows,” Strub said. “I think this is a pretty good show to end my high school career on. As Cinderella, I really like when I get to fight with the baker’s wife. I really enjoy arguing with her; it’s a lot of fun.

See **Woods** page A5



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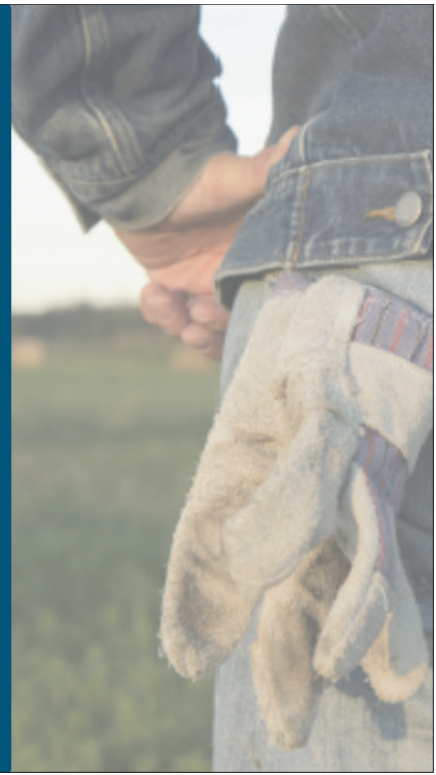
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LOCAL NEWS

Amboy High School Report

Janet Crownhart, Principal



Last week was FFA week. The week started with the Amboy High School FFA serving breakfast to the staff from Sunset Inn Restaurant. Pizza was provided for lunch on Wednesday for the FFA students. On Friday, the FFA managed a petting zoo

for the Amboy Central School students. Also, on Thursday and Friday, the FFA officers went to the elementary school to read books and make crafts with the students. Dress-up days were coordinated and provided fun for everyone.

Sublette collects 37 products at blood drive

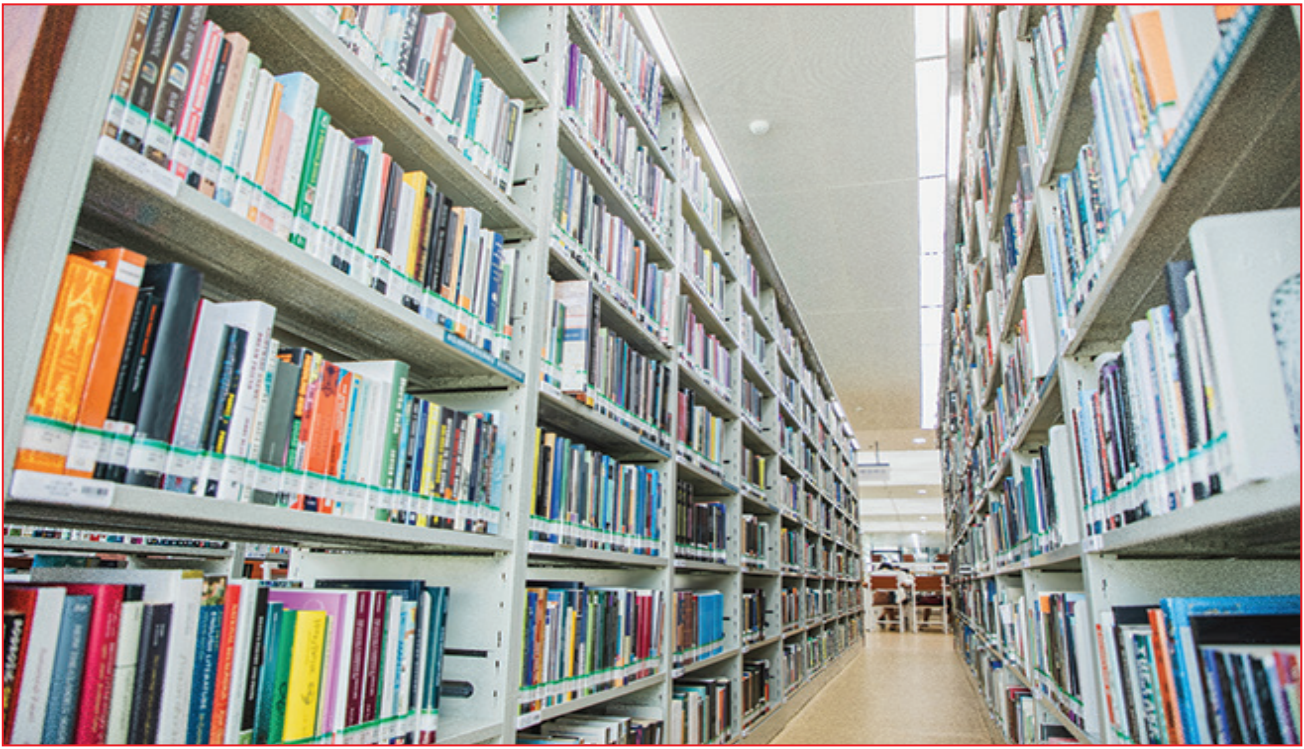
SUBLETTE – The blood drive at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Sublette held every 56 days, recently took place Tuesday, Feb. 11. Red Cross collected 37 products (blood) at the OLPH Hall.

The church and the Red Cross want to recognize Steven Cook, who has donated 22 gallons of blood over the years, Gerald Klein who has donated 19 gallons, and Margaret Duffy who has assisted the cause with 15 gallons.

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

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Sheriff's Office announced it made zero DUI arrests and issued six seat belt citations during the recent Super Bowl enforcement campaign. They also issued two distracted driving citations, three other moving citations, and made one driving while license suspended arrest. The Super Bowl weekend "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" enforcement effort ran from Friday, Feb. 7, through the early morning hours of Monday, Feb. 10. The goal was to keep impaired drivers off the roads and ensure more people buckle up and follow all traffic laws. "Motorists should understand the warning that we are serious about cracking down on impaired drivers and seat belt and other traffic safety law violators. We do it to save lives," said Sheriff Clay Whelan. The recent law enforcement campaign was made possible by federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of the statewide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket" campaigns.

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



AHS Student Council organizing book drive
Now through the end of March, the Amboy High School Student Council is holding a book drive. The drive is intended to make a positive impact on the community by filling library shelves with your old books. The council asks you to donate books, of any genre, to add to libraries around Amboy. Books can be brought to Ms. (Madeline) Harvey's classroom, Room No. 217, or the Amboy High School main office.


OSF HealthCare Saint Katharine Medical Center names chief medical officer

DIXON – Glenn Milos, DO-MPH, JD-MBA, CPE, has been named vice president and chief medical officer for OSF HealthCare Saint Katharine Medical Center in Dixon, Illinois. Dr. Milos will be responsible for leading the integration and practice of medicine at OSF Saint Katharine, ensuring consistency in practice standards and an interdisciplinary team approach to the delivery of care. Since 2023 Dr. Milos has served as vice president and chief medical officer at OSF HealthCare St. Mary Medical Center in Galesburg and OSF HealthCare Holy Family Medical Center in Monmouth. He began his career with OSF as a staff physician for emergency medicine at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford. "I would like to extend our deepest appreciation to Dr. Joseph Welty for his leadership and significant contributions as our interim chief medical officer in advancing our clinical excellence work during the integration into OSF Healthcare," shared Jackie Kernan, president of OSF Saint Katharine. "We are excited to welcome Dr. Milos to OSF Saint Katharine. His extensive physician leadership, clinical experience and passion will be essential as we continue to transform care delivery. With Dr. Milos's forward-thinking leadership, we are poised to drive meaningful changes, improve health outcomes, and deliver even greater value to the Sauk Valley." Dr. Milos earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and a Master of Public Health from Benedictine University. Additionally, he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence and Master of Business Administration from Northern Illinois University. He is licensed to practice law in the state of Illinois. Dr. Milos will begin his new position at OSF Saint Katharine on March 31.



OSF HealthCare is an integrated health system founded by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. Headquartered in Peoria, Illinois, OSF HealthCare has 17 hospitals – 11 acute care, five critical access, one continuing care – with 2,305 licensed beds throughout Illinois and Michigan. OSF employs more than 26,000 Mission Partners across 160+ locations and includes OSF OnCall, the digital health operating entity which offers a hospital-at-home. Advances in health care transformation take place through OSF Innovation and OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois, the third largest pediatric hospital in Illinois, cares for our smallest patients. In addition, OSF has two colleges of nursing; operates OSF Home Care Services, an extensive network of home health and hospice services; owns Pointcore, Inc., comprised of health care-related businesses; OSF HealthCare Foundation, the philanthropic arm for the organization; and OSF Ventures, which provides investment capital for promising health care innovation startups. OSF HealthCare has been recognized by Fortune as one of the most innovative companies in the country. More at osfhealthcare.org.

Rothrock-Magana becomes vice president, chief nursing officer in Dixon



DIXON – Meagan Rothrock-Magana, MSN, BS, RN, NE-BC, has been named vice president and chief nursing officer for OSF HealthCare Saint Katharine Medical Center in Dixon. Rothrock-Magana will be responsible for leading nursing operations to achieve key results and drive superior clinical outcomes at OSF Saint Katharine. "I am honored to step into this role and am excited to further the OSF Mission of serving with the greatest care and love," said Rothrock-Magana. "Together, we will drive impactful change in the Sauk Valley by enhancing patient care through collaborative efforts and fostering a culture of excellence." Most recently, Rothrock-Magana has served as the director of Professional Practice, Professional Development, Research, and Magnet at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford. Her career includes extensive clinical practice and leadership roles. Rothrock-Magana has been with OSF HealthCare for 15 years. Rothrock-Magana earned her Bachelor of Science in biology from Loyola University. She went on to complete a Master of Science in Nursing from Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing where she is currently pursuing a degree as Doctor of Nursing Practice. She will begin her new position at OSF Saint Katharine on March 16.

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LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Thank You's

We are always grateful to those that help us in our endeavor to help the community; Thank you Mike & Karen Henkel for décor; Mark & Kim Becker for décor; Glenn & Carol Robison for supplies; Dan & Candi Fry for toys; Tom & Cheryl Nauman for the donation; Papa Murphys for pop; Evette Ward for homemade pretzel bites; Tim & Lynn O'Laughlin for the gifts; Eileen & Irene Ramsdell for your homemade cupcakes and meal supplies; Martha Henley for keeping us supplied with her homemade cookies and treats; The Car Show Committee for the donation; Farm Bureau for the frozen meals for the mini food center; Brad & Pam Kessel for donation; Matt & Felicia May for hygiene products and supplies; Amboy Food and Liquor for the countless donations of food and supplies; Shirley Hartison for stuffed animals; Scott & Tammy Strub for popsicles; Dale & Tina Eller for supplies; Joe & Diane Stewart for hamburger; Tom & Anna Meinhardt for cereal; Lee Center Church & The Lions Club for food; Todd Scudder for blankets; Mike Kessel brownies; Lora Thomas for donation; Dennis Dahlstrom for the donation of Bears that were delivered by Jamie Dahlstrom; Mark & Cindy Streit for cookies and candy; Brandy O'Rourke for food; Donna Wellman for homemade cookies, treats, and dance prizes. We are very thankful for the generosity of our community.

Upcoming Events

Teen Turf has a couple of events coming up. Please mark on your calendar that Friday April 11th. will be our fish fry. Sunday May 4th. Will be our drawdown. Stay tuned for ticket availability.

Homework Club

Homework club is in full swing, and we love it! As always, we will have applications ready in the Teen Turf hallway and at each of the schools. You can drop applications off into our mailbox in the hall, to us in person, or into the school office. If you have a 3rd grader or above, they may be able to attend. They will ride the bus, have a hot meal, a fun place to play, and of course complete homework.

Volunteers

We welcome all volunteers for our after-school program, which runs normally Monday through Thursday from 3:15 to 5 p.m. Volunteers help serve lunch, supervise kids, and help with various homework tasks. If interested, please call us at 815-857-4800. You can volunteer whatever time you have. We even have volunteers come in the morning to help with other prep tasks.

Donations

We always feel so thankful and blessed for what our community does for us. Please bring donations inside the building during the day while we are here. If you have a large donation, drop-off, please do not leave it outdoors. We would like you to call Teen Turf to set up a time to drop it off, as we do not want items to go unseen and to sit out in the elements. Thank you for thinking of us and we appreciate your support!!

Final Note

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Toy Show continued from page A1

"They don't make either tractor anymore. I've worked on both of them before. We have different companies on a rotation, and it was their turn," said Morgan, who grew up around International Harvester tractors but isn't partial to any specific brand. "We put Oliver and Minneapolis-Moline together because both companies were formed around the same time, and then were bought by the same company."

"We have so many different manufactures and companies people collect, so every year we try to represent a different one. We move down the line

and then recirculate them. People collect the tractors that their grandparents and parents farmed with, so it's sentimental."

The Sublette Antique Tractor & Toy Show will provide a free shuttle service to each of the buildings and there will be a Pedal Pull for kids.

Food will be offered through the entire show with two 4-H stands ran by the Sublette Indians and the Maytown Comets (Sublette Community Building and the Sublette Elevator), while the Firemen's Pancake Breakfast will be hosted by the Volunteer Fire Department from 7 a.m.-noon on Sunday.

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 City of Amboy committee meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, March 3 at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. The meetings take place the first Monday of every month.

AMBOY – The Amboy Lions Club meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, March 10 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.

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

EAST GROVE – East Grove Township is holding its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11 at the East Grove Township Hall.

AMBOY – The Board of Trustees of The Amboy Township will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 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, March 12 at the Paw Paw Village Hall.

Movie Matinee: "No Job for a Woman: Pioneering Women Reporters in WWII"

GRANVILLE – The Putnam County Public Library will host a Movie Matinee of "No Job for a Woman: Pioneering Women Reporters in WWII," at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 4 in honor of Women's History Month.

When the war broke out, reporter Martha Gellhorn was so determined to get to the frontlines that she left her husband, Ernest Hemingway, never to be reunited. Ruth Cowan's reporting was hampered by a bureau chief who refused to talk to her.

Dickey Chappelle, photojournalist, wanted to get

so close to the action that she could feel bullets whizzing by. The documentary features an abundance of archival photos and interviews with modern female war correspondents, as well as actresses bringing to life the written words of these remarkable women.

The documentary is one hour, five minutes in length, not rated, and made possible through public performance rights through Kanopy.

The Granville Branch is located at 214 S. McCoy Street. For more information, please call the library at 815-339-2038.

Tales with Tails featuring reading dog teams

GRANVILLE – Jessica Dove and her dog, Hobo, will be at the Putnam County Library Granville Branch on Tuesday, at 5 p.m. March 4 and 25. Dina Lunken and her dog, Rosie, will be at the Granville Branch at 10 a.m.

Saturday, March 15 and at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 27.

This program is free and open to the public. The Granville Branch is located at 214 S. McCoy Street. For more information, please call the library at 815-339-2038.

CLIPPER KIDDIEZ

This Week's Student of the Week is:

Kinley Schaefer



Student's Favorites:

Color: Pink & Blue

Animal: Giraffe

Food: McDonald's Chicky Nuggies

Book: Bluey's Bedtime Stories

Game: Life

Song: "E-I-E-I-O"

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

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

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.

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Fish Dinner

Friday March 21st 4:30pm-7:00pm

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The Amboy Fire Department
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Dinner comes with fried fish, baked potato, coleslaw, and cookies
Iced tea, lemonade and water will be served as well!

HEALTH/CHURCH

OBITUARIES

Elaine Violet Theiss Feb. 11, 2025

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Elaine Violet Theiss, 92, passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 11, 2025, in Riverside, Calif.

A Celebration of Life ceremony will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 14, 2025, at the Acheson & Graham Garden of Prayer Mortuary in Riverside, Calif. Interment will be at Saint Mary's Cemetery, Sublette, at a later date. Elaine was born in Sub-

lette and graduated from Mendota High School in 1950. After her marriage to Gilbert Leslie Theiss in 1951, they lived on the farm in Sublette Village, Lee County. They moved to Riverside in 1962 with their five children, Leslie Allen, Diane Marie, Michele Renee, Denise Ruth, and Carol Elaine.

She is survived by her five loving children, Leslie (Rose/deceased) Theiss,

Diane (Jim) Meehan, Michele (Dennis) Trost, Denise (Mark) Schoelen, and Carol (Steven) Wallace. She has six grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, Leroy W. Stein and Marie E. (Heiden) Stein, and her loving husband, Gilbert Leslie Theiss.

Elaine and Gilbert built

their present home in the County of Riverside with the help of family. Elaine worked for the Riverside Unified School District in Food Services. Elaine was an animal lover. She loved and enjoyed riding her horses, as well as spending time with her numerous dogs and cats. When she could no longer ride, she continued her passion with two miniature horses, Sugar and Zoey,

giving them a good home and apple treats. Elaine spent many hours working outdoors in her flower garden and helping many of her neighbors.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center. You can visit their website at www.petsadoption.org and click on support us and find tribute gift.



Nikki Beyer, RN, given DAISY Award

OTTAWA — As a partner in the international DAISY award program that recognizes the extraordinary clinical skill and compassionate care of nurses, OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center recently presented its DAISY award to Nikki Beyer, RN.

Beyer, who joined OSF HealthCare over a year ago, provides inpatient care at OSF Saint Elizabeth in Ottawa. A resident of Peru, she has been recognized for her unwavering commitment to delivering compassionate, high-quality care.

Heather Bomstad, vice president and chief nursing officer for OSF Saint Elizabeth, expressed gratitude for the daily contributions of compassionate RNs and emphasized that the DAISY award is a meaningful way to acknowledge the dedication of individuals like Nikki.



Beyer's nomination included: "Nikki was on duty as our dad's nurse for several days, and she was so wonderful to our family during a difficult time. My dad was there as his organs were failing, and she treated him with respect and dignity while also making him smile with her jokes. We had to begin making end-of-life decisions for him while he was there, and she was kind to us—always bringing us tissues, water, and anything else we needed."

CGH recognizes Sunshine Award winner Ashley Imel, CNA

STERLING — Ashley Imel, a Certified Nursing Assistant in the 3rd Floor Medical Unit, was recently recognized as a recipient of the Sunshine Award for extraordinary service.

The Sunshine Award was created to honor and recognize outstanding service and compassionate care by those in non-nursing roles, such as CNAs, CMTs or MAs.

"Ashley is always polite and professional," said Megan Hummel, RN, Sunshine Award Coordinator, as she read the award nomination. "She speaks to all patients with a sweet, loving voice, informs patients of what she is doing before touching them, and never gets frustrated with very impulsive patients. She gives multiple patients

baths at night and engages in conversation in such a way that you would think she was taking care of a family member.

"Besides bathing patients, Ashley makes sure the trash and linen bins are emptied for the next shift. Ashley is a very valuable team member for the unit, and she communicates well with nurses and co-workers, always asking if we need help. Ashley deserves to be awarded the Sunshine Award because she is truly a ray of sunshine to our unit."

If you would like to submit a nomination for extraordinary care that you, a family member, or a patient have received at CGH Medical Center from a CNA, CMT or MA, please visit www.cghmc.com/sunshine.



OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center honors Brittany Ellis with Sunflower Award

OTTAWA — OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center is proud to recognize Brittany Ellis, a patient care technician from the inpatient unit in Peru, as a recipient of the Sunflower Award, which honors non-nursing care team members for their extraordinary service.

Brittany has been with OSF HealthCare for over three years and resides in Marseilles.

"The Sunflower Award recog-

nizes care team members outside of nursing for the extraordinary care they provide to those we serve, and Brittany is certainly deserving," said Heather Bomstad, vice president/chief nursing officer for OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center.

Brittany's nomination read:

"Brittany was the best of the best! I cannot say enough about the care I received from her: both emotionally and physically, it was

excellent! As a retired critical care nurse, I deeply appreciated her presence and attentiveness. She was always available when I needed anything and truly became my rock. Her exceptional people skills, compassionate nature, and strong communication made all the difference during one of the most difficult times in my life. You simply can't teach the level of care Brittany provided. She is exemplary, an incredible asset to OSF."

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

St. Patrick Church
 Fr. John Gow
 32 N Jones, Amboy
 815-857-2315 • www.stpatrickamboy.org
 Masses: Tuesdays-Friday Daily Mass at 8 a.m.
 Confessions: Wednesday 5:30 p.m.,
 Saturday 3-3:45 p.m.
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
 8:30 a.m.- noon on Fridays after 8 a.m. mass

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
 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

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
 Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
 Evening Service - 6 p.m.
 Wed. prayer meeting & Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
 King's Kids program from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday
 Reformers Unanimous addictions program
 from 7-9 p.m.

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

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church
 Interim Minister Douglas Wood S.A.M.
 960 U.S. Route 52
 Phone 857-2225
 960 U.S. Route 52
 Phone: 815-857-2225
 Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m. -
 Fellowship - 10:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
 Rev. Randy Fronck
 Locust Street, Sublette
 Phone 815-849-5412
 Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday Mass - 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday - 8:00 a.m.
 Thursday - 8:30 a.m.

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

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

The Following Community Businesses Sponsor Area Church News:

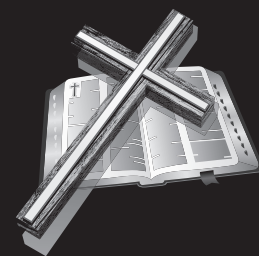
First National Bank
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The Amboy News
 815-539-9396



Illinois lawmakers share their thoughts on last week's sentencing of former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan

Call the Amboy News at 815-539-9396 today!

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

What song have you heard the most?

This is kind of a broad, rhetorical question because how many of you have tallied how many times you have heard a song?

If you have, kudos, you're crazy, but kudos.

Yes, we have streaming services which count for us now, but hopefully you listen to music outside of Spotify, Amazon, Apple, YouTube, and all of the other services. And there are millions of us who had plenty of listening years before streaming was even a thing.

You can call us old; I call us genuine.

Genuine in terms of we have vinyl collections, we used 8-tracks (before my time, but as this column shows, I understand and appreciate), we rolled tape back into cassettes, and we lugged around briefcases full of CDs. We paid our dues.

Plus, the older generations who did all these things are paying for your devices or streaming services. We're connected to everything.

Column

By Brandon LaChance



"The Time is Now," the NWO (New World Order) Theme Song, or the tunes we heard before we saw Hulk Hogan, Macho Man, Bret Hart, Stone Cold Steve Austin, The Rock, Kurt Angle, and the list could go on and on and on.

We don't think about how many times we heard the songs that we're not physically pushing the button.

"The Star-Spangled Banner," otherwise known as the National Anthem of the United States of America is played before every big event, sports or non-sports, in every village, town, city in each of the 50 states.

NFL Super Bowl, you'll hear the National Anthem, and you'll probably place jellybeans on a prop bet.

MLB World Series, NBA Finals, NHL Stanley Cup, you'll hear "Bombs bursting in air" before each game, no matter how many contests are in a series.

You have kids in junior high or high school sports, almost every game does not start without the song, unless you're in a tournament or

have heard the anthem at cross country and golf competitions.

In the winter, basketball, bowling, and wrestling bellow the anthem before at least 95 percent of the games or competitions. As a ref, during both seasons, each middle school game plays the song also, as well as, travel league tournaments held in schools and recreation centers.

In the spring, my right hand is to my heart or both arms behind my back before baseball and softball games whether I'm behind the plate, at the bases, or in the bleachers.

Think I'm taking a break from enjoying the song during the summer?

Ha, fat chance.

I'm refereeing summer ball where the National Anthem is played before a long day of competition, whether it's baseball, softball, volleyball, or basketball.

About four or five years ago, I became an all-around journalist and now add news events to my schedule along sports. This includes multiple Veterans Day and Memorial Day presentations every year; plus city council, Lions Club, and VFW events.

I'm not listing all of this to be narcissistic or 'Hey, look at me,' but just to share where my brain went when I was asked what song I've heard the most. All of this hit me at once, which made it easy for me to say, 'The National Anthem.'

Looking back, I don't remember ever pushing play to "The Star-Spangled Banner" on my phone, iPad, iPod, CD player, cassette player, or dropping the needle on a record player.

But without a shadow of a doubt, if I was tallying, the national anthem would have the most.

Anyway, anyway, back to the question... What song have you heard the most?

When someone asked me this a month ago, I smiled, and immediately said, 'The National Anthem.'

I didn't take a break. I didn't think. I answered without hesitation.

Thinking of topped listened to songs, we don't think of those we don't usually push play for in our car or whatever is connected to our headphones. But those are the ones we have probably listened to the most.

Other songs which could compete are "Happy Birthday," "Hokie Poky," "I'll Be There for You" the Friends theme song by The Rembrandts, "Ghostbusters" by Ray Parker Jr. or songs others play on a jukebox all the time that when you're at home, you're sick of listening to, such as "Don't Stop Believin" by Journey, "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond, or if you're a wrestling fan, the John Cena anthem,

have bad audio equipment.

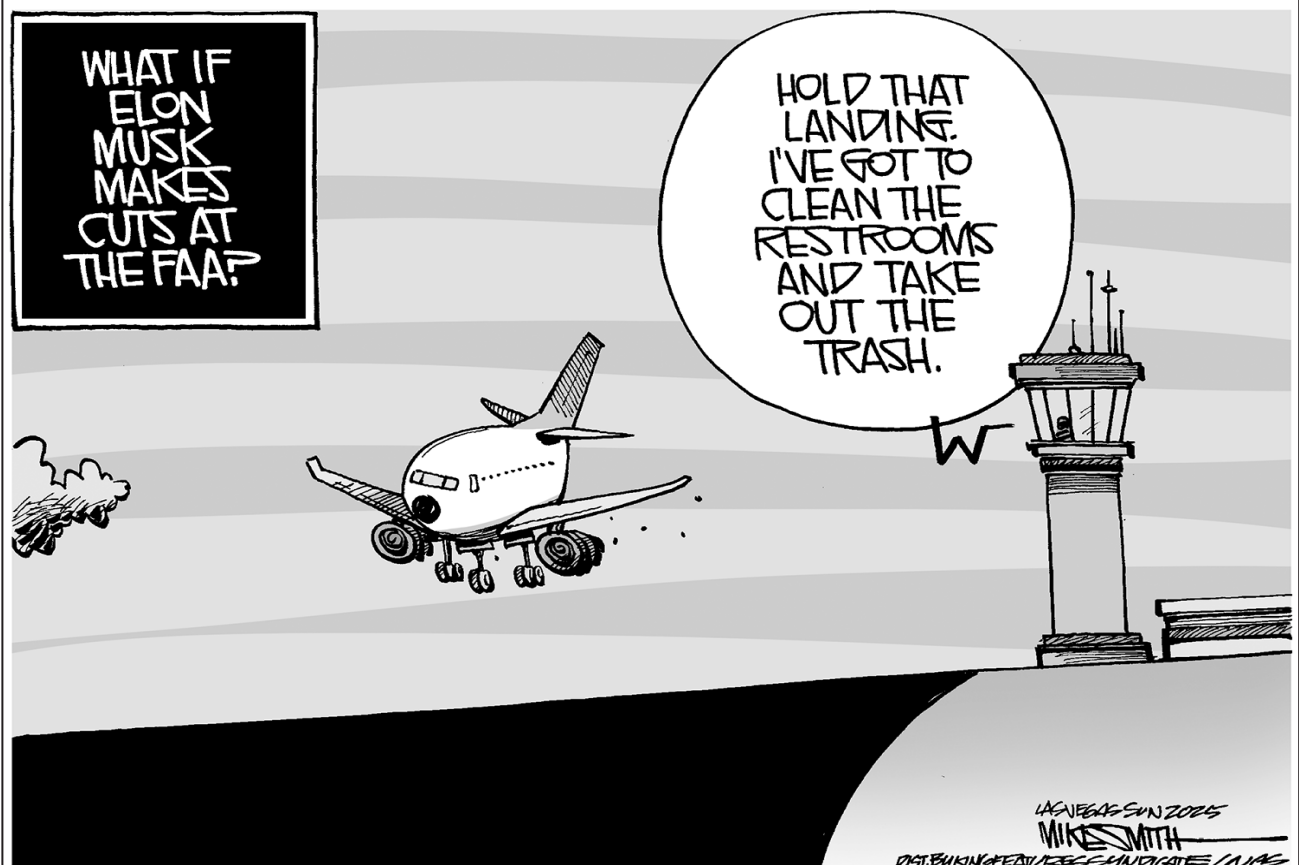
It's also played before government meetings and military parades.

If you think about it, "The Star-Spangled Banner," may be the song you've listened to the most.

It's easy to determine it's mine.

I played sports from the time I was eight to 18. Then I began a sports writing career at 19 and haven't stopped 20 years later. Then I was a coach for a couple programs, including an assistant for the Illinois Valley Community College women's basketball team. Then I began broadcasting games on radio and for my podcast, Edge of Your Seat Podcast. Four years ago, I began officiating and now wear an IHSA patch for five different sports.

I am in a gymnasium, a school, somewhere in Illinois 4-6 days a week during the fall for football, soccer, volleyball, and swimming. Although not played before every event, I



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 years ago Feb. 27, 1925

Eichler Brothers, Inc. will be a year old in Amboy on March 1. The store is observing its first birthday with a special sale week and a word of appreciation for the patronage that has been extended bny the people of this vicinity for the past year.

Two enthusiastic audiences packed the Shadows Theatre to hear and see the benefit performance sponsored by the Amboy's Women's Relief Corps. The sophomore class of Amboy Township High School presented "The Stolen Commencement Dress Thursday evening. Mary Rooney's Primary Pipers were featured Friday.

Much satisfaction is expressed by the Amboy merchants over Bargain Day Trade. The town was full of people busily shopping in spite of very muddy roads, and the volume of sales was unusually high.

streetlights are coming on later in the evening and being turned off earlier in the morning, businesses and homes are making all possible reductions.

Foresight on the part of Amboy Milk Products Company in converting to oil last October, is keeping Amboy's major industry at normal production. After the headaches of 23 major coal strikes in 30 years of operation, the Amboy Milk directors reached the decision to convert to the use of oil.

through a window of the house. The house was owned by Roger Krenz of Mendota.

Don Dinges, president of the Farmers State Bank of Sublette, was named to the Sauk Valley College board of trustees. He will fill the one-year vacancy on the board created by the resignation of Dr. Peter Gray, who recently resigned because of poor health.

50 years ago Feb. 27, 2025

Due to popular demand, The Amboy Lions Club is bringing back to Amboy, "The Journeymen" for two big concerts in April. Both concerts will be presented at the new Amboy High School auditorium. "The Journeymen" are considered to be the midwest's No. 1 gospel music group.

The Sublette Fire Department, assisted by crews and equipment form Amboy, Mendota, LaMoille and West Brooklyn, fought an early morning fire when the house and contents on the former Fred Becker farm five miles southwest of Sublette were destroyed by fire. Mr. and Mrs. Blake Finley and his brother, who were living in the home, were awakened about 2:30 a.m. and fled

25 years ago Feb. 23, 2000

Beggs' Certified Foods had a money tree this winner in Robert McBride of Lee Center. Beggs' Store Manager Jerry Garland handed McBride a check for \$650.

Shopping for Rates? Whatever CD term you prefer, Frist National Bank in Amboy have rates to meet your needs. One-year special, 6.51% annual percentage yield, and 6.36 annual percentage rate with minimum deposit of \$5,000. Also, 18-month special, 6.25 percent annual percentage yield, 6.11 annual percent rate with \$5,000 minimum deposit.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Zimmerly of 1897 Richardson Road, Amboy, will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary March 26, 2000 at Sublette Ellice Dinges School. They were married March 22, 1950 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Polo.

Established In 1854

The Amboy News

The Depot Museum

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Account Executive
Brent Hatch
bhatch@mendotareporter.com

SOMETHING TO SAY?

The Amboy News encourages responsible letters to the editor on subjects of interest to our readers. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity or to avoid obscenity or libel, but ideas will not be altered. The limit is 300 words. Letters exceeding this will either be edited to fit or not published. The deadline for letters is noon on Friday.

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

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

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

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

Letters may be dropped at the Amboy News office, 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342, mailed to the Amboy News at PO Box 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.

ADVERTISING POLICY

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS			
Lee, Bureau and LaSalle Counties			
1 year	manual pay	\$59.00	
	auto pay	\$50.00	
10 weeks	manual pay	\$10.50	
	auto pay	\$9.50	
Non-local			
1 year	manual pay	\$69.00	
	auto pay	\$60.00	
10 weeks	manual pay	\$11.75	
	auto pay	\$11.00	

OFFICE HOURS

**8 a.m. - 4 p.m.,
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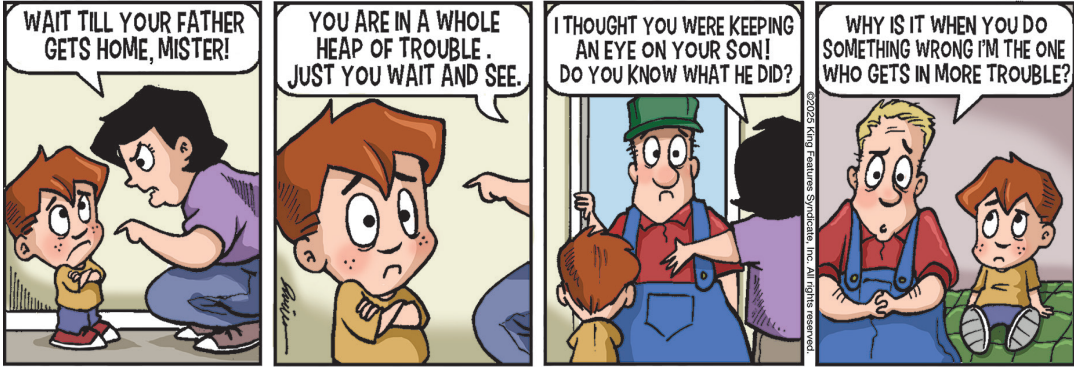
Closed Saturday, Sunday and major holidays.
703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342

Phone **815-539-9396**
Website **www.amboynews.com**

ENTERTAINMENT

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



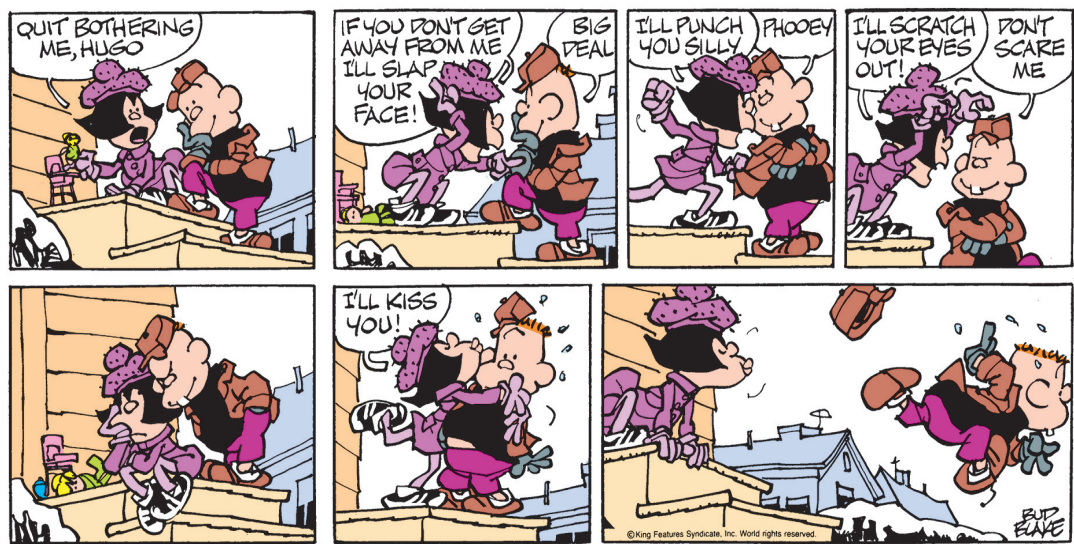
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



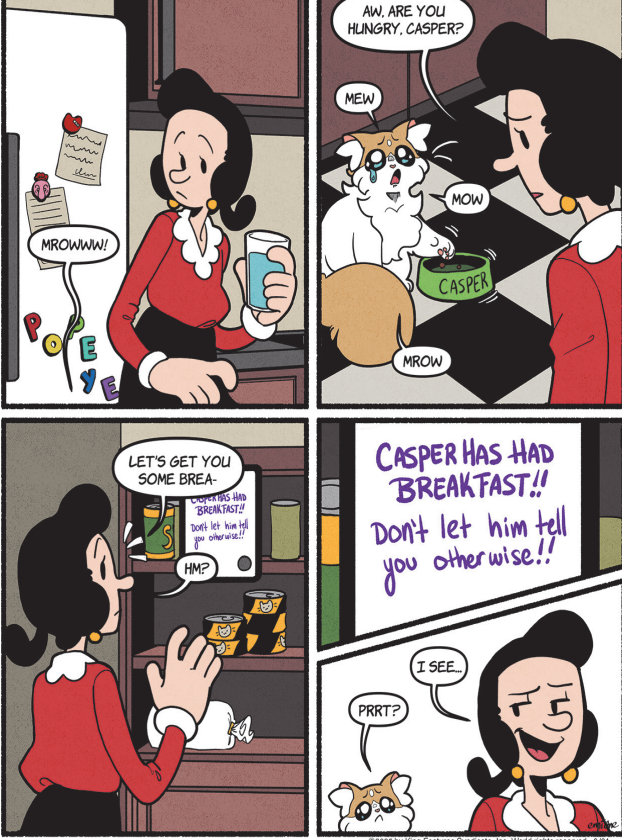
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



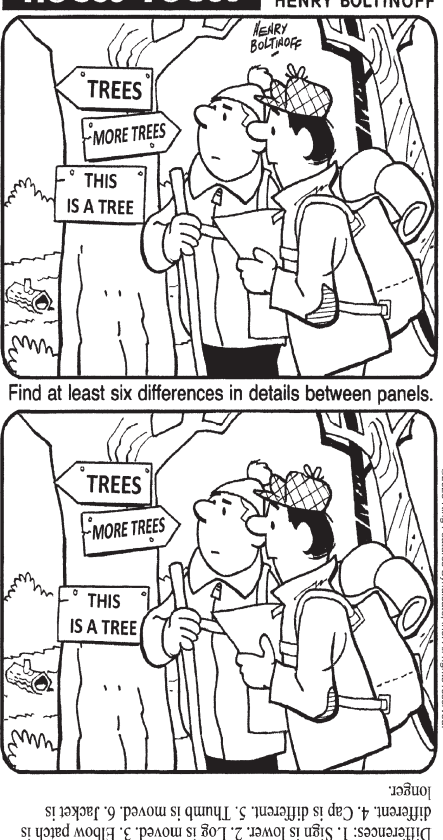
OLIVE

By Emi Burdige



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLITNOFF



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: E equals X

CGVL DSB'KV HL VEMVKI PL
FSPLPLZ HAHZVY, CGHI FSBRA
DSB YHD DSB YMVFPHRPOV PL?
QHEPQ-POPLZ.

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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!

Despair MOGOL

Amuse ASLEEP

Dent LIMPED

Anger HAWRT

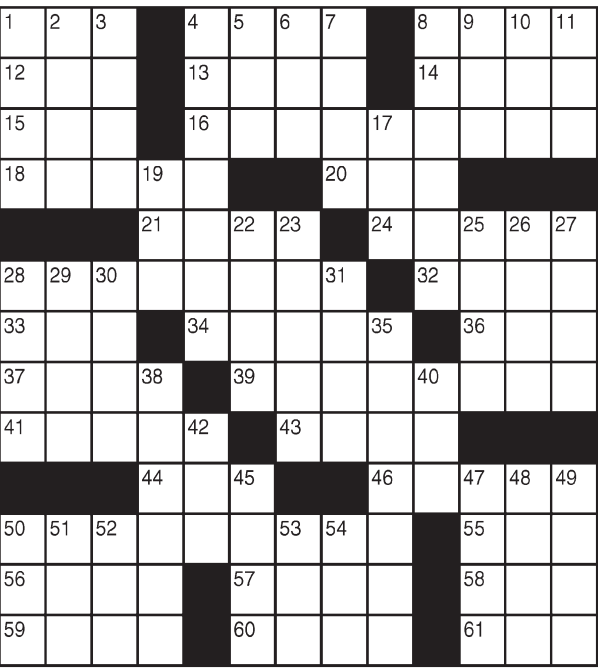
TODAY'S WORD

February 24, 2025 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Doubtfire or Dalloway
- 4 Pesky insect
- 8 Blaze
- 12 "Alley —"
- 13 Verdi heroine
- 14 Booty
- 15 Sugar suffix
- 16 Some online essays
- 18 Doppler device
- 20 "Diamonds" singer
- 21 Brzezinski of MSNBC
- 24 Group character
- 28 Coin that keeps turning up
- 32 Stitched
- 33 Artist Yoko
- 34 "— luck!"
- 36 Actor Stephen
- 37 Euro fraction
- 39 Pub game
- 41 Cognizant
- 43 "No seats" signs
- 44 Olympics chant
- 46 Loan shark's crime
- 50 Ginsberg and Kerouac, for two
- 55 — Maria



DOWN

- 1 Heath
- 2 Activist Parks
- 3 Raced
- 4 Angel with a trumpet
- 5 Zero
- 6 Commotion
- 7 Labels
- 8 Parade attractions
- 9 Cyclades island
- 10 Decay
- 11 UFO engineers
- 17 Diner dessert
- 19 Sound booster
- 22 Handle
- 23 Poker payments
- 25 Medal earner
- 26 Actor Clive
- 27 Hitch
- 28 — Raton, Fla.

- 29 From the start
- 30 Lady of Spain
- 31 Belgian river
- 35 Stirs up
- 38 "We hold these — to be ..."
- 40 Letter addenda, for short
- 42 Sixth sense
- 45 Top-notch
- 47 Beehive State
- 48 Get up
- 49 Tibetan herd
- 50 "Kapow!"
- 51 Before
- 52 Play segment
- 53 Where Lux. is
- 54 Ring decision

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 BRAND to TRAIL in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

BRAND

TRAIL

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. TELEVISION: The show "Happy Days" is a spinoff of which older sitcom?
- 2. LITERATURE: Which author created the character Hercule Poirot?
- 3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Where is Barack Obama's presidential library located?
- 4. GEOGRAPHY: What river forms part of the border between the United States and Mexico?
- 5. ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system has the strongest gravitational field?
- 6. U.S. STATES: Which four states intersect at the Four Corners monument?
- 7. SCIENCE: What is anemophily?
- 8. MOVIES: How much does an Oscar award trophy weigh?
- 9. WEATHER: What is a haboob?
- 10. MEASUREMENTS: How many millimeters are in a meter?

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10,000

9. An intense dust storm

8. 8.5 pounds

7. Pollination by the wind

6. Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado

5. Jupiter

4. The Rio Grande

3. Chicago, Illinois

2. Agatha Christie

1. "Love, American Style"

Answers

LIGHTS

Today's Word

3. Dimple; 4. Wrath

1. Gloom 2. Please;

SCRAMBLERS

solution

Answer

WORD LADDER

Answer

BRAND, BRAID, BRAIN,

TRAIN, TRAIT, TRAIL

Answer

WORD LADDER

Answer

BRAND, BRAID, BRAIN,

TRAIN, TRAIT, TRAIL

Answer

WORD LADDER

Answer

BRAND, BRAID, BRAIN,

TRAIN, TRAIT, TRAIL

Answer

WORD LADDER

Answer

BRAND, BRAID, BRAIN,

TRAIN, TRAIT, TRAIL

Answer

WORD LADDER

Answer

BRAND, BRAID, BRAIN,

TRAIN, TRAIT, TRAIL

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

CryptoQuip

When you're an expert in solving adages, what could you say you specialize in? Maxim-izing.

Classified Marketplace

BUY OR SELL
Place A Classified Ad



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

101 LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE ESTATE OF JERILYN KAEIN, Deceased.
No. 2024 PR 49
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of JERILYN KAEIN, of 610 N. Metcalf, Amboy, IL 61310 on 9/26/2024. Letters of Office were issued on November 19, 2024, by the 15th Judicial Circuit Court of Lee County to the representative and Independent Administrator, Jason Kaelin, 610 N. Metcalf, Amboy, IL 61310.

The attorney for the representative of the estate is Robert J. Thompson, 119 West First Street, Ste. 200, P.O. Box 1016, Dixon, Illinois 61021.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Lee County Services Building, 309 South Galena Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021, or with the Representative at the address above within six (6) months from the first publication of this Claim Notice, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of specific notice to known credi-

tors, whichever is later. Any known claim not filed within that time period is barred. Copies of claims filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and/or to the attorney within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.

BY: J A S O N KAEIN, Representative/Administrator
Robert J. Thompson
119 West First Street, Ste. 200
P.O. Box 1016
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 284-7705 phone
(815) 284-7707 facsimile
bobthompsonlaw@gmail.com
No. 0202
(Feb. 19, 26 and Mar. 5, 2025)

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."

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."

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

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

SPLIT Firewood For Sale. Contact 779-251-0254

309 PETS AND SUPPLIES

Friendly cats looking for good & loving forever homes! Call 815-615-1171

405 HOUSES FOR SALE

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

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815-539-9396

Browse & Buy

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Classifieds!

601 VEHICLES FOR SALE

2024 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ



2024 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ 6.2L 29K Miles, White, GM Certified, 1-owner, running boards, bed liner, leather interior, heated / cooled seats, & More!

\$54,900

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• 2-Year/24,000-Mile Standard CPO Maintenance Plan	• 12-Month/12,000-Mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty	• 24/7 Roadside Assistance
		• 172-Point Vehicle Inspection and Reconditioning Process
		• 3-Day/150-Mile Customer Satisfaction Guarantee

2024 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4 6.2L, 29K Miles, White.....\$54,900	2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ, 74K Miles, White.....\$39,900
2024 Chevy Equinox AWD RS, 24K Miles, Blue.....\$28,900	2021 Chevy Blazer AWD Premier, Loaded, 44K Miles, Maroon.....\$33,900
2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab RST 4x4 Diesel, 32K Miles, Gray.....\$43,900	

QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS, SUV'S & VANS

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2021 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 Z71 RST Diesel, 123K Miles, Gray.....\$28,900	2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ, 95K Miles, Gray.....\$26,900
2021 Chevy Traverse LT, AWD, Silver, 102K Miles.....\$23,900	2018 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LT 4x4 Z71, leather, 110K Miles, Maroon.....\$22,900
2019 Chevy Traverse Premier AWD, Loaded, 1 - owner, 66K Miles, White.....\$25,900	2017 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4 6.2L V8, 76K Miles, Maroon.....\$28,900
2019 Chevy Colorado Ext Cab WT V6 2WD, 45K Miles, Black.....\$18,900	2015 Chevy 2500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4 Z71 Longbox, 6.0L gas, 77K Miles, Red.....\$33,900

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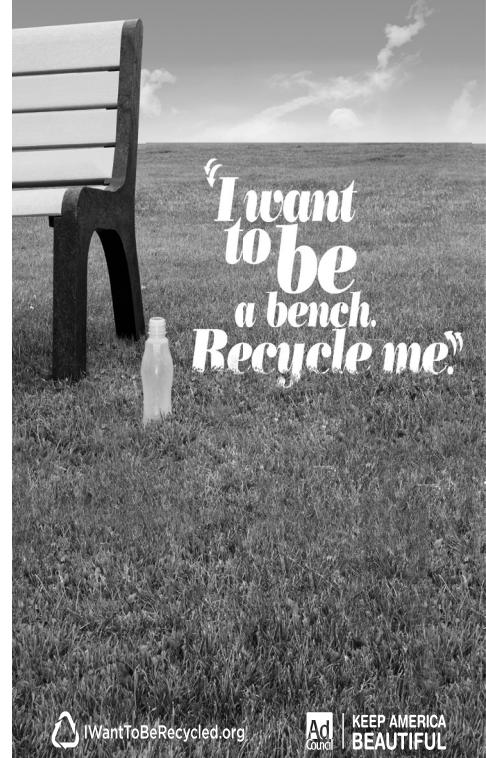
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LOCAL/STATE NEWS

Pritzker calls \$55.2 billion budget 'Responsible and balanced'

Warns state of the state audience, President Trump policies could reroute Illinois' budget

By BEN SZALINKSI

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — An improved revenue forecast is helping ease pressure on state finances as Gov. JB Pritzker calls for tightened spending to balance the budget without tax increases on everyday Illinoisans.

During his annual state of the state and budget address on Wednesday, Pritzker called for a roughly 3% spending increase to \$55.2 billion in fiscal year 2026 that will be supported by a similar increase in state revenue to \$55.5 billion.

The plan factors in a better-than-expected economic outlook for the com-

ing fiscal year after the governor's office originally projected a multi-billion-dollar shortfall in November. Pritzker also proposed a significant spending reduction compared to the November estimate while still increasing spending over current-year levels.

But administration officials also warned that the state is in large part at the whim of President Donald Trump's onslaught of federal policy changes.

The governor's plan assumes a \$173 million increase in federal funding, though Pritzker named several enacted or feared Trump policies that could alter estimates, including tariffs, food safety deregulation and potential health care

cuts.

The governor called his proposal "responsible and balanced," pointing out that it doesn't raise taxes on Illinoisans, though he did propose a tax hike on certain casino profits.

"If there's one thing I've learned as governor, there are no magic bean fixes," Pritzker said. "And each year there's some difficulty that requires us to work hard to overcome it."

Part of the spending plan includes significant changes to immigrant health care programs, including eliminating a program for low-income noncitizens living in the U.S. without legal permission between ages 42 and 64.

Ultimately, lawmakers and the governor will have to come to an agreement on a spending plan by the end of May. But the governor's opening salvo could meet opposition from Democratic lawmakers in the General Assembly — especially members of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus — due to what it doesn't fund.

"All of us have been hearing that it was going to be a tough budget year. I think that we expected there to be some things in the budget that we weren't going to be happy with," Sen. Karina Villa, D-West Chicago, said. "But I think completely removing a program is not anything that we were expecting."

What do Illinois senators, representatives think of the proposed state budget?

State Senator Li Arellano (R-Dixon)

SPRINGFIELD — State Senator Li Arellano, Jr (R-Dixon) has released the below statement following the State of the State and State Budget Address:

"Today's budget proposal highlights ongoing fiscal mismanagement and the troubling financial path our state is on. Since taking office, Governor Pritzker has made history by passing the largest budgets in Illinois' history.

"At a time when families across our state are tightening their belts to make ends meet, this administration is doubling down on even more spending. More spending means more taxes, and what the

Governor failed to mention in his speech—but included in his proposal—is a tax hike on Illinois job creators. These are just more ways to take money out of Illinoisans' pockets.

"I was encouraged to hear the Governor listening to Republicans in his proposal to rolling back free healthcare for non-citizens. I will be closely monitoring this proposal in making sure this is more than an empty promise, ensuring our state's taxpayers aren't left footing the bill for these services."

"In the months ahead, we must focus on real solutions—property tax relief, safer streets, better schools, and meaningful economic growth."

State Representative Brad Fritts (R-Dixon)

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

"Governor Pritzker's State of the State Address was nothing more than political theater filled with partisan rhetoric, empty promises, and a bizarre hyper-focus on national politics. We have plenty of issues to focus on here in Illinois first, such as our \$425 million deficit and rampant crime.

"Despite his smoke and mirror attempts at portraying our budget as balanced, it is anything but. While the rest of Illinois cuts back and

tightens their belts to deal with inflation, the rising cost of living, and the growing tax burden, Governor Pritzker and Illinois Democrats refuse to reign in their spending habits. It's long overdue for the majority party to start making budget cuts the same way hardworking Illinoisans have been forced to do for years.

"Yet, what I find most reprehensible about the Governor's remarks today was when he likened Republicans to Nazis. I, for one, am sick and tired of the same rhetoric, deceit, and blame that comes from the majority party in Illinois. The Governor wants to criticize what he refers to as an 'authoritarian regime.'"

State Senator Sue Rezin (R-Morris)

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Senate Republican Deputy Leader Sue Rezin (R-Morris) issued the following statement in response to the Governor's proposed budget from his budget address:

"Time and time again, the Governor has proposed budgets that rely on overly optimistic revenue projections and gimmicks to appear balanced, only for taxpayers to be left with the consequences when reality sets in. This year is no different, as he has put forward a budget proposal that exceeds \$55 billion, making it the largest spending plan in Illinois history.

"At a time when hardworking families are making tough financial decisions to keep up with

the rising cost of living, the Governor is doing the opposite. His budget represents a nearly 40% increase since he took office, far outpacing the growth of Illinois families' incomes. Instead of prioritizing fiscal responsibility, he continues to place the burden on taxpayers to fund his ever-expanding government, ignoring the financial realities that everyday Illinoisans face.

"While I am encouraged to see that the Governor is finally listening to the concerns of Illinoisans by claiming he will scale back the costly non-citizen healthcare program, I remain skeptical about the long-term sustainability of his overall budget proposal."

Mendota Hills' Jaimie Rogers named Illinois Campground Association president

The Illinois Campground Association named new officers at the end of 2024 for 2025.

At the association's annual meeting in December 2024, a new slate of directors was confirmed, including two members filling vacant positions. The 2025 ICA board of directors is comprised of:

President: Jamie Rogers, Mendota Hills Campground

Vice President: Kate Tuxhorn, Country Bend Campgrounds

Secretary: Jeff Bladdick, I-55 RV Park

Treasurer: Nanette Gillan, Green River Oaks Camping Resort

Member Liaison: Randy Greenman II, Double J Campground

Past President: BJ Davis, Rustic Acres Jellystone ParkTM

ICA welcomes two new campgrounds to its membership in January. Crystal Lake RV Park in Rock Falls, IL is located 2 miles off Interstate 88 and is open year-round with sites designed to accommodate large RVs. Evening Star Camping Resort in Topeka, IL has accommodations ranging from tent sites to full hook-ups and cabins, and amenities including a swimming pool, mini-golf, fishing pond, and playground.

February 2025 marks one year since ICA contracted with Bennett and his staff to manage the day-to-day operations of the association.

According to ICA Executive Director Don Bennett Jr., both the staff and board of directors have been hard at work

engaging with current and prospective members and reaching out to industry suppliers.

"Our goal has been to maintain value in the association and increase our membership through our member engagement, marketing outreach, advocacy activities, and expanding member benefits and services," said Bennett. "This association has a very active and hardworking board of directors that is doing a great service for the outdoor hospitality industry in Illinois."

Any industry supplier or Illinois-based campground interested in joining the association can find enrollment materials online at www.illinoisgocamping.com or contact info@illinoisgocamping.com.



Illinois Campground Association board members congratulate BJ Davis, far right, on his years of service as he transitions from president to past president. Left to right, Kate Tuxhorn of Country Bend Campground, Nanette Gillan of Green River Oaks Camping Resort, Jamie Rogers of Mendota Hills Campground, and ICA Executive Director Don Bennett Jr. Photo contributed

Sidewalk continued from page A1

The filter media at the water treatment plant was completed, while the paperwork is in the lawyer's hands for the undeveloped vacant portion of Thompson Street to be completed.

The Village's website domain, Subletteweb.com, will be in service for another 10 years as the contract was renewed until 2035.

LOCis will become Sublette's new water and garbage billing program either at the end of February or the beginning of March. The committee approved the transition to a new billing program at the January meeting.

Stenzel said LOCis is a well-known program Mendota has used for 20-plus years.

The next Village of Sublette meeting is Monday,

March 10 and the 43rd Annual Farn Toy & Antique Tractor Show is taking place 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 15-16 at downtown Sublette.

The consolidated election is April 1. Stenzel is

running again as well as Makenzie Kessel, village clerk, and trustees Larry Ellis, Julie Kessel and Bob Bulfer.

As of now, no one is opposing, but write-in votes are possible.

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SPORTS

Jose Lopez represents Amboy at IHSA State Wrestling Meet

CHAMPAIGN – The last wrestling tournament of the season, the IHSA State Meet, took place Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 20-22, at the State Farm Center on the campus of the University of Illinois. The Amboy wrestling program was represented by Jose Lopez.

The 150-pound sophomore finishes the season with a 28-17 record after falling in two matches at the state meet.

Lopez fell to Vandalia’s Dillion Hinton (52-3) via a 18-1 technical fall and to Gianni Panozzo (45-8), of Clifton Central, by a 17-2 technical foul.

Check out the March 5 edition of The Amboy News for a full story.

Congratulations to the Amboy Clippers, Lady Clippers for all of their postseason success!

Amboy High School

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Girls Basketball

Lady Clippers are the IHSA Class 1A St. Bede Regional champions

Wrestling

Jose Lopez competed at the IHSA Class 1A State Meet

Boys Basketball

Eddie Jones

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The Amboy boys basketball team walks through the high-five line after defeating Hiawatha 64-50 in an IHSA Class 1A Amboy Quarterfinal. The No. 9-seeded Clippers play No. 2 Annawan in a regional semifinal on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Brandon LaChance/Amboy News

Amboy advances to regional semifinal with 64-50 victory over Hiawatha

BRANDONLaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – With the Amboy boys basketball team being a host for regionals for the 2023-24 season, the squad wants to do one thing, represent the Clippers the best way it can.

The first step of the mission was taken on Monday, Feb. 24 when No. 9-seeded Amboy defeated No. 11 Hiawatha, 64-50, in an IHSA Class 1A Amboy Regional Quarterfinal.

“Since we found out the regional was going to be here, we’ve been really excited about it,” said first-year Amboy coach Tyson Powers. “We wanted to make sure we got to the semifinal and really represent ourselves on our home floor at our regional.”

“I told the guys after the game this is our first playoff win since the 2017-18 season. It’s been 2,500-some days. I’m really proud of these guys. But we’re not satisfied. We’re here to win the whole thing. We’re going to give it our best effort.”

Senior Eddie Jones and junior Ezra Parker tied for a game high scoring 22 points each as the duo combined for 44 of the Clippers 64 points.

They were helped as senior Quinn Leffelman knocked down the only two Amboy 3-pointers in the quarterfinal and finished with eight points, junior Rylan McNinch tallied six, sophomore Colt McCoy finished with four, and freshman Bryson Deery made two free throws.

“We know we’re going to have a size advantage most nights,” Powers said. “We’ve struggled to shoot the ball from the perimeter, but we’ve shot 50 percent from the floor for most of the year. We know when we pound the ball inside, good things are going to happen to us.”

“Eddie is athletic enough in the middle of a zone. We have a high-low going with Eddie and Ezra right now and it worked tonight. Hopefully, they continue to play well. We need them to play well to win the next game.”

The Clippers jumped out to a 21-14 lead over the Hawks after the first quarter, held a 39-25 advantage at halftime, and were ahead 49- 37 after the first three frames.

Yes, scoring helps win games, but the Amboy coach knows his team also has to rely on a strong defense to continue to advance in the regional.

“I thought our pressure was the difference. We’ve done a really good job in the last four games of playing an extended 1-3-1 and getting guys into traps and getting deflections,” Powers said. “Hopefully, we can capitalize on it a little more. We have to continue to keep our defensive pressure up and do it on a higher level on Wednesday.”

Amboy (13-18) will play No. 2 Annawan (21-6) at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26 in an IHSA Class 1A Amboy Regional Semifinal. The winner will play the winner of No. 7 St. Bede (14-18) and No. 3 Forreston (20-12).

The Clippers entered the postseason winning two of their last three contests, which were all in the Northwest Upstate Illini Conference South Division.

The Clippers defeated Polo, 51-50, on Tuesday, Feb. 18 and Milledgeville, 44-37, on Thursday, Feb. 20, while falling to Fulton, 53-44, on Friday, Feb. 21.

Jones, who finished with a team-high 21 points, used the charity strip to the best of his ability against Polo as he sank a free throw with .6 seconds remaining on the clock to give Amboy the one-point Northwest Upstate Illini Conference South Division win.

McNinch scored 12, Parker had seven, Leffelman added five, and Deery pitched in four.

Gus Mumford had a game high 22 points for the Marcos as he knocked down five 3-pointers.

Against Milledgeville, Parker led the way with 14 points, Jones and Deery added 10 apiece, McNinch had eight, and McCoy finished with two.

In the loss to Fulton, Jones scored a game high 16 points, Parker had 11, McCoy seven, Deery six, and Leffelman four.

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SPORTS

Lady Clippers win first regional title since 2020

BRANDONLaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

PERU — There was some doubt at the beginning of the girls basketball season from the Amboy squad.

After defeating Rochelle in the first game of the season, senior guard and one of the Lady Clippers main ball handlers, Addison Pertell, broke her thumb and the team lost four of their next five contests.

However, Pertell came back, and Amboy had only lost three games since November coming into the postseason.

As of press time, this is still the case as the No. 2-seeded Lady Clippers (25-7) won an IHSA Class 1A St. Bede Regional Semifinal over No. 10 Putnam County, 55-31, and the regional championship against No. 3 Marquette, 47-29.

The first regional championship for Amboy since 2020.

"I've been waiting for this since freshman year. It's amazing. I'm so happy. I was caught in the moment, and it took me a minute to figure out where I was supposed to cut the net," Pertell said. "We knew winning the regional was something we could achieve and something we've looked forward to all year."

"We knew we could take control of the entire game. We knew we had it in us. We had beat them before. It was just something we knew we could do. This is super important for our group because we've been playing together since middle school. I know it's something we've all wanted. To win this together and to know we did it, it's just incredible."

In the title game, the Amboy defense had two main objectives, stop No. 20 Kaitlyn Davis and No. 4 Hunter Hopkins as the sophomores led the Lady Crusaders (21-11) past St. Bede is impressive fashion with 24 and 11 points, respectively.

Also, Davis was only two points away from scoring 1,000 career points going into the regional championship.

Davis made a 3-pointer in the first quarter to reach the milestone, but then made one free throw to finish with four points, while Hopkins scored seven.

"We've been thinking



Amboy senior Addison Pertell (No. 12) cuts the first piece of the net after the Lady Clippers won the IHSA Class 1A St. Bede Regional against Marquette, 47-29, on Thursday, Feb. 20 in Peru.
Brandon LaChance/Amboy News

about winning a regional since the season started. The coaches never gave up and they always believed in us," said Amboy senior Tyrah Vaessen, who pulled in a game high 15 rebounds. "As a team, we worked every day in practice. We just felt this. This is what we wanted all year. We tied for first in our conference and winning this regional is unbelievable for us."

"After watching her on Tuesday against St. Bede, we knew Davis was a big-time shooter and a key to their offense. Coach McCracken was always preaching to us, 'Get to 20, get to 20.' That's what we had to do against Marquette."

Offensively, the Lady Clippers had three players knock down a 3-pointer in Vaessen, Pertell, and junior Jillian Anderson and pounded the paint with senior Emily Sachs and junior Bella Yanos.

Yanos led the Amboy charge with 14 points, Pertell finished with 10, Vaessen added eight points, Anderson scored seven, Sachs tallied 11 rebounds and six points, and junior Ellie Mc-

Laughlin had two points.

"It feels great. We worked our butts off the entire season for this moment. At first, I didn't think we were going to make it this far or get 25 wins. But, in the end, we got here and won a regional championship," Yanos said. "I was driving to the basket like I normally do. If I wasn't driving to the basket, and somebody was on me, I was just trying to take that open shot. If it went in, it went in, and if it didn't, I knew someone was on the backside to get the rebound and put back up."

"It means a lot to be part of this group. I've played with Tyrah, Emily, and all of them for so many years. I knew they wanted to get to this moment since we fell short last year. I knew they wanted to get here. We did it. I'm really happy to win this with this group of girls."

Coach Mike McCracken was well aware of the slow start to the season and to the regional final.

But as always, the trust he has in his team prevailed and the girls

responded by winning the first regional final for the Amboy girls program in five years.

"After a bad start to the game, we played pretty well. Our defense was great for a long time. We got a little out of whack for awhile and they were shooting further and further away," McCracken said. "With their shooting range and their shooting ability, it's never over."

"I told them before the game started, 'I'm not much on calling timeouts because I believe in you. I know you can get through it.' Our first few points were free throws. It took us awhile to get our first basket, but then we went ahead 14-13 and they stayed on 13 for a long time."

Amboy plays Chicago Morgan Park Academy in a Class 1A Hinckley-Big Rock Semifinal on Tuesday, Feb. 25, which is after press time but before The Amboy News is published.

If they win Tuesday, the Lady Clippers will play the winner of Yorkville Christian and Elgin St. Edward in the sectional championship at 6 p.m.



The Lady Clippers celebrate with their first regional plaque since 2020.
Brandon LaChance/Amboy News



Senior Emily Sachs (No. 32) goes up for a layup in the IHSA Class 1A St. Bede Regional. Sachs had 11 rebounds and six points against Marquette.
Brandon LaChance/Amboy News

Thursday, Feb. 27.

Regional semifinal Amboy 55, Putnam County 31

Yanos also led the Amboy scoring attack on Tuesday as she recorded 19 points.

Pertell and Anderson

scored nine each, Vaessen had six points, sophomore Alexa McKendry chipped in five, and McLaughlin added two.

The Lady Clippers were ahead 12-4 after the first quarter, 20-11 at halftime, and 39-20 after three quarters.

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<div>Sugardale Bacon 16 oz</div> <div></div> <div><div><div><div>HOT DEAL</div></div></div><div><div>\$4.99</div><div>ea.</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$6.99/ea.</div></div>	<div>Sugardale Hot Dogs 16 oz</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>2/\$3</div><div>ea.</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$1.99/ea.</div></div>	<div>Hungry Man Dinners 13 to 16 oz</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>\$3.99</div><div>ea.</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$4.99/ea.</div></div>	<div>Healthy Choice Entrees 9.25 to 10.7 oz</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>\$3.49</div><div>ea.</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$4.19/ea.</div></div>	
<div>SunnyD 128 oz</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>\$3.99</div><div>ea.</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$4.29/ea.</div></div>	<div>Land o Lakes butter 16 oz</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>\$4.99</div><div>ea.</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$6.99/ea.</div></div>	<div>Betty Crocker Frosting 12 to 16 oz select</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>\$1.99</div><div>ea.</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$2.79/ea.</div></div>	<div>Dunkin Coffee 10 ot K Cups</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>\$7.99</div><div>ea.</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$9.29/ea.</div></div>	<div>Fruit Loops Or Frosted Flakes Cereal 8.8 to 15.8 oz</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>2/\$6</div><div>ea</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$5.49/ea.</div></div>
<div>Crav'n Flavor Saltine Crackers 24 pk</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>2/\$4</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$2.49/ea.</div></div>	<div>Food club dressing 16 oz</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>\$1.99</div><div>ea.</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$2.49/ea.</div></div>	<div>That's Smart Crackers 9 oz</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>2/\$2</div><div>ea.</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$1.59/ea.</div></div>	<div>Velveeta Cheese Dip Assorted 15 oz</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>\$3.99</div><div>ea</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$4.49/ea.</div></div>	<div>Crav'n chocolate chip cookies 11.75 to 13 oz</div> <div></div> <div><div><div>\$2.99</div><div>ea.</div></div><div>Reg. Price \$3.49/ea.</div></div>

Sale goes through Feb 26th-Mar 4th