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Easy day at the polls for Sublette voters

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

SUBLETTE – The Illinois Consolidated Elections on April 1 didn’t provide much excitement or musical chairs for elected positions in Sublette.

Without opposition, John Stenzel remains Sublette’s village president, while Makenzie Kessel is still the village clerk, and Bob Bulfer, Larry Ellis, and Julie Kessel stay as trustees.

Township positions didn’t have opposition either, as Daniel M. Stephenich is the township supervisor, Deborah Schultz is the township clerk, Dennis Erbes is the highway commissioner, the township trustees remain Breenan Barker, Annette Bonnell, Douglas McLaughlin, and Delbert Stenzel.

There were no candidates for Sublette township community building board member.

CSUD #272 Board seat records 3,374 votes in 13 precincts to elect four of six options in only Amboy election race

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – There was only one race on the April 1 Consolidated election with opposition for Amboy, four-year member of the Community School Unit District #272.

With six names on the ballot, only four could be chosen.

With 421 votes, Katie Pratt, former president

of the district, Mandy Powers (367), Elisa Payne (364), and Andrew Montavon (353) were the top four vote getters. The bottom two were Rory White (287) and Nicholas Brokaw (166).

The rest of the races had no opposition as Frank Stenzel is the mayor, Melissa Eisenberg is the city clerk, alderpersons remain Greg Noble (Ward 1), Bill Bontz (Ward 2), Dave Shaw (Ward 3).

Jeffrey Parker, a write in, was an unopposed selection to take the two-year unexpired Ward 3 position.

In township roles, Emily O’Malley is the town supervisor, Amy Scudder is the town clerk, Tom Bulfer is the highway commissioner, and the town trustees are William Metzen, Leo McCoy, David Nauman, and Carl Grossman.

The Race to Battle PSP is back for the third time

8 a.m. Saturday, May 17, starting at 11 E. Hawley

By BRANDON LaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY– Derrek Barlow’s life changed about five years ago.

First there was realizing something in the noggin wasn’t right. Then there was an inaccurate diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis, followed by more tests, additional doctors, and finally the correct (but no one would mind if it was wrong or wasn’t true) discovery.

Barlow, now 56, had acquired Corticobasal degeneration (CBD). He, his wife Ann, and his four children Brandon (now 31), Carley (29), Brittany (23), and Carson (a senior at Amboy High School) had no idea what CBD or PSP were.

“CurePSP raises money for three different diseases that are pretty much the same,” said Carley, now Hagemann after marrying Zach. “They each just mess with a different strand of the brain. The way that I understand it best is CBD is Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease together. Once it hits, your brain is shrinking and you’re losing functionality of your body.

“Research has shown, once you’re diagnosed, you have five years to live but there isn’t a lot of people with these diseases. As time moves forward, more and more people are being diagnosed.”

The three similar diseases are CBD, Progressive Supranuclear palsy (PSP), and Multiple System Atrophy (MSA).

Hagemann not knowing how to help her dad found her niche.

After Derrek was one of the first CBD patients to have a surgery done common with Parkinson’s disease patients featuring brain stimulations in 2021, Hagemann organized a fundraiser.

As she realized there wasn’t a cure and there was an organization, CurePSP, always searching for funding, Hagemann decided to continually help her father and the cause.

“I started it because there was something I needed to do for him because there was nothing else I could do,” Hagemann said. “I can’t change his disease. For me to cope, this is what I’m doing. We have met another family (live in Sycamore but originally from Rock Falls) who’s mom passed away from a disease in 2024. They’ve participated in our 5K the last two years and this year we’re going to have a memorial for her this year.

“The goal is to have a cure. If it



Derrek Barlow, right, is lost for words when asked what it means to him for his daughter Carley Hagemann to put together the Race to Battle PSP the last three years and for the Amboy community to come together to support him those three years. Barlow was diagnosed with Corticobasal degeneration (CBD) about five years ago.

Photo courtesy of Brenda Merriman

isn’t going to be for my dad, I want to help other families. My dad is my best friend. This is something that is so close to me. My aunts, my siblings, and my entire family, on both sides, comes together for this. It’s a fun day.”

This birthed Race to Beat PSP, a 5K Hagemann created to give back. The third version of the race is set for 8 a.m. Saturday, May 17 with the start at 11 E. Hawley St. in Amboy.

The race, which runs the same route as the Depot Day Dash, costs \$25 for registration, which is 100 percent given to CurePSP.

“It’s amazing to have people who care that much and support me, it’s a God send,” said Barlow. “It would be tough for me to go through this without all of the support I’ve had. Every little thing you can take from all of this helps you get through your day and keep you going.

“I feel bad for all of the work Carley puts into this. She’s amazing. I don’t know what I’d do without her. We

wouldn’t have had this race without Carley because no one else was going to do it. I never thought it would get to be this big.

“I thought if our whole family and a few friends came to it, it would be a success. To see how many people have come, it’s just amazing. I’m very thankful for everyone who is involved and participates.”

The first year, 100 people participated. Last year, there were 136.

The family goal is for 150 people to join the race, the festivities, the fundraising on May 17.

“He has definitely beat the odds because they diagnosed him with MS first and now, he’s gotten this far,” Hagemann said. “He has beat the odds, but he is also very young. A lot of people who get diagnosed with these three diseases are older. They can hit anyone, but he is young to get it.

“We are thankful for the community. Amboy has supported us no matter what. Everyone is a big part of this.”

Lee County Fire Dept. awarded grant

SPRINGFIELD – State Senator Li Arellano, Jr (R-Dixon) and the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal recently announced five Small Equipment Grants awarded to fire departments across the 37th District.

“These grants are critical for our rural emergency services,” said Senator Arellano, Jr. “Many of these departments operate on tight budgets and depend on community fundraising just to stay afloat. This funding ensures they have the resources necessary to protect and serve their communities effectively.”

The following fire departments in the 37th District received grants are the Lee Community Fire Protection District (\$25,000), Malta Fire Protection District (\$11,997), Dunlap Community Fire Protection District (\$21,985), Erie Fire Protection District (\$23,919), and Mineral Gold Fire Protection District (\$24,991).

The OSFM received 347 applications requesting a total of \$7.7 million in funding during this grant period.



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LOCAL NEWS



Barlow earns April's Student of the Month

AMBOY – Carson Barlow, son of Derrek and Ann Barlow, is First National Bank in Amboy's April Student of the Month.

The senior at Amboy High School is also a FNB Athlete of the Week (Page A10).

GPA: 3.596

Memberships and Involvement: Four-year member of the baseball and golf teams, a three-year member of the basketball team, a member of the National Honors Society.

Awards and Honors: All-conference honorable mention for golf, most improved for both, golf and baseball teams.

Pankhurst Memorial Library April programs

AMBOY – There are plenty of events happening at the Pankhurst Memorial Library in Amboy during the month of April.

Book Club –
5-6 p.m. April 21

Diamond Painting –
4-6 p.m. April 14, 28

Crochet Club –
5:15-6:15 p.m. April 16, 30

Mommy & Me –
10-10:45 a.m. every Tuesday

Amboy High School Report

Janet Crownhart, Principal

This week, Amboy High School juniors will be taking the ACT.

The ACT is returning as the state's standardized test after many years of having the SAT administered to them.

Next week, the freshmen and sophomores will take the pre-ACT in order to see how they score, and we will get information on what

they need to work on in order to succeed on the ACT as a junior. We are hoping all students come to school nourished and ready to do their best on the test.

Art students showcase their artwork in the junior/senior high school library. All students are putting their work on display in the library to allow their peers

and the junior high students to see their work.

STEM students have been busy growing plants with hydroponics and building barn owl nesting boxes that will be put up around the county. Listed as endangered in Illinois, barn owls are helpful as they prey on rodents that damage crops and spread disease.



“Sunrise Windmill” taken by Raymond Cox of Hennepin is one of 52 works by 26 artists on display in the Focus on Photography Art Exhibit at the Coliseum Museum in Oregon. Photo contributed

Focus on Photography Art Exhibit opened April 4 at the Coliseum Museum

OREGON – The Coliseum Museum has opened the Focus on Photography Art Exhibit featuring 26 artists with a total of 52 works of art on display.

Focus on photography, available for viewing until May 17, is an exhibit for photographers only working in all forms including digital, film, mixed and

unique processes.

Participating artists are Rick Brant, Bob Cholke, Raymond Cox, Rick Davis, Brooke Engberg, Jane Erlandson, Jeanne Garrett, Lynn Garrison, Rob Gieraltowski, Stephen Hart, Kat Heitzman, Matthew Klein, Linnea Koch, Amy May Laskye, Bob Logsdon, Joann Murdock, Gary Pearson, Paul Pinzarrone, Robin Poole, Joe Popp, Stephonie Schmitz, Beth Simeone, Steve Toole, Peter Toth, Sam Tucibat, and Joseph Virbickis.

The exhibit will be judged by Rich Ankeney

with awards presented at a reception from 6-9 p.m. Friday, April 11 with music by Jeffrey Little.

Ankeney earned a BFA in painting and photography from Quincy University, a master's degree in art education from Illinois State University, and a master's degree in instructional technology from Western Illinois University.

Visitors to the Coliseum Museum will also be allowed to vote for their favorite art piece with the People's Choice Award winner announced at the

close of the exhibition.

The April schedule also includes new exhibits by Kat Heitzman on the Feature Walls, and Joy Meyer in the Taft Gallery.

The Coliseum Museum mission is to present Art, Antiques, Americana and history through permanent and rotating exhibits, workshops, music, theater and more. Additional information can be found on the website, www.cmaaa.org and Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ColiseumMuseum/

Thank You to all of my supporters in the recent election for Amboy City Council Third Ward.

David Shaw

Did you vote on April 1?



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LOCAL NEWS

TEEN TURF

Thank you to everyone for your continued support. Important dates to note:

Friday, April 11 is our Fish Fry. Tickets are available as they can be purchased from Eileen Piper, or any of these board members: Barb Harrison, Mark Grossman, Larry Piper, Josh Gordon, Bonny Faivre, and Amber Horner.

We are also looking for people to donate cookies for the fish fry. Please contact Teen Turf at 815-857-4800.

Sunday, May 4 is the drawdown. You can get draw-down tickets from the board members listed above.

Senator Arellano, Jr announces April Mobile Constituent services

DIXON—State Senator Li Arellano, Jr (R-Dixon) and his staff will host a series of mobile constituent services events across the 37th Senate District at nine different locations in April.

“We just wrapped up our first month of Mobile Constituent Services across the district, where we were able to bring our office on the road to help residents with state issues,” said Senator Arellano, Jr. “This is a great opportunity to meet with folks in more rural areas of the county, so they don’t have to travel to my offices in Dixon and Geneseo.”

The Mobile Constituent Services schedule for April is as follows:

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

River Valley District Library
214 S. Main Street,
Port Byron, IL
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Rapids City Village Hall
1204 4th Ave.,
Rapids City, IL
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Walnut Public Library
101 Heaton Street,

Walnut, IL 61376
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Ohio Public Library
112 N. Main St.,
Ohio, IL 61349
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

LaMoille Clarion Library District
81 N. Main St., LaMoille, IL 61330
3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Princeton Public Library
698 E. Peru St.,
Princeton, IL 61356
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Tiskilwa Public Library
119 E. Main St.,
Tiskilwa, IL 61368
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Senator Arellano, Jr plans to be at Mobile Constituent Services on April 16 and April 22. Staff will be available to assist on all other days, as the Senator will be in Springfield for session.

If you are unable to attend Senator Arellano, Jr’s Mobile Constituent Service hours, please contact his office at 779-251-5003 or visit www.SenatorLi.com for assistance.

Illinoisian wins Mega Millions jackpot worth \$344 million

CHICAGO—Citizens of Illinois have struck luck with the Illinois lottery in the last few years.

It happened once again on March 26 when the Mega Millions jackpot ticket worth \$344 million was purchased at the Casey’s General Store located at 70 S. Somonauk Road in Cortland.

The winning selections were 1-5-17-39-62-8 on the ticket, which Casey’s received a cash bonus of \$500,000 for selling.

In June of 2021, an Illinoisian from Crestwood won a \$56 million jackpot at a Citgo gas station. The largest lottery prize in Illinois history happened in July 2022 when a ticket was bought at a gas station in Des Plaines and the prize was \$1.34 billion. And just last year, June 2024, an iLottery player from Illinois won the largest prize ever won in an online lotto in United States history with \$552 million.

City of Amboy hydrant flushing April 21-25

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY TOWNSHIP—Tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the May Township Road District for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026 will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the clerk’s residence, Lisa Bickett, by appointment from 3-6 p.m. Sunday, April 6.

PAW PAW—The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Paw Paw will commence at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 9 at the Paw Paw Village Hall.

EAST GROVE—Tentative budgets and appropriation ordinances for the East Grove Township, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026 will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at the East Grove Twp. Building. There will be a hearing on the budgets and appropriation ordinances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9 at the East Grove Twp. Building. The final action on these ordinances will be taken at the public hearing.

AMBOY—The Amboy Lions Club meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, April 14 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 Amboy City Council will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 21 at the Amboy Community Center, 290 W. Wasson Road. The council meets every third Monday each month.

PAW PAW—The annual end of the year meeting for the Village of Paw Paw will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 23 at the Paw Paw Village Hall.

AMBOY—The City of Amboy committee meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, May 5 at the Community Center, 280 W. Wasson Rd. The meetings take place the first Monday of every month.

SUBLETTE—The next Village of Sublette meeting is at 7 p.m. Monday, May 12 at the Ellice Dinges Center at 202 S. West Street in Sublette.

DIXON—The Lee County Board of Health will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at the Lee County Health Department, located at 309 Galena Avenue, Suite 100 in Dixon.

MAY TOWNSHIP—The monthly May Township meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 at the township maintenance building.

EAST GROVE—East Grove Township is holding

100 days and counting until Illinois State Fair

SPRINGFIELD—The countdown is on.

The Illinois State Fair is marking 100 days until the opening of the 2025 Fair with a special “100 Days Out” celebration from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29 at the Reisch Pavilion on the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

State Fair favorites such as Taft’s Mr. Ribeye, Food Baby, 17th Street Barbecue, Vose’s Korndogs and Hae’s Bakery & Coffee Shoppe will be selling food and drinks as a preview to the Illinois State Fair, which will run August 7-17.

Plus, have lunch with us and get the chance to win the ultimate Illinois State Fair prize package—two track tickets to every Grandstand concert at the 2025 Illinois State Fair. Each food item purchased at the event earns a raffle ticket for entry, and you do not need to be present to win.

Discounted mega passes, jumbo passes, admission booklets and parking passes will also be available for purchase during the event.

“We are proud to showcase the Illinois State Fairgrounds following another record-breaking year,” said Jerry Costello II, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. “This 100 Days Out Celebration is an opportunity to look ahead in anticipation for the 2025 Illinois State Fair, which promises to be the biggest and best yet.”

“This event is all about building excitement as we count down to opening day,” said Rebecca Clark, Illinois State Fair Manager. “It’s a great way to sample some of the Fair’s most beloved foods, stock up on money-saving passes to the fair, and get the community energized for what’s to come in August.”

its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 at the East Grove Township Hall.

MAY TOWNSHIP—A public hearing on the 2025-26 budget and appropriation ordinance for May Township will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 at the May Township maintenance building. The final action on the ordinance will take place at the public hearing.

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.

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Wednesday – Meatball sub, potato wedges, peas & carrots, diced peaches, whole grain dinner roll
Thursday – (A) Pulled pork on whole grain wheat bun, broccoli, cheesy mashed potatoes, fruit cocktail; (B) Tuna salad/chix rice
Friday – Hot ham & cheese on whole grain bun, baked beans, tater tots, chilled applesauce

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Judith “Judy” Laws Jan. 27, 1942 - March 28, 2025

ROCK FALLS – Judith “Judy” Laws, 83, of Rock Falls, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 28, 2025, at Allure of Sterling, surrounded by her loving family.

Memorials may be given in her memory to the Special Olympics.

Laws was born on January 27, 1942, in Amboy, the daughter of Clarence Arthur and Elizabeth Mary (Bodmer) Reinhold. She was a proud graduate of Amboy High School and married the love of her life, Dale C. Laws, on July 29, 1961, in Amboy. They shared a lifetime of love and laughter until his passing on March 24, 2006.

Judy was a beloved sister, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who had a spunky

spirit and a love for life. She spent over 30 years as a school bus driver, a job she loved with kids she cherished. She found joy in bowling with friends, cruising the open seas, and listening to classic country music, especially Conway Twitty. Her quick wit, warm heart, and unwavering presence will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She was a faithful member of St. Andrew Catholic Church.

Laws is survived by her children: Connie (Joe) Johnston, Lori (Todd) Miller, Christy Laws, and Dean (Sarah) Laws; daughter-in-law Tracey Laws; grandchildren: Jim Johnston, Jessica Johnston, Dustin (Amanda) Miller, Dylan



Miller, Alyssa Miller, Kiley Laws, Chloe Laws, Sophie Laws, Matthew Laws, Evan Laws, and Owen Laws; great-grandson, Beckett Miller; brother Jim (Janet) Reinhold; and sister Mary Harrawood.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her son Jeff, her brothers Robert and Donald Reinhold, and her infant sisters Sandra and Patricia Reinhold.

Daniel “Dan” Jerome Morrissey Aug. 27, 1943 - April 4, 2025

MOLINE – Daniel “Dan” Jerome Morrissey, 81, of Moline, passed away April 4, 2025 at Silver Cross Health & Rehabilitation, Rock Island.

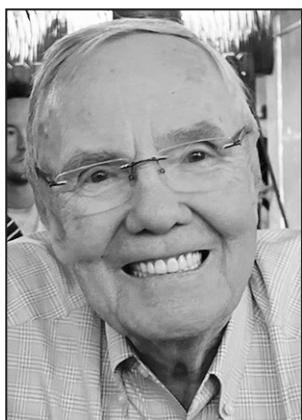
Funeral Mass will be 10 a.m. Wednesday April 9, 2025, at Christ the King Catholic Church in Moline. Graveside services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday April 9, 2025, at Chapel Hill Cemetery in Dixon. Memorials may be made to Christ the King Catholic Church or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Morrissey was born on August 27, 1943, in Amboy, the son of James and

Marie (Dorn) Morrissey. He married Patricia Greenfield in 1970, in Walton. She preceded him in death in December 2008.

Dan was a barber and owned and operated several barber colleges before retiring in 2015. He genuinely loved his work and enjoyed connecting with former students. He was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and loved going to the games. Dan adored being with his family and friends.

Survivors include his sister, Eleanor Hodges, Rockford; brother, James P. Morrissey, Stuart, FL; and many nieces and



nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, three brothers, and one sister.

Memories may be shared online by visiting [esterdahl.com](https://www.esterdahl.com).

Trump Administration slashes pledged funding that would protect Illinoisans from infectious disease outbreaks

SPRINGFIELD – The Trump Administration notified the Illinois Department of Public Health it is terminating federal grants nationwide that had been already awarded to support the ongoing work to protect the public from infectious diseases.

The termination pulls back \$125 million in funding for IDPH and 97 local public health departments, which had been allocated by IDPH for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Disease program and other uses.

The funding was awarded to Illinois through 14 separate budget lines in the federal bipartisan CARES Act passed during the first Trump Administration. In addition to rescinding \$125 million in previously approved investments, this Trump Administration is also blocking \$324 million for future work to prevent and treat infectious disease in Illinois. As originally passed, the bill would have provided up to \$449 million in direct long-term support for the state’s disease surveillance and vaccination activities.

However, with the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, IDPH intended to rely on \$125 million of the remaining funds to strengthen COVID-19, measles and H5N1 disease surveillance, and to prepare for

future potential pandemics.

IDPH allocated the targeted funds for technology to track the spread of diseases, invest in labs that test samples for infectious diseases, surveil wastewater, build the public health workforce, and strengthen local health departments.

“This decision to terminate already awarded federal funding will cause immeasurable harm and disruption to the health and safety of the people of Illinois and generate larger expenses in the longer run,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “The State of Illinois will do everything in our power to restore this vital federal funding and continue to invest in common sense public health solutions to keep our state safe and healthy.”

“While IDPH has been preparing for anticipated federal budget cuts, the termination of this awarded funding will have a debilitating impact on our efforts to protect the health of Illinoisans,” said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. “If allowed to stand, this funding cut will set back critical upgrades to our public health labs, technology used to track infectious diseases like H5N1 avian flu and measles, vaccination efforts, and our ongoing work to better prepare for the next public health emergency.”

EPA announces Notice of Funding opportunity for residential sharps collections

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Acting Director, James Jennings, recently announced a funding opportunity that will provide grants to units of local government for the collection and disposal of household sharps from their residents.

Sharps, which include needles, syringes, and lancets, collected from private citizens are a household waste. Through the grant program, Illinois EPA will reimburse grantees that operate a sharps collection station as defined in Section 3.458 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act.

“We have seen great success from our Residential Sharps Collection Program to date and we look forward

to continued work with our local partners,” said Acting Director Jennings. “By providing this funding to local governments, we are providing increased opportunities for residents to safely dispose of their medical sharps.”

Applicants may be eligible for funding of up to \$35,000 to cover expenses incurred in collecting, storing, and disposing of used sharps. Eligible expenses include costs for advertising sharps collection stations, educational materials focused on proper disposal of sharps, obtaining collection containers for use by individual residents, collection receptacles to store sharps at the sharps collection sta-

tion, mobilization fees assessed by a permitted Potentially Infectious Medical Waste (PIMW) transporter to pick-up collected sharps, and disposal for the collected sharps.

All required forms and information can be found at: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/medication-disposal/sharps/residential-sharps-collection-program.html>.

Applications for the Residential Sharps Collection Program will be accepted until funding is expended or March 31, 2026.

Applicants may not apply for a grant until they are pre-qualified through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal.

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.graceforyou.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 Fronек
Mass - Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m.
Saturday – 5:30 p.m.

St. Patrick Church - Maytown
Rev. Randy Fronек
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 Fronек
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:

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Sensient Flavors, LLC.
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815-539-9396



STATE NEWS

Despite two decades of education, enforcement, drivers still failing Scott’s Law

By **BETH HUNSDORFER**
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

For a moment, Illinois State Trooper Alex Womack was flying, tumbling in mid-air, alternately seeing sky then ground.

He doesn’t remember hitting the road.

He regained consciousness and realized he had been hit by a truck and was lying in the middle of a darkened interstate near East St. Louis, unable to move with cars traveling 70 mph headed toward him. He remembers seeing the oncoming headlights.

“I was able to raise my one arm off the ground,” Womack said.

An oncoming driver saw his upraised arm in his headlights and slammed on the brakes, managing to stop just feet away. That shaken driver pulled the injured trooper off the roadway to safety.

Womack had just become the 19th of 26 Illinois state troopers involved in a Scott’s Law crash in 2019 — a year when two troopers were killed and a dozen, including Womack, were injured. Those crashes spurred legislative changes and heightened public awareness campaigns.

Scott’s Law, also known as the Move Over Law, requires that all vehicles move over, if possible, or slow down when passing a stopped or disabled emergency vehicle with its flashing lights on. It was passed in 2001. Since 2019, state police have been involved in 140 crashes caused by drivers violating the Move Over Law.

In 2024, there were more crashes than in the past five years — 27 in all — including a fatal collision that killed Trooper Clay Carns, an 11-year veteran and father of two. Carns died Dec. 23, 2024, after he was struck while clearing debris from the highway after a crash on Interstate 55 near Channahon.

The crash that killed Carns happened 24 years to the day after Chicago Fire Department Lt. Scott Gillen died after he was struck by a passing car at an accident scene. The legislation that later became known as Scott’s Law was named for Gillen.

The 2019 deaths of two troopers in an eight-week period once again put the Move Over Law in the spotlight.

On Jan. 12, 2019, Trooper Christopher Lambert died after a crash on Interstate 294 in Cook County. On March 28, 2019, Trooper Brooke Jones Story died in crash on U.S. 20 in Stephenson County.



Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly hands a flag to Meghan Carns, the widow of Trooper Clay Carns, who died on Dec. 23, 2024. John Fleet, 69, of Wilmington, was charged with violating Scott’s Law, which is a Class 4 Felony. Photo contributed

One of Brendan Kelly’s first duties as the newly appointed director of the Illinois State Police was delivering the eulogy at Jones Story’s funeral.

Since then, one of Kelly’s missions has been to educate the public on the Move Over Law, including enforcement details to ticket violators and campaigns to educate drivers. In 2019, ISP issued nearly 6,300 citations for violating the Move Over Law — which was nearly 5,300 more than the combined totals of the two previous years.

“We will continue to hammer home this message as long as it takes because this is a matter of life and death for our officers and for the safety of the public,” Kelly said.

A person who violates the Move Over Law now faces a minimum fine of \$250 up to a maximum of \$10,000 for a first offense. If the violation results in injury to another person, the violator’s driver’s license will be suspended for up to two years.

In the wake of the 2019 deaths, Gov. JB Pritzker formed a task force that recommended changes in the law and stiffer penalties for violators, improvements in protective equipment and lighting for trooper, and public awareness campaigns.

Three days after the task force released its first report, there was

another crash.

On Feb. 15, 2021, Trooper Brian Frank, with his marked squad car’s emergency lights activated, stopped in the left lane of Interstate 55 northbound near Route 30 near Joliet to block traffic for a crash that had just occurred. While still inside his squad car, a black Cadillac struck the rear of Trooper Frank’s squad car, leaving him with serious brain injuries.

Lauren Frank, Trooper Frank’s wife, became an advocate for the Move Over Law, including advocating for a bill on Aug. 12, 2021, that strengthened the penalties against violators.

Brian Frank continues to recover from his catastrophic brain injury and remains in a “minimally conscious state.”

Brian Angel Casillas, the driver who hit Frank, received a 15-month prison sentence.

The Move Over Law protections were further expanded this year. Beginning on Jan. 1, drivers must change lanes, reduce speed, or stop when approaching or passing any emergency vehicle, including police, sheriff, ambulances and maintenance vehicles, with the flashing lights activated. Drivers are also required to yield the right-of-way to any authorized vehicle or pedestrian actually engaged in work

on a highway or a construction zone.

ISP is also employing technology to reduce Scott’s Law crashes. Late last year, the agency announced a partnership with HAAS Alert — a company that provides safety alerts to drivers, notifying them of ISP activity in the road ahead and urging them to slow down and move over. HAAS provides real-time GPS-based traffic information in Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Mercedes-Benz, RAM and Volkswagen vehicles.

ISP provides information about crashes, traffic stops, motorist assists or debris on the roadway, which is then pushed out to in-vehicle GPS systems. As drivers approach the GPS location of the trooper, they will see a police icon and receive an alert to slow down and move over.

ISP also partnered with Google to provide notifications in Google and Waze Maps to expand the alerts on their platforms.

So far this year, there have been four crashes in Illinois, injuring three troopers.

Womack, the trooper who was struck in March 2019, sustained a broken femur, humorous, compressed discs in his vertebrae. He underwent two surgeries and months of physical therapy. He didn’t return to full work duties for more than a year, but he said he was thankful to be alive.

“By the grace of God, I was saved. It just wasn’t my time to go,” Womack said.

Kyamran B. Makharadze, 26, the truck driver who hit Womack, was charged with aggravated driving under the influence and aggravated reckless driving. He pleaded guilty in 2023 and received a year in prison.

Womack returned to work after months of recovery. Today, he said when he pulls over drivers for violating the Move Over Law, he tells them what happened to him.

“I hope it’s a lesson,” Womack said. “I work on the side of the road. That’s my office. And, at the end of the day, I just want to go home.”

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

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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

Spring is the worst season of all time

Do you like to be lied to?
If you tell me your favorite season is spring, I will automatically think you don't like the truth because spring is a life (Ok, season) full of lies.
Every 10-15 minutes, what you were told or what you thought were going to happen, turns to be rubbish.
It starts with Mother Nature herself not understanding, realizing, or caring how much precipitation she has stored in the tank. Sometimes she thinks there isn't much, opens up the drain, and it turns into two days of thunderstorms when the radar read 10 percent chance of sputtering a few hours before.
Or how about when the radar says three consecutive days of 80-plus percent of pouring rain. Those days get here, after events or work assignments were canceled two days ahead of time, and it's sunny and 70 degrees. It's hard to be mad when you get a beautiful

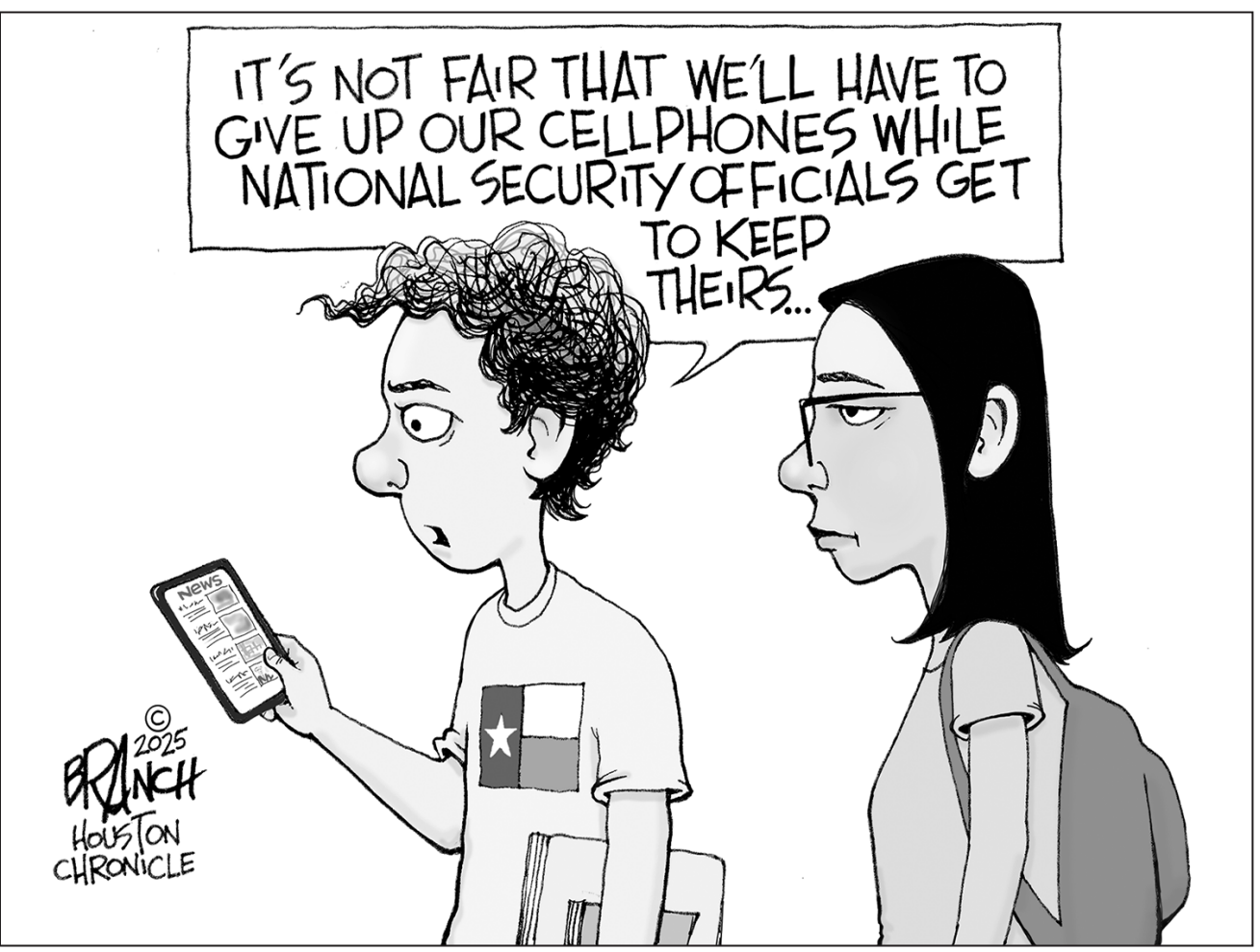
Column

By Brandon LaChance



vacation day on a Wednesday when you're sitting on your porch in shorts sipping a glass of lemonade, until you remember you're missing out on money promised for the day's job.
And of course, the worst to me, when the day starts of amazing, and you think, 'Yes, spring is here,' followed by dark clouds, insane wind, and ripped umbrellas.
Previously mentioned, the radar aka the meteorologists, are never in trouble if they're wrong. What does it matter to them if they lie to us?
The radar isn't going to be destroyed. It will be replaced eventually, but the next generation will have a like number or letter in the name, which means it's is an offspring or heir to the weather technology throne.
And, let's not forget, more money is dumped into the furthering of these machines than most education or civic community endeavors.
I don't know if there is a more truthful employment statement than, 'You should become

a full-time weather man, you'll get paid to be wrong.' This statement was directed my way a few weeks ago when I broadcasted weather and news on a local radio station.
If this is the last column you see from me... well, I decided to become a full-time liar.
I hope they're not wrong on purpose, however, it seems like it sometimes. If we recorded their odds or percentages of being correct, it would be less than the 3-point percentages of NBA players, on the bench.
Families who try to plan an outside event during the spring, usually have to reschedule.
The first three weeks of the IHSA baseball, softball, soccer, and track and field seasons have to monitor the radar, trust their guts, and decipher whether to agree or disagree with other coaches and athletic directors to sneak in as many games as they can.
Although a snow or ice
Every day of the spring season is trapped in a hall of lies.
The weather is mischievous.
Spring is the worst season of all time.



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

100 years ago April 10, 1925

Fire fanned by a strong south breeze, completely destroyed the farm home belonging to Amoe Leffelman living about 4 1/2 miles northwest of Sublette.
Marjorie Woleoff's name still heads the high school honor roll the end of March, with three As and three A-. Others earning highest honors were Olive Barlow, Dean Finch, Ruth McMahon, Sarah Prytherch, Everett Donoho, Marie Ross, Evelyn Weaver, Jack Brewer, and John Brewer.

75 years ago April 13, 1950

Charles E. Yale, Lee County Farm Adviser, who has been on a leave of absence doing extension work in Greece, has returned home and will give a report of his activities to the Farm Bureau Membership at a meeting.

Amboy volunteer firemen, working in shifts, remained at the fire station in the city hall from 1:15 p.m. Easter Sunday to 5:30 a.m. Monday to assure fire protection to the district as the sleet had rendered the fire siren useless and the ice storm had disrupted telephone service.

Mrs. Adeline Gram received her state license as a proprietor of the Gram Nursing Home on North Jefferson Avenue. Mrs. Gram is assisted

by Mrs. Orsa Butler, R.N.

50 years ago April 10, 1975

Contests in the first and third wards for seats on the Amboy City Council will be decided at the polls next Tuesday. In Ward One, Alderman John "Jack" Ditsch is seeking re-election for a four-year term. He is opposed by Richard Day. A two-year vacancy exists in Ward One and there are two candidates for the office – Max E. Hobbs and Michael R. Hubbell. Alderman Ronald Blester is unopposed for re-election to a four-year term in Ward Two. David Leffelman, a newcomer to city politics, filed his petition for the four-year term in Ward Three and his name appears on the ballot.

The Amboy Lions Club will present "The Journeymen" with their special guests, The Sunday Edition and Margaret King, in two big concerts this weekend at the Amboy High School Auditorium.

Don J. Dinges of Sublette, recently appointed to the Sauk Valley College Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Peter Gray, is seeking election to the board at the upcoming election.

Amboy School District No 272 board of education members, administrators and 14 Sublette area residents attended a special session of the board at Amboy Junior High School. The meeting was held to evaluate areas on the preliminary

plans for remodeling the Junior High building.

25 years ago April 5, 2000

Representatives from 18 communities throughout the northern Illinois area came to Amboy on Saturday for a large-scale extrication class. Assistant Fire Chief Marv Spears said all the fire departments in Lee County turned out for the event, along with three Whiteside County departments, and others coming from Bureau DeKalb, LaSalle, and Ogle counties.

The Amboy News welcomed Phil Caylor as the newspaper's new advertising sales manager in early March.

After four years of ownership by Cathy Miller and Cindy Streit, Clipper Kiddies Preschool is looking forward to some change – change of hands and change of curriculum.

A big item addressed by the school district was agreeing to start high school baseball and softball programs for the first time, according to Superintendent Mary Summers. The development of such a program had been in the works for a few years.

When Amboy High School's Jeremy Kessel travels overseas in June, it won't necessarily be for a vacation. Kessel was recently selected to go to Holland and Germany for a wrestling invitational.

Established In 1854

The Amboy News

The Paper Museum

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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.

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.
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101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Sublette Road District, Lee County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2026, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 445 LaMoille Rd, Sublette, IL from and after 6 P.M. on April 1, 2025.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be at 7 P.M. on May 13, 2025, at Sublette Twp Bldg, Sublette, IL and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at the public hearing. Dated this 1st day of April, 2025

Daniel Stephenitch, Supervisor
Deborah A Schultz, Clerk
No. 0401
(April 9, 2025)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Sublette Township, Lee County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2026, will be

on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 445 LaMoille Rd, Sublette, IL from and after 6 P.M. on April 1, 2025.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be at 7 P.M. on May 13, 2025, at Sublette Twp Bldg, Sublette, IL and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at a meeting to be held at Sublette Twp Bldg, Sublette, IL at 7 P.M., May 13, 2025.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2025
Daniel Stephenitch, Supervisor
Deborah A Schultz, Clerk
No. 0402
(April 9, 2025)

101 LEGAL NOTICE

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105 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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113 FINANCIAL

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301 ANTIQUES

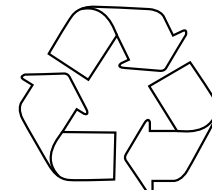
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203 HELP WANTED

Mendota CCSD 289 is looking for a Transportation Paraprofessional for Northbrook school.

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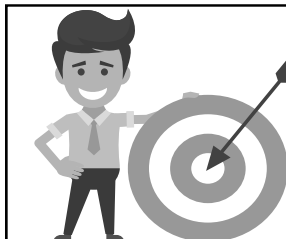
The daytime deliveries would be two or three days per week (including weekends) and consist of approximately 4-5 hours per shift depending on the route usually 10-15 hours per week.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver's license, proof of insurance and a safe driving record. Drivers will use company vehicles when delivering, and will be trained on the respective routes.

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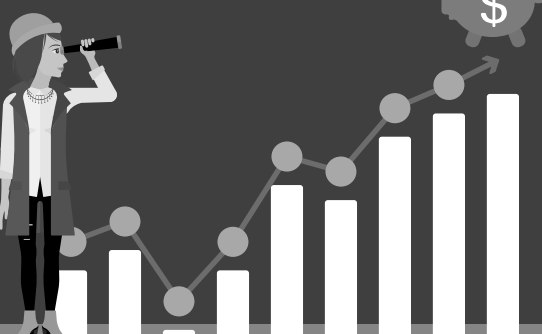
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LOCAL NEWS

Amboy High School FFA has been busy

FFA Week, Proficiency Awards, Parliamentary Procedure

BRANDONLaCHANCE
Amboy News Editor

AMBOY – Som clubs or groups operate on seasons.

Some parts of the year they're very active and other parts of the year members are involved in other groups or focusing on other endeavors.

FFA members seem to have all of their attention on agriculture and the vast world around surrounding, all year long.

Here are some of the Amboy High School FFA activities since February.

FFA week

The National FFA Week, which was February 15-22, is usually busy from year to year. However, this year, the week was kicked into overdrive with a few extra activities.

"It's great to have them involved as much as they are. For all of the years I've been at Amboy High School, we've had an active FFA week," said Joe Heavner, AHS agriculture teacher and FFA co-advisor with Lexi Hilliker. "The Proficiency Award event we had during FFA Week was postponed from its original date due to the weather. It wasn't going to be during the week, but since it was moved, FFA Week was even more eventful."

The Proficiency Award event will have its own section after FFA Week, so let's find out what the FFA members did during their national seven days.

Monday, Feb. 15 was a free day due to President's Day.

The fun kicked off Tuesday, Feb. 16 with a teacher's appreciation breakfast where the FFA members planned the event with catered food from Sunset Inn. FFA members also made goodie bags, which included a bar of goat milk soap from Amboy FFA Chapter President Brysen Full's company, SOAP-E-GOAT.

Wednesday, there was an FFA member lunch in the agriculture room to award members for the work they've done this far in the school year. Anyone who had participated in at least one FFA event was rewarded with some grub.

"We had 71 students who could have joined us for pizza in the shop," Heavner said. That's a big uptick from last year, which is great. We're getting more students into the fold."

Thursday night, the FFA held a line dancing extravaganza at the Lee County Fair Grounds as schools in Amboy's section, Section II, were invited. Members from six or seven different school's FFAs attended this first time event.

Before the line dancing, AHS FFA officers read agriculture themed books to Amboy Central School elementary students and presented agriculture to them.

Friday, the agriculture shop turned into a petting zoo and Amboy Central students, per-kindergarten to fifth grade, were able to view or touch the goats, rabbits, baby ducks, chickens, and pig. There was also a tractor outside.

"I have to give a lot of credit to Lexi Hilliker, our other agriculture teacher

and FFA advisor at Amboy High School. Going over to Amboy Central to read books was something we hadn't done in years past, and that was her idea. I think it was well received by the elementary school.

"We got to sprinkle in some new events this year. As busy as it is, this year having a second agriculture teacher has helped share the burden and make it easier to get through our events. Not only for FFA Week, but when we had the lunch and 71 students had participated in an FFA event throughout the school year, which is 20 more than last year, I think it can be attributed to having a second agriculture teacher and all of the work Lexi Hilliker has put in."

Proficiency Awards

Friday, Feb. 21 didn't end with cleaning up the petting zoo.

Instead, he was helping FFA members finish their record books. With weather prolonging the Section II Proficiency Awards to Tuesday, Feb. 18, the students only had until midnight Friday to make corrections, adjustments, and add polish before the district event on March 6 at Geneseo High School.

"Proficiency Award is an interview about a student's supervised agricultural experience, or common term we call it is a record book," said Heavner, who added the state is split into five districts, with each district being split into five sections. "They're records the students keep on an agricultural project outside of the classroom. It's something they start, oftentimes their freshman year of high school, and they keep these records through their senior year and even after they graduate."

"There are some FFA degrees where it's a requirement to have one of these SAE projects. For instance, to get your chapter, state, or even American FFA degree, you have to have a supervised agricultural experience. For each level of the degree, there are thresholds where you have to earn so many dollars and work so many hours."

All four of Amboy FFA's competitors won their interviews during section as Full won small animal production, Natalie Pratt won ag education, Jarrett Althaus won beef entrepreneurship, and Grace Althaus won outside recreation.

At district in Geneseo, Full, Pratt, and Jarrett Althaus won their categories

to advance to state, while Grace Althaus finished second.

At state competition March 22 at Mt. Zion High School, Full and Pratt were runner ups, while Jarrett Althaus finished in the top five.

"I think the Proficiency Awards, whether the kid wins or not, is probably one of the most productive FFA events a student can do because of that interview," said Heavner. "They sit down and interview with a panel of adults, oftentimes it's one or two agriculture teachers and a couple of alumni volunteers."

"To put yourself in the shoes of a 15-year-old kid that's getting drilled with questions about their project, that can be intimidating to sit in a 10-15 minute interview with adults. Oftentimes, it's a high school kid's first interview experience."

"Regardless of where they go in FFA or how involved they get in FFA, I think that interview experience is one of the best things that FFA has to offer students. They could go do something else outside of agriculture, but with that interview experience, they're going to have a lot of confidence when they go interview for a scholarship or their first job."

Parliamentary Procedure

The Amboy FFA hadn't had enough of state competition exposure with the proficiency interviews.

The Parliamentary Procedure Team wanted to make a name for itself and it did so.

At the Section 2 Parliamentary Procedure event on Thursday, March 13, Amboy won as a team and had many individuals take top marks.

Tyler Huggins was the first-place chairperson, Logan Ketchum was the first-place floor member, Chase Huggins was the second-place floor member, Natalie Pratt was the third-place floor member, Grace Althaus was the fourth-place floor member, and Jake Dinges was the seventh-place floor member.

This advanced them to the District Parliamentary Procedure event on April 2 at Black Hawk East College in Galva.

Once again, the Amboy FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team won the event while Kenley Wilson was first-place chairperson, Tyler Huggins was first-place floor



The Amboy FFA had four members perform well in the Proficiency Awards, aka record books. Agriculture teachers and FFA co-directors Lexi Hilliker and Joe Heavner (on both ends) celebrate, left to right, Grace Althaus, Jarrett Althaus, FFA President Brysen Full, and Natalie Pratt. Grace made it to district, while the other three placed at state. Photo contributed



The Parliamentary Procedure Team of, left to right, Tyler Huggins, Natalie Pratt, Chase Huggins, Logan Ketchum, Grace Althaus, and Jake Dinges brought home the Section 2 victory March 13 to advance to the district competition on April 2. Photo contributed



At the District 1 Parliamentary Procedure event on April 2 at Blackhawk East College at Galva, the Amboy FFA Team bested the field to advance to the state gathering on May 1 at the Illinois FFA Center in Springfield. Photo contributed

member, Ketchum was second-place floor member, Grace Althaus was third-place floor member, Pratt was seventh-place floor member, and Chase Huggins was ninth-place floor member.

The Illinois FFA State Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event will be held Thursday, May 1 at the Illinois FFA Center in Springfield.

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STATE NEWS

Department of Revenue reminds taxpayers April 15 is filing deadline

CHICAGO –The Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) is reminding taxpayers that the Tuesday, April 15 deadline is quickly approaching for filing 2024 state individual income tax returns. The agency began accepting and processing individual income tax returns on January 27, the same date the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) began accepting federal returns.

“We encourage taxpayers to file electronically and choose direct deposit in order to ensure the fastest processing and issuance of any refunds,” IDOR Director David Harris said.

Illinois is participating in the free IRS Direct File program this year. Eligible Illinois taxpayers can use the program to file their 2024 federal returns directly with the IRS. Federal return information can then be transferred into MyTax Illinois, to file Illinois individual income taxes at no cost. Direct File eligibility can be confirmed by visiting <https://directfile.irs.gov>.

“IRS Direct File offers free federal tax return filing, step-by-step guidance, and real-time online support,” Harris said. “Eligible taxpayers can then use the verified Direct File

information from a federal return to file their state taxes for free at My Tax Illinois, not only saving time but also reducing the likelihood of errors.”

In addition to free filing of Form IL-1040 through My Tax Illinois, individuals may also utilize the site to make payments, respond to department inquiries, and check the status of refunds using the Where’s My Refund? link. Taxpayers may also look up IL-PINs, amounts of any estimated tax payments made, and when necessary, amounts reported on Form 1099-G with MyTax Illinois.

If a taxpayer electronically files an error-free Illinois return, they should receive a direct deposit refund in approximately four weeks.

In 2024, IDOR received a total of close to 6.2 million IL-1040 returns. Of those received, just under 5.7 million were filed electronically, or 91.5%. Individuals may also choose to file using tax-prep software, a tax professional, or the paper Form IL-1040.

Taxpayers who cannot file their Illinois individual income tax return (Form IL-1040) by the April 15 deadline are automatically

granted a six-month extension. For those who file on a calendar-year basis, the new due date is October 15, 2025.

Please note that an extension to file does not extend the time to pay. If taxes are owed, taxpayers must pay the amount due by April 15, 2025, to avoid penalties and interest. If taxpayers are unable to file a tax return and owe taxes, they may use Form IL-505-I, Automatic Extension Payment for Individuals.

IDOR’s taxpayer assistance numbers are available for tax-related inquiries without having to wait for an agent. To

receive assistance, taxpayers may call 1-800-732-8866 or 217-782-3336. Free language assistance for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals is available.

IDOR will have extended telephone hours with representatives on hand to assist taxpayers with any last-minute questions on Monday, April 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 15, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For the most up-to-date information, forms, schedules, and instructions for the 2025 tax season, please visit IDOR’s website at tax.illinois.gov.

Senators push to strengthen Illinois’ nuclear energy future

SPRINGFIELD – Three Senators are sounding the alarm about the condition of the state’s power supply and the need for increased generation.

In a press conference on Thursday, April 3, State Senators Sue Rezin (R-Morris), Sally Turner (R-Beason), and Terri Bryant (R-Murphysboro) highlighted the issues facing Illinois’ power grid and the role that new nuclear developments should play in shoring up power supplies and keeping costs down for families and businesses.

The lawmakers highlighted Senate Bill 1527, which repeals the state’s moratorium on building new nuclear reactors, and Senate Bill 94, which ensures that data centers owned by foreign adversaries do not put additional strain on Illinois’ already overburdened power grid by banning them unless they can provide their own source of energy. With increasing energy demands from data centers, AI-driven technology, and manufacturing, the Senators stressed that Illinois must take proactive steps to protect energy reliability

and affordability.

“Illinois has long been a leader in nuclear power, but we are at a critical point on the path of our state’s energy future,” said Senator Sue Rezin. “With skyrocketing energy demand and our grids already under pressure, we must act now to expand our energy capacity. More nuclear power means lower long-term energy costs for families and businesses, a more reliable grid, and thousands of good-paying jobs. Our state cannot afford to do nothing and allow ourselves to fall behind.”

Senator Turner pointed to the importance of nuclear facilities like Clinton’s plant in her district, which provides both energy and economic stability to local communities.

“My district is home to the Clinton nuclear plant, a vital part of our local economy and a key source of reliable energy for our state,” said Senator Sally Turner. “Illinois has been slow to embrace new nuclear development, and we need to change that. If we want to remain competitive, we must invest in the next generation of nuclear

power. Additionally, as someone who has filed their own legislation concerning foreign adversaries buying up farmland, I believe Senator Rezin’s data center bill is a necessity. We need to prioritize our own state’s citizens’ energy needs.”

Senator Bryant, the Minority Spokesperson for the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, stressed the need for action to prevent future energy shortages and economic disruptions.

“Manufacturing is the largest contributor to Illinois’ GDP, supporting nearly a third of all jobs in our state,” said Senator Terri Bryant. “These businesses need reliable baseload energy, and nuclear is one of, if not the best, source we have to provide that stability. Experts are warning that Illinois is on a path to significant energy shortfalls in the coming years. Without new investments in baseload generation like nuclear, we risk higher energy costs, potential blackouts, and lost economic opportunities.”

The Senators are calling on the General Assembly to act swiftly on these bills to address Illinois’ growing energy needs and ensure the state remains a leader in nuclear innovation.

Illinois unemployment rate down, jobs nearly unchanged in February

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security announced the unemployment rate fell -0.1 percentage point to 4.8 percent in February, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The revised January unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent. The Illinois unemployment rate was down -0.1 percentage point from a year ago when it was 4.9 percent.

The national unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in February, up +0.1 percentage point from the previous month, making the state’s unemployment +0.7 percentage point higher than the national unemployment rate.

Illinois nonfarm payrolls remained nearly unchanged in February at -6,500 (-0.1%), while the January monthly change in payrolls was revised from -1,100 to -4,400. The industry sectors with over-the-month job increases included: Construction (+2,900), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+2,300), and Professional and Business Services (+1,900). The industry sectors with the largest monthly payroll job decreases included: Government (-5,600), Leisure and Hospitality (-3,100), and Private Education and Health Services (-1,700).

Compared to a year ago, total nonfarm payroll jobs increased by +19,100 jobs. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases included: Private Education and Health Services (+20,700), Government (+14,900), and Leisure and Hospitality (+5,300).

The industry groups with the largest jobs decreases included: Professional and Business Services (-13,900), Manufacturing (-7,300), and Construction (-1,600). In February, total nonfarm payrolls were up +0.3 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +1.2 percent in the nation.

“While this month’s headline unemployment rate shows little change, a deeper look at the report reveals the start of a troubling trend—federal

government workers being victim to the chaos unleashed by Elon Musk and the Trump Administration,” said Deputy Governor Andy Manar. “Despite this alarming new trend, the report also reflects the resiliency of the state’s economy, due in part to the investment in key growing industries made by this Administration. IDES stands ready to provide critical resources to support federal employees and contractors impacted by recent terminations.”

“Illinois’ resilient workforce continues to make progress as unemployment rates fall,” said DCEO Director Kristin Richards. “The State of Illinois remains committed to providing the resources and opportunities necessary for both employers and job seekers to thrive in Illinois’ growing economy.”

The number of unemployed workers was 321,000, down -1.0% from the prior month, and down -0.9 percent over the same month one year ago. The labor force was down -0.2% over-the-month and up +0.9 percent over-the-year. The unemployment rate identifies those individuals who are out of work and seeking employment. An individual who exhausts or is ineligible for benefits is still reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

The February payroll jobs estimate and unemployment rate reflect activity for the week including the 12th.

IDES helps connect jobseekers to employers who are hiring in a number of ways, including hosting and co-hosting job fairs and hiring events with statewide workforce partners, and through maintaining Illinois JobLink, the state’s largest job search engine. IJL is a tool used by jobseekers to look for work, and by employers who can post open and available positions for hire and browse resumes.

Recently, IJL showed 62,058 posted resumes with 81,123 jobs available.

Amboy High School

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Softball

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Boys Track

Henry Nichols

Girls Track

Bella Yanos



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April 14

AHS Girls Track @ Bureau Valley-4:00 pm

AHS Varsity Baseball (H) Putnam County-4:30 pm

AJHS Track @ Oregon HS-4:15 pm

April 15

AHS Varsity Softball & Baseball (H) Morrison-4:30 pm

AHS Boys Track @ Fulton-4:00 pm

April 16

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

AJHS 7th/8th Scholastic Bowl @ Bureau Valley-4:15 pm

AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball (H) Morrison-4:30 pm

Central School Spring Concert-AHS Gym-6:30 pm

AHS JV Softball (H) Morrison-4:30 pm

April 17

AHS Girls & Boys Track (H) 4:00 pm

AHS Varsity Softball & Baseball @ Morrison-4:30 pm

School Board Meeting-AJHS Cafeteria-6:30 pm

April 18

NO SCHOOL

April 19

AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball @ Lena Winslow-1:00 pm

AHS Softball @ Lena Winslow-11:00 am

AHS Girls & Boys Track @ Hall-9:00 am

AHS Varsity Baseball @ Lena Winslow-11:00 am

Has anyone else waited to file taxes ??



LOCAL NEWS

Wins over Hinckley-Big Rock, Mercer County, Oregon push Amboy to 6-1

AMBOY – Winning ways continue for the Amboy baseball team as they beat Hinckley-Big Rock (8-4), Mercer County (6-5), and Oregon (10-0) in non-conference games to extend its record to 6-1. Against HBR on Wednesday, March 26, senior catcher Quinn Leffelman drove in four runs on three hits. Leffelman’s double in the seventh inning scored three runs to follow up an RBI single in the third inning. Starting pitcher Brody Christoffersen surrendered five hits and three runs (two

earned) while striking out eight and walking two. Sophomore Tanner Welch came in for relief and held HBR at bay. “Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate,” said Amboy first-year coach Cade Sharp. “We accumulated eight walks in the game. Welch led us with two walks and Christoffersen collected two hits.” Amboy held a four-run lead heading into the sixth inning of the game against Mercer County on Saturday, March 29 and were able to hold on to the one-run

victory, 6-5. Christoffersen, Leffelman, and Dillon Merriman each drove in a run for Amboy. Junior Rylan McNinch tallied three walks. Senior Eddie Jones started on the mound giving up three hits and one run, while striking out six and walking four in four innings to earn the win. Both McNinch and Welch came to the mound in relief for the Clippers. The Clippers were victorious over Oregon Monday, March 31 at Amboy City Park behind a 10-0 shutout performance.

Offensively, Amboy scored seven runs in the third inning as runs were brought in by senior Dillon Merriman (walk), senior Carson Barlow (hit by pitch), Welch (hit by pitch), senior Caleb Shugars (ground out) brought in two runs, and McNinch recorded an RBI single. Leffelman hit an RBI double in the first inning and Jones had an RBI in the second inning. Barlow earned the win on the mound behind two allowed hits, no runs, seven strikeouts, and one walk in five innings.

Tough days at the ballpark for Amboy

DAKOTA – Despite a double by junior Kiera Karlson and a single by junior Peyton Payne, the Amboy softball team couldn’t get much going as it lost 15-0 to Dakota Saturday, April 5 on the road. Junior Alyvia Whelchel took the loss in the circle to the North-

west Upstate Illini Conference crossover after recording two allowed hits, five strikeouts, and no walks. The day before, Friday, Amboy fell to non-conference opponent Putnam County, 27-9. The Lady Clippers are now 1-6 on the season.

Clippers drop second game of the season, 10-0, Forreston

FORRESTON – The Amboy baseball has been hitting and pitching well as it built a 6-1 record heading into a showdown against Northwest Upstate Illini Conference crossover foe Forreston on Thursday, April 3. The Cardinals proved to be a

difficult feat to accomplish early in the season as the Clippers fell 10-0. Seniors Carson Barlow and Quinn Leffelman and freshman Landon Carter each collected one hit for Amboy. Junior Rylan McNinch took

the loss on the mound behind four hits and five runs (one earned) allowed, three strikeouts, and four walks in three innings. The double header against the Marquette Academy baseball team on Saturday, April 5 in Ottawa was canceled due to weather.

Senator Arellano, Jr requests clarity, fairness on gender-based sports policies

SPRINGFIELD – State Senator Li Arellano, Jr, (R-Dixon) and the Illinois Senate Republican Caucus, sent a letter this week to the executive director of the Illinois High School Association requesting clarification on the organization’s policies regarding transgender athletes in high school sports. Republican lawmakers are seeking confirmation that IHSA will be enacting policies that align with recent federal

directives ensuring fairness in high school athletics, specifically protecting single-sex sports for female athletes. The letter highlights the need for Illinois’ policies to comply with federal guidelines that prohibit students from participating in single-sex sports based on gender identity if it does not align with their birth sex. In their letter, the Republican lawmakers requested a written response detailing how IHSA plans to update its policies to

align with federal requirements while maintaining fairness and competitive balance in girls’ and women’s sports. Senator Arellano, Jr signed onto the letter to the IHSA and believes that it’s important to protect the integrity of high school athletics across Illinois. “It is deeply unfair to have biological males competing against biological females in competitive high school female-only sports,” said Senator Arellano, Jr. “That simple piece of common sense has been growing in public support, even across party lines, and I join my colleagues in seeking to ensure that IHSA and the State of Illinois follow guidelines in this regard.” Illinois Republican Senators are eager to ensure that all athletes have a fair opportunity to compete in Illinois high schools and are looking forward to IHSA’s response.

Global country superstar Brad Paisley to perform at Illinois State Fair August 14

SPRINGFIELD – Returning to the Illinois State Fair for the first time since 2017, Brad Paisley will perform on the Illinois Lottery Grandstand Stage on Thursday, August 14. With three GRAMMYS, two American Music Awards, 15 Academy of Country Music Awards, and 14 Country Music Association Awards, including a highly coveted Entertainer of the Year honor and recognition as the most successful CMA Award co-host in history, Brad Paisley has earned his place in country music history as one of the genre’s most talented and decorated male solo artists. “Three-peat, Grandstand crowd favorite, Brad Paisley is always welcome at the Illinois

State Fair,” said Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello II. “His award-winning songwriting and showmanship are unmatched, and we’re honored to bring him back to our Grandstand.” In addition to his superstar status, becoming the first artist to achieve 10 consecutive Billboard Country Airplay No. 1 singles with hits like Whiskey Lullaby, Paisley and his wife, Kimberly Williams-Paisley, are co-founders of nonprofit organization The Store, a free-referral based grocery store, which aims to empower low-income individuals and families in the Nashville area. “Brad Paisley’s music celebrates family, tradition, and good times — values that align perfectly with what the

Fair is all about,” said Illinois State Fair Manager Rebecca Clark. “We’re excited to partner with someone who shares our passion for bringing people together, and we know it’s going to be a night to remember.” Tickets for Brad Paisley are on sale via Ticketmaster.com. Tier 3 tickets cost \$55, Tier 2 are \$60, Tier 1 are \$70, Track is \$70, Blue Ribbon Zone is \$125. A \$30 Pre-Show Party ticket is offered as an additional upgrade for all paid concerts. Mark your calendars for the 2025 Illinois State Fair, August 7 through August 17 in Springfield. Stay up to date with all the latest news and announcements from the Illinois State Fair by connecting with us via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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Holy Thursday, April 17th
† St. Patrick, Amboy –
Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7:00 p.m.
† St. Patrick, Amboy Silent Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament 8:00-10:00p.m.
(Without Exposition)
Confessions 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18th
† St. Patrick, Amboy -
Veneration of the Cross, 3:00 p.m.
† St. Patrick, Amboy & St. Flannen, Harmon -
Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 19th
† St. Patrick, Amboy -
Confessions 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
† St. Patrick, Amboy –
Easter Vigil Mass, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20th
† St. Patrick, Amboy Mass, 7:00 a.m.
† St. Mary, Walton Mass, 8:30 a.m.
† St. Flannen, Harmon Mass, 10:30 a.m.

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\$2.99
lb

Tri- Color Peppers

3 Pk



\$4.99
ea

Dole Coleslaw
14 Oz Bag



\$1.79
ea

**California
Sleeved Celery**



2/\$3

**Portabella Caps or
Sliced Mushrooms**
6 Oz



\$3.99
ea

Cello Whole Carrots
2 Lb Bag



\$1.99
ea

**Blackberries
Driscoll**

6 Oz



\$2.49
ea

HOT BUYS

Beef Tenderloin Steak



\$11.99
lb

Reg. Price \$13.99 lb

**USDA Choice
Top Sirloin Steak**



\$8.99
lb

Reg. Price \$9.99 lb

Sugardale Portion Ham

Per LB



\$1.99
lb

Reg. Price \$2.49 lb

Johnsonville Brats



2/\$9

Reg. Price \$4.99 ea

**Deli Special -14"
Single Topping Pizza**



\$6.99
ea

Reg. Price \$10.99 ea

**Food Club
Shredded Cheese**
6 or 8 oz



2/\$4

Reg. Price \$2.79 ea

Doritos or Tostitos

9 to 10 oz



2/\$9

Reg. Price \$6.29 ea

Gatorade

8 Pk Assorted



3/\$20

Reg. Price \$10.39 ea

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Farmland Ham

2 Lb



\$10.99
ea

Reg. Price \$14.99 ea

**Jell-O Gelatin or
Pudding**

4 Pk



2/\$4

Reg. Price \$3.59 ea

McCain Potatoes

19 to 32 oz



\$4.99
ea

Reg. Price \$5.39 ea

Hungry-Man Entrees

13.1 to 16 oz



\$3.99
ea

Reg. Price \$4.49 ea

Folgers Coffee

22.6 or 25.9 Select Variety



\$11.99
ea

Reg. Price \$14.99 ea

Pringle Chips

4.9 to 5.6 oz



2/\$5

Reg. Price \$2.99 ea

Kraft Sauce

17 to 18 oz



2/\$5

Reg. Price \$2.99 ea

**Wish- Bone or
Western Dressing**

15 oz



2/\$6

Reg. Price \$4.29 ea

Heinz Ketchup

31 or 38 oz



\$4.99
ea

Reg. Price \$6.99 ea

**Bush's Best Baked
or Grillin Beans**

25 oz

Select Variety



2/\$6

Reg. Price \$3.49 ea

Creamette Pastes

12 to 16 oz



\$1.79
ea

Reg. Price \$2.19 ea

Hormel Chili

15 oz

Select Variety



\$2.29
ea

Reg. Price \$2.79 ea

A1 Steak Sauce

10 oz



\$4.99
ea

Reg. Price \$6.99 ea

Coke Products

6 Pk Assorted



2/\$11

Reg. Price \$6.99 ea

Sale Priced Valid April 9th - April 15th