

Volume 171 - Number 16

# AMBOY

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> Inserts Snyders



#### The Black Crowes to rock the Illinois State Fair

**SPRINGFIELD** – Legendary rock band The Black Crowes are bringing electrified guitar strings, and stripped, bare-boned rock & roll to the Illinois Lottery Grandstand Stage on Saturday, August 9.

The Black Crowes have been a staple of American rock & roll since their 1990 debut, blending blues-infused riffs with unapologetic energy. With over 30 million albums sold worldwide, the band has cemented its place in rock history. Their latest album, Happiness Bastards, marks their triumphant return to original music and has been hailed as a testament to the enduring power of rock & roll. "The Black Crowes represent the kind of powerhouse talent that makes the Illinois State Fair's Grandstand lineup stand out year after year," said Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello II. Tickets for The Black Crowes are on sale at Ticketmaster.com. Tier 3 tickets cost \$70, Tier 2 are \$75, Tier 1 and Track seats are \$80, Blue Ribbon are \$135. A \$30 Pre-Show Party ticket is offered as an additional upgrade for all paid concerts.

#### By MOLLY PARKER, BETH HUNDSDORFER Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – A bill that would tighten homeschooling regulations in Illinois missed a key deadline on Friday. But its sponsor, Rep. Terra Costa Howard, said it's still alive — and she's working on changes recommended by fellow lawmakers to get it passed.

"We recognize that there's some more changes that need to be made and so we want to be respectful of the process," Costa Howard, D-Glen Ellyn, told Capitol News Illinois. "I want to pass a bill that we can be proud of. And even though I'm proud of the bill now, I want to be able to take into consideration some of the other suggestions that have been made."

The proposal, amended twice in recent weeks, would require parents to file a declaration of intent with their regional office of education. If a truancy in-



Homeschool bill stalls in Illinois House, but sponsor says it's still alive

The homeschooling bill's future is uncertain as it draws fierce opposition from homeschool families, a threat against its sponsor prompting a police investigation and shaky support from Democrats. Photo contributed

vestigation arises, officials could ask for schoolwork or lesson plans.

Costa Howard introduced the bill after a Capitol News Illinois and ProPublica investigation last summer revealed Illinois' lack of oversight in cases where children weren't receiving an education. Illinois has some of the loosest homeschooling laws in the country, and multiple truancy officers told reporters that when they investigated a truancy case and parents claimed they were homeschooling, the investigation came to a grinding halt, even if concerns remained.

In the worst cases, children disappeared from school and endured abuse

or neglect at home for years before authorities became aware.

The bill has become one of the most divisive issues at the Capitol this session, drawing thousands of opponents led by two Christian homeschooling organizations: Illinois Christian Home Educators and the Home School Legal Defense Association.

On Thursday, Will Estrada, in an upbeat message on the Home School Legal Defense Association's Facebook page, shared news that the bill's sponsors "did not have the votes currently on the floor to move the bill." The organization's chief legal counsel called it "hard to overstate how significant this news is." Estrada congratulated homeschooling families for their efforts, adding, "The good news is your phone calls, your efforts, your talking to your friends, your continuing to get the word out to the legislators in Springfield, your voices are being heard."

See Bill page A3



James L. Ballard

# Politicians, advocates highlight "Andrew's Law" to strengthen protections against child predators

**SPRINGFIELD** – Illinois Senate Republican Deputy Leader Sue Rezin (R-Morris) and State Representative Jed Davis (R-Yorkville) held a press conference Thursday, April 10 alongside advocate Michelle Peterson to call for action on Andrew's Law, a legislative proposal aimed at closing dangerous loopholes in Illinois' criminal code that allow child predators to escape full accountability.

Senate Bill 284, sponsored by Senator Rezin, and its House companion bill, House Bill 1140, sponsored by Representative Davis, would prohibit plea deals for individuals charged with grooming, trafficking in persons, or involuntary sexual servitude of a minor. "This bill is about protecting kids and closing legal loopholes that have allowed predators to avoid real accountability," said Senator Rezin. "Michelle's courage and tireless advocacy have brought national attention to this issue, and now it's time for Illinois to act. Andrew's Law ensures that those who groom, traffic, or exploit children will face the full consequences of their crimes. No plea deals, no reduced charges, just justice." The legislation would also impose stricter restrictions on where convicted child sex offenders can be present, barring them from facilities specifically designed

for minors.

"The exploitation of children is not just evil, it's calculated," said Representative Davis. "Offenders often look for legal loopholes, ways to slip through the cracks. Andrew's Law closes those cracks. It draws a firm line: if you target kids, the law won't go soft on you."

Michelle Peterson, a constituent of both Rezin and Davis, has successfully championed similar legislation in multiple states following the horrific grooming incident that her son went through. Her advocacy has helped pass grooming-related legislation in Florida, Iowa, Arizona, Georgia, and most recently, Montana. "If our lawmakers truly believe children are worth protecting, then Andrew's Law must be more than a bill; it must be a line in the sand," said Michelle Peterson. "We can't keep letting predators groom in plain sight while we debate politics. This is about protecting the vulnerable and preserving the soul of our society. If you say you're a child advocate, prove it. Call it for a vote." Senate Bill 284 and House Bill 1140 are currently awaiting assignment to committees in their respective chambers. Both lawmakers are exploring all available avenues to pass Andrew's Law before the end of the 104th General Assembly.

# Narcotics investigation leads to 10-year prison sentence

**DIXON** – The Lee County Sheriff's Office proudly announced the successful resolution of a significant narcotics investigation which led to the arrest and sentencing of 47-yearold James L. Ballard.

The investigation, which culminated in a search warrant executed on June 30, 2024, at 320 S. Canal Drive in rural Dixon, resulted in multiple charges against Ballard relating to the distribution and possession of methamphetamine.

The charges filed as a result of the warrant were methamphetamine deliver 100<400 grams (Class X Felony), methamphetamine deliver 15<100 grams (Class X Felony), methamphetamine deliver

5<15 grams (Class 1 Felony), and possession of methamphetamine 15<100 grams (Class 1 Felony).

On April 3, Ballard pleaded guilty to the charge of Methamphetamine delivery 15<100 grams. As a result, Ballard was sentenced to 10 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Illinois State Police, Blackhawk Area Task Force.

Citizens are reminded to call the Lee County Sheriff's Office at 815-284-6631 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-CAUGHT-U. Callers can remain anonymous and receive rewards of up to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

# **Happy Easter!**

Celebrate by joining the Amboy Lions Club for the Easter Egg Hunt 2 p.m. Saturday, April 19 at Amboy City Park

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Come find Easter Eggs with the Sub-Let Indians

**SUBLETTE** – The village of Sublette will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19 at the Sublette Centennial Park. Join the fun beginning at 10 a.m.

at the park pavilion. There will be lots of prizes and lots of fun.

The Easter Egg Hunt is hosted by the Sub-Let Indians 4-H Club.

#### Amboy High School Report Janet Crownhart, Principal



Agriculture math students built birdhouses in class to utilize measurements, fractions, and using tape measures and rulers. They then hung them around town in the local community for the birds to enjoy. They have also been working on building farm scenes to scale.

National Honor Society made a donation to the Barlow family to help bring awareness to PSP. The Barlows are sponsoring the Race to Battle PSP on at 8 a.m. Saturday May 17 starting in the Amboy High School parking lot. Registration information is available on Facebook and is \$25. Contact the high school office for more information.

Graduation is coming soon. Mark your calendars for Baccalaureate on at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, Honor's night at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 22, and Graduation at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 25. Doors for Graduation will open at 12:30 p.m.

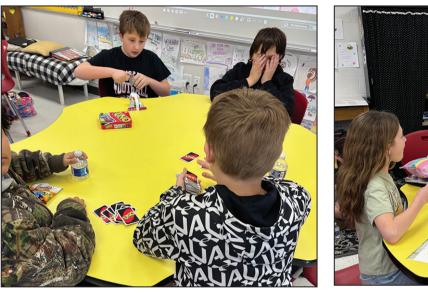




### Amboy Junior High School students take IAR tests

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness tests were taken by Amboy Junior High School students in fifth through eighth grades from March 11-13. The IAR tests are a state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in public schools. To excite the students before testing, teachers and staff lined the halls, played music, and cheered students on. Students ran through banners that said, "You are a smart cookie," "Smartie pants," "Your are a Starburst of knowledge," and "Chip chip hooray last testing day."

Photos courtesy of fifth grade teacher Betsy Jones





## Amboy Food Truck Monday is almost here

**AMBOY** – The first Amboy Food Truck Monday of its second full season will be from 4-8 p.m. Monday, April 28 at the Amboy Depot Museum.

The participating food trucks are Taco Guzman, Philly Factory, The Press Box, The Bluesy Box, Big B BBQ, JYD's, Naiho's Eggrolls & More, Cousins Main Lobster, Main Squeeze, and Bumble Bites.

Shop while you eat as vendors option include HoneyBee Apiary, S&J Hobby Farm, Meddling Sheep LLC, Gold Key Boutique, Regional Office of Education, and Amboy High School Student Council's bake sale. New this year, the food trucks will be parked alongside the west side of the depot, where trucks are parked during Amboy Depot Days. The vendors will be located in the depot parking lot.

The rest of the season's Mondays are May 12, June 16, July 14, August 4, September 15, and October 13.

## Rock River Madness Ride returns May 3 in Dixon

Fritts passes multiple local initiative bills through Illinois House

**DIXON** – Who's ready for the weather to break and get out and ride?

Rock River Madness Ride can't wait until it's able to enjoy the weather and give you a reason to do so also as registration is live for the third-year event of Saturday, May 3. This year, from a new location.

Races will start and finish at the Dixon Park District Facility, located at 1312 Washington Ave.

Hit the road for rides of 100, 55 and 30 miles. Or you can rock it on the trails for a 13-mile, 10mile or 6-mile ride. The routes have changed slightly. New maps will be shared soon at rockrivermadness.com.

This year's ride comes at a lower price with a choice to add on a T-shirt. Click on "Rock River Madness" at the Discover Dixon for more information and a link to sign up.

A portion of the proceeds benefit Rock River Valley Bicycle Club and keeping the Dixon MTB Trails looking great.

Riders will be encouraged to hang out after the race to enjoy some food and drinks and celebrate what should be a great day.

For more information, call 815-284-3361 or go to discoverdixon. com. **SPRINGFIELD** – Last week, State Representative Brad Fritts (R-Dixon) passed four local initiatives through the Illinois House of Representatives.

"I am proud of the four, bipartisan local initiatives that I was able to pass through the House this week," said Fritts. "These bills are all about making life easier and less expensive for Illinoisans, especially those living in small and rural communities."

House Bill 1911 makes a clarification in law to assist smaller townships and districts that struggle to pay for expensive annual CPA audits or may be unable to even find a local firm to complete the audit.

House Bill 2980 updates the Cycle Rider Safety Training Act to a more modern model of providing motorcycle safety classes to Illinois residents.

House Bill 3148 saves consumers money by prohibiting additional fees for mailing monthly invoices or bills to a consumer's address.

House Bill 3238 is a local initiative that allows more flexibility in paying highway commissioners' salaries.

All four of these bills now await further action in the Senate.

For more information about Representative Fritts, visit RepFritts.com.





See our website: www.elzarapemendota.com

#### AMBOY NEWS • SEC A • PAGE 3

# LOCAL NEWS

## **Bill** continued from page A3 -

However, Estrada cautioned that the stall "doesn't mean the battle is over."

On Saturday, Estrada joined Illinois Christian Home Educators Executive Director Kirk Smith in a Facebook video message from a homeschooling conference in Peoria. They urged their followers to tone down their efforts during the legislative break that coincides with Passover and Easter.

"We have kind of a change of strategy," Estrada said.

"We want to limit the activity politically this week," Smith added. "We encourage those who may have friends who are representatives to reach out to them lovingly during this time. But let's give the legislature a little time to catch their breath."

Though both organizations have stressed their members to communicate their opposition politely with lawmakers, Costa Howard says these organizations have stoked fear, amplifying fringe voices.

Since introducing the bill, Costa Howard said she's been inundated with hostile calls and emails, even including a letter she perceived as a death threat. The anonymous letter, addressed to Costa Howard at her legislative office in Lombard, referenced HB2827—theHomeschool Act -- contained five lines:

It's all over the country. We all know. It starts here and must end here. If we have to break the 6th Commandment, so be it. God said "Do Not Kill," but also said "Smite thine enemy." We're watching ....

Costa Howard turned the letter over to police, who she says are investigating it in her home district.

The bill has also drawn opposition from minority communities. Pastor Chris Butler testified against the bill last week when the amended version came before the House Education Policy Committee. "I am here today as somebody who grew up in Chicago public schools," Butler said. "I am here today sitting next to somebody who taught in Chicago's public schools. And we too have grown up, and we too have something to say about the education that we received, and it is why people in our generation have stepped up and said, we must do something different." He argued that any regulation would impede minority families from homeschooling to escape failing public schools and encouraged opponents to continue filing witness slips opposing the bill and speaking out against it. Editorial boards at The Chicago Tribune and The Wall Street Journal have also opposed the bill. The Tribune said the bill "overreaches," while the Journal raised privacy concerns about the information homeschool families could be required to provide on the forms.

The anonymous letter to Costa Howard was postmarked from a mail distribution site in Kearny, New Jersey, on March 24 — three days after the editorial appeared in the Wall Street Journal. The return address was listed simply as The Rancher, East Coast.

Under Illinois law, threatening a public official is a Class 3 felony. The Lombard Police Department declined to comment, but did provide, under a Freedom of Information Act request, a copy of the report that contained the typewritten, unsigned letter.

Costa Howard also alerted the Illinois State Police regarding the letter. An ISP spokesman said the agency assesses potential threats and determines needed actions based on the findings of the assessment, which may include further consultation and, if necessary, makes recommendations to enhance security.

Despite the vitriolic communication, Costa Howard said she is pressing forward because of those who've also reached out to say they were victims of inadequate homeschooling and want more protections in the law.

The bill missed a procedural deadline on Friday for non-budget bills to clear their chamber of origin. But lawmakers can request an extension, which Costa Howard has done.

"The one thing I've

# **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**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 Amboy Lions Club meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, April 28 at the Amboy Community Center, located at 280 W. Wasson Rd. The Lions Club meetings take place the second and fourth Monday of every month.

**AMBOY** – The City of Amboy committee meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, 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.

**SUBLETTE** – A public hearing will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 at the Sublette Township Building on the tentative budgets and appropriation ordinances for the Sublette Road District and Sublette Township for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026, which is on file and available for public viewing at 445 LaMoille Road in Sublette.

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

**EAST GROVE** – East Grove Township is holding its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 at the East Grove Township Hall.

## Volunteers needed for Illinois History Day student competition May 1

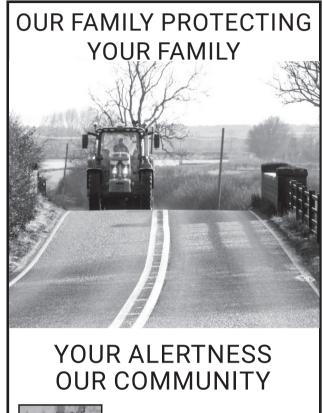
**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois State Museum is seeking judges and volunteers for the student Illinois History Day competition May I at the Bank of Springfield Center in Springfield.

Illinois History Day judges are tasked with evaluating student projects and determining which students advance to the next level of competition. Judges are not required to have a degree in history but must possess a willingness to give positive, constructive and useable feedback to student competitors. All judges will be trained and made to feel confident ahead of the competition. Additional volunteers are needed to assist with wayfinding, greeting, and tear-down after the competition. Last year, the event drew 621 students to the Illinois contest. Illinois History Day is a project-based learning program designed to take students in sixth through 12th grades on a journey through research, analysis, and discovery. Students conduct indepth research on a topic of their choosing to prove their historical argument.

Research is presented in the form of an exhibit, documentary, website, research paper or live performance. Students present their project at one of four regional competitions across the state with a chance to compete at the Illinois History Day state contest in Springfield. Winners of that competition will get a chance to compete **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.

**PAW PAW** – The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Paw Paw will commence at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 at the Paw Paw Village Hall.

**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.





BIG BARN SALE! April 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th& 18th

learned about Springfield is don't ever count something out," she said.

Rep. Amy Elik, R-Alton, disagreed.

"This bill was doomed from the beginning," Elik said from the House floor Friday after Costa Howard made a brief speech about the bill.

Costa Howard says changes to the bill have already been made to address concerns, and that she's working on more. The amendment that passed a House committee on Wednesday, April 9, provided more specific details for the declaration form, ensured that an online version would be available, and clarified that a truancy investigation would be required to compel families to turn over homeschooling portfolios.

at the National History Day Contest in Washington, D.C., in June.

The 2025 competition theme is rights and responsibilities in history. Students will research and explain the rights and responsibilities found within their topic.

"National History Day in Illinois is such an important program for middle and high school learners to gain skills and confidence in the history and humanity fields," said Jenn Edginton, Director of the Illinois State Museum, which sponsors the event. "This program aims to inspire the next generation of future historians."

Interested judges and volunteers should contact Illinois History Day state coordinator Laura Mitchelle at laura.mitchelle@ illinois.gov.



10 am - 5 pm

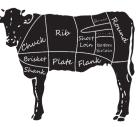
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# **OBITUARIES**

# **OBITUARIES**

## **Sharon A. Hall** May 27, 1957 - March 27, 2025

AMBOY – Sharon A. Hall, 67, of Amboy passed away on Thursday March 27, 2025 at OSF Saint Katharine MedicalCenterinDixon. Cremation rites have been accorded with no services planned at this time. Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.

Hall was born on May 27, 1957 in Milwaukee, Wis., the daughter of George and Charlotte (Betz) Yakich.

Sharon was a paraprofessional at Amboy High School for 21 years. She married Wayne R. Hall on Aug. 19, 1988 in Milwaukee, Wis.

Hall is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband Wayne, two sons Jason Hall of Amboy and Ryan Hall of Amboy, siblings Bob (Evelyn) Yakich of Caledonia, Wis., Deb-



bie (Ed) Malak of Amberg, Wis., and Betty Yakich of Milwaukee, Wis.

## Mary L. Hackbarth Feb. 15, 1941 - April 12, 2025

AMBOY – Mary L. Hackbarth, 84, of Amboy passed away on Saturday April 12, 2025 at Allure of Mendota.

Memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday May 3,2025 at the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy with burial of cremains following at St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery in Amboy. Visitation will be from 9-11 a.m. Saturday May 3, 2025 at the funeral home. A memorial has been established. Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com. Hackbarth was born

Feb. 15, 1941 in Amboy the daughter of Leonard and Frieda (Steder) Leffelman.

Mary married Kenneth "Skeet" Hackbarth Sept. 29, 1967 in Dixon. He preceded her in death April 1, 2000.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, two sisters Joanne Bennett and Diane Nielsen, three brothers Norman, Michael and David Leffelman. Mary is survived by her



daughter Krista (Todd) Hobbs of Amboy, one brother Randy (Karen) Leffelman of Frankfort, IL, sister-in-law Regina Leffelman of Lostant, many nieces and nephews and long-time companion Harry Fite of Amboy.

## IDNR issues reminder to avoid handling wild animals, birds

**SPRINGFIELD** – As spring sets in and more people head outside, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is reminding everyone to leave baby birds and young animals alone when they encounter them in the wild.

Well-intentioned people may believe they're helping nature by taking possession of young rabbits, fawn deer, baby birds and other animals that appear to be orphaned or abandoned. However, in nearly all cases, human intervention does more to hurt animals than to help. Young birds and animals are still being fed and cared for by their parents, who usually stay away from nests and dens if humans are nearby.

"The most helpful thing people can do for wildlife is to enjoy the animals through observation, not interference," said IDNR Director Natalie Phelps Finnie. "If you really care about the animals, just leave them alone when you come across them in nature."

The Illinois Wildlife Code provides legal protection for wildlife. Keeping wild animals as pets, or to raise wild animals believed to have been abandoned is prohibited. Additionally, agency responses to incidents involving illegal captive wildlife can be costly and divert time from other important work.

Most wild birds are protected by the Wildlife Code. This includes protection of eggs, nests, and feathers. Migratory birds are also protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Some additional reminders about wildlife in Illinois:

Birds: Birds often leave the nest before they can fly. Known as fledglings, these birds will live on the ground for a few days while they grow flight feathers, and you may hear them making noises calling for their parents. They do this so their parents will continue to feed them, and it doesn>t mean they are in trouble. Keep children and pets away.

Deer: A fawn left on its own is not

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necessarily abandoned. Young fawns don't possess the speed or stamina to flee until they are about 2 weeks old. As a result, their mothers will leave them to lie quietly and motionless in nearby tall grass or brushy cover while they forage. A fawn may truly be orphaned if you notice it in the same spot for two or three days and constantly calling for its mother. At that point, it's time to call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator to aid the fawn.

Rabbits: Rabbits often build their nests in shallow holes or depressions in the ground, and they're frequently found in the middle of lawns and gardens. Mother rabbits commonly return to the nest only at dusk and dawn to feed their young, limiting daytime activity to prevent predators from noticing. Rabbits will begin to leave the nest around three or four weeks of age. Young rabbits outside the nest do not need help, but it's important to keep children or pets away from the nest and venturing babies.

Know the rules for feeding and handling wildlife

There are strict rules on feeding wildlife in areas where wild deer are present, as laid out in Illinois Administrative Code 17-635. It's also a good idea to limit feeding other wildlife species. To limit nuisance activity, do not leave pet food outside at night, clean up under bird feeders, secure the lids on garbage cans to keep rehabilitator before removing or reraccoons and other wildlife out, and locating wildlife to be sure it's in the don't feed Canada geese in urban or best interest of the animal and ensure suburban areas.

the handler being bitten. According to the Centers for Disease Control, wild mammals that bite a person should be euthanized immediately and tested for rabies. Many species of wildlife can also carry zoonotic diseases, which are diseases that can be passed on to people. Some of these diseases are serious and can even be fatal.

Illinois has experienced multiple Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (bird flu) mortality events in wild birds, mostly waterfowl, this winter. The public is reminded not to handle or attempt to capture waterfowl or other wild birds displaying signs of illness.

Wildlife generally have more offspring than habitats can support. This means it's normal for many offspring to become part of the food chain and not survive. It's difficult to see this play out in person, but it's very common, and most species continue to thrive even if more than half of their young don't survive to adulthood.

"We understand that the desire to help wildlife is strong, but it often comes at a cost," said IDNR wildlife chief Mike Wefer. "Survival rates for relocated wildlife are very low, and the risk of accidentally moving diseases from one place to another is high."

Anyone with questions about care for possibly abandoned wildlife should contact a licensed wildlife the rehabber has the room and exper-

Handling wild animals can result in tise to treat it.

# RCH DIRECTO 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 1/2 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 Fronek Mass - Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 a.m. Saturday – 5:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

## The Following Community Businesses Sponsor Area Church News:

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

Sensient Flavors, LLC. 815-857-3691

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

Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet 815-849-5232

The Amboy News 815-539-9396



# LOCAL/STATE NEWS

## Illinois schools invited to apply for new Water Bottle-Filling Station Grant

NAPERVILLE – Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation and Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation are now accepting 2025 applications for the annual H2O On the Go grant program. The program replaces existing water fountains with new water bottle-filling stations at elementary, middle and high schools throughout Illinois.

Illinois schools can apply for the H2O On the Go grant at deltadentalil.com/h2oon-the-go. Schools without water-bottle filling stations will receive priority. The application deadline is 5 p.m. May 9, 2025.

Selected schools will receive a water bottle-filling station, along with reusable water bottles and toothbrushes for their students.

Enhancing health and sustainability

with new water bottle-filling stations Tooth decay, although mostly preventable, is the leading chronic disease among children. Choosing water instead of sugary beverages like soda, juice, and sports drinks can help reduce cavities by nearly 25%.[1] Plus, water can help keep teeth strong, boost energy levels, and increase students' focus. In addition to helping students drink more water, H2O On the Go reduces waste and promotes conservation efforts. The water bottle-filling stations are also touch-free, reducing germ exposure.

The H2O On the Go grant program was launched in 2020 as part of Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation and Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation's shared initiative to improve the overall health and well-being of Illinois children. Over the past five years, the H2O On the Go program has provided 337 Illinois schools with water bottle-filling stations.

To review past recipients or to apply for the H2O On the Go program, visit deltadentalil.com/h2o-on-the-go.

About the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation was formed in March 2008 by Delta Dental of Illinois, a not-for-profit dental service corporation with a mission to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is the 501(c)(3) charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois and works to support and improve the oral health of people in Illinois. In the past decade, combined efforts of Delta Dental of Illinois and Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation have provided more than \$32 million to programs and organizations in Illinois that improve the oral health of 1.2 million Illinois residents.

About Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation

Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation's mission is to cultivate, support, and promote initiatives that improve the health and wellness of children in Illinois. Their vision is that "every child in Illinois grows up healthy." Working through grantee partners across the state, the Foundation focuses its grantmaking on identifying and funding solutions to the barriers that prevent children from accessing the ongoing health care they need, with a primary focus on children's oral health and children's mental health. For more information, visit www.ilchf.org.

# Arukah announces two new locations to expand rural mental health care

**PRINCETON**—Arukah Institute of Healing has announced the acquisition of two new buildings to expand and enhance mental health and substance use services throughout the region.

The locations are 526 Bureau Valley Parkway in Princeton (formerly Perry Plaza) and 4211 N. Columbus Street in Ottawa (formerly the LaSalle County Farm Bureau) will serve as new hubs for integrated care and support.

"These new spaces move us closer to Arukah's mission: Accessible. Relational. Holistic. Rural Care," said Dr. Sarah B. Scruggs, founder and CEO. "We're committed to delivering compassionate, local mental health and substance use care — for anyone, anywhere, anytime."

The Princeton location will house two major initiatives:

Workforce Training Center — A professional, state-of-the-art training hub serving students from high school through doctoral levels. The center addresses a significant shortage in healthcare professionals, as the region has 2.5 times fewer mental and primary care providers than the national average. The facility aims to strengthen the rural workforce through training on rural soil, creating a stronger local economy and better care outcomes.

Integrated Behavioral Health Center — A comprehensive walk-in treatment and recovery center designed to overcome common barriers like stigma and transportation. It brings together multiple layers of care, offering best-practice services that improve patient outcomes and provide a stronger support network for individuals and families.

The new Ottawa location will become a dedicated Child and Family Center. It will provide enhanced access to behavioral health services for children, parents, and families in the region. The center will offer a trusted space where families can

seek care together and will also improve the Ottawa Living Room walk-in program.

Over time, Arukah plans to expand psychiatric, counseling, crisis, and substance use services to meet the growing needs of the community.

"Arukah's expansion into Ottawa couldn't come at a better time," said Brent Roalson, former Ottawa chief of police and current Arukah board member. "I've seen firsthand how much this work matters — not just for individuals, but for families, schools, and public safety. These new services will have a lasting, positive impact on our entire community."

Dr. Scruggs elaborated further.

"Arukah won't stop until every person can access the care they need,"Dr. Scruggs added. "This is life-changing, life-saving work."

For interviews, photos, or more information, please contact Arukah Institute at cory.scott@ arukahinstitute.org or visit www.arukahinstitute.org.

#### NIU's Project Flex encourages youth centers with hoops

**DeKALB**–Lastmonth, Northern Illinois University hosted a basketball tournament for youth from each of the five Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice youth centers.

The tournament was organized by Project FLEX (Fitness, Leadership, EXperience), an initiative of the NIU College of Education's Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education. Project FLEX utilizes graduate students to provide rehabilitative sports and character development to youth in IDJJ's secure youth centers.

"What's so powerful about Project FLEX in particular is, yes, they're doing sports activities, but underlying all of that is really a focus on building life skills, setting goals, and working through frustrations," said IDJJ Acting Director Rob Vickery. "This was a culminating event where the youth were able to apply all those skills."

The five teams from IDJJ's Illinois youth centers were from Chicago, Grafton, Harrisburg, St. Charles, and Warrenville, with each team having between five and seven youth. Youth were chosen for the IDJJ teams based on a record of good behavior, staff recommendations, and an interest in participating in the tournament.

Student volunteers from NIU were recruited by Project FLEX to check in pre-approved guests, referee games, serve a catered luncheon, and cheer for the teams. Several teams of NIU students also participated in the early part of the competition to determine seeding for the youth centers' tournament bracket.

"We're trying to provide these real-world experiences for the kids – these realistic opportunities that they would have if they weren't incarcerated," said Dr. Zach Wahl-Alexander, associate professor of kinesiology at NIU and co-founder of Project FLEX.

IDJJ staff served as coaches for the teams, holding practices for the weeks leading up to the tournament and working to obtain uniforms and shoes for each tournament participant. Approximately 45 members of the IDJJ staff attended the tournament to coach, cheer, assist, and ensure safety protocols remained in place. Tommie Meyers, who manages several travel basketball teams in the Chicago area, donated 20 pairs of basketball shoes for youth who needed them.

"It was cool to see some of them just zoom out of being an incarcerated person and just feel like a normal kid, and I think it was the exact opportunity where they got to feel like a high school kid for the first time," said Dr. Jenn Jacobs, associate professor of kinesiology at NIU and co-founder of Project FLEX. "Rob Vickery and the IDJJ staff are just visionaries, and it takes courage to say yes to things that have not been done before."

"While the games themselves were exciting, the true significance of the event lays in its power to bring people together in pursuit of a shared goal – basketball just happened to be the catalyst," said IDJJ Leisure Time Activities Supervisor St. Anthony Lloyd.





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

# It's all in the nickname

Throughout our society, especially in 2025, there is always something to complain about.

You can't get very far from your bed in the morning without hearing some kind of objection. If you wake up and the first thing you do is pick up your phone and look on social media, you're not even getting out of bed first. Although every person, place, or thing known to

man is up for speculation or debate, the one aspect of life I have never, ever heard any kind of criticism or negativity about is nicknames.

I'm not talking about an individual nickname because I'm sure there is a code name somewhere that someone doesn't like whether you're a parent and you don't approve of what your son or daughter's friends call them, or your a baseball player who doesn't like what your coach calls you, or a bully called you something you didn't like and an outside ear is now an everyday annoying voice.

I'm talking about the awesomeness of nicknames in general.

Nicknames are awesome for many reasons including the reasons listed why people don't like them.

The parents might hate them, but their children might think they're cool, and obviously the ones using the names think they are. The same way the coach and the assistant coaches don't stop using a nickname, and the reason the bully said it in the first place.

They're also a term of endearment.

There are the generic ones such as babe, baby, sugar, angel, honey, sweetie pie, boo, love, pet, love bug,

cupcake, pumpkin, doll, darling, sweetheart, dearest, hun, buddy, cutie, kiddo, sunshine, precious (or it can be used for an object like in Lord of the Rings, who doesn't have Smeagol in their head right now), pumpkin, momma, pops, old man, old lady, sis, bro, broseph (I use all of the time), brosiah (I like to think I made up), broshabba (I know I created), partner in crime,

homie, wingman or wingwoman, bestie, BFF, partner, troublemaker, my other half, lover, muffin, peaches, and just about any word used for a sweet treat in America or another country.

There are also generic nicknames used in sports such as champ, king, captain, hero, and savior.

There are nicknames for places, food, drinks, attractions, events, objects, and anything else we have whether they're generic or not.

What's awesome is, they all tell a story.

I umpired a baseball game last Tuesday in Sandwich. The opponent, Plano, had a catcher who was routinely called "Moose." Between an inning, I thought I'd ask him, why are you named after an animal I associate with Minnesota, Bullwinkle, or antlers.

He smiled and said it's a long story, but because of the size of his mother's belly before he has born, someone told her she was going to give birth to a moose.

Even though he turned out to be an average size newborn, his parents began calling him "Moose" and the name has never dropped. Honestly, I didn't ask him his real name and never heard anyone call him anything but "Moose." A few days later, I was back in Sandwich and they were playing Johnsburg. The first baseman and relief pitcher, same person, was called "Bear."

Not the smallest kid on the team, I made an assumption it was because of his size. Instead of just being big, his basketball coach coined the name because he said he ran like a bear.

If you go to Earlville for any sporting event or social interaction, it seems everyone has a nickname with a cool story behind it.

In my line of work, I'm always trying to find stories or a way to communicate with people. However, even when I'm not trying to work or find an in, I'm always trying to research why someone is called something other than the name on their birth certificate.

On an airplane about four years ago, I met a woman named R.

I literally asked her, what's the rest of her name. She laughed and told me there wasn't anymore, it's just the letter R.

Come to find out, I'm not trying to get dark but stating the truth, she was named after her father who later went to prison. In a display that he was no longer in her life and would never have the chance to be again, she removed the rest of her name, legally, and will now and forever be R.

It's awesome to be able to tell stories, have a personality, a connection, a bond, and fun with a simple thing such as a nickname.



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Legals/Circulation/Printing Jennifer Griffith jgriffith@mendotareporter.com

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,





Column

# **ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY**

## 100 years ago April 17, 1925 Fred N. Vaughan and E. H. Barlow

Fred'N. Vaughan and E. H. Barlow were elected presidents of school districts 166 and 68 respectively at the election. Charles A. Ziegler and H. F. Epperson were elected members of the high school board. H. C. Barth and C. A. Entorf were chosen members of the school board in district 68.

The elegant farm home of J. Frank Atkinson on the Chicago Road about 4 1/2 miles north of Amboy was completely destroyed by fire of unkown origin with a loss that will approximate \$10,000.

Hazel Howard and Irene Mammen are opening a new beauty parlor in the new Spangler block on East Avenue.

Postmaster Evelyn E. O'Brien, assistant postmaster Margaret Keho, Molly Mead, Mrs. M. Brierton and Francis H. Smith motored to Rock Falls to attend the postal workers banquet and business meeting at the Methodist Church.



Amboy's 1950 Fall Festival will be held three days in Green river City Park - that is the decision reached at the quarterly meeting of the Amboy Chamber of Commerce held in the dinding room of the First Congregational Church.

John P. O'Rourke is driving a 1950 Buick super four-door sedan, delivered to him last Thursday by Edwards Garage. 50 years ago April 17, 1975 Becky Donna will portray Annie

Oakley and Tom Welty will play Frank Butler iin the Amboy High School spring performance of "Annie Get Your Gun" on April 25-27.

Amboy's young wrestlers did extremely wll in the Amboy Invitational Wrestling Tournament at Amboy High School gymnasium. According to coach Jim Mahar, 16 schools wee represented by 230 boys.

Incumben aldermen won in Wards One and Two and a write-in candidate was successful in Ward Three during the city's election. Alderman John "Jack" Ditsch and Ronald Blester were returned to the council for four-year terms. Roy V. "Penny" Ross, a former alderman, won on "write-ins" in Ward Three and will serve a four-year term.

Valerie Gray, champion speller of the Amboy Community District No. 272 schools, placed 10th in the Greater Rockford Spelling Bee held at Rockford College on April 12. Of the 45 contestants, 23 dropped out in the first round. Each contestant was waardeed a trophy for winning his or her city contest.

## 25 years ago April 12, 2000

Third Ward Alderman Rex Hicks sees a problem in Amboy. It's everywhere. It's a nuisance. It's garbage. Hicks raised the issue of "free-flying garbage" during the March 20 Amboy City Council meeting, something that does not look good for the city's image. The sign in front of Amboy High School lists the activities that will take place during the month of April, while the town lays covered in a twoinch deep blanket of snow. A freak winter storm hit April 8, which left Amboy with winter scenes in spring.

The Amboy High School Scholastic Team finished their 1999-2000 season by earning a fourth-place plaque and \$100 at the 2000 Masonic Regional meet at St. Bede Academy in Peru on March 25. They placed fourth out of a field of 16 area schools. For Amboy, Jessica Harrison led the team with 13 tossups, followed by Aaron Krager with three, Chad Greskiwicz had two, and Sean Hickey and Jeamie Eller finished with one each.

On March 28, Bruce Lansky visitied Amboy Central School for their annual Young Authors' Day Celebration. Lansky gave five performances that day, one for each grade level. Lansky comes from Minneapolis, Minn., where he owns the Meadowbrook Press Publishing Company.

The Red Cross Blood Mobile stopped in Sublette on April 4. There were 42 products donated. There were two first-time donors in Julie Burkhardt and Kim Leffelman.

The Amboy track team hosted its first home meet on April 5 and showed that they are "tough on their home track." The Clippers prevailed with 11 first places including the 400 relay team breaking the school record with a time of 44.83. The 400 relay is combined of four juniors Kevin Hopper, Ryan McCoy, Cody Darbe, and Jason McLaughlin. The same four runners ran a state qualifying time of 1:33.7 in the 800 relay. 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
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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., Monday-Friday

Closed Saturday, Sunday and major holidays. 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342

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

April 14, 2025 Posting Date

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<b>2</b>	Trivia
Z	test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What do you call a person who has lived to the age of 100 years?

2. HISTORY: When were cigarette commercials banned from American television?

3. MOVIES: Whose life is depicted in the movie "Raging Bull"? 4. U.S. STATES: In which state are the

Catskill Mountains located?

5. TELEVISION: Which long-running TV drama was set in Cabot Cove, Maine?

6. MEASUREMENTS: How long is the ancient measurement called a cubit? 7. FOOD & DRINK: What is a dish

called Cullen Skink? 8. CHEMISTRY: A diamond is com-

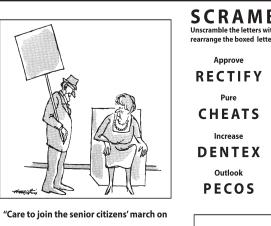
single element?

Find at least six differences in details between panels.	DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: Moderate Challenging MOD BOY! © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.	9. GEOGRAPHY: What country home to the Baffin, Victoria and Elle mere islands? 10. ANATOMY: What is another nam for the condition called "piloerection"? © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc. sduunqəsoop '01 epeuey '6 uoquy '8 suojuo pue səojejod '4300p			
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is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout	Pronouncement Way of living Gain an unfair advantage	SCRAMBLERS solution 1. Certify 2. Chaste; 3.Extend; 4. Scope Today's Word			
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L L L L L	— <b>King</b> Crossword — Answers Solution time: 25 mins.	CryptoQuip answer What should you say when a young child fails at fastening his shoelaces? "Tie, tie again."			









City Hall? It's good

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	TODAY'S WORD

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

#### 101 LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE 2025/2026 Meeting Dates-Times April 8, 2025 07:00 p.m. May 8, 2025 08:00 p.m. June 12, 2025 08:00 p.m. July 10, 2025 08:00 p.m. August 14, 2025 08:00 p.m. September 11, 2025 08:00 p.m. October 9, 2025 08:00 p.m. November 13, 2025 07:00 p.m. December 11, 2025 07:00 p.m January 8, 2026 07:00 p.m. February 12, 2026 07:00 p.m. March 12, 2026 07:00 p.m. Budget Hearings/Annual Audit April 14, 2026 7:00 p.m. Annual Town Meeting April 14, 2026 07:00 p.m. No. 0403 (April 16, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE The May township

June 11, 2025, 6:30 pm July 9, 2025, 6:30 pm August 13, 2025, 6:30 pm September 10, 2025, 6:30 pm October 8, 2025, 6:30 pm November 12, 2025, 6:30 pm December 10, 2025, 6:30 pm January 14, 2026, 6:30 pm February 11, 2026, 6:30 pm March 11, 2026, 6:30 pm April 14, 2026, 7:00 annual meeting, pm followed by the regular meeting. Lisa Bickett Clerk 2024-2025 Calendar No. 0404 (April 16, 2025) NOTICE ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT **MAY TOWNSHIP & BOAD DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31** 

nance building:

meetings will be held Election Set Up at the township mainte-\$35.00: Interest \$2.525.22: Dividends-May 14, 2025, 6:30 pm \$417.00; Replacement tax - \$859.39; Property tax - \$60,327.39 REVENUES: TOTAL \$64.164.00 TOWNSHIP - EXPEN-DITURE SUMMARY: Brian Bahrs Painting-\$13.728.10: Kenzlev Title Company (Land Purchase)\$21,138.00; TOIRMA - \$3,323.00; Treasury Dept-\$5.701.74: All other disbursements less than (\$2,500) - \$2,550.32 TOTAL VENDORS: \$46,441.16 TOWNSHIP COM-PENSATION SUMMA-RY: Range under \$22,000: Lisa Bickett, Laura Morgan. Jason Leffelman. Jim McLaughlin, Marty Montavon, Brian Russell, Jason Streit TO-TAL COMPENSATION: \$34.640.67 ASSIS-GENERAL TANCE - REVENUE SUMMARY: Interest - \$1,216.56 GENERAL ASSIS-EXPENDI-TANCE -TURE SUMMARY: Insurance-\$535.00 ROAD DISTRICT TOWNSHIP - REVE-**REVENUE SUMMARY:** Big Sky Wind-

Interest \$27.435.35: - \$55,553.35; Replacement tax -\$2,758.98; Property Tax - \$118,252.30; Dividends - \$489.00 TOTAL REVENUES: \$204,488,98 ROAD DISTRICT - EX-PENDITURE SUMMA-RY Asphalt-Advanced \$241,306.86; Bonnell Industries- \$10,221.42; Dietz Drainage-\$10,025.00; Helm Ma-\$198.689.35: terials-Lee County Highway Dept.-\$20,532.14; Northern Partners-\$3,629.83; Orzech Automotive \$2,879.62: Quality Spot \$8,912.50; Repair-Renner Quarries-\$4,497.36; Sublette Farmers Elevator-Toirma-\$7.551.65: \$3,901.00; West Side Tractor- \$4,852.39; All disbursements other less than (\$2,500) \$10,050.19 TOTAL VENDORS: \$527,049.31 ROAD DISTRICT -COMPENSATION SUMMARY: Sam Russell- \$3,169.59 COMPENSA-TOTAL TION: \$3,169.59 STATE-SUMMARY MENT OF CONDITION **BEGINNING BALANCE** Town Fund \$154,565.16 General Assistance

GARAGE / RUMMAGE SALES

**GARAGE SALE - PAW PAW** 3314 Chicago Road, 1/2 Mile West of Paw Paw Fri. 4/25, Sat. 4/26 & Sun. 4/27 8AM - 4PM Clothing, Collectibles, Decor, DVDs, Furniture, Household Goods, Lawn Furniture, Nascar, Sports Cards, New Items, Too Much To List GARAGE SALE Rain or Shine

> Garage Sales **Earlville Town Wide Garage Sales** April 25 & 26th

August 13, 2025 \$37.751.41 Bridge Road & \$1.543.885.45 REVENUES Town Fund \$64,164.00 General Assistance \$1.216.56 & Road Bridge \$204,488.98 **EXPENDITURES** Town Fund \$81,081.83 Assistance General \$535.00 Road & Bridge \$530,218.89 ENDING BALANCE Town Fund \$137,647.33 General Assistance \$38,432.97 Road & Bridge \$1,218,155.53 Subscribed and sworn to this 8th day of April,

2025 Laura L Morgan, Supervisor No. 0405 (April 16, 2025) NOTICE THE FOLLOWING IS

A LIST OF MEETING DATES SET BY THE BOARD OF TRUST-EES OF THE AMBOY TOWNSHIP FOR THE 2025 - 2026 FISCAL YFAR ALL MEET-INGS ARE HELD AT THE AMBOY TOWN-SHIP BUILDING, 106 SOUTH PROSPECT, AMBOY, IL 61310 May 14, 2025 June 11, 2025 July 9, 2025

September 10, 2025 October 8, 2025 November 12, 2025 December 10, 2025 January 14, 2026 February 11, 2026 March 11, 2026 March 25, 2026 (Continued Meeting - End of Fiscal Year) April 14, 2026 (Annual Town Meeting followed by the regular monthly township meeting) ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. UNLESS CHANGED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD. ALL CHANG-ES WILL BE PUB-LISHED. Respectfully Submitted, Amy R. Scudder, Township Clerk No. 0406 (April 16, 2025)

#### NOTICE

FOLLOWING THE IS A LIST OF AM-BOY/LEE CENTER MULTI-TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES AND TIMES SET BY THE BOARD FOR THE 2025 - 2026 FISCAL YEAR. ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE AMBOY TOWNSHIP BUILD-ING, 106 SOUTH PROSPECT, AMBOY, IL 61310 June 18, 2025 7:00 pm September 17, 2025 7:00 pm December 17, 2025 7:00 pm March 18, 2026 7:00 pm Respectfully Submitted. Amy R. Scudder, Amboy Township Clerk No. 0407 (April 16, 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

## Recycle

#### 105 BUSINESS **OPPORTUNITIES**

"This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers cautioned are to thoroughly investigate all ads. especially those asking for money in advance.

#### 113 FINANCIAL

Trade

119

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 Commission.

#### 405 **ANNOUNCEMENTS** ALL

"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

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#### 301 **ANTIQUES**

ANTIQUES WANTED: I pay cash for antiques: furniture, glassware, pottery & crocks, tin & iron toys, sterling silver, decovs. If it's antique, I'm interested in looking! Call 815-562-2928 or dickharms@ email hotmail.com

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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, 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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IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY AND SUFFERED AN

INFECTION DUE TO USE OF A BAIR HUGGER (BLUE BLANKET), between 2020 and the present time, You may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727



AMBOY GARAGE SALES

103 AUCTIONS

### Ogle County, IL

2025

NUE SUMMARY:

## **COMMERICAL REAL ESTATE** & EQUIPMENT RETIREMENT AUCTION

Saturday, April 26th, 2025 at 9:30 A.M.

Sale online & onsite at: O'Rorke Construction Services, Inc. 104 N Maple Ct

Rochelle, IL 61068

**Commercial Property Real Estate in fabulous** location! MUST SEE!

**Extensive Equipment Listing- check it out!** 

Real Estate Sells at 9:30 a.m. shop & rack items sell directly after, online & equipment starts at approx. 1:00 p.m

\*Must register in advance for online bidding through www.Equpmentfacts.com

For complete listing of sale bill, maps, tax info, and terms & conditions, etc. visit www.lennybrysonauctioneer.com OR skauctions.net

For Information Contact: Owner, O'Rorke Construction Services, Inc. juipment Question call Dominic O'Rorke 715-562-8254 Equir enny Bryson 815-946-412 309-696-9019 al 309-202-8378 ev, Paul Chadwick 815)562



7am- 5pm

#### 601 VEHICLES FOR SALE



### EXCITING NEW JOB WITH THE **ROCHELLE NEWS-LEADER!**

### **Multimedia Sales** Consultant

If you have an outgoing personality, an energetic get-it-done approach, and enjoy helping clients build their business, then you may be a perfect fit for a sales position with the Rochelle News-Leader. This is a full-time position.

As a multimedia sales consultant, you will service current accounts and also cultivate new clients in the Rochelle/DeKalb region of northern Illinois, helping them market their products and services through a variety of highly visible, popular and effective local media vehicles.

If you have a passion to get out of the office on a regular basis to help clients grow their audience and reach new customers, then we would like to talk to you.

Applicants should possess excellent communication and organizational skills with a positive personality and team-player approach. Previous media sales or related marketing experience is a plus, including print, digital and social media advertising.

The sky is the limit on earning potential and career development in this position. We offer a competitive base salary plus commission.

Qualified applicants should mail or e-mail their resume to the following address:

**Multimedia Sales Position Rochelle News-Leader** ATTN: Will McMacken P.O. Box 46, Rochelle, IL 61068 or email to bmcmacken@newsmediacorp.com

ROCHELLE

# News-Leader Part-time local delivery driver

The Rochelle News-Leader has an opening for a parttime newspaper bundle delivery driver who would load and deliver bundles to the post office, store racks and machines.

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.

Candidates must be able to load, unload and carry multiple bundles of 5 to 10 pounds each. Driver applicants must be reliable, personable and have a general knowledge of area streets and roads.

This position is perfect for someone looking to supplement their income or retirement.

Interested individuals must fill out an application in person at the Rochelle News-Leader office at 211 Hwy. 38 E., Rochelle. No phone calls please.

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# 2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4



2023 Chevy 1500 Crew Cab LTZ 4x4 6.2 V8, 45K Miles, Dark Gray, GM Certified, 1-owner, local trade with sunroof, leather interior, heated / cooled seats, beadliner & More!

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• 2-Year/24,000- Mainte • 12-Month/12,0	CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED Mile Standard CPO enance Plan 000-Mile Bumper-to- er Warranty	<ul> <li>6-Year/100,000-Mile Powertrain Limited Warranty</li> <li>24/7 Roadside Assistance</li> <li>172-Point Vehicle Inspection and Reconditioning Process</li> <li>3-Day/150-Mile Customer Satisfaction Guarantee</li> </ul>
	rew Cab LTZ 4x4 6.2L, \$54,900	2021 Chevy 1500 Z71 Crew Cab 4x4 LTZ Topper, 63K Miles, Blue\$36,900
	ew Cab LTZ 4x4 6.2 V8, /\$46,900	2021 Chevy Traverse AWD Premier, Red Line Edition, 72K Miles, Silver\$29,900
	ew Cab 4x4 LTZ, 74K \$39,900	2021 Chevy Traverse AWD Premier, 70K Miles, White\$29,900
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Great Deals - Great Service	1-800-227-5203
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### FEED/LIVESTOCK EQUIP.

Sublette Farmers Elevator 100 W. Main St. • Sublette 815-849-5222



The First National Bank in Amboy 220 E. Main Street • Amboy Franklin Grove • Dixon • Monroe Center 815-857-3625 • www.fnbamboy.com Member FDIC First State Bank 2514 Johnson St., West Brooklyn 815-628-3121 Firststatebank.biz Member FDIC



NIIY

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**FDIC** 



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## **NEWSPAPERS/PRINTING**

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## **FUNERAL HOME**

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## **REAL ESTATE**

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# LOCAL/STATE NEWS Kish names Paul Simon Student Essay Contest, Gandhi/King Peace Scholarship winners

MALTA-Kishwaukee College selected Tanisha Jones-Robinson as the 2025 Paul Simon Student Essay Contest winner and Hilda Osei as the 2025 Gandhi/King Peace Scholarship winner.

#### **Paul Simon Student Essay Contest**

Jones-Robinson, a DeKalb resident, described "how Kishwaukee College changed my life" in her winning entry. She received a scholarship for the Spring 2025 semester and was recognized with a certificate of achievement at the April Board of Trustees meeting. Jones-Robinson's essay was forwarded to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) for entry into the statewide Paul Simon Student Essay Contest. In heressay, Jones-Robinson reflects on the various levels of support she has received from faculty and staff at Kish while acknowledging the College's affordability.

"Paying for school was a huge factor in my decision to get a degree, but Kishwaukee College made it so accessible that I did not have to let financial barriers stand in my way. Scholarships, financial aid, and reasonable tuition costs have made it possible for me to pursue my education without the constant stress of overwhelming debt," Jones-Robinson wrote in her essay.

When crafting her essay, Jones-Robinson said it was a good opportunity to explain how attending Kish is helping rewrite her future.

"What interested me in the Paul Simon Essay Contest was the chance to write about and share my experience of going back to school. What I hope people will take from my essay is that it's never too late to make your dreams a reality. Yes, school is hard, but it's also exciting and rewarding. You can do it, and there are schools like Kish that will help you every step of the way," Jones-Robinson said.

Jones-Robinson plans to graduate from Kish in Summer 2025 with an Associate in Science degree. She plans to transfer to a four-year college or university and possibly take additional classes at Kish.



Kishwaukee College announced the winners of the Paul Simon Student Essay Contest and Gandhi/King Peace Scholarship. Pictured (left to right) are Bob Johnson, Chair of the Board of Trustees; Hilda Osei, Gandhi/King Peace Scholarship winner; Tanisha Jones-Robinson, Paul Simon Student Essay Contest winner; and Dr. Laurie Borowicz, President of Kishwaukee College.

#### **Gandhi/King Peace Scholarship**

Hilda, a DeKalb resident, was selected as the Gandhi/King Peace Scholarship winner after submitting an essay where contestants outlined a plan to address hate and discrimination while uti-

lizing examples of the nonviolent practices of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She received a scholarship for the Spring 2025 semester and was recognized with a certificate of achievement at the April Board of Trustees meeting. Her entry was forwarded to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) for consideration in the statewide Gandhi/ King Peace Scholarship competition.

In her essay, Hilda focused on awareness, open dialogue and concrete actions based on peace and conflict resolution.

"The peaceful messages of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. have profoundly influenced my approach to conflict resolution. Both leaders advocated for nonviolence as the most effective means of confronting hate and discrimination. They understood that violence only breeds more violence, while peace and dialogue pave the way for lasting solutions," Hilda wrote in her essay.

To identify with the essay topic, Hilda drew upon her experiences in Ghana and expressed how peace programs can help prevent violence.

"The essay was relatable. I appreciated the peaceful message that comes through conflict resolution. People should learn to choose peace as far as it is dependent on you," Hilda said.

Hilda is pursuing an Associate in Arts degree and plans to graduate in Spring 2026. Following her time at Kish, she plans to continue her education to earn a master's degree in criminal justice or forensic science.

Read the complete essays at kish.edu/iccta.

## **Kishwaukee unveils Artificial** Intelligence Implementation Playbook

MALTA – Kishwaukee College has created an Artificial Intelligence Implementation Playbook to address changing technology advancements in higher education.

The playbook was officially unveiled during the March Kishwaukee College Board of Trustees meeting.

The Al playbook provides steps and goals to help use AI and explore new technologies at the College. Kish will use the tools within the playbook to improve teaching and learning, student experiences, and overall organizational effectiveness by taking a planned and

developed the AI playbook through conversations with industry leaders, organizations and other colleges on the forefront of AI technology. From these discussions, Kish outlined a four-step approach to implementing AI-researching industry best practices, tracking AI-related activities, developing a technology integration and product development process, and fostering a culture that promotes experimentation, awareness, literacy and adoption.

Various college departments have already started using AI tools to improve workflows. Several faculty members are integrating AI into the classroom to enhance student learning by offering personalized writing feedback, fostering critical analysis of AI-generated content, and supporting research. The college has also provided many professional development opportunities to help empower employees to utilize AI technologies.

#### Winners of 2025 Juried High School Art Exhibit were announced by Kishwaukee College

MALTA – Kishwaukee College has announced the winning selections of the 2025 Juried High School Student Art Exhibition.

The exhibition showcased two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork from Kishwaukee College district high schools, including DeKalb, Hiawatha, Indian Creek, Oregon, Rochelle and Sycamore high schools. A total of 155 pieces were submitted, and works were displayed in the Kishwaukee College Art Gallery. Winning selections are below, and artists' names are listed as requested.

Best In Show — "Now You See Me"

of Sycamore High School, Second Place; "Sweetened Death" by Litzy Agaton of DeKalb High School, Third Place

Mixed Media — "Torn by Selfworth" by Teagan Auld of Rochelle High School, First Place; "Heart to Brain and Brain to Heart" by Brenda Cuautle of Sycamore High School, Second Place; "Blues" by Grace Tremble of Oregon High School, Third Place

Painting—"Curiosity" by Issy Smith of DeKalb High School, First Place; "Scars of Life" by Christina Blanchard of DeKalb High School, Second Place; "Insomnia" by Marcus Montgomery of DeKalb High School, Third Place

collaborative approach.

"The AI Implementation Playbook is a responsive and evolving resource that reflects Kishwaukee College's commitment to innovation and excellence in education. This plan is very adaptable and will be updated to address changes in technology and the needs of our students," said Dr. Laurie Borowicz, president of Kishwaukee College.

Over the past year, the college has

Learn more about Kishwaukee College at kish.edu.

#### L.A. Guns to take the stage September 6 in Rockford

**ROCKFORD**–Danny Zelisko Presents Cinderella's Tom Keifer with special guest L.A. Guns is performing at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford.

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

Monday-Friday).

Rock music may sparkle and fade on the charts, but rock n roll – the spirit, the invincibility, the fearlessness? That lives forever. There might not be a better example of the unstoppable need to make music, to knock the odds on their ass, than Tom Keifer.

His story begins as the singer- songwriter, guitarist and front man of hard rock heavyweights Cinderella. Their bluesy,

no-BS stadium-shakers moved records to the tune of fifteen million worldwide and sound tracked just about everybody's '80s. Tom Keifer, is enjoying continued success with is latest project, #keiferband, releasing two critically acclaimed solo albums "The Way Life Goes" & "RISE" Though he possesses all the fire and brimstone of Rock's greatest front men, you would be hard pressed to find the versatility an d dimension that Keifer brings to a stage.



line scammers will capitalize on anything to do with AUCTION!!! "EVERYTHING MUST GO" (Reasonable Bids Accepted) Saturday, April 19th - 10 am (No Sunday Auction Due To Easter) Antiques, Collectibles, Primitive, Household, New Items Always Excepting Good Clean Items "The Right Team For On Site Auctions or Haul Entire Households' Sale will be in the Big Barn, Outside Tables, HayRacks Dress for the Weather Absentee, Phone Bids, 10% Buyer Premium Pics on Facebook & Auction Zip HANA AUCTIO 620 S. Stone Hill Rd., Chana, Il 61015 For more info call: 815-830-3898 No Small Livestock!

by Courtney Richied of Sycamore High School

Black and White Drawing -"Statically Shocked" by Kyrie Cragin of Rochelle High School, First Place; "The Protector" by Samanta Minchala of Sycamore High School, Second Place; "Picture of Me" by Gabriele Hoyle of Oregon High School, Third Place

Ceramics — "Waterfall" by Alexi Rodriguez of DeKalb High School, First Place; "Weeping Lilly" by Mya Livious of DeKalb High School, Second Place; "Imprint of the Ancients" by Yana Bartkiv of Rochelle High School, Third Place

Color Drawing—"Memory Lane" by Denia Rincón of Rochelle High School, First Place; "Resistance" by Hannah Hart

Photography/Digital Media -"Untitled" by Gialan Zuniga of DeKalb High School, First Place; "Forgotten Memories" by Everyiel Smith of Rochelle High School, Second Place; "Untitled" by Daisy Dominguez of DeKalb High School, Third Place

Sculpture — "Metal Bars and Hearts in Jars" by Macklynn Rager of Oregon High School, First Place; "Feminine Aneurysm" by Audrey Emmens of Hiawatha High School, Second Place; "Impulsive" by Sienna Seebach of Rochelle High School, Third Place

Learn more about the exhibition at kish.edu/hsartexhibition. Learn more about the Kishwaukee College Art Gallery or Art program at kish.edu.

## **BBC: Spring scams in full bloom**

**ROCKFORD**-Spring provides new opportunities for scammers to blossom. The Better Business Bureau says warm weather is the perfect environment for con artists to get inside your home and wallet.

"Door-to-door and on-

people's home improvement and repair projects," says Dennis Horton, BBB Senior Director, Rockford Regional Office. "Fake utility reps and security system imposters will attempt to deceive people. Spring scam losses can devastate your finances, so please be on the lookout. Just this past weekend, we had strong storms packing over 60 mph winds and causing widespread damage."

Shoddy storm damage repair is a lucrative con. The scammers could contact you via text or email, phone, online, or even in person. Damage from the Chicago and northern Illinois winter and the freezethaw cycle may necessitate various repairs. Warmer weather can bring intense storms with high winds and heavy rains.

In the latest Scam Track-

er Risk Report, home Improvement Scams ranked #5 on BBB's list of scams posing the most significant risk to consumers. The report also indicates that home improvement scams were the No. 3 riskiest scam for the 65-and-older consumer group.

Hoirton says, "Drywall, paint jobs, plumbing, roofing, electric, HVAC service, and other home improvement projects all have scam potential."

Consumers can find companies they can trust at BBB.org, a free service where you can research a business's rating and reviews before you hire.

· Be wary of high-pressure sales tactics, up-front fees, and "handshake" deals. Also use additional caution if someone reaches out to you unsolicited, especially if they knock on your door.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025

# **SPORTS**



### Amboy boys, girls track and field teams compete at Mendota's Don Gooden Invitational

It was a beautiful day for the Don Gooden Invitational on Saturday, April 12 at Mendota High School and the Amboy boys and girls track and field teams took full advantage. Sophomore Henry Nichols, left, took fifth in the 3,200-meter run, juniors Bella Yanos and Jillian Anderson, middle, joined sophomores Alexa McKendry and Maddie Althaus to earn the 400-meter relay team a victory, and junior Kabe Daniels finished third in the 800-meter run. Other top finishes for the Lady Clippers were Althaus winning the long jump and Yanos placing just behind her for second, and McKendry and freshman Olivea Glasper taking second and fourth in the 100-meter hurdles. **Kip Cheek/Amboy News** 

## **Clippers drop four tough games on the diamond**

AMBOY–TheAmboy baseball team had tough outings at the plate as they dropped four games in a row.

The Clippers (6-6) lost to Northwest Upstate Illini Conference South Division rival Ashton-Franklin Center both Tuesday, April 8 (10-0) and Thursday, April 10 (8-4 in nine innings), and non-conference opponents, River Ridge/Scales Mound (3-0) on Saturday, April 12, and Putnam County (18-2) on Monday, April 14.

In the first contest against AFC, the Raiders scored six runs in the second inning and added four runs in the third inning.

Amboy senior Eddie

Jones took the loss on the mound with three hits, and six runs (two earned), three strike outs and three walks in 12/3 inning. Senior Brody Christoffersen had the only hit for the Clippers.

The Clippers had a 4-3 lead in the fourth inning of the second encounter with the Raiders, but AFC prevailed after tying the game 4-4 in the sixth and scoring four runs in the top of the ninth inning for the 8-4 final.

Freshman Bryson Deery, the No. 8 hitter, was 2-of-4 at the plate, while seniors Carson Barlow and Jones each drove in a run. Amboy stole six bases including two taken by Christoffersen.

Barlow was the Amboy starting pitcher against River Ridge and recorded 18 outs in the loss as he allowed five hits and three runs, struck out seven, and walked none in six innings.

The Clippers fell behind Putnam County in the first inning and the Panthers put on seven more in the second inning to take a lead they wouldn't let up.

Senior Quinn Leffelman hit a solo home run in the third inning and junior Rylan McNinch drove in a run.

McNinch took the loss on the mound with eighth hits, 11 runs (four earned), one strike out and two walks in two innings.

## Lady Clippers pick up first two wins of the season against conference rival AFC

**AMBOY** – The only sweeter thing than winning your first two games of the season is when they're both against a Northwest Upstate Illini Conference South Division rival.

The Amboy softball team defeated Ashton-Franklin Center, 15-6, on Tuesday, April 8 and 23-19 on Thursday, April 10.

The Lady Clippers (3-7) ended the week with an 18-5 loss to non-conference opponent Durand on Saturday, April 12.

In the first meeting with AFC, freshman Tinley Whitney earned the win in the circle with 13 strikeouts, 11 walks, and two hits allowed.

At the plate, junior Kiera Karlson was 4-of-5 with four singles and three RBI, sophomore Lili Leffelman was 3-of-5 with a single, a double, a triple and five RBI, senior Tyrah Vaessen was 3-of-4 with a RBI, and freshman Gabby Miller was 2-of-5 with a single, a double, and an RBI.

In the second victory over AFC, junior Alyvia Whelchel tallied the win in the circle with two strikeouts, six walks, and 11 allowed hits.

The Lady Clipper bats continued to hit the ball hard as Vaessen was 6-of-6 with three doubles, three singles and four RBI, sophomore Leighton Gulley was 4-of-6 with three singles and a double, and junior Peyton Payne was 4-of-5 with a home run, two singles, a double, and five RBI.

Vaessen was 3-of-4 with a triple, a double, and a single in the loss to Durand

**Call Jim at** 

630-201-8122



#### Illinois youth turkey hunters set new harvest record; Lee County hauls in five more than last year

turkey hunters harvested a preliminary

**SPRINGFIELD** – Illinois youth this year, compared to 6,541 in 2024. Lee County upped its 2024 tally of

record total of 2,091 birds during the 2025 youth turkey season, breaking the previous harvest record of 2,010 set in 2024.

The dates for this year's season were March 29-30 and April 5-6. A total of 6,573 youth turkey permits were issued

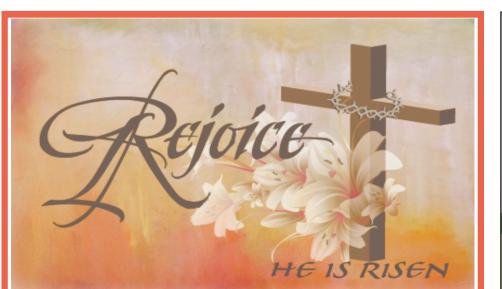
nine to 14 in 2025, while La Salle County went from one to seven, and Whiteside County went from 15 to 26.

The top five counties for harvest during this year's youth season were Jefferson, 69; Pike, 69; Randolph, 67; Fayette, 62; and Macoupin, 60.

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

Mercedes, Porsche, Jaguar, Corvettes, Vintage Cars, Foreign & Domestic, Restored & Unrestored, Hot Rods, Mopars & Vintage Motorcycles





#### 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.

The Catholic Parishes of St. Patrick, Amboy, St. Flannen, Harmon and St. Mary, Walton invite you to celebrate Holy Week and Easter with us.





#### The Place to Go for Things That Grow

## **Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day This Month!**

Free Delivery on Trees from April 21-26 (min purchase required)

Mon-Sat 8-5



417 E US Rt 34 Mendota

815.538.4800 Ekananursery.com

# SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS

## Kish College to offer four Fast-Track programs in summer 2025

MALTA-Kishwaukee College will offer four Fast-Track training programs during the Summer 2025 semester. Kish Fast-Track programs provide students with the expertise needed to meet local workforce demands. The programs range from 11-15 weeks, allowing students to start a career immediately or build upon skills with additional training.

Summer 2025 classes are available online, in-person and in hybrid formats. Participants need internet access to participate in programs with an online component. Some programs include an externship/clinical.

#### Dental Assistant: May 5-Aug. 1 (Online Lecture/In-Person Practice)

Dental assistants are health care professionals who work closely with dentists and dental hygienists to provide preventive and corrective dental care and administrative support in dental offices. Online instruction is delivered in an asynchronous format. In-person practice is from 6-9 pm on four Tuesdays in a local dental office.

### Pharmacy Technician:

May 5-Aug. 15 (Online) Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists with dispensing prescription medication while performing various other duties in a pharmacy setting. Online instruction is delivered in an asynchronous format. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding is available to those who qualify.

#### Phlebotomy Technician: June 2-Aug. 15 (In-Person)

Phlebotomists are health care professionals trained to collect, transport, handle and process blood and other specimens for laboratory analysis using venipuncture and micro-collection techniques. Instruction and in-person practice are from 10 am-12 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays (June 2-July 24) at Kishwaukee College. A clinical experience will be offered in a local hospital from July 28-Aug. 15.

#### Sterile Processing Technician:

May 5-Aug. 8 (Online) Sterile processing technicians support patient services in a health care facility. Technicians help decontaminate, clean, process, assemble, sterilize, store and distribute medical devices and supplies needed in patient care, especially during surgery. Online instruction is delivered in an asynchronous format.



Baseball Carson Barlow **Softball** Tinley Whitney



## **Clippers start new tradition**

**AMBOY** – Before the basketball season ended, Amboy boys basketball coach Tyson Powers made sure a new tradition was started.

Each of his six seniors gave a teacher who has influenced them in some way a red basketball, a certificate, and a jersey.

"I thought it was a good way to for the players to show their teachers how much they mean to them," Powers said. "I think it helped them realize how much teachers and others affect them and help mold who they are. Sports plays a part, but so do others around them."

Above, Tyler Huggins honored Joe Heavner. Top right, Eddie Jones hands Deb Cleary a basketball. Yellow sweater, Cyndi Carlson shares a shocked and thankful look as Carson Barlow hands her his ball. Black sweater, Emily Seier hugs Quinn Leffelman for the thought. Bottom right, Liz Sciven smiles as Kabe Daniels hands her a jersey. Bottom, Jim Murphy reaches out to Brody Christopherson in appreciation for his symbols of appreciation.

Photos contributed













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Girls Track Grace Althaus

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Who's career would you rather have? A) Tiger Woods B) Wayne Gretzky C) Michael Jordan D) Babe Ruth E) Muhammad Ali

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# Amboy Community Unit School District #272

#### April 21

AHS Boys Track @ Forreston-4:00 pm NO SCHOOL

#### April 22

AHS Girls Track @ Fulton Invite-TBA AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball @

Polo-TBA

AHS Softball @ Polo-4:30 pm AHS Varsity Baseball @ Polo-4:30 pm

#### April 23

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

Amboy FFA Chapter Banquet-AHS Cafeteria-6:00 pm

#### April 24

AHS Softball (H) Polo-4:30 pm AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball (H) Polo-TBA AHS Varsity Baseball (H) Polo-4:30 pm

#### April 25

AHS Girls Track @ Oregon-4:00 pm Amboy Invitational Art Show-AHS-6:00-7:00 pm AHS Boys Track @ Rock Falls Invite-4:00 pm

#### April 26

AHS Baseball (H) Orangeville-Varsity-11:00/FS-1:00 AHS Softball @ Serena-11:00 am AJHS Track and Field (H) Invite-9:00 am

# HOME IMPROVEMENT How to establish a peaceful backyard retreat

Backyards have undergone quite a transformation over the last decade-plus. The days when patios and decks were all a backyard living space had to offer are largely a thing of the past, as homeowners have realized just how valuable it can be to commit to a stunning backyard.

The real estate experts at Zillow estimate that homes with backyard features such as outdoor televisions, outdoor showers and outdoor kitchens command 3.1 percent more than expected upon reaching the market. If 3.1 percent doesn't sound like a lot, it actually equates to nearly \$11,000 on a typical home. But there's more to gain than money when converting a backyard space into a relaxing respite. Such spaces can provide a welcoming escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life, all the while giving homeowners and residents a comfortable space to soak in the



great outdoors. With that in mind, homeowners can take the following steps to establish a peaceful backyard retreat.

• Refresh the landscape. Even if your vision is centered on outdoor furniture and a space that accommodates movie nights under the stars, it's still best to refresh the existing landscape if it needs a little upkeep. Overgrown trees,

hedges and bushes can create the same cluttered vibe that dominates interior spaces overrun with items. If necessary, work with a local tree service or landscape architect to trim, or even remove, trees and hedges that are crowding the backyard and making it feel claustrophobic or giving it an unkempt look. Aim for a landscape that affords a balance of sun and shade so the space is as comfortable as possible throughout the day.

• Set up multiple gathering spaces, if possible. Once a backyard retreat is established, everyone who calls the property home might find the space hard to resist. Keep this in mind when planning the space and aim to set up multiple gathering spaces. An outdoor kitchen with a

nearby dinner table can be a great space to enjoy al fresco dining, but a separate area to read a book or watch a movie or ballgame can make the space more versatile. Some may want to relax away from the noise of the grill area, and multiple gathering spaces ensures there's always a peaceful spot to unwind out back.

• Add a water feature. Running water has a way of calming the nerves, and that's good to keep in mind when planning a backyard retreat. Water features run the gamut from garden ponds to koi ponds to fountains to hot tubs. Homeowners can identify which feature best aligns with their idea of relaxation and then work with a landscape architect to ensure it's installed in their backyard oasis.

• Don't forget shade.

Temperatures are rising in many areas of the globe, and that's worth noting when planning a backyard retreat. Even the most ardent sun worshippers likely won't want to be exposed to the sun at all times when relaxing in their backyards. Strategically chosen means of providing shade can make spaces enjoyable all day long. Consider umbrellas, gazebos, pergolas, and even retractable awnings to cover patios and decks when the sun is at its highest each afternoon. If you plan to spend ample time in the grass, make that more enjoyable by planting shade trees, which also can protect the grass from drought and make it more comfortable underfoot.

A relaxing backyard retreat can make for an ideal space to escape the hustle and bustle of daily life.

### Earthy colors dominate 2025

Change is in the air when a new year arrives. People often use the turn of the calendar as an opportunity to redecorate living spaces or revamp their wardrobes. As individuals narrow down their projects, they may want to incorporate a fresh and trendy palette of colors. For 2025, the options are decidedly warm, cozy and earthy.

#### Quietude

Sherwin-Williams has named Quietude its color of the year. This soft sage color exudes serenity and understated luxury. Grayish-green with a touch of blue, Quietude is a soothing color of tranquility. Sherwin-Williams also offers a Color Collection of the Year that includes Convivial Yellow, Spiced

this rich, warm brown suggests the intoxicating qualities of coffee and chocolate. It can create a feeling of comfort in any space, or even serve as the basis of a chocolate wardrobe color palette. According to Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, Mocha Mousse is "sophisticated and lush, yet at the same time an unpretentious classic."

#### **Purple Basil**

Glidden's 2025 color of the year title belongs to Purple Basil, a dusty, neutral violet purple hue with mauve undertones. It embraces rich, warm energy, and is equally at home in a bedroom as it is in a dining room.

**Cinnamon Slate** Cinnamon Slate is



DAN STEPHENITCH Community President NMLS # 764558



#### BANK





Cider, and Nomadic ert, among others.

#### **Mocha Mousse**

The title of Pantone® Color of the Year 2025 belongs to Mocha Mousse. Just as the name implies, moody and introspective. This Benjamin Moore color blends rich plum and chocolate brown that the company calls "adaptable, yet distinct."

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## **WEEKLY SPECIALS**



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