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\$1.00



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#### **Obituaries**

Linda E. Nowacki Scott J. Schulz

#### **Inserts**

Snyders Woody's True Value



### Distracted Driving results announced

LEECOUNTY—The Lee County Sheriff's Office announced it issued 23 citations for hands-free law violations, along with four speeding citations, one driving while license revoked, one no valid driver's license and one other citation for a moving violation during April's Distracted Driving Awareness Month enforcement campaign.

Deputies also issued 11 warnings for various offenses.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office joined forces with the Illinois State Police, local law enforcement and highway safety partners for this enforcement effort.

The Illinois distracted driving campaign was funded with federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.





#### 2025 Amboy High School Prom

The annual spectacle known as the Amboy High School Prom took place Saturday, May 3. Photo left, Brysen Full was named the Prom King and Alainie Wittenauer was Prom Queen. Photo right, The Prom Court consisted of, front row, left to right, Mini Queen Delaney Bulfer and Mini King Gibson Leffelman. Back row, Eddie Jones, Quinn Leffelman, Caleb Shugars, Carson Barlow, Prom King Brysen Full, Prom Qeen Alainie Wittenauer, Kenley Wilson, Tyrah Vaessen, Grace Royer, and Emerson Noble.

**Photos courtesy of Katie Bulfer** 

#### Sawyer Brown, Walker Montgomery at Hops & Harmony stage on Sept. 6

SUBLETTE – Hosted by Sublette 365, Hops & Harmony is back for its fifth year with an exciting lineup featuring over 15 craft breweries from Northern Illinois and Chicago.

With each passing year, the Hops & Harmony event grows in excitement. This year, the committee is thrilled to announce that the headliner will be Sawyer Brown, a band often referred to as the "Rolling Stones of Country Music."

They will be performing in Sublette on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Sawyer Brown has released 23 albums and more than 50 chart singles, earning several CMA,

ACM, and CMT awards.
Opening the show this
year is Walker Montgomery, who has been
recognized as an Artist to
Watch by Country Now,

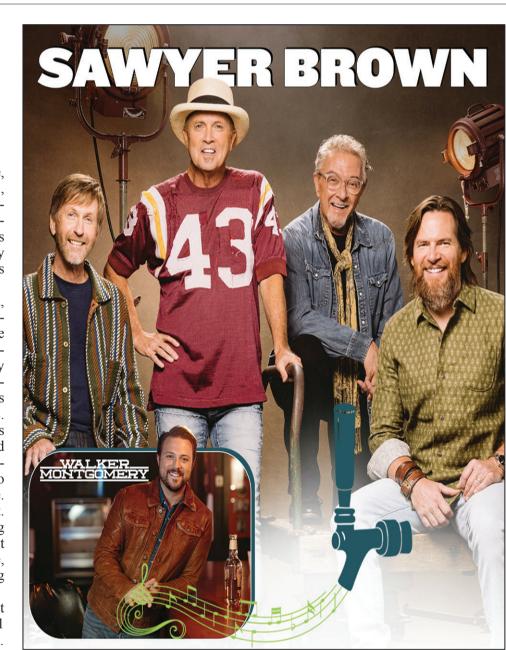
Music Mayhem Magazine, Sounds Like Nashville, and The Boot. Montgomery is a rising singer/songwriter who understands the importance of family tradition while forging his own legacy.

At just 21 years old, he is the son of John Michael Montgomery and the nephew of Eddie Montgomery from Montgomery Gentry, showcasing a lineage matched only by his passion for country music.

Beer-tasting tickets include both tastings and concert access, while concert-only tickets will also be available for purchase. This is an all-ages event. Gates and the beer tasting will open at 6 p.m. at Centennial Park, Sublette, with live music beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the event are on sale as of April 21 at www.sublette365.com.

815.375.8274



# Rural Dixon three-vehicle automobile accident issues DUI

**DIXON** – At approximately 7:06 p.m. Sunday, May 4, the Lee County Sheriff's Office received a call for a multiple vehicle crash in the area of Rt. 2 and Plock Rd. in rural Dixon

Rd. in rural Dixon.

Investigating deputies learned a white 2013 GMC Acadia driven by Sandra L. Seeley, 52 of Dixon, was traveling east bound on IL Rt. 2 at a high rate of speed.

by Elizabeth L. Elsasser, 18, of Mount Morris, that was also traveling east bound.

The crash caused the 2013 GMC Acadia to cross the median into west bound traffic, crashing into a black 2012 Dodge Charger driven by Jason K Kopitas, 37, of Ashton.

All three drivers were checked by medical personnel

Setherine Hearital for miner injuries

For emergency service please contact us at 815.520.0197

Katherine Hospital for minor injuries.

Seeley was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and issued a citation for improper traffic lane usage, failure to reduce speed to avoid an

accident, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office was assisted by Illinois State Police, Dixon Rural Fire Department and



# LOCAL NEWS







Amboy High School Community Service Day

For the last five years, the students of Amboy High School spend a day in the spring helping businesses, organizations, and the City of Amboy during Community Service Day. This year, the special day took place on Monday, May 4 as the seniors and the sophomores paired up and the juniors and freshmen formed an alliance to complete some odds and ends, and pick up the community. Photo left, sophomores Aaron Costner, left, and Anthony Linder try to figure out what is wrong with the Teen Turf air hockey table. Photo center, left to right, senior Addison Pertell, Teen Turf's Allie Kessel, and senior Michael Furar separate and package jewelry at Teen Turf. Photo right, freshman Maddix Beyer sweeps the Teen Turf walkway. See Amboy High School Report for more...

**Brandon LaChance/Amboy News** 

#### Amboy High School Report

Janet Crownhart, Principal

Thank you to Kirstyn Carter for her Food Truck Monday's donation of over \$350 to Amboy High School. The money is used to offset the cost of snacks and treats for the students during SIP day assemblies and testing.

The Amboy Junior High School and Amboy High School teachers and students were able to collect \$250 to donate to the YWCA of the Sauk Valley. On April 30, people worldwide wore denim in a visible show of support for survivors of sexual violence. Survivors deserve to be believed, supported, and protected.

On Monday, May 5, students at AHS teamed up with local businesses to help around town. Groups of students helped at Teen Turf, the Amboy Fire Department, Amboy Depot Museum, Lee County Fairgrounds, the bus garage, and picked up trash and branches all over town at the parks, ditches, fields, and even the creek.

The students also had some fun with an Alley Ball tournament (seniors won), Yahtzee, and a very heated game of musical chairs, with the final winner being

Then, the student council kicked off teacher appreciation week with awards for each of the teachers.

# Lee Center Church to host **Memorial Day service May 25**

**LEE CENTER** – The First Congregational United Church of Christ of Lee Center, in cooperation with Amboy American Legion Post #453 and the Woodside Cemetery Board, will hold their annual Memorial Day service at the Woodside Cemetery on Sunday, May 25. The service starts at 10:30 a.m. at the

cemetery near the American Flagpole. This memorial service is to honor and recognize our veterans of the past and present for their countless hours of sacrifice and unending courage to secure the freedoms we all enjoy in our wonderful country.

Pastor Jack Briggs from the First Congregational Church will provide us with an inspiring reflection of the days' service. The "Reading of the Honor Roll," of approximately 170 names of veterans from Woodside Cemetery and Inlet

Cemetery will be completed by two growing season

guest speakers.

The Amboy American Legion Posts #453 has participated in this service for more than 25 years and could once again grace us with their leadership and presentation of Arms and Taps at the end of service.

An offering will be collected, and all donations will be given to the Amboy American Legion Post #453 to help fund their community projects.

Special thanks are extended to Sandy Wittenauer for volunteering to place flags on all the veterans' graves in this cemetery and to the family of Howard Schnell for the flag that is flown at the cemetery for his years of service in the

A hearty thank you is also extended to all the cemetery groundskeepers who keep it looking nice throughout the

# Memorial Day services to be held in Amboy, Sublette

AMBOY – Similiar to years past, the Amboy American Legion Post #453 will perform its traditional Memorial Day services for both Amboy and Sublette on the national holiday, Monday, May 26. The honoring of veterans of the United States of America military starts at

speakers and the American Legion presenting the colors and salute. The legion members will then go to Veterans Park in Amboy and perform

10 a.m. at Amboy High School with an assembly in the gymnasium with guest

A service will be held at 11 a.m. at the Ellice Dinges Center in Sublette where there will be a guest speaker and the legion will once again honor veterans with their tribute.

#### Rep. Fritts hosts prescription drug drop-off drive

Mendota, and Mendota

**DIXON** – State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) will be hosting a prescription drug drop-off event from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, May 13.

The event will take place in the parking lot of the Mendota Civic Center, located at 1901 Tom Merwin Drive in Mendota.

"In partnership with the Mendota Chamber of Commerce, City of lanes when entering

Police Department, join us for a prescription drop-off drive to make our community safer!" said Rep. Fritts. "I encourage all constituents to attend and utilize this opportunity to safely discard unwanted or expired medications."

Participants should remain in their vehicles and follow the marked and exiting the parking lot for safety reasons.

Accepted medications include tablets, capsules, patches, vaping devices and cartridges (lithium batteries removed), and pet medications. Restricted items include liquids, syringes, and

needles. For more information about Representative Fritts, visit Rep-Fritts.com.

Rep. Fritts awards Flight Deck April highlight

**DIXON** – For his April 2025 local business highlight, State Representative Bradley Fritts (R-Dixon) chose to highlight Flight Deck in Rochelle. Rep. Fritts spent time touring the business and presented the owner with a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to the community.

"This month, I chose to highlight Flight Deck in Rochelle because of their continued efforts to support and give back to our community," said Rep. Fritts. "Ashley Bick, owner of Flight Deck, is on the Rochelle Chamber of Commerce Board and the Destination Committee for the city of Rochelle. She also sponsors and hosts many events at her restaurant, such as free photos

with Santa, community fireworks shows with the Chicagoland Skydive Center, small business bingo, the annual Fireman's Ball, and so much more."

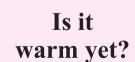
Ashley Bick began as the General Manager at Flight Deck in 2017. In 2019, she bought the restaurant. She is a mother of six, with two of her children currently working at Flight Deck.

Rep. Fritts continued, "I also want to commend Ashley and her family for their dedication to keeping

Flight Deck open, even after the challenges of remaining open through the COVID-19 pandemic. She has continued her hard work and recently bought a catering truck to support her expanding operations. That kind of hard work and determination should always be celebrated in our community."

Flight Deck is located at 1207 Gurler Road in Rochelle.

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









# LOCAL NEWS



Senator Li Arellano, Jr. (R-Dixon) talks to locals at a book store in part of his constituent services. Photo contributed

#### Senator Arellano, Jr. announces May mobile constituent services

**DIXON** – State Senator Li Arellano, Jr (R-Dixon) and his staff will continue their Mobile Constituent Services program across the 37th Senate District with ten stops scheduled for May.

The Mobile Constituent Services schedule for May is as follows:

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 10 a.m.-noon Mineral-Gold Public Library 120 Main Street, Mineral

Neponset Public Library 201 West Commercial Street, Neponset

3:30-5:30 p.m. Sheffield Public Library 136 East Cook Street, Sheffield, IL 61361

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 10 a.m.-noon Earlville Public Library 205 West Winthrop Street, Earlville

1-3 p.m. Paw Paw Public Library 362 Chicago Road, Paw Paw

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 9-11 a.m. Lillie M. Evans Library District 207 North Walnut Avenue, Princeville

noon-2 p.m. **Dunlap Public Library District** 302 South First Street, Dunlap

2:30-4:30 p.m. Chillicothe Public Library 430 North Bradley Avenue, Chillicothe

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LUNCH IN

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FRIDAY MAY 9TH SERVING:

11AM - 1PM

Mendota Museum & Historical Society

PRESENTED BY:

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**AMBOY** – The Board of Trustees of the Amboy Township will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 at the Amboy Township Building, located at 106 South Prospect in Amboy.

MAY TOWNSHIP – The monthly May Township meeting will take play at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 14 at the township maintenance building.

Trustees of the Village of Paw Paw will commence at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 at the Paw Paw Village Hall. **AMBOY** – The Amboy City Council will meet at

6 p.m. on Monday, May 19 at the Amboy Community Center, 290 W. Wasson Road. The council meets every

**PAW PAW** – The regular meeting of the Board of

third Monday each month. **AMBOY** – The Amboy Lions Club meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, May 26 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, June 2 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, June 9 at the Ellice Dinges Center at 202 S. West Street in Sublette.

**EAST GROVE** – East Grove Township is holding

## The Last Alarm's **Queen of Hearts**

**AMBOY** – In the Amboy Progress section published April 30, The Last Alarms' Queen of Hearts information was incorrect.

The Last Alarms' last game donated proceeds to the Amboy Flagship Foundation.

The game which recently started will donate funds to Teen Turf.

#### VIP Day at Amboy Junior High School

**AMBOY** – The Amboy Junior High School students are hosting VIP Day from 2-3:10 p.m.

Friday, May 16. The students invite a VIP (very important

grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, or other special adult) for a tour of the school and discuss what happens in the day of a middle school student.

The cafeteria will person such as a parent, serve cookies and juice.



103 W. Main St.,



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Illinois Extension **LEE COUNTY** MAY 17, 2025

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its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 10 at the East Grove Township Hall.

LEE CENTER – The Lee Center Township meeting is at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 12 at the Township Hall.

AMBOY - The Amboy/Lee Center Multi-Township meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 18 at the Amboy Township Building, located at 106 South Prospect in Amboy.

**DIXON** – The Lee County Board of Health will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8 at the Lee County Health Department, located at 309 Galena Avenue, Suite 100

#### OUR FAMILY PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY



#### YOUR LONG HOURS **OUR PROTECTION**



We tip our hats to cattle farmers, as we recognize National Beef Month. Your job is to raise livestock to feed the world. Ours is to protect that work with quality insurance coverage.

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Lisa Quest

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#### COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. Senior Dining Menu May 12 - May 16 8 oz. of low-fat milk served with each meal

Monday - Country meatballs, mashed potatoes/gravy, mixed

veggies, diced pears, whole grain dinner roll Tuesday - Chicken patty on whole grain bun, peas & carrots, scalloped potatoes, pineapple tidbits

Wednesday - Ravioli w/meat sauce, cauliflower, green beans, apricots, whole grain garlic bread Thursday - (A) Pulled pork on whole grain bun, cheesy

potatoes, winter blend veggies, fruit cocktail; (B) Ham/chix

Friday - Beef taco w/shredded cheese, lettuce/tomato, Spanish rice/beans, flour tortilla, fresh fruit

Meals served

**Amboy Community Center** 

280 W. Wasson Road



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# The Ambou News

Serving the Heart of Lee County Since 1854

Brandon LaChance, Editor Published weekly on Wednesday by The Amboy News, 703 Illinois Ave., Mendota, IL 61342

Phone: 815-539-9396

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noon Fridays All Editorial Deadline: noon Friday

# **OBITUARIES**

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Linda E. Nowacki Oct. 6, 1960 - April 29, 2025

AMBOY – Linda E Nowacki, 64 of Amboy, passed away on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at her home. Cremation rites have

been accorded with a celebration of life to be held at a later date. Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.com.

She was born on Oct. 6, 1960 in Chicago, the daughter of Edward and Elaine (Parkhurst) Wawrzyniak.

Nowacki was a school bus driver for the Amboy

Community Unit School District No. 272. She loved the outdoors, animals, and her flower gardens. She was an amazing mother, grandmother and friend.

Linda is preceded in death by her parents, and one sister Karen Wawrzyniak.

She is survived by her children Steven (Kim) Nowacki of Peoria, Christine (Joseph) Gross of Amboy, Jennifer (Matt Holloway) Nowacki of Mendota, nine grandchildren Jersey, Autumn,



Alexis, Kayla, Vanessa, Joey, Lillian, Dillian, Chloe, one great-grandson Elijah. She is also survived by her significant other, Robin Arnold.

# **Scott J. Schulz May 24, 1956 - April 30, 2025**

AMBOY – Scott J. Schulz, 68, of Amboy, passed away on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Funeral services will be on at 11 a.m. Monday, May 5, 2025 at Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Visitation will be from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, May 4, 2025 at Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

There will also be a visitation from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at 11 a.m. Monday, May 5, 2025 at Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy.

Memorial donations can be directed to the Alzheimer's Association. Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Condolences can be left at www.thejonesfh.

com.

Schulz was born on May 24, 1956 in Freeport, the son of Harold and Lou (Kieckhaefer) Schulz.

Scott taught industrial arts at Amboy High School, was the maintenance director at Woodhaven Lakes Association where he retired in 2009, and worked for McDonald Trucking in Ohio, Ill. He married

Karen Roche on May 11, 1996 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Amboy.

Schulz is preceded in death by his parents and one brother Glenn Schulz. He is survived by his wife Karen, daughter Anna Schulz, sister Beth Schulz of Freeport, and his Woodhaven Lakes and McDonald Trucking Families.

# IDPH rolls out new measles simulator dashboard to help schools

SPRINGFIELD — With cases of measles being reported in more than 20 jurisdictions around the United States, the Illinois Department of Public Health has unveiled a new data dashboard to help school officials and members of the public assess the potential severity of any outbreaks of measles, should one occur in Illinois.

The new Measles Outbreak Simulator Dashboard makes it easy for the public to find out the measles vaccination rate in any school in Illinois, public or private, and to determine the risk of a child being exposed to measles if a case is introduced in their school.

Illinois has had no reported cases of measles since an outbreak in Chicago in early 2024and there are currently no active measles outbreak investigations in Illinois. However, IDPH officials are closely monitoring an outbreak in Texas and New Mexico that has resulted in more than 530 confirmed cases, including three deaths, two of them children.

"IDPH continues to work closely with our local public health and health care partners as we prepare for any potential measles cases in Illinois," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "The Department is building on the lessons we learned from our successful measles response in 2024 by ensuring that our residents have access to meaningful information to guide their decision-making. Our new dashboard provides the public with the ability to review the measles vaccination rates in their child's school and its risk for an outbreak. Two doses of measles vaccines are 97% effective in preventing

measles. I recommend that our Illinois residents make sure that they and their family members are up to date on the measles/mumps/rubella vaccine and all other age-appropriate immunizations."

"Vaccination is the most effective tool we have to prevent the spread of measles and protect the health of our students," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders. "We are grateful to IDPH for equipping school leaders, parents, and the public with clear, actionable data to assess measles risk and plan proactively. I encourage every school administrator to explore this resource to support families in staying informed and up to date on vaccinations."

The dashboard provides predictions, projections and estimates for the size and spread of a measles outbreak in individual Illinois schools from Pre-K through 12th grade using 2023-2024 school vaccination and enrollment data and additional model parameters. The dashboard will be updated with the 2024-25 school year data as soon as that becomes available in the near future.

School administrators and staff are encouraged to use this dashboard to aid their decisions around measles outbreak prevention and control in their individual schools. This simulator was inspired by the University of Texas, Austin, epiEngage Measles Outbreak Simulator.

Most Illinois residents received the measles vaccine in childhood, which provides strong, long-lasting protection. This means the risk of getting measles is very low for the vast majority of people.

#### IDPH updates school vaccination coverage

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois Department of Public Health has released its updated Illinois School Vaccination Coverage Dashboard.

The updated dashboard includes data from the current 2024-25 school year. The interactive platform provides valuable insight into statewide, county, and school district vaccination trends, using publicly available data collected by the Illinois State Board of Education.

"Providing Illinois residents with access to real-time data to guide their medical decision-making is a critical IDPH priority," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "The updated school vaccination dashboard now allows parents and caregivers to review the latest vaccination trends in their local school districts. As a pediatrician, I know how important vaccinations are

for protective children from preventable illnesses.

As measles outbreaks spread through various parts of the United States, it is now more important than ever to make sure you and your family members are up to date with all age-appropriate immunizations."

"Vaccinations are one

of the most effective tools we have to protect children from serious, preventable diseases and to keep them learning in school," said Illinois State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Sanders. "We're proud to partner with the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide this powerful tool to families, educators, and community leaders. Ongoing deadly measles outbreaks in other parts of the country serve as a call to action for all of us to protect our children, schools, and communities with safe, proven, and evidence-based immunizations. By understanding where vaccination gaps exist, we can work together to protect every student's life and opportunity to learn without preventable health disruptions."

The dashboard, which includes data as of October 2024, serves as a critical resource for public health officials, educators, policy-makers, and Illinois residents helping them make informed decisions about school immunization policies and public health initiatives. Among key takeaways from the current data:

Even with a recent nationwide surge in measles cases, the overall measles vaccination rate for school children remains above 95% in Illinois in the 2024-2025 school year.

Over 70% of schools in the state have more than 95% of their students vaccinated for measles, forming a protective threshold for immunity.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

St. Patrick Church
Fr. John Gow
32 N Jones, Amboy
815-857-2315 • www.stpatrickamboy.org
Masses: Tuesdays-Friday Daily Mass at 8 a.m.
Confessions: Wednesday 5:30 p.m.,
Saturday 3-3:45 p.m.

Saturday 3-3:45 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 8:30 a.m.- noon on Fridays after 8 a.m. mass

> St. Mary Church Fr. John Gow 912 Walton Rd., Walton 815-857-2670 Mass: Saturday, 5:30 pm

St. Flannen Church Fr. John Gow 213 S Second St., Harmon 815-857-2670 Mass: Sunday, 8:30 am

United First Church of Amboy Pastor Mark Glenn East Main & Jefferson 815-440-0745 Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Lee Center Pastor Jack M. Briggs 1140 Inlet Road, Lee Center www.LeeCenter-UCC.org Phone 815-732-7032 Family Worship - 10:30 a.m.

> Grace Fellowship Church Amboy-Sublette Pastor Kyle Kelly 500 W. Main Street, Sublette Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. www.graceisforyou.com

East Grove Union Church 449 Reuter Road, Amboy, IL Phone 815-440-5321

½ Mile East of Route 26 at Union Rd Sun., 9:00 am, Morning Worship Youth Church, Ages 3 – Grade 4 10:15 am Sunday School, Age 3 – Adult Come as you are and join us on the journey! First Baptist Church Pastor Rocky Fritz 24 N. Mason Avenue Church Phone 857-2682 www.fbcamboy.com

Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m.

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

St. Mary's Church – West Brooklyn Rev. Randy 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

### **Sublette Cruise 'N Show** to hit the streets May 17

SUBLETTE - The annual Sublette Cruise N Show will be held on Saturday, May 17 from 4-7 p.m. on Main Street in downtown Sublette.

Everyone is invited to cruise to Sublette to show your car. All antique, classic or special interest cars, trucks and motorcycles are welcome.

There is no entry fee and no judging, just a night to enjoy old classic vehicles.

Sublette's restaurants and shops will be open for business during the show.

#### Late spring programs coming to Woodlawn Arts Academy

lawn Arts Academy dancers and musicians will take the stage in late May for their spring 2025 recitals. Private music students

STERLING - Wood-

will perform in three recitals in late May.

Vocal music students of Mardi Huffstutler will perform at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 19 at Woodlawn Arts Academy. The piano students of Nadine Appel and Clea Arbogast will perform at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sterling. The guitar and ukulele students of James Miller will perform at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29 at Woodlawn Arts Academy. Each recital will feature a different group of students. All are free to attend, but donations are welcomed. Woodlawn's private music lesson program runs yearround and is open to children

Woodlawn Dance Academy dancers age 3-adult will perform three recitals with the theme "Elements." The events are set for May 30 and 31 at Centennial Auditorium, and mark the Academy's 17th annual dance recitals. Tickets are \$14 each and are available now at centennialauditorium.org.Aprocessing fee will be applied to online ticket purchases. Tickets also are

and adults. Ages and tuition

vary per instructor.

available at the door. The performances will be at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 30, and 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 31.

Woodlawn Dance Academy's summer programs start the week of June 2, and registration is available now in person at the Academy or by calling 815-626-4278. While dance class and private music registration are not available online, registration for other programs is available at woodlawnartsacademy. com. The academy offers classes, workshops and day camps for all ages in music and dance, along with visual arts, theater and culinary arts.

In addition to the academy's regular programming, Theatre in the Park 2025, presented by Savant Wealth, features "A Year with Frog and Toad." Roles are available for ages 18 and up. More information and audition registration is available at woodlawnartsacademy. com/theatre-in-the-park. Auditions are scheduled for May 27, with shows kicking off the school year on Aug. 7-9. Theatre in the Park is a production of the Sauk Valley Theatre Alliance, which is a partnership among Centennial Auditorium, Sauk Valley Community College and Woodlawn Arts Academy.

### Area county fairs receive grant from Compeer Financial

SUN PRAIRIE, Wis. - For the eighth year, Compeer Financial is helping county fairs across the Upper Midwest improve facilities and attendee experiences through its Fund for Rural America, the Farm Credit cooperative's giving program. In Illinois, 21 fair organizations will each receive up to \$4,000 to support their fairground projects.

In total, Compeer Financial is awarding \$242,000 to 61 county fairs across Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin for a wide range of repairs and upgrades through this year's County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant

"County fairs are a summer highlight for families involved in agriculture and living in rural communities," said Karen Schieler, manager of corporate giving at Compeer Financial. "These grants help fair organizers enhance the experience for exhibitors and visitors by funding essential updates to buildings and grounds. Fair organizers work tirelessly to ensure a positive, memorable event each year, and we're proud to support their efforts."

County fairs are rural staples in bringing together people of all ages to learn about and experience agriculture up close. Last year's fairs saw an average attendance of 42,298. Compeer Financial designated the County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant Program to uplift the rural communities it serves. The grant program is a critical tool that enables organizers to continue offering the best possible experience to fair-goers by funding upgrades and repairs of fairground livestock buildings, 4-H buildings and livestock judging arenas.

With applicants reporting the average age of their fairground buildings as 45 years old, this year's funding supports critical initiatives focused on enhancing safety, functionality and the experience for animals, exhibitors and visitors. By modernizing electrical and lighting and enhancing safety and hygiene, fair organizers will foster a welcoming and professional environment that enhances the overall experience and helps attract more exhibitors and attendees. Of this year's 61 funded

- 35 percent are for upgrades to building structures
- 30 percent are for electrical or ventilation upgrades
- 20 percent are for new livestock gates/pens to accommodate increasing numbers of exhibitors
- 15 percent are for miscellaneous

Since its establishment in 2018, the Fund has awarded 483 County Fair Facility Upgrade Grants for a total impact of more than \$1.6 million that has improved the experiences of fair organizers, participants and attendees. The grant will open for 2026 applications in March 2026.

Among the 21 organizations in Illinois earning a County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant include:

- · LaSalle County Junior Fair Board Association: Electrical upgrades for the fairgrounds, barns and show barn.
- Lee County Fair Association: Replacing doors and openers in the commercial exhibit building.
- Marshall-Putnam Fair Association: New rollup doors on the poultry and rabbit building.

 Ogle County Fair Association: Replacing the walkway and drive chip seal.

#### **About the Fund for Rural America**

The Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America is the corporate giving program of Compeer Financial, structured to support Compeer Financial's mission to enrich agriculture and rural America. Compeer Financial's Board of Directors has dedicated one percent of annual net earnings to support the Fund's focus areas of agriculture education, youth engagement, rural development and community enrichment, agricultural advocacy and development, and cooperative initiatives. The Fund is managed by a Board of Trustees, made up of team members and members of the Compeer Financial Board of Directors.

#### **About Compeer Financial**

Compeer Financial is a member-owned Farm Credit cooperative serving and supporting agriculture and rural communities. The \$34.7 billion organization provides loans, leases, risk management and other financial services throughout 144 counties in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Based in the Upper Midwest, Compeer Financial exists to champion the hopes and dreams of rural America, while providing personalized service and expertise to clients and the agriculture industry.

Compeer Financial is the third largest cooperative of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of lending institutions supporting agriculture and rural communities with reliable, consistent credit and financial services.

#### Illinois state police continue fatal crash investigation in Chatham

**CHATHAM**–The Illinois State Police continues its investigation into a fatal crash that occurred Monday afternoon in Chatham.

At approximately 3:20 p.m. on April 28, 2025, a vehicle left the road for unknown reasons, traveled through a field and into the east side of the YNOT After School Camp located at 301 Breckenridge Road in Chatham. The car traveled through the building striking numerous individuals before exiting the other side. Four individuals were killed in the crash, two 7-year-olds, an 8-year-old, and an 18-year-old. Six additional children were taken to area hospitals and one remains in critical condition.

The driver and sole occupant of the vehicle was uninjured and transported to an area hospital for

evaluation. Toxicology reports are pending. The cause of the crash remains under investigation, but this does not appear to be a targeted attack.

ISP traffic crash reconstruction, patrol, crime scene services, and criminal investigations all responded to the scene along with Chatham Police Department, Chatham Fire Department, Springfield Police Department, Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, the Sangamon County Coroner, and numerous other first

This is an active investigation and no additional information is available at this time.

ISP offers its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and Chatham community during this difficult time.



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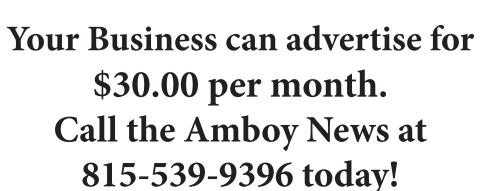
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779-861-1886

**Robert Moore** 







# pinion

Column

By Brandon

LaChance

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

# NBA Playoffs offer breath of fresh air

Sometimes life, especially sports, rotates on a similar axis from year to year where we can compare different In terms of the NBA playoffs, from the beginning

of the playoffs and the first Walter A. Brown Trophy winner the Philadelphia Warriors in 1947,

we get tired of seeing the same players and teams in the last series of the season. From 1949-54, the Minneapolis Lakers won five out of six championships. The

Syracuse Nationals won in 1955 after

losing in 54 and the Warriors won again in 1956, Before I even started giving examples, you knew the Boston Celtics were going to be mentioned as they won their first in 1957 and then won every year to 1969, except for 1958, which was won by the St. Lous Hawks but lost to the Celtics in

won by Philadelphia, now the 76ers. Along the way, the Lakers were in the finals seven times before Jerry West

three other finals, and 1967 which was

and Wilt Chamberlain finally won in 1972 after Willis Reed and the New York Knicks won in 1970 and Lew Alcindor, better known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, won

Knicks won again in 1973, Boston in 1976, and the Lakers in 1980.

There were some swerves in the middle, which happens occasionally as Rick Barry and the Golden State Warriors won in 1975, Bill Walton and the Portland Trail Blazers won in 1977, and the Seattle SuperSonics (no longer a team) won in 1979.

Then the "Showtime" Lakers thanks to Magic Johnson and Kareem, the Larry Bird Boston Celtics, and the Moses Malone and Dr. J (Julius Erving) 76ers won every championship from 1980 until 1989 when the "Bad Boy" Pistons won in 1989 and 1990.

All of us sports fans know what the Chicago Bulls did in the 1990s with two three-peats surrounding Hakeem Olajuwon dreaming his Houston Rockets to two rings. Then the San Antonio Spurs and the Lakers (a three-

peat) won the next five before an actual team in the 2004 Pistons were victorious. Then the Spurs exchanged with the Heat and the Celtics before the Lakers won two more. Dallas Mavericks snuck past the Dwyane

Wade, LeBron James, Chris Bosh Miami Heat, but they were in four consecutive finals winning two.

Spurs win again and then the "Splash Brothers" Steph Curry and Klay Thompson, along with my least favorite NBA player of all time, Draymond Green, were in the next five finals, winning three with loses to James and the Cleveland Cavaliers and Kawhi Leonard and the Toronto Raptors (talk about a surprise).

Lakers win in the bubble, Giannis Antetokounmpo gives the Bucks their first ring

since 1971 in 2021, Steph wins again in 2022, Nikola Jokic takes the Denver Nuggets to unchartered territory in 1013, and the Boston Celtics win yet another banner last year thanks to Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown. I wasn't originally going to go down the entire NBA

Championship list, found on Wikipedia, NBA.com, or a number of other sites, but it helps prove my point and why the NBA playoffs are so interesting, There seems to be a been there done that, the same

teams or the same players are in the NBA finals year after year...with, again, a few expectations. This year, the playing legends, who are first-ballot,

no-doubt-about-it hall of famers, all of them are already eliminated, in the first round, except one...Curry.

The Lakers are eliminated taking out James. The Suns

never made it to the playoffs, Kevin Durrant (who won two NBA Finals MVPs with the Warriors in 2017 and 2018) gone. The Bucks bowed out, Antetokounmpo is gone. Kawhi Leonard and James Harden (who plays great until the playoffs) are gone thanks to the Nuggets.

This means seven out of the remaining eight teams have either never won a title in general or with any of current players on its roster - Oklahoma City Thunder, Minnesota Timberwolves, Cleveland Cavaliers, Indiana Pacers, and the New York Knicks – or have only won one with their superstars still in their prime - Denver Nuggets and the Boston Celtics.

What a breath of fresh air.

We get to see fresh faces past the first round, or we get to see if players and teams can live up to their hype and do it again.

Taytum receives zero respect from fans. But will he finally get it if the Celtics win again?

Jokic should be the regular season NBA MVP but he's not going to be because of Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. Can he continue to average a triple-double and get back into the finals?

And although the Warriors (No. 7 in the west, the worst seed still alive) are the old dogs, what happens if the partnering of Jimmy Butler with Curry and Green actually wins the Warriors yet another championship?

The drama and intrigue for the rest of the NBA Playoffs is more exciting than any TNT or TBS network lineup. I know I'm tuned in.



Brandon LaChance blachance@mendotareporter.com

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#### SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

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

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

and include address and phone number or e-mail address for verification purposes. Neither the street address nor phone number will be printed. Letters should be typed or legibly handwritten, and no anonymous letters will be published Any comments of public officials should be limited to issues

related strictly to their position or actions made in office, as personal attacks will not be published. Letters involving private disputes between the writer and a business or individual will not be published.

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

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

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

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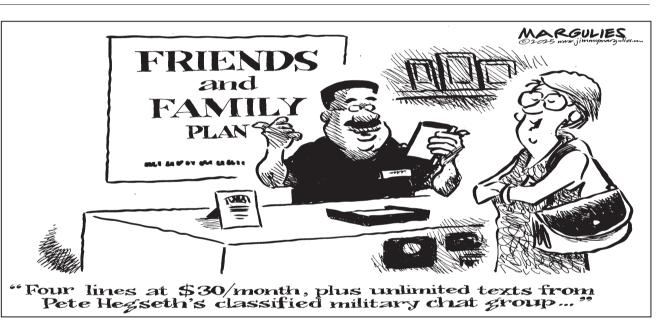
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### ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

# 100 years ago May 8, 1925 James R. Kelley, Savanna, former

Amboy lawyer and city attorney, has been secured by the Memorial Committee to give the address on Memorial Day, May 30. Mr. Kelley has cancelled a prior engagement in order to be at the occasion.

Amboy Township High School will be represented by six of its students in the Lee County Literary and Music Contest at Harmon. Frank Borgmeier will represent the school in oration, Vea Gooch on the piano, Olive Barlow in Declamation, and Elizabeth Hegert in vocal music. Reby Smith is entered in the short story contest and Lofton Proctor in the essay competition.

The recently purchased Methodist Parsonage was the scene of an enjoyable welcome to the official board of the church. The property was purchased last December, and possession was taken April 1. Since that time the house has been completely renovated, decorated and fixtures added to the equipment.

L.A. Emery has sold his poultry and egg equipment and leased his poultry business to the Dulen brothers, James and Thomas, sons of Michael Dulen, who moved to Amboy about two years ago from East Grove.

75 years ago May II, 1950 Extremely high winds which hit

the Amboy area, did a great deal of damage. A large plate glass window was blown out at the post office and another was broken. Numerous small windows were broken. Many garages, barns and small buildings were destroyed.

The Adjutant General's office for the State of Illinois in Springfield has announced the promotion of Chaplain Norman C. Miller of Amboy to the rank of Major, effective May 3.

Fire, believed to have been started by a brooder stove, smothered 200 two-to-three-week-old chickens at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest

Dismantling of the metal posts of the residential boulevard lighting system on North Jefferson Avenue and East Main Street in Amboy, no longer in use, will be started in the very near future according to City Marshal James E. Donnelly, who also serves as street superintendent.

Miss Alice McCaffrey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCaffrey of Amboy, is one of 18 students at Mount St. Clare College, Clinton, Iowa, making a six-day tour of Washington, D.C. and Colonial Virginia.

# 50 years ago May 8, 1975 Two members of the Amboy

High School graduating Class of 1975 have enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve and were recently sworn in. David Shaw and Gavin Glenn are the enlistees who are now members of C Battery, 7th Battalion.

Officers of the National Honor Society of Amboy High School were introduced at the annual banquet. Vice president is Scott Harrison, secretary is Lessa Setchell, treasurer is Janelle Noble and president is Ken Von Holten.

# 25 years ago May 3, 2000 After having served some time

servicing the spiritual needs of communities in Wisconsin and Indiana, Jeff Lawson has come to the Amboy area to pastor. Lawson, who has been pastor of East Grove Union church in May Township for about one month, moved to the area from Shell Lake, Wis., where he spent the past three years pastoring for the Christian Alliance mission.

The Amboy High School 2000 Prom Court members are Amy Jo Zinke, Amy Marsili, Jenny Bonnell, Adelaide Mancini, Kate Considine, Adam Johnson, Martin Vaessen, Brandon Honer, Craig Florschuetz and Nathan Schamberger.

If a hall of flame existed for firefighters, Blair Eckburg of Ashton would undoubtedly have his own star. Eckburg was honored with a plaque presented for over 50 years of dedicated fire service as a fireman, chief and trustee at the Ashton Fire Protection District's annual appreciate dinner.

Amboy resident Melinda Ucci named Dixon Correction's Volunteer of the Year. Ucci began her volunteer work at the Dixon Correctional Center in 1986. She began a Seventh Day Adventist Bible study class as well as a Saturday Sabbath worship service. Over the years, Ucci has worked diligently to provide quality religious services for the inmate population.

It's about 1 ½ feet tall, doesn't talk, or has legs but you may be surprised that it is a member of the Amboy track team. No, its not a pair of shoes, or even a hat. It's a mannequin, and his name is Larry. Yes, it sounds weird but the member is really a mannequin.

May 5, 2025 Posting Date

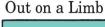
# ENTERTAINMI

**Amber Waves** HEY OWEN, LOOK HERE! THERE ARE TWO MORE FISH RIGHT BELOW THE BOAT.













The Spats













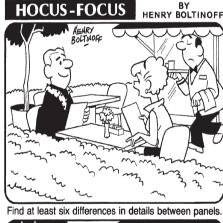




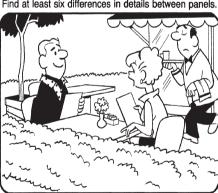












different. 4. Table is wider. 5. Planter is different. 6. Stripe is Differences: I. Nametag is missing. 2. Chair is missing. 3. Vase is

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

WHOA, THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE. I THINK HE'S SIGNALING US TO PLAY THROUGH...OOH WAIT



# **CryptoQuip**

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

Clue: F equals N

FEJY XZ EF XGPAXVXFPKU IGXUYVNGY IYGZXGJYV BAYF JXMEGQ EGY PXX UMXQY

PXSYPAYG: PYYPA BKVYFKFS

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"Here comes Mom... and boy, is she

**SCRAMBLERS** 

rearrange the boxed let	ters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!
Mercy	
PONDAR	
Charm	
LAUREL	
Accept	
BADIE	
Assign	
TALLO	

**TODAY'S WORD** 

King Crossword

13

16

42

53

57

60

7 Exciting

event

chase

ods

8

Broadway

YouTube clip.

15

18

28 29

50

56

59

#### **ACROSS** 1 Completely

- 4 Playwright
- Levin Done with
- Secular
- 13 Collection 14 Water carrier
- 15 Airline to Tel Aviv
- 16 ET's craft
- 17 Dutch cheese
- 18 Ersatz chocolate
- 20 One-named supermodel
- 22 Tree fluid 24 Trombone
- parts 28 Grassy tract
- January, to Juan
- 33 Grassy area
- 34 Shade provider
- 36 FBI guy 37 Alpha's
- opposite "The Hunger Games" hero-
- ine 41 Dance clubs
- 43 Prefix with athlete
- one
- 46 Urged (on) 50 Hive popula-
- tion 53 Schlep
- 55 Luau dance

4

8

1 7

6

3

5 8

- 56 Vegetarian's no-no
- 57 Mine material
- 58 Russian ruler 59 Saturates 60 Scale member 9
- 61 Blasting stick 10
- **DOWN**
- 1 Sir Guinness 2 In - land

3 Deceitful per-

- 44 Tom Joad, for son 4 Terre Haute
  - sch. 5 Mortgage
  - again, for short 26 Historic peri-6 Molecule
  - parts

Weekly **SUDOKU** 

1

6 4

7 5

2

8

6

3 5

2

6

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way

that each row across, each column down and each

small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆

♦ Moderate ♦ ♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Five Spot™

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9

5

6

6

9

4

**Shortest Distance?** 

Word with road or

Area under control

The ship of the

Local weather

South American

02510

3 | 3 |

OB

desert

country

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden

O B B

MA|Q|B

3 4 1 4

Ν

|∀|ਸ਼|

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

- King Crossword -

or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

shave

Wall art

5

- for short 35 Yoga pad Clean air org. 38 Fine, to NASA "The One I 40 Italian "three" Love" band 42 Farm towers 12 Loan applica-45 Franc replacetion fees
- ment 19 "Cheers" set-47 Sudden wind ting 48 Flair

40

46

58

28 Trudge 29 Actor Malek

30 Dazzles

31 Caribou kin

48

- 21 Pub order 49 Scurry 50 German auto 23 Bakery pur-
- 51 Shoe width 25 Singer Lovato 52 Have breakfast
  - 54 Solidify

27 Male children

1. U.S. STATES: Which state is last, alphabetically?

2. MOVIES: What does the acronym S.H.I.E.L.D. stand for in movies about Marvel characters?

3. LITERATURE: Who wrote the short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"? 4. GAMES: How many cards are in a standard deck?

5. TELEVISION: On which sitcom did the character Harry the Hat appear? 6. BUSINESS: When did the first Ken-

tucky Fried Chicken franchise open? 7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many Nobel prizes are awarded every year?

8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was the shortest at 5 foot 4 inches tall?

9. ASTRONOMY: Who was the first

woman to travel into space? 10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby platypus called?

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10. A platypup or puggle 9. Valentina Tereshkova 8. James Madison 6. 1952 in Salt Lake City, Utah

3. James Thurber Enforcement and Logistics Division 2. Strategic Homeland Intervention,

gnimoyW.1 Answers

5. "Cheers"

#### LOADED Τοday's Word

3. Abide; 4. Allot 1. Pardon 2. Allure; noitulos

SCRAMBLERS



Five Spot"

Z	l	7	9	6	3	Þ	8	G
9	8	G	Þ	L	7	6	l	3
3	7	6	l	G	8	9	7	L
7	3	Þ	8	l	L	G	6	9
G	6	8	7	9	7	ε	Z	l
l	9	L	G	ω	6	8	7	7
6	Z	l	3	Þ	9	7	G	8
8	G	3	6	7	1	L	9	7
Þ	7	9	Z	8	G	l	3	6

**Answer** 

Weekly SUDOKU

together: Teeth widening. molars are too close brocedure performed when Name of an orthodontic

**CryptoQuip** 

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203

**HELP WANTED** 



#### **AMBOY GARAGE SALES Spring Garage Sale**

Sponsored by First United **Methodist Church** First Avenue & Sixth Street Mendota Thursday May 15th Noon - 5 pm Friday May 16th 8:30 am - 4 pm Saturday May 17th 8:30 am - 11 am

**Multi-Family Garage Sale** 1002 26th Street, Peru **Thursday May 15th** Friday May 16th Saturday May 17th 8:30 am - ?

Furniture, Lionel 027 Train Set, Tools, Clothes, Kitchen Items & Miscellaneous.

**Multi-Family Garage Sale** 4381 E. 250th Road- (Guiles Avenue) Mendota Thursday May 8th 4pm-7pm Friday May 9th 8am-4pm Saturday May 10th 8am-Noon Crib that converts to a toddler bed, Girls clothes sizes NB-4T, Holiday Decorations, Craft Items, Precious Moments, Plants (indoor & outdoor) and much more.

News-Leader

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The Rochelle News-Leader has an opening for a part-

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The daytime deliveries would be two or three days

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route usually 10-15 hours per week.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, possess a

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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.



### When Mark Twain was

editing a newspaper in Missouri, one of his subscribers wrote in, saying that he had found a spider in his newspaper and wondered whether it was a sign of good or bad luck. Twain's response: "Finding a spider is neither good luck nor bad. The spider was merely looking over our newspaper to see which merchant was not advertising, so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door, and lead a life of undisturbed beace ever afterward.

203 **HELP WANTED** 



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#### **Consultant** If you have an outgoing personality, an energetic

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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

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.

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# LOCAL/STATE NEWS

#### **May is National Foster Care Month**

CHICAGO - May is National Foster Care Month, a time to recognize the important role child welfare professionals, community social service agencies, caregivers and the public play in supporting children and families.

This year's theme, "Engaging Youth. Building Supports. Strengthening Opportunities," aims to raise awareness about the importance of involving youth in the decisions being made about their welfare, the significance of maintaining connections to important people in their lives and how to best support youth as they transition out of foster care.

"Every child and youth in our care deserves to feel safe and loved" said Illinois DCFS Director Heidi E. Mueller. "It is because of our incredible foster parents across the state that children, youth and siblings can have a home and foster parent who has opened their heart, home and even their family so that a child can have the love and stability they need during a very difficult time.'

Illinois DCFS makes every effort to reunify children with their families whenever possible. In cases when reunification cannot occur – less than

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Don't miss this wonderfully unique opportunity to own a huge manufactured home in

a newly managed park, that is making continual improvements for it's members. The

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4% of the time – the department strives to preserve the child's bonds to their community, school and those they love. DCFS works diligently to recruit foster families in every area of the state to join the 7,291 currently licensed foster families who have made it their life's mission to open their hearts and homes to children in need.

In late 2024, the department created Foster Emergency Resource Homes (ERH), which are licensed foster parents who have agreed to take a new youth in care for up to 10 days while the DCFS caseworker works to identify relative caregivers, fictive kin or a suitable home for the youth to reside. These ERHs have helped to significantly reduce the need to have youth sleeping in offices.

Further, the KIND Act, signed into law by Governor Pritzker in February and effective July 1, will provide increased benefits and make it easier for grandparents and other relatives to become certified caregivers, creating a path for the more than 9,000 children and youth in our care who are living with relatives to find permanent homes.

#### "Tales with Tails -Reading Dogs" at PC Library **GRANVILLE** – the

Putnam County Public Library District will host two reading dog teams at the Granville Branch during the month of May. Jessica Dove and her dog,

Hobo, will be at the library at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 10 and at 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 27. Dina Lunken and her dog, Rosie, will be at the library at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 15.

The Granville Branch of the Putnam County Public Library District is located at 214 S. McCoy St. in Granville. For more information, please call the library at 815-339-2038.

#### thermal draperies & more. The appliances stay of course too. The washer & dryer are both Whirlpool Cabrios and are only 5 yrs. old. There is also an upright freezer & brand new Blackstone grill & 2 patio sets included. The furnace and AC were newly installed in '21 & both are Carrier units. All of this sits on an oversized (double) lot with open farm field to the rear - for a single lot rent. This could be the perfect option for so many different scenarios first home, starting over, downsizing from a lg. **Bonita Willis** 2 story home. Be sure to schedule a showing **Designated** to see how perfectly this property will fit into **Managing Broker** ePRO, C2EX, AHWD



#### We remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us.

On Wednesday, May 21 The Amboy News will publish a special Memorial Day page devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten.

The memorials will be similar to the sample below:



Andrews, David C. July 10, 1961-May 5, 1980

May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.

Always in our hearts, John and Mona Andrews and Family (SAMPLE)

(actual size)

#### If you wish, select one of the following FREE verses below to accompany your tribute.

- 1. We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
- 2. May God cradle you in His arms, now and forever.
- 3 Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of
- 4. Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you
- 5. The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in God's heavenly glory.
- 6. Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with
- Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind. 8. The days may come and go, but the times we shared will always
- 9. May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity. 10. May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
- 11. You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts. 12. May God's graces shine over you for all time.
- 13. You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
- 14. We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and
- happiness.
- 15. May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.

To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$10.00 per listing. Your special

Deadline - Thursday, May 15, at noon Fill out the form below and mail or drop off in our dropbox located at:

tribute will become a permanent memorial record in our paper.

245 E. Main St., Amboy

The Amboy News, PO Box 300, Mendota, IL 61342

Please publish my tribute in the special Memorial Day Page on May 21. Name of deceased Relationship to me\_\_\_\_\_Number of selected verse\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_Date of passing\_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth\_ Additional information\_\_\_\_\_ Print your name here Address Phone number \_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_ Deadline is Thursday, May 15, at noon.

#### IDOT holding workshops to aid in funding opportunities for community projects

SPRINGFIELD-The Illinois Department of Transportation is hosting 18 workshops throughout the state to help local governments and communities learn about and apply for funding opportunities. The Special Programs Assistance Conferences are designed to help potential grantees take part in the department's Economic Development Program, Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program and Safe Routes to School Program. "Thanks to Gov. Pritz-

ker's Rebuild Illinois capital program, there is more opportunity than ever for our local partners to work with us to accomplish projects that improve mobility,

safety and quality of life in their communities," said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Gia Biagi. "These workshops are a one-stop shop to learn about some of our more popular programs, as well as to get help tapping into the tools and resources that can make a positive impact in cities, towns and neighborhoods across Illinois." The events are geared

funding programs offered by IDOT, identify projects they can submit for consideration and provide instruction on how to craft applications. Each conference will take place over two days

led by IDOT staff, with

to help local stakeholders

understand competitive

group presentations the morning of the first day, followed by one-on-one appointments and networking opportunities the afternoon of the first day and all of the second day. Among the workshops

offered in the area are: • May 28-29: IDOT

District 3, 700 E. Norris Drive, Ottawa • June 17-18: Dixon

High School, 300 Lincoln Statue Drive, Dixon For more information

on the funding opportunities available, visit the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program, Safe Routes to School Program and Economic Development Program pages on idot.illinois.

#### Get Covered Illinois joins 18 state-based marketplaces urging congress to extend enhanced premium tax credits

CHICAGO-Get Covered Illinois joined 18 other state-based health insurance marketplaces to issue a joint letter to congressional leaders emphasizing the value to Americans of the enhanced premium tax credits set to expire at the end of this year. The letter, coordinated

by the National Academy of State Health Policy (NAHSP), urges Congress to take action to extend the credits, citing their critical role in helping Americans afford health coverage. A record 24 million Americans, nearly 466,000 of whom are Illinoisans, enrolled in healthcare plans through the marketplaces for Plan Year 2025. "These tax credits

are critical to ensuring health insurance doesn't become unaffordable for Illinoisans," said Get Covered Illinois'

Director Morgan Winters. "On average, Illinois residents saved \$540 a month on health insurance costs last year thanks to these enhanced subsidies offered on the marketplace. Allowing these tax credits to expire will have real economic and health-related consequences for Illinois communities.' The letter illustrates

the impact on American families if these subsidies are allowed to expire, for example a family of four making \$65,000 a year could see their premiums more than double. Here in Illinois, these increased costs would likely be felt greatest by older enrollees and middle-income earners. For example, a 60-yearold-couple living in Belleville could see their premium increase by \$2,750 per month while a single 40-year-old living in Chicago earning \$31,000 might see her premium increase by \$95 a month, according to an analysis by KFF.

"At a time when American families are struggling with the rising costs of groceries, housing, and childcare, we worry that Illinoisans will have no choice but to deprioritize health coverage if these subsidies aren't extended," said Director Winters. "As the letter indicates, there is a direct correlation between the increase in the number of insured Americans and overall improvements in our healthcare system."

The signees urge Congress to act quickly as insurers are in the process of developing next year's plans, and uncertainty around the extension of these credits could lead to premium hikes, resulting in unnecessary costs for consumers and taxpayers.

An excerpt from the letter reads:

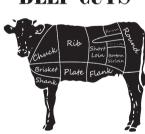
"Premium tax credits remain the simplest and most effective way to support households in need of insurance coverage. Thanks to the updated premium tax credit structure, our consumers will save, on average, an additional \$50-\$194 per month this year. This modest but significant adjustment lowers premium payments to more affordable levels, and we have heard countless stories from consumers—your constituents struggling with inflation and appreciative of the

needed cost relief.

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June 13, 14 & 15



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# **SPORTS**

#### Lady Clippers fall to Eastland, Indian Creek

AMBOY - The Amboy softball team didn't catch a break in its last two games at home as the Lady Clippers lost 15-0 to Eastland in five innings on Tuesday, April 29 and 12-3 to Indian Creek on Monday, May 5. Against Eastland,

freshman Tinley Whitney was the losing pitcher, while junior Kiera Karlson hit a double and junior Brittlyn Whitman and freshman Gabby Miller each connected for a single.

On Monday, Whitney lost in the circle and sophomores Leighton Gulley and Lili Leffelman, and Karlson each had two singles apiece, and Whitney hit a single. The Lady Clippers

are 4-14 on the season and have five games before the IHSA Class 1A postseason begins.

### Amboy sluggers drop two to Eastland

**AMBOY** – The Amboy baseball team fell to Northwest Upstate Illini Conference South Division foe Eastland, 3-0, on Tuesday, April 29 at Amboy and 2-0 on Thursday, May 1 at Lanark.

The two loses give the Clippers a 9-10 record on the season.

In the first game against Eastland, senior Brody Christoffersen started on the mound for Amboy and recorded 22 outs as he allowed eight hits and two runs while striking out nine and walking one in 7 1/3 innings.

At the plate, senior Quinn Leffelman was 2-of-3.

In the second matchup, senior Carson Barlow tallied 18 outs behind 11 strike outs and two walks, while allowing five hits and two runs in six innings.

Junior Rylan McNinch was 2-of-3 at the plate.

The Clippers have five games remaining on the schedule before the IHSA Class 1A playoffs begin.

### **IDPH** issues updated sport fish consumption advisories

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Illinois Department of Public Health has issued its annual update of advisories related to the consumption of sport fish caught in Illinois waterways. The advisories are based on routine testing conducted by the Illinois Fish Contaminant Monitoring

IDPH maintains an interactive Fish Advisory Map that includes consumption advisories for more than 100 publicly accessible bodies of water across the state. The advisories detail how frequently certain types of fish from various waterways can be eaten without posing a health risk. While there is no known immediate health hazard from eating contaminated fish from any Illinois water body, there are concerns about effects of long-term exposure to polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and methylmercury in fish. More information can be found at Fish Advisories (illinois.gov).

"Fishing in Illinois is a terrific recreational activity that often leads to delicious and nutritious meals," said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. "To make sure those catches are the safest possible, please visit IDPH's Fish Advisory Map to get the most up to date information on Illinois's consumption advisories."

Under this year's advisories:

Five Illinois bodies of water have been added to the list: Duck Creek Lake, Schuy-Rush Lake, Rock Run Rookery, Waukegan South Harbor, and Waverly

Advisories for six bodies of water have been updated. The majority of updates were associated with mercury and continued PFAS testing, which was incorporated into statewide monitoring in 2023. Those bodies of water are: Cedar Lake, Chaminwood Lake, Dongola Lake, Dutchman Lake, Illinois River, and Wolf Lake and Indian Creek.

Advisories were relaxed in four water bodies: Big Muddy River, Lake Bracken, Monee Reservoir, and Randolph County Lake.

Additional details on the specific changes can be found at this link.

In addition to this year's site-specific updates, a statewide methylmercury advisory remains in place for all Illinois waters. The advisory cautions women who are nursing, pregnant, or may become pregnant, and children less than 15 years of age to eat no more than one meal per week of predatory fish (e.g., bass, walleye, salmon).

### Legislation passes to help farmers combat deer overpopulation

SPRINGFIELD-A measure to help Illinois farmers manage the growing problem of deer overpopulation passed unanimously in the Senate this week, with Illinois Senate Republican Deputy Leader Sue Rezin (R-Morris) serving as a leading co-sponsor.

Senate Bill 710 aims to reduce deer-related crop damage by improving access to nuisance permits and expanding hunting opportunities on agricultural land. The legislation is a joint initiative of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Illinois Farm Bureau.

"Farmers across my district and our entire state have made it clear that their crops are being immensely damaged, and their bottom lines threatened by the overpopulation of deer," said Senator Rezin. "This legislation offers practical, targeted solutions that will help landowners protect their property while managing the wildlife population responsibly."

Senate Bill 710 loosens regulations under the Illinois Wildlife Code to make it easier for landowners and tenants to obtain deer hunting permits. The bill allows for the automatic issuance of additional antlerless-only permits for those who show

effective population reduction efforts and enables owners and resident tenants of at least 40 acres of commercial farmland to receive hunting permits, both firearm and archery, for use only on that land. "This is a smart

and balanced approach that supports our farmers while preserving Illinois' strong outdoor heritage," continued Senator Rezin. "I am proud to see this bill pass with unanimous support and look forward to its continued progress in the House."

Senate Bill 710 now moves to the Illinois House for further consideration.

## Illinois State Fair announces event lineup in The Areana in August

SPRINGFIELD -The Illinois State Fair Arena will host a variety of family friendly events during the 2025 Illinois State Fair.

these fan-favorite events are on sale now at Ticketmaster.

Monsters of Destruction take over The Arena Thursday, August 7 with an allout monster truck thrill show featuring exhilarating truck battles. The adventure doesn't end there. Experience a thrill like no other when you take the entire family on a trip they'll never forget as you climb onboard a real monster truck.

Advanced tickets to Monsters of Destruction are \$25 for adults and \$20 for kids 12

and under. Day of the events tickets are \$30 for adults and \$23 for kids 12 and under. Monster truck rides will be available during Tickets for all of intermission and after the show. Ticket upa kind experience ride will be offered day of the event.

As part of the Double the Fun promotion, anyone who pays to park on the grounds on Thursday, August 7, will be able to redeem their parking pass for free parking on one return trip to the fair on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thurs-

On Saturday, August 9, fairgoers will be treated to a full slate of rodeo events by Illinois State Fair Rodeo

presented by Wooten Rodeo Co. Attendees will enjoy nine edgeof-your-seat activities including: Bareback, Saddle Bronc, Bull Riding, Tie Down Roping, Over 40 Tie Down grades for this one of Roping, Breakaway Roping, Team Roping, Steer Wrestling and Barrel Racing. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 and

The tradition of unyielding power and excitement continues as the Illinois Tractor Pulling Association (ITPA) returns for three days of pulls on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 11-13. Join us for three nights of nonstop action, where the roar of engines and the spirit of competition

captures the essence of this popular event. The Arena will be roaring as these massive machines compete to pull the farthest. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 and

Come out and enjoy the destruction at the Demolition Derby on Saturday, August 16 as these skilled drivers smash and crash into one another until only one remains to earn the title of Illinois State Fair Demolition Derby Champion. Fairgoers can expect an adrenaline-pumping night of entertainment as drivers compete in the ultimate test of durability and strategy. The Demolition Derby is always a crowd favorite where the roar

of engines meets the crunch of metal in this pure battle of automotive combat. Tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$5 for kids 12 and under. "As always, we're

excited to fill this outdoor space with a solid lineup of family friendly entertainment during the Illinois State Fair," said Jerry Costello II, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

"The events featured in The Arena represent traditions for the Illinois State Fair as well as traditions for families throughout the state, my own included," said Rebecca Clark, Illinois State Fair Manager. "We encourage fairgoers to purchase their tickets

in advance to beat the lines at the gate and ensure they won't miss any of the action inside The Arena! We look forward to packing the stands for these great events."

Tickets for all events are on sale now at Ticketmaster. Visit https:// statefair.illinois.gov/ entertainment/arena. html for ticket prices and ticket information.

Mark your calendars for the 2025 Illinois State Fair, running from August 7th through August 17th in Springfield, and stay up to date with all the latest news and announcements by connecting with us via Facebook and Instagram.

#### Illinois Gaming Board adopts proposed new rules

**CHICAGO** — The Illinois Gaming Board adopted proposed new rules at its April 24, 2025, meeting, including a prohibition on the use of credit cards to fund sports wagering accounts to further support responsible gambling.

When legal sports wagering began in Illinois in March 2020, sports betting was authorized in 13 other states, and none prohibited the use of credit cards to fund sports wagering accounts. Since that time, the industry has significantly evolved and today sports betting is legal is 40 states. At the 5-year mark of sports wagering in Illinois, IGB staff is reviewing current sports waging practices and rules to measure effectiveness and identify potential areas for adjustment.

"As part of our review, we determined that prohibiting the use of credit cards to fund sports wagering accounts is a justified and impactful advancement in Illinois sports wagering,"said Illinois Gaming Board Administrator Marcus D. Fruchter. "There is a growing body of recent research showing that restrictions on credit usage to fund wagering accounts encourages responsible gambling and mitigates the harms of compulsive gambling. Problem gamblers are particularly at risk and studies have shown an often-problematic willingness for compulsive gamblers to use credit cards to place bets."

Existing IGB rules ban credit card use for casino and video gaming wagers. Six other states, including Massachusetts, Iowa and Tennessee have enacted prohibitions on credit card use in sports wagering or reversed regulations that previously allowed it.

The IGB also adopted two additional new rules at its April meeting that would:

Permit cashless wagering in all 17 Illinois casinos – The proposed amendments to current Casino Rule 3000.600 would expressly allow casino patrons to use a digital casino account or wallet to wager, withdraw electronic credits, fund wagers, and cashout remaining credits. Cashless wagering accounts would be subject to IGB requirements including the credit card ban, Self-Exclusion Program controls, age restrictions, and anti-money laundering safeguards.

## Amboy Community Unit School District #272

May 12 **AHS Varsity Softball** & Baseball (H)

Newman-4:30 pm AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball

@ Newman-4:30 pm

**May 14** 

AHS Varsity Baseball @ Serena-4:30 pm

(H) Serena-4:30 pm

AHS Girls' Track

AHS Fresh/Soph Baseball

Sectional @ Taylor Ridge (Rockridge)-4:00 pm

**May 15** AHS Boys Track @ Forreston-4:00 pm

**May 16** 

AHS Softball @ Somonauk-4:30 pm

# LOCAL/STATE NEWS

#### 2024 LaSalle County financial multiplier announced

SPRINGFIELD – La Salle County has been issued a final property assessment equalization factor of 1.0000, according to David Harris, director of the Illinois Department of Revenue.

The property assessment equalization factor, often called the "multiplier," is the method used to achieve uniform property assessments among counties, as required by law. This equalization is particularly important because some of the state's 6,600 local taxing districts overlap into two or more counties (e.g., school districts, junior college

districts, fire protection districts). If there was no equalization among counties, substantial inequities among taxpayers with comparable properties would result.

Under a law passed in 1975, property in Illinois should be assessed at one-third (1/3) of its market value. Farm property is assessed differently with farm homesites and dwellings subject to regular assessing and equalization procedures. Farmland is assessed at one-third of its agriculture economic value and not subject to the state equalization factor.

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Assessments in La Salle County are at 32.93% of market value, based on sales of properties in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

The equalization factor currently being assigned is for 2024 taxes, payable in 2025.

Last year's equalization factor for the county was 1.0000.

The final assessment equalization factor was issued after a public hearing on the tentative factor. The tentative factor issued on 19-Dec-2024 was 1.0000.

The equalization factor is determined annually for each county by comparing the price of individual properties sold over the past three years to the assessed value placed on those properties by the county supervisor of assessments/county assessor.

If the three-year average level of assessment is one-third of the market value, the equalization factor will be one (1). If the average level of assessment is greater than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be less than one (1). And if the average level of assessment is less than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be greater than one (1).

A change in the equalization factor does not mean total property tax bills will increase or decrease. Tax bills are determined by local taxing bodies when they request money each year to provide services to local citizens. If the amount requested by local taxing districts is not greater than the amount received in the previous year, then total property taxes will not increase even if assessments increase.

The assessed value of an individual property determines what portion of the tax burden a specific taxpayer will assume. That individual's portion of tax responsibility is not changed by the multiplier.



WWII Radio Hour Concert is taking place Friday, May 16 at the Coliseum Museum in Oregon. Doors open at 6 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m.

Photo contributed

#### WWII Radio Hour Concert coming to Coliseum Museum

OREGON-The Coliseum Museum in Oregon presents their second spring concert, a WWII Radio Hour Concert, on May 16.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with patriotic music by pianist Beverly Kearns, followed by the WWII Radio Hour at 7 p.m.

The radio concert will feature favorites such as "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "Bei Mir Bist Du Schon," "In the Mood" and "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree," the costumed and piano-accompanied trio reenact a 1940's radio hour that is perfect for all ages.

While answering musical requests from soldiers and loved ones during wartime, Patti, Maxine and Andrew entertain the "studio audience" with Andrews Sisters-style tunes and

choreography, Abbott and Costello comedy sketches, and a touching tribute to Veterans of the U. S. Armed Forces.

Tickets are \$30 for CMAAA members and \$35 for non-members and available by calling the Coliseum Museum at 815-595-5810. You can also register online at www.cmaaa.org/events.html. The concert is sponsored by Bry Antiques.

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





# The Main Flower Shop

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Celebrate Mother's Day With Flowers

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Joshua Nichols, Superintendent Janet Crownhart

THANKS TO ALL **OUR AMBOY EDUCATORS!** 



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