

FREE

BOONE COUNTY
LOCAL NEWS, OPINION & HISTORY
JOURNAL
Real Journalism for a Real Democracy

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Telephone

By David Larson

The picture was taken in the telephone operator switchboard room and a good guess would be it is the office of the Belvidere Telephone Company rather than the Central Union Telephone Company office. In those days, if you wanted to make a call you cranked the phone, which rang the operator. The operator would fill your request by connecting the wires of the two, caller and receiver, to make your call locally. If you called outside of the local network, that was another matter, which took coordination with a long distance operator, if it were possible. One cannot help but wonder if the operator listened in on conversations from time to time, given the technology that permitted it.

Alexander Graham Bell, under Bell's 1876 master telephone patent #174465, created Bell Telephone Company in 1877. It had patent protection for 20 years. The company evolved into American Telephone & Telegraph Company (AT&T). The 1947 invention of the transistor and the evolution of digital data in the 1970's have transformed the local operator exchange room into a multi-acre server farm capable of listening to everyone's conversation all the time and taking action in whatever direction has been required by computer code.

Belvidere's first telephone company came from a regional enterprise that operated in several cities and states in the Midwest and was an affiliate of the Bell system. Operation began in 1892 in Belvidere. It operated on the second floor of the building on the northwest corner of South State Street and West Locust. A newspaper account of November 3, 1900 announced that the Central Union office would be receiving election results the next day, which will come in from all over the United States. All local lines were suspended to keep data flowing in. Fred Plane, the manager, invited the public to attend the spectacle. By Nov 7th, the *Belvidere Daily Republican* newspaper had produced a morning edition, showing the winners and losers. It was the first time the Central Union had been engaged in the dissemination of election results, and the paper commented that the results, as they came



in, often preceded those received by telegraph.

In 1895 an independent telephone company pushed the envelope when a group of local investors formed the Belvidere Telephone Company. It operated on the second floor of the Second National Bank in the 500 block of South State Street. J. R. Balliet, O. H. Wright Jr., John G. Tripp, and W. M. Marean organized it. In March of 1912, the 120 local owners of the Belvidere Telephone Company bought out the interests of the Central Union Telephone Company in Belvidere by issuing 700 shares of stock and raising its capitalization from \$50,000 to \$80,000. Despite the Central Union dropping its rates to zero, its subscribers dwindled to 35 at the time it was bought out. This merger combined all of Boone County into one local network. It also opened the local network to the Bell system's toll lines and other independent networks. Until then, if you wanted access to both the Belvidere network and the Boone County rural system, you needed two different telephones. Combined, 1,600 different telephone lines were managed by the new Belvidere Telephone Company. Prior to the merger, if one lived in the Irene exchange

they could not reach someone in Herbert. That all changed in 1912.

The Belvidere Telephone Company and Boone County Rural Telephone sold out to a group of investors from Madison on July 17, 1924. This group owned 9 other Wisconsin exchanges. A new building was built in 1926 with updated equipment on South State Street. That location is part of the Boone County Historical Museum parking lot near the statue of first responders. In 1928, the Boone County Exchanges were folded into the Illinois Commercial Telephone Company. In 1952, the company changed its name to General Telephone Company.

June 15, 1954 the dial tone came to Boone County. The dial tone brought the ability to direct-dial your party. General Telephone, an independent, located the new dial system on West Locust. It served 4,600 lines.

The telephone changed everything. The speed of commerce changed. The speed of life changed. Similarly, the Internet changed everything and has captured telephone technology by integrating its function into the tiny 1 and 0 packets that are the content of the data stream.

Rock Valley College Offering Free Tuition for First Year at Advanced Technology Center

Rock Valley College will be offering free tuition for in-district students who enroll in first year coursework at RVC's new Advanced Technology Center (ATC). Programs of study that will be initially offered when the ATC opens in August 2021 include CNC Machining, Industrial Maintenance, Mechatronics, Truck Driver Training and Welding. This initial offer will be extended across the district on a proportional basis using census data by zip code (See Exhibit A). RVC is also committed to transportation assistance to the ATC in Belvidere which will be detailed in the coming months.

"Rock Valley College is committed to providing accessible, exceptional educational and training opportunities to a diverse student body and community, and this ATC free tuition initiative will help us do just that," said RVC President Dr. Howard Spearman. "We are further committed to removing the financial obstacles that can hinder students from pursuing their educational goals. If we are going to change the culture of education in our community, it is going to take regional,

Continued on Page 2



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Marcia L. Spiess 1930—2020

Marcia L. Spiess, 90, of Belvidere, IL, passed away peacefully, Tuesday December 8, 2020 at OSF St. Anthony's Hospital. She was born April 5, 1930 in Rockford, IL, the daughter of Ivan and Gertrude (Hildreth) Agnew. Marcia married Ramon Spiess in 1948. She was an office manager for many years at Canfield Clinic and then with Dr. Jerome Weiskopf. Marcia was a faithful member of St. James Catholic Church in Belvidere. She enjoyed crossword puzzles. Marcia was known for having a sweet tooth, especially chocolate. Most of all, she was a devoted mother to her boys.

Marcia is loved and missed by her children, Jeff (Janet) Spiess and Randy Spiess; grandchildren, Elton and Shayla Spiess and Christopher Spiess; 6 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Ramon, and sister Edith Bosley. Per Marcia's wishes, no services will take place. To share a condolence, please visit www.sunset-fhmemgardens.com.

Obituaries

Bruin (Ten), Charlotte, 100, Belvidere, Dec. 5
Ellingson, Donald, 96, Poplar Grove, Dec. 8
Hildebrand, Theo, 102, Belvidere, December 7
Hoernecke, Arlene, 94, Belvidere, December 4
McWilliams, Barbara, 75, Belvidere, Dec. 12
Mowers, Ernest, 94, Belvidere, December 7
Russell, Joyce, 85, Belvidere, December 11
Schlais, Peggy, 81, Belvidere, December 7
Spiess, Marcia, 90, Belvidere, December 8
Stern, Wayne, 86, Belvidere, December 9
Turner, Robert, 82, Cherry Valley, December 11
Wydick, Lila, 93, Belvidere, December 10

Quidnunc



What is your position in-line for the vaccine?

100 million by end of January

Any questions?

RVC

Continued page 1

collaborative approaches like this to make a true impact."

"The Rock Valley College Board of Trustees has been passionately dedicated to bringing an Advanced Technology Center to the 511 District we serve because we truly believe it will aid in transforming the region through education and workforce development," said RVC Board of Trustees Chairman Patrick Murphy. "This free tuition initiative further illustrates our commitment to making RVC and the ATC accessible to anyone in our district who is seeking the training and education for good jobs in our region. We are excited to offer this assistance to approximately 300 students because of cost savings achieved and partnerships built in the opening of this new ATC."

Interested students must complete an online form at rockvalleycollege.edu/atc, complete an RVC application, attend a mandatory virtual Information, Financial Aid and Registration session, and complete the RVC Tuition Waiver/Sponsorship Form.

Free tuition will be limited to residents who have lived at least one year in RVC's service area (District 511). As this is limited please contact RVC for availability. This initiative does not provide for some course related fees and materials.

The Rock Valley College Board of Trustees will vote on the ATC tuition waiver initiative at the Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, December 15.

About RVC's Advanced Technology Center

RVC's Advanced Technology Center (ATC) is a regional approach that has commitment and collaboration from regional partners that will help transform the region through education and workforce development.

This new, state-of-the-art, 77,000 square-foot facility will be conveniently located off Business 20 in Belvidere, and will house many of RVC's manufacturing, technology, and industrial-based programs. The ATC will offer both credit and non-credit programs, including certificate programs and stackable credential models that can be completed in as few as five weeks.

Letter to The Editor

Mayor and City Aldermen,

The Library already uses volunteers to help - they help shelve books. Some of those individuals are members of Friends of the Ida Public Library. "Friends" conduct book sales twice a year to raise fund for the Library. Volunteers from the Literacy Council use the Library to help people learn to read.

The City Council's vote to not increase funds for the Library is a vote against the children of Belvidere who use the Library to read and learn.

Citizen's of Belvidere need to contact their Alderman and ask him to reverse the vote reducing funds budgeted for the Library.

A gentle reminder: All of us citizens of Belvidere are beneficiaries of the good things the Library provides. It is more than books and materials to read. It provides a place for citizens to gather and learn.

Ida Public Library is the diamond that shines in the Belvidere Community.

IT SHINES!!

It makes Belvidere an even better place to live!

Citizens of Belvidere, I urge you to contact your Alderman and ask that he vote to provide the money as requested to fund the Ida Public Library.

Sincerely,
Andy Racz

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Publisher/Editor	David C. Larson
Senior Writer/Editorial	Charles Herbst
Advertising	Bethany Staniec
Photography	Susan Moran
Office	Amanda Nelson

David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000
Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013

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419 S. State St • Belvidere, IL 61008
Phone: (815) 544-4430 Fax: 544-4330
www.boonecountyjournal.com
news@boonecountyjournal.com

Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.
Letters. Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.

Guest columns. Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.

Opinions. The opinions expressed in the Journal are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Boone County Journal management or ownership.

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OP ED

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

real journalism for a real democracy

--In Our Opinion--

A Step Forward

Our state has been rocked by challenges over the past year. Many of our friends and neighbors are hurting and suffering. We have lost cherished members of our community to COVID-19 and grown increasingly frustrated with present circumstances and limitations. I would like to share with you a few thoughts as we close 2020 and frame 2021 with the hopeful optimism we all have for its arrival.



Representative Jeff Keicher

The pandemic has impacted our community in ways we never imagined. The virus has not only taken lives, but shuttered businesses and community organizations. Many are scared. Many are fed up with being limited. Yet everyone agrees the tragedy has altered our lives. All of us long for a chance to gather with our friends and family; to do so with hugs, handshakes and a gentle smile that acknowledges we know what we've been through hasn't been easy.

2021 will test our resolve to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic together. As I have said early on, I wear a mask and I encourage others to do the same. I have no problem wearing a mask. All of us should wear a mask when we interact with others outside our household. To me, wearing a mask is an expression of caring and respect for our fellow residents. Caring for others has been a hallmark of being an American throughout our history. We must not allow that trait in ourselves to diminish under strain.

Illinois will receive an initial allotment of 109,000 doses of the vaccine. Those will go first to the counties with the highest death rate per capita, prioritizing the areas of most urgent need. Each of us will have a decision to make regarding the vaccine. I will get vaccinated as will my family after those with higher risk and priority are protected. I trust science and am amazed by science. We should all stand in awe of what scientific advancement has done in the face of this year's adversity. I know any vaccine carries potential risks. I ask that you consider the upside to your friends, neighbors, small businesses, restaurants, schools, and our overall wellbeing mentally and physically as you weigh your decision.

While 2020 is a year many want to end, I would encourage you to embrace the past year as an opportunity to reflect on how to handle adversity. Consider your path forward and embrace the opportunity 2021 offer each of us to become better versions of ourselves. You can act or be acted upon

by the circumstances at hand. Your behavior is a function of your decisions, not your environment.

I believe in you. I have optimism that the coming year will see humanity tackle some of the most significant issues of our time, of all time. But we don't get there without lifting each other up.

I wish you health and prosperity this holiday season and in the coming year; and I humbly thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Representative.

Jeff Keicher
State Representative,
70th District

Rock Valley College Trustees have announced a free tuition scholarship for up to 300 students at its Advanced Technology Center in Belvidere.

The Advanced Technology Center is housed in the former Shopko Building on Big Thunder Blvd. in Northwest Belvidere. Plans are to begin remodeling the former store in January, with completion of the project in June. Classes at the Center will begin in August 2021. Programs in Welding, Truck Driving, Mechatronics, Industrial Maintenance and CNC Machining will be offered.

According to Rock Valley College Board of Trustees Chairman Patrick Murphy, funding for the scholarship program is coming from cost savings achieved in the development of the Center.

Like any free offer, this one comes with its share of asterisks. The free tuition offer is limited to 300 residents of the Community College District, who have lived there for at least one year. The District includes Boone and Winnebago Counties and small portions of surrounding areas. The scholarships are allocated geographically, with 41 allotted to Boone County residents. The scholarships will not include a stipend for course-related fees and materials, although students can apply for Pell Grants and other assistance to cover these expenses.

The offer is further limited to beginning students who start in the Center's inaugural class in August 2021. Students who are interested will have to first attend a virtual orientation to apply for the scholarships. The value of these scholarships will vary depending on the course of study, but will be worth up to \$4900 per student. To avoid disappointment, interested students are encouraged to promptly respond to the College's offer. (See accompanying story.)

It is easy to be cynical and ask how training 300 young people to be welders, truck drivers, and maintenance workers is going to "transform" the blue-collar world of Rockford and Belvidere, Illinois.

We prefer to look at it as a small step in the right direction.

Many have called for at least the first two years of college to be free. Educational assistance is a good investment for our government. Educated workers make more money and pay more taxes than lower-skilled workers.

Sadly, financial guidance is often unavailable to the students who need it the most. What financial help is available often goes unused. Moreover, graduates of limited means are often left with ruinous student loans, which, in addition to making a former student's life miserable, are a drag on the economy. They preclude purchase of a home and life's other necessities.

Training a young person to be a CNC Machinist may be a life-long career, or it may be a stepping-stone to a better job in the future. Careers take many paths, and hopefully they provide a good and happy life. Whether it's learning to read, learning to play hockey, or learning how to perform brain surgery, we believe that all learning is worthwhile.

One thing is certain. We don't "transform Rockford" or access the opportunities in the high-tech, 21st Century world without getting an education. Rock Valley College Trustees have made the right decision in providing an affordable path toward better training and a better life for many people right here in Belvidere.

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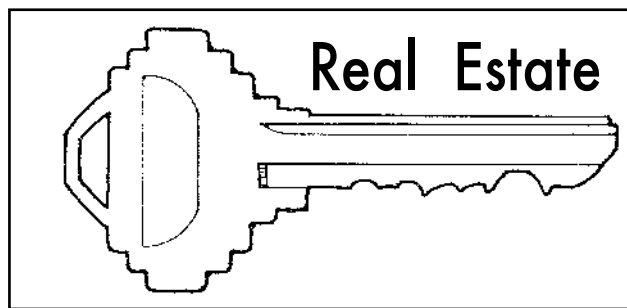

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF CSMC 2019-RPL5 TRUST Plaintiff,
vs.
20 CH 7
RODNEY R. LEWIS, CATHERINE A. LEWIS, BENEFICIAL FINANCIAL I INC. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO BENEFICIAL ILLINOIS INC., CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A Defendants,
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. in the office of inside the front entrance of the, Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street., Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
LOT 3 IN BLOCK 5 AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT OF CRANK AND FRY'S SUBDIVISION, AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN BOOK 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 7; SITUATED IN BOONE COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS.
P.I.N. 05-26-177-012.
Commonly known as 223 W. MARSHALL STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 357-1125. File Number 19-05735

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
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Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 4, 11, 18, 2020

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC Plaintiff,
-v.-
2020CH1

MELISSA JO HARRIS et al Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 10, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on January 11, 2021, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 131 COLUMBIA ST NW, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

Property Index No. 03-22-352-014
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/ or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

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For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

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Attorney File No. 14-19-12133

Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

Case Number: 2020CH1

TJSC#: 40-2417

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2020CH1

13160640

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LEGAL NOTICES

Foreclosures

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS
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P.I.N. 05-26-177-012.

Commonly known as 223 W. MARSHALL STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 357-1125. File Number 19-05735

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13160755

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 4, 11, 18, 2020

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC Plaintiff,
-v.-
2020CH1

MELISSA JO HARRIS et al Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 10, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on January 11, 2021, at the NLT Title L.L.C., 530 S. State, Suite 201 (Logan Avenue entrance), Belvidere, IL, 61008, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
LOT EIGHTY-NINE (89) IN CANDLEWICK LAKE UNIT NO. 6, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PORTIONS OF SECTION 22, 26, AND 27, TOWNSHIP 45 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 72-2060 AND REVISED IN DOCUMENT NO. 73-4912 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 131 COLUMBIA ST NW, POPLAR GROVE, IL 61065

Property Index No. 03-22-352-014

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/ or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com

Attorney File No. 14-19-12133

Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

Case Number: 2020CH1

TJSC#: 40-2417

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2020CH1

13160640

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 4, 11, 18, 2020

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL COURT
COUNTY OF BOONE

In the Matter of the Estate of BOBBY J SOMMERFIELD, DECEASED
CASE NO. 2020-P-70

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given of the death of Bobby J Sommerfield. Letters of Office were issued on November 23, 2020 to, Nicole Sommerfield, Belvidere, Illinois who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles T. Sewell, 215 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before June 7, 2021, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk – Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office – Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Dated: December 4, 2020

Nicole Sommerfield, Independent Administrator

Charles T. Sewell, L.L.C. for Estate

Attorney at Law

215 South State Street

Belvidere, IL 61008

Phone: 815-544-3118

Email: charlets1@aol.com

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 4, 11, 18, 2020

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT WINNEBAGO COUNTY

NOVA MARTIN

Plaintiff / Petitioner

-VS- CASE #2020-D-597

KITSON MARTIN

Defendant / Respondent

Let it be known that this legal notice serves as notice to Kitson Martin that Nova Martin has begun divorce proceedings against you. If you choose to contest this matter your appearance in person or represented by council is require. The date of the hearing to do so in a Winnebago County Court is on January 4th, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

Published in *The Boone County Journal* 12/4, 11, 18/2020 -WC

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Estate of Karen Quimby, Deceased

Gen No. 20P63

Notice is given of the death of Karen Quimby, of Poplar Grove, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 20, 2020 to Ronald Quimby of 304 Sherman Lane, Poplar Grove, Illinois 61065, whose attorney is Eric J. Miller, Eric J. Miller Law Group, Ltd., 2990 North Perryville Road, Suite 4120B, Rockford, Illinois 61107.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court or with representative, or both, on or before June 2, 2021, which date is not less than 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of any claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it is filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers>. htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

Ronald Quimby (Representative)

Eric J. Miller (Attorney)

Prepared by:

Eric J. Miller, Esq.

815-315-0106

ARDC #6283540

eric@ejmlawgroup.com

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 4, 11, 18

STATE OF ILLINOIS

CIRCUIT COURT

WINNEBAGO COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR

NAME CHANGE (ADULT)

Case Number: 2020-MR-863

REQUEST OF: AUBREY MARIE ANDERSON to change name my name from: AUBREY MARIE ANDERSON: to the new name of: AUBREY MARIE NYEN. The court date will be held: on February 4th, 2020, at 9:45am, at 400 W. State St., Rockford, IL, Winnebago County in Courtroom - ZOOM # 810-3128-1604

Published in the Boone County Journal Dec. 18, 25, 2020, Jan.1, 2021 - WC

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BELVIDERE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the City of Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of Dan and Teresa Snow, 409 West Jackson Street, Belvidere, IL on behalf of the property owner, Teresa Snow, for a variance at 409 West Jackson Street within the SR-6, Single-family Residential-6 District (Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Sections 150.105(B)(3)(F)(2)(D) Minimum Setbacks: Front or Street Side Lot Line to House: 20 feet, 150.105(B)(3)(F)(2)(D) Minimum Setbacks: Side Lot Line to House or Attached Garage: 6 feet and 150.909 Variance Review). The variance will allow for the required front yard setbacks to be reduced from 20 feet to 9 feet along Berylan Street and from 20 feet 17 feet along Jackson Street and the side yard setback to be reduced from 6 feet to 2 feet along the eastern property line to allow for the existing house to be brought into compliance and potential future reconstruction if need be. The subject property is legally described as:

A part of Lot Three (3) in Block One (1) of B. R. Bennett's Addition to Belvidere, according to Plat thereof in Book 1 of Plats on page 23, Boone County, Records, and described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the Northernly line of Jackson Street with the Northernly line of Strawberry Lane (now called Berlyn Avenue), and running from thence Northeasterly along said Northernly line of Jackson Street Thirty-seven (37) feet; from thence at right angles with said Northernly line of Jackson Street Northwesterly to the rear line of said Lot 3; from thence Southwesterly along the rear line of said Lot 3, to the Northernly line of Strawberry Lane (now called Berlyn Avenue); from thence Southeasterly along said line of Strawberry Lane (now called Berlyn Avenue) to the place of beginning, situated in the City of Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois. PIN: 05-26-181-009.

All persons interested in the petitions may attend and be heard at the stated time and place.

Carl Gnewuch, Chairman,
Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission
Published in the Boone County Journal Dec. 18

Assumed Names

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a landscaping business in said County and State under the name of Mujica Landscaping at the following post office address: 609 Union Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Clemente Mujica, 213 King Henry Road SE, Poplar Grove, IL 61065; phone #224-423-7801.
 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 19th day of November, A.D. 2020
 Julie Stapler, County Clerk
 Published in Boone County Journal December 4, 11, 18

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a construction business in said County and State under the name of Keating Exteriors at the following post office address: 322 W. 10th Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Keith Keating, 322 W. 10th Street, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-566-5022.
 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 24th day of November, A.D. 2020
 Julie Stapler, County Clerk
 Published in Boone County Journal, December 4, 11, 18

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION
 STATE OF ILLINOIS
 COUNTY OF BOONE
 This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a graphic custom design business in said County and State under the name of Starfire Grafix at the following post office address: 854 Pear Street Road, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Norma Allen, 854 Pearl Street Road, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-218-6969.
 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 2nd day of December, A.D. 2020
 Julie Stapler, County Clerk
 Published in Boone County Journal December 4, 11, 18

Illinois Aims to Boost Flagging Tech Economy with Public-Private Research Network

UI says development key to fighting brain drain, racial disparities in private sector

by Raymon Troncoso
 Capitol News Illinois | Report For America

University of Illinois faculty say an ongoing statewide investment in a public-private research network is key to boosting the state's economy.

The Discovery Partners Institute, a UI-led research and workforce development hub based in Chicago, is the flagship program of the Illinois Innovation Network that seeks to invest in 15 regional hubs affiliated with the UI system to spur economic growth with state funding. The goal of IIN is to create technology jobs in Illinois and train the state's workforce to fill them.

UI representatives testified before the state Senate Higher Education Committee during a subject matter hearing on Monday, claiming that despite Illinois' success in business and STEM education, the state hasn't seen the economic boon to match its academic output.

According to UI's presentation, Illinois is second nationally in computer science graduates and food research and development, fourth in MBA graduates, and fifth in data science graduates.

But this hasn't translated to the private sector, leading to a "brain drain" of Illinois-educated tech workers, he said.

"But, our issue, right, is we lose that talent," Jackson said. "It goes to the coast, it goes other places and it doesn't stay within the state. We do all

the development and we don't get the essence of all that great capability we're building."

Illinois is 31st in state economic growth, 46th in private job growth, and 62 percent of computer science graduates leave the state after receiving their degree, according to the university's representatives. On top of that, half of all start-ups that raise more than \$5 million relocate.

The UI's tech programs are also not racially equitable.

In Chicago, Black residents and Latino residents each make up around 30 percent of the city's population. Cumulatively, they make up 12 percent of Chicago's tech workforce, despite accounting for 60 percent of the general population.

In 2019, less than 2 percent of UI system computer and data science graduates were Black, while 5 percent were Latino. The UI representatives contended that this disparity limits the workforce that can be developed to address personnel shortfalls in the tech industry and keeps Illinois behind other states like California and Washington, which have seen similar levels of academic success as Illinois but have reaped larger growth in the private sector.

The solution, according to UI's presentation, is continued investment in computer science classes and computer science teachers in public schools zoned for underserved communities. They also promote programs that target Black and Latino K-12 students to establish a pipeline for earning computer and data science degrees at Illinois universities.

DPI's Chicago campus, in a development area called The 78, is scheduled to be completed by 2025. Most of the other hubs are situated on public university campuses and in existing structures and are scheduled to be operational over the next few years.

Hubs will have an established focus based on their region and the university that houses them. Focus areas include computing and data, food and agriculture, entrepreneurship and environment, and water.

An economic impact statement crafted by the Boston Consulting Group in late 2019 claims DPI and IIN will generate \$198 billion in economic activity and create or fill 48,000 jobs over the next 10 years. The study says that by the 2029 fiscal year, the project will create or fill more than 9,500 jobs annually, with 4,500 of those going to individuals from underserved backgrounds.

Jackson said that while Google and other big tech corporations are filling one gap in the marketplace, DPI will create the capacity for more tech jobs in the state. He also said that its different hubs and focus on creating pipelines in K-12 education allow it to fill multiple market gaps outside of just data science.

According to Jackson, Illinois institutions are uniquely situated for developing digital agriculture, transportation logistics and medical research.

Rose said he was pleased with the idea of DPI and IIN for boosting Illinois' economy through the technology sector, but he cautioned the state "not to create a wheel that's already been created somewhere else."

Democrats Vote to End Legislative Investigation Of Madigan

Committee adjourns after 3 meetings in 4 months

by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

After just three hearings in four months, Democrats on the special committee probing House Speaker Michael Madigan's alleged misconduct and role in a bribery scheme involving Commonwealth Edison voted Monday to end their investigation.

Throughout the combative three-hour hearing, the three House Republicans and three Democrats clashed repeatedly over the rules of procedure, disagreed about the facts contained in the federal court documents and levied accusations of political stunts and a "kangaroo court."

The House Democratic members — Reps. Chris Welch, of Hillside, Natalie Manley, of Joliet, and Elizabeth Hernandez, of Cicero — voted no on a motion, presented by Manley, that Madigan engaged in conduct unbecoming of legislator.

With a deadlocked vote along party lines, the motion failed to pass.

Madigan issued a statement on Monday that criticized his Republican counterpart, Minority Leader Rep. Jim Durkin of Western Springs, who filed the petition creating the committee.

"Jim Durkin insisted on initiating this political theater, and through this process we've come to learn that he was involved in the very conduct he claims to be so offended by — recommending people for various jobs. If Jim Durkin actually believes it is conduct unbecoming of a legislator to recommend people for jobs or help constituents, he might want to review his own hypocritical behavior. Rather than finger pointing, I suggest we focus on the important work that lies ahead of us," Madigan said in the statement.

The Special Investigating Committee was formed in late August after the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago charged ComEd in a deferred prosecution agreement that alleged ComEd officials conspired with Madigan's associates to secure no-work jobs and contracts for Madigan's friends in exchange for favorable legislation in the Illinois General Assembly.

The committee was tasked with investigating whether there was evidence to find Madigan's conduct was unbecoming of a legislator and whether Madigan should face disciplinary

Continued on Page 8

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 Contemporary Worship 5:00 pm
 Traditional Worship 7:00 pm
 (reservations required)
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December 13 - “St. Nick & Three Kings”
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 Rev. David Love, Pastor

Madigan *continued from page 7*

proceedings.

Under the deferred prosecution agreement, ComEd admitted to the bribery scheme and agreed to pay a \$200 million and cooperate with the investigation.

Madigan has not been charged with a crime and he denies wrongdoing. He is mentioned in the deferred prosecution agreement and indictments as “Public Official A.”

In September, a former ComEd executive, Fidel Marquez, pleaded guilty to a role in the bribery scheme. Last month, federal prosecutors in Chicago indicted four others — Michael McClain, a former ComEd lobbyist and close Madigan confidant, former ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore, former ComEd executive John Hooker, and Jay Doherty, a lobbyist who worked on contract for ComEd — with bribery for allegedly conspiring to influence Madigan with no-work jobs and contracts to his associates.

Last month, Welch released hundreds of pages of documents that the committee had requested from ComEd, including numerous emails between McClain and Marquez, Pramaggiore and others seeking favors for Madigan’s associates and individuals from his district.

The Republicans on the investigating committee — Reps. Tom Demmer, of Dixon, Deanne Mazzochi, of Elmhurst, and Grant Werhli, of Naperville — extensively referenced the emails to show McClain was working on behalf of Madigan, and with Madigan’s knowledge, to secure jobs, contracts and internships that were meant to curry favor with the Speaker.

“This was not a mere job recommendation, this was a demand,” Mazzochi said in reference to an email from McClain instructing ComEd officials to add former CEO of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority Juan Ochoa to the ComEd Board of Directors at the request of Madigan.

Other emails show McClain asking the

company to provide work for attorney Victor Reyes and his law firm, Reyes Kurson, again at the request of Madigan, who is referred to as “our Friend.”

In one email, McClain wrote, “I am sure you know how valuable [Reyes] is to our Friend,” and then went on to write, “I know the drill and so do you. If you do not get involve [sic] and resolve this issue of 850 hours for his law firm per year then he will go to our Friend. Our Friend will call me and then I will call you. Is this a drill we must go through?”

Mazzochi said the exchange was “not a job recommendation. That is an unethical quid pro quo.”

“These internal documents certainly confirm that there is no innocent explanation,” she said.

The three Republican House members of the committee called for additional witnesses to appear before them, including those named in the federal indictment, but a motion to issue subpoenas failed to pass, with a partisan vote deadlocked at 3-3.

In a news conference after the committee adjourned, Demmer said the Democrats on the House committee shut down their investigation.

“It was our duty to conduct this investigation to support and try to rebuild the integrity and trust of the House of Representatives. But what we saw under the leadership of Chairman Welch was a process that sought not to hear from additional witnesses, sought not to have adequate number of hearings and sought to bring the committee to a conclusion before we had the information necessary to make a qualified judgment,” Demmer said.

The committee met twice in September, and has heard testimony from only one witness, David Glockner, the executive vice president of compliance and audit for Exelon Corporation, which is the parent company of ComEd.

Democrats on the committee also used the emails to suggest Durkin improperly sought ComEd jobs for his friends, citing an email from a lobbyist for the Illinois State Medical Society that asked McClain to consider recommending a woman who had been working in Durkin’s office.

Hernandez, along with her Democratic colleagues, maintained that McClain’s emails simply showed someone making job recommendations.

“Recommending jobs is legal, and Leader Durkin asked for job recommendations too,” she said. “In neither case is this illegal or unethical.”

Furthermore, Democrats claimed that the committee’s motive was a power grab by Durkin in an effort to become the next House Speaker, even though he would need the votes of at least 15 House Democrats to be elected to the position.

“This is a political show that was concocted by Minority Leader Durkin. It was a plain power grab by the minority party, as the Republican members of this committee and petitioner have shown in spite of our attempts to conduct this investigation in a nonpartisan impartial manner,” Welch said during a news conference following the committee’s adjournment.

In his own statement Monday, Durkin criticized the Democratic members of the committee for protecting Madigan.

“The Democratic Party shows again today there is no limit to the lengths they will go to protect Speaker Madigan. Chairman Welch, Rep. Hernandez and Rep. Manley have turned the rule of law on its head by refusing to investigate the charges and demand the testimony of Speaker Madigan in this scandal. I call on Governor Pritzker to finally demand Speaker Madigan resign as it is clear he refuses to answer any questions about his corrupt practices,” the statement reads.