FREE

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



The First Street Garage

by David Larson

Originally a farm implement dealer, the First Street Garage on the corner of Garfield Avenue was a gray block building made for mechanical work rather than as today's show palace's are geared to contemporary automobile marketing.

Unlike the more attractive two and three story buildings that lined State Street, it was a plain building as can be seen in the picture. It's showroom could only hold one car after a half day of maneuvering to get it into the space in order to properly display it.

The repair shop was dark, visually mechanical, greasy, and mysterious, which only a mechanic could appreciate.

In 1932, at the very bottom of the depression, Wallace "Walley" Blackledge started his business on First Street representing Plymouth, Desoto and Graham automobiles, all of which are no longer manufactured. Blackledge eventually replaced these lines with Cadillac, Pontiac, GMC, and Jeep. It was stated in The Belvidere Daily Republic of that era, ..."Prompt and efficient service on all makes of cars have made his auto repair room under the supervision of George Studebaker, one of the city's best auto mechanics, sought by motorists from all over the city and the surrounding rural territory. With one of the best wreckers built, which has a power winch, an excellent wrecker service is also conducted." Walley sold Kendall oil, Excide batteries and pumped Phillips gasoline on First Street in addition to auto sales and service.

Walley was an avid golfer and belonging to the Bel-Mar Country Club at the far eastern end of Logan Avenue outside of Belvidere. On Thursday October 27, 1938, Thursday being a customary afternoon off to play golf for local businessmen, Walley shot a hole-in-one using a 7-iron on the ninth hole, the green of which is just outside of the big picture windows of the club house.

Over the years, the building was acquired by neighboring Manley Motors and removed to create space for a newly constructed body shop for that dealership. Recently, the City of Belvidere purchased the property and removed the body shop building and the Manley Building. This was done to facilitate a deal on behalf of Manley Motors to relocate on the corner of State Street and Appleton Road. Today the property, which in the early 20th century was slated to be a boutique hotel, which never got off the ground, and instead became a center of automobile sales and is now a vacant lot.

A Second Republican Files Suit to End Stay-At-Home Order

Cabello, a Trump loyalist, case seeks to end Stay-At-Home for Illinois residents

by Rebecca Anzel Capitol News Illinois

A second Republican state representative on Wednesday filed a lawsuit against Gov. JB Pritzker alleging he overstepped his authority in ordering Illinoisans to stay at home to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The outcome of Machesney Park Rep. John Cabello's case could affect all state residents, as





(top) Walley 4th from the right with a hat. (middle) First Street looking East. (bottom) An ad for farm implements sold at the First Street Garage.

Cabello filed the suit in Winnebago County on behalf of himself and "all citizens of the state of Illinois similarly situated."

Illinoisans' right to "free movement" — to leave their homes and shop at a local business, for example — were "arbitrarily stripped away from them" by Pritzker's implementation of the stay-at-home restriction, Cabello alleges.

That order, initially instituted on March 20 and extended through the end of May, "could continue into perpetuity as (Pritzker) solely determines, all without due process of law," according to the court filing.

Continued on Page 2



Lawsuit

Continued page 1

"No one has that authority — nobody, not the governor, not the president," Cabello's attorney, Thomas DeVore, said Wednesday in a phone interview. "That is the stuff of kings centuries ago. It is unconstitutional."

DeVore is also representing Rep. Darren Bailey, a Republican from Xenia, in a similar case. On



Theodore F. Staniec Jr., 73, of Belvidere, IL, passed away on Monday, April 20, 2020 at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, IL. He was born on Monday, May 20, 1946 in Chicago, IL to the late Theodore and Marvel (Kunz) Staniec. He married the love of his life, Susan Rosenberg, on Saturday, May 27, 1967 in Chicago, IL. Ted is loved and will be deeply missed by his beloved wife, Sue; son, Brian (Rhonda) Staniec; daughters, Belinda (David) Schirmer, Beth Staniec, Bridget (Ryan) Oakley; grandchildren, Tom Schirmer, Nathan Staniec, Gracie Spears. He was preceded in death by his parents. There will be a memorial service at a later date. A memorial fund has been established in the family's name.

\infty Obituaries ∞

Clair, Robert, 82, Belvidere, April 22 Krause, Ruth, 75, Belvidere, April 27 Lynch, Leo, 94, Belvidere, April 23 Ohlsen, Coralyn, 95, Belvidere, April 21 Schwebke, Ronald, 91, Cherry Valley, April 28 Staniec Jr., Theodore, 73, Belvidere, April 20



real journalism for a real democracy

Publisher/Editor Senior Writer/Editorial Advertising Photography

David C. Larson Charles Herbst **Bethany Staniec** Amanda Nelson

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

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

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.

Monday, a Clay County Circuit Court judge ruled in favor of Bailey and released him from the governor's stay-at-home orders.

Cabello's case differs from Bailey's in that it alleges the Illinois Department of Public Health has "supreme authority" to close businesses and put residents under quarantine or isolation.

According to the statute creating the department, officials must either have an Illinoisan's consent when doing so, or obtain a court order. The burden of proof is great — among other things, the department would need to prove to a judge that the community's health is "significantly endangered" by the person it wants to quarantine.

DeVore said the procedure outlined by that statute is "the law of the land" and what should be governing any quarantines.

"... Pritzker has perverted the emergency provisions of the (Illinois Emergency Management Act) in an effort to rip the sacred responsibility of the health and lives of the people away from where the Legislature placed it, being local control of county health departments of the (Illinois Department of Public Health), and in doing so he took complete

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control of the free movement of every citizen within the state of Illinois," according to the lawsuit.

"Even if well intentioned by Pritzker, his actions as governor have left every citizen of this state completely devoid of any procedural due process rights to protect their liberty...," the document continues.

In the court filing, DeVore also takes issue with the governor's disaster proclamations including a 30-day "arbitrarily placed" time frame.

The Illinois Emergency Management Act specifies a governor has emergency authority during a disaster for 30 days, but DeVore said it does not specify that a disaster must include an end

He said he believes Pritzker does not have the authority to issue successive disaster proclamations, and he suggested the Legislature should use those 30 days to determine what actions it should take to protect public health.

"They're playing games with this type of language," DeVore said. "The governor's people should appreciate there's a lot of smart people in this state who can see this for what it's worth."

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THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

real journalism for a real democracy --In Our Opinion--

"When somebody is president of the United States, the authority is total."

DONALD J. TRUMP, APRIL 13, 2020

Enough is enough.

This newspaper concerns itself with the affairs of Boone County, Illinois and neighboring communities. Our mission is the betterment of Belvidere, and the villages surrounding it.

Although this newspaper has been outraged by the antics of President Donald J. Trump during the past three-plus years, we have held our tongues, even when Mr. Trump was impeached. Consistent with our mission as a local newspaper, we have publicly condemned the Trump Administration on only three occasions.

- Mr. Trump's attack on the health care of
- Boone Countians.
- Trump's bigoted remarks and those of his Vice President and Attorney General, which affect the well-being and safety of Boone Countians of color.
- Mr. Trump's threats against the employees
 of the National Weather Service, who
 warned against Trump's ridiculous claim
 that Hurricane Dorian was a threat to
 Alabama. The National Weather Service
 keeps Boone County apprised in the
 event of threatening weather, and an
 attack against their integrity is an attack
 against us.

After Donald J. Trump's claim of "total authority" on Monday, April 13, Mr. Trump sent three messages via the Twitter service four days later on Friday, April 17, directing his sycophants to "LIBERATE MINNESOTA", "LIBERATE MICHIGAN" and "LIBERATE VIRGINIA, and save your great 2nd Amendment." Not surprisingly, demonstrators attempted to blockade the Michigan State Capitol and brandished semiautomatic firearms.

This is the very definition of sedition.

With the words "Real journalism for a real democracy" appearing in every issue of this newspaper for the past twenty-four years, we cannot allow these chilling, dangerous, and outrageous utterances to stand unchecked.

While Mr. Trump's devoted disciples will justify these statements as "Just Trump being Trump," we ask them where is the line between "Trump being Trump" and a serious violation of President Trump's oath of office to defend the Constitution of the United States. The separation of powers is a sacred hallmark of the American system of government. This nation was specifically founded on the rejection of monarchial, dictatorial rule. Words *do* matter, and so do deeds.

Donald J. Trump's statements on April 13 and April 17, 2020 disqualify him from serving as President of the United States.

This nation, and indeed the world, finds itself in time of peril. A deadly, highly contagious virus is gripping the entire planet. This pandemic has, in a few short months, killed many, and taken multiple lives in Boone and McHenry Counties. The grim forecast includes the death of millions more and threatens to ravage the world's economy as well. Bread lines have formed in

Boone County and elsewhere.

This is a time when we need leadership. Many have risen to the cause, and are doing their utmost to preserve lives. Countless others worldwide have practiced social distancing, often accompanied by great personal sacrifice. Others, like President Trump, have treated this as a political opportunity. Governors of states who are trying to save lives have found the need to coddle Mr. Trump's fragile ego and his need for continuous praise in order to obtain the lifesaving equipment residents of their states deserve. The video and audio record of Mr. Trump speaks for itself

Mr. Trump is incapable of admitting even the slightest of his mistakes, is devoid of empathy for anyone but himself, cannot contain his temper, and is a habitual liar. Again, these charges are well-documented by widely accessible video records of Donald J. Trump's conduct. These are not the qualities of an effective leader.

Despite it being a lie worthy of Pinocchio, and a videotape to the contrary, we will suspend disbelief and assume that Mr. Trump was indeed being "sarcastic" when he proposed injecting disinfectants last week on April 24. We ask his acolytes and other supporters if "sarcasm" is appropriate at a time when 50,000 Americans have lost their lives to the coronavirus, with unquestionably many more obituaries to come. Sympathy cards have become difficult to find in the card racks of many communities. We ask our Republican friends who back Donald J. Trump if they would have found it appropriate for Lyndon Johnson to have been "sarcastic" over the deaths of American soldiers in Vietnam. The American casualties of coronavirus have already surpassed the American death toll from that conflict.

We are not going to blame Donald J. Trump for the coronavirus, nor the obvious initial mismanagement of the crisis in China, whether or not that occurred in Hubei Province or by the Government in Beijing. But we do believe that Mr. Trump's denials, unpreparedness, and lack of aggressive action has made the crisis worse. Mr. Trump may personally thrive on creating chaos, but chaos, as entertaining as some of his supporters may find it, is not in the best interests of the people of the United States or the rest of the world. Nor is it appropriate for someone the likes of that to have the codes to launch a nuclear war.

For these reasons, we find Donald J. Trump unfit for public office.

Isn't it time to stop making excuses for Donald J. Trump?

We ask those who still support him—to be quite blunt—is it your hatred for minorities (clandestine or otherwise), resentment of "elites," and/or your "right" to brandish semi-automatic weapons on the grounds of a state capitol that is so central to your personage that you are willing to support Donald J. Trump no matter how he

behaves? Are there any limits? When is enough enough?

Republicans do us a disservice. A recent survey by the Pew Research Center noted that 41 percent of Democratic registered voters are not happy with a Democratic nominee for the 2020 election being a "white man in his 70s".

Republicans should nominate someone other than Donald J. Trump in Charlotte. Of course, Mike Pence is a joke, but what about Marco Rubio, John Kasich, or Mitt Romney? What if Republicans actually nominated someone who gave Democrats a plausible option to abandon Joe Biden? While Mr. Biden is not nearly as odious as Mr. Trump, his record troubles us, and we find him one of the least desirable of this year's crop of Democratic candidates. At the Democratic County Chairmen's Breakfast this past summer, there was no support among the party faithful for Joe Biden. We've attended a number of other partisan functions where the enthusiasm for Mr. Biden was no greater. But, with a candidate like Donald J. Trump as their nominee, the Republicans are as culpable as the Democratic National Committee operatives in shoving the unwanted Joe Biden in reasonable voters' faces.

We expect that Donald J. Trump will be the Republicans' nominee. That's too bad. We need a president who will be there for us in the next four years, not a seditious liar. America could use a miracle in both Milwaukee and Charlotte this summer.

We are not going to dwell on this issue. Perhaps we should. We are in for some difficult times. Instead, we intend to stick to our central issue, the future prosperity of Boone County. Our community has become a very stagnant place, with a number of serious challenges. For its own good, the "business as usual" attitude in Boone County needs to change.



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Republicans Call for Reopening Legislative Session

Second lawsuit argues Pritzker is exceeding executive power

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Republicans in the General Assembly are urging House Speaker Michael Madigan and Senate President Don Harmon to call lawmakers back into session so they can vote on whether to extend the state's stay-at-home order beyond May 1.

The top legislative leaders, however, say they're not yet ready to make that call.

"I'm not here to criticize the governor amid this crisis, but to bring attention to the fact that the state Legislature needs to be part of the decisionmaking process," Geneva Rep. Dan Ugaste said during a video news conference Wednesday. "Any additional disaster proclamation by the governor needs the approval of both chambers of the Legislature."

Ugaste was joined by Assistant Republican Leaders Norine Hammond, of Macomb, and C.D. Davidsmeyer, of Jacksonville, who argued that Gov. JB Pritzker is exceeding his legal authority by extending the stay-at-home order another month.

"A co-equal branch of government – and I stress co equal – the Illinois General Assembly has the duty to collaborate and to provide legislative oversight with the other branches of government, particularly with the executive branch," Hammond said.

The Illinois Emergency Management Act gives the governor authority to declare a state of emergency for up to 30 days and to exercise broad executive power during that time. But the law is silent on the question of whether that may be extended indefinitely, 30 days at a time, although Pritzker has argued that it's done routinely in cases of flooding and other natural disasters.

"I just want to clarify and make sure everyone understands that what we're talking about here is the governor's authority to go past that 30 days of emergency power," Davidsmeyer said. "Whether you agree with the governor or disagree with the governor, we believe that a separate but equal branch of government, the General Assembly, should have input in the direction of the state of Illinois."

They are just part of a growing chorus of GOP lawmakers who argue the General Assembly should be part of any decision to extend the stayat-home order as well as when and how to reopen the state's economy.

On Monday, a circuit judge in Clay County ruled in favor of Xenia Rep. Darren Bailey's lawsuit claiming Pritzker's executive order will infringe on his civil rights. And while that decision applies only to Bailey, and it is being appealed, Rep. John Cabello, of Machesney Park, filed a second lawsuit Wednesday, this time

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seeking an injunction to prevent another stay-athome order from going into effect.

Pritzker on Wednesday called the latest lawsuit "irresponsible" and an attempt at "grandstanding."

Rep. Deanne Mazzochi, R-Elmhurst, has been urging Pritzker to call lawmakers back into session because those lawsuits, if ultimately successful, could put the state in financial jeopardy.

"If the governor believes his actions are best for the state, he should have the Legislature confirm it, and if he can't or won't, it calls everything he has been doing into question," she said in an email Wednesday. "It is also putting the entire state at risk ... and the state of Illinois on the hook for untold damages. Do it lawful, do it right, and be transparent about it."

Pritzker said during his daily briefing Wednesday that lawmakers are considered "essential workers" and they can reconvene at any time, but that it is up to legislative leaders to make that decision.

Steve Brown, spokesman for House Speaker Michael Madigan, said in an interview Wednesday that calling lawmakers back into session would go against the advice of public health experts about how to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

John Patterson, spokesman for Senate President Don Harmon, also said it is too early to call lawmakers back into session.

"The Senate president has told senators that he wants to see a crystal clear plan of action for urgent issues before we return, along with a similar plan for how to protect the health and safety of lawmakers, staff, support personnel, media anyone else who might attend a legislative session," he said in an email.

Senate Republican Leader Bill Brady, of Bloomington, has also called for a return to session.

"Today I called the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and told them Illinois Senate Republicans stand ready to return to Springfield to take up the timely and important issues facing Illinois and its residents such as the fair maps amendment and COVID-19 related issues," Brady said in a statement Monday. "The work we do for our residents is essential and it can be done in a safe manner by following the proper social distancing guidelines. Other units of government are meeting and doing the people's business. It is time for the Illinois Legislature to do so."



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Illinois Ramps Up Testing, Staffing at Long-Term Care Facilities

State surpasses 50,000 COVID-19 cases, announces 92 additional deaths

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The state of Illinois is sending out teams of nurses and ramping up testing for COVID-19 at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities as it continues efforts to control the spread of the virus.

Gov. JB Pritzker said Wednesday during his daily briefing in Chicago that the Illinois Department of Public Health is deploying 10 teams of 50 nurses each to long-term care facilities around the state, and it will deploy another team of 200 nurses in the coming days.

Pritzker said the nurses' primary functions will be to administer swab tests to the staff and residents, train nursing home staff on how to conduct swab tests themselves, and help the facilities improve their hygiene practices and use of personal protective equipment, or PPE.

"As always, I want to offer my gratitude and the thanks of a grateful state to the front-line staff who dedicate their days and their nights to this work and who are stepping up in incredible ways to protect those most vulnerable to this virus," Pritzker said. "Know that your work makes a world of difference for the people that you care for, to their families and to all of Illinois."

IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said her agency is focusing on nursing homes because of the unique vulnerability of their residents.

"Our long-term care residents are at greater risk of infection because of the inherent nature of living in that congregate setting, not to mention the advanced age and the attendant comorbidities," she said. "Public Health will continue to work closely with the long-term care facilities across the state, calling almost 200 facilities a day to check in on the staff and ask for the assistance that may be required. We're making sure that they're employing the most upto-date guidance and answering any questions that they may have."

Pritzker had announced earlier that the state was ramping up testing at those facilities so that all residents and staff could be tested free of charge. Since April 19 when those efforts began, he said, the state has distributed more than 18,000 testing swabs to 68 facilities across the state.

More recently, he said Wednesday, IDPH secured a contract with New Jersey-based Quest Diagnostics, which operates labs in Illinois, to process 3,000 tests per day for long-term care facilities and to report those results within 48 hours.

In addition to deploying nurses to long-term care facilities around the state, Pritzker said

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IDPH and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation have simplified the hiring process for nurses so facilities suffering from staff shortages due to illnesses can quickly hire temporary staff.

Information about outbreaks at specific nursing facilities is available on the IDPH website.

Pritzker announced those efforts Wednesday as IDPH reported 2,253 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 92 virus-related deaths over the previous 24 hours. That brings the total to 50,355 cases, and 2,215 deaths since the pandemic first appeared in Illinois. Cases of the disease have been reported in 96 of the state's 102 counties.

Also over the previous day, laboratories had processed 14,478 specimens for a total of 256,667 since the pandemic began, IDPH said.

Starting Friday, May 1, a new stay-at-home order will take effect in Illinois for 30 days. Under that order, all individuals will be required to wear some kind of face covering when they are shopping or in any other public setting.

Garden centers and nurseries will be allowed to open for business and other retail outlets will be allowed to take online and telephone orders for delivery or pickup outside the store. Golf courses will also be allowed to open under strict social distancing guidelines.

That order, however, is now the subject of two lawsuits filed by Republican lawmakers who argue that Pritzker is exceeding his authority under the state's emergency management law.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul on Wednesday filed an appeal with the 5th District Appellate Court in Mt. Vernon and simultaneously in the Illinois Supreme Court of a Clay County circuit judge's ruling from Monday that the new stay-athome order will violate the civil rights of Rep. Darren Bailey, R-Xenia.

"There is no question that the COVID-19 pandemic has forever changed our state, and government must balance the critical need to save lives with the economic hardships being felt by residents throughout Illinois," Raoul said in a statement Wednesday. "Governors have historically renewed disaster declarations to meet the challenges of disasters that last longer than 30 days without objection, and a pandemic should be no different."

The second lawsuit was filed in Winnebago County Circuit Court by Rep. John Cabello, R-Machesney Park, who is seeking an injunction to block the next stay-at-home order from taking effect. But Pritzker said Wednesday he will not back down.

"I think it's a similarly irresponsible lawsuit," he said. "You know, we're in the business here of keeping people safe and healthy. That's what the stay-at-home order has been about. And I just think that lawsuit is just another attempt at grandstanding."

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Another 92 Covid-19 Deaths Announced Wednesday

Pritzker outlines testing at long-term care facilities

by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

The state reported another 92 COVID-19 deaths Wednesday along with 2,253 new cases as 14,478 tests were completed in the past 24 hours.

There are now 50,355 confirmed cases in the state, including 2,215 deaths. There have been 256,667 tests completed in Illinois. The latest deaths came in 15 counties across the state.

More than 5,000 patients were hospitalized due to COVID-19 as of midnight Monday, while 1,290 were in intensive care unit beds, according to officials.

Gov. JB Pritzker said the state recently received a shipment of more than 300,000 N95 masks and 500,000 KN95 masks from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The state has distributed nearly 20 million pieces of personal protective items to hospitals, organizations and others across the state.

Pritzker also outlined increased efforts to protect long-term care facilities, where more than 600 people have died, including staff and residents, after contracting the virus at such a facility.

"We are working to test all residents and all staff for free at facilities, without known COVID-19 outbreaks, allowing us to identify early the presence of COVID-19 in a facility and to isolate those cases before widespread transmission," Pritzker said.

He added tests are also being conducted at facilities with known outbreaks to identify people who should be isolated.

That policy started on April 19, Pritzker

said, and since then, the state has distributed more than 18,000 testing swabs to 68 facilities.

He said the Illinois Department of Public Health has secured a special contract with Quest Diagnostics to run 3,000 tests per day from Illinois long-term care facilities at no cost to the facilities. Those results will be provided within 48 hours, he said.

Another 102K Illinoisans File First-Time Jobless Claims Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Pritzker announces modified order to reopen some businesses in May

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois Department of Employment Security said Thursday that 4.4 million Americans filed first-time unemployment claims during the week that ended April 18, including 102,936 workers in Illinois.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 520,227 workers in Illinois, or 8.2 percent of the state's civilian labor force, drew unemployment benefits during the week.

That news came during the fifth week of a statewide stay-at-home order that Gov. JB Pritzker issued to control the spread of COVID-19, an order that forced nonessential businesses such as bars, restaurants and many retail outlets to close.

That order had been scheduled to expire on April 30, but Pritzker announced Thursday that a modified stay-at-home order allowing

Continued on Page 7





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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID R. RASMUSSEN, 2509 E. Sixth St., Belvidere, Illinois 61008. Date and place of death: January 3, 2020 Rockford, Illinois. Case No. 2020P23 PUBLICATION NOTICE - INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION TO: CREDITORS, CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES Notice is hereby given of the death of David R. Rasmussen who died on January 3, 2020, a resident of Belvidere, Illinois. The Representative for the estate is Douglas J. Scheflow, 63 Douglas Avenue, Suite 200, Elgin, Illinois 60120. The Attorney for the estate is Douglas J. Scheflow, 63 Douglas Avenue, Suite 200, Elgin, Illinois 60120. Claims against the estate may be filed on or before October 19, 2020. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 or with the Representative, or both. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. On March 20, 2020 an Order Admitting the Will to Probate and Appointing the Representative was entered. Within forty-two (42) days after the effective date of the original Order Admitting the Will to Probate, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the validity of the Will by testimony or witnesses to the Will in open Court, or other evidence, as provided in Article VI 5/6-21 (755 ILCS 5/6/21). Within six (6) months after the effective date of the original Order Admitting the Will to Probate, you may file a petition with the Court to contest the validity of the Will as provided under Article VIII 5/8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1). The estate will be administrated without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent supervision administration by filing a petition to terminate under Article XXVIII 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4).

Signature of Executor /S/Douglas J. Scheflow Published in The Boone County Journal April 17, 24, May 1

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, May 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of Dean Kelly (Abbott Land and Investment Corporation), 2250 Southwind Boulevard, Bartlett, IL 60103 on behalf of the property owners, Dal Pra Trust 1994 and Southtown Ventures, LLC, 1901 Union Avenue, Belvidere, IL 61008 for a special use for a daycare center (3+ children) at 435 Southtowne Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 within the GB, General Business District (Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Sections 150.105(C)(5)(B)(2) Daycare Center (3+ Children) and 150.904 Special Use Review and Approval Procedures. The subject property is legally described as:

A part of the South 25 acres of the east half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35 Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian described as beginning 631.49 feet north of the southeast corner, west 164.7 feet, north 187.2 feet, west 794 feet, south 357.33 feet, west 366 feet, south 211.05 feet, east 733.42 feet, northeast 226.99 feet, northeast 62.38 feet, northwest 100.57 feet, northeast 173.87 feet, east 200 feet, north 164.55 feet to the point of beginning (except commencing at the southeast corner north 631.49 feet, west 164.7 feet, north 187.2 feet, west 794 feet, south 357.33 feet, south 21 feet); located in Boone County, Illinois; PIN: 05-35-482-017.

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

Alissa Maher, Vice-Chairman,

Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission Published in The Boone County Journal Apr 24

Community News

Alcoholics Anonymous 12-step groups have moved their meetings to Zoom - Although there are in-person meetings that continue in the area and they are following the guidelines provided by the Winnebago County Department of Public Health, many of the members of A.A. are choosing to practice safe social distancing by attending meetings online.

A list of Zoom meetings can be found on our websites and members of the community who are struggling with a substance abuse or drinking problem can find help 24/7 by visiting: www. rockfordaa.org and www.district70aa.org or by calling 815-968-0333. Sober members of AA are available to take calls and provide guidance around the clock

The Wall That Heals visit to the Belvidere area May 7-10 has been postponed-

This event hosted by Flora Grange #1762 would have brought the preeminent replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the Boone County Fairgrounds May 7-10 for Vietnam veterans, family members, students and other members of the public. We are already looking at dates in 2021 to reschedule this important event. We want to thank all our sponsors whose continued support will make this event possible in 2021.

A Public Notice is an important tool in assuring an informed citizenry; a conduit of information from the government to the public. Notices are mandated by legislatures to make sure there is a public window into the activities of governments, officers of the court and others holding a public trust. Among the most common types of public notices are: hearings, government budgets, notices of contract bids, foreclosures, probate notices, adoptions, and dissolution of marriages, name changes and assumed business names. There are four key elements to a public notice:

Independent: A public notice is published in a forum independent of the government, typically in a local newspaper.

Archivable: A public notice is archived in a secure and publicly available

Accessible: A public notice is capable of being accessed by all segments of society.

Verifiable: The public and the source of the notice can verify the notice was published, usually by an affidavit provided by the publisher.

Enabling an informed citizenry through newspaper public notices helped America to develop participatory democracy where it counts: where money is spent, policy is made and futures charted. Public notices by government and private parties are so tightly woven into the American fabric that many citizens may take them for granted. Located in easily found sections of the newspapers, public notices reach out to interested readers, leading them to opportunities. Voices are expressed on taxation, communities are formed around planned public improvements, and assets are saved from loss to unworthy creditors - all as a result of public notices.

Public Notice Network

Foreclosures

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE, STATE OF ILLINOIS BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, Plaintiff(s),

vs. 20 CH 47 BERTHA CONEJO, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD

CLAIMANTS, Defendant(s).
PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you: BERTHA CONEJO, NONRECORD CLÁIMANTS and UNKNOWN OWNERS, Defendants in the above entitled suit, that said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Boone County, Chancery Division, by the said Plaintiff, against you and other Defendants, praying for foreclosure of a certain Real Estate Mortgage conveying the

praying for foreclosure of a certain Real Estate Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

LOT EIGHT (8) IN BLOCK NINETEEN (19) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT OF SHEFFIELD GREEN, PLAT NO. 6 BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTH HALF (1/2) OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN PLAT IN INDEX FILE ENVELOPE NO. 32, AS DOCUMENT NO. 78-1544 ON MAY 22, 1978 SITUATED IN BOONE COUNTY AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Tax Number: 05-35-330-008-0000 commonly known as 1422 14TH AVE BELVIDERE IL 61008; and which said Real Estate Mortgage was made by BERTHA CONEJO, and recorded in the Office of the Boone County Recorder as Documen Number 2007R 10021; that Summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as provided by law, and that the said suit is now pending.

Now, therefore, unless you, the said named Defendant, file your answer to the Complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Circuit Court of Boone County, located at 601 N MAÍN ST, BELVIDERE, IL 61008, on or before May 25, 2020, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment

may be entered against you at any time after that day entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint. LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVEL, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff
Ira T. Nevel - ARDC #6185808 Timothy R. Yueill - ARDC #6192172 Greg Elsnic - ARDC #6242847 Aaron Nevel - ARDC #6322724

Joseph Baldwin - ARDC #6323598 Danielle Alvarez - ARDC #6325510 175 North Franklin St. Suite 201 Chicago, Illinois 60606 (312) 357-1125

Pleadings@nevellaw.com KP # 20-00389

Published in The Boone County Journal Apr 24; May 1, 8, 2020.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS F NATIONAL BANK; Plaintiff,

vs. 19 CH 127 ELMER J. BEILFUSS AKA ELMER BEILFUSS; UNKNOWN

OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; 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, June 11, 2020, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. 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 45 AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NO. 3 OF BEAVER
VALLEY, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST
QUARTER OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST
OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN AS RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY AS DOCUMENT NO 89-1168, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 05-09-354-013.

Commonly known as 2102 Pengate Parkway, 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

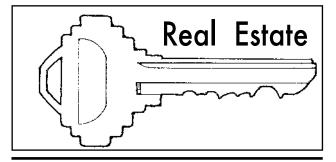
pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

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

For information call Mr. David T. Cohen at Plaintiff's Attorney, Cohen Dovitz Makowka, LLC, 10729 West 159th Street, Orland Park, Illinois 60467-4531. (708) 460-7711.

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

intercountyjudicialsales.com



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS TCF NATIONAL BANK; Plaintiff,

vs. 19 CH 127
ELMER J. BEILFUSS AKA ELMER BEILFUSS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, NOTICE OF SALE

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

For information call Mr. David T. Cohen at Plaintiff's Attorney, Cohen Dovitz Makowka, LLC, 10729 West 159th Street, Orland Park, Illinois 60467-4531. (708) 460-7711. INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

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Unemployment

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some businesses to reopen will remain in place through Saturday, May 30.

Under the modified order, which is takes effect May 1, hospitals will be allowed to resume surgeries that have been delayed and elective procedures on patients who test negative for COVID-19. The health care industry has seen a sharp rise in unemployment during the pandemic as hospitals and outpatient clinics have been forced to cancel or delay elective procedures, which are a major source of their revenue.

Essential businesses and manufacturers will come under new guidelines as well, such as requirements to provide face-coverings to all employees who aren't able to maintain a six-foot social distance, occupancy limits and precautions such as staggering shifts and operating only essential lines for manufacturers.

Also, garden centers and nurseries will be considered essential businesses and can reopen, although they will have to follow social distancing requirements and they must require employees and customers to wear face coverings. Animal grooming services will also be allowed to reopen.

Nonessential retail stores will be allowed to reopen to fulfill telephone and online orders for pick-up outside the store or for delivery.

Golf courses will also be allowed to reopen, although they will be required to establish social distancing requirements under state guidance. State parks will reopen in phases, although boating and fishing will be limited to groups of no more than two.

It wasn't immediately clear Thursday how significant an impact the revised stay-at-home order will have on the state's overall unemployment rate. The Department of Labor will report official unemployment figures for April in mid-May.

The changes announced by Pritzker represent many of the changes that Republicans in the General Assembly have been urging him to make in recent days. Some Republicans, however, wanted even further easing of restrictions, such as allowing small, independent retailers, barber shops and hair salons to reopen as long as they follow health guidelines and limit the number of people in the store at one time.

Some have argued that the restrictions have been unfair to small, independent retailers because, for example, shoe stores are considered nonessential businesses while big-box retailers like Walmart and Target, which also sell shoes, have been allowed to remain open.

Pritzker, however, said Thursday that without the social distancing measures, COVID-19 would have spread much faster, causing many more deaths and overwhelming the state's hospital capacity. He also said that while hospitalizations and deaths have begun to decline, there are still enough infected people in the state to cause a second wave of the disease if the restrictions were removed entirely.

Pritzker also said that he had listened to other elected officials from both parties as well as Illinois business leaders and medical experts from throughout the world.

"My intention, as always, is to put your health and safety first as we make some practical adjustments based on what we've learned in the first five weeks of the stay-at-home order," he said.

House Minority Leader Jim Durkin called the modified order a "first step" in moving the state forward.

"I want Illinoisans to know that the Executive Order is not final, but it is a working document subject to change," Durkin said in a statement Thursday. "While I am pleased with today's actions, we must do more to restore economic vitality of the state while maintaining the health and safety of our citizens."

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Rep. Keicher, House GOP Propose Strategies to Safely Re-Open Illinois

State Representative Jeff Keicher, R-Sycamore, and the Illinois House Republican Caucus are offering an array of proposals and ideas on ways to safely re-open Illinois during the coronavirus pandemic. Some of these proposals include a safe, responsible re-opening of doctor offices, clinics and hospital systems, essential retail operations resuming online or curbside pick-up, plant or garden centers and the re-opening of local and state parks.

"Our first and foremost concern remains public health and safety. After weeks of hearing from struggling employers and workers who have lost their jobs, been furloughed, or seen their hours cut, we feel there are common-sense and responsible steps our state can take so Illinois residents can buy the things they need and get the services they depend on in a safe and healthy environment," Keicher said. "In addition to online ordering and curbside pickup, many businesses can utilize social distancing, face coverings, and density restrictions to operate in a responsible manner. We need to begin the safe economic recovery for Illinois as soon as possible; being mindful of the need to do so responsibly to prevent a resurgence of COVID-19 spreading. We have the ability to do this using safe, common-sense solutions recommended by public health experts such as masks and cloth face coverings, social distancing and other measures that will allow us to move forward with a modified re-open."

Rep. Keicher believes it is time to lift the order suspending all 'elective' medical procedures at Illinois hospitals. "Right now, Illinoisans across the state are not able to receive standard and necessary care, like cancer preventative screening services. In some parts of Illinois, hospitals and healthcare organizations have stabilized and need to provide access to vital health services. If the governor extends his disaster declaration, we are strongly advocating he revise his orders on non-COVID-19 related medical care."

House Republicans also believe the state can safely reopen many state parks and recreational facilities following proper social distancing guidelines including potential closure of restrooms and indoor facilities.

"We can open our state parks, monitor them using conservation police and park staff, and allow Illinois families to resume outdoor activities," Keicher added. "Camping, hiking, golfing, hunting, fishing...these are all activities that can be enjoyed while maintaining recommended social distancing. Following guidance from the White House and the governor, we can reopen Illinois using a regional approach. We are not advocating for an 'all-at-once' reopening with no mitigation to prevent the spread of COVID-19,

but we can get started moving in the right direction and begin to restore people's livelihoods so that families whose earning ability has been interrupted can get back to work in a safe and responsible way."

House Republicans Urge More Transparency on Inmate Releases

Pritzker administration says it's complying with laws and regulations

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Illinois House Republicans on Monday stepped up their demands that the Pritzker administration release more information about inmates being furloughed or granted early releases from state prisons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

They also requested the governor consult more with the General Assembly about granting such releases.

"As a co-equal branch of government, we shouldn't have to wait and learn of all of this from media reports," Rep. Avery Bourne, of Morrisonville, said during a video news conference. "We should not have had to learn from a media report that between March 2 and April 10, there were 1,300 prison inmates who were released through executive action. As a co-equal branch of government, we should have known about this ahead of time."

Gov. JB Pritzker issued an executive order April 6 allowing the Illinois Department of Corrections to grant medical furloughs to inmates beyond the standard 14-day limit.

But he has also used his executive authority to commute the sentences of 20 inmates since declaring a state of disaster on March 9, according to the Prisoner Review Board, and IDOC has used its administrative authority to grant early releases to hundreds of inmates to reduce the prison population and the risk of exposing both inmates and prison staff to the virus.

Pritzker estimated that more than 1,300 inmates had been released since he issued the disaster declaration, although he said he did not have an exact number when asked at his news conference Monday.

Pritzker said previously that his goal was to release inmates who were incarcerated for relatively low-level offenses and people who were nearing the end of their prison term anyway.

But Rep. John Cabello, of Machesney Park, said the releases have gone far beyond those criteria to include 47 people convicted of murder, including at least two who had decades left on their sentences.

He specifically identified inmates Bobby Wilson and Brian Harrington, both under the *Continued on Page 8*

Inmate

continued from page 7

age of 30. Wilson was not scheduled for release until 2049, according to IDOC records, while Harrington was scheduled to remain behind bars until 2032.

A review of their cases, though, reveals that both men were tried and convicted as adults for crimes they committed as teenagers. Wilson was released April 2, one week after the First District Appellate Court reversed his conviction on the grounds that he was too young to understand the consequences of waiving his Miranda rights. Harrington's attorneys and family had sought clemency for him last year, and he has been cited by the advocacy group Campaign for Youth Justice as an example

of the harshness that results from trying teens as adults.

Cabello also said lawmakers want to make sure that crime victims and their families are being properly notified when an offender is released.

"We need to make sure that the victims' families have been notified," he said. "And I sure hope that none of these people reoffend because I will hold this governor personally responsible if any of these folks reoffend and hurt somebody else, and I would sure hope that the rest of the state does that as well."

But IDOC spokeswoman Lindsey Hess said in an email that crime victims and local law enforcement agencies are being notified of the releases.

"State's attorneys receive an email notification when an incarcerated individual is released early," she "Victims are notified by the Prisoner Review Board and (Automated the Victim Notification) sends system notifications to those who register."

Nevertheless, Republicans argued that the administration should consult with them more about decisions to grant early release and, at the least, explain the criteria being used to grant clemency and early releases.

Rep. Terri Bryant, of Murphysboro, said she is a retired employee of IDOC and remains in regular contact with counselors and other staff in the prison system who tell her there doesn't appear to be any consistency in the standards.

"The counselors are tasked with looking at the case files of individuals and then determining who meets the criteria," she said. "Well guess what, the criteria is changing every two or three days. So I get a glimpse of what some of that criteria is because individuals at Department of Corrections are sharing that with me. However, we as legislators don't know what that criteria is. And I don't think we'll have the chance to know what the criteria is because then everyone would know how this has been shifting."

During his daily COVID-19 media briefing Monday, Pritzker said he is willing to provide whatever information the lawmakers want.

"We'll be happy to provide information to anyone," he said. "I don't have the numbers right here. I can tell you that we've overall reduced the population in our prisons by, I know, it's more than 1,300. Overall, many of those were near the end of their terms or actually their sentences were up, but also many of them were under this program of either medical furloughs due to COVID-19 or other reasons for pardons or commutations on my part."

IDOC spokeswoman Hess noted that the department has statutory authority to place offenders on electronic detention or award earned "discretionary credit" in order to reduce an inmate's sentence. A list of all of the discretionary credits granted since March 1 – 945 in all – is posted on the IDOC website.

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