

FREE

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

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Construction workers and Post Office staff pause work for a photograph taken around the mechanism used to set large granite blocks for the construction of the Belvidere Post Office around 1910. These blocks can be seen forming the foundation of the building today.



This photograph was used in the Belvidere Daily Republican and the Northwest Weekly in their story on the dedication and opening to the public of the new Post Office. Meadow street appears to still be a dirt street but a storm sewer grate can be seen on South State Street. The building has changed very little over the last 109 years and is the most significant structure in Boone County aside from the Frank Lloyd Wright Chapel in the Belvidere Cemetery.

Mayor's Comments on Enforcement Inconsistent With IML News Release

By David Larson

In the Comment stage of the Belvidere City Council November 16, 2020 meeting, Alderman Tom Porter addressed the council, asking that the city start to take action to help prevent the spread of the Covid virus. Porter said that because Boone County's rate of infection is one of the highest in the state and the nation, it is embarrassing, and that the city should figure something out to help mitigate its spread.

Porter requested that the council begin a conversation about how to enforce the rules that the Governor has mandated. He stated that he has noticed that some businesses do not enforce the mask rule with employees. His comment was dismissed by the mayor.

Belvidere Mayor Mike Chamberlain responded by referring to a news release(s) of the Illinois Municipal League, (IML), that he received that day, which he suggested exempted the city from enforcing standards established by the Level 3 Mitigation Efforts. Quoting the Mayor, "It is the Governor's responsibility, and the Health Department's responsibility, and the State Police's responsibility."

At the Council meeting, the mayor said to the council, "you all know that our police officers and sheriff's office is not charged with enforcement."

The Illinois Municipal League's website's library of news releases: Nov 12 - "As has been the case, municipal officials are able to impose local mitigations that are stricter than the current state restrictions. The Illinois Municipal League (IML) encourages municipal officials to have discussions regarding additional local mitigations that could be put in place to assist in preventing the further spread of COVID-19." Nov. 16 - the Illinois Municipal League (IML) issued a statement calling for, "better coordination and communication with local officials in response to the surge in coronavirus cases throughout the state." The following day, Nov. 17 - the IML issued the following statement, "It is recommended that all communities comply with the Governor's executive orders and enhanced mitigations for the protection of their residents throughout this public health crisis."

Last weekend, the Chicago Police Department broke up one party with 300 attendees and another with 700 attendees that were in violation of Illinois Tier 3 Mitigation Restrictions.

In the last two weeks, the statewide infection rate in Illinois has dropped 25% as a result of the most recent orders by Governor Pritzker.

Mayor Chamberlain went on to suggest that the infection is primarily in nursing homes and that testing and tracing are very accurate. He stated that the evidence shows the infections are not coming from restaurants and bars, but from the general public and it is a matter of individual responsibility. He gave no source for his information.

The Mayor, State Representative Joe Sosnowski, Senator Dave Severson, The

(See this story on page 4)

Continued on Page 2

Obituaries

**Obituary
Dennis Alan Linder**

Dennis Alan Linder, 67 went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, November 26, 2020 after a brave battle with cancer. Dennis was born May 16, 1953 in Belvidere, IL to Roger Linder and Barbra (Gates) Linder. He married Nancy (Hellenga) Linder in a beautiful ceremony on March 26, 2011 at First Baptist Church in Belvidere.

Dennis was employed at Champion/Pactiv for 38 years as a certified machine operator. He retired in 2011 after the plant closed. Dennis enjoyed many hobbies including walks in Belvidere Park, Bible trivia with his wife, coloring with his wife and stepdaughter and talking about his families 65+ year history in Belvidere. He really enjoyed giving his colored pictures to other cancer patients, visiting Edwards Apple Orchard and, especially, Casey's pizza. He was an avid collector of high-end wallets and purses.

Dennis devoted his entire life to Calvary Baptist Church in Belvidere where he enjoyed playing the organ and singing. He was presented with an award from the church for reading the Holy Bible, cover to cover in only 3 months. He attended the church from the time he was 2 days old, becoming a member at age 14.

Dennis will always be remembered for his kindness, empathy, and generosity towards others. He will especially be remembered by his many special friends including Steve and Cathy Cadie, Ana and Evelyn Lopez, all the great members of Calvary Baptist Church and his special friend Sheryl Milich. He will be dearly missed by his wife of 9+ years, Nancy Linder.

Dennis is survived by his brother Rodney Linder of Belvidere, sister Sandra Buck of Louisville, IL, beloved wife Nancy Linder, stepson Shane Hellenga, stepdaughter Delia Mays-Chavez, all of Belvidere, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles. Dennis was preceded in death by both parents and his sister Laurie Vertin.

Special thanks to Dave at the Boone County Journal for his generosity. There will be a private cremation service with a public memorial service to be held on his birthday May 16, 2021, at Calvary Baptist Church in Belvidere, IL

"I don't know... thanks for the bagels"

Knox, Velma, 81, Belvidere, November 22
 Letourneau, Robert, 71, Belvidere, November 22
 Dennis Alan Linder, 67, Belvidere, November 26
 Lindstrom, Rita, 63, Belvidere, November 22
 Mays, Kristine "Krissey", 52, Belvidere, Nov. 25
 Salley, Robert, 49, Belvidere, November 21
 Seyller, Ligia, Belvidere, November 27

Mayor

Continued page 1

President of Poplar Grove, and Boone County Board Chairman Karl Johnson, all Republicans, taking their lead from Republican President Donald J. Trump and his movement to make the virus a partisan issue, have recently sent a letter to School District 100, demanding that schools be reopened.

Earlier this year, Sen. Severson and Republican State Representative John Cabello made headlines in the *Rockford Register Star* by bar-hopping in defiance of Governor Pritzker's effort to mitigate the virus, citing their inalienable right to freedom, as stated in the U.S. Constitution.

According to CNN, as of December 2, 2020, nearly fourteen million Americans have contracted Covid-19 and over 272,000 have died. The Illinois Department of Public Health reports that over 4,000 people have contracted Covid-19 in Boone County and 33 have died. Boone County continues to have the highest Covid-19 test positivity ratio in either Region 1, centered on Rockford, or Region 9, which includes Lake and McHenry Counties and all of Cook County as well.

The Illinois Department of Public Health, as of November 27, 2020 reports that, in the past 28 days, Heritage Woods of Belvidere has had 23 cases, Maple Crest Care Center has had 48 cases and Park Place has had 75 cases of Covid-19.

The Journal has yet to receive a single press release from the Boone County Health Department or its Public Health Administrator, Amanda Mehl, since the pandemic began.

Several Boone County restaurants and bars continue to provide indoor service in violation of Illinois Tier 3 Mitigation Restrictions.

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

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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.

OP ED

Let's Go Forward

Contrary to the rabid corruption charges circulating feverishly, our national election was fair and the result was valid. Not only was there no dark Democratic conspiracy to defraud Americans, there is no evidence of significant malfunction in the electoral process. We do face genuine threats and daunting problems, just not these. We must come together to face them as one people.

The conspiracy theory is discredited both by the facts and by the flawed internal logic of the theory itself. First the facts.

Every official in every state who supervises that state's elections has been contacted. Every one of them in every state has attested to both the validity of the outcome and the legality of the process. In key battleground states such as Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Michigan more than one key official has so attested. In these three states the attesting officials are Republicans. Pennsylvania and Georgia held recounts. Wisconsin just completed a partial recount. Political scientists delight in reminding us that recounts almost never overturn initial results. Trust political scientists to douse the hopes of conspiracy theorists. There is just no evidence supporting either corruption or conspiracy charges against Democrats.

The lack of such factual evidence has determined the outcome in the very large number of Trump lawsuits that have been filed in both state and federal courts. Almost all have been dismissed, by appointed federal judges and elected state judges. Some of the federal judges have been Republican Presidential appointees. Since many states elect judges we know further that many of the state judges were elected as Republicans.

The striking element in these dismissals is their tone. Judges write moderate, calmly phrased decisions. Judges decide; they do not typically rebuke. Many of these judges have rebuked. Examine the recent, crushing decision by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. The unanimous decision constitutes a rebuke to the President's attorneys. Many of these dismissals cite both the lack of evidence and, even worse, the lack of a "justiciable" legal claim. The dismissals suggest careless, sloppy legal practice. This is damning to the plaintiff's cause. Democratic conspiracies are not even needed. The facts as described above have thus been validated by judges in their dismissals.

We have examined the facts, as validated by the courts, that discredit charges of corruption and conspiracy. Now let us examine the faulty internal logic of the corruption/conspiracy theory itself. The theory alleges that millions of Trump votes were somehow purloined and perverted into Biden votes.

The problem is that while this subtle plot was supposedly being executed the dastardly plotters made an enormous mistake. In addition to what is alleged that they did, notice what they did not do. Their monomaniacal focus created the following disasters for fellow Democrats:

Democrats lost so many House seats that their effective control of the House was jeopardized

Although runoffs in Georgia could save them, barely, Democrats failed utterly to sweep Senate

rates, discrediting both their own predictions and the astronomical amount of money expended.

Democrats failed to gain control of additional state legislatures and governor's chairs. Since legislatures and governors manage the decennial apportionment process this failure will haunt Democrats for a full decade.

Democrats did not make gains overall in state and local races. A number of conservative or pro business referenda succeeded.

From what we have seen, then, three conclusions are in order:

First, despite the increasingly frantic claims there is just no persuasive evidence of Democratic conspiracy or corruption. Courts, state and federal, have validated this conclusion.

Second, if Democratic plotters did plot, their efforts constitute the very definition of a Pyrrhic victory. Were there ever conspirators who paid such a dear price?

Third, can we now go forward together and address the common threats we all face as Americans?

Bob Evans
Rockford University

The Struggle for New Leadership in Illinois, and What to do With it

by *Jim Nowlan*

Politically, Illinois House Speaker and state Democratic Party Chairman Mike Madigan is a dead man walking. The recent ComEd admissions of a decade of bribery killed him.

And so, the struggle for new leadership is underway, mostly behind the scenes for the moment.

Madigan has more or less ruled the Legislature for four decades, so others are unpracticed at seeking and providing leadership.

Madigan was a master at the care and feeding of his members, yet his personal objectives seemed to be those of simply amassing and holding power, staying at the helm. This, rather than spending that power in behalf of important policy objectives, such as creating a stable, balanced fiscal system.

Indeed, he was scrupulous about protecting his members from having to make tough votes, which is one reason Illinois is now in a world of hurt, after decades of deficit spending. For Madigan, the needs of politics always trumped those of policy.

But it's tough to put policy ahead of politics. Arguably the three most courageous governors in our state's history were Thomas Ford (1842-1846),

John Peter Altgeld (1893-1897) and Richard Ogilvie (1969-1972) — each lasted but one term. (See Robert Howard's "Mostly Good and Competent Men: Illinois Governors," for the detail.)

Winston Churchill didn't stop Hitler by himself in 1940. Churchill and the English people did. Leaders require, obviously, courageous followers. Yet, for his

leadership, the English turned Churchill out of office as World War II ended. They respected their leader, but they didn't have to like the sacrifices he asked of them.

The next leader of the Illinois House will require two or more terms, if successful, to build anything close to power. In the meantime, she or he will need courageous followers.

Illinois offers its leaders incredible strengths. Our combined transportation networks of interstates, railroads, air and water conveyance are the envy of the nation. Our top universities in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Evanston are world powerhouses of science and engineering. We have a high percentage of our population with college degrees. And as the commercial and financial hub of the Midwest, our location in the middle of the nation puts us in a sweet spot for economic activity.

Yet, Illinois is today, you might say, the "sick man" in the room, which others seek to move away from, literally, or avoid. This is largely because on taxes and spending Illinois has been kicking the can down the road for decades. As a result, we now have huge debts and unfunded pension costs that stifle our capacity to fix problems. We are at a "T" in the road. Add to that our reputation for corruption, which dampens interest in setting up shop in our state.

Illinois desperately needs transformative leadership — and followership. That's a tall order. After all, a new speaker will be scrambling to learn the ropes, groping her or his way toward influence with colleagues.

If Illinois turns one direction in the road at the T, we simply continue kicking the deficit-spending can down the highway, to further decline. If lawmakers turn the opposite way, we balance our budget, cut pension costs (for pension discussion, search the topic at jimnowlan.com), and recast our struggling post-high school education system into the best in the nation, as it was so considered as recently as 2000 by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

I found Gov. JB Pritzker's "fair tax" lacking for several reasons, and not because it raised taxes, but because it did not raise enough revenue, necessary at least in the short term.

the public does not understand this, nor will it ever accept that we must impose some tax pain on all of us, at least in the short term, to straighten things out.

So, any leaders and followers who take this budget-balancing turn at the T will run the very real risk of falling on their swords, as John Peter Altgeld did when he pardoned the innocent Haymarket protesters in the 1890's, and as Dick Ogilvie did when he pushed through the state income tax in 1969.

Leadership and followership in tough times ain't easy.

Charles Herbst

Attorney At Law

Practice Areas:

- Wills and Trusts
- Tax Strategy
- IRS Representation
- Real Estate
- Wealth Planning
- LLCs and Corporate



Education:

- LL.M. (Masters in Tax Law) New York University
- B.S. Business, J.D. Law (cum laude) Indiana University

Experience:

- International Tax Associates, Director of Federal Tax Research
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Community News & Events

Post Office Building Reflects the Aspirations of a Generation

This Story is based on the photos on page 1

By David Larson

Stroll's Virtual Visits with Santa Claus Connect Rockford Region to North Pole Next Three Sundays: Virtual visits with Santa, free for area families, will take place from 1-6 p.m. CST on the next three December Sundays. Families can register now for one three-minute timeslot at StrollOnState.com

Illinois Tollway Reminds Drivers Toll Violation Relief Program Ends December 30: The Illinois Tollway is reminding drivers that they have through December 30, 2020 to take advantage of TOLLING 2020 by paying a reduced, \$3.00 fee per toll for passenger vehicles, a savings of 85 percent over the \$20.00 fines previously assessed. Visit www.Illinoistollway.com for more information.

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden Announces Winter Hours: Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Gardens are open to the public Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.- 4p.m.

Comprehensive Community Solutions, Inc. Announces Upcoming Open House/ Orientation Event: Today, CCS is excited to announce its upcoming Open House/ Orientations that will take place on Fridays throughout the rest of the year. Subsequent events will occur on December 11th and December 18th, with two occurrences each of these days, one at 10 A.M. and another at 2 P.M. All Open House/ Orientations will take place at the CCS location at 917 S. Main Street, Rockford, Il, 61101

Girl Scouts Latest Recruitment Drive Ensures Girls Can Join in Time for Annual Cookie Program! In these changing times, Girl Scouts offers girls a unique chance to be part of something larger than themselves. This year, Girl of Northern Illinois (GSNI) is offering a recruitment drive right ahead of the cookie program, so girls who join now will be able to take part in the largest girl-led business in the world! Through the cookie program, girls learn the 5 Skills of goal setting, decision making, money management, business ethics, and people skills. The 2020-21 Girl Scout Cookie Program begins online on December 14, 2020.

Interested families can learn more and get started at www.girlscoutsni.org/snapshot.

Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce Holiday Light Show: Illuminate Genoa and show your holiday spirit! Judging will take place on Monday, December 14, 2020 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. All homes must be registered by December 7, 2020 and must have a Genoa address to participate in the contest. Register your home by emailing your name, address and phone number to info@genoaareachamber.com

Rockford Symphony Orchestra to Cancel Remaining 2020/2021 Season: In response to the ongoing restrictions as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Rockford Symphony Orchestra (RSO) has cancelled concerts and events that would have taken place in December of 2020 through May 2021.

The Rockford Symphony Orchestra will offer 2020/2021 season subscription ticketholders the option to donate the value of their tickets, credit the value for next season, or receive a refund. For more information on the Rockford Symphony Orchestra or to make a donation go to www.rockfordsymphony.com.

Toys For Tots Toy Drive - Sunday, December 6th at 1:30 to 5:00 PM at El Jimador Mexican Grill 260 East Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, Illinois

Live Bands, country, bluegrass, and gospel music plus Christmas songs (upstairs – elevator available – Masks Required) Admission: A new toy for children for Christmas. Call Gary Mullis for more info at (815) 762-5589

In March of 1909, architects within the Department of the United States Treasury submitted plans for the construction of a Belvidere Post Office to the local Postmaster, Frank Moran, who was also the publisher of Belvidere's first daily newspaper the Belvidere Daily Republican. It was Moran's responsibility to look at the plans, make comments and sign if approved. The plans were shared with all the employees of the Belvidere Post Office and were approved. The design was compared as being similar to the post office built in DeKalb, known to be the best looking post office in Illinois outside of Chicago at the time.

The lobby was a 20 x 42-foot rectangle with a 23-foot high ceiling. It had several windows for the different services that the Post Office offered. A registry and money order window was at the extreme south end of the lobby. Behind that window, there was a room containing two steel vaults to support window activity. Other windows were aligned on the east wall of the lobby. Before closing around the year 2000, all services had been, for quite some time, reduced to one northeast window in the lobby and most of the remainder of the east and south walls had been converted into post office boxes. The interior was made of marble floors and rich wood trim. Overall, the lobby presented the cathedral effect of a federal building.

On the main floor outside of the lobby, on the north Meadow street wall were the offices of the postmaster and assistant postmaster. Each had a vault and they shared a private bathroom.

On the second floor was the "swing room," where carriers waited for the mail to come in to be cased or sorted. The swing room had a bath and shower room. The south side of the building on the main floor is where mail was received and dispatched.

On October 10, 1911 the new structure was dedicated and opened for business with great fanfare. Congressman Charles E. Fuller

of Belvidere was the featured speaker for the opening ceremony. The Commercial Club organized the event. The Commercial Club was a local organization of businesses at a time when all businesses were local business. It was similar to the Chamber of Commerce franchise, which still exists today in Belvidere. Rev. Dr. W. H. Pierce, invoking the divine blessing, referred to the building as a symbol of symmetry, beauty and the progress of civilization. A quartet of gentlemen provided the entertainment by singing "Kentucky Babe."

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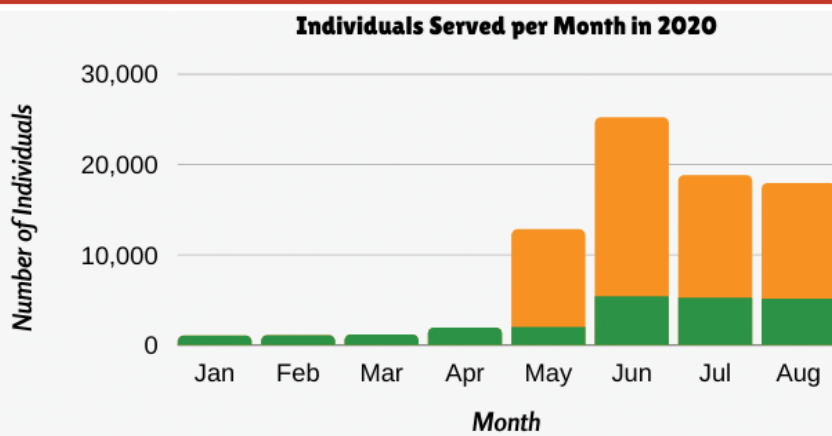


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COVID-19 RESPONSE

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- = Ongoing Tuesday hours at food pantry



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Illinois Sees Highest Single-Day Covid-19 Death Toll

238 deaths reported, including some who may have died over the weekend

by Peter Hancock and Jerry Nowicki
Capitol News Illinois

Illinois marked what Gov. JB Pritzker called “a solemn milestone” Wednesday when public health officials announced 238 deaths from COVID-19 over the previous 24 hours, by far the highest single-day fatality number since the pandemic began.

Although part of that number may have been attributable to reporting delays caused by the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, Pritzker said the rising number of new cases and hospitalizations indicated that the state is still in the middle of an infection surge.

“We’ll continue to watch these numbers closely in the coming weeks to have a better picture of our trajectory, but a life lost, reported late, following a holiday, is still a life lost,” Pritzker said.

The governor also noted that the state is expecting 109,000 doses of a vaccine manufactured by the drug company Pfizer between Dec. 13-19, pending Emergency Use Authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

He said all 109,000 initial doses would be used on different people, who would have to return for a second dose three to four weeks after the initial dose. He corrected a previous statement he made saying the 109,000 doses would only be able to serve half that amount. Health care workers and long-term care residents will get the vaccine “simultaneously as doses come in,” the governor said.

The governor also noted vaccines would be disbursed based on population throughout the state as more doses are available, although “there’ll be prioritization given up front to counties that had the highest per capita death rates.”

He said governors recently had a meeting with FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn, who said that vaccine trial materials “will be made available to all of us to review.”

“So I do believe that it will be safe. We’ll be able to review the data to confirm that and I hope that people will therefore get the vaccine, as they are able to see that it’s safe,” Pritzker said.

That news came as the Illinois Department of Public Health announced 9,757 new confirmed and probable cases of the disease over the previous 24 hours out of 85,507 tests performed, making for a single-day case positivity rate of 11.4 percent. The preliminary seven-day rolling average positivity rate ticked up two-tenths of a point, to 10.6 percent.

As of late Tuesday night, there were 5,764 people reported hospitalized with the disease.

That number has been trending downward for the last two weeks but remains well above the peaks that occurred in April and May.

That left 24 percent of the state’s total hospital bed capacity available. Out of all the state’s hospital beds, 17.6 percent were occupied by COVID-19 patients.

As of Tuesday night, 1,190 COVID-19 patients were in intensive care units, and 714 of those patients were on ventilators. About 18.8 percent of ICU beds are available.

Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said there are beds available in all of the state’s 11 mitigation regions, although some hospitals have been nearing or at capacity.

“Eighteen percent is not comforting,” she said. “As we worry about whatever may come from Thanksgiving and we have normal illnesses that occur now, heart attacks, strokes, I mean, all the regular things that would take someone to the hospital. We want to have a bed for everyone who gets sick, and so we don’t like the idea of the (capacity) numbers going down.”

She said it shows the importance of quarantining if exposed to the virus, wearing face coverings and avoiding large gatherings.

Still, she said, “you have a much better chance of surviving COVID-19 in the hospital now, as opposed to wave one.”

The average length of stay in the hospital was nine to 11 days in wave one and is seven to nine days now. She credited “a lot of the learning” about the virus and its effects, noting that “proning,” or lying a patient on their stomach, is a method used more frequently to avoid ventilator use. She also said therapeutics such as the drug remdesivir, antibody treatments and steroids have proven effective.

As of Nov. 29, the most recent day that

regional data was available, Region 3, which includes Springfield and several surrounding counties in west-central Illinois, was the only region with a case positivity rate below 12 percent, one of the benchmarks for removing Tier 3 mitigation measures. That region’s positivity rate stood at 10.9 percent.

Region 7, which includes Will and Kankakee counties, had the highest positivity rate, at 16.6 percent, followed by Region 1, in northwest Illinois, at 15 percent.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Report: State Energy Laws Created ‘Profit Machine’ for ComEd

ComEd’s profits have grown 47 percent from 2011 to 2019, report says

By Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

State energy laws passed in 2011 and 2013 allowed Commonwealth Edison to earn huge profits while the utility giant failed to fulfill its promise of consumer savings and benefits, according to a new report issued by an independent public interest group this week.

The report from the Illinois Public Interest Research Group describes the energy laws as a “profit machine” for ComEd, the largest utility company in the state. The laws established a formula rate “that guaranteed revenue and profits,” weakening the regulatory role of the Illinois Commerce Commission.

The Illinois General Assembly passed the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act in 2011 over the veto of then-Gov. Pat Quinn. The law required ComEd to spend at least \$2.6 billion on infrastructure improvements – up to \$3 billion – over a period of five to 10 years and created a formula for raising consumer rates based on those expenditures.

The “performance-based formula rate” included a mechanism for the utility to increase its service rates and recover the costs of delivering its services “prudently incurred and reasonable in amount.” The Illinois Commerce Commission, which regulates utilities including ComEd, can prevent a utility from recovering costs that the commission finds are not prudent or reasonable.

Two years later, the General Assembly passed a related law that overruled the Illinois Commerce Commission’s adverse regulatory decisions against ComEd and made changes to the formula

Continued on Page 7

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR NORTH BOONE CUSD 200

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for North Boone CUSD #200, County of Boone, State of Illinois, will be held on December 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. virtually or at 17823 Poplar Grove Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Melissa Geyman, Director of Business Services, 6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065, 815-765-3322, mgeyman@nbcusd.org

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2019 were \$9,398,792.25.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$9,865,000.00. This represents a 4.96% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2019 were \$2,276,958.83.

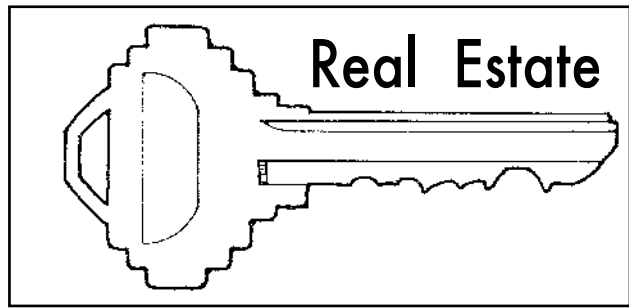
The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2020 are \$1,154,400. This represents a 48.79% decrease over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2019 were \$11,675,751.08. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$11,019,400.00. This represents a 5.44% decrease over the previous year.



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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
intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3160755
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 4, 11, 18, 2020

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
intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3160755
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 4, 11, 18, 2020

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
I3160640
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).
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
I3160640
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 4, 11, 18, 2020

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC; Plaintiff,
vs. 20 CH 43
Juan S. Munoz; Joanna Munoz; Sabino Munoz; San Juana Munoz; Bank of America, N.A.; Portfolio Recovery Associates, L.L.C.; Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants; Defendants.
Judge Presiding
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you: -Sabino Munoz that Plaintiff has commenced this case in the Circuit Court of Boone County against you and other defendants, for foreclosure of a certain Mortgage lien recorded against the premises described as follows:
LOT ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE (161) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE FINAL PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF FARMINGTON FIELDS EAST UNIT TWO, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS RECORDED SEPTEMBER 27, 2006 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2006R10644 IN PLAT FILE ENVELOPE 358-A IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.
C/K/A: 3044 East 6th Street, Belvidere, IL 61008
PIN: 06-31-431-006
said Mortgage was given by Juan S. Munoz and Joanna Munoz and Sabino Munoz and San Juana Munoz, Mortgagor(s), to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No. 2007R07713.
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>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
UNLESS YOU file your appearance or otherwise file your answer in this case in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere IL 61008 on or before December 21, 2020, A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED FOR IN THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT.
Russell C. Wirbicki (6186310)
Christopher J. Irk (6300084)
Cory J. Harris (6319221)
David A. Drescher (6301378)
Robert McMurray (6324332)
Tracey M. Coons (6311050)
The Wirbicki Law Group LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-360-9455
W20-0128
pleadings.il@wirbickilaw.com
I3160101
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Nov 20, 27; Dec 4, 2020

Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

DATE: December 9, 2020
PROJECT: Masonry Repair Project at Various Schools for Belvidere CUSD #100
Belvidere, Illinois
LOCATIONS: Belvidere South Middle School
919 East 6th Street
Belvidere, Illinois, 61008
Lincoln Elementary School
1011 Bonus Avenue
Belvidere, Illinois, 61008
OWNER: Belvidere Unit School District #100
1201 5th Avenue
Belvidere, Illinois 61008
ARCHITECT: Richard L. Johnson Associates, Inc.
4703 Charles Street
Rockford, Illinois 61108
Tel: 815/ 398-1231
Fax: 815/ 398-1280
SCOPE: Bids will be received for a single contract for all Masonry Repair Work.
DATE DUE: Sealed bids will be received until 11:00am on Thursday, January 7, 2021, at the office of the Business Manager, Belvidere Community Unit School District No. 100, 1201 Fifth Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois, and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.
PRE-BID MEETING: All prospective contractors are urged to attend a pre-bid meeting at 3:30pm on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at the office of the Business Manager, Belvidere Community Unit School District No. 100, 1201 Fifth Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois.
PRE-BID SITE VISIT: Contractors are required to survey the existing conditions prior to bidding.
ACCESS TO BIDDING DOCUMENTS: Bidding Documents are on file for reference at the following location:
Office of the Architect Rockford, Illinois
NIBCA (N. Ill. Bldg. Contractors Assn). Rockford, Illinois
Bidding Documents may be secured from the office of the Architect.
Plans and Specifications are available for download at www.rljarch.com under "Contractors".
DEPOSIT REQUIRED: Bidders may secure up to two (2) sets of bidding documents by submitting a non-refundable check for \$50.00 per set, or \$60.00 per set if documents are to be mailed.
BID FORM: Bids shall be submitted in duplicate on forms issued by Architect.
PERFORMANCE BOND: A performance and payment bond for the full amount of the Contract will be required of the successful bidder. All costs associated with the bond shall be included in the bid amount.
BID SECURITY: Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least 5% of the total amount of the base bid and all additive alternate bids. This may be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or bid bond, payable to the Owner as a guarantee that should the bidder be awarded the Work, the bidder will enter into a contract with the Owner and will furnish the proper performance and payment bond within the time limit set by the Owner. Bid securities will be returned to all other bidders when the successful bidder files a proper performance and payment bond and the contract is executed by the Owner. If the successful bidder fails to file such contract and performance and payment bond, the amount of his bid security shall be forfeited to the Owner as liquidated damages.
WAGE RULES: Each craft, type of worker and mechanic needed to execute the Contract shall be paid the prevailing wage rate for the locality in which the work is performed, in accordance with all federal laws and laws of the State as well as local ordinances and regulations applicable to the work hereunder and having force of law.
RIGHTS RESERVED BY OWNER: The Owner reserves the right to waive any irregularities and/or reject any or all bids when, in the opinion of the Owner, such action will serve the best interests of the Owner.
WITHDRAWAL OF BIDS: No bid may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after the opening of bids without written consent of the Owner.
By order of the Board of Education for Belvidere CUSD #100
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 4, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

Foreclosures

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOONE COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008 upon the following petitions:
The applicant, Boone County Government, 1212 Logan Ave. Belvidere, IL 61008 is requesting a text amendment pursuant to Section 2.10. (Text and Map Amendments, Comprehensive Plan Amendment) Sub Section 2.10.1 (General Procedure for Zoning Text Amendments) in regards to small utility sheds and structures located in the rear and side setbacks in the R-1, Single Family Residential Districts.
Tony Savino, Chair, Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals
Published in the Boone County Journal on December 4, 2020

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 deliver 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: charlest1@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

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

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

ComEd *continued from page 5*
rate that further diminished the commission’s oversight.

ComEd is also the focus of an ongoing federal investigation that revealed the company engaged in a bribery scheme, from 2011 to 2019, seeking to influence House Speaker Michael Madigan to pass favorable legislation, including EIMA and the Future Energy Jobs Act, which passed in 2016.

Federal prosecutors in Chicago entered into a deferred prosecution agreement with ComEd this summer that allows the company to avoid being prosecuted for crimes in exchange for paying a \$200 million fine and agreeing to cooperate in the federal probe.

Last month, four people – including former ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore and former ComEd executive turned lobbyist John Hooker — were indicted on charges of bribing Madigan by awarding no-work jobs, internships and contracts to Madigan associates in order to win his favor for legislation benefitting the company. Madigan has not been charged, and he denies any wrongdoing.

The PIRG report, released on Tuesday, outlines how ComEd increased its base rate — or the value of its assets used to calculate the utility’s level of return — by about \$5.1 billion, from \$6.2 billion in 2011 to \$11.4 billion in 2019.

ComEd’s profits have increased by 47 percent between 2011 and 2019, according to the report, as customers saw a 37 percent increase in the company’s delivery services over the same time period.

During the six years after the follow-up legislation to EIMA passed, ComEd’s profits increased by \$1 billion, compared to its profits over each of the two previous six-year periods going back to 2001, according to the report.

Abe Scarr, director of the Illinois PIRG and coauthor of the report, said the information in the report should dispel the company’s claim that while politicians may have acted corruptly to secure the legislation, the legislation itself does not harm consumers.

“We think very clearly that there has been a harm that consumers are paying much more than they would have otherwise for their delivery service, and that we were promised all types of customer benefits from the law, and those have fallen short,” Scarr said. “In the wake of all this, not only should we allow the federal prosecutors in the legal system to work its way through the process, but legislators need to take action and right some of these wrongs from the past decade because customers could be overpaying for years to come.”

Although ComEd customers have seen their utility bills remain relatively flat in the past decade, Scarr said this is because costs on the supply side have decreased and distribution costs have increased.

“But we think that the distribution side shouldn’t have gone up as much and customers should have seen more savings in their bills than they have,” he said.

ComEd serves 4 million customers across northern Illinois, according to the company’s website. It’s service territory borders Iroquois County to the south, the Wisconsin border to the north, the Iowa border to the west and the Indiana border to the east.

The 111-page report explains how the 2011 and 2013 energy laws altered the existing process, which was in place for nearly a century, used by the Illinois Commerce Commission to set a utility’s electricity rates and determine the investment costs the company can recover.

“As part of the traditional rate case process,

the Commission would set the return on equity, the profit margin applied to the rate base, after evaluating the risk profile of the company. Under EIMA’s formula rates, the Commission has no such authority,” the report states.

The formula rates established by EIMA “strips the Commission of the tools and mechanisms traditionally used to investigate and hold utilities accountable in an effort to promote the public interest,” according to the report.

Scarr said the two energy laws have allowed ComEd to recover almost all of its roughly \$5 billion in investments. In fact, only \$23 million of that amount was disallowed, or determined it should not be charged to customers, by the Illinois Commerce Commission since 2011.

“That’s why we call it a profit machine,” Scarr said. “Because they spend the money and put it through this formula, and out comes their guaranteed revenue and their guaranteed profits.”

In an emailed statement, a ComEd spokesperson denied that the energy laws harmed consumers or that they changed the way ComEd can recover its investment costs.

“The Deferred Prosecution Agreement does not contain any allegations that consumers were harmed by legislation passed in Illinois. In fact, the bipartisan legislation that was passed – EIMA and (Future Energy Jobs Act in 2016) – resulted in substantial benefits for ComEd’s customers, including reliability that has improved more than 70 percent since 2012 to record levels,” the statement from Shannon Breymaier, ComEd communications director, read in part. “The standards for which investments ComEd can recover today are the same as they were before EIMA created the formula rate.”

Lawmakers Seek Additional Hearings into LaSalle Veterans’ Home Outbreak

At least 28 residents have died of COVID-19 related illnesses at the facility

by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

Republican lawmakers on Monday renewed calls for a House Veterans’ Affairs Committee hearing into the cause of a coronavirus outbreak at the state-run veterans home in LaSalle where about 20 percent of the residents have died of COVID-19 related illnesses.

Reps. Randy Frese, R-Paloma, David Welter, R-Morris, and Dan Swanson, R-Alpha, held a virtual news conference Monday morning during which they demanded House members be included in a future hearing about the LaSalle Veterans’ Home outbreak.

The Illinois House Republicans’ news conference comes about a week after the state Senate Veterans Affairs Committee held a hearing into the outbreak that began on Nov. 1, and resulted in the deaths of at least 28 residents. There are 100 residents currently at the home.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, the veterans home has reported a total of 106 residents and 96 employees testing positive with COVID-19. As of Friday, 38 residents and 76 staff had recovered from the virus.

Sen. Paul Schimpf, R-Waterloo, a member of the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee, and Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, whose district includes the LaSalle home, also called for the next hearing into the LaSalle facility to be scheduled soon.

On Monday, Schimpf and Rezin sent a letter to the committee’s chairman, Sen. Tom Cullerton, D-Villa Park, requesting he “set the next hearing date within the next few weeks.”

In an email, Cullerton said the senators did not reach out to him directly and he was “disheartened

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ComEd Defendants Plead Not Guilty In Bribery Case

House Republicans call on Madigan to resign from office

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Four former Commonwealth Edison officials pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges that they engaged in a years-long bribery scheme that federal prosecutors allege was aimed at influencing Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan.

Former executives Anne Pramaggiore and John Hooker, along with lobbyists Michael McClain and Jay Doherty, were arraigned on the charges in U.S. District Court in Chicago during a hearing that was held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a 50-page indictment that was unsealed Nov. 18, federal prosecutors allege the four engaged in a conspiracy to award no-work jobs and lobbying contracts to close associates of Madigan as part of an effort to maintain his support for legislation that benefited the company.

Those included the 2011 Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act, which established a formula-based system of setting utility rates that effectively bypassed the Illinois Commerce Commission, and the 2016 Future Energy Jobs Act, which, among other things, provided ratepayer-funded subsidies to two nuclear power plants owned by ComEd's parent company Exelon.

During the arraignment, U.S. District Judge Harry D. Leinenweber, also a former state lawmaker, set an initial schedule that gives prosecutors and defense attorneys three months to exchange all the evidence they intend to use at trial and file pretrial motions. A status hearing is tentatively set for Feb. 16 and the defendants remain free on bond.

The charges against the four defendants comes on the heels of a deferred prosecution agreement that prosecutors unveiled in July in which current ComEd officials admitted to the scheme and agreed for the company to pay a \$200 million fine in exchange for cooperating with the investigation and assurances that the company would reform its internal controls.

Beyond the federal charges, though, the cases have resulted in intense scrutiny for Madigan and threatened his hold on power in the House. Although he has not been charged with any crime and has denied any wrongdoing, his support within the House Democratic caucus has gradually eroded since his appearance as "Public Official A" in July's agreement. Madigan appears to no longer have 60 pledged votes in the House to support him, the number required to be reelected for another term as speaker in January.

Madigan also faces a Special Investigating Committee in the House that is charged with determining whether there is enough evidence to support disciplinary proceedings that could result in his ouster from the General Assembly.

Republicans petitioned to form that committee shortly after the deferred prosecution agreement was released, and they have frequently accused Democrats of dragging their feet on the investigation in an effort to protect Madigan.

Last week, however, just before the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, the committee's chairman, Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, released hundreds of pages of documents that the committee had requested from ComEd, including numerous emails between McClain, a former lawmaker and longtime Madigan confidant, and another former ComEd executive, Fidel Marquez, who pleaded guilty in the bribery scheme in September.

Those emails strongly suggest that Madigan

himself was deeply involved in urging ComEd to award jobs and contracts to his friends and associates.

The committee is scheduled to hold its next meeting on Monday, Dec. 14, in Springfield.

During a virtual news conference Wednesday, House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, said he believes the emails and information from the indictments together provide enough evidence to support the charge that Madigan engaged in "conduct unbecoming to a legislator or which constitutes a breach of public trust," and he called on Madigan to resign.

"For the good of the state and the good of the people of Illinois, and also for the good of the House chamber, I am asking for Speaker Madigan's resignation today," Durkin said.

The ComEd emails, however, also show that company officials worked to hire people for its lobbying team who were close to Republican leaders, including Durkin.

One email, dated Sept. 16, 2013, to McClain from Scott Reimers, a lobbyist for the Illinois State Medical Society, urges McClain to consider a woman who had been working in Durkin's office.

"I believe that Jim Durkin is moving forward with someone else as his spokesperson so she is currently looking at other opportunities," Reimers stated in the email. "Even though Durkin is moving on with someone else, she has a strong relationships (sic) with our members."

On Wednesday, Durkin insisted that he was not involved in recommending anyone for a job at ComEd.

"I did not have any involvement or make any phone calls on behalf of anyone for employment, (nor) did ComEd seek to curry favor with me with any type of contract for anyone," Durkin said.

In a separate statement, though, Welch fired back at Durkin, accusing the Republican leader of trying to use the investigating committee for political gain.

"Leader Durkin is clearly seeking a public distraction from ComEd emails showing that the company took the same steps to influence him that he would now portray as unbecoming conduct, but his constant attempts to drag a serious investigative effort into politics will not influence the work of this committee," Welch said.

Hearings

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that I had to learn about their concerns from the press."

Cullerton said the next hearing date has not yet been set, but he is working with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to plan the next meeting.

"The most important thing is to get answers as to why so many innocent lives have been lost and ensure no more people suffer the pain these people and their families have," Cullerton said in the email.

Last week, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Director Linda Chapa LaVia announced the acting inspector general from the Illinois Department of Human Services would conduct an independent investigation into the LaSalle outbreak.

Gov. JB Pritzker said he supported the independent investigation during his daily news conference Monday.

"If there's any failure of procedure or wrongdoing, then that should be brought to the forefront and people should be held accountable," Pritzker said.

The IDVA also released two reports last week from two separate on-site visits at the LaSalle home — the first conducted by an official from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on Nov. 12, and the other by an official from the Illinois Department of Public Health on Nov. 17.

The visit reports found issues that required

immediate change, including replacing all non-alcohol-based hand sanitizers with alcohol-based sanitizers, performing COVID-19 tests for residents and staff twice weekly rather than once per week, and requiring staff to follow strict personal protective equipment guidelines.

The U.S. VA official's report found specific examples of staff violating PPE protocols, such as staff wearing masks below their chins. That report also noted that staff who eventually tested positive had attended a Halloween party.

When Chapa LaVia was asked about the staff attending a Halloween party during last week's hearing, she said that could not be substantiated and the information was based on "word of mouth."

During last week's hearing, IDVA Chief of Staff Anthony Kolbeck revealed that five employees at LaSalle continued to work at the home after being notified they tested positive, although they worked with residents who also already had tested positive.

Members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, including Frese and Swanson, initially requested a hearing into the COVID-19 outbreak at LaSalle on Nov. 10, through a letter sent to Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, who chairs the committee.

According to Frese, members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee should have been allowed to participate in the Senate committee's hearing last week but were not invited.

"We ask, at the very least, that we be part of the Senate hearing that may be coming up to follow up the one that was held last Monday," Frese said.

While the Senate has approved procedures for conducting virtual hearings, the House has not. This means any House committee meeting must take place in-person at the Capitol, which the General Assembly has avoided due to the ongoing pandemic.

Welter, whose district includes the LaSalle Veterans Home, said members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee need a hearing "to find out what protocols were missed, what were dropped, and if there was additional help that they asked from the state that may not have been received."

Editor's note: This story has been updated with a comment from Sen. Tom Cullerton.

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