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Homecoming Fall Festival October 1910

By David Larson

In early October 1910, the Belvidere Commercial Club held its annual week-long Homecoming Fall Festival that culminated with a parade to Big Thunder Park to experience the unveiling of the monument to the soldiers and sailors of Boone County. The festival included a produce, horse and cattle show. At the time, it was considered the largest festival to have ever been held in Boone County. The festival concluded with the dedication of The Soldiers and Sailors of Boone County Monument on Sunday October 16, 1910. The monument was a gift from Mark and John Ramsey of Belvidere. Mark Ramsey left \$6,000 in his will to be used for this purpose. His brother John contributed an additional \$1,800.

The Ramseys were Boone County pioneers. Mark was the president of the First National Bank for most of his life. John was a Union Civil War soldier in the Fifteenth Calvary.

The Boone County Board of Supervisors, a predecessor of today's Boone County Board, raised an additional \$1800 by referendum from Boone County taxpayers.

A local firm was contracted, Strong & Gilbertson, to manage the construction of the monument. Strong & Gilbertson subcontracted the artistic granite work on the statue to the

Continued on Page 6



Crowd at Statue unveiling in the county park with Sheriff's office and jail in the background

Boone County Julie Stapler, County Clerk & Recorder

****Final Results****

What was the Fair Tax?

By David Larson

The Governor's "Fair Tax" amendment went down in flames in Boone County by more than a 2 to 1 margin. Despite millions being spent on both sides attempting to persuade us, informally many contacts the *Journal* has had since Election Day indicate that few understood the difference between a flat tax and a progressive tax. Many thought it was a tax increase. Many thought that it provided the state with the ability to increase their taxes.

The proposed amendment eliminated the requirement in the Illinois Constitution of 1870 that the income tax have a single rate, regardless of a taxpayer's income. The proposal was to base the income tax rate on a sliding scale, depending on how much a taxpayer made. Companion legislation, but not a part of the referendum, provided that if one's income was below \$400,000, the taxpayer would receive a small reduction in taxes. Those earning more than \$400,000 would see their tax increase by as much as 1.75 percent. The Republican Party was against the amendment, portraying it as a tax increase on all taxpayers, and because Boone County has a long-standing Republican tradition, voters here rejected the amendment. The two-thirds of voters against the proposal generally do not earn \$400,000 per year and effectively vetoed giving themselves a tax break.

As a result of the defeat, various officials have suggested that the General Assembly will raise the rate of the flat income tax to compensate for the revenue lost by the amendment's failure. Assuming such an increase is enacted, most of those voters who voted against the amendment effectively voted to raise their personal income tax bill.

Total Voters: 33455,
Ballots Cast: 25176, Turnout: 75.3%
Precincts: 39
12881 Ballots Cast (51.8%)
Early - 6232 Ballots Cast (25.1%)
Vote by Mail - 5753 Ballots Cast (23.1%)
Late Vote by Mail, Provisional -
310 Ballots Cast (1.2%)

Constitutional Amendment

Yes - 7875
No - 16263

President/Vice President

Trump/Pence (Rep) 13883 - 55.58%
Biden/Harris (Dem) 10542 - 42.2%

United States Senator

Mark C. Curran Jr. (Rep) 13579 - 55.06%
Richard J. Durbin (Dem) 10090 - 40.91%

Congressional 16th District Representative

Adam Kinzinger (Rep) 15813 - 64.39%
Dani Brzozowski (Dem) 8745 - 35.61%

State Representative 69th District

Joe Sosnowski (Rep) 17681
No Candidate (Dem)

State Representative 70th District

Jeff Keicher (Rep) 2072 - 60.2%
Paul Stoddard (Dem) 1370 - 39.8%

County State's Attorney

Tricia L. Smith (Rep) 20248
No Candidate (Dem)

County Circuit Clerk

Linda J. Anderson (Rep) 20104
No Candidate (Dem)

County Coroner

Rebecca A. Wigget (Rep) 20095
No Candidate (Dem)

County Board 1st District Member Vote for 2

Jonathan Van Laar (Rep) 4232 - 35.53%
David R. Wiltse (Rep) 4173 - 35.03%
Marilyn Spradling (Dem) 3506 - 29.43%

County Board 2nd District Member Vote for 2

Steven E. Schabacker (Rep) 5087 - 37.01%
Ryan H. Curry (Rep) 5165 - 37.58%
Kim M. Fisk (Dem) 3492 - 25.41%

County Board 3rd District Member Full Term Vote for 2

Rodney J. Riley (Rep) 3113 - 29.22%
Kathleen Clanin Brodhacker (Rep) 2706 - 25.4%
Jessica Mueller (Dem) 2724 - 25.57%
Wendy Lafauce (Dem) 2111 - 19.81%

County Board 3rd District Member Unexpired Term

Vote for 1
Bill J. Robertson (Rep) 3678 56.77%
Freddy De La Trinidad (Dem) 2801 43.23%

Question to Sell Property Owned by Boone County

Yes - 15101
No - 8002

Proposition to Elect Trustees

Yes - 4458
No - 696

Candidate Letter

Special Interest vs Taxpayer Interest

On September 28, 2020 Mayor Mike Chamberlain after initiating and advocating, voted for a proposal on behalf of Developer and Realtor special interests that was designed to further burden hardworking Belvidere Taxpayers. He demanded the council support the following:

- Remove impact fees paid by developers to the city for our public safety services (Police and Fire)
- Grant a 4-year property tax abatement to the developer for a multi-family residential development constructed on concrete slabs marketed as high-end housing (with no taxpayer assurances)
- Waive all Building Department fees, thus ensuring that the rest of Belvidere taxpayers pick up the tab for the developer's project inspections. Having our City Building Dept. employees work for the Developer!

Mayor Chamberlain's special interest giveaways would have cost hardworking taxpayers tens of thousands \$ and for what? More apartment buildings and for whose benefit?

Why would Mayor Chamberlain advocate for these Special Interests over Belvidere Taxpayers Interests? Especially, considering with the long running COVID 19 hardship on so many individual and business taxpayers. Why in the world would the Mayor even consider giving taxpayer \$ for a Development that he and his special interests sold to the council as a "necessity to fill our terrible housing shortage." Of course, this is in direct conflict to basic economics; that being if there was in fact such a housing shortage, then the Developer and Realtors would have had a demand market that would support this development and no taxpayer cash infusion would be needed. Doesn't this also beg the question; if a speculator cannot afford the Permit Fee's (that every other Belvidere resident has to

pay to build or improve their home), and the Land/Cash as required by law (to insure that Developer contributes to the burden their development creates for all the rest of the taxpayers i.e.: education, public safety expenses), then why would thousands of Taxpayer \$ be used to prop up any multi-family residential development? This is completely asinine. In reality, long after the Developers and Realtors have cashed their last check on their project, our community will be left with whatever they and their political friends have dumped here upon taxpayers. The fact is, this special interest giveaway was not weighted with taxpayer benefit. It would not materially reduce our unemployment rate. It would not create any long-term employment opportunities. It would not produce any sales tax revenue, nor would it address any glaring strategic housing issues our community faces. It will however, satisfy the greed of all of those unwilling to invest in our community and the politicians trying to leverage their elected office. Mayor Chamberlain is simply picking winners and losers and cashing in on the power of his public office, a pathetic abuse of public trust.

As usual, if one follows the money, it becomes crystal clear: Developers, Real Estate and Construction "Pay to Play" interests have contributed \$ thousands to Mayor Chamberlain's re-election campaign and most all of these contributors don't even reside in our city. This is nothing more than Crony Capitalism, at the expense of Belvidere taxpayers. Additionally, Mike Chamberlain is running for a 3rd term as Mayor and if successful, he will be another Illinois politician securing for himself, a taxpayer funded pension. And for this cronyism!

At this point in our history, I do not believe Belvidere Taxpayers can afford elected representatives who serve special interests for their own political gain and enrich themselves at our expense. This type of misrepresentation is not a republican or democrat issue, it's a taxpayer issue. I sincerely believe, the city of Belvidere needs a strong Mayor that will fight on behalf of hardworking taxpayers. In my opinion, Mayor Chamberlain has turned the keys to City Hall over to his special interest contributors and I intend to take them back. I am beholden to no one except the taxpayers and I ask for your support.

Clinton Morris
Independent Candidate for Mayor

Close Elections Called

by Charles Herbst

The grapple between President-Elect Joe Biden and President Trump wasn't the only hard-fought election that had left audiences on the edge of their seats.

In the race for Boone County Board District 3, incumbent Democrat Jessica Muellner was trailing her closest Republican opponent Kaeen Clainn-Broadhacker on election night by seven votes. On Wednesday, final election results were released, which showed that Muellner won by eighteen votes.

This race is complicated because, after the ballot was prepared, Muellner was appointed Boone County Supervisor of Assessments in October. By state law, Muellner cannot hold both positions. Having won her election as a Democrat, her position as a board member will be filled by County Board, based on the selection of the local Democrats.

So, at press time, it is still unclear who will represent District 3 on the County Board.

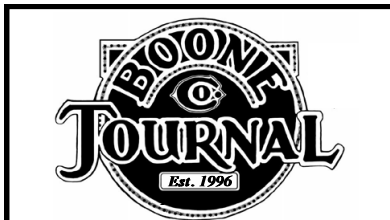
Another close race was for Congress in the 14th District, which includes McHenry County. Democratic Representative Lauren Underwood was behind on election night, but after late-arriving absentee ballots were counted, Underwood beat her challenger, archconservative, perennial Republican candidate Jim Oberweis by 5,342 votes, 203,125 to 197,783.

Underwood was elected in 2018 as the youngest African American woman member of Congress, defeating Randy Hultgren. Congressman Underwood is a registered nurse, and formerly worked as a senior adviser with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The third close, hard-fought race was in Winnebago County for 68th District State Representative. On election night, incumbent Republican John Cabello was beating his Democratic challenger, Dave Vella, by about 250 votes. Once the absentee ballots were tabulated, Vella emerged the winner 26,770 to 26,531, a difference of only 239 votes. Mr. Vella is an attorney and the grandson of the late former state representative E. J. "Zeke" Giorgi.

Obituaries

Bratko, Zygmunt, 76, Belvidere, November 12
Turner, Gary, 87, Garden Prairie



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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.

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--In Our Opinion--

Learning from a Pandemic

The Year 2020 will probably not be remembered fondly, but we suspect that in hindsight it will be known for ushering in rapid changes in an era in which profound change is already the norm.

While the pandemic has brought about major disruptions and varying degrees of hardship, it has also been a learning experience. Some of us have learned patience as we wait for a vaccine. Others seem unable to postpone gratification.

We have learned how to conduct business remotely and more efficiently. Decades ago, the Bell System would remind us that a long-distance telephone call was "the next best thing to being there." But at fifty cents a minute or more, toll telephone calls were a scarce, limited commodity.

In 2020, many of us are using Skype, Zoom and other services not only to stay in touch with loved ones, but to shop, worship, attend school, meet for work, or even participate in official public gatherings. While the initial impetus for the calls was to avoid close contact and contagion, we have discovered the convenience of picture-phone service and conference calling. After Covid, it's certainly worth considering holding a lot of these meetings online permanently.

It is much easier to attend a public meeting from one's kitchen table than driving across town. Democracy is suddenly a lot more accessible. A few weeks ago, the Illinois Department of Revenue conducted its annual tax practitioners meeting by Go to Meeting. There was record attendance on the call. Practitioners statewide were spared an early-morning schlep to Downtown Chicago. Slippers and coffee cups replaced sitting in neat rows in law school classrooms! Much time and many gallons of gasoline were saved. Had it not been for the pandemic, this innovation would not have happened.

On the flip side, these digital meetings have exposed the digital divide in Boone County. In Belvidere, cable tv provides high-speed Internet access to access videoconferences and other fare. In more remote and not-so-remote portions of the county, these connections are missing. While Illinois is aggressively moving to close this digital divide, local leaders representing Boone County

have been less aggressive than many of their colleagues in other parts of the state.

Too many local community leaders want to pretend that Covid-19 doesn't exist. Fie on the epidemiologists who tell us to isolate and take precautions. Just pop a big smile on that pretty face and ape your hero, Donald J. Trump. Rub shoulders and don't wear masks. (The Donald doesn't approve of masks.) Roll your eyes and shake your head condescendingly: "It's all just a big Democrat hoax."

Is it any surprise that Boone County is leading the state in diagnosed cases of Covid-19? Take a look at what our leadership is doing:

- Five local Republican officials, State Representative Joe Sosnowski, State Senator Dave Syverson, County Board Chairman Karl Johnson, Belvidere Mayor Mike Chamberlain and Poplar Grove Village President Owen Costanza, sent a letter to the District 100 Superintendent of Schools, demanding that schools reopen. Apparently, some parents are aghast that they have lost their free babysitter.

- Several local restaurants and bars have defied the Governor's orders against inside dining. You see, the Governor is a Democrat, so by defying him and contributing to the spread of Covid-19, they have thereby enhanced their Republican bona fides. Local Republican officials refuse to enforce these orders, and, in some cases, have actually encouraged disobeying them! "It's the Governor's problem," they say.

If these five individuals are suddenly concerned with the education of this county, they can start by driving down the number of Boone County children who are reading below grade level. A county-wide library district would be a needed step in

the right direction. Libraries help parents teach children to read. They could also redouble their efforts to address the digital divide and make sure the entire county has affordable high-speed internet access. When students do not have high-speed internet access at home, remote education is compromised, and both the child and community suffer.

When parents send their darlings to school unable to read, we can hardly blame Superintendent Woestman for their low achievement. Schools can and do try to remediate, but they are not substitute parents. At the end of the day, it's garbage in, garbage out.

We applaud the Ida Public Library for providing borrowing privileges during the pandemic for Boone County schoolchildren who live outside of the library district. Given the stress placed on the library's budget, this measure is beyond the call of duty.

We understand many in the hospitality industry are suffering and we have encouraged lawmakers to provide them with financial relief—provided those who have not followed the guidelines are excluded.

Realistically, who, including Governor Pritzker and everyone else, doesn't want to see open schools and restaurants? Understand though that this is an emergency. We are at war with a deadly virus. We've reduced the death rate, but it is still a serious disease that can cause lasting injuries. It's going to take time to vaccinate everyone.

Sadly, we don't expect the un-handwashed to change. But for those who want to save themselves, we say, keep fighting. Help stop the spread, practice good hygiene, stay at home when you can, and be patient. Don't support those who don't support the fight against Covid-19.

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Charles Herbst
 Attorney At Law

Practice Areas:

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- Tax Strategy
- IRS Representation
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- Wealth Planning
- LLCs and Corporate

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Illinois Presidential Electors Urge GSA to Recognize Biden, Harris

State's presidential electors to meet Dec. 14 in Springfield amid pandemic

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Plans are being developed in Illinois for the state's Electoral College delegates to meet in Springfield on Dec. 14, but they are being complicated by the worsening COVID-19 pandemic as well as President Donald Trump's refusal so far to concede the election.

A spokesman for Secretary of State Jesse White said Wednesday that the ceremony, which normally draws little public attention, has traditionally been held in the Statehouse. But with the entire state now under enhanced mitigation measures to prevent the spread of the disease, officials are searching for a room, or possibly another venue, that would allow enough social distancing for the state's 20 electors, the media and the public to remain safe.

The electoral college system is spelled out in Article I of the United States Constitution. It provides that each state receives the same number of electoral votes as it has in the U.S. House and Senate. Since Illinois has two U.S. senators and 18 representatives, it gets 20 electoral votes.

Originally, the candidate receiving a majority of the electoral votes became president and the second-place candidate became vice president. But that was changed in 1804 with adoption of the 12th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which provides that the president and vice president are elected in separate ballots. Since then, candidates for both offices have run on a single-party ticket.

The process was amended again in 1961 by the 23rd Amendment, which gives the District of Columbia the same number of electoral votes it would otherwise have if it were a state.

The Constitution also provides that each state will determine for themselves how their electors are chosen and allocated among the candidates. Today, most states, including Illinois, operate under a "winner-take-all" system, meaning the candidates with the most popular votes receive all of the state's electoral votes.

The two exceptions are Maine and Nebraska, which award the two votes representing their U.S. Senate seats to the popular vote winner, but the others are awarded to the winner within each congressional district.

By federal statute, every state's electoral college

is required to meet on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, which this year falls on Dec. 14.

In Illinois, state law requires the electors to meet at 10 a.m. that day, "in a room to be designated by the Secretary (of State) in the Capitol at Springfield in this State."

During that meeting, Secretary of State Jesse White will call the meeting to order and call the roll. The electors then will choose a chairperson to preside over the remainder of the meeting, which consists only of marking their ballots for president and vice president and counting the results.

Those results are a foregone conclusion because preliminary returns show that Democrats Joseph R. Biden and Kamala Harris won the popular vote in Illinois by more than a 16-point margin, although the official results won't be certified until Dec. 4.

State law also provides that each political party designate in advance of the election the electors who will serve, should their party win, either by a state party convention or a meeting of the party's state central committee. This year, both major parties in Illinois named their electors during central committee meetings that were held in July.

The Democratic electoral slate in Illinois this year is led by Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, of Oak Park, and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, the two at-large electors who represent the state's two U.S. Senate votes. The other 18 electors, representing the state's 18 congressional districts, are primarily state central committee members from those districts. And while their official duties are limited solely to casting their ballots on Dec. 14, several have already gotten involved in trying to expedite the transition to a new presidential administration.

Although independent news media have already called the race for Biden and Harris, the Trump campaign has so far refused to concede and the Trump administration has refused to initiate a transition process.

Under the federal Presidential Transition Act of 1963, the administrator of the General Services Administration, a presidential appointee, is called upon to determine the "apparent successful candidates" for president and vice president and provide them with office space and administrative support to begin setting up a new administration.

But that hasn't happened yet, and as a result several members of the Illinois Electoral College wrote to the head of the U.S. General Services Administration Nov. 13, urging her to recognize Biden and Harris as the apparent winners of the election in order to expedite the transition process.

"It has been reported you may delay

ascertainment until the Electoral College meets and votes on Dec. 14," the letter stated. "As electors to the Electoral College, we believe this delay is unnecessary, unprecedented and dangerous."

Judge Finds Pritzker Acted Lawfully to Mandate Health Guidance for Schools

Lawyer representing parents says he plans to appeal

by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

A Sangamon County judge on Monday ruled Gov. JB Pritzker's administration has power under state law and the state constitution to issue executive orders that mandate public health measures at schools amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision, issued by Sangamon County Judge Raylene Grischow after a roughly two-hour hearing, relates to two lawsuits — Mainer v. Illinois Department of Public Health and Pritzker v. Board of Education of Hutsonville — that arose from Pritzker's June executive orders regarding schools.

The governor's executive orders apply to all public and nonpublic schools from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, and they allow schools to reopen as long as they follow IDPH public health requirements, which include capping the number of people in gatherings, mandatory face coverings and temperature screenings.

In explaining her decision, Grischow cited her Aug. 18 order in Pritzker v. Board of Education of Hutsonville in which she issued a temporary restraining order requiring the schools to follow the state's public health guidelines set forth in Pritzker's executive orders.

"This court's opinion that was issued on August 18 has not changed," Grischow said in court Monday. "The court is still of the opinion that the governor has the authority to issue executive orders, successive executive orders, along with guidance to the agency to help promulgate those executive orders."

Her decision, issued verbally from the bench, finds that the governor's executive orders regarding schools were issued lawfully, and the state agencies lawfully issued the guidance contained in those orders.

She also cited a 2nd District Appellate Court decision issued earlier this month that ruled Pritzker has the power under state law to issue successive disaster proclamations.

That decision stemmed from a case involving a Kane County restaurant that sued the state over the indoor dining ban, which was imposed last month to curb the spread of COVID-19 amid rising cases and hospitalizations. A Kane County judge ordered the restaurant could stay open, and the state appealed his order to the 2nd District Appellate Court, which reversed the judge's order.

The 2nd District Appellate Court's decision, in FoxFire Tavern v. Jay Robert Pritzker et al., was initially issued as a ruling that could not be cited as precedent.

The Attorney General's Office, however, asked the court to publish the opinion in order for it to be used as precedent in similar cases.

Unlike Grischow's decision on the temporary restraining order, the ruling on Monday addressed the substance of each side's legal arguments.

In both lawsuits, parents of schoolchildren affected by the orders argued that the Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois State Board of Education cannot impose mandatory health guidance in schools without the approval of the Illinois General Assembly.

Specifically, they argued against the authority of Pritzker and his agencies to broadly impose a limit on gatherings, a mask mandate and temperature screening requirements at schools. Rather, those restrictions should be enacted by the Legislature, according to the parents' attorney Thomas DeVore.

At Monday's hearing, DeVore argued that the



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Legislature could have explicitly delegated to the governor these powers to impose required health guidance in schools but it did not.

"The (state) Legislature could have added that. If they would have added that we wouldn't be having this conversation today," DeVore said.

Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General Thomas J. Verticchio, one of Pritzker's attorneys, argued that the governor has the authority under the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act to issue executive orders that mandate health guidance in schools during a global pandemic.

He pointed to Grischow's earlier decision as support.

"The court has already written an opinion on the legal issue," Verticchio said during Monday's hearing.

After Grischow issued her temporary restraining order, DeVore appealed her order to the 4th District Appellate Court, which upheld her ruling.

DeVore also represents several businesses across the state in lawsuits challenging Pritzker's disaster declaration, among other issues, that are consolidated before Grischow, including a case that involves Rep. Darren Bailey, R-Xenia.

Those cases were not included in the scope of Grischow's order Monday.

DeVore said he plans to appeal Grischow's latest ruling, again to the 4th District Appellate Court.

He also downplayed the significance of her decision, saying it only applies to the schools named in the lawsuits.

"As for the majority of the people in the state of Illinois, it means nothing," DeVore said.

Verticchio declined to comment on the impact of the decision.

A spokesperson for the Attorney General's Office did not respond to a request for comment on the decision's impact.

adding a host of new requirements meant to ensure they understand how certain population groups have been marginalized in society and encourage them to adapt their teaching methods to be more inclusive of students with diverse cultures, family backgrounds, languages, sexual identity and orientation.

"Every student deserves to feel welcome, included, and accepted at school and to see their cultural identity affirmed and represented in the curriculum," state board spokeswoman Jackie Matthews said in a statement about the proposed standards. "This feeling of belonging is critical to improving academic and behavioral outcomes for Illinois' students."

But the proposed rules have run into opposition from the Peoria-based Illinois Pro-Family Alliance, a group that regularly lobbies at the Capitol to advocate for what it calls "biblical principles from the word of God."

That group argues that the proposed standards are unconstitutionally vague, that they amount to a form of "compelled speech," and that they infringe on the religious freedoms of individuals who adhere to what the group calls "traditional beliefs about gender and sexuality."

"The proposed rule, if enacted, requires, as a condition of licensure, that teachers take a definite ideological stance with respect to the political and social issues it addresses," PFA lobbyists Ralph Rivera and Molly Malone stated in written public comments on the proposal. "This requirement will create potential conflicts with the deeply held religious convictions of teachers, parents, and students in the state of Illinois. Not all teachers would be able to comply with the new standards without violating their consciences."

Specifically, they point to language in the proposed standards that call on educators to, "Embrace and encourage progressive viewpoints and perspectives that leverage asset thinking toward traditionally marginalized populations," as well as to "understand and value the notion ... that there is not one 'correct' way of doing or understanding something, and that what is seen as 'correct' is most often based on our lived experiences."

In their letter, Rivera and Malone argue that, "many religious faiths believe in the concept of 'objective truth' and would take issue with what appears to be a contradictory position that says, in effect, it is an objective truth that truth does not exist."

ISBE spokeswoman Matthews, however, said in a statement that the state board stands behind the proposed standards.

"Culturally responsive practices are especially important in better supporting Illinois' LGBTQ+ youth, who disproportionately experience bullying and are more likely to attempt suicide," she said.

"The reality is that Illinois' students are increasingly diverse - with more than 52 percent identifying as students of color, and English Learners making up the fastest growing

student population - while our teachers remain overwhelmingly white and female," Matthews continued. "The ability to reach students from different cultural backgrounds is an essential skill to succeed as a teacher in Illinois today."

The proposed standards were developed by the state board's Diverse and Learner Ready Teachers network, a group formed in 2018 as part of a national initiative of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Illinois is one of 10 states taking part in that initiative, and it would be the first state to adopt new standards developed through the network, Matthews said.

The proposed standards were first published in the Illinois Register on Sept. 11, opening up a 45-day public comment period that expired Oct. 25. The state board is scheduled to act on them at its Dec. 16 meeting. If the board approves them, the new rules would be published a second time, starting another 45-day period during which the proposed standards would be reviewed by the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, or JCAR.

If approved by JCAR, the standards would become part of the standards by which all teachers and administrators are evaluated. They would also be incorporated into teacher preparation programs at college and university schools of education, Matthews said.

COVID-19 Hospitalizations Far Higher in Most Regions than in First Wave

'Additional statewide action is possible,' governor says

By JERRY NOWICKI Capitol News Illinois

With no signs of slowing, key metrics measuring the spread of COVID-19 - including hospitalizations - continue to push numbers not seen since April and May.

The 4,742 people hospitalized in Illinois due to COVID-19 as of Monday night marked the highest number since May 8, which was right around the peak of the first wave of the virus. It's the 16th straight day of increases for hospitalizations, marking an 82 percent increase since the beginning of that 16-day period.

While Gov. JB Pritzker lauded positive vaccine news that was reported Monday at his daily briefing in Chicago Tuesday, he said Illinois is still "locked in a struggle with this virus as winter approaches."

"Across the state, the majority of our regions are seeing far higher rates of hospitalizations for COVID-19 than they ever did last spring,"

Continued on Page 7

Proposed New Teacher Standards Spark Controversy

Religious conservatives object to 'Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading' standards

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois State Board of Education is considering a set of new standards for teachers and administrators that are aimed at making them more sensitive to students of different cultures and backgrounds, but the proposal is sparking controversy among some religious conservatives.

The "Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading" standards would amend current standards that apply to all teachers and administrators by

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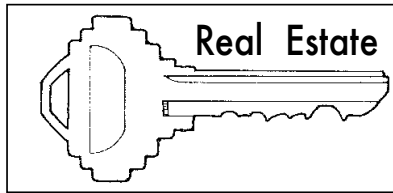
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE, IN TRUST FOR REGISTERED HOLDERS OF LONG BEACH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-WL1, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-WL1 Plaintiff, vs. 19 CH 22 MIGUEL ALVARADO; MICHELE HENRY; 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 with the above named Plaintiff, on December 10, 2020, 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: Commonly known as 11065 MEADOWLARK LANE, 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 19-00516

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13159046 Published in The Boone County Journal Nov 6, 13, 20, 2020

LEGAL NOTICES

Foreclosures

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE, IN TRUST FOR REGISTERED HOLDERS OF LONG BEACH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-WL1, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-WL1 Plaintiff, vs. 19 CH 22 MIGUEL ALVARADO; MICHELE HENRY; Defendants, NOTICE OF SALE

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LOT FORTY (40) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT OF BEVER-KREEK, A SUBDIVISION IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH IS RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 3591 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 05-03-376-005.

Commonly known as 11065 MEADOWLARK LANE, 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.

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INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13159046 Published in The Boone County Journal Nov 6, 13, 20, 2020

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, Plaintiff,

vs. 20 CH 143 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 exceptions. 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 DECRET BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED FOR IN THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT.

Russell C. Wirbicki (6186510) 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 13160101 Published in The Boone County Journal Nov 20, 27; Dec 4, 2020

Public Notices

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, December 8, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois 61008 upon the following:

Application of property owner, Russell Caldwell, 8642 US Highway 20, Garden Prairie, IL 61038 for a special use to permit indoor commercial entertainment. Specifically, video gaming at 120 Buchanan Street, Belvidere, IL (Belvidere Zoning Ordinance Sections 150.105(C) (6)(B)(2) Indoor Commercial Entertainment and 150.904 Special Uses Review and Approval Procedures) in the CB, Central Business District on approximately 1,200 square feet. The subject property is legally described as:

The Westerly 20 feet of the Easterly 60 feet of Lot Eight (8) of the Assessor's Survey of the Block Eight (8) of Aaron Whitney's Addition to Belvidere, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Book 28 of Deeds on page 421, in Boone County, Illinois; situated in the County of Boone and the State of Illinois. PIN: 05-25-358-020

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

Carl Gnewuch, Chairman, Belvidere Planning and Zoning Commission Published in The Boone County Journal November 20, 2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Education of North Boone Community Unit School District #200 will conduct a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 during the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education virtually or at 17823 Poplar Grove Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065, at which time the public will be allowed to make comments concerning a Resolution on Driver Education Contracting, in accordance with PA 97-145 and to apply for a waiver of The School Code 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2 regarding driver education contracting and fees.

Published in The Boone County Journal November 20, 2020

Assumed Names

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a protein and tea bar business in said County and State under the name of Flo Nutrition at the following post office address: 419 St. B. S. State 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: Sarah Flores, 677 Southtowne Dr., Belvidere, IL 61008 and Robert Flores, 677 Southtowne Dr., Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-670-4244

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 6th day of November, A.D. 2020 Julie Stapler, County Clerk Published in Boone County Journal November 13, 20, 27

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a installation of roofing business in said County and State under the name of Beza's Roofing at the following post office address: 436 Biester Drive, 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: Horacia Beiza, 436 Biester Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-221-7186

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 20th day of October, A.D. 2020 Julie Stapler, County Clerk Published in Boone County Journal November 13, 20, 27

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a landscaping business in said County and State under the name of JMB Lawn Mowing & Service at the following post office address: 725 Starr 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: Jose Escobar, 725 Starr St., Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # 779-537-7935

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 10th day of November, A.D. 2020 Julie Stapler, County Clerk Published in Boone County Journal November 13, 20, 27

ROOM FOR RENT: Belvidere: Nice furnished room w/ fridge, near downtown, bus stop, Aldi, Drug & Dollar Stores. No Sec. Deposit. \$102/wk. or \$430/mo. Call (815) 544-4466

Statue *continued from page 1*

Boston firm Jones Brother. When it was shipped to Belvidere, Strong & Gilbertson assembled the statue on a foundation created in 1891 for a water tower (last weeks paper told of the water tower). **One sunny day, Sunday the 16th of October**

October was homecoming month in Belvidere, and had always been celebrated with a week-long homecoming festival. Homecoming concluded with a parade. This year, as the last of the parade passed, the whole town and the many visitors that had arrived by trail or trolley folded in and followed the procession to the county park for the unveiling of the statue. As the end of the parade passed along North State Street, the front had already turned onto Boone Street and was filling the park and setting up for the ceremony.

The Parade Marshal, United States Calvary Lieutenant Commander Regan gallantly riding his steed, led the procession into the park, crossing Van Buren Street. At his side, the Assistant Marshal, Major R. E. Osgood was followed by M Troop of the 15th Calvary Regiment and K Company of the 27th infantry regiment. Several other units, who were camped at the annual Civil War reunion along the river at Doty Flats, followed behind. Next came the guests of honor, the Ramsey Family, in a carriage accompanied by Mrs. Haight of Rockford. The 45-piece Italian D'Urbano Band followed them.

The largest section of the parade was the hundreds of school children, each carrying an American flag.

A float in the shape of a Viking Ship by the Order of Vikings lodge caught the imagination of many. Then came the local chapter of Modern Woodmen as well as visiting chapters. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows had their presentation. A retinue of local politicians were followed by the fire brigade.

When the parade stretched out, it ran from Pleasant Street to Boone Street without a break.

As the parade entered the park, the 15th Calvary and the 27th Infantry lined up on the east side in perfect formation. The carriages with the speakers pulled around behind the monuments on the Main Street side. Civil War Veterans were ushered to seats on the East Menominee Street side. Forty-five years had passed since the war and in 1910, many of the veterans needed assistance.

Mayor, W. L. Pierce was the master of ceremonies. He explained to the crowd that the monument was a tribute to soldiers and sailors both living and dead.

A large cloth, reminiscent of the flag of the United States of America, was draped over the monument. Miss Bertha Loop pulled the cord, allowing the draping to fall away as the crowd of 15,000 burst into a cheer. This photograph was taken moments after the unveiling. The Italian D'Urbano Band began to play.

The children sang a song called "Illinois," with a solo by Miss Williams.

The afternoon was filled with speeches that recalled the Civil War with its horror and purpose. The Keynote Speaker was Congressman Charles E. Fuller of Belvidere, who spoke of the patriotic devotion of the soldiers of the Union in upholding and defending the Constitution, and how the living should have that same sense of duty: Each individual is tested both in times of peace and in times of war to live up to the ideals of democracy. And nothing stands between monarchy and democracy except the patriotism of the people and the written Constitution. Fuller went on to express his concern with the corruption of money in politics as an evil in every level of government and a threat to democracy. He stated that the people's only weapon is the ballot. At the end, a bugler from the 27th Infantry perched on the roof of the court house played "Taps", which held the crowd until the sound had long gone away.

COVID-19 *Continued from page 5*

Pritzker said. "Outside of Cook and the collar counties, much of Illinois' communities are experiencing the worst surge that they've seen yet."

With just less than 31 percent of beds available statewide, there were more hospital beds in use at the end of Monday, including non-COVID patients, than there has been at any time during the pandemic.

Region 2 of the state's mitigation plan has seen hospitalization rates more than double spring peaks while Region 3 has seen hospitalizations more than triple the region's spring numbers. Region 6 in east-central Illinois has a hospitalization rate 3.5 times higher than the spring, Pritzker said.

The 911 intensive care beds in use by COVID-19 patients statewide were a high since May 30, while the 399 ventilators were a high since June 8. That left about 32 percent of ICU beds and 72 percent of ventilators available statewide.

While bed shortages are a concern, Pritzker said "the number one thing you hear from hospitals isn't so much 'do we have the space.' It's 'do we have the staffing.'" He noted the state has put in place measures to allow health care professionals who recently left the field to rejoin it, but the concern over staffing goes beyond Illinois.

Pritzker said he has been in touch with hospital leadership across the state and is keeping open the option of opening field hospitals, but there are no immediate plans to do so.

"They have a message for everyone listening," he said of hospital leaders, "They implore you to make sure that everyone wears a mask and stops gathering with a large number of people in your homes. They need your help."

On Monday, Pfizer announced preliminary results that showed a 90 percent effectiveness for a vaccine, although more research is still needed on long-term effects, among other aspects of the vaccine.

"There are more trials ahead to determine if there are safety concerns, if the vaccine offers protection to those with prior COVID-19 exposure, if it protects against severe COVID-19, and if its effects on human immunity lasts an appropriate amount of time," Pritzker said.

The vaccine still must gain approval from the U.S. food and Drug administration, a process that will take an unknown amount of time, but has often taken several years for other vaccines.

Pritzker said the state stands ready "to build the appropriate logistics chain to distribute vaccines to our state's residents," which includes storage of the vaccine at colder than 100 degrees

below zero. In October, the state laid out its vaccine plan which would prioritize frontline workers and at-risk populations for the first batch of vaccines which would be expected to arrive in limited supply.

"Whatever the vaccine that comes we're going to build the capability to deliver that vaccine to the people of Illinois," he said, noting "we will need a lot of help from the federal government."

In the meantime, the governor said the state continued to look at ways to prevent the virus from spreading, emphasizing social distancing, masking and staying home.

"As I said last week and yesterday, we're monitoring the numbers closely and additional statewide action is possible," he said. "It's critical to remember that nothing makes a bigger difference in this pandemic than when a community decides to protect your own by wearing masks, by avoiding gatherings, by temporarily closing high-risk, high-exposure businesses, until we get to a place where it's safer to open again."

The statewide case positivity rate increased to 12.1 percent, more than tripling in a span of exactly one month. The 12,623 new confirmed and probable cases once again set a one-day record among 101,955 test results reported in the previous 24 hours.

The Illinois Department of Public Health also announced 79 deaths in COVID-19-positive individuals bringing the death toll to 10,289 among 511,183 confirmed and probable cases since the pandemic began.

The state is reporting probable cases along with confirmed cases because it is expanding the use of rapid antigen tests, which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classify as a probable, rather than confirmed case. Antigen tests made up approximately 5,800 of the more than 100,000 test results reported Tuesday, IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said.

"We've been given hundreds of thousands of this (antigen) test (from the federal government) and we want to use them, but by definition that falls in the probable category," she said. "If these people had not been tested with the ... rapid test and instead had been tested with the traditional (test), they still would have been cases, so it's just a matter of what testing method was used."

Community

News & Events

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 Choral Union Cancels 2020 "Messiah" Concerts: Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Rockford Choral has made the difficult but responsible decision to postpone its 2020 presentations of G. F. Handel's "Messiah" until 2021.

As an alternative, Rockford Choral Union has made available its 1965 video recording on YouTube. Please go to www.rockfordchoralunion.com home page and click on MESSIAH PART ONE and/or MESSIAH PART TWO, or go directly to YouTube and look for Messiah Rockford Choral Union.

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

Rockford Public Library will be Offering Remote Services ONLY: Beginning Tuesday, November 17th until Wednesday, December 2nd. Due to the increasing Covid-19 cases the Rockford Public Library will be offering remote services only. Please direct any inquiries to info@rockfordpubliclibrary.org

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