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The “Practical” Horseshoer Was a Civic Leader

By David Larson

Who could doubt the ability of anyone who posted a sign such as what is shown here? Would anyone question the ability of those who did the work? Many Belvidere residents in the late 19th Century relied on the Humphrey Wagon Shop and Livery because of the quality of its work and because of the experience of working with A. J. Humphrey or his people in providing competent wagon and carriage repairs. Experience was the guide that led many people to believe the sign atop the Humphrey shed. The same is true of auto mechanics today.

Harness and wagon shops were to the 19th Century what auto repair shops are to motorists today. When anyone needed a wagon wheel repaired or a carriage spring fixed or a harness remade,

they would visit A.J. Humphrey. Just as is the case today, so was the case more than a century ago; people would start doing business and they would grant their trust in the shop for future work and likely never try the competition.

Humphrey was an individual who could adapt to those heady times



A.J. Humphrey

Continued on Page 4

Belvidere Looses Downtown Barber

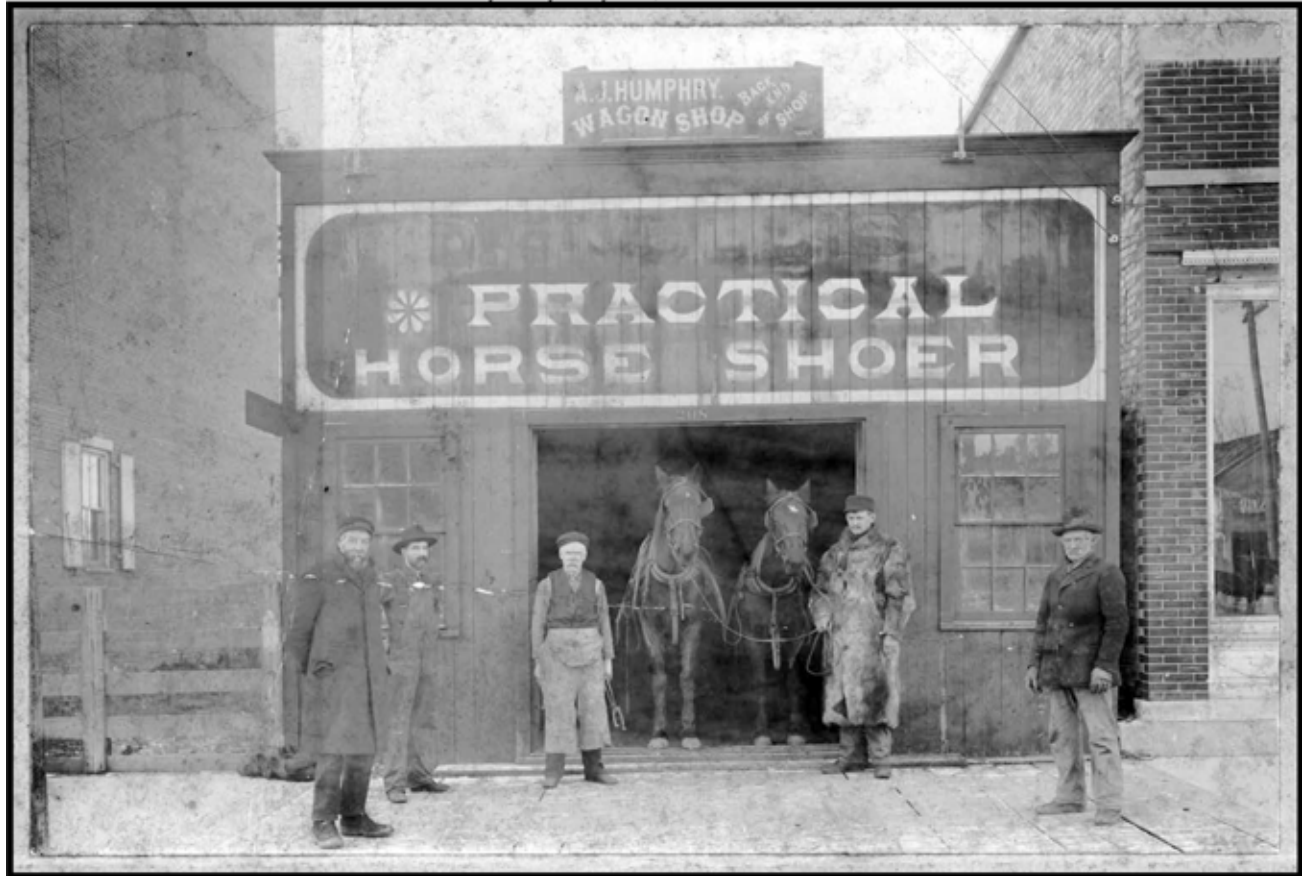
By David Larson

Jim Emanuel, owner of the Hub Barbershop has retired. After 34 years in business, continuing a barbershop name that has been around for over a century, Jim and his wife are moving to warmer weather.

Jim cared about Belvidere. Throughout the years, Jim always carried a sense of pride in the city. Jim and his sister Karen grew up in Belvidere, as did his parents Wayne and Katherine Emanuel. While attending Belvidere High School, Jim lived on Pearl Street. The Hub Barbershop even earned a place on the Belvidere-adapted version of the Monopoly game.

During COVID-19 when everyone was so very careful, Jim reopened after the quarantine with great care. Requiring face masks and providing a disposable chair cover for each customer, reflected the personal concern that Jim had for people.

Many early, still dark, winter mornings when roads were bad enough that local schools were closed, Jim was determined to make the drive from his home in Rockford to Belvidere to open his shop. This often meant a day without any



A. J. Humphrey's blacksmith shop on North State Street

customers. He took great pride that his business was still open normal hours! As the economy of Belvidere suffered many economic downturns over the past 30 years, Jim was steadfast in riding it out, keeping his business open when so many other smaller businesses closed. The quality of service that a proprietorship provides has become a rarity and the Hub Barbershop and its legacy will be missed.

The barbershop he took over in 1989 was formerly located in a building that was known by many names, but still exists in memories as the Hub Cigar Store. That location is now a park at the

corner of South State Street and Pleasant Street. That same location at the back of the store is where the Hub Barbershop originally operated. It was a piece of Americana, which Jim preserved when relocating to his 402 South State Street location.

Thus ends a long, continuing, and the evolving story(ies) that are only told in barbershops between men about life, politics, and the fairer sex.

As Dual Credit Participation Grows In Illinois, Study Shows Gaps Widening

Urban, low-income, high-minority districts lag behind rural counterparts

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

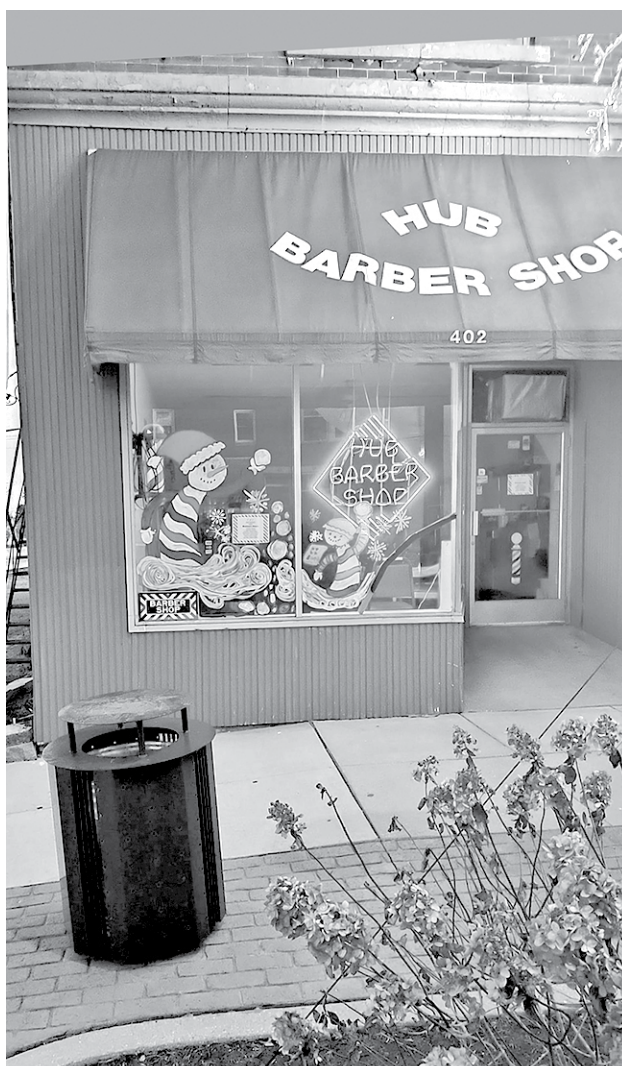
As the cost of higher education continues to rise in Illinois and elsewhere, a growing number of students are working to earn as many college credits as possible while they are still in high school.

But even as the popularity continues to grow for “dual credit” offerings – courses in which a student earns credit toward both a high school diploma and a college degree – a new study shows disparities between racial, economic and geographic groups are also widening.

According to the study, dual credit programs are more prevalent in districts that serve rural communities and small towns in downstate Illinois than in suburban and urban districts. They are less prevalent in districts that serve minority and lower-income students.

And even within individual districts, the study found that white students and those from more affluent backgrounds were more likely to enroll in and complete dual credit courses than

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Jim Emanuel's Hub Barbershop

Education

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minority students or students from lower-income households.

The study was conducted by the Illinois Workforce & Education Research Collaborative, or IWERC, a research arm of the University of Illinois System’s Discovery Partners Institute, which works to develop the state’s high-tech workforce and economy.

Dual credit courses are offered through partnerships between high schools and postsecondary institutions.

According to the study, a small number of dual credit courses are offered through public four-year universities, but the overwhelming majority – about 97 percent – are offered through local community colleges. As a result, the courses offered in any given high school are strongly influenced by the policies and programs of the community college district that overlaps with the high school district.

Sarah Cashdollar, an IWERC researcher and author of the report, said in an interview that details of those partnership agreements may help explain some of the disparities between school districts and between different geographic areas.

“It is costly to provide dual credit, especially for community colleges,” she said. “Depending on the partnership, it can also be costly for the school district. And so there might be variation in terms of how community college districts have managed those costs.”



OBITUARIES

- Charles “Chuck” Bell Jr., 91, Belvidere, Dec. 27
- Hilda Meinheit, 103, Belvidere, December 19
- Robert “Bob” Razim, 74, Caledonia, Dec. 23
- Sally Eddy (Shenberger), 87, Marengo, Dec. 24
- Fidel Herrera Villa, 31, Harvard, December 26
- Richard Wheeler, 80, Belvidere, December 25
- Edward Winter, 87, Belvidere, December 29

Although students typically pay some tuition to enroll in a dual credit course, Cashdollar said the cost is typically only a fraction of what students would pay otherwise, which is one of the reasons why dual credit programs help lower the overall cost of higher education.

In recent years, Illinois lawmakers have taken several steps to make dual credit programs more accessible and affordable.

Among those actions is the Dual Credit Quality Act, first passed in 2010 and amended several times since then, which requires public colleges and universities to accept credit from those courses if a standard agreement is in place. It also requires community colleges to enter into dual credit agreements with any high school in their district that requests one.

The Education Workforce Equity Act, passed in 2021, provides that starting this year, high school students who meet or exceed state standards on their annual assessments in English language arts, math, or science may automatically be enrolled the following year in the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework offered by the school. For seniors, that must include a dual credit, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate course.

And this year’s state budget includes just over \$3 million for community colleges to help them lower the cost of dual credit programs.

Despite those efforts, however, the study found that while overall participation in dual credit programs has grown – from 10.2 percent of high school students in the 2018 school year to 14 percent in 2022 – the racial and economic disparities in participation rates and completion rates has widened.

That was due mainly to the fact that participation rates grew more slowly among students of color and students from lower-income backgrounds than they did among white and Asian students and students from more affluent backgrounds.

Cashdollar noted those kinds of achievement gaps are similar to the gaps that researchers find in other aspects of education, including college enrollment rates and college completion rates. And because dual credit programs are, by definition, intended for students who aspire to continue their education beyond high school, she said the gaps point to differences in the types of students who are seen as being college-bound.

She said prior research on the topic has found the biggest predictor for racial gaps in students enrolled in dual credit was enrollment in accelerated coursework taken prior to high school.

“So who are those kids who are in the gifted classes? Who are taking algebra in eighth grade? Who are the kids in the honors program, maybe at the middle school?” She said. “And it’s kind of like, that sets the wheel in motion in terms of who is then either tracked into these higher-level courses, who is thinking about themselves as the type of kid who takes these courses.”

The report recommends the state continue investing in efforts to make dual credit programs more accessible and affordable but that it focus on increasing dual credit offerings in districts that currently have the lowest participation rates, especially urban and suburban districts.

“Only by attending to these issues of representation can the potential for (dual credit) coursework to reduce inequities in postsecondary educational attainment be fulfilled,” the report concludes.

Editor’s note: The IWERC study was funded by a grant from The Joyce Foundation, a private, nonpartisan philanthropy organization whose mission is to invest in public policies and strategies to advance racial equity and economic mobility. The Joyce Foundation provides matching funds for donations received by Capitol News Illinois during our end-of-year fundraising campaigns. Capitol News Illinois donors, including the Joyce Foundation, have no influence over our news coverage or story selection.

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For at Least 6 Months, State Failed To Act on Carlinville Funeral Director That Mishandled Remains

Bodies found decomposing, families given strangers’ ashes in months following coroner’s complaint

By Beth Hundsdorfer Capitol News Illinois

State regulators allowed a Carlinville funeral director to operate for months despite a complaint filed by a local coroner who found a decomposing body in his funeral home and alleged the care of the remains was “unacceptable and criminal in nature.”


While trying to assist a local family with retrieving cremated remains in March, Morgan County Coroner Marcy Patterson found the unrefrigerated corpse in the embalming room of Heinz Funeral Home. She contacted the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, the state agency that oversees funeral directors, and filed a complaint.

IDFPR took no immediate action against the funeral home director Albert August “Gus” Heinz, allowing him to continue to handle arrangements for grieving and unsuspecting families.

Patterson followed up on her complaint in June after receiving a call from another family. She once again asked IDFPR to intervene.

“I appreciate that a prosecutor needs time to review something, I really do, but we have

Continued on Page 3



REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

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Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013

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Funeral Home

from page 2

families that are suffering because of this guy so ... Is there a timeline of when it might be done?" she wrote in an email obtained by Capitol News Illinois.

It wasn't until Oct. 5 – days after another local coroner went public with what he found at the funeral home – that Heinz agreed to allow the agency to revoke his funeral director license.

In a written response to questions, the agency stated that if it took immediate action against Heinz's license, it would have only had 30 days to complete an investigation and present a case for discipline.

"IDFPR is committed to following due process and has a thorough review process when it receives a complaint against licensees in all professions," the statement read.

But the agency's Oct. 5 notice of disciplinary action stated that the permanent revocation of Heinz's license was due to "vital records non-compliance, professional incompetence or untrustworthiness in funeral practice, taking undue advantage of clients amounting to perpetration of fraud, performing any act or practice that violates funeral regulations, unprofessional conduct and charging for professional services not rendered."

The March allegations

When a Morgan County man passed away on Jan. 2, 2023, at Jacksonville Memorial Hospital, his family hired Heinz, who operated Family Care Cremation, to handle the cremation. After weeks of trying to talk to Heinz, the family became "aggravated and suspicious," the deceased man's son said in an email to Patterson.

The son sent Patterson screenshots of his text message exchanges with Heinz beginning in February, asking about the delay. In his text message responses, Heinz said the doctor needed to sign the death certificate and was out of town. Heinz said that he had the flu. Heinz promised to return the son's call, then promised that the cremation would be completed, and the son could pick up the remains in two days. Heinz offered to pay gas money "for the headaches."

In early March, the son contacted Patterson, asking for help.

On March 8, Patterson went to Carlinville.

She found the man's body in an embalming room.

"I learned that (the man) was not cremated and was kept in a non-climate-controlled storage for weeks...", Patterson wrote in her complaint to IDFPR. "The care of the remains is unacceptable and criminal in nature."

She called the Illinois attorney general and Carlinville police, and she filed a complaint with IDFPR.

In the letter confirming receipt of her complaint, IDFPR noted that all information collected by the department during an investigation of a licensee is confidential and cannot be publicly disclosed.

Patterson handled the cremation herself, although Heinz had already been paid.

On April 3, IDFPR investigator Todd Agans sent Patterson an

email asking for photos of the remains removed from Heinz's possession.

In June, Patterson reached out to Agans to follow up after another family had come to her about Heinz.

"I wish I could give you an answer," Agans replied. "Unfortunately, once I have finished the investigation and refer it to prosecution, I am completely out of the loop."

'Daddy's Girl'

Rebecca Zillion is a self-professed daddy's girl. When her father, Patrick Williams, died in June after a long battle with cancer, she was devastated.

After his death, Zillion found out that her father had prepaid for his cremation with Family Care Cremations, which offered low-cost cremations for about \$1,300. Williams was familiar with Family Care, which had handled another family member's cremation, Zillion said.

But this time, the problems started immediately. When Heinz failed to deliver her father's cremated remains, Zillion drove to Carlinville to pick them up from Heinz Funeral Home on June 24.

Zillion left that day with what she thought were Williams' cremains and the family divided them up among Williams' children and grandchildren. The family decided to spread the ashes at some of William's favorite places after a celebration of life in late September. Some of the ashes were

Continued on Page 5

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Humphrey*from page 1*

when the world turned on a dime from the old world that had existed for a millennia to the modern world of the day.

Humphrey's Wagon Shop and Livery, Humphrey's first location in the front page photograph, was found adjacent to the three-story building on the northwest corner of Lincoln and State Streets, think tattoo shop. That building was the First National Bank, led by Allen Fuller. Humphrey's was found in what is known as the "Hopkins Block." Even today, the name is anchored in stone atop the center building in that block.

Mr. Humphrey settled in Belvidere sometime after the Civil War, when the town was then little more than a village. He prospered by providing residents and visitors alike with carriage repair work, horse-shoeing, and carriage painting. About 1910, when motor cars or "horseless carriages" became popular in town, Humphrey began to offer rubber tires for automobiles. He likely kept his eye on the economics and the culture of the age.

Always interested in poultry, Humphrey was a member and officer of the Northern Illinois Poultry Association serving as secretary in 1903. Arthur raised championship S.C. Brown Leghorns, receiving many awards over the years. Arthur also was a dog breeder, raising registered collies and Boston terriers. He offered them for sale at the blacksmith shop and his home, after he moved to Appleton Road.

Many of the people working for Humphrey were "jacks of all trades." A number of them were skilled working at the forge, regardless of the air temperature on any given day. The man on the left standing nearest the shed was A.J. Humphrey. The man standing to the left of the shed opening was identified as John Styles. What Mr. Styles did at the wagon shop is unclear, but he appears to have been someone who worked at the forge. He was holding tongs in his left hand with the tongs gripping a horseshoe. The man to the right of the opening of the shed wore a luxurious beaver coat while the man on the far right chose a more conservative wool outer coat to protect against what were likely cold temperatures.

It is unlikely that any of the men shown here would imagine that one day, in January 2024, they would return to the awareness of a distant generation.

The men posing in front of the business could not have imagined—or did they? That is the wonder of photography. Reviewing photographs from the distant past that can awaken memories and the imagination. They are one of the primary resources historians use to reconstruct the past.

Humphrey's second shop, in the lower photograph, was located near the Kishwaukee River behind Belvidere City Hall, when it was located in the fire station building. Living on Locust Street, Humphrey could walk out his backyard toward the river to reach his shop. He was a regular advertiser in the local paper, advertising in every issue for months and then coasting for a couple of months before running another campaign. Despite Belvidere being only a few thousand souls, he understood how to sustain a good business. In the ads he used the address "behind the Post Office." The post office was also in the City Hall/ Fire Station building in those days. The post office building on the corner of Meadow and State was not built until 1911.

By the look of the photograph, Mr. Humphrey also might have had the first used carriage dealership in the city. The photograph, taken in 1910, was about a century before anyone had heard of a company called "CarFax" (or perhaps, "Carriagefax?") We imagine that Mr. Humphrey might have had something to do with the fresh paint, the repaired wheels, or the new upholstery found on those refurbished carriages. The conversation heard in the carriage lot in the middle-to-late-1800s was likely similar to what is the case at a car lot today. The buyers would bring in their carriage for repairs. Perhaps Mr. Humphrey himself would have worked with the customer, given him an estimate of the repairs that were needed and asked, "Maybe you might want to take a look at what we have sitting on the lot?" The customer might have answered, "Sure, what have you got?"

Mr. Humphrey might reply, "What do you have in mind? I have a bright new Brougham with a new bellows top and a fresh paint job. The wheels aren't bad either." And, so the negotiation could have proceeded, even though the age of the horse-drawn carriage was about to come to an end.

Humphrey, realizing that parking lots were a necessity in the new age of the automobile, and, with all of the wisdom he had acquired as an independent businessman, proposed that a parking lot behind City

Hall would bring Belvidere into the 20th Century. It was likely the first parking lot in the City. With the addition of the US Grant highway, parking in Belvidere on a Saturday night, when everyone came to town was becoming a growing problem.

In the early 1920s, Belvidere realized that something needed to be done to make Belvidere a better place to live. People were moving out of the city. The accomplishments of the past had been leaned upon for too long. Nothing lasts forever, and something needed to be done. In 1922, Belvidere was one third the size it is today. The population was starting to fade. Rural Belvidere was much more populated than it is today. A meeting was called. Opening with singing and instrumental accompaniment, a comprehensive plan was formed with the aim of making Belvidere beautiful again. A select team was formed to tour the city and make a wish list to start the process. One of the goals was to extend the Belvidere Park on the northwest side of the river to the State Street Bridge. Another was to expand the number of paved streets. It was at this meeting that Humphrey proposed creating a parking lot for automobiles behind City Hall.

From that point, Humphrey became an organizer. He put the word out to the farmers in the area that gravel needed to be moved. He got the support of all of the granges in Boone County. E. B. Glass, who operated a construction company, whose office was near the proposed lot, backed the effort, and lent his heavy-duty trucks to move the fill. The local granges held meetings and were able to coordinate the farm community who had an interest in using the lot for a daytime open-air market. The owners of the land offered it to the city rent-free, and the city offered to install electric lighting for Saturday night parking.

A weekly weekend caravan of 30 to 40 wagons made their way into Belvidere from the Glass and Spencer gravel pits with loads of gravel. In the end, several hundred loads were delivered. On one day in mid-August, 46 horse-drawn farm wagons, heavy-duty trucks, and 13 cars loaded with laborers paraded into town with dirt and gravel. Humphrey led the procession on horseback. On that day, over 100 loads were delivered. At noon, a grand lunch was served in the Belvidere Park by the granges for everyone before the next load was delivered. Humphrey's dream of creating a parking lot and an open-air market became a reality.



Funeral Home

from page 3

made into necklaces, Zillion said, so they could keep Williams close.

Just three days before Zillion picked up the cremains, Morgan County Coroner Patterson sent a follow-up email beseeching IDFPR to act after another family came to her about Heinz.

For months after his death, Zillion grieved for her father.

“I was not doing well. I was having a hard time,” she said.

That grief was soon compounded by horrific news.

Zillion’s mother had gotten a call that the ashes that had hung around her neck for months and acted as a touchstone to remind her father belonged to a stranger.

“Honestly, I was dumbfounded,” she said.

Zillion and her family returned the ashes and the necklaces to the county coroner so they could be returned to their loved ones. Zillion received her father’s ashes in October. The grieving process, she said, began all over again.

Coroner goes public

Sangamon County Coroner Jim Allmon received a call on Sept. 25 – six months after his Morgan County counterpart had first complained to IDFPR – from a local hospital about a body left for weeks in its morgue.

Allmon went to the hospital to identify the body and contact the next of kin. The relatives of the deceased told him that Heinz Funeral Home cremated the remains weeks ago and they already had the remains.

“There I was, standing beside the body in the morgue, and telling them it wasn’t true,” Allmon said.

Typically, when a body is picked up and transferred to a cremation facility, a titanium medallion containing the name of the facility and a unique identifying number is placed with the body. The crematorium keeps a record of the person and their identifying number. The medallion stays with the remains through the transfer and the cremation and is typically affixed to the bag with the remains when it is returned to the family.

Heinz did not have his own crematorium, but he used other local crematoriums for his cremations. Those crematoriums kept records that Heinz did not have access to, allowing investigators to piece together the identities of the cremains.

Allmon checked the identity of the ashes given to the family using the titanium medallion and found they were the remains of another Sangamon County resident.

On Sept. 28, Allmon called the Carlinville police, the Macoupin County coroner and IDFPR representatives to Heinz Funeral Home, where they found three decomposing bodies in the embalming room.

All three were unidentifiable without the use of scientific means, such as fingerprinting or dental records.

Allmon also found dozens of containers of cremains. He already knew that at least two Sangamon County families had received the wrong ashes and that Patterson had found a decomposing body in Heinz’s embalming room in March.

Still, Heinz was allowed to return to his apartment above that embalming room, still licensed to be a funeral director.

“By that time, I had about a bellyful of this,” Allmon said.

The next day, Allmon went public.

During that Friday afternoon news conference,

a visibly angry Allmon told the media and the public what he had found at Heinz Funeral home the day before. After the news conference, Allmon’s phones at the coroner’s office lit up, he said, with calls from families around central Illinois that wanted to know if they had the correct remains.

Within a week, Heinz agreed to permanently surrender his license and never seek its reinstatement by signing a consent decree with IDFPR Chief of General Prosecutions Frank Lamas and attorney Diane Para, waiving a right to a trial.

In IDFPR’s written response to media questions, they stated that “severe allegations are handled through an expedited process which is what took place on the September allegations.”

In that consent order, Heinz also agreed that his discipline would be made public. It would be the first public action taken against Heinz by IDFPR.

‘Sometimes all you hear is sobbing’

While Heinz agreed to discipline in the Patterson and Allmon complaints, another complaint filed in July and revised in August remains under investigation. The department said in a statement that confidentiality regarding the complaints is required under law until disciplinary action is taken.

That meant the families, like Zillion’s, who used Heinz’s services before September could not have known about the earlier complaints that had been filed with the regulatory agency.

Law enforcement and lawyers for the families will have to determine how far back the complaints go, but sources close to the investigation told Capitol News Illinois authorities are looking into whether the mishandling of bodies dates back at least five years and numbers into the hundreds.

Allmon said his office continues to receive calls from families trying to confirm whether they have their loved one’s ashes or those of someone they do not know. He also confirmed he has made calls to families to let them know that the ashes on the mantle belong to another family.

“I’ve made difficult calls in the past, but those were some of the toughest,” Allmon said. “It is reopening a wound. Sometimes, all you hear on the other end of the line is sobbing.”

Heinz is not currently facing any criminal charges. The Illinois State Police said their investigation of the conduct is ongoing.

The Illinois Comptroller’s Office, which has an oversight role for prepaid contracts, is in the process of transferring all prepaid contracts from Heinz Funeral Home to another funeral home in the area. A spokesperson said in a statement that they are finalizing licensing and will notify those who prepaid for their arrangements when the transfer is complete. The statement went on to say that, as of yet, the comptroller’s office had found no financial irregularities related to Heinz Funeral Home.

The funeral home, located directly across the street from the Macoupin County Courthouse, still has the gold-lettered “Heinz Funeral Home” sign on the front lawn. The website is still operational.

“The Heinz Funeral Home has been family owned for over 160 years. Providing Central Illinois with quality, compassionate and dignified funeral, and cremation services,” the website states.

The families who trusted Heinz are still struggling, Zillion said. She has formed a support group on Facebook. At least two families have requested the bodies of their loved ones be exhumed to confirm their identities.

For others, there may be no resolution. Families unknowingly scattered ashes of the wrong loved

ones, making them unrecoverable.

“This can never be made fully right,” Allmon said.

Zillion said she’s angry. If state regulators had taken immediate action, she said, this would not have happened to her family.

“I mean, you shut down a restaurant if it has too many health code violations, but they just turned a blind eye to the way he treated our loved ones,” she said.

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Prisoner Review Board Releases Final Illinoisan Serving Life Sentence For ‘Three-Strikes’ Drug Offense

Charles Collins was sentenced to life in 2010 for cocaine offenses

By Beth Hundsdorfer Capitol News Illinois

For at least two hours of the ride home, Charles Collins feared someone was following his father’s car, looking to take him back to prison for the rest of his life.

At an interstate rest stop between Western Illinois Correctional Center and Chicago, Collins said the reality of his freedom settled in and he let go of the anxiety. He would be with his family for Christmas for the first time in 14 years.

“It’s going to be a party, that’s for sure,” he said during an interview on Monday.

Collins, 49, was sentenced to life in prison without parole in relation to a 2010 charge for cocaine possession with intent to sell. It was his third felony, making him eligible for an enhanced sentence under the state’s habitual criminal, or “three-strikes,” law. He had two prior felonies on drug trafficking charges from 1998 to 2007 that made him eligible for the enhanced sentence. The judge told him she had no choice, he recalled, before she sentenced him to life without the possibility of parole.

“For a minute, it didn’t sink in. I was shocked that the judge went through with it,” Collins said.

The three-strikes law allows that if a defendant is convicted more than three times of the same or similar offenses, the judge can aggravate the crime to one that is eligible for a life sentence. The law was designed to combat recidivism, but advocates argue it was draconian and unfairly targeted minority defendants.

Jennifer Soble, the executive director for the Illinois Prison Project, an advocacy group for incarcerated people, noted in 2020 that 75 percent of people serving life sentences in Illinois were African American and 94 percent of people serving life sentences in Illinois for a third strike for armed robbery or drugs were African American or Latino.

Collins was the last man serving life in the Illinois Department of Corrections under the three-strikes law for drug offenses, Illinois

Continued on Page 7

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF ILLINOIS
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION

In The Matter Of The Estate Of Dayid A. Bailey, Deceased
CASE NO. 2023-PR-62

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of DAYID A. BAILEY, who passed away on October 31, 2023.

Letters of Office were issued on December 18, 2023, to HEATHER DOLOACH, Rockford, IL as Executor. The attorney for the estate is J.F. Heckinger, LLC, 405 West State St., Rockford, IL 61101.

Claims against the Estate may be filed on or before June 30, 2024, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, 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 St., Belvidere, IL 61008, or with the representatives, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate's legal representative and to her attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

HEATHER DOLGACH, Executor
Prepared by:
J. F. HECKINGER, LLC #1169491
405 West State Street
P.O. Box 1492
Rockford, IL 61105-1492
815-965-2121
jheckinger@yahoo.com
Published in *The Boone County Journal* Dec 28, Jan 4, 11

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In The Interest of: **TOBIAS L. McCONNAUGHAY, minor**
No. 22-JA-11

John Nielsen, Father, All Unknown Fathers
ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on NOVEMBER 30, 2023, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty. Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Tobias L. McConnaughay, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 1:30 & 2:00 P.M. central daylight time on 01/25/24 and 02/15/24; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Dated: December 06, 2023

Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in *The Boone County Journal*: 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024 - C

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In The Interest of: **BECKETT BEU, minor**
No. 23-JA-21

Christopher Beu (Father), All Whom it may concern
ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on NOVEMBER 13, 2023, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty. Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Beckett Beu, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 2:00 P.M. central daylight time on 01/04/24 and 02/01/24; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Dated: December 12, 2023

Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in *The Boone County Journal*: 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024 - C

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

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff,
-v.- 19 CH 113

LAURA J. ANDERSON A/K/A LAURA J. BARRY A/K/A LAURA JEAN ANDERSON A/K/A LAURA JEAN BARRY A/K/A LAURA WIEDL, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF ROBERT G. ANDERSON, DECEASED, TARA DOYLE, KYLE R. ANDERSON, KOLIN R. MAYBORNE A/K/A KOLIN R. ANDERSON, TIM MILLER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ROBERT G. ANDERSON, DECEASED, ONEMAIN FINANCIAL OF ILLINOIS, INC. F/K/A AMERICAN GENERAL FINANCIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS, INC., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 22, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on January 26, 2024, 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:

THE NORTHERLY 1/2 OF THE EASTERLY 1/2 OF LOT 14 IN ASSESSOR'S SECOND ADDITION TO BELVIDERE, AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 412 WEST MADISON STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 05-26-406-006

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$134,010.13.

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, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. 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.

Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.

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, contact The sales clerk, LOGS Legal Group LLP Plaintiff's Attorneys, 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301, Bannockburn, IL, 60015 (847) 291-1717 For information call between the hours of 1pm - 3pm. Please refer to file number 19-091405.

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.

LOGS Legal Group LLP
2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301
Bannockburn IL, 60015
847-291-1717

E-Mail: ILNotices@logs.com
Attorney File No. 19-091405

Case Number: 19 CH 113

TJSC#: 43-4591

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 # 19 CH 113
6088-938434

Published In *The Boone County Journal* 12/28, 1/4, 1/11 SW

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

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In The Interest of: **KENDALL BEU, minor**
No. 23-JA-22

Christopher Beu (Father), All Whom it may concern
ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on NOVEMBER 13, 2023, a petition was filed under the JUVENILE COURT ACT by Atty. Tricia Smith, State's Attorney, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, in the Circuit Court of Boone County entitled "In the Interest of Kendall Beu, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 2:00 P.M. central daylight time on 01/04/24 and 02/01/24; or as soon thereafter as this cause may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to have the child declared to be a ward of the Court under that Act. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS PROCEEDING TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH THE POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD. Unless you appear you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

Now, unless you appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Dated: December 12, 2023

Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in *The Boone County Journal*: 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024 - C

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

**U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS
TRUSTEE FOR LB-CABANA SERIES IV, Plaintiff,**

vs. 20 CH 40

**JOSEPH P. TRACEY; PHONDA A. TRACEY; LVNV
FUNDING, LLC; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NORECORD
CLAIMANTS, Defendants,**

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at the hour of 12:15 p.m., inside the front entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT TWO (2) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT OF BANKS SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 23, TOWNSHIP 43 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE 3RD P.M., ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED OCTOBER 28, 1988 AS DOCUMENT NO. 88-4049 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 07-23-100-008.

Commonly known as 2793 Stone Quarry Rd, 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 Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 LUCERNE DRIVE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130. 440-572-1511. ILF2112031

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3235313

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan 4, 11, 18, 2024.PNN

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

PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
vs. CASE NO. 23-FC-90

SARAH F. ORTEGA, Defendant.

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

1006 E LINCOLN AVE

BELVIDERE, IL 61008

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Sarah F. Ortega, Defendant, this case has been commenced in this Court against you and others, asking for foreclosure of the Mortgage held by the Plaintiff on the property located at 1006 E Lincoln Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008, more particularly described as:

LOT 17 AND THE WESTERLY 22 FEET OF LOT 16 ALL IN BLOCK 3, SAID WESTERLY 22 FEET OF LOT 16, BEING A STRIP OF LAND HAVING FRONTAGE OF 22 FEET OF THE NORTHERLY LINE OF LINCOLN AVENUE, AND RUNNING OF EVEN WIDTH ACROSS THE WESTERLY SIDE OF SAID LOT AND HAVING AS ITS WESTERLY LINE THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT: IN FAIRVIEW, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 3, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 2, 1892 IN BOOK 1 OF PLATS ON PAGE 17 IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Permanent Index Number: 05-25-131-012

Permanent Index Number: 05-25-131-013

Commonly known as: 1006 E Lincoln Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008

YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME. DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT. By order of the Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, this case is subject to the Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program. You must follow the instructions issued by the Program to participate.

UNLESS YOU FILE your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the Office of the Clerk of this Court at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, #303, Belvidere, IL 61008-2644 on or before FEBRUARY 5, 2024, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE.

CLERK OF THE COURT

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Julie Beyers (#6217185)
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC

Attorneys at Law

P.O. Box 740

Decatur, IL 62525

Send Notice/Pleadings to:

Veronika J. Miles (#6313161)

Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbattys.com

Telephone: (217) 422-1719

Facsimile: (217) 422-1754

6088-938614

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan 4, 11, 18, 2024.PNN

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: JEANNE R. CORNN,
Deceased.

CASE NO: 2023 PR 48

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of JEANNE R. CORNN, Letters of Office were issued on September 18, 2023, to Melynda Seaton, Administrator, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is BRIAN K. LARKIN, ONE COURT PLACE, SUITE 301, ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61101.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before July 4, 2024, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Illinois Probate Act, 1975 as amended, 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 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois, 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 his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

DATED September 20, 2023

Melynda Seaton

Brian K. Larkin

Attorney at Law

One Court Place, Suite 301

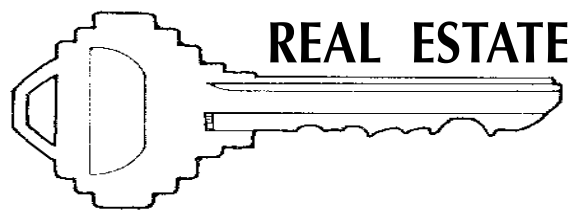
Rockford, IL 61101

815-964-4601

Brian@blarkinlaw.com

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Jan 4, 11, 18, 2024.

The Journal
has old newspapers free
for picking up from time to time.
Call to see if any are available



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

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff,
-v.- 19 CH 113

LAURA J. ANDERSON A/K/A LAURA J. BARRY A/K/A LAURA JEAN ANDERSON A/K/A LAURA JEAN BARRY A/K/A LAURA WIEDL, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF ROBERT G. ANDERSON, DECEASED, TARA DOYLE, KYLE R. ANDERSON, KOLIN R. MAYBORNE A/K/A KOLIN R. ANDERSON, TIM MILLER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ROBERT G. ANDERSON, DECEASED, ONEMAIN FINANCIAL OF ILLINOIS, INC. F/K/A AMERICAN GENERAL FINANCIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS, INC., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 22, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on January 26, 2024, 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 412 WEST MADISON STREET, BELVIDERE, IL 61008

Property Index No. 05-26-406-006

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$134,010.13.

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, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. 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.

Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.

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, contact The sales clerk, LOGS Legal Group LLP Plaintiff's Attorneys, 2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301, Bannockburn, IL, 60015 (847) 291-1717 For information call between the hours of 1pm - 3pm.. Please refer to file number 19-091405.

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.

LOGS Legal Group LLP

2121 WAUKEGAN RD., SUITE 301

Bannockburn IL, 60015

847-291-1717

E-Mail: ILNotices@logs.com

Attorney File No. 19-091405

Case Number: 19 CH 113

TJSC#: 43-4591

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 # 19 CH 113

6088-938434

Published In The Boone County Journal L2/28, 1/4, 1/11

3-Strikes

from page 5

Prison Project legal director Candice Chambliss said.

Earlier this year, Gov. JB Pritzker commuted the life sentence for the three people who were doing life without parole for drugs under the three-strikes law. One of those offenders, Michael Lightfoot, 67, received clemency and was released from Danville Correctional Center last month.

Pritzker commuted Collins' sentence in February 2023 from life without the possibility of parole to parole eligible. In a rare move, the Illinois Prisoner Review Board voted unanimously last week for Collins' release.

The Illinois Prison Project took up the cause of three-strikers in 2020, providing legal representation for incarcerated individuals. It currently has 74 pending cases for inmates serving three-strikes sentences for non-drug offenses. To date, 27 people have been released through commutation, parole, or medical release, according to Chambliss. Thirty-three others have been denied, and six people died before the governor issued a decision.

The scope of the three-strikes law has been narrowed over the years – including as part of the criminal justice reform known as the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today, or SAFE-T Act – but the statute remains on the books in Illinois. While one lawmaker proposed a measure in the spring session that would have fully repealed it, the legislation failed to gain support in the General Assembly and did not receive a vote in committee.

“Gov. Pritzker is a lifelong advocate for criminal justice reform and signed legislation making our criminal justice system more equitable,” Pritzker Spokesperson Jordan Abudayyeh said in a statement. “The SAFE-T Act reformed the habitual offender law to ensure it is used only in the most serious circumstances.”

After his 2010 arrest, Collins spent months in Cook County Jail before he was transferred to IDOC, eventually ending up at Menard Correctional Center in Chester. He said fellow inmates who had been convicted of violent offenses could not believe he was sentenced to life without parole. For years, Collins spent time in the law library in the prison to try to find a way to have his sentence reconsidered.

“I knew it was time for me to get to work; that it couldn't end this way for me,” Collins said.

Mira de Jong, an attorney with the Illinois Prison Project, took his case in 2020.

In an interview with Capitol News Illinois, de Jong noted that none of the crimes used to aggravate Collins' sentence were violent but were drug offenses normally punishable by a maximum of 15 years.

“Most times, the sentence does not take into account growth and change. The system isn't designed to help people,” de Jong said. “I don't think there's a lot of space for redemption there.”

After his commutation, Collins was transferred to Western Correctional Center in Mount Sterling. It was there that Collins had access to educational and reintegration programs, he said. He took advantage of the opportunities – achievements noted by the parole board.

After the holidays, Collins said he's going to try to get his commercial driver's license reinstated. A friend offered him a job driving a truck and later financing to start his own trucking business.

He knows he has missed a lot, time with his children and grandmother, celebrating graduations, birthdays, and holidays, grieving

deaths. Through it all, Collins said his family was his constant.

Charles Dunn, Collins' father and best friend, was at the Prisoner Review Board hearing in Springfield last week. He made the call to Collins to let him know the board's decision.

Collins was in the barber shop at Western Illinois Correctional Center when he received that call from Dunn, who was standing outside the hearing room.

“You made it!” Dunn told Collins. “You are coming home!”

Within 24 hours, he was on the road, headed home, looking over his shoulder for the first half of the trip. He didn't want to eat, he said. He just wanted to get home to Chicago. The only stop on the way was that rest stop where he realized no one was behind them.

“I think I have done all the right things. I have taken responsibility for my actions. I have shown remorse for those poor decisions. I have worked to be rehabilitated,” Collins said. “Now, I am just ready to make a life.”

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of print and broadcast outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.

State Health Plan Declares Racism A Public Health Crisis

Advocacy groups say 'Healthy Illinois 2028' is missing key areas of focus

By Dilpreet Raju Capitol News Illinois

A new state health report pinpoints racism as a public health crisis while also noting Illinois needs to improve in the areas of maternal and infant health, mental health and substance use disorders.

The broad goals are laid out in a draft of the State Health Improvement Plan, which will be finalized and presented to the Illinois General Assembly next year. The SHIP is part of Healthy Illinois 2028, a five-year plan outlining the major public health crises the state hopes to address.

After two years of assessment and planning, Healthy Illinois 2028 prioritized five major public health issues:

- Racism as a public health crisis.
- Maternal and infant health.
- Mental health and substance use disorders.
- Chronic disease.
- COVID-19 and emerging diseases.

The report found these issues consistently overlap and are all exacerbated by a lack of access to health care and wraparound services, the infrastructure of public health systems and racial inequities.

“It is essential to emphasize that disparities in health outcomes according to race/ethnicity have nothing to do with biology and everything to do with inequitable distributions of money, power and resources,” the report stated.

Several members of the public registered concern at virtual hearings last week about what was missing from the draft plan – including care

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

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR LB-CABANA SERIES IV, Plaintiff,

vs. 20 CH 40

JOSEPH P. TRACEY; PHONDA A. TRACEY; LVNV FUNDING, LLC; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NORECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants,

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at the hour of 12:15 p.m., inside the front entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 07-23-100-008.

Commonly known as 2793 Stone Quarry Rd, 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 Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 LUCERNE DRIVE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130. 440-572-1511. ILF2112031

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Health

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plans for migrants and concrete actions to slow a rising number of overdose deaths in Illinois.

Public health advocates asked for the inclusion of data-driven responses. Previous SHIPs have included measurable goals including reducing rates of suicide and opioid overdose deaths, both of which have increased over the last decade, according to the Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics.

But Jennifer Epstein, deputy director of the Illinois Department of Public Health Office of Policy, Planning and Statistics emphasized to Capitol News Illinois that the report is still in draft form, and that specific metrics will be added to the plan during 2024.

Racism's effect on health care

The draft improvement plan for the first time makes a point of listing racism as an overarching public health crisis in Illinois.

"Racism is both a cross-cutting issue and a standalone priority because it is at the root of many, if not all health issues," Illinois Public Health Institute senior program manager Janece Gough said at the hearings.

IPHI was one of the entities that contributed to the draft under the guidance of the Illinois Department of Public Health and the State Board of Health. The report was also co-authored by staff from the University of Illinois Chicago's Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center.

Gough said continued stigma and discrimination from health care providers are among the barriers to equitable health care.

The plan aims to address inequities by forming an appointed advisory committee on racism in health care and building a more diverse health care workforce. This type of racism happens when health care workers hold racial biases against patients, whether intentional or not.

IPHI director Laurie Call said public health infrastructure needs serious strengthening to be ready for emerging threats, as evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Climate change – and its health effects caused by air, water and land pollution – are included in those emerging threats, she said.

"We know that as climate change is expected to worsen, this will have many health consequences," she said.

Call said eight local entities in Illinois – such as the Chicago Department of Public Health, the Peoria City/County Health Department and a Champaign school board – have already issued a formal declaration of racism as a public health crisis. According to the American Public Health Association, 19 other states have declared racism a public health crisis, including Michigan and Wisconsin.

During a hearing last week, Angela McLemore, who worked for years in hospital administration and now serves as executive assistant to state Sen. Mattie Hunter, D-Chicago, said she was supportive of the plan's goals, but she emphasized the state will need to dedicate resources to make them a reality.

"I like what I have seen," McLemore said. "In order to make the goals and objectives happen, you have to spend a lot more time on implementation, planning and we need to attach the money, manpower and materials necessary for each plan."

Funding was a key concern for multiple other public commenters, including Creola Hampton, president of Black Leadership Advocacy Coalition for Healthcare Equity, or BLACHE, pronounced "black." BLACHE currently has 19

organizations in its network from the west side of Chicago down to East St. Louis.

"The unfortunate dilemma is the Illinois Department of Public Health funding is so highly racially inequitable that it perpetuates racism being a public health issue," Hampton said.

Hampton argued that when it comes to combatting HIV and AIDS, by which Black communities have been hit the hardest, there has been little funding sent to "African American-led organizations that have the enhanced cultural competency" and "the maximum degree of effectiveness."

Read more: On Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, advocates spotlight ongoing racial disparities

"The state is going to be leading saying that racism is a public health issue," she said. "Then the state has to be actively involved and making sure that there is equitable funding going to African American-led organizations to do the work that needs to be done to negate the inequity of health."

In response to media questions, IDPH spokesperson Jim Leach said the agency aims to partner with Black-led organizations around the state to reduce the "historic and present-day disparities" found with HIV.

"More than half of the HIV testing and risk reduction services delivered with IDPH grant funds were provided to clients who identified as Black/African American," Leach told Capitol News Illinois in an email.

Healthy Illinois 2028 lists an infrastructure recommendation to "de-silo funding and eliminate inequitable funding."

Requested additions

Though reducing overdose mortality was outlined as a priority goal in the previous SHIP, overdose deaths have continued to climb in Illinois.

The IDPH Opioid Data Dashboard recorded 3,261 opioid-involved overdose deaths in 2022 — a new record for the state.

The SHIP draft lists broad objectives including reducing the number of emergency department visits and increasing access to health care and wraparound services. It also sets a goal to "Increase funding to support the infrastructure development of the mental health and substance use disorder system."

Absent from the report is any mention of licensed overdose prevention sites, something many addiction researchers and advocates for those with substance use disorders support.

"We really don't have time to lose," Chelsea Laliberte Barnes, co-founder of the Illinois Harm Reduction and Recovery Coalition, told the panel last week.

Overdose prevention sites, which are places

where people who use drugs can get clean equipment and drug samples tested, present one major evidence-based strategy to reduce overdose deaths. Illinois has none but the issue was brought forward each of the past two legislative sessions by Rep. La Shawn Ford, D-Chicago. New York is the only state with licensed overdose prevention centers, both of which are in New York City.

In countries with overdose prevention sites, like Canada, Australia and several European countries, no deaths have been reported at any of these centers.

"We've seen how much these types of interventions save money, they reduce costs from emergency services. They provide a direct link for people to access health care services, job training, food," Laliberte Barnes said. "I would just like to really advocate for the addition of overdose prevention sites as a strategy for the plan over the next five years."

She said overdoses are still rising "statewide — rural, urban, suburban, you name it."

The draft report also doesn't contain a plan of care for recent migrant populations that have arrived in Illinois in the last 15 months largely from the southern U.S. border.

As of Dec. 6, more than 27,000 asylum seekers have arrived in Chicago, with a majority arriving via buses from Texas at the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott, according to the city's new arrivals dashboard.

Without proper medical attention and paperwork, the number of asylum seekers places a particular strain on public schools that need to address their physical and mental health needs.

Betzua Rubio, a nurse at Eli Whitney Elementary in Chicago's Little Village, told the panel she was concerned for migrant children who are without paperwork such as immunization records.

"We are seeing the lack of implementation for medical providers to adequately provide medical orders," including "asthma action plans, allergy action plans," Rubio said at the hearings.

Rubio estimated that more than 100 migrant students have been enrolled at Eli Whitney and described her work as a bilingual school nurse as "nonstop."

"We have been bringing administration vans for those children, but this is all work that we're doing individually," Rubio told Capitol News Illinois. "We're not getting any help."

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