FREE

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Harry Collier's Mark

By David Larson

Collier's Garage offered almost everything anyone could want, need or dream of acquiring as those dreams related to automobiles. It was the essence of one-stop automotive shopping. But those were the "good old days"-- or were they?

Soon after the dawn of the new century, automobiles began to appear with greater frequency across the American landscape. That was about the time when Collier's Garage came into existence in Belvidere in 1913.

The original garage was located at Whitney Boulevard? and Logan Avenue, which today is a bank parking lot. Those that drove almost any brand of automobile could find able service there, as was the case for many in the business of repairing and maintaining cars in the 1910s.

As people would motor across the nation or across the state on US Route 66 or "Lincoln Highway," known as US Route 30, they could stop in at almost any town and buy gasoline at a service station and find replacement belts, spark plugs, or radiator hoses and have them installed. That is not the case today.

If a family is traveling from Rockford to Peoria to celebrate Easter and one of their spark plugs fouls and the engine begins to chug with a loss of power, good luck finding anyone that knows where to begin to look. Most people buy gasoline today at a "convenience store." Many people might affirm from personal experience, that even asking for directions as to how to get to the other side of the street from where the store is located might be hard to get from the person running the cash register.

Collier's Garage in the early 1900s was a convenience store. One could step inside to the office area and smell the grease and oil that suffused the air from the garage. Out to the back was where the old tires were stored to be discarded later. In a matter of moments the men that worked there (and they were men) could have a wheel removed from a Model T Ford, after having loosened all of those bolts that held the wheel to the axle. A few moments later, using crowbars and pinch irons, the worker would have the tire and the tube removed from the wheel. If he knew where the air leak was, a few minutes later and he would have the leak patched and would reverse the process to replace the tube and tire to the wheel and then the wheel to the axle.

Collier's Garage was built on the site of the old house where George Wiggins' tailor shop was located. George was a Woodstock man who opened shop in 1911 in Belvidere and continued until his death in 1921 in the 400 block of South State Street. E. B. Glass, the owner and original member of the family business, Glass Construction, built the 5,000 sq. ft. Collier's Garage. Glass Construction built many buildings in Belvidere: Sanitary Scale, Christian Science Church, Midwest Bottle Cap Company and Manley Motors. E.B. Glass' sons, Arthur and Merrill, followed him in the business.

In October of 1912, it was announced in the Republican Northwestern, a weekly published in Belvidere, that the old frame house located at Whitney Boulevard and Logan Avenue was being removed for the construction of the Collier Garage. By November 19, 1912, the newspaper reported 70 foot lattice-trusses of the roof were being erected on the new building and projected



Collier's Garage at Logan Avenue and Whitney Boulevard

that, with good weather, the building would be enclosed for the winter with a new roof completed. On January 14, 1913, the garage heating system was being installed and the business was expected to open in early February.

Collier became a dealer of the Cole, R.C.H. and Krit automobiles. The Cole was the higher caliber of the three automobile lines. Collier also offered heated storage for automobiles. Collier brought in two top mechanics. Robert Copeland from the Abbott-Detroit Motor Car Company, and a machinist from Marengo. With his business plan up-to-date, Harry Collier opened his doors on March 15, 1913. Perhaps this photo was taken to commemorate his achievement. Immediately, the new building became a polling place on Election Day.

Today we often hear of the idea, economic stimulus. As a result of Harry Collier opening his doors, it immediately provided employment for two individuals and the sale of an International Truck to F. H. Lane. Within a week of the opening of the Collier business, Lane opened a trucking business, which moved goods from the train to businesses and business-to-business, all stimulating the local economy. Lane ran the business out of George Kiyla's store.

Collier was not without competitors in those early days. Andrews & Beckington were selling Fords from the Triangle Garage, which we assume is the triangular building on West Pleasant Street two blocks south of South State Street.

The value of money is difficult to understand when talking about the cost of goods nearly 110 years ago. For 5 cents, a can of "Belvidere Corn" could be purchased at Dempsey's Grocery. Adjusted for inflation, the "Belvidere Corn" would be \$1.33. A can of corn is a can of corn in 1913 as well as 2021. "Belvidere Corn" was canned sweet corn produced at the canning factory where General Mills is today.

Automobiles are different. The prices of cars in Belvidere in 1913 are not so easy to track. Advertisements presented cars that were priced from \$350 to \$700, which in today's money is about \$9,300 to 18,600. But cars today have so much more to offer. To compare those numbers with the price of corn would not be fair.

When Harry Collier left the car business is not documented in local newspapers and the last mention of the business was in 1935. In 1933, advertisements were published for a 10-act

Vaudeville Performance by the Legion - I.O.U. Club Carnival. On a Thursday night in October 1933, there was dancing, entertainment and cabaret at the Collier Garage. Prohibition had ended and it was free.

The Journal wants to thank the Boone County Historical Society for allowing use of the photograph.

Pritzker Signs Economic Equity Package

Four bills were part of Black Caucus' legislative agenda

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker signed a package of four bills Tuesday that made up the "economic access, equity and opportunity" pillar of the Illinois Legislative

Speaking at a bill-signing ceremony at the Union Baptist Church in Springfield, Pritzker said the legislative package would go a long way toward addressing the harms caused by "systemic racism" that has prevented people of color from gaining full access to jobs, housing, state contracting and credit.

"Together these four bills mark significant progress in our efforts to close the racial gaps and eliminate barriers that have for too long unfairly held Black and brown Illinoisans back," he said. "While there is more work to do, we are a better state for what's in this legislation today."

Pritzker was joined at the news conference by Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, several members of the Black Caucus and other individuals who were instrumental in helping put the ILBC agenda together.

The four bills all passed during the General Assembly's lame duck session in January. Among them was Senate Bill 1480, which restricts the ability of employers to use a person's criminal history in making hiring decisions.

"Because of this new law, never again, should an employer refuse to hire someone based on a criminal conviction if that conviction has nothing to do with that type of job being sought," Rep. Sonya Harper, D-Chicago, the lead sponsor of the bill in the House,

Continued on Page 6

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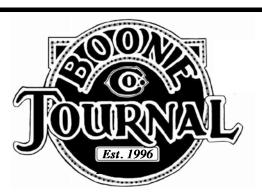






Gorham, James, 68, Belvidere, March 17 Hale, Mary, 77, Poplar Grove, March 13 Jolliff, Ralph, 76, Poplar Grove, February 27 McLarty, Harold "Mac", 96, Belvidere, March 15 Schumaker (Jones), Betty, 85, C. V., March 16 Wolf, Michael, 64, Belvidere, March 17 Wolford, Dr. Robert, 68, Belvidere, March 18





REAL JOURNALISM FOR A REAL DEMOCRACY

Publisher/Editor Senior Writer/Editorial Photography

David C. Larson Charles Herbst

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

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of

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 submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.

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

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL

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

A Failure to Account

One of the duties of being a President or CEO is to confront shareholders at least once a year and publicly answer investors' questions. Frequently, you are criticized. Sometimes, if shareholders are not happy, you lose your job. Similarly, if you are an employee, you face an annual performance review.

If you are the Mayor of Belvidere, Illinois, you face an election once every four years. That election is coming up on Tuesday, April 6. The incumbent Mayor, Mike Chamberlain, has been in office for eight years and is running for a third, four-year term.

1. It's time for Mayor Chamberlain to account to the people of Belvidere

A distinction needs to be drawn between accountability and criticism. To properly critique the performance of an individual, the subject of the evaluation should first be given an opportunity to explain his record and course of action. Fairness demands that an evaluator objectively take that explanation into account.

We don't think it's unreasonable, after eight years in office, for Mayor Chamberlain to be asked to account for his performance.

Mayor Chamberlain apparently thinks otherwise. Mr. Chamberlain refused to debate his primary opponent, Jeff Carlisle, at a debate sponsored by the local Republican party. He has ignored invitations to debate his general election opponent, Clint Morris. This newspaper has submitted two written questions to the mayor, specifically as to his objectives for a third term and his stewardship of the Leath Building on Meadow Street. He has ignored both questions.

Mr. Chamberlain has told us several times that he does not like this newspaper. That is his prerogative. Even if he dismisses us as unworthy, he apparently also dismisses the local Republican Party, of which he is member, who asked him and offered to arrange a debate for the Republican nomination.

Regardless of whether he likes us, the Mayor has a responsibility to communicate with the people of Belvidere. Mailing glossy, self-laudatory brochures and calling himself a mayor for the people is not being accountable. The Boone County Journal, whether Mr. Chamberlain likes it or not, has a larger circulation and considerably more readers than the grand total of 512 voters who voted for him in a city of 25,000 people. Unlike many of those who support Mr. Chamberlain, our readers are not beholden to us for their city jobs or jobs of friends or family members. They are the taxpayers who pay the bills of this city and have an investment in the success of the City of Belvidere.

2. There is a very serious law enforcement problem in this city

Many Belvidere residents and a Rockford television station have credibly and repeatedly accused the Belvidere Police Department of multiple counts of police brutality. These complaints have come from people of all races. Many of these complaints were made long before anyone had heard of George Floyd and his unfortunate death at the hand of a Minneapolis police officer. We have heard little, if any, follow up by this administration to address these concerns and make Belviderians feel safe from police misconduct.

In an era with ubiquitous video cameras, trying to sweep the problem under the rug or rallies by apoplectic family members of policemen puts Belvidere one botched traffic stop away from Fergusson, Missouri, Kenosha, Wisconsin, or Louisville, Kentucky. That is a result Belviderians are paying taxes to avoid. We would like to know what is being done about the matter.

Trust is important. As we reported several weeks ago, we were particularly distressed to see a bill submitted at City Council for \$574 for a single patrolman's business cards. This is more than ten times the going rate for business cards. When questioned by a council member, Police Chief Shane Woody had no explanation for such an aberrant expense. While, in the grand scheme of things, \$574 is small change, the police chief's nonchalance, with the Mayor looking on, and subsequent approval by the City Council, doesn't instill confidence in the Police Department's integrity.

3. No fundamental vision or plan for Belvidere has been forthcoming from the Chamberlain Administration

After eight years of experience as Mayor, we think it's appropriate to ask Mr. Chamberlain what is his vision and what are his goals for a third term. He chose not to reply.

The city appears to be run on an ad hoc basis. We have had several aldermen complain to us that they do not know what is going on in the city and are asked to cast votes after being briefed at the last minute.

In the past, Belvidere coordinated its efforts with Boone County, and planning was carried out by a single entity. This stopped because of a personality conflict between Mayor Chamberlain and a former President of the Boone County Board. As a result, we see little, if any, comprehensive planning for Belvidere. If there is a grand plan, it certainly isn't visible.

Belvidere is stagnant while other communities are growing. When we benchmark progress in Belvidere against peer communities such as Woodstock, Huntley, Loves Park and Beloit, the comparisons are not favorable.

We are delighted that the former Shopko Building will become the Advanced Technology Center of Rock Valley College, but that is a result of School District 100's efforts, not the Mayor's.

Belvidere has a number of unfinished residential subdivisions, several of which have had marginal market appeal, despite the Mayor labeling them "beautiful." The industrial base is entirely too dependent on Stellantis, and that dependence has caused a credit downgrade by Moody's Investors Service. This raises the cost of borrowing money.

Last year, a ridiculous proposal was pedaled to the City Council to build snazzy townhomes on Fuller Lane, adjacent to industrial scrap yards. The Mayor was the chief cheerleader. Because (according to the Mayor) Belvidere is redlined by local banks and real estate salespeople, the developer expected hefty tax breaks to build these luxury dwellings. These rental duplexes are supposedly in great demand by young, upwardly mobile professionals. Naturally, the tax breaks wouldn't have required the developer to meet any performance metric. There were, for example, no guarantees that this plan wouldn't evolve into a subsidized, low-income housing project.

Why on earth would an upwardly mobile, young person want to live next to a scrapyard on Fuller Lane?

The Mayor seems fixated on a beautification plan for Logan Avenue, but again, details are sparse. Why is this street a top priority and how it is to be financed? Shouldn't he be focusing on resolving the Leath Building problem first?

How should Twenty-first Century Belvidere be defined? How do the Fuller Lane plan and the Logan Avenue plan relate to the plan for the city at large? If there is a master plan and not seatof-the-pants fumbling, we'd like to see it, and so would the taxpayers.

a. Why do we need so many tax increases?

What is the money for?

Belvidere has a 5 percent utility tax that is earmarked for street improvements. That money is put in the general fund. Despite that, apparently a bond or other tax increase is being contemplated to finance improvements to Logan Avenue. What's up with that?

About \$1.5 million is being generated per year from a new 1/2 percent sales tax and a 2-cent gasoline tax.

The Mayor wants to create a new permanent storm sewer tax that would continue to be levied after storm sewer improvements have been paid for.

Mayor Chamberlin has also repeatedly asked the City Council to raise property taxes and the council members have refused.

In this same environment, local real estate salespeople and developers are calling at City Council meetings for a handout, for which the Mayor voted "yes." Mayor Chamberlain vehemently asserted that giving a tax break to developers had nothing to do with the other tax increases.

A serious, kitchen-table discussion of city finances is in order, but the Mayor refuses to come to the table.

b. The city-owned Leath Building is seriously deteriorating because of an unrepaired, leaking roof

As we have reported, the roof of the cityowned Leath Building on Meadow Street has been leaking for over ten years, and the damage has steadily gotten worse. Construction experts believe that the Leath Building could be repaired and repurposed, although much of the building is currently unsafe because of water damage to structural components.

The Leath Building is huge. It is located on a central, attractive portion of Belvidere's riverfront. Regardless of its ultimate disposition, the site is clearly integral to the future of central Belvidere. If the Leath Building must be demolished, it will cost Belvidere taxpayers a minimum of \$500,000.

We have asked Mayor Chamberlain for guidance as to his plans for the structure. Once again, there has been no answer.

c. Engineers have raised serious concerns over the proposed \$40 million storm sewer improvement project

Several qualified engineers have raised serious questions as to the design of the storm sewer proposal. We don't feel qualified to express a direct opinion on the matter, but we are concerned by some of the contrary professional opinions that have been offered. \$40 million is a lot of money, and we would like to be assured that the city is making the right moves. Mayor Chamberlain's lack of candor and management style are not giving us confidence.

d. Where's Belvidere's Share?

We are especially disappointed by Mayor Chamberlain's refusal to stand up for Belvidere financially.

Seeing \$28 million in the Build Illinois fund allocated to Marengo's sewer problems is great, and we support that. But there was nothing in the state capital budget for Belvidere's \$40 million in sewer problems.

To add insult to injury, a casino was approved for Rockford that gives considerable revenue sharing payments to Loves Park and Machesney Park. There is no share of casino profits for Belvidere or Boone County, although Belvidere is much closer to the site. Conversely, dozens of Chicago South Suburban communities stand to benefit from a casino to be located in the Chicago Southland.

Where was Mayor Chamberlain? Apparently too busy showing up at "regional development activities" that seem to serve as little more than a Rockford booster club. His "regionalism" is offering little or no visible benefit to Belvidere, the city that Mayor Chamberlain is being paid to represent.

Whatever he is doing in that regard, it apparently hasn't been effective. We'd like to hear his explanation instead of having him pout because we pointed it out.

4. Pay to play

We have noticed and published a list of the construction Chicago companies and others who stand to benefit from a sewer project and who have generously contributed to Mayor Chamberlain's campaign. How gratifying that they are concerned with funding good government in Belvidere, Illinois. Most Chicagoans could not locate Boone County on a map. Evidently, Mayor Chamberlain is introducing "pay-to-play" politics in this community. After all, someone has to pay for the mailing and glossy brochures! If you don't want to be accountable to the voters and the local paper, you need to do something to get out the vote!

We believe that other local media deserve some blame. They have fostered an expectation that public officials are not to be questioned. We have watched newspapers and electronic media report the opinions and absurd assertions of politicians without questioning them. This gives elected officials cover, and it reduces political accountability. We have not and do not intend to adopt that approach. We owe it to our readers to ask the questions, report the answers and call politicians out when they fail to reply.

We have invited and continue to invite Mr. Chamberlain to explain himself. We intend to be fair. We would prefer to hear Mr. Chamberlain's side before rushing to judgment or printing one side of the story.



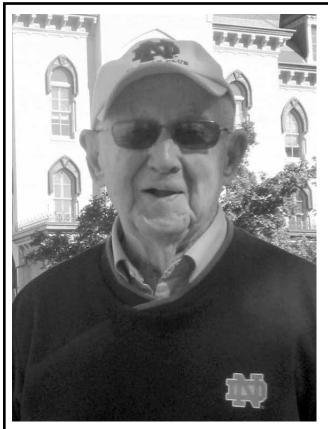


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William H. Grady

William H. Grady, 97, a longtime airport official in Rockford and a former Belvidere city treasurer, died Sunday (March 14) at his home.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He also was a World War II veteran, a proud alumnus of the University of Notre Dame and a devout Catholic, who was one of the first lay lectors at St. James Catholic Church in Belvidere after Vatican II.

Bill worked for more than three decades for the Greater Rockford

Airport Authority, the government agency that operates what is now Chicago Rockford International Airport. He was the airport authority's executive director for about 10 years before retiring in 1988. During his tenure, he oversaw the construction of the airport's modern terminal building.

Though raised in Belvidere, Bill was born on Aug. 8, 1923, on his grandfather's farm in rural Dane County, near Madison, Wis.

He was married for more than 67 years to Patricia Schmitz Grady, who died in 2015. He also was predeceased by a daughter, Mary Elizabeth "Lisa" Grady; his brother, David D. Grady; and his sister, Mary Elizabeth Gericke.

Bill went off to Notre Dame in 1941, but his college education was interrupted by World War II. He served three years in the U.S. Army Air Forces as a radar counter-measures specialist before returning to Notre Dame and graduating in 1948.

He was active in and a former officer of the Great Lakes chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives, a former member of the board of OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford and served for 15 years on the finance council at St. Rita Catholic Church in Rockford. He also was elected to six terms as city treasurer of Belvidere. In the 1950s and 1960s, Bill was active in the Belvidere Little League organization as a coach, umpire and league official.

Survivors include three sons, William R. (Pamela), Timothy E. (Pamela), and John P.; two daughters, Ann G. (Charles) Bown and Maureen G. (Mark) Himmel; 13 grandchildren, Amanda (Jacob Stroup) Grady, Timothy (Rebecca) Grady, Paul (Jennifer) Grady, Matthew Grady, Erika Grady, Dylan Grady, Jordan (Chad) Zimmerman, Christopher (Carrie) Bown, Victoria (Chris Herskovits) Bown, Alexandra (Kevin Olmschenk) Bown, Claira (Ryan) DeValk, and Natalie and Margaret Himmel. He also is survived by 11 great-grandchildren, Hannah, Harper, Ronan, Patricia Rose, Nora, Lennon, Henry, Zara, Mara, Ayelet and Liam.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Tuesday (March 23) at Fitzgerald Funeral Home & Crematory, Mulford Chapel, 1860 S. Mulford Rd., Rockford, followed by a Mass at 11:30 a.m. at St. Rita Church, 6254 Valley Knoll Dr., Rockford. Burial will be private. Those attending services must wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the University of Notre Dame, Office of Development, 1100 Grace Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556, or to the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402.

Arrangements entrusted to Fitzgerald Funeral Home & Crematory. Share online memories and condolences at www.fitzgeraldfh.com



Letter to the Editor

Clint Morris for Mayor of Belvidere. I would like to express my support for electing Clint Morris as the next mayor of our city. Having known Clint personally since 1996 and his reputation as a Ward 1 Alderman for much longer, I am confident he will be able to handle the job and will always do what is best for the citizens/ tax-payers of Belvidere. His honesty, integrity and caring for what is the right course of action for our citizens is beyond reproach. Clint holds the same core values as I do in that he would never accept contributions from, or do any special favors for special interests that would be contrary or detrimental to what is in best interests for the taxpaying citizens of our city. This speaks volumes of his integrity and dedication when a person completely funds their own run for an elected position. I value his opinions on the more complicated city issues based on his extensive knowledge of city operations gained as a past alderman for multiple terms and the fact that he follows/ researches city happenings closely. As an alderman we are elected by the residents to represent their best interests regarding all city issues. This also holds true of the elected position of Mayor. Clint has reminded me of this on more than one occasion. I would encourage everyone to check his past voting record as an Alderman and I am confident all will agree that based on his voting record and being a lifelong resident of Belvidere along with his unwavering passion and dedication to "Do the right thing" for all people living in Belvidere, he is the right person to lead the city and its residents to better times. Please go out and vote in our local consolidated election on April 6Th. It is so important to all of our resident's

Respectfully Submitted, Tom Porter Alderman Ward 1

Dear Editor,

As a longtime resident of Boone County and former Alderman for the City of Belvidere for over 2 decades, I am sharing my thoughts on who would be the best leaders to help bring the municipalities forward for Boone County:

1. Mayor of Belvidere: Clint Morris is an easy pick over incumbent Mike Chamberlain. I have known Clint since 1997. We served many years together on the City Council. Clint introduced impact fees for schools during rapid growth. This makes the developer give a contribution to offset the costs to current taxpayers' for start-up of new developments. Simply put, new homes cost existing taxpayers money, and businesses are an asset to the city financially. I introduced impact fees to pay for police, fire, & public works, which Clint fought to keep. All these passed. Thank goodness, during the recession we had those funds to fall back on. Chamberlain recently tried to pander to developers to cancel impact fees. Clint went to council to stand up for the taxpayers. Clint also worked with me to use the utility tax for roads, so as not to special assess homeowners. Unfortunately, a small majority of council and the mayor haven't found it in their hearts to keep the promise of returning them for roads as they promised 10 years ago. Clint also pushed the Columbia Ave project to help flooding in the 1st & 5th Wards (near South High School). More needs to be done for residents there for the flooding, but it seems other projects are more important to the mayor like Logan Avenue, building a park on Christine Drive (don't we pay taxes to the Park District for parks?), and raises for alderman. Clint is a man of the people and isn't taking contributions from special interests. He opposed the new taxes on gas and retail that Chamberlain proposed (along with other tax increases not approved). Clint truly has a record of representing the people and has the city's best interest at heart. He grew up in Belvidere and wants to see the city thrive. He will treat citizens with respect, when they come to the city with their concerns and needs.

Village President of Poplar Grove: Once again, newcomer Don Sattler is also an easy pick over Owen Costanza. Owen, while in office, doubled his salary and vastly increased the pay of the Village Trustees. He was successful in dropping impact fees to help developers (and not taxpayers). Owen (like Chamberlain) thinks the role of the village is to build parks. Don, an engineer, understands infrastructure, and believes in being conservative with his fellow taxpayer's money. Although Don is successful in his career, after witnessing government overreach, Owen pushing a park maintained with village money in his neighborhood and elsewhere, Don decided to run for office and give the village back to the people and stop Owen's Chicago politics. Although Don has had nasty verbal attacks made against him, he is a strong leader and has not backed down. Don also was formerly on the Poplar Grove Zoning commission.

Both Clint Morris & Don Sattler will be the right people to help us rebuild out of the pandemic, and bring back businesses to Belvidere & Poplar Grove. Give yourself a vote for freedom. Vote for them in the April 6th Consolidated election in your respective municipalities.

Mark Sanderson



ALDERMAN WARD 1

The job of an Alderman is to represent not only the best interests of the people in the Ward who elected them as their representative regarding city matters but the best interests of all citizens/ taxpayers in our city. I am running for re-election as Alderman in Ward 1 (South west area of Belvidere). I have been honored to serve on the City Council for the past 4 years helping to represent the best interests of all people living in Belvidere. Although I am running un-opposed in the April 6th Consolidated election your vote of confidence in me in the election would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for letting me represent your best interests regarding city matters and I will continue to do my best to do so in the future. Also I would like to express my support of re-electing Alderperson Marsha Freeman for Ward 5. In my opinion, Alderperson Freeman understands what is in the best interests of the taxpaying citizens of Belvidere. She is not employed by or in my opinion, influenced by special interest groups, she takes the time to fully research issues and is not afraid to speak out when she sees an issue that needs to be addressed. Please vote in our local consolidated election April 6th. It is so important to <u>all</u> people living in the City of Belvidere. Thank You.

Respectfully, Tom Porter Alderman Ward 1

Gardening Benefits Body, Mind and Wallet

by Linda Hughes-Kirchubel, Communications Coordinator, Illinois Extension

A continuously connected lifestyle can drain internal batteries quickly, but digging into the

world outside may be the best way to rejuvenate, revitalize and recharge.

"The gadgets of gardening aren't flashy: a shovel, pruners, hoses and bags of seeds," says Martha A. Smith, a University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator. "All are simple yet practical, and useful but not at all high-tech."

Gardener responses to a National Garden Bureau survey about why they garden hailed the health, economic and social benefits, and extolled the many joys found in working the land. With so many advantages to gardening, it's not surprising the top 10 reasons are so diverse.

Garden to produce safe, healthy food - Consumers are increasingly aware of food-borne illnesses, food contamination, and the additives and preservatives found in processed food. This, coupled with interest in organic gardening, has increased the availability of organic produce.

Working out(side) - Studies show that an hour of moderate gardening can burn up to 300 calories for women, and almost 400 calories for men. Mowing the grass mimics a vigorous walk. Planting requires bending and stretching, just like an exercise class, and people with physical limitations can take advantage of devices designed to help. An Illinois Extension webinar on March 9 focuses on such adaptive tools. More information is available at go.illinois.edu/4seasonsAdaptive.

A thing of beauty - A well-tended garden enhances any setting of any size, and provides a pleasurable vista, and trees and shrubs provide color and shade, as well as shelter for birds and wildlife. More information about small gardening is available at go.illinois.edu/SmallSpaceGardens.

Garden to learn - Gardening helps individuals learn by doing while building knowledge, gardening expertise and problem-solving skills. Gardeners find that the more they learn, the more they want to know.

Garden to earn - The love of plants can lead to anything from a job at a local garden center to owning a landscape business. Gardeners also can sell their products at local farmers markets or craft shows, and landscaping projects can increase property values by up to 15%.

Sharing knowledge, broadening horizons - Gardeners love to share their gardens and their knowledge, thus expanding their social circle. Even during a pandemic, meetups with other gardeners can take place in socially distanced environments or online, and provides a way to gather information, ask questions and get involved.

Tapping into creativity - For many, gardening is an outlet for inspiration and artistic expression. Attention to design can produce everything from the serene, contemplative mood of a Japanese garden to the romantic feel of an English cottage.

Gardening to win - For people with a competitive streak, gardening is a way to show off their skills. County and state fairs provide opportunities for adults and children to show off their skills growing giant pumpkins, beautiful bountiful beans or the perfect zinnia.

Benefits to emotional health - Gardens play an important part in wellbeing. A garden might serve as a tranquil retreat or private escape from the demands of everyday life. A healthy harvest provides a sense of achievement and feelings of success. Gardening builds confidence and self-esteem.

Grow lasting memories - Gardening can be shared with the next generation. They are the gardeners of tomorrow, and memories of past gardens and gardeners help build these memories as they recall tasting the sweetness of a cherry tomato picked right from their loved one's garden. Find ideas about cultivating the next generation of gardeners at go.illinois.edu/GardeningWithKids.

For more information about the National Gardening Survey, visit bit.ly/natgardensurvey.

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.

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Resolution Condemning Republican Lawmaker For Attending Jan. 6 Rally

Rep. Chris Miller has denied partaking in the violent riot that followed

by SARAH MANSUR Capitol News Illinois

House Democrats adopted a resolution Thursday night to condemn Republican Rep. Chris Miller for attending a Jan. 6 rally in Washington, D.C., which immediately preceded the violent riot at the U.S. Capitol building.

The resolution also condemned the lawmaker for displaying the insignia of an extremist militia group on his truck.

Miller, of Oakland, defended his presence at the Save America Rally where former President Donald Trump spoke, and Miller denied taking any part in the violent storming of the Capitol that followed the rally.

Miller said he was in lockdown with his wife, Congresswoman Mary Miller (R-IL), in a Capitol office building while the riots occurred until 8 p.m. that evening.

"I condemn any and all violence. I can assure you that my dedication to the safety and security of our state and our country's citizens is second to none. We may disagree on policy, but at the end of the day, all of our commitments to our constituents is making Illinois a better place, and all these ideals are one in the same," Miller said on the House floor.

The resolution, introduced by Rep. Bob Morgan, D-Deerfield, also criticizes Miller for allegedly adorning his truck with decal for an anti-government militia group known as "The Three Percenters."

House Resolution 132 claims that Miller vi-

olated his oaths to the U.S. and Illinois constitutions by "actively and publicly promoting the actions of an internationally recognized para-military hate group," for having the decal on his truck.

While he did not comment on the decal during his remarks on the House floor, Miller has denied being a member of The Three Percenters, and stated he removed the sticker from his truck, according to news reports.

The resolution also claims Miller "through his continued actions and instigations, has created an environment that potentially threatens not only the sanctity of the Illinois General Assembly but also the safety of the members and their

The House resolution also references a complaint filed by Morgan with Illinois Legislative Inspector General Carol Pope to investigate Miller's actions on Jan. 6. The Legislative Inspector General is responsible for investigating complaints of violations of any law, rule, or abuse of authority or other forms of misconduct by members of the General Assembly.

House Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, said the resolution is premature because the Legislative Inspector General's investigation is not complete.

"Within your resolution you make very bold, broad claims and conclusions, which you are asking us to assume is factual...I think a prudent person would say, 'Why don't we wait to find out what the conclusions are?' Because there is a chance that the IG will determine that this is an unfounded complaint, and that we'll have a

resolution, which is completely opposite," Durkin said.

"What we're doing is we're setting a new precedent, a new standard, of how the men and women in this chamber are to be judged in their private lives with this resolution," Durkin added. "This will open the Pandora's box. That's reality. I will just state that there is a place for someone to lodge their objections or complaints. And that's with the legislative inspector gener-

Morgan framed his resolution as raising one question: "What is conduct unbecoming of a legislator?"

Morgan read the statement Miller made in a Facebook Live post on Jan. 6 at the Save Amer-

"I think it's important to know we are engaged in a great cultural war to see which worldview will survive, whether we will remain a free people under free market capitalism or whether they will put us under the tyranny of socialism, communism and the dangerous Democrat terrorists that are trying to destroy our country," Miller, 66, said in the video that has since been removed from his page.

Morgan said Miller "stood with the insurrectionists" on Jan. 6.

"That's an indisputable. But if Rep. Miller regretted his words or was remorseful for his actions, he hasn't shown it. That I think is really the most critical element of all this," Morgan said.

The resolution was adopted, 57-36, almost entirely along partisan lines, with several members voting present or not voting at all. House resolutions only need a simple majority to pass.

Only one Democrat, Rep. Mark Walker of Arlington Heights, crossed party lines to vote against the resolution.

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VOTE APRIL 6 FOR

I have known Clint for over 30 years.

Served in the City Council with Clint for 6 years.

Mayor Peterson and Clint marketed Metro Plains from Minnesota to reinvest in our old Junior High School in to Pearl Place Apartments at no expense to Belvidere taxpayers for Senior

Clint led the Council two separate years to increase funding by \$10,000 to the Council on Aging for Senior Citizens. 1) because they had not had a funding increase in over 8 years. 2) at that time fuel costs had risen to over \$4.00 per gallon. He has never forgot senior citizens in our community. Our current Mayor has removed these increases.

He will ensure that tax dollars promised for road and infrastructure are used for their intended purpose. No more misappropriation only accountability.

Will put Citizens before campaign contributors. Clint has selffunded his entire campaign. He has accepted no special interest contributions and has always and will continue to represent the hardworking taxpayers in our community above all others.

Our current Mayor Chamberlain is being funded largely by building contractors and real estate developers from outside of Belvidere. What will they want for their dollars?

Clint will stop pay for play in Belvidere and Chicago style of political influence. I know him and I know he has always represented our interests.

I have personally know Clint Morris and have seen first-hand how he cares about this community and how he has and will continue as Mayor to represent our community.

On April 6th my wife Sandy and I will be casting our votes for Clint Morris.

Paid for by Clayton and Sandy Stevens

I Support Clint Morris for Mayor

I have been a friend of Clint's for over 35 years. He has a vast knowledge of the city's operations because he was an alderman for many years. We need someone who is willing to get rid of special interests and work for the people of Belvidere.

_JOCK (F)IFFORD

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FORECLOSURES

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

BMO Harris Bank N.A. PLAINTIFF Vs. No. 2019CH158

Elizabeth Yeast; Joshua Van Meter; Candace Van Meter; The Condominiums of Logan Square; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of William J. Van Meter; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants; Timothy A. Miller, as Special Representative for William J. Van Meter (Deceased) DEFEN-

DANTS
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: Candace Van Meter Unknown Heirs and Legatees of William J. Van Meter Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying

the premises described as follows, to-wit:

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 2147 Derby Ln Belvidere, IL 61008
and which said Mortgage was made by: William J. Van Meter the

Mortgagor(s), to Harris N.A., as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office
of the Recorder of Deeds of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No.
2010R08554; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now

pending. NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court,

Linda J Anderson Clerk of the Circuit Court 601 North Main Street Belvidere, IL 61008

on or before April 19, 2021, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE

WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff

15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (630) 794-5300 DuPage # 15170

Winnebago # 531 Our File No. 14-19-11531 NOTE: This law fir m is a debt collector. I3165784

Published in The Boone County Journal Mar 19, 26; Apr 2, 2021

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

THE CITY OF BELVIDERE, An Illinois Municipal Corporation,

2021ED1 Parcel No. 05-36-206-010 RANDY J. FINZEL, BETH GRAY, PRAIRIE COMMUNITY BANK,

and UNKNOWN OWNERS, Defendants. NOTICE OF PUBLICATION YOU, UNKNOWN OWNERS, ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that this

case has been commenced and is pending against you and other respondents, asking for an Entry of an Order of Eminent Domain and other relief at real property commonly known as 953 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois. Legally described as:

Parcel: A part of 05-36-206-010

A parcel of land being a part of the Northeast Quarter of Section 36, Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, described as follows: Beginning at a 5/8" iron pin in the Southerly line of a public road designated Logan Avenue, 17 and 35/100 chains (17 and 4/100 chains measured), as measured along the Southerly line of said Logan Avenue Easterly of the intersection of the West line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 36 with the Southerly line of said Logan Avenue, said point also being the Northwest corner of the premises conveyed by Marlene Ann Lawler n/k/a Marlene Ann Smith to Randy J. Finzel by Warranty Deed recorded March 13, 2006 as Document No. 2006R2811 in the Recorder's Office of Boone County, Illinois; thence South 74 degrees 18 minutes 55 seconds East along the Southerly line of said Logan Avenue, a distance of 66.84 feet to the Northeast corner of said premises conveyed by Marlene Ann Lawler n/k/a Marlene Ann Smith to Randy J. Finzel; thence South 16 degrees 27 minutes 23 seconds West along the East line of said premises so conveyed, a distance of 1.87 feet; thence North 74 degrees 01 minute 01 second West, a distance of 66.84 feet to a point in the West line of said premises so conveyed; thence North 16 degrees 27 minutes 23 seconds East along the West line of said premises so conveyed a distance of 1.52 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 113 square feet, more or less, all being situated in the City of Belvidere, Boone County Illinois. (the Acquisition Parcel)

UNLESS YOU FILE YOUR ANSWER or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the office of the Clerk of this Court Boone County, Illinois, on or before April 16, 2021, A JUDGEMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THIS COMPLAINT.

Linda J. Anderson, Clerk of the Court Prepared By: Michael S. Drella, City Attorney #6236991 City of Belvidere 401 Whitney Boulevard

Belvidere, Illinois 61008 815/544-2612

Published in The Boone County Journal March 12, 19, 26

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 17H JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LOWELL A. RUBECK

DECEASED Case No. 2021 P 12 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of LOWELL A. RUBECK of 182 Biester Drive, Belvidere, Illinois 61008. Letters of Office were issued on February 25, 2021 to Mary Cotner, 641 Ashland Avenue, Rockford, Illinois 61103 whose attorney is Robert C. Becker, Jr., 213 West Main Street, Genoa, Illinois 60135.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Boone County Court House, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the representatives, or both, on or before August 25, 2021 and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a petition to terminate under Section 28-4 of the Illinois Probate Act.

Linda Anderson (Clerk of the Circuit Court) Published in The Boone County Journal March 12, 19, 26

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TERESA ANN SNOW, Deceased PROBATE NO. 2021 -P - 11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Notice is given to creditors and Claimants of the death of TERESA ANN SNOW, of Belvidere, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 22, 2021 to DANIEL SNOW, Executor, who is the legal Representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is

Attorney CHERYL RUSSELL-SMITH, 519 So.Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Clerk, Probate Division, 601 N. Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, or with the legal representative, or both on or before August 5, 2021, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required under 755 ILCS 6/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed on or before that date is denied. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the attorney for the estate within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

DANIEL SNOW, Executor

Cheryl Russell-Smith, Attorney for Estate

519 S. Main Street

Belvidere, Illinois 61008 (815) 544-0911

Published in The Boone County Journal March 12, 19, 26

Township Meeting

Spring Township will hold its Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday April 13th at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Spring Town Hall located at 3150 Shattuck Rd. The electors will be approving Annual Financial Reports and considering a transfer of surplus funds from the Town fund to the General Road and Bridge Fund. Published in The Boone County Journal March 26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED RENEWAL OF CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT DATE POSTED: March 26, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that a public hearing shall be conducted on April 12, 2021, at 6:15 p.m., before the Village Board of the Village of Poplar Grove, Boone County, Illinois ("Village"), on a proposed agreement to renew the cable television franchise between the Village and Comcast. The proposed franchise agreement has been in negotiation between the Village and Comcast and addresses a variety of issues, including, without limitation, the use of public rights-of-way, the payment of franchise fees, and programming services. This hearing provides the public with an opportunity to comment before the agreement is presented for final action by the Village Board.

The public hearing shall be held at Village Hall, 200 North Hill Street, Poplar Grove, Illinois. A copy of the proposed cable television franchise agreement will be available for inspection in the Village Clerk's Office at Village Hall and on the Village of Poplar Grove's website. The proposed agreement is subject to further revision.

The Village Board will hear public comments on the proposed cable television franchise agreement from all persons interested in being heard. Written submissions to be read as public comment must be received by the Clerk's Office no later than 4:00 p.m. April 12, 2021. After the close of the hearing, the Village Board may consider final action on the agreement or direct such further activities as may be appropriate with final action consideration on the agreement at a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karri Anderberg, Village Clerk Published in the Boone County Journal March 26 April 02

STATE OF ILLINOIS CIRCUIT COURT BOONE COUNTY PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT) Case No. 21-MR-34 REQUEST OF: ROBIN ANN CARROLL to change my name from:

ROBIN ANN CARROLL; to the new name of: ROBIN ANN THOMPSON. The court date will be held: on April 20, 2021, at 9:15a.m., at 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL Boone County in Courtroom #3 Published in the Boone County Journal 03/26, 04/02, 09

LeRoy Township Annual Town Meeting

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of the Township of Leroy in the County of Boone and State of Illinois, that the 2020 Annual Town Meeting of LeRoy Township will take place on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 7:00 pm at the LeRoy Township Town Hall located at 9743 Blaine Road, Capron, IL 61012. The 2021 Annual Town Meeting of LeRoy Township will also take place on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 7:30 pm at the LeRoy Township Town Hall located at 9743 Blaine Road, Capron, IL 61012. These meetings are held for the transactions of the miscellaneous business of LeRoy Township; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting.

Dated March 25, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Murray, Town Clerk Published in The Boone County Journal March 26, 2021

Equity Continued from page 1

said during the ceremony.

Also included in the package was Senate Bill 1608, which raises the goal for state contracting with minority-owned businesses to 30 percent, instead of 20 percent. It also establishes a new Commission on Equity and Inclusion within the Department of Central Management Services, to monitor and make recommendations for enforcing diversity requirements in state contracting.

While the state agencies has frequently touted the number of vendors it has awarded certification, it has struggled to meet its obligation to create a fair atmosphere for certified vendors to fairly participate after a contract is awarded," said Charles Harrell, president and CEO of the Information Technology Architect Corp.

The new law also creates the Illinois Community Reinvestment Act, which sets new standards for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to examine low- and moderate-income lending by state-chartered banks, credit unions and

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

indoor dog pool business in said County and State under the name of K-9 Splashtastic at the following post office address: 910 North 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: Justin McMillan, 329 west Perry Street, Belvidere, IL 61008; Stacy Fiebelkorn, 910 North State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #847-338-8922.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 8th day of March, A.D. 2021

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk Published in Boone County Journal March 12, 19, 26

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a Car Performance/Car Repair Shop business in said County and State under the name of Roewer's Speedshop at the following post office address: 9184 Beaver Valley Rd., 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: Matthew Roewer, 9184 Beaver Valley Rd., Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-904-9690. Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 24th day of

February, A.D. 2021

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Giselle Lenover, Deputy
Published in Boone County Journal March 19, 26 April 02

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a Online Boutique business in said County and State under the name of Once Upon a Bowtique at the following post office address: 7852 Moore Hill Court, 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: Megan Nickles, 7852 Moore Hill Court Palvider II 61008 Hill Court, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 16th day of

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Giselle Lenover, Deputy
Published in the Boone County Journal March 19, 26 April 02

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE
This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a Pizza business in said County and State under the name of Sam's Pizza at the following post office address: 138 North 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: Josephine Alfanso, 138 North State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008. Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 16th day of

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk
Giselle Lenover, Deputy
Published in the Boone County Journal March 19, 26 April 02

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a Rental Property business in said County and State under the name of Surf Song Resort Townhouse Unit # 343 at the following post office address: 902 Taylor Ridge, 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: Osama Badran & Suhaila Badran, 902 Taylor Ridge, Belvidere, IL 61008.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 16th day of March, A.D. 2021

Julie A Bliss County Clerk

Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk

Published in the Boone County Journal March 19, 26 April 02

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a roofing business in said County and State under the name of 3 Eagle Roofing at the following post office address: 7541 Lawrenceville Road, Garden Prairie, IL 61038 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: Juan Almanza, 7541 Lawrenceville Road, Garden Prairie, IL 61038; phone #224-402-1970.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 17th day of

March, A.D. 2021 Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk Published in Boone County Journal March 19, 26, April 2

non-bank mortgage lenders.

Another bill that was part of the package was Senate Bill 1792, which, among other things, caps the effective interest rate lenders can charge on pay

day loans and other small-dollar consumer loans at 36 percent, the same limit that applies under federal law to loans made to active duty service members. "Over the years, the Black community and low-

income communities have endured patterns of discrimination in housing, education, health care and economic opportunity and access," said Sen. Jacqueline Collins, D-Chicago, a cosponsor of that bill. "There is no better example of systemic racism than that practice by some in the lending industry. Predatory loans have been responsible for worsening the racial wealth gap."

The final bill in the package was Senate Bill 1980, which prohibits public housing authorities from considering a person's criminal history when deciding whether to rent or lease a housing unit to an applicant, unless it's required by federal law.

"Everyone deserves a place to lay their head at night without the shame of their past following them," Josephine Horace-Jackson, a member of the Restoring Rights and Opportunities Coalition of Illinois, said in a statement distributed by the governor's office. "Increasing access to public housing is a vital step in ending homelessness and ensuring formerly incarcerated individuals have a fair opportunity for a better future."

State High Court Rules Against Woman Seeking to Withdraw Guilty Plea

Trial judges do not need to state repercussions of guilty plea in all cases, court finds

by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois criminal code does not require a trial judge to inform a person who enters a guilty plea that the plea could affect his or their employment if the plea wasn't made during the initial court hearing, the Illinois Supreme Court decided on Thursday.

In a 17-page opinion, a unanimous Supreme Court ruled against allowing Chaleah Burge, a certified nursing assistant who pleaded guilty in 2017 to stealing \$280 from her home health client, from withdrawing her guilty plea.

Burge argued she should be allowed to withdraw her guilty plea because the trial court judge didn't inform her that her plea and criminal conviction could result in her losing her job.

Burge's argument focused on a section of the Illinois Criminal Code of Procedure, section 113-4(c), which does not specifically mention arraignment.

This section requires the court to inform a person charged with a crime that a plea of guilty may impact that person's ability to, among other things, "retain or obtain employment."

Burge argued that the trial judge failed, as required by the Code, to inform her of the collateral consequences of a theft conviction, specifically her ability to obtain and retain employment.

When the trial judge accepted Burge's plea at a hearing after arraignment, he advised her of the nature of the crime, minimum and maximum sentence and the constitutional rights she forfeited by entering a guilty plea. His advisements to Burge followed Supreme Court Rule 402(a), not section 113-4(c) of the Code.

The Illinois Supreme Court rejected Burge's argument that section 113-4(c) requires the trial judge to advise a person charged with a crime of the various consequences at all times when the person pleads guilty, not just at arraignment.

The justices found that section 113-4(c) should be read within the four other subsections of section 113-4, specifically section 113-4(a), which states the subsection applies to guilty pleas at arraignment.

The justices also pointed to section 113-4(e) of the Code that makes specific reference to the trial judge advising a person charged with a crime "at that time or at any later court date."

"Unlike subsection (e), where the legislature included an additional reference to 'any later court date,' subsection (c), like subsections (b) and (d), contains no such qualifying language giving it broad application beyond arraignment. Thus, without express language providing broader application, we can properly assume that the legislature intended for the provision to be limited to only arraignment," the Illinois Supreme Court opinion states.

They also noted that if they interpreted section 113-4(c) as Burge suggested, then they would render "superfluous" section 115-2(a) of the Criminal Code — which governs the acceptance of pleas of guilty before and during trial.

"Thus, if the admonishment contained in section 113-4(c) also applied to every plea of guilty besides only at arraignment, then there would be no need for section 115-2(a), provided that the first subsection of section 113-4(c) is essentially identical to section 115-2(a)," according to the opinion. "(W)e find it clear that the five subsections logically flow together to create a simple, comprehensive procedural guide regarding pleas (or lack thereof) made at arraignment."

New Report Examines Attitudes Towards Education as Pandemic Continues

Poll shows virtual learning impacts teachers, students alike

by Grace Barbic Capitol News Illinois

In our 25th year publishing

The Illinois Education Association, one of the largest teacher unions in the state, on Tuesday released its third annual state of education report examining attitudes towards public education in Illinois.

The poll, conducted by Normington Petts and Next Generation Strategies, surveyed 1,000 different Illinois adults of varying backgrounds and regions of the state by phone or online.

One of the main takeaways from the poll, according to IEA, was that nearly 8 in 10 adults believe the COVID-19 pandemic has made teaching and learning more difficult.

Specifically, the poll asked, "Thinking about public school teachers in Illinois over the last year or so during the pandemic, do you think that teaching during the coronavirus pandemic has been much easier, somewhat easier, somewhat harder, or much harder for teachers?"

According to the poll, 55 percent responded "much harder," 24 percent responded "somewhat harder," 11 percent responded "somewhat easier" and 8 percent said "much easier."

When it comes to the biggest impact of the pandemic on students, 44 percent said virtual learning challenges are the leading concern, while 29 percent said it's the lack of socialization.

IEA President Kathi Griffin said virtual learning has also had an impact on teachers, who are now expected to teach students both in-person and virtually at the same time.

"You have teachers who are working these extremely long days, developing lessons on multiple platforms, assessing their work, communicating with parents and trying to take care of their own health and that of their family," Griffin said. "That is what is so stressful."

Griffin said there are other cases where students are sleeping in and joining virtual class

late or parents are going on vacation because of the ability for students to work remotely.

"We want to make sure that our students are present, that they are going to participate, and that our families are supportive, and I know they're working so hard," Griffin said. "This is not easy for anybody, but we need to recognize the double duty that our teachers are doing right now."

In some cases, Griffin said teachers are working 10 to 12 hour days teaching and preparing hybrid lessons. Griffin warned of the potential of pandemic-related burnout worsening the increasing educator shortage in the state.

One-third of IEA members who were polled in October stated that they were considering leaving the profession, while two-thirds said they felt "more burned out than normal this year," according to the report.

Of the 1,000 Illinois residents participating in the poll, 60 percent said they worry that educators leaving the profession will lead to lower student performance.

The poll found that 43 percent of adults believe health and safety are the most important issues to address as schools begin to return to normalcy. Getting students caught up, 22 percent of adults said, is the second leading concern.

As a result of the pandemic, the IEA and the Illinois Federation of Teachers will be introducing legislation to: establish clear metrics for districts to know when it's safe to be in-person; enforce COVID-19 guidance and requirements in schools; provide rapid COVID-19 testing in schools; and provide protections so teachers won't be forced to work while they're sick.

The poll stated each of those principles without mentioning any legislation specifically, then asked if the respondents strongly favor, somewhat favor, strongly oppose or somewhat oppose the principles. Per the results, 43 percent said strongly favor, 36 percent said somewhat favor, 10 percent said somewhat oppose, and 7 percent said strongly oppose. Five percent did not know.

Asked if funding for schools should "increase, decrease or stay about the same," 64 percent said it should increase, 9 percent said decrease, 25 percent said stay the same. Two percent responded "don't know."

Griffin said it will be important to continue

Continued on Page 8

Boone County License & Title Stickers - Titles - Plates We Are OPEN

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Postcard Bill from the Secretary of State
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Do you have a Car or Truck that you don't want? Would you like to Donate to a Worthy Cause?

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https://careasy.org/nonprofit/empower-boone-inc

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The proceeds go to the local Food Pantry
Empower Boone in Capron IL

Education

funding the state's evidence-based school funding formula, which became law in 2017. That law changed the way school districts receive the bulk of state funds, calling for \$350 million in new funding to be added to the K-12 formula each year to be directed at the state's neediest districts based on a number of factors.

But last year, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the state passed a budget including no new funding for schools, while Gov. JB Pritzker's budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year would keep K-12 education funding flat for the second consecutive year.

"We need to make sure that we continue that funding," Griffin said. "Last year that funding was stagnant...but it should be increasing every single year. We need to continue to work and make that happen so that we don't fall behind, because if we fall behind, who we are falling behind on are the kids, and we cannot do that."

Although respondents shared concerns about health and safety in returning to school, as well as the lingering educator shortage, Griffin said "we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel."

"But what we need to make sure that we do is support our teachers the best we can, realize that things are going to be different this year, and move forward," she said.

OMMUNITY NEWS & FVENTS

Drive Thru Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser Flora Grange's Drive Thru Roast Beef Dinner is Sunday, April 11th, 11:00am to 1:30pm at Flora Grange Hall, 2105 Stone Quarry Rd, 3 miles south of Chrysler (Appleton Rd).

Dinners include tender roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, roll & butter. joy for only \$12/plate. And only \$6/plate for children 8 & under.

Preorder by 5:00pm, Friday, April 9th.

To order call one of the following numbers: 815-543-2721, 630-605-6538 or 815-222-6173, or check out the Facebook Page 'Flora Grange #1762' for more information. Cash or check only when you pick up. The dinners will be brought to you in your car.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY CASA Program to Host Heritage Run: Rockford's oldest 10k is back for the 37th year! Winnebago County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program will host the Heritage Run on Sunday, April 25, 2021 at Midway Village. To comply with Covid safety procedures, rolling starts will begin at 7:30 a.m. and there will be no registration on race day. Everyone who registers by April 18th will receive a commemorative race shirt.

For further information, or to register, please contact the CASA office at 815-319-6880 or visit WinnebagoCountyCASA.org.

Continued page 7 Pritzker Vaccinated as **Positivity Rate Rises**

Governor received one-dose shot in Springfield

by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker received a COVID-19 vaccine and briefly took questions from reporters at the Illinois State Fairgrounds on Wednesday as the state's seven-day rolling average COVID-19 positivity rate ticked up to its highest point since Feb. 11.

The 2.8 percent case positivity rate represented an increase of 0.3 percent from the day prior and 0.7 percent from its low of 11 days earlier – a 25 percent increase in that span. There were 1,261 hospital beds in use for COVID-19 as of Tuesday night, roughly level from the day prior but a 14 percent increase since March 12. There were 269 intensive care unit beds in use by COVID-19 patients and 130 ventilators, both near their highs of the month.

The 2,793 new confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 diagnosed over the previous 24 hours marked the highest one-day total since Feb. 11. That made for a 3.5 percent one-day positivity rate as 79,381 test results were reported.

Pritzker received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, a one-dose shot that is being more widely distributed across the state, he

As of Wednesday, more than 5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been administered in Illinois, while 66 percent of seniors and 32 percent of Illinoisans 16 years of age and older had received at least one dose. The seven-day rolling average for vaccine doses administered was 97,680 as of Wednesday.

The state is scheduled to expand vaccine eligibility to all residents age 16 and over on April 12. Appointment information can be found at coronavirus.illinois.gov or by calling 833-621-1284.

"Look, I'm not a doctor, but I trust doctors. And thanks to the great work of our doctors, researchers, and public health scientists, these vaccines offer us all the fastest way back to normal life," Pritzker said, telling the public "I'm not asking you to do anything that I wouldn't do myself," before receiving his vaccine.

Last week, Pritzker announced a "bridge" phase between the current COVID-19 capacity limits and Phase 5, in which all capacity limits are lifted. The bridge phase can begin when 70 percent of seniors are vaccinated, provided COVID-19 transmission and death trends do not reverse.

Per the bridge phase, the largest capacity increase is to social events, which can allow 250 people indoors and 500 outdoors. Previously, those were capped at 50 people. Ticketed recreation events are allowed to hold 60 percent of the facility's capacity.

Restaurants and bars can increase capacity from 25 percent to 30 percent, and outdoor capacity is allowed up to 50 percent for standing areas. In seating areas, parties of up to 10 are allowed and different parties must be seated six feet apart.

Most other capacities at businesses would increase to 60 percent.

Per a news release from the governor's office, to advance into the bridge phase, the entire state must maintain a 20 percent ICU bed availability rate and "hold steady on COVID-19 and COVIDlike illness hospital admissions, mortality rate, and case rate over a 28-day monitoring period."

A spokesperson for the governor's office said the Illinois Department of Public Health website was being updated Wednesday to better

demonstrate where the state stands on the metrics that could disqualify it from entering the bridge

On Wednesday morning the website showed hospitalizations were trending upward, but it did not appear that the state was meeting the 150 new daily admissions threshold that would warrant a reversal of entering the bridge phase. A spokesperson for the Illinois Department of Public Health told Capitol News Illinois they were checking on the public reporting of new hospital admissions as of Wednesday afternoon.

While the governor's office said in a news release that announced the bridge phase that "all regions of the state will move through the bridge phase and ultimately to Phase 5, together," the governor said Wednesday regions may revert back to previous phases individually if they see a surge.

"Right now we're on course, we're still following the guidance that we've set out for everybody," he said. "If for some reason we need to halt and move some region back into a previous phase because the numbers are going way up and beyond the guidelines that we set out for those phases, then you know we'll have to do that but that's not where we are now."

The governor said he is keeping an eye on the increasing positivity rate, particularly as new variants continue to become more prevalent as the virus mutates.

"I don't expect us to get there," he said of needing to impose regional restrictions, "but also I've been to this movie before, and seeing, you know, the rising positivity rates. And I'm concerned about it. We've got to be careful about the variants, and I am concerned, I must tell you, as I see numbers go up. Is that the variants? Is it a blip in the data? What is it exactly?"

Pritzker said the state will "keep watching closely." As of Wednesday, the IDPH website reported the state had identified 176 cases of variant COVID-19 strains, 167 of which were the mutation first recognized in the United Kingdom.

Pritzker warned that mitigation measures are still be necessary, especially as numbers climb and activity increases.

"But I can tell you, there is more activity going on and I think people maybe are being a little less careful, and I want to remind everybody, please keep your distance, please continue to wear your mask, please be respectful of others," he said.

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