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July 4, 1912: Knights of the Pythias

By David Larson

In a prior story about the old fairgrounds grandstand, the changed outlook in Boone County after the Civil War to a stronger sense of the state as a moral institution was observed. The Union had survived the challenge by the slave states, and the country needed to come together again. July 4, 1912 in Belvidere further reflects that change. It is in that spirit that the Knights of Pythias was formed.

In response to the loss of the soul of the nation, a club was formed in 1864 that grew rapidly. It was based on the moralism in the ancient story of Damon and Pythias.

While others stood by, Damon singularly opposed the rule of the King of Syracuse because the King gained the throne through fraud. The Syracuse King then condemned Damon to death for his opposition. Pythias, a friend of Damon, asked that the King grant Damon a stay of execution, allowing him to say goodbye to his wife and child. He volunteered to face execution if Damon did not return. Each was willing to die to save the other's life. Loyalty to each other and the outcome of this noble friendship form the philosophical basis for the Order of Pythias.

The Belvidere Daily Republican's publisher, Frank T Moran became a member of the Order, as did Omar H. Wright, Charles T. Sewell, Frank Rhinehart, and other prominent Boone County residents. The *Belvidere Daily Republican* published the criteria for becoming a member. Membership was open to males over the age of 18 who would take the following oath:

I declare upon honor that I believe in a Supreme Being, that I am not a professional gambler, or unlawfully engaged in the wholesale or retail sale of intoxicating liquors or narcotics, and that I believe in the maintenance of the order and the upholding of constituted authority in the government in which I live. Moreover, I declare upon honor that I am not a Communist or Fascist; that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any organization that advocates the overthrow of the Government of the Country of which I am a Citizen, by force or violence or other unlawful means; and that I do not seek by force or violence to deny to other persons their rights under the laws of such country.

In a list of local members by 1912, it appears that bankers, lawyers, merchants, and over 50 other members had joined Belvidere Company No.135 Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias. That year, it was said that Belvidere had the largest Independence Day celebration in Northern Illinois. In the picture above is the parade as it passed through downtown Belvidere on South State Street. The celebration's theme was to do

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Knights of Pythias marching with banner in the 1912 4th of July parade.

Battery Manufacturing Plant Coming to Illinois – With \$530M Incentive Deal

Lithium-ion plant in Manteno part of state's ongoing effort to court electric vehicle manufacturing

By Andrew Adams Capitol News Illinois

A new battery manufacturing plant is set to open in northern Illinois next year after the state offered more than \$330 million in tax incentives to make it happen.

Gotion, a Chinese battery manufacturing and development company, announced on Friday that it will build a lithium-ion battery manufacturing facility in Manteno, about 50 miles south of Chicago.

The roughly \$2 billion project is set to create 2,600 jobs and begin production in 2024. The plant will produce battery cells, battery packs like the kinds used in electric vehicles and large-scale energy storage systems.

Gov. JB Pritzker on Tuesday called the development "the most significant new manufacturing investment in Illinois in decades."

In total, the state and local governments offered Gotion more than \$536 million in incentives and tax breaks, according to Pritzker's office.

The company is the fifth to make a deal with the state under the two-year-old Reimagining Energy and Vehicles, or REV, program. Under the deal finalized on Thursday, the state will provide \$213 million in tax credits to the company over the next 30 years – nearly nine times more than the previous four deals combined. Gotion's

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State Looks to Curb Vehicle Theft With Grants to Police Task Forces

Secretary of state's office allocated \$21 million to six agencies this spring

By Jerry Nowicki Capitol news Illinois

Six interagency law enforcement task forces received grant funding this spring to combat car thefts through an initiative of Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias' office.

Giannoulias was in Belleville Tuesday to promote the initiative and highlight a \$2.5 million grant to the Metro East Auto Theft Task Force, which brings together law enforcement agencies from Madison, Monroe and St. Clair counties.

"In 2022, a motor vehicle was stolen every single minute in the United States," Giannoulias said Tuesday. "Unfortunately, in Illinois, we have not been immune to the effects of auto theft. In fact, right here in (the) Metro East, over 1,300 automobiles were stolen last year alone."

The Metro East task force was relaunched in 2019 after its state funding was cut in 2014 in the lead-up to a two-year state budget impasse that led to drastic cuts across state government. The task force, based out of the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, has since received annual funding from the secretary of state's office.

The grants were allocated by the Illinois Vehicle Hijacking and Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Insurance Verification Council. Lawmakers in Springfield created the group in 1991 under the authority of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. According to the council's website, between 1991 and 2014, the annual number of motor vehicle thefts in Illinois

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Dying and Disabled Illinois Prisoners Kept Behind Bars, Despite New Medical Release Law

The Joe Coleman Medical Release Act was expected to have freed hundreds of terminally ill and medically incapacitated prisoners in Illinois by now. But only a few dozen have been released, an investigation from Injustice Watch and WBEZ reveals.

By Carlos Ballesteros (Injustice Watch), Shannon Heffernan (WBEZ), and Amy Qin (WBEZ)

This article was produced by WBEZ, Chicago's NPR news station, and Injustice Watch, a nonprofit news organization in Chicago focused on issues of equity and justice in the court system.

Phillip Merritt's dementia is so advanced he's lost the ability to speak. But with the help of his cellmates at Western Illinois Correctional Center, the 71-year-old still manages to get on the phone with his brother

every few weeks.

"He has to have someone call me, and then I don't know what to say to him because he can't understand anything, so I'll just talk," said Merritt's brother, Michael Merritt, in an interview. "All he can say are two words. ... I mean, he's just gone."

Merritt's deteriorating condition makes him a prime candidate to get out of prison under the Joe Coleman Medical Release Act, a pivotal criminal justice reform bill touted by Gov. JB Pritzker and Illinois Democrats as an effective way to alleviate the state's decrepit prison health care system, reduce the "staggering" costs of caring for ailing people in prison, and reunite families with frail loved ones.

Under the act — named after a decorated Army veteran who died of prostate cancer while incarcerated — Illinois prisoners can request early release if they're terminally ill and expected to die within 18 months or if they're medically incapacitated and need help with more than one activity of daily living, such as eating or using the bathroom.

But a year-and-a-half since the Coleman Act went into effect, an investigation by Injustice Watch and WBEZ found far fewer prisoners have been released under the law than expected, as the medical release process has become mired in the charged politics of criminal justice reform in the post-George Floyd era.

Behind the lower-than-expected numbers is the Prisoner Review Board, a state body appointed by Pritzker and confirmed by the Illinois Senate with final say on medical release requests.

As of mid-August, the board had denied nearly two-thirds of medical release requests from dying and disabled prisoners who met the medical criteria to get out of prison under the Coleman Act — including Merritt.

"I couldn't believe it," his brother said. "How could they deny him? He can't even talk!"

More than half of the 94 denied applicants were older than age 60, and half had spent at least 15 years behind bars, according to an analysis of state prison data. At least two died in prison, including an 81-year-old who had been incarcerated for more than three decades and was scheduled to be released in 2025. Another man died five days before the board denied his request.

Meanwhile, the Prisoner Review Board has only granted 52 medical releases — a rate of fewer than three releases per month on average since board members began voting on those requests, records show.

Advocates say the board is undermining the Coleman Act and forcing ill-equipped prison staff to care for dying and disabled prisoners, even those with families practically begging to take them off their hands.

"Our prison system is now completely overburdened by people who pose absolutely no risk to public safety but are tremendously expensive to care for," said Jennifer Soble, lead author of the Coleman Act and executive director of the Illinois Prison Project, a nonprofit legal group that represents dozens of medical release applicants.

"From a cost-saving perspective, from a government-efficiency perspective, and truly from a moral perspective, we need to be doing something differently here," she said.

Donald Shelton, chair of the Prisoner Review Board, declined an interview request, but he defended the board's record on medical release requests in an email sent through a spokesperson.

"Each case that comes before the board comes with its own set of circumstances to be studied and evaluated by members," he wrote. "Due diligence is given by the board to every person who sets a petition before them."

More medical releases could save taxpayers millions

It's unclear exactly how many of Illinois' nearly 30,000 prisoners could qualify for medical release. Under the Coleman Act, the Illinois Department of Corrections is required to keep track of that number, but department officials said they don't have it yet. A department spokesperson said the data would be

published by year's end.

What is clear, from years of scathing reports from an independent monitor appointed by a federal judge, is Illinois prisons are unfit to provide health care for the thousands of aging, disabled and incapacitated prisoners.

Half of the state's prison medical staff jobs are currently vacant. Prisoners with mobility issues suffer bed sores and frequent falls because no one is around to care for them. Some are even left sitting in their own waste, according to the monitor's reports.

"Prescriptions go unrefilled, cancers go undiagnosed. In the worst cases, as everyone here knows, people die painful deaths because of the lack of care," attorney Camille Bennett with the ACLU of Illinois said at a recent hearing on health care in state prisons.

Even this substandard care is expensive. Illinois


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OBITUARIES

- Gail Boneschans, 80, Poplar Grove, September 2
- Geronimo Cruz Castaneda, 70, Harvard, Sept. 4
- Betty Dzik, 86, Belvidere, September 3
- Donna Effler, 68, Belvidere, September 5
- Robert "Bob" Fay Sr., 82, Belvidere, Sept. 5
- Pamela Gustafson, 75, Belvidere, September 7
- Christine Leonard, 61, Harvard, September 3
- Christiano Morales, 6, Belvidere, September 2
- Alva Page, 75, Capron, September 5
- Arnold Phelps Jr., 72, Capron, September 10
- Walter "Wally" Reese, 81, Capron, September 10
- Jon Seymour, 60, Belvidere, September 10

- Bill Richardson, 75, Chatham, MA, September 1
- William B. Black, 81, Danville, IL. September 9
- Bob Barker, 99, Los Angeles, August 26
- Jimmy Buffett, 76, Sag Harbor, NY, September 1



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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.

Letters. Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.

Guest columns. Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.

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Bill Black Was a Hell-of-a Guy

By Scott Reeder

Bill Black was a lawmaker who alternated between being outraged and outrageous.

The former Danville high school history teacher died Sept. 9. He was one of my favorite people in the Illinois General Assembly.

Humor was a big part of how Black legislated.

When he sponsored the legislation that ultimately outlawed bestiality he told me: "I'm from farm country. I've heard all the jokes: 'Honest, officer I was just trying to help the sheep over the fence.' But until recently, I didn't know that this stuff actually goes on. But I've seen police reports that show that dogs and cats have died while having sex with humans."

He later added, "I think it is the type of behavior that would be very hard for someone to say, 'What I do in the privacy of my own pasture is only my business.'"

Another time during a House debate on a bill to allow alcohol to be served for formal events in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, he suggested that men would be staggering back into the replica of the Lincoln log cabin to urinate.

Former state Rep. Tom Ryder, who now lives in Springfield, said Black was his guiding star.

"I got there in August of '83. Bill came a few years later. We matured through the General Assembly together. He eventually became the floor spokesman. His responsibility was to tell (Republican members) on the floor about each and every bill, ask questions where appropriate and sometimes to slow down the process to keep things from moving along.

"He loved to give speeches. Sometimes they were fiery and sometimes they were eloquent. But he always knew what he was doing -- even in his worst moments -- like when he threw a Kleenex box at the speaker, which by the way didn't go more than about two rows. He had the worst pitching arm in the General Assembly."

Despite being of different political parties and having had a Kleenex box hurled at him, Black maintained a friendship with longtime House Speaker Michael Madigan.

"I can say pretty safely that of all the folks on the Republican side with whom I've served, Bill Black was the only one who was welcomed into Mike Madigan's office whenever he wanted to talk to him," Ryder recalled.

In the hyper-partisan environment of

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Bill Black

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Springfield, such friendships are becoming increasingly rare. And Black paid a political price for breaking with his party on a significant bill.

In 2010, House Republican Leader Tom Cross, demoted Black from his leadership position after Black voted for a Democratic-backed pension borrowing measure.

It was not only the ultimate slap in the face that a leader could give a subordinate. It also was a significant cut in pay.

Black was no fool. He knew the consequences of voting against his party's leadership. But he considered his boss to be the voters of east-central Illinois, not some caucus leader in a fancy statehouse office.

"Sometimes he'd get mad and he'd say, 'I'm done with this and head back for Danville and we have to talk him out of it,' Ryder recalled. "But he was my rock. He was my North Star. I did appropriations for over a decade, which meant I was off the floor (during debates) a lot.

"And occasionally they'd call us back to the floor on a particular vote. I always looked to see how Bill Black was voting because I knew he knew the issues. And most of the time, if Bill was voting that way, that's the way my vote should be as well. There were a few occasions in which he said to me, 'I gotta be this way, but you should be the other way.'"

In an environment where politicians are often obsessed with position, Black was ambivalent.

After serving 25 years in the House, he returned to Danville where he again held elective office, first as an alderman and later as a Danville Area Community College Trustee.

Neither was as prestigious as serving in the legislature from which he resigned. But Black valued service more than status.

Former Gov. Jim Edgar added, "We all have egos in this business. But he had his under control. He liked to be in the middle of things, but

he always wanted to get something done. There are some people who like power for power's sake. There are others who like power to be able to get things done. And he liked to get things done."

Edgar added that the political process is producing fewer politicians like Black today.

"I think today we've got a lot of legislators who would just rather be right in their own minds than to get things done for their district. Bill had strong opinions and he'd voice them. But at the end of the day, he knew he had to work with other people if he was going to get anything for his people. Unfortunately, that is not as abundant in Springfield as it used to be."

Scott Reeder, a staff writer for Illinois Times, can be reached at sreeder@illinoistimes.com.

OP-ED

It Depends on if You Can Figure it Out

By Bob Evans Rockford University

The headlines regularly proclaim "Bidenomics". The term and the policy are debated vigorously. The debate is so vigorous because of the controversy over the concept. The problem with Bidenomics is that it is in fact a chameleon. Its appearance, and therefore its meaning, depends on the background against which it is perceived.

Democrats want us to see only expenditures focused on infrastructure, the environment, and industrial expansion. These vital expenditures are to be funded through benign taxes on big business and the wealthy, augmented by selective taxes on imports- tariffs-designed to protect the jobs of American workers. Bidenomics should be viewed as beneficent and beneficial.

The problem is that, according to the polls, a majority of Americans perceive Bidenomics differently. They view Bidenomics against a background of grinding inflation and looming recession. Conditions cast the policy in a harsh light.

The chameleon takes on a much darker hue. In spite of objectively encouraging current economic statistics polls reveal that Bidenomics does not reassure Americans. Thus as we approach an election year Democrats are,

and should be, apprehensive. Needless to say, Republicans bend every effort to paint Bidenomics in the darkest possible colors

Slashing the government's credit rating, as was done recently, only enhanced the public's darker view of Bidenomics.

What, then, will be the true or final hue exuded by the Bidenomics chameleon? Unsurprisingly, an economist would respond that "It depends". Timing is, as it is in most matters, everything.

The Biden Administration expended extraordinary sums on projects that have not yet yielded most of their projected benefits. The spending was front loaded, so it tended to generate price increases that were felt immediately. In addition, many of our fellow citizens are still traumatized by the pandemic, and thus apprehensive of the perceived threat of unemployment. Thus these Americans tend to see only the darker hues of the Bidenomics chameleon.

We, along with the President, are literally in a race against time. How will we perceive the colors of the chameleon by November, 2024?

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Parade

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something different. The community chose to not have fireworks, as is the tradition. Instead, the event was focused on music. The money that would have been spent on fireworks was directed to bringing in as many bands and musical events as was possible.

Twenty other Companies of the Uniform Rank Knights of Pythias were invited to provide entertainment by doing military drills in the parade. Seven Companies of the Third Regiment, Illinois National Guard from Aurora, Rockford, Elgin, DeKalb, and Woodstock marched alongside them. The entire Calvary Division from Fort Sheridan (who were in camp at Sparta, Wisconsin for the summer) were also invited.

Among the day's bands were the Belvidere Band with 25 members, Third Regiment Military Band of DeKalb with 35 members, the Oliver Typewriter Band of Woodstock with 40 members, and the Kirkland Band with 20 members. Each band marched in the parade, separated by the military units and attempted to outdo the other. The music consisted of grand marches in the style of John Philip Sousa. With only a quick glance at the photograph, one can almost hear the oom-pah-pah of the tuba, the rat-a-tat-tat of the snare drum, and the shrill trumpet, intoning a vigorously inspired John Philip Sousa marching melody. Sousa was known later as "The March King," and some even today might remember being told by their grandparents that such music was a reason why the event was so popular generations ago.

Because the county and the city are located so far north, there were few reports of brothers fighting brothers from Belvidere or Boone County during the war. That occurred with far greater frequency in the hills of Tennessee and Kentucky. For many of those boys that soon would become men, going off to the war was a grand adventure that they could not experience in any way except to take up arms.

Vicksburg, Kennesaw Mountain, and Richmond, famous for Sherman's March, are memorable sites where Boone County men are known to have fought. Those marching on that cloudy day were most likely veterans of the Civil War and marched under the Boone County Banner.

The photographer likely was positioned with his view camera on top of the building at South State Street and Logan Avenue that for many years housed a hardware store. The view is looking down the street from south to north and, in the distance, the State Street Bridge over the Kishwaukee River.

Throughout the city, platforms were built for

dancing to music by post-parade impromptu musicians who entertained the local and visiting crowd. Special trains had been scheduled from DeKalb, Woodstock, Chicago, and other origins to provide adequate transportation. The visitor numbers grew to a point where it became difficult to provide overnight accommodation for everyone, and efforts were made to improvise.

The 1912 Independence Day celebration was billed as the largest the city had seen since the exhibition at the Derthick Opera House, which began with great numbers in attendance to watch "Professor Ragby" perform. The Derthick Opera House was located where the Apollo Theatre is today, and was of equal size with a shear wall on rivers edge. The Professor was a big draw for the Independence Day crowd. He climbed to the roof of the Derthick Opera House and in a majestic thrust, made a swan dive to his death in the

Battery

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agreement is contingent on a minimum investment of \$1.9 billion among other stipulations.

Gotion is also set to receive \$125 million for capital funds from a \$400 million pot of money overseen by Pritzker's office that is sometimes referred to as a "closing fund." This discretionary fund was approved by lawmakers for the current budget year, giving Pritzker the authority to offer businesses incentives to relocate to Illinois beyond those offered in other state programs.

A Pritzker spokesperson said the negotiations between the state and Gotion started approximately 2 years ago.

The company also worked out a deal with Kankakee County to cap the taxes paid on the approximately 150-acre property at \$2 million per year for the next 30 years, according to Kankakee County Board Chair Andrew Wheeler.

The chairman of Gotion's parent company in a statement on Friday said that the group was drawn to Illinois because of "an enabling business environment" and "a supportive state government."

The company produces lithium iron phosphate cells for groups like Volkswagen. The German automotive manufacturer is the largest single shareholder in Gotion's parent company, Gotion High-tech, and the two companies share a strategic framework for developing battery cells, according to Volkswagen's 2022 annual report.

Gotion is also in the process of setting up a plant in Michigan. This has sparked controversy from Republicans in that state, who cite concerns about the company's Chinese ownership.

Illinois Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, used Friday's announcement ceremony to advertise Illinois to other companies looking to select locations for new developments, declaring that "Illinois is open for business."

"We are a leader in the Midwest of clean energy job creation, putting us on the forefront of a rapidly expanding industry," Harmon said.

Another player in the deal announced Friday was Intersect Illinois, a public-private partnership set up by former-Gov. Bruce Rauner to attract businesses to Illinois. The group's CEO, Dan Seals, said his organization helped Gotion with site selection for its Manteno project.

"This is the biggest project I've seen in my years of economic development," he told Capitol News Illinois. "It's a big deal for the electric vehicle industry, it's a big deal for Manteno, it's a big deal for Illinois."

Seals said the Manteno project's central

location in the U.S. is a key selling point for EV companies.

"Batteries have strategic value to the electric vehicle industry," Seals said. "Batteries are heavy. Auto manufacturers don't want to be too far and have to ship them."

Earlier this summer, Canadian manufacturer Lion Electric opened a 900,000 square foot factory in Joliet. The plant will focus on building electric buses and trucks and the company says it will eventually have a production capacity of 20,000 vehicles per year.

But the state has also had some misses when it comes to battery manufacturing. U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, a Democrat from Springfield, told reporters in 2021 that there were talks with Samsung to bring a battery manufacturing plant to Bloomington-Normal.

But that plant, a partnership between Samsung and automotive company Stellantis, eventually went to central Indiana. Stellantis later "idled" its Jeep manufacturing plant in Belvidere, citing the rising costs of EV manufacturing as a contributing factor.

In addition to state efforts to court manufacturers, consumers in Illinois are increasingly turning to EVs and other battery-powered cars.

Since 2018, more than 186,000 EVs and hybrid vehicles have been licensed in Illinois, according to data from the secretary of state's office. There were about 80,000 fully electric cars on Illinois roads as of August 15, about eight times as many as there were at the same time in 2018.

The state of Illinois offers support on the consumer side of the EV equation as well. As part of the 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, the state gives \$4,000 tax rebates for EVs and \$1,500 on electric motorcycles.

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Theft

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dropped 70 percent from 75,214 to 22,854.

In March 2015, ex-Gov. Bruce Rauner issued an executive order freezing state grants for that fiscal year, which meant the council had no money to distribute.

Capt. Matt Jany of the Metro East task force said Tuesday when funding was cut, "everybody realized that there was actually a void and a need for this task force."

In 2018, lawmakers gave the secretary of state authority over the council, and the General Assembly began allocating funding again in 2019.

In May 2022, lawmakers expanded the council's scope to emphasize vehicular hijacking prevention, and the General Assembly allocated another \$30 million to supplement the fund's \$21 million balance as part of a broader election-year budget package aimed at addressing crime. Otherwise, the funding for the council's grants primarily comes from an annual \$1 assessment on car insurance policies.

The Metro East task force, Giannoulis said, recovered 547 stolen vehicles valued at over \$8 million between July 2022 and June 30.

"Grant funding provided by our office makes it possible for law enforcement officers to combine proven investigative techniques with specialized

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Theft

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technology to solve and prevent future vehicular crimes,” he said.

He said the Metro East task force has two vehicles equipped with license plate reader cameras to help locate stolen vehicles, and it uses drones to locate suspects who have fled on foot or vehicles that have been dumped in remote locations. Officers also track stolen vehicles through electronic systems and GPS data within cars, he said.

“There is no single solution,” Giannoulis said. “But it is crucial to ensure that law enforcement officials in the Metro East have the funding and tools they need to combat these crimes.”

Other departments have received funding as well, including the Expressway Safety Enforcement Group, which received \$10.2 million. It’s the first fiscal year in which funds for the enforcement group were approved through the council. A spokesperson for Giannoulis said the enforcement group was an initiative of the Illinois State Police.

In a March news release announcing the funding, ISP Director Brendan Kelly said the effort to patrol expressways “brings together the full force of patrol, investigations, license plate readers, air operations, and other assets.”

The Illinois Statewide Auto Theft Task Force received \$3.4 million. That unit was established in 2019 and is based out of the south Chicago suburb of Thornton. The task force has a heavy Secretary of State Police presence, giving it statewide authority, according to Giannoulis’ spokesperson Henry Haupt.

That unit recovered 1,400 stolen vehicles valued at \$33 million over the 12-month period ending in July, which marked an 84 percent increase from the previous year, according to

Haupt. The task force’s work led to 426 auto theft-related criminal charges over the same period.

Another \$1.8 million was allocated to the Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force, which is based in Joliet and focused mainly in Will, Kankakee and Grundy counties. It also covers Kendall County and recently expanded into Iroquois County. The unit was launched in the early 1990s but it also lost funding amid the budget impasse.

The Greater Peoria Auto Crimes Task Force received \$2.1 million, a new allocation for the fiscal year according to Giannoulis’ office. It is run through the Peoria Police Department in partnership with the SOS Police, which gives the unit statewide jurisdiction.

An SOS spokesperson said Peoria previously had a unit called the State and Local Auto Theft Enforcement Task Force, but it lost funding amid the budget impasse.

The Chicago Major Auto Theft Investigations, run through the Chicago Police Department, received \$1.5 million. Crime statistics from CPD show motor vehicle thefts in that city from January through mid-August are up 104 percent from one year ago. CPD has logged 19,062 motor vehicle thefts through Aug. 14, up from 9,346 over the same period in 2022.

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CHICAGO TO ROCKFORD

Join us for a Public Information Meeting!

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is hosting a series of meetings to introduce the Chicago to Rockford Intercity Passenger Rail Program to station communities. All meetings are an open-house style format with a repeated presentation, exhibit boards to view, and an opportunity to ask the project team questions. To learn more about the program, visit chicagotorockfordrail.org.

Belvidere: Thursday, September 14th from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Community Building Complex (111 W 1st St, Belvidere, IL 61008)

Huntley: Thursday, September 21st from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Huntley Park District (12015 Mill St, Huntley, IL 60142)

Rockford: Tuesday, September 26th from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Veterans Memorial Hall (211 N Main St, Rockford, IL 61101)

Elgin: Thursday, September 28th from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
The Centre of Elgin (100 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120)

**All venues are accessible and copies of the presentation will be available in English and Spanish.*

If you have any questions pertaining to the meeting accommodations, please contact Mary McIlvain at mmcilvain@morrealecomm.com.

CORNHOLE CONTEST

BINGO FRIDAY NIGHT

GAMES & PRIZES

CRAFT FAIR

VILLAGE OF CAPRON SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

September 16-17, 2023 | 305 E. North St, Capron, IL

FREE ENTRY

SESQUICENTENNIAL CAPRON 150 YEARS

LIVE MUSIC

SESQUICENTENNIAL CAPRON 150 YEARS

Village of Capron Sesquicentennial List of Events
September 16-17, 2023
305 E. North Street Capron, Illinois

Kickoff Event! **BINGO** **Kickoff Event!**
6:00pm-8:00pm First Come First Serve Cash Prizes!! Lion's Building

Saturday September 16th		
Time	Event	Location
9:00am	Parade	North, 3rd, Main, & 6th Streets
All Day	Carnival, Rock Wall & Mechanical Bull	Lion's Grounds
All Day	Food Trucks	Lion's Grounds
11:00am	Miss Capron Pageant	Lion's Pavilion
1:00pm-2:00pm	Kids Obstacle Course Contest	Lion's Grounds
2:00pm-4:00pm	Cornhole Contest	Lion's Baseball Diamond
3:00pm-10:00pm	Beer Garden by Stumble Inn	Lion's Grounds
7:00pm-10:00pm	Live Music: The Missing Links	Lion's Building

Sunday September 17th		
Time	Event	Location
All Day	Carnival, Rock Wall & Mechanical Bull	Lion's Grounds
All Day	Food Trucks	Lion's Grounds
All Day	Craft Fair	Lion's Building
NOON-1:00pm	Kids Obstacle Course Contest	Lion's Grounds
2:00pm-4:00pm	Cornhole Contest	Lion's Baseball Diamond
2:00pm-6:00pm	Beer Garden by Stumble Inn	Lion's Grounds

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS DISCOVER BANK Plaintiff -v- 2023 FC 8 KEVIN WHITE et al, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 15, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on October 2, 2023, 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 919 FREMONT ST, BELVIDERE, IL 61008 Property Index No. 05-36-176-016 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, 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.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-23-00749 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2023 FC 8 TJSC#: 43-3381

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 # 2023 FC 8 13228352

Published in The Boone County Journal: 9/7, 9/14, 9/21

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

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for BKPL-EG Holding Trust, PLAINTIFF, Vs. Case No. 2023FC52 Michael Shere; Oakbrook Woods Condominium Homeowner's Association; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: Michael Shere 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:

UNIT 3-4 IN OAKBROOK WOODS CONDOMINIUMS, AS DELINEATED ON A SURVEY OF CERTAIN LOTS OR PARTS THEREOF IN PLAT NO. 2 OF OAKBROOK WOODS, BEING A SUBDIVISION IN PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 43 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 2000R08142 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS; (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "PARCEL"), WHICH SURVEY IS ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "B" TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS DOCUMENT NO. 01R09747 AND RE-RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 01R10720 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME; TOGETHER WITH ITS UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS AS SET FORTH IN SAID DECLARATION AND SURVEY; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1680 Chrysler Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 and which said Mortgage was made by:

Michael Shere, the Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for Vision Mortgage Group, a Division of United Financial Mortgage Corp., and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of BOONE County, Illinois, as Document No. 2006R09800; modified 2019R06084; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that 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, Pamela Coduto

Boone County Circuit Clerk's Office 17th Judicial Circuit Court 601 N. Main Street Belvidere, Illinois 61008

on or before, October 2, 2023, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANYTIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

SOTTILE & BARILE, LLC 1415 West 22nd Street, Tower Floor Oak Brook, IL 60523 (312) 883-2810

Pleadings E-mail Address: illinois@sottileandbarile.com

NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector

13228239

Published In The Boone County Journal August 31, Sept 7, 14

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

In The Interest of: ANTHONY T. HARRIS, minor No. 22-JA-5

Anthony Harris, All Whom It May Concern ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on MARCH 07, 2022, 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 Anthony T. Harris, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 2:00/2:30 P.M. central daylight time on 10/19/23 and 11/16/23; 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: August 25, 2023 Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK Published in The Boone County Journal: 9/7, 9/14, 9/21 - 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, October 19, 2023, 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 13228649

Published in The Boone County Journal: 9/14, 9/21, 9/28

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ANNEXATION AGREEMENT BELVIDERE CITY COUNCIL BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS

On, October 2, 2023 at 6:00 P.M., a public hearing will be held by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Belvidere, in the City Council Chambers, 401 Whitney Boulevard, Belvidere, Illinois, for the purpose of considering and hearing testimony as to an ordinance authorizing an Annexation Agreement relating to real property generally located west of Irene Road, North of U.S. Route 20 and South of the Union Pacific Railroad and legally described as follows:

PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS: Part of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 32, Township 44 North, Range 3 East of the Third Principal Meridian, Boone County, Illinois, bounded and described as follows; to-wit:

Commencing at the Southwest Corner of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 32; thence North 00 degrees 15 minutes 56 seconds East along the West Line of said Southeast Quarter, a distance of 130.00 feet to the Point of Beginning of the hereinafter described tract of land; thence continuing North 00 degrees 15 minutes 56 seconds East along said West Line, a distance of 1563.47 feet (1507.42 feet deeded) to a point on the Southerly Right-of-Way Line of a railroad designated Union Pacific Railroad (formerly the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad); thence North 75 degrees 03 minutes 18 seconds East along said Southerly Right-of-Way Line, a distance of 2066.96 feet (2074.86 feet deeded) to the East Line of the West-half of the East-half of said Southeast Quarter; thence South 00 degrees 32 minutes 02 seconds West along said East Line, a distance of 1994.31 feet (1929.53 feet deeded); thence South 89 degrees 38 minutes 44 seconds West, parallel with the Northerly Right-of-Way Line of a public road designated U.S. Route 20, a distance of 84.06 feet; thence South 00 degrees 21 minutes 16 seconds East, perpendicular with the last described course, a distance of 90.00 feet to a point on the Northerly Right-of-Way Line of U.S. Route 20; thence South 89 degrees 38 minutes 44 seconds West along said Northerly Right-of-Way Line, a distance of 1902.25 feet (1901.7 feet deeded) to the Point of Beginning, containing 83.105 acres, more or less, subject to that land being used for public road purposes and also subject to all easements, agreements, county codes and/or ordinances of record if any, all situated in the Township of Belvidere, the County of Boone and the State of Illinois.

The proposed Annexation Agreement is available for review in the City Clerk's office 401 Whitney Blvd. Belvidere Illinois.

By order of the Corporate Authorities of the City of Belvidere, Boone County, Illinois.

Dated: September 8, 2023 Sarah Turnipseed, City Clerk Published In The Boone County Journal Sept 14, 2023

The Annual Treasurer's report

for Spring Township is available for inspection. To receive a copy contact Supervisor Ryan Kufalk at rkufalk@springtownship.com or by phone at 815-218-1388.

Published in The Boone County Journal 9/14/23

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT BOONE COUNTY

DATE FOR REQUEST OF NAME CHANGE (ADULT): JENNIFER ALEXANDRIA BRUMFIELD WASHINGTON Case No. 2023-MR-32

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: JENNIFER ALEXANDRIA BRUMFIELD WASHINGTON to the new name of JENNIFER ALEXANDRIA BRUMFIELD. The court date will be held on 10/17/2023 at 9:15 a.m. at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 in Courtroom #4 Published in the Boone County Journal - 09/14, 09/21, 09/28 (c)

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT BOONE COUNTY

DATE FOR REQUEST OF NAME CHANGE (ADULT): MICHAELA ANN FOURNIER Case No. 2023-MR-33

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from: MICHAELA ANN FOURNIER to the new name of KAYLA ILITHYIA FLORA. The court date will be held on 11/14/2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 N. Main St., Belvidere, IL 61008 in Courtroom #3 Published in the Boone County Journal - 09/14, 09/21, 09/28 (P)

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

In The Interest of: STELLA ELSTON, minor No. 21-JA-26

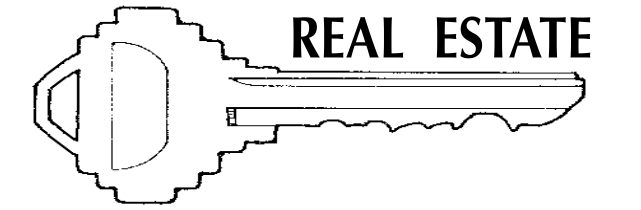
Kevin Johnson, Father ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Take notice that on AUGUST 24, 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 Stella Elston, minor; and that in the County Courthouse in Belvidere, Illinois, at 4:00/3:00 P.M. central daylight time on 10/12/23 and 11/02/23; 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: August 30, 2023 Pamela Coduto, CIRCUIT CLERK

Published in The Boone County Journal: 9/14, 9/21, 9/28 - C



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

DISCOVER BANK Plaintiff -v- 2023 FC 8 KEVIN WHITE et al, Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 15, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on October 2, 2023, 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:

SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF BOONE, STATE OF ILLINOIS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

THE NORTH HALF (1/2) OF LOT ONE (1) IN BLOCK ONE (1) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE PLAT OF ROWAN'S ADDITION IN THE CITY OF BELVIDERE, AS PLATED AND RECORDED IN BOOK 47 OF DEEDS ON PAGE 103 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 919 FREMONT ST, BELVIDERE, IL 61008 Property Index No. 05-36-176-016

The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, 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.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527

630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.eslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-23-00749
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 2023 FC 8
TJSC#: 43-3381

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 # 2023 FC 8
I3228352

Published in *The Boone County Journal*: 9/7, 9/14, 9/21

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, October 19, 2023, 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.L.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
I3228649

Published in *The Boone County Journal*: 9/14, 9/21, 9/28

Prison

from page 2

paid \$250 million last fiscal year to Wexford Health Sources, a for-profit company contracted to provide health care to state prisoners, according to state records.

Wexford's 10-year contract expired in 2021, but the company continues providing care as Illinois seeks new bidders. Releasing more people under the Coleman Act could bring down the long-term cost of prison health care, said Alan Mills, executive director of the Uptown People's Law Center, a legal clinic in Chicago whose lawsuits against the state led to the appointment of the independent monitor.

"The more prisoners there are who are medically needy, the higher the cost of caring for them, and the higher the bids will be," Mills said.

Conversely, if the Prisoner Review Board approved more medical releases, the cost savings for taxpayers in the long term could be in the millions, Mills said.

Daniel Conn, chief executive of Wexford Health Sources, did not respond to an interview request. LaToya Hughes, acting director of the Illinois Department of Corrections, declined to comment.

There are other, more immediate savings for Illinois taxpayers if more ailing prisoners were released, Mills said.

A recent government report showed Illinois spends more than \$76,000 on average to incarcerate a single person for a year. Experts say terminally ill and incapacitated prisoners are much more expensive to care for. Prisoners whose medical needs can't be met in prison infirmaries are escorted to and from hospitals by guards. With prisons short-staffed, officers already routinely require overtime pay.

By refusing to release more ailing prisoners, the Prisoner Review Board is also making it harder for prison medical staff to care for everyone else, Mills said.

"What limited resources we have are being devoted to people who are most seriously mentally or physically ill, and that doesn't leave any health care for anybody else at all," he said.

At the same time, the overburdened health care system is also blocking more prisoners from getting out under the Coleman Act.

Prisoners must be found qualified for medical release by a prison doctor or nurse before the board votes on their case. But prisoners often wait weeks or months to know whether they'll qualify, records show. In one case, a prisoner at Illinois River Correctional Center waited 152 days before finding out he didn't qualify for release, records show.

Prison medical staff have said 240 prisoners who applied were unqualified for medical release. At least

a handful of those prisoners lived in a prison infirmary, used wheelchairs, or had terminal diseases like end-stage liver disease; and at least three died in prison, records show.

There are other frail and disabled prisoners who don't see a doctor on a regular basis, "so there's no way for the doctors to know about their condition," Soble said.

Michael Merritt knows the limitations of the prison health care system all too well. His brother Phillip Merritt hasn't received proper medical treatment in prison for years, he said, and he's afraid of what could happen as his brother's dementia worsens.

He wishes the state would let his brother die at home, where his family can take turns caring for him, instead of a prison cell, where he's unsure whether there's anyone to properly look after him.

"I don't know what the problem is," Merritt said. "They know they can't take care of him in there the way he is supposed to be taken care of."

Medical release decisions dictated by politics

The Prisoner Review Board never told Merritt why they denied his brother's medical release request. Their deliberations happen behind closed doors, and the law doesn't require them to provide an explanation.

Board chair Shelton said members weigh many factors when voting on medical release requests, but they primarily focus on an applicants' prior convictions, where they plan to live once they're released, and testimonies from the victims of their crimes.

An analysis of the board's decisions shows there's likely another factor at play: politics.

Under state law, the board is required to be roughly evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. The 12 current members include former law enforcement officials, educators, attorneys, and counselors. Pritzker appoints all board members, who are then confirmed by the state Senate.

Medical release requests are decided by panels of three board members; at least two must agree to either approve or deny a request. Shelton said board members are "chosen randomly" for the panels.

But so far, Republicans have cast more votes in medical release cases than Democrats — and they are much more likely to vote to deny those requests, an analysis of voting data shows.

Three out of the four board members with the highest denial rates — Jared Bohland, Kenneth Tupy, and LeAnn Miller — are Republicans. Each of them voted to deny release in more than 70% of the cases they heard, and each voted on more than a third of all medical release requests, voting data shows.

Bohland and Tupy, along with Democrat Matthew Coates, were on the panel that denied Phillip Merritt's medical release request in July. They voted to deny six out of seven requests that day, records show.

A month earlier, Bohland was part of another panel, this time with two other Democrats, when they heard the case of 82-year-old Saul Colbert.

Like Merritt, Colbert developed dementia while serving time for armed robbery. They both also had previous violent convictions, records show; Merritt had a conviction for attempted murder, while Colbert was convicted of murder.

Both had family ready to take them in, and both were represented by the same attorney with the Illinois Prison Project. But the board voted 2-1 to release Colbert, with Bohland voting against.

"The only difference between those cases was the panel," Soble said.

Through a spokesperson, Bohland, Tupy, and Miller declined to answer questions about their voting records.

Lisa Daniels, a former board member and a restorative justice practitioner, said she believes some of her former colleagues are ideologically against letting anyone out of prison early.

They "simply believe that a person should complete the entirety of their sentence, no matter the

circumstances they present in their petition, no matter how that person may have shown themselves to be redeemed, and no matter (if they're) no longer a threat to public safety," Daniels said.

Daniels resigned from the board in January, one of six Democrats to step down or fail to be appointed since 2021. In the past few years, the state GOP has turned the board into a new front in the ongoing debate over criminal justice reform.

Democrats, who have a supermajority in the state Senate, have failed to muster enough support among their ranks to get Pritzker's appointments through, leaving the board with three vacant seats.

Pritzker declined an interview request.

In a statement, he acknowledged his administration has had a hard time recruiting potential board members because of the frayed political atmosphere around its work.

"In today's political climate where supporting commonsense criminal justice reform has become a lightning rod, the Coleman Act's initial success should be seen as major progress in the right direction," he said.

Coleman Act has 'failed to live up to its promise'

The day Pritzker signed the Coleman Act, its main sponsor, state Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, said in a press release the law would transform Illinois' prison system and allow families to properly say goodbye to their loved ones.

"I'm sorry we couldn't afford this mercy to Joe Coleman, but I'm proud that we'll be able to do so for hundreds of other Illinoisans," Guzzardi said.

Criminal justice reformers celebrated the Coleman Act as a model for other states to follow. In a report last year, FAMM, a prominent national advocacy group, said the Coleman Act was one of the strongest "compassionate release" laws in the country.

But so far, the act has "failed to live up to its promise," said Mary Price, FAMM's general counsel and the report's author.

Advocates want lawmakers to institute several changes to the Coleman Act to encourage the Prisoner Review Board to release more people.

Lawmakers should require board members to visit prison infirmaries to see firsthand the state of prison health care, advocates said. The board should also receive more training on how to evaluate the medical conditions of prisoners applying for release.

Advocates also want the state to provide prisoners who are applying for medical release with an attorney to argue their case. Guzzardi said he'll advocate for funding for that in the upcoming fall legislative session.

Lawmakers should also allow prisoners to reapply for medical release sooner than currently allowed, said William Nissen, an attorney who represents prisoners pro bono, including on medical release requests.

Prisoners denied medical release currently have to wait six months before they can reapply, unless they get a special exemption from the board. Shelton has only approved three out of 10 requests so far, according to figures provided by the board's chief legal counsel.

"If you're representing a terminally ill person, then a large part of their remaining life is gone before you can even apply again," Nissen said.

Nissen said lawmakers should also require the board to explain why they denied a medical release to "instill a certain amount of discipline in the decision-making process." If board members have to articulate their reason for denying someone release, maybe they'll reconsider the decision, he said.

Phillip Merritt's attorney is in the process of refileing his medical release request. His brother Michael doesn't know whether he'll get out this time. And he hasn't been able to reach Phillip in three weeks — the cellmate who had helped facilitate the calls was apparently transferred.

But he's certain he and his family can give Phillip a more humane send-off than any prison could.

"At least he could go peacefully," he said.

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