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Turn of the Century H.W. Gossard Company building on Allen and Columbia in Belvidere

## Belvidere, First in the Nation In Women's Corsets

By David Larson

Belvidere is a city whose financial success is presently precieved to rest on manufacturing. Naturally, the first thing that comes to mind when manufacturing is called into the conversation is the Belvidere Assembly Plant, an automobile assembly plant, that has employed thousands of people in the area since 1965. The construction of this plant has had a lasting beneficial impact on the city, and will possibly continue to do so for some time. What some may not know is that the success of manufacturing and mass production is not something that is new to the City of Belvidere.

The National Sewing Machine Company is another familiar name to this city. This Belvidere-based manufacturing company became one of the largest, if not the largest, sewing machine factories in the country by the late 1890s. Aside from sewing machines, the company mass produced a variety of products, including bicycles and household tools

- among others. Much like the assembly plant has been doing, the National Sewing Machine Company helped to support a large proportion of the families living in Belvidere. The population was under 9,000 in 1890. The National factory closed down just eight years after the end of World War II, when the importation of Japanese sewing machines eventually out competed the plant and it went out of business in the early 1960s.

A sale by local musical instrument dealer J.R. Balliet of 12 Belvidere city lots on the corner of Allen Street and Columbia Ave were at a bargain price of one dollar each to the H. W. Gossard Company of Chicago as reported by a legal notice in Belvidere's Republican-Northwestern newspaper, January 1904. Noticing the price of the lots was such a low price, perhaps Balliet, an investor in the National Sewing Machine and local utility companies as well, became a partner in the new business through this transaction. That sale marks the beginning of a chapter in Belvidere business history and world history as well.

The photograph the week is of the HW Gossard

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## Belvidere Charges Unexpected Permit Fee for Boone County Courthouse

By John Tuttle

The City of Belvidere surprised Boone County with a building permit fee of over \$210,000 to continue renovation on the courthouse on North Main Street. The restoration and expansion of the building began over a month ago. The County paid the fee—what it views as an exorbitant amount—to prevent the renovation from being stalled

“The Mayor of Belvidere, Clint Morris, has decided that the city is going to charge the county a building permit for the courthouse expansion,” announced Chairman Karl Johnson at the County's April 10 board meeting. “They've never done that before. They had correspondence with us back in July indicating they would not charge us, and apparently, they've changed their mind.”

The County Board Chairman said the permit must be paid to keep the project going. At the same meeting, Johnson stated that Boone County wanted to negotiate these terms with the City of Belvidere.

According to Johnson, his staff looked into Rockford's procedure for construction permits for Winnebago County projects for comparison. Johnson said Winnebago currently plans a multi-million-dollar construction project, for which Rockford is not charging Winnebago County.

Nelson Sjostrom, Construction and Development Services Manager for Rockford, confirmed this in an email to the *Boone County Journal*. “For the second year, the City Council for the City of Rockford has waived building permit and water tie-in fees for all new residential construction on existing lots within the City of Rockford,” writes Sjostrom.

“When permit fees do get charged in Rockford, the city allocates this money directly to the general fund,” says Sjostrom. These funds “are not earmarked for anything specific.”

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## Kentucky Derby 151

Saturday, May 3, 2025—Post time, 5:57PM, Belvidere Time

These are the horses in the 151th Kentucky Derby as of press time, with their position, trainer, jockey, and morning line odds.

*It's impossible to handicap this race, but have fun trying!*

1. Citizen Bull, Bob Baffert, Martin Garcia (20-1)
2. Neequos, Saffie Joseph, Jr., Flavien Pratt (30-1)
3. Final Gambit, Brad H. Cox, Luan Machado (30-1)
4. Rodriguez, Bob Baffert, Mike E. Smith (12-1)
5. American Promise, D. Wayne Lukas, Nik Juarez (30-1)
6. Admire Daytona, Yukihiko Kato, Christophe Lemaire (30-1)
7. Luxor Café, Noriyuki Hori, Joao Moreira (15-1)
8. Journalism, Mike McCarthy, Umberto Rispoli (3-1)
9. Burnham Square, Ian R. Wilkes, Brian T. Hernandez, Jr. (12-1)
10. Grande, Todd A. Pletcher, John Velazquez (20-1)
11. Flying Mohawk, D. Whitworth Beckman, Joseph D. Ramos (30-1)

12. East Avenue, Brendan P. Walsh, Manuel Franco (20-1)
13. Publisher, Steven M. Asmussen, Irad Ortiz, Jr. (20-1)
14. Tiztastic, Steven M. Asmussen, Joel Rosario (20-1)
15. Render Judgement Kenneth G. McPeck, Julien Leparoux (30-1)
16. Coal Battle, Lonnie Briley, Juan P. Vargas (30-1)
17. Sandman, Mark Casse, Jose L. Ortiz (6-1)
18. Sovereignty, William I. Mott, Junior Alvarado (5-1)
19. Chunk of Gold, Ethan W. West, Jareth Loveberry (30-1)
20. Owen Almighty, Brian Lynch, Javier Castellano (30-1)

**Remember, live horse racing returns to Belvidere on August 5th, 2025.  
Post time 12 Noon, Boone County Fairgrounds.**

Belvidere, however, is not being as lenient with Boone County. The County believes this new charge deviates from prior agreements and practices. County Administrator Becky Tobin said at a board meeting that the permit for the courthouse that they received previously was labeled “NC” or “No Charge.”

The County also deems the move a poor use of taxpayers’ money. “It’s unfortunate,” Johnson said, “because we’re all taxing the same people, and I think it’s incumbent upon us as leaders to try to do the best we can with the tax dollars we get and stretch those tax dollars to build the infrastructure the best we can. And to charge \$210,000 to the County for a building permit, I think, is obnoxious.”

Choosing some of the most charitable words he could find, fellow board member Ryan Curry called the decision “unintelligent” and “inept.” Others took a more optimistic approach, hoping the decision might be altered. Johnson reiterated that the present situation is unfortunate because the City and the County have always collaborated well on many issues in the past.

**OBITUARIES**

- Paul Anderson, 87, Belvidere, April 20
- Anthony DeMay, 64, Harvard, Jan. 6
- Marie Dixon, 89, Formerly of Belvidere, April 23
- Beverly Graham, 80, Cherry Valley, April 12
- George Kriegel, 80, Formerly of Harvard, April 22
- Doris Kuelz, 98, Cherry Valley, April 22
- Louise Lidbury, 91, Formerly of Belvidere, April 8
- Lois Lungstrom, 96, Cherry Valley, April 18
- James (Jim) Moravec, 57, Capron, April 21
- Merry Strandberg (Sellers), 80, Belvidere, April 15
- Martha Suhr, 83, Poplar Grove, April 20
- Arnold “Arnie” Tillema, 84, Belvidere, April 11
- Glenn Underwood, 64, Belvidere, April 21

Finance Committee Chairman Tom Walberg later attended the April 21 Belvidere City Council and read aloud a letter from Chairman Johnson to Mayor Clinton Morris, who won his second term as mayor a month ago.

According to the letter Walberg read, the mayor proposed the County bring the issue before the City Council. Boone County requested the matter of the courthouse permit fee be placed on the agenda for the May 12 City Committee of the Whole meeting.

At the City Council, Mayor Morris, referring to the permit in question, said, “I have no right to waive fees.” The mayor bemoaned “grossly unfair rhetoric” from certain Boone County board members, especially Mr. Curry, regarding his involvement in this decision. He had read Curry’s recent letter to the editor published in the *Journal*, found it distasteful, and branded Curry a “keyboard warrior.”

“In all the rhetoric, it appears that I’m the only one at fault,” said Mayor Morris. “Actually, I’m the only one doing my job.” Originally, Morris said, the County did not directly ask him to waive the fees. “It was asked to me from my department head,” stated the mayor. “It didn’t even come to me. Of course, I’m not waiving those fees.”

Morris admitted that men who served in the same office in the past had waived similar fees, as in 2009, when “the mayor – the city – waived the impact fees for the County Administration Building,” but that it did not make such a move lawful. He said during the City Council that he is in the right and that he wanted to set the record straight. While the County seeks to blame the mayor, Morris put the blame back on the County board.

**80th Anniversary of German Surrender in WWII Is May 8**

*By Tom Emery*

The surrender of German forces ended World War II in the European theater, and sparked celebrations across America. The men in the field were pretty happy, too.

“I was absolutely overjoyed when I heard the news,” said the late James Lambeth, an Illinois veteran who was stationed in Germany at the time. “That was one of the most welcome comments that I think I have ever heard.”

May 8 marks the 80th anniversary of the unconditional German capitulation to the Allies, effectively ending the war on the European continent. The event is known as V-E Day, for “Victory in Europe.”

The demise of the German regime was no surprise. The Allies had been closing in for months, and Adolf Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945. The collapse brought an end to a conflict that had begun when Germany invaded Poland in 1939, and had included three and a half years of American involvement.

The news of the surrender was welcomed by a weary American public. Church bells rang across the nation, and many businesses shut down for the day as revelers danced in the streets in some cities.

But the celebrations nationwide were tempered by the specter of the war in the Pacific, which was still raging. In an effort to keep the nation’s focus, President Harry Truman declared the following Sunday – Mother’s Day – as a day of prayer, stating “our rejoicing is sobered and subdued by a supreme consciousness of the terrible price we

have paid to rid the world of Hitler” and “our victory is only half over.”

Truman’s words were reflected in Bloomington, Ill., where the local *Pantagraph* reported on May 8 that “most of Illinois observed victory in Europe” with “prayers of thanksgiving.” Chicago schools, taverns, and liquor stores were closed for the day, though war plants were open.

In Cincinnati, the hometown *Enquirer* noted the surrender was received with a “minimum of excitement” and that Truman’s declaration came “almost as an anticlimax.” As in Chicago, many war plants in Cincinnati and elsewhere remained open, as production was still sorely needed.

In the field in Europe, the reaction was also muted. One lieutenant wrote that “most of the men...said something like ‘I’m

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Phone: (815) 544-4430 Fax: 544-4330  
[www.boonecountyjournal.com](http://www.boonecountyjournal.com)  
[news@boonecountyjournal.com](mailto:news@boonecountyjournal.com)

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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Paul Nolley

## Democrat Enters Race for 16th Congressional District

### Press Release

Paul Nolley, executive director of Project First Rate and community leader, announced his campaign as a Democrat for U.S. Congress in Illinois' 16th Congressional District today. The 16th is presently held by Republican Darin LaHood. Covering over 9,000 square miles across Northern and Central Illinois -including communities like Rockford, Peoria, Bloomington, Harvard, and Galena -Nolley is launching a campaign to address the needs of working families throughout the district.

"Our politics are broken. Too many politicians have forgotten who they work for. They work for the people, not the big corporations and donor class," Nolley said. "I'm running because it's time for regular people to stand up and say enough is enough. Working families have been hit hard by policies from both parties for decades, and too many people struggle to get by while corruption runs wild in Washington and the ultra-rich have watched their wealth grow to unimaginable levels."

Raised in a working-class family, Nolley learned the value of hard work and community early on -from cooking and cleaning at the local racetrack at age 75 to building a career fighting for good-paying union jobs and apprenticeships, increasing access to homeownership and other opportunities for families just like his. Unlike career politicians who grew up around power and influence, Nolley's life experience reflects the everyday struggles and challenges of regular people in Northern and Central Illinois.

Nolley's campaign is centered on protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid; rebuilding American manufacturing and family farms; rooting out pay-to-play corruption; strengthening unions and workers' rights; and investing in policies that make raising a family in today's economy easier.

"The people of Illinois' 16th Congressional District deserve a representative who knows what it's like to live paycheck-to-paycheck and who won't take orders from big-money corporate donors and political bosses," Nolley said. "Working families deserve better, and I'm running to provide real, authentic representation to every resident in the district."

For more information about this campaign, visit [www.NolleyForCongress.com](http://www.NolleyForCongress.com) or follow along on Facebook and Instagram at [@NolleyforCongress](https://www.instagram.com/NolleyforCongress).

Media Contact:

Paul Nolley [paul@nolleyforcongress.com](mailto:paul@nolleyforcongress.com)  
(779) 274-0296

## WWII

from page 2

glad' and walked away. Perhaps it was a different story in their heart, or perhaps they were too tired, or thinking of home too much, or thinking of their buddies who didn't live to see the victory, to do much celebrating or merry-making."

"There really was not too much celebration, since we still had a job to do," said Lambeth, a member of the 37th Amphibious Combat Engineers, who died late last year at age 97. "But we were all very happy."

Many men were not shipped home for months, remaining in the Army of Occupation to help rebuild Germany. Lambeth was one of them, and did not arrive back the U.S. for over five months. He offers a different view than those who romanticize wartime in America.

"Some people speak well of the 1940s, and talk about the music and all that," remarked Lambeth, a veteran of both D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge. "But for me, I think the only fond memory I have of that time was when they told us the war was over."

The Japanese surrender on August 14 finally ended the global conflict, and celebrations were more spirited in the U.S. That day became known as "V-J Day," for Victory over Japan.

Some anniversary commemorations for V-E Day are scheduled this week in Europe and a handful are set in the U.S., though like everything else, the COVID-19 crisis will reduce many of them. There are also fewer people who remember V-E Day, as the number of surviving World War II veterans is dwindling rapidly.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, of the 16 million Americans who served in the war, only 325,574 were still alive in 2020.

## The Kentucky Derby: Some Quick History

By Tom Emery

Saturday, May 3 marks the 151st running of the Kentucky Derby, one of the iconic events on the American sports calendar. It's certainly one of the quickest; it barely lasts two minutes. With that in mind, here are some fast historic facts on the Derby.

**Exploring History:** Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby, was built by Meriwether Lewis Clark, Jr., the grandson of William Clark of Lewis and Clark exploration fame.

**Not the Oldest:** Contrary to popular belief, the Kentucky Derby is not the oldest of the three Triple

Crown races; it is actually the youngest. The Belmont Stakes dates to 1867, while the Preakness Stakes was first contested in 1873. The inaugural Kentucky Derby was on May 17, 1875.

However, the Derby is the only one of the three that has been run continuously, as the Preakness and Belmont both have brief hiatuses in their respective histories.

Many believe the term "Triple Crown" was first used as early as 1923 before becoming common in 1930 when Gallant Fox captured all three races. Others believe the term did not catch on until 1935, when Omaha won all three.

**It's in the Bloodlines:** Gallant Fox is the lone Triple Crown winner to sire another Triple Crown winner, Omaha.

**Any Day of the Week:** The Derby was permanently scheduled on the first Saturday of May in 1931. Prior to that, the race was contested at various times in May. In its earliest inception, the Kentucky Derby was actually held on weekdays, rather than on Saturday. The first Derby in 1875 was run on a Monday.

**Running for Longer:** The Derby was originally a mile-and-a-half race. It was shortened to its present mile-and-a-quarter in 1896.

**Seventeen and Nothing:** Since the implementation of the automatic starting gate in 1930, no horse has won the Kentucky Derby from post number 17.

**My Old Kentucky Home:** Not surprisingly, of the 150 previous winners of the Kentucky Derby, 110 were bred in the state of Kentucky itself.

**Land of Lincoln Loner:** The lone Derby winner bred in the state of Illinois was Dust Commander in 1970.

Illinois is one of only 15 states where a Kentucky Derby winner was bred, as 35 states have never produced a Derby champion. There have been four winners that were bred outside the United States - two each from Canada and the United Kingdom.

**Always the Bridesmaid:** The lone horse to finish second in all three legs of the Triple Crown was Alydar, who was the runner-up to Affirmed in each race in 1978. Alydar was the sire of the 1987 Derby winner, Alysheba.

**Bronze Medal:** Similarly, the only horse to come in third in each of the three Triple Crown races was Mane Minister, in 1991.

**Big Hearted:** Secretariat, the strikingly beautiful horse who enthralled fans on his way to the 1973 Triple Crown, may have had an inside edge. Upon

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## Gossard

from page 1

Co. factory in Belvidere. This business specialized in the production of women's undergarments throughout the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. After their invention of the "Electro Bone Lining," which consisted of high carbon, clock spring steel and a cushioned exterior, the company began to grow rapidly. In 1905, the company increased its capital stock by \$50,000, allowing local Belviderians and others the opportunity to buy into the company. HW Gossard Co. was well known for making high-class lingerie merchandise for retailers in the surrounding area, as well as major stores in Chicago, New York and Boston.

H. W. Gossard was a Chicago-based importer of expensive French women's corsets. The company began as the exclusive, licensed dealer of the French Countess L'irresistable corsets, which sold for \$25 in Chicago at a time when a high price for a quality foundation was \$5. This was undoubtedly the cr me de la cr me of women's corsets and the best that Chicago had to offer. It was truly a mark of first class wealth and status if madam was wearing a Countess L'irresisable.

The H. W. Gossard Company had a good reputation. It had business connections and had plans for what to do with them. The company also knew quality from its years of experience as a corset broker. The Belvidere factory was a vertical expansion within the Gossard corset business and the firm had plans to push it as far as possible by supplying an affordable high-quality front lacing, French styled corset, with all its virtues. No one else was doing this and Belvidere became the manufacturing center of this revolution in fashion.

Charles A. Stevens & Brothers, a Chicago retail firm, featured the Gossard line under the label Classic Corset. J. D. Marmaduke, the Gossard salesman, traveled the Midwest, marketing the Classic Corset and expanding sales rapidly.

By February, an advertisement had appeared in the *Belvidere Daily Republican*, reading: "Help Wanted, girls 14 to 16 years of age, light work and steady employment. Apply to the H. W. Gossard factory at once." 150 employees were expected to be on staff by the end of 1904.

The *Belvidere Daily Republican* was a newspaper published by Frank T. Moran, of Rockford, who came in 1893 to Belvidere and started Belvidere's first and only daily newspaper. The *Belvidere Daily Republican*, was published until about 2000.

By May 1905, after a shipping strike had left larger orders of corsets bound for Chicago backed up on the shipping dock in Belvidere, H. W. Gossard shipped the largest order ever for this upstart. \$12,000 wholesale in corsets were shipped to Chicago, and demand was increasing month by month by women who wanted quality.

In July 1905, the company raised an additional \$50,000 in capital stock, of which \$25,000 was sold through the company's local financial agent, Omar H. Wright at the Second National Bank in Belvidere. The total capital stock value of the company had then grown to \$300,000, and was primarily owned by members of the Gossard family and other Chicago investors. The new capital was used to add onto the Columbia Avenue factory in Belvidere. The average dividend was 12% to 15%, and the next goal was to enter the east coast fine corset market.

In March of 1907, the Vicksburg Evening Post in Vicksburg, Mississippi carried an advertisement calling for women and girls to come to Belvidere and work for HW Gossard Co.. The promiss in the advertizment was living accommodations with room, board and laundry would be provided, plus a beginning pay rate of \$6 to \$12 per week, based on skills. The company wanted to expand to 250 workers. At the same time Gossard began to look

at expanding beyond Belvidere. This was because, in all likelihood, it had exhausted the local labor supply. It put out feelers to many Illinois cities: Freeport, Decatur, Sterling and others according to the *Freeport Journal-Standard*. Most cities declined, because they only wanted new businesses that brought jobs for men, not women, to town.

By 1930, H. W. Gossard had evolved the corset design. After World War I, there was demand for less restrictive corsets. The company removed ridged implants and replaced them with elastic construction to emphasis the female hip line and bosoms. By the 1930s, the company had become international, with 7,000 employees and had built four additional manufacturing plants, two of which were overseas and one in Logansport, Indiana.

J. W. Gossard, a member of the family, and company manager was a patrician from Chicago, for whom guiding the poor and downtrodden from their wretched condition became his Christian duty and a reputation he carefully cultivated. Both the *Belvidere Daily Republican* and the *Chicago Tribune* wrote stories about his personal philosophy and his method of reforming the downtrodden. It was reported that he often would give away money to someone who was given to drink and make him or her sign a contract to not drink for a year in exchange for a sum of money. Using a contract was in Gossard's wisdom, what made his method successful.

*The Boone County Journal would like to recognize the Boone County Museum and Newspapers.com for their contributions to this article.*

## Senator Syverson: As Season Opens, Golfers Will Notice Another New Tax

### Press Release

As temperatures begin to get warmer, and more people head to the golf course for the first time this Spring, State Sen. Dave Syverson (R-Cherry Valley) says they will notice something different – yet another new tax!

"If you rent a golf cart or golf clubs, you will now have to pay a sales tax," said Senator Syverson. "The obvious question is, why would you pay a sales tax on an item you are not buying? That's a good question, and the reason I opposed this new tax."

The 35th District Senator says the General Assembly quietly added the new sales tax last year, and it took effect January 1 of this year. The tax, however, is not limited to just golf; it applies to all tangible items that are leased or rented. For example, if consumers rent water softeners, modems for home Internet, wheelchairs, or oxygen tanks – they will be paying another new tax.

"Most taxpayers did not notice the new tax since it is built into the bill they get. They just assumed it was part of rental increases," Syverson said. "Golfers, however, started noticing it the first time they went out as they were used to paying a flat cart rental. All golf courses are impacted, including those in Park Districts. This new tax does not impact titled or leased items."



## Illinois Department of Transportation

### PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSE

The Illinois Department of Transportation will be conducting a Public Meeting Open House to encourage input from the public regarding the proposed improvements to IL 173 from 0.4 Miles W. of Village of Poplar Grove to Boone-McHenry County Line Road.

#### DATE AND LOCATION

WEDNESDAY, May 21, 2025  
1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

CAPRON LIONS COMMUNITY BUILDING  
305 E. NORTH STREET, CAPRON, IL 61012

#### PURPOSE

VIEW GRAPHICS AND DISPLAYS  
DISCUSS DESIGN CONCEPTS WITH IDOT STAFF  
ANSWER QUESTIONS  
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

This meeting will be held in an Open House format and a formal presentation will not be made. Persons are invited to attend at any time during the hours listed. IDOT personnel and representatives from the consultant team will be available to explain the project and answer questions.

The proposed project would involve use of land from the Boone County Conservation District at the Tuttle Clarkson Natural Area and Long Prairie Trail. The proposed improvements are not expected to affect the activities, features, or attributes that make the properties eligible for Section 4(f) protection. Through publication of this notice, the Department is requesting the public's views on the proposed use of parkland, and on FHWA's intent to make a Section 4(f) de minimus determination.

This meeting will be accessible to persons with a disability in compliance with current Accessibility Standards prepared by the Capital Development Board. Persons with a disability planning to attend and needing special accommodations should contact Mrs. Traci Duden, Studies and Plans Engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation, 819 Depot Avenue, Dixon, IL 61021 before May 16, 2025. The contact may be in writing, by telephone at (815) 284-5932, or by e-mail at [Traci.Duden@illinois.gov](mailto:Traci.Duden@illinois.gov). Mrs. Duden may also be contacted using Illinois Relay via TTY 711 (Espa ol TTY 711).

**Derby** from page 3

his death in 1989, it was discovered that his heart was two and a half times larger than normal.

Secretariat was the first Derby champion to win in under two minutes. Some believe the second-place finisher, Sham (who was also second to Secretariat at the Preakness) may have also finished in under two minutes, a point that is debated today.

Just like Secretariat, Sham had a big heart; it was found to be twice the normal size on his death in 1993.

**Old-Boys Network:** Only three fillies have won the Kentucky Derby – Regret (1913), Genuine Risk (1980), and Winning Colors (1988). Similarly, only six female jockeys have ridden in the Kentucky Derby. The highest-finishing woman rider in Derby history was Rosie Napravnik, who was fifth aboard Mylute in 2013.

**Girls Night Out:** One of the most important events of Kentucky Derby week at Churchill Downs is the Kentucky Oaks, a race for fillies which is now contested on Friday, the day before the Derby. The Oaks was first run on May 19, 1875, just two days after the first Kentucky Derby. Like the Derby, this year will also mark the 151st running of the Oaks.

The Kentucky Oaks usually has the third-highest attendance of any American race, trailing only the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness. The Derby and the Oaks are believed to be the two oldest continuously running major sporting events in the United States.

**Horse of a Different Color:** While most Derby winners are brown, eight gray horses have won the race.

Gray horses have an interesting history at Churchill Downs. One of the gray winners was Determine, the 1954 champion, who sired another of the gray champions, Decidedly in 1962.

Monarchos, the 2001 winner, is the only champion other than the remarkable Secretariat to win the race in under two minutes.

Spectacular Bid, the 1979 winner, also took the Preakness but came up short in a bid for the Triple Crown, finishing third at the Belmont. In 1997, the aptly-named Silver Charm also won the Derby and Preakness, then finished a close second at the Belmont.

The last gray to win was Giacomo in 2005, the fourth-longest shot to ever win the Derby at 50-1. Of the three fillies to capture the race, Winning Colors was a gray. The other gray to win was Gato Del Sol in 1982, whose first victory as a three-year-old was the Kentucky Derby.

**Silver-Haired:** Silver Charm is currently the oldest living winner of a Kentucky Derby or any Triple Crown race, for that matter. He turned 31 this February 22.

**Dying for Their Sport:** The safety of horses in racing has been a frontline issue in recent times after twelve horses died at Churchill Downs in the spring of 2023 alone. Two of the deaths were in the undercard races on the day of the Kentucky Derby.

The 2008 Kentucky Derby runner-up, filly Eight Belles, suffered major fractures during the race and was euthanized afterward on the track in full view of the 157,770 in attendance.

The 2006 Derby champion, Barbaro, suffered similar injuries two weeks later at the Preakness, and was euthanized in January 2007. Protests on the humane aspect of horse racing are nothing new and are likely to continue, especially after the 2023 tragedies.

**Big Odds:** The longest shot to capture the Kentucky Derby was Donerail, a 91-1 pick in 1913. With such massive odds, he paid a record \$184.90.

**Big Money:** At the 1889 Kentucky Derby, Frank James, brother of outlaw Jesse and a regular at many tracks, was flush with winnings of \$2,400 from a race earlier that day. Eager for more, he asked a

bookmaker of the odds on Spokane, a relatively unknown horse in the field.

The reply was “Ten-to-one and the sky’s the limit.” James threw down \$5,000 on Spokane, causing the bookmaker to reply, “As far as I’m concerned, that’s the sky!” Spokane edged the pre-race favorite, Proctor Knott by a head, earning more money for Frank.

**Horses and Dogs:** Spokane is the only Kentucky Derby winner bred in the state of Montana. But he was actually foaled in Illinois at the farm of Richard Rowett, one mile north of Carlinville. Rowett sold Spokane’s dam while she was in foal, and the colt was born in Montana.

A Civil War hero, Rowett is credited with introducing the true-bred beagle hound to the United States from his native England in the mid-1870s. Spokane was named for the city in Washington.

**Going Out on Top:** Grindstone won the 1996 Kentucky Derby, which proved to be his last race. He was retired after a bone chip was discovered in a knee. Grindstone was the grandsire of another Derby winner, Mine That Bird in 2009, and died in 2022 at the age of 29.

**Make the Old Man Proud:** Grindstone was the son of Unbridled, the 1990 Kentucky Derby champion, and is the last Derby winner to be sired by another Derby champion. There have been twelve Kentucky Derby champions who sired other Derby winners.

*Tom Emery is a freelance writer and historical researcher from Carlinville, Ill. He may be reached at 217-710-8392 or [ilcivilwar@yahoo.com](mailto:ilcivilwar@yahoo.com).*



*Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton is pictured at a news conference in the governor’s office in 2023. (Capitol News Illinois photo by Jerry Nowicki)*

## Illinois Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton Announces U.S. Senate Campaign

*Stratton first Democrat to announce intention to fill retiring Sen. Dick Durbin’s seat*

*By Ben Szalinski Capitol News Illinois*

Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton is the first Democrat to step into what is expected to be a crowded race to fill Sen. Dick Durbin’s Senate seat.

Stratton launched her campaign Thursday morning in a video just one day after Durbin announced he will not seek reelection for a seat he has held since 1997.

“As Donald Trump and Elon Musk continue their relentless attack on Americans, we need

new voices in Washington who will stand firm and fight fiercely to move us forward and protect the values we hold dear,” Stratton said in a statement.

Stratton has quickly risen through the ranks in Illinois politics. After serving one term in the Illinois House, Gov. JB Pritzker tapped her to be his running mate during the 2018 campaign. She took over as lieutenant governor alongside Pritzker in 2019, and the pair were reelected in 2022.

Stratton has notably appeared alongside Pritzker at more events in recent months. In her announcement video, she highlighted the accomplishments of Pritzker’s administration.

“(Republicans) like to talk. We’ve actually gotten things done,” Stratton said.

Pritzker praised Stratton but declined to endorse her, at least for now, during an unrelated news conference Thursday morning.

“She is truly one of the most accomplished people that’s ever held the job of lieutenant governor,” Pritzker said. “She’s done so much as a partner in governance in the state. As you know, I think very highly of her.”

Stratton, 59, who hails from Chicago’s Bronzeville neighborhood, said her path to become a candidate for U.S. Senate isn’t “typical.”

Continued on page 7

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 Or the contents of the below listed units, located at 4760 IL Route 173, Poplar Grove, IL 61065 will be sold or otherwise disposed of on or after 03/14/2024.  
 Alma Rose Alba, 12783 Denny Road Capron, IL 61012 for Unit CW013, \$850.00 plus the cost of postage and advertising.  
 Published in The Boone County Journal May 1, 8, 2025

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The Boone County Board will receive bids marked BCG-2025-07 to replace and apply a TPO Membrane for two buildings out at the County's McKinley Complex. The County has issued three separate RFPs for several roofing systems which the Board will select one to pursue based on proposals received.  
 Bid documents will be available on or after April 29, 2025. Those interested may visit the Boone County Website at [https://www.boone-countyil.gov/businesses/bids\\_rfp\\_s.php](https://www.boone-countyil.gov/businesses/bids_rfp_s.php) for further details. Copies of the Bid Documents will be available for viewing in the Boone County Clerk's Office located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. Bids will be accepted at the Boone County Clerk's Office until Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. Bids will be opened at 11 A.M. the same day in the Boone County Board Room located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.  
 Boone County Government reserves the right to accept or reject all bids.  
 Published in The Boone County Journal May 1, 2025

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The Boone County Board will receive bids marked BCG-2025-06 to complete a Metal Roof Restoration for two buildings out at the County's McKinley Complex. The County has issued three separate RFPs for several roofing systems which the Board will select one to pursue based on proposals received.  
 Bid documents will be available on or after April 29, 2025. Those interested may visit the Boone County Website at [https://www.boone-countyil.gov/businesses/bids\\_rfp\\_s.php](https://www.boone-countyil.gov/businesses/bids_rfp_s.php) for further details. Copies of the Bid Documents will be available for viewing in the Boone County Clerk's Office located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. Bids will be accepted at the Boone County Clerk's Office until Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. Bids will be opened at 11 A.M. the same day in the Boone County Board Room located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.  
 Boone County Government reserves the right to accept or reject all bids.  
 Published in The Boone County Journal May 1, 2025

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The Boone County Board will receive bids marked BCG-2025-05 to replace and apply Asphalt Shingles for two buildings out at the County's McKinley Complex. The County has issued three separate RFPs for several roofing systems which the Board will select one to pursue based on proposals received.  
 Bid documents will be available on or after April 29, 2025. Those interested may visit the Boone County Website at [https://www.boone-countyil.gov/businesses/bids\\_rfp\\_s.php](https://www.boone-countyil.gov/businesses/bids_rfp_s.php) for further details. Copies of the Bid Documents will be available for viewing in the Boone County Clerk's Office located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Suite 103, Belvidere, IL 61008. Bids will be accepted at the Boone County Clerk's Office until Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. Bids will be opened at 11 A.M. the same day in the Boone County Board Room located at 1212 Logan Avenue, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.  
 Boone County Government reserves the right to accept or reject all bids.  
 Published in The Boone County Journal May 1, 2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the operating purposes of Boone County Fire Protection District No. 2 in the County of Boone, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2026 will be on file and available for public viewing during business hours (8:00 AM – 5 PM) at the station at 1777 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere, IL.  
 Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 6:00 p.m. Monday June 2nd, 2025 at Boone County Fire Protection District at 1777 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere, IL. and that final hearing and action will be taken at that time.  
 Dated this 25th day of April, 2025  
 Mark Huntington, Treasurer  
 Published in The Boone County Journal May 1, May 8, May 15 of 2025

**CAPRON RESCUE SQUAD  
 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE**

May 26	Nov 25
June 24	Dec 23
July 22	Jan 27
Aug 26	Feb 24
Sept 23	Mar 24
Oct 28	April 28

Location: North Boone Fire Protection District #3  
 Station #1  
 305 W. Grove St.  
 Poplar Grove, IL 61065  
 Published in the Boone County Journal May 1, 2025

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LYLE J. SHERMAN,  
 Deceased PROBATE No. 2025-PR-21**

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION – WILLS AND CLAIMS**

Notice is given to creditors of the death of LYLE J. SHERMAN. Letters of office were issued on April 25, 2025, to Ed Zenk, 8304 Shore Drive, Machesney Park, Illinois 61115, Independent Administrator, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney RUSSELL J. LUCHTENBURG, 130 South State Street, #303, Belvidere, Illinois 61008.  
 Claims against the estate may be filed on or before November 14, 2025, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Illinois probate Act, 1975 as amended, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.  
 Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk-Probate Division, at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008, or with the legal representative and to his attorney within ten days after it has been filed.  
 Attorney Russell J. Luchtenburg  
 130 South State Street, #303  
 Belvidere, Illinois 61008  
 815/547-5588  
 Published in the Boone County Journal 5/01, 5/08, 05/15/2025

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOONE COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Notice is hereby given that the Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, 1212 Logan Ave, Belvidere, IL 61008 upon the following petitions:  
 The applicant, Belvidere Solar LLC, is seeking a special use permit in the A-1 Agricultural Preservation District for a solar energy facility 1.0 MW or greater, pursuant to section 2.7 Special Use and Section 3.16.1 (Table of Permitted Uses) and Chapter 4 Design Criteria for Specific Uses 4.22 Solar Energy Systems Siting 4.2 of the Boone County Zoning Ordinance, in unincorporated Boone County, at 7xxx Belvidere Road, PIN: 03-19-100-009 in unincorporated Caledonia Township, Boone County, IL.  
 All persons interested may appear at the hearing and be heard at the stated time and place.  
 Craig Hale, Chair, Boone County Zoning Board of Appeals  
 Published in the Boone County Journal on Thursday May 1, 2025

**Boone County Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) will be opening their waitlist.**

(Managed by Winnebago County Housing Authority)  
 It will be held via Online Lottery:  
 May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 12:01 am to May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 11:59 pm  
 Apply online @ [www.wchauthority.com](http://www.wchauthority.com)

600 applications will be chosen through a computerized, random lottery system. Because it is a computerized, random lottery system, there is no advantage to those that apply first or last.

The link to apply will be available on the home page of the website during the dates/times referenced above. You will need to click the link and follow the online instructions.

If you need to request a reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please call 815.963.2133

There is never a fee to apply!

**ASSUMED NAMES**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION**

No. DBA4229 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a CONSUMER SERVICES business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of XANDER'S KONVENIENT KLEAN that its location is or will be 10737 US HIGHWAY 20 in GARDEN PRAIRIE, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown as below Phone Number: 815-566-2140  
 ALEXANDER EDWARD MIGASI 10737 US HIGHWAY 20  
 GARDEN PRAIRIE, ILLINOIS 61038  
 I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office.  
 Dated: April 09, 2025 Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
 Published in Boone County Journal 04/17,24, 05/01 - P

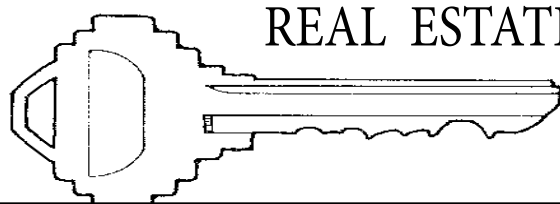
**STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION**

No. DBA4228 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a COTTAGE FOOD business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of GRAMMY'S HOMEMADE JAMS PICKLES SALSAS & MORE that its location is or will be 114 QUEENSBURY PLACE NE in POPLAR GROVE, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown below.  
 Phone Number: 815-262-6083  
 ROSE ANNE RUDNY 114 QUEENSBURY PLACE  
 NE POPLAR GROVE, ILLINOIS 61008  
 I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: April 08 2025  
 Julie A Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
 Published in Boone County Journal 4/17, 4/24, 5/1 - P

**STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY of BOONE COUNTY ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION**

No. DBA4230 - The undersigned person(s) do hereby certify that a LANDSCAPING business is or is to be conducted or transacted under the name of T & G LANDSCAPING PLUS that its location is or will be 124 VALHALLA DR NE in POPLAR GROVE, in the County of Boone County, State of Illinois, and that the true or real name(s) of the person(s) owning, conducting, or transacting the same with the post office address or address of said person(s) is shown as below. Phone Number: 815-919-5393  
 GUSTAVO VILCHIS 124 VALHALLA DR NE  
 POPLAR GROVE, ILLINOIS 61065  
 I, Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk And Recorder of Boone County, in the State aforesaid, do the hereby certify that the within is a true and correct copy of an Assumed Name Certificate on file in my office. Dated: April 22, 2025  
 Julie A. Bliss, County Clerk and Recorder  
 Published in Boone County Journal 04/24, 05/01,08 - P

**REAL ESTATE**



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

TH MSR Holdings LLC, Plaintiff,  
 -v- Defendants. 2024FC40  
 Jennifer S. Smith; et. al.  
 1205 E LINCOLN AVE, BELVIDERE, IL 61008  
 NOTICE OF SALE PUB LIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 12/17/2024, an agent of Auction.com LLC will conduct the auction in person at 12:00 PM on May 29, 2025 located at 601 N Main Street, Courthouse Steps, Belvidere, IL 61008, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate.  
 Property Index No. 05-25-202-003 05-25-176-022  
 The real estate is improved with a Residential Property. The judgment amount was \$144,787.39 Sale Terms: 20% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to Auction.com LLC. No third party checks will be accepted. All registered bidders need to provide a photo ID in order to bid. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within

twenty-four (24) hours. (relief fee not required) 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)(l) 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.  
 For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: CODILIS & ASSOCIATES PC (630) 794-5300 please refer to file number 14-24-01547.  
 Auction.com LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60606 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com).  
 Attorney File No. 14-24-01547 Case Number: 2024FC40  
 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.  
 I3258330  
 Published in the Boone County Journal – April/17, 24, May 1, 2025

**Stratton** from page 5  
 She said she wanted to enter politics after being the primary caregiver for her mother, who battled Alzheimer's disease.

Stratton won an expensive race for the Illinois House in 2016, defeating incumbent Democratic Rep. Ken Dunkin, who sometimes sided with Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner during the state's two-year budget impasse that began in 2015.

Stratton's professional background includes working as director of the University of Illinois Chicago's Center for Public Safety and Justice.

Stratton has followed in Pritzker's shadow as the governor has received accolades from Democrats for raising the minimum wage to \$15, banning assault weapons and shoring up abortion protections after Roe v. Wade was struck down in 2022.

But especially in recent months, Stratton has sought to raise her own profile in state politics. She launched the Level Up federal political action committee in January, giving her a financial mechanism to influence federal campaigns or support her own run for office. The committee had not reported any fundraising as of Thursday.

Durbin, 80, announced Wednesday that he will retire when his term ends in 2027 after 44 years in Congress, including the last two decades as the Democratic whip in the Senate.

Durbin told WBEZ-FM radio in Chicago that "at least a dozen" candidates have expressed interest in his seat.

"We are also fortunate to have a strong Democratic bench ready to serve," Durbin said. "We need them now more than ever."

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

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Harvard Milk Days #84 presents:

**The 81st Milk Day Queen Coronation Contestants**  
**Event to be held May 10th at 7:00 pm at Harvard High School (North Gym)**

Admission: Adults \$5.00 Students: \$3.00 Age 60 and older: \$3.00 Children under 5: Free

All admission fees fund the Scholarships awarded this evening.



These Junior and Senior young ladies will compete for Scholarships while learning some life skills along the way.

The Queen will receive \$1800, 1st Runner-up will receive \$800 and 2nd Runner-up will receive \$400.

Top Row, L to R: Teresa Merlo, Hayden Binz, Andrea Escobar, Addelaide Kleinsmith, Ytsel Lopez, Aliyah Perez, Kyana Lamick

2nd Row, L to R: Analyse Figueroa, Sophia Sandoval, Anelieze Gonzalez, Alexa Herrera, Tallulah Eichholz, Cecilia Alvarez, Carla Gonzalez

Please join us and support these beautiful young ladies for all their hard work!

**Boone County is looking to fill a number of vacant committee appointment positions.**

The committee appointments application can be found at:

[https://cms8.revize.com/revize/booneil/government/county\\_board/appointments.php](https://cms8.revize.com/revize/booneil/government/county_board/appointments.php)

Board of Health – Veterinarian Term Expires Length of Term

(1) Vacancy July 1, 2026 Partial Term

Boone County Ethics Commission Term Expires Length of Term

(2) Vacancies June 30, 2027 (2) Year Term

Fire Protection District #1 Term Expires Length of Term

(1) Vacancy 2 nd Monday in May 2028 (3) Year Term

Capron Rescue Squad Term Expires Length of Term

(1) Vacancy 2 nd Monday, December 2025 Partial Term

Regional Planning Commission Term Expires Length of Term

(1) Vacancy December 31, 2027 Partial Term

Interested parties are asked to send a letter and/or resume expressing your interest, qualifications along with your contact information and completed application to Boone County Administration Office, Administration Campus, 1212 Logan Ave., Suite 102, Belvidere, IL 61008 or e-mail [info@boonecountyil.gov](mailto:info@boonecountyil.gov).

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**PERRYVILLE AND EAST STATE**

**MAY 4 @ 1PM**  
**EAST STATE AND BUCKLEY DRIVE**

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